



BOARD OF PORT COMMISSIONERS

MARCH 4, 2020

STANDARD AGENDA ITEM 1

APPROVAL OF A PROFESSIONAL
SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH COWI
FOR AN AQUACULTURE NAVIGATION
RISK ASSESSMENT FOR THE VENTURA
SHELLFISH ENTERPRISE PROJECT

**VENTURA PORT DISTRICT
BOARD COMMUNICATION**

STANDARD AGENDA ITEM 1
Meeting Date: March 4, 2020

TO: Board of Port Commissioners
FROM: Brian D. Pendleton, General Manager
SUBJECT: Approval of a Professional Services Agreement with COWI for an Aquaculture Navigation Risk Assessment for the Ventura Shellfish Enterprise Project

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board of Port Commissioners approve a Professional Services Agreement with COWI in an amount of \$64,040 to provide the District with an Aquaculture Navigation Risk Assessment for the Ventura Shellfish Enterprise Project.

SUMMARY:

The objectives for the Aquaculture Navigation Risk Assessment (Navigation Risk Assessment) for the Ventura Shellfish Enterprise Project (VSE) have been developed based upon U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) procedures and feedback from the initial permit application, as well as COWI's experience in undertaking similar studies. The objectives for this Navigation Risk Assessment are as follows:

- Evaluate the level of potential risk of the proposed aquaculture project on commercial and recreational shipping;
- Evaluate the impacts of the proposed aquaculture project on commercial and recreation shipping;
- Analyze the impact to vessel traffic patterns and traffic constraints as a result of the proposed aquaculture;
- Identify potential mitigation measures that, if required, will reduce navigation risk associated with the aquaculture project.

BACKGROUND:

The Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) will process the application for the VSE project once the District prepares a Navigational Risk Assessment required by the USCG and resolves a jurisdictional boundary issue raised by the Ventura Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCo). The District is working cooperatively with the Ventura LAFCo and state legislation has been introduced to resolve the matter.

In order to complete the Navigation Risk Assessment, the District reached out to six firms for this highly specialized work. Of these, two provided formal proposals. Both were responsive to the regulatory requirements with COWI representing the lower cost, qualified bid to the District.

COWI is well placed to undertake this work, having a strong track record in marine works including vessel navigation risk studies both in the USA and around the world. COWI is a leading consulting group that creates value for customers, people and society through their unique 360 approach. Based on their world-class competencies within engineering, economics and environmental science, they tackle challenges from many vantage points to create coherent solutions for their customers – and thereby sustainable and coherent societies in the world.

COWI has continued to be part of the world's elite in a number of selected specialist areas within engineering, economics and environmental science. In 2017, Engineering News-Record ranked COWI 1st in solid waste, 3rd in bridge consultancy and 4th in harbor and marine structures.

COWI will undertake this study in a manner that recognizes the requirements and sensitivities of the planned aquaculture project, but while doing so will also ensure that the Navigation Risk Assessment remains independent and impartial. The approach to this study will be as follows:

- Provide a review of USCG procedures for studying navigation risk, and provide a basis for the scope of this study;
- Provide information on the vessel type and waterway use near the proposed aquaculture locations, including;
 - Type, size and drafts of vessel;
 - Vessel routes;
 - Traffic density;
 - Seasonal vessel traffic variances;
 - Notable marine events;
- Present waterway characteristics, including prevailing weather conditions and bathymetry;
- Discuss the risk of collision as a result of the aquaculture project, including;
 - Likelihood of collision between vessel and aquaculture;
 - Likelihood of vessels propeller/rudder getting entangled in 'non-fixed' aquaculture lines;
 - Increased likelihood of collision between vessels;
- Discuss additional navigation considerations such as:
 - Increased waterway constraints;
 - Impact on vessel anchoring;
 - Effects of aquaculture on vessel radar and communications;
 - Marine navigational markings;
- Review the consequences of collision, both on the vessel and the aquaculture;
- Discuss potential mitigation measures, if required.

It is also understood that while the final deliverable will be a standalone COWI report, a significant contribution to this report will be made by National Ocean and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

COWI shall present the draft report to the District at a public Board Meeting allowing for stakeholder comment and then return to the Board with the final report for submission to the USCG and Corps.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The Board approved the FY19-20 Mid-Year Budget on February 19, 2020 with an adjustment of \$75,000 for the Aquaculture Navigational Risk Assessment. The COWI proposal is for \$64,040.

ATTACHMENTS:

None.