



VENTURA
PORT DISTRICT
Established 1952

BOARD OF PORT COMMISSIONERS

JULY 26, 2017

STANDARD AGENDA ITEM 5

VENTURA SHELLFISH ENTERPRISE SITE
SELECTION WORKSHOPS

VENTURA PORT DISTRICT
BOARD COMMUNICATION

STANDARD AGENDA ITEM 5

Meeting Date: July 26, 2017

TO: Board of Port Commissioners
FROM: Brian Pendleton, Business Operations Manager
SUBJECT: Ventura Shellfish Enterprise Site Selection Workshops

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board of Port Commissioners receive a report on the Ventura Shellfish Enterprise Site Selection Workshops.

SUMMARY:

The Ventura Port District hosted two interactive site selection workshops at the Four Points Sheraton where information was gathered from stakeholders to help evaluate and discuss potential locations for the growing plots within a larger candidate area. These siting workshops will help the project team develop the project description that will be submitted to state and federal agencies as part of permit applications. The workshops are part of a lengthy outreach process that will include subsequent state and federal environmental review and consideration of the permit applications.

BACKGROUND:

Increasing the supply of safe, sustainably produced domestic seafood is a priority of the State Legislature, NOAA and the Department of Commerce. The Ventura Shellfish Enterprise (VSE) is a multi-party initiative that seeks to permit twenty 100-acre plots for growing the Mediterranean mussel (*Mytilus galloprovincialis*) via submerged long lines in state waters within the Santa Barbara Channel near Ventura Harbor. The Ventura Port District (VPD) has received a substantial sub-award from a \$300,000 NOAA 2015 Sea Grant for the proposed project.

The VSE team has been hosting a series of public workshops this year regarding the proposed project. There have been a total of 7 public workshops. The site selection workshops on July 11th and July 13th consisted of two duplicate meetings and a final workshop is scheduled for August 9th where information gathered from those first two workshops will be shared and discussed with additional opportunities for feedback.

While in-person participation was strongly encouraged, individuals who could not attend the meetings can continue to comment on site selection through posting comments through SeaSketch at venturashellfishenterprise.com. This marine spatial planning opportunity is available from Tuesday, July 11th through Wednesday, August 9th.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The Board authorized funding for SeaSketch in the amount of \$12,000.00, as part of the site selection process. Additionally, Blake Stok has been retained through a professional services agreement in the amount of \$17,500.00 to assist the District in coordinating the meetings and interfacing with SeaSketch personnel.

ATTACHMENTS:

None.