



VENTURA
PORT DISTRICT

Established 1952

BOARD OF PORT COMMISSIONERS

MAY 10, 2017

STANDARD AGENDA ITEM 1

SEASKETCH

**VENTURA PORT DISTRICT
BOARD COMMUNICATION**

STANDARD AGENDA ITEM 1
Meeting Date: May 10, 2017

TO: Board of Port Commissioners
FROM: Brian Pendleton, Business Operations Manager
SUBJECT: SeaSketch

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board of Port Commissioners approve professional services with the McClintock Lab at the University of California Santa Barbara to provide SeaSketch marine spatial planning services for the Ventura Shellfish Enterprise project.

SUMMARY:

On April 26 the Board of Port Commissioners authorized the General Manager to sign the application for NOAA Sea Grant 2017 Aquaculture Initiative: Integrated Projects to Increase Aquaculture Production. The District is seeking \$499,805 in federal funds with a District match of \$575,700 of in-kind services and direct expenses to advance the District's Ventura Shellfish Enterprise (VSE) project. The District's direct expenses for this service total is \$12,000 and are for SeaSketch marine spatial planning services.

BACKGROUND:

SeaSketch is developed by the McClintock Lab at the Marine Science Institute at the University of California Santa Barbara (UCSB). The McClintock Lab develops technologies to support marine spatial planning, monitoring and enforcement. Their applications are easy to use, quickly deployed, low-cost, and integrate a variety of open-source and proprietary tools.

This dovetails with the District's efforts as it relates to the sub-award from a NOAA 2015 Sea Grant Aquaculture Extension and Technology Transfer Grant for the VSE project. The current 2015 grant supports development of a strategic permitting plan (Task 1); the preparation of all necessary project permit applications and draft documentation [i.e. a draft environmental impact report (EIR) and environmental assessment (EA)] required under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) (Task 2); and community and stakeholder outreach (Task 3). VPD, in collaboration with the VSE, has made significant progress on these tasks.

The McClintock Lab at the University of California Santa Barbara wishes to support the VSE project Task 1, 3 above on projects related to aquaculture site selection, in collaboration with Dr. Carrie Kappel at the National Center for Ecological Analysis and Synthesis (NCEAS). They are confident that they can provide a cutting edge platform and unparalleled level of support, given their experience with developing and implementing geospatial tools for collaborative, area-based planning worldwide. The McClintock Lab states that SeaSketch can be rapidly developed and deployed faster, less expensively, and provide a better user experience than any other technology currently available. SeaSketch may be customized to meet the needs of the process, includes development and deployment options, and examples of past and current projects.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The \$12,000 in professional services costs to the District are for the remainder of FY16-17 and a portion of FY17-18. The District is seeking an additional \$20,000 through NOAA Sea Grant 2017 Aquaculture Initiative funds, which if awarded, would be available in September 2017.

This proposed expenditure was not budgeted in the FY16-17 budget. As a result, staff is requesting the Board's approval.