



VENTURA
PORT DISTRICT
Established 1952

BOARD OF PORT COMMISSIONERS

FEBRUARY 19, 2020

CONSENT AGENDA ITEM C

APPROVAL OF AMENDMENT NO. 1 TO
THE PROFESSIONAL SERVICES
AGREEMENT WITH DUDEK FOR THE
2018 NOAA SEA GRANT TASKS –
YEAR 2

**VENTURA PORT DISTRICT
BOARD COMMUNICATION**

CONSENT AGENDA ITEM C
Meeting Date: February 19, 2020

TO: Board of Port Commissioners
FROM: Brian D. Pendleton, General Manager
SUBJECT: Ventura Shellfish Enterprise: Approval of Amendment No. 1 to Professional Services Agreement with Dudek for the 2018 NOAA Sea Grant Tasks – Year 2

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board of Port Commissioners approve Amendment No. 1 to the Professional Services Agreement with Dudek for Year 2 Grant funding, in the amount of \$10,800, for the Ventura Shellfish Enterprise Project 2018 Sea Grant tasks.

SUMMARY:

On January 16, 2019 the Board approved a Professional Service Agreement (PSA) with Dudek for Task 5: Environmental Review pertaining to the Ventura Shellfish Enterprise (VSE) project 2018 NOAA Sea Grant for the period of September 1, 2018 through August 31, 2019 in the amount of \$108,610 (Year 1). Year 2 grant funding for the period of September 1, 2019 through August 31, 2020 is \$10,800, bringing the Agreement total to \$119,410.

BACKGROUND:

At the November 20, 2019 Commission meeting, the Board of Port Commissioners authorized the General Manager to sign the Cost Reimbursement Research Sub-Award Agreement for \$96,800 for the Ventura Shellfish Enterprise Project. This represents the second 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 two grant period is from September 1, 2019 to August 31, 2020. 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 complete the entitlement process and secure all necessary permits, Dudek the environmental consultant for the VSE project will continue to provide the following services:

- Environmental Reports and Studies
- Meetings and Agency Coordination
- Finalize List of Best Management Practices
- Coordinate and Draft Permit Language and Permit Special Conditions
- Draft or Review Monitoring Plans
- Draft Operations Plan for regulatory approval

FISCAL IMPACTS:

The grant requires a cost-share in the amount of \$272,210 for the two-year grant period. The cost-share is achieved through in-kind contributions of time by Port District staff and volunteer participants from Coastal Marine Biolabs, The Cultured Abalone and Ashworth Leininger Group.

Separately, by way of information, the Board approved \$100,000 in the FY19-20 Budget for project related professional services and expenses for Dudek to supplement grant funding for the VSE project. This includes \$55,000 for project management support and \$45,000 in supplemental environmental services needed to complete the required tasks as outlined in the grant.

ATTACHMENTS:

None.