



VENTURA  
PORT DISTRICT  
*Established 1952*

**BOARD OF PORT COMMISSIONERS**

**SEPTEMBER 16, 2020**

**CONSENT AGENDA ITEM B**

**ACCEPTANCE OF 12-MONTH NO-COST**

**EXTENSION TO 2018 CALIFORNIA**

**SHELLFISH GRANT**

**VENTURA PORT DISTRICT**  
BOARD COMMUNICATION

**CONSENT AGENDA ITEM B**  
Meeting Date: September 16, 2020

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TO: Board of Port Commissioners  
FROM: Brian D. Pendleton, General Manager  
SUBJECT: Acceptance of 12-Month No-Cost Extension to 2018 California Sea Grant

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**RECOMMENDATION:**

That the Board of Port Commissioners authorize the General Manager to execute a 12-month extension to the *Cost Reimbursement Research Subaward Agreement* for the Ventura Shellfish Enterprise (VSE) project.

**SUMMARY:**

The 2018 CA Sea Grant is a two-year period on a one-plus-one yearly basis. The Year 1 grant period was from September 1, 2018 to August 31, 2019 and the VPD received \$169,860, which the Board approved on November 14, 2018. The Year 2 grant period is from September 1, 2019 to August 31, 2020 and the VPD received \$96,800 which the Board approved on November 20, 2019. The total two-year sub-award is \$266,660. The VPD has requested a 1-year, no-cost extension to complete the tasks.

The two-year grant period ended August 31, 2020. The California Sea Grant as grant awardee (the District is sub-awardee) approved the routine 1-year extension allowing for a total of three years to complete Tasks 4-8. The 12-month extension covers the period from September 1, 2020 through August 31, 2021.

**LONG-TERM GOALS:**

- Goal 1: Safety & Navigation
  - Maintain and enhance a safe and navigable harbor
    - a: Securing funding for dredging the Harbor entrance through the Army Corps of Engineers in coordination with agencies and our elected officials
- Goal 2: Commercial & Recreational Boating & Fishing
  - Support and promote commercial and recreational boating and fishing

**5-YEAR OBJECTIVES:**

- Objective F: Commercial Fishing
  - Support current commercial fishing industry central to Ventura's premier working waterfront through: stakeholder engagement, diversification, and infrastructure improvements
    - 3: VSE Project Grant Utilization
- Objective D: Harbor Dredging
  - Ensure that annual dredging occurs at the federal Harbor entrance and as needed in the inner Harbor
    - 1: Support and advocate for congressional funding to the Army Corps of Engineers in support of the Harbor's annual dredging program

**BACKGROUND:**

The VSE project is an initiative proposed by the Port District with support from project volunteers that seeks to permit twenty 100-acre plots for growing the naturalized Mediterranean mussel (*Mytilus galloprovincialis*), in California coastal waters via submerged long lines within the Santa Barbara Channel near Ventura Harbor. 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 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; and,
- To advance scientific knowledge and state of the art aquaculture practices through research and innovation.

The project's origins, goals and project funding are extensively discussed in a project status report to the Board on July 17, 2019. The VSE Annual Status Report was provided to the Commission and stakeholders at the July 15, 2020 Board meeting with the following deliverables:

Task 4 - Permit Assignment Strategy

Task 5 - Environmental Review

Task 6 - Shellfish Sanitation

Task 7 - Grower/Producer Compliance Training Program and Information Dissemination

Task 8 - Project Summary

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

There is no fiscal impact associated with this informational report. The 2018 CA Sea Grant sub-award is \$266,660, of which \$30,184.41 is remaining. The District's required cost match for the 2018 CA Sea Grant is \$272,210. This cost match is achieved through volunteer contributions of time by Ashworth Leininger Group (ALG), Coastal Marine Biolabs (CMB), The Cultured Abalone (TCA) and District staff plus direct costs incurred by the District. The accounting of these costs and volunteer hours are documented through quarterly financial reports prepared for Board consideration and approval.

Additionally, the Port District has contracted Illuminas Consulting to prepare a project economic and fiscal impact analysis that was presented in draft form to the Board on September 2, alongside the Preliminary Operations Plan.

**ATTACHMENT:**

None.