

# CITY OF SANTA BARBARA WATERFRONT DEPARTMENT

## MEMORANDUM

**Date:** April 21, 2022  
**To:** Harbor Commission  
**From:** Mike Wiltshire, Waterfront Director  
**Subject:** **Funding Request From Commercial Fishermen Of Santa Barbara**

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**RECOMMENDATION:** That Harbor Commission:

- A. Review and discuss an outside funding request in the amount of \$50,000 from the Commercial Fishermen of Santa Barbara; and
- B. Take action to support or deny the request. If in support, identify a funding source within the Waterfront Department budget and forward a recommendation to City Council to fund the request.

**DISCUSSION:**

Last fiscal year (FY 2021) the Commercial Fishermen of Santa Barbara (CFSB) submitted an outside funding request to City Council for \$25,000, which was approved and funded from the Waterfront Department's FY 2022 operating budget. These funds are intended to satisfy the local matching requirements of a \$100,000 United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Local Food Promotion Program grant. CFSB was awarded this grant in November of 2021 and anticipates utilizing the funds to prepare a feasibility study for the Maritime Collective project. As such, CFSB plans to utilize the \$25,000 in awarded matching funds in the near future.

Additionally, as a part of the FY 2023 budget, CFSB submitted a funding request in the amount of \$50,000 to City Council. However, in October 2021, City Council's Finance Committee met and advised staff to not bring outside agency funding requests to City Council, as done in prior years. As a result of City Council no longer funding outside agency funding requests, the formal request was redirected to the Harbor Commission for consideration.

This \$50,000 FY 2023 funding request would be utilized as matching funds for additional state and federal grants in support of Commercial Fishing and the Maritime Collective project. Details of the funding request are included in the attached *CFSB Request Letter dated April 7, 2022*.

The Harbor Commission does not have a formal process for funding outside requests from the public. If Harbor Commission agrees to fund the \$50,000, a funding source within the Waterfront Departments budget will need to be identified.

Attachment: CFSB Request Letter dated April 7, 2022

Prepared by: Brian Bosse, Waterfront Business Manager



A 501(c)3 non-profit organization  
6 Harbor Way #155 Santa Barbara, CA 93109 [www.cfsb.info](http://www.cfsb.info)

April 7, 2022

Mike Wiltshire, Waterfront Director  
Waterfront Department

Merit McCrea, Chairman  
Harbor Commission

132-A Harbor Way  
Santa Barbara, CA 93109

Dear Director Wiltshire and Chairman McCrea,

The Mayor and City Council unanimously approved a partnership with the Commercial Fishermen of Santa Barbara (CFSB) on August 4, 2020, to address the longstanding infrastructure needs of our commercial fishing fleet and to promote the local seafood industry. This Fisheries Infrastructure and Economic Development Initiative aims to diversify the City's economy and contribute to its recovery. A principal component of this partnership is a campaign to secure state and federal grants to acquire and develop the Maritime Collective; a multi-faceted resource hub that creates infrastructure for commercial fisheries and economic development opportunities for 'Blue Economy' entrepreneurs that seek to expand ways the ocean can support a climate-resilient coastal economy.

The City of Santa Barbara demonstrated its commitment to this initiative by appropriating \$25,000 in its FY 2022 – 2023 Budget to satisfy the local matching requirements necessary to apply for certain state and federal grants. The purpose of this correspondence is to brief the Council on the expenditure of that appropriation, CFSB's progress implementing this initiative and to ask favorable consideration of a request to provide an additional \$50,000 in the FY23 Budget to keep our work going.

CFSB is pleased to report that it was awarded a \$100,000 Planning Grant in November of 2021 by the Department of Agriculture's (U.S.D.A) Local Food Promotion Program. This funding allows us to prepare a Feasibility Study for the Maritime Collective. Since this federal grant program requires a 25% matching grant, CFSB will utilize the City's 2021 appropriation to CFSB of \$25,000 for this purpose.

Preparation of the Feasibility Study has commenced and will evaluate harvester needs, seafood production, and local economic impact of fisheries. The project will identify priority components for the Collective, select a physical location, create a business plan and financing strategy, and determine the equipment and business resources needed to make this a successful project for the region's seafood production and local distribution. Staff is optimistic that successful completion of these grant requirements should make the Maritime Collective a strong candidate for a \$500,000 USDA Implementation Grant, which is available from the same USDA program and requires 25% matching funds.

To prepare for submitting additional state and federal grant applications, **we are hereby asking for your consideration of a \$50,000 commitment of matching funds from the City's 2022 budget.** The rest of the required match will be compiled from other local foundations, and our own donated time and resources.

While the award of the Planning Grant represents a significant achievement, CFSB has also made real progress in other key areas. CFSB has strengthened its relationship with the County of Santa Barbara, collaboratively engaged regional economic development organizations and received direction from the Department of Commerce's Economic Development Administration regarding eligibility for funding programs established as components of the American Rescue Plan Act. (ARPA). Though these relationships will undoubtedly require time, we believe we are already experiencing benefits from these associations that include:

- Santa Barbara County Supervisors have encouraged CFSB to apply for project funding through the County's allocation from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund.
- County Supervisor Hartmann suggested CFSB engage Congressman Carbajal regarding the Maritime Collective's eligibility for funding from Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act and agreed to support those efforts.
- REACH, a regional economic development organization has agreed to include the Maritime Collective and Local Seafood Initiative in the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) it is developing for San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara Counties.
- Economic Development Cooperative has executed a contract with CFSB to serve as a consultant and advisor on federal and state grant programs at no cost.
- Economic Development Administration's Southern California Administrator has connected us to the San Diego Regional Policy and Innovation Center to include the Maritime Collective in a proposed regional cluster focused on revitalizing the commercial fishing industry and creating a network of new infrastructure to support growth at ports in San Diego, Ventura, and Santa Barbara.

CFSB is optimistic that the commercial fishing and seafood industries can achieve the economic diversification and outcomes the City Council approved in 2020. Annual Assessments prepared by the California Fish and Wildlife Department confirm a dramatic, upward market trajectory for local seafood, documenting a 60% increase in

seafood purchased by locally-registered dockside buyers. Despite the pandemic's economic devastation, Santa Barbara's small-boat fishing fleet captured **number one ranking among California's ports** for the value of the seafood brought across the docks, Our fishery posted the state's highest economic return for twenty-six commercial species and six of the state's top 10 in 2020, capitalizing on remarkable species diversity, sustainable fishing practices and skyrocketing demand for Santa Barbara Channel seafood. Our port reported \$11.4 million in total sales, which if multiplied achieves an estimated total impact of \$40 million to the coastal economy.

As you deliberate this brief report and review our \$50,000 funding request, we hope you will also realize that this project helps implement important state and local plans and statutes, which all codify that protecting and enhancing commercial fishing, seafood businesses and maritime infrastructure (Coastal Act, Local Coastal Plan, City's Economic Development Plan, Harbor Master Plan) is a priority.

We at the Commercial Fishermen of Santa Barbara are very grateful for the strong relationship it enjoys with the City of Santa Barbara and its history of making critical investments in our working waterfront. Thank you for any consideration you may give our funding request.

Sincerely,



Chris Voss, F/V Bella "B" – President,  
Commercial Fishermen of Santa Barbara



Executive Planning Team Member



Kim Selkoe, Ph.D. – Executive Director, Commercial  
Fishermen of Santa Barbara  
Research Scientist, UC Santa Barbara & NCEAS  
Founder & CEO, Get Hooked Seafood



Executive Planning Team Member