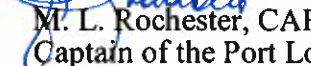




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MEMORANDUM

From: 
M. L. Rochester, CAPT
Captain of the Port Los Angeles - Long Beach

To: Theresa Stevens, PH.D.
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Los Angeles District

Subj: REVIEW OF U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS SECTION 10 PERMIT
APPLICATION

Ref: Navigation and Navigable Waters, 33 U.S.C §320-322
Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899, Section 10 (33 C.F.R. 403)
Marine Safety Manual, COMDTINST M16000.7 (series)
San Nicholas Island to Dana Point WAMS Study completed October, 2018

1. I am writing concerning a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Section 10 permit application listed as **SPL-2017-000930-BLR Ventura Shellfish Enterprise (VSE) Aquaculture Project, Ventura, Ventura County, California**. In accordance with USCG/USACE Memorandum of Agreement dated June 2, 2000, I have reviewed the applicant's plans to construct 20 offshore aquaculture plots, each 100 acres, approximately 3.53 miles from shore near the City of Ventura, Ventura County, California (LAT: 34.24189562646, LONG: 119.292983992192).
2. The Coast Guard does **not recommend approval** of the permit as proposed until the following concerns can be studied and addressed:
 - a. **Navigation Safety Risk Study.** The information provided in the permit request does not adequately address navigational safety risk impacts. The sort of analysis we require includes identifying risk and mitigation tactics to include: number and type of vessels impacted, routes, seasonality, traffic density, weather, marine events in the area, the likelihood of collision and frequency, constraints to vessel communications, movement, and changed traffic patterns.
 - b. **Public Outreach.** The information provided in the permit request does not adequately demonstrate a comprehensive public outreach program. Coast Guard recommends applicant provide documented proof of outreach program with the commercial fishing industry, commercial vessel shipping industry, and public mariners to include comments received and responses.
 - c. **Buoys, Lighting and Warning Signs.** A detailed plan outlining the appropriate size and characteristic buoys, lighting, and warning signage required per 33 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 66. Recommend applicant coordinate with Coast Guard District Eleven Waterways Management Office with permitting requirements for Private Aids to Navigation (PAtoN). See paragraph 4 for more details.

3. As proposed, the permit would be the largest offshore shellfish farm project by 20 times and first of its kind in our nation. The data provided is limited to accurately assess the risks involved. The Coast Guard recommends that a test area be studied on a smaller scale prior to approval of application. In addition, Coast Guard recommends a phased development construction schedule be utilized to monitor the impact to navigation, marine aquaculture, previous established marine life and marine life habitat, commercial fishing, boater safety, and total impact to federal waterway prior to full implementation.
4. Future plans to establish any PAtONs, with respects to buoys, lights, marine cables, netting, and/or safety barriers will require a PAtON Application Form, CG-2554 and must be submitted for approval to Coast Guard District Eleven Waterways Management Branch, PAtON Specialist at 510-437-2986 per 33 CFR, Part 66, Private Aids to Navigation.
5. If you have any questions concerning these recommendations and future planning, please feel free to contact Chief, Waterways Management, Lieutenant Commander Isaac Mahar at (310) 521-3861.

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Copy: USACE South Pacific Division
Ventura Shellfish Enterprise (VSE)
District 11 Waterways Management (dpw)
USCGC GEORGE COBB
USCG ANT Los Angeles-Long Beach