



VENTURA
PORT DISTRICT
Established 1952

BOARD OF PORT COMMISSIONERS

SEPTEMBER 13, 2016

STANDARD AGENDA ITEM 2

VENTURA SHELLFISH ENTERPRISE
SITE SELECTION WORKSHOP

VENTURA PORT DISTRICT
BOARD COMMUNICATION

STANDARD AGENDA ITEM 2
Meeting Date: September 13, 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:

On July 26, 2017 staff reported to the Board on two interactive site selection workshops held 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. Since that time a third and final site selection workshop was held to both summarize previous feedback and provide another opportunity for stakeholder comments. These siting workshops will help the VSE project team develop the project description and proposed lease locations that will be submitted to state and federal agencies as part of lease and permit applications. The workshops are part of a lengthy outreach process that will include subsequent state and federal environmental review and consideration of 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 educational workshops this year regarding the proposed project. In total there have been a total of 10 educational and site selection workshops since January. The site selection workshops on July 11th, 13th consisted of two duplicate meetings and the final workshop on August 9th. While in-person participation was strongly encouraged, individuals who were not able to attend the meetings were provided the opportunity to comment on site selection through SeaSketch linked to venturashellfishenterprise.com. This marine spatial planning opportunity was available through Wednesday, August 9th, the date of the final site selection meeting.

The goal for this meeting will be to receive a report on the Ventura Shellfish Enterprise Site Selection Workshops. As part of the report, the VSE team is in the process of developing several draft alternative growing plot areas for discussion purposes only. Staff intends to return to the Board, tentatively scheduled for September 27th, with recommended growing plot locations for submission of a lease application to the State. This application will trigger the state environmental review process, known as the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Dudek will prepare the Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) on the District's behalf.

FISCAL IMPACT:

As previously reported, the Board authorized funding for use of SeaSketch in the amount of \$12,000, as part of the site selection process. Additionally, Blake Stok was retained through a

professional services agreement in the amount of \$7,500 to assist the District in coordinating the meetings and interfacing with SeaSketch personnel. It is likely there will be additional cost for these two consulting services that have provided extensive support to the District during this outreach effort.

ATTACHMENTS:

None.