



VENTURA
PORT DISTRICT
Established 1952

BOARD OF PORT COMMISSIONERS

FEBRUARY 6, 2019

STANDARD AGENDA ITEM 2

VENTURA SHELLFISH ENTERPRISE:
APPROVAL OF NEW PROFESSIONAL
SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH MAINE
MARINE COMPOSITES FOR THE 2018
NOAA SEA GRANT TASKS

**VENTURA PORT DISTRICT
BOARD COMMUNICATION**

STANDARD AGENDA ITEM 2
Meeting Date: February 6, 2019

TO: Board of Port Commissioners
FROM: Brian Pendleton, Deputy General Manager
SUBJECT: Ventura Shellfish Enterprise: Approval of New Professional Services Agreement with Maine Marine Composites for the 2018 NOAA Sea Grant Tasks

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board of Port Commissioners approve a new Professional Services Agreement with Maine Marine Composites in the amount of \$8,250.00 for professional services for Ventura Shellfish Enterprise (VSE) project 2018 Sea Grant tasks.

SUMMARY:

The Professional Service Agreement (PSA) with Maine Marine Composites (MMC) is related to Task 5: Environmental Review pertaining to the Ventura Shellfish Enterprise (VSE) project 2018 NOAA Sea Grant. The PSA will be for the period of February 1, 2019 through June 30, 2019, and extended as necessary. MMC will provide oceanic engineering analysis for the VSE project in response to California Coastal Commission staff's request for additional project information.

BACKGROUND:

At the November 14, 2018 Commission meeting, the Board of Port Commissioners authorized the General Manager to sign the Cost Reimbursement Research Sub-Award Agreement for \$169,860 for the Ventura Shellfish Enterprise Project. This represents the first year's grant amount of the two-year award. The 2018 Sea Grant is for a two year period on a one-plus-one yearly basis and second year grant funds is contingent upon funding availability. The year one grant period is from September 1, 2018 to August 31, 2019. The total two-year sub-award is \$266,660.

Increasing the supply of safe, sustainably produced domestic seafood is a priority of the State Legislature, NOAA and the U.S. Department of Commerce. The VSE project is a multi-party initiative that seeks to permit twenty 100-acre plots for growing the Mediterranean mussel (*Mytilus galloprovincialis*) via submerged long lines within the Santa Barbara Channel near Ventura Harbor. The Ventura Port District received a substantial NOAA Sea Grant sub-award of \$300,000 in 2015 for the proposed project in support of these goals. As part of the 2015 grant, the VSE team developed a Strategic Permitting Plan previously provided to the Board and made available to stakeholders and the public. This Strategic Permitting Plan provides a great deal of information about project goals, objectives and regulatory requirements and can be found online at venturashellfishenterprises.com. The VSE project objectives include:

- To increase the supply of safe, sustainably produced, and locally-grown shellfish while minimizing potential negative environmental impacts;
- To enhance and sustain Ventura Harbor as a major west coast fishing port and support the local economy;
- To provide economies of scale, pre-approved sub-permit area, and technical support to include small local producers who would not otherwise be able to participate in shellfish aquaculture;
- To provide an entitlement and permitting template for aquaculture projects state-wide;
- To enhance public knowledge and understanding of sustainable shellfish farming practices and promote community collaboration in achieving VSE objectives;
- To advance scientific knowledge and state of the art aquaculture practices through research and innovation.

The proposed project goals and objectives further several of the District's fundamental mission and objectives, as summarized below:

- Maintaining a safe and navigable harbor;
- Diversification of commercial fishing opportunities to benefit the fishing industry and local and regional economies;
- Continued priority (as a commercial fishing harbor) for federal funding appropriations for annual dredging of the federal harbor entrance.

The VSE project, now sited for regulatory review in federal waters proximate to Ventura Harbor, seeks to address several regulatory and planning challenges that create impediments to the expansion of a domestic marine shellfish culture industry in California. The key objectives of the 2018 Sea Grant include:

- Permit Assignment Strategy
- Environmental Review Seafood Safety and Quality
- Grower/Producer Compliance Training Program and Information Dissemination
- Project Summary

To help complete the entitlement process and secure all necessary permits, MMC will provide oceanic engineering analysis for the VSE project. California Coastal Commission (CCC) staff is requesting additional information evaluating the performance of the mussel long-line system under un-stocked conditions and at maximum shellfish cultivation density under both 20-year and 100-year storm events.

MMC Hydrodynamics Engineer Tobias Dewhurst, Ph.D. has specialization in wave-structure interaction, hydrodynamics and aquaculture modeling and will provide the analysis for the District requested by the CCC staff.

FISCAL IMPACTS:

The Board previously approved 2018 grant funded PSA's with Dudek and Plauché & Carr, LLP.

Additionally, the Board approved \$80,000 in FY18-19 for project related professional services and expenses to supplement 2018 grant funding for the VSE project. Of the \$80,000, staff has entered into PSA's with Dudek for \$45,000 in environmental services, Plauché & Carr, LLP for \$34,000 in legal services and \$1,000 in miscellaneous costs such as public meeting room rentals, etc. This contract amount of \$8,250 is in addition to the \$80,000 previously approved by the Board. Therefore as part of the FY18-19 mid-year budget, an additional \$10,000 has been allocated for a total of \$90,000 in District funded project related professional services and expenses to fund the MMC PSA plus \$1,750 in other miscellaneous expenditures as necessary.

The 2018 Sea Grant is for a two year period on a one-plus-one yearly basis and second year grant funds is contingent upon funding availability. The year one grant period is from September 1, 2018 to August 31, 2019. The total two-year sub-award is \$266,660.

The grant requires a cost-share in the amount of \$136,105 for Year 1. The cost-share is achieved through in-kind contributions of time by Port District staff, consultant and volunteer participants from Coastal Marine Biolabs, The Cultured Abalone and Ashworth Leininger Group. For the 2015 Sea Grant, the in-kind contributions totaled approximately \$400,000 over a three-year period.

ATTACHMENTS:

None.