



May 19, 2014

US Department of Transportation  
Office of Infrastructure Finance and Innovation  
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE  
Washington, DC 20590  
[TIGERgrants@dot.gov](mailto:TIGERgrants@dot.gov)

RE: Tiger Grant Application from San Mateo County Harbor District dated 4/28/14

To Whom It May Concern:

The Half Moon Bay Seafood Marketing Association is a collective of commercial fishermen in Half Moon Bay, California. Our fully inclusive organization represents commercial fishing producers of all gear types, all local target species and all sizes of fishing businesses working out of Pillar Point Harbor. We also represent *“one of California's top performing commercial fishing fleets that generate an average of approximately \$6.5 million at the dock each year, over \$150 million since 1990.”* mentioned on page 6 of the Tiger Grant Application written by the San Mateo County Harbor District and dated 4/28/14.

You may have noticed that the support letters included in the grant application from SMCHD did not include support from the local commercial fishing industry. We were not aware of this application, nor were we asked to support proposed infrastructure changes to our port.

Unfortunately, this is indicative of the lack of working relationship between the San Mateo County Harbor District and the backbone of the industry on which Pillar Point Harbor has been built.

The Tiger Grant application states on page 7 that *“Pillar Point Harbor supports a steadily growing fishing culture and economy. As a contributor and supporter of this seaside community, the Harbor District's role in the cultivation and promotion of this vital economic drive is crucial.”* We are extremely disappointed to have to say this, but the actions of the San Mateo County Harbor District are not consistent with this statement.

PO Box 872 Half Moon Bay, CA 94019 [hmbsmaboard@gmail.com](mailto:hmbsmaboard@gmail.com)  
[www.halfmoonbayseafood.org](http://www.halfmoonbayseafood.org)

In January of 2014, at a SMCHD meeting, our organization presented a letter to the SMCHD, which specifically asked that the commercial fishing industry be considered a stakeholder in Pillar Point Harbor infrastructure decisions. This letter was publically recognized by Harbor Staff and Commissioners, and assurances were made that industry would be welcome to participate in the public process. A copy of that letter as well as a press release from April 2014, when that letter was ignored and infrastructure changes affecting the fleet were installed without input, are attached to this letter.

Unfortunately, this is just one example of the lack of consideration for the commercial fishing fleet by the San Mateo County Harbor District. The commercial fishing industry is intricate and complicated, steeped in history yet ever evolving to meet the socioeconomic challenges of a changing global economy and expanding regulatory compliance requirements. It is unfortunate that the well documented dysfunction and continued disregard for the commercial fishing industry by the SMCHD has forced us into a position where another challenge we face is to protect the local commercial fishing interests from within our own community.

We have made numerous attempts to participate in the public process with SMCHD to no avail, therefore, due to the current climate within the SMCHD and because our lives depend on the changes made to our harbor, we cannot support the SMCHD Tiger Grant application at this time. We are simply not comfortable with public grant funds being provided for further changes to our port, that the local commercial fishing industry will not have a voice in.

We are hopeful that in the future, things will change and that the San Mateo County Harbor District will productively engage with the *“fishing industry that provides the main economic drive for the community of Half Moon Bay, Princeton and El Granada vicinity”* (pg 15). At that time, we would be happy to support grant funding for expansions in our port that could benefit our industry and community.

Sincerely,

Half Moon Bay Seafood Marketing Association

cc: San Mateo County Supervisors: President Dave Pine, Carole Groom, Don Horsley, Warren Slocum, Adrienne Tissier; Congresswoman Jackie Speier, Senator Jerry Hill, Assemblyman Kevin Mullin, Congresswoman Anna Eshoo, Assemblyman Rich Gordon



April 15, 2014

Press Release from HMBSMA: Half Moon Bay, California.

Commercial fishermen from the Half Moon Bay Seafood Marketing Association are disappointed that the San Mateo County Harbor District did not keep promises to include stakeholders before making infrastructure changes to Johnson Pier.

The Half Moon Bay Seafood Marketing Association represents commercial fishermen from Pillar Point Harbor in Half Moon Bay, which is consistently one of the top ten commercial fishing ports in California's \$200 plus million dollar fishing industry.

On January 15, 2014 the HMBSMA presented a letter to the San Mateo County Harbor District expressing concerns over infrastructure changes at Johnson Pier without input from the fishing industry. (letter attached).

Public record and video from the meeting available at <http://www.citizenaccess.tv/smchd/smchd-01-15-2014.php> (Item #12) provides assurances from General Manager Peter Grenell and Harbormaster Scott Grindy to commissioners Bernardo and Brennan that no infrastructure changes, hoist installations or movement of freezers will move forward without input from all stakeholders.

HMBSMA members were not contacted in response to the letter dated 1/15/14 and on April 15, 2014 installation of a new hoist in a new location where a hoist has never existed previously began.

HMBSMA is quite disappointed that infrastructure changes are moving forward without industry and stakeholder input, despite assurances on 1/15/14 that this was not the way SMCHD conducts business.

[www.halfmoonbayseafood.org](http://www.halfmoonbayseafood.org)

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January 15, 2014

To: San Mateo County Harbor District Commissioners, General Manager Grenell,  
Harbormaster Grindy  
From: Half Moon Bay Seafood Marketing Association  
RE: Agenda Item #12- Informational Report: Hoists on Johnson Pier

The commercial fishing members of the Half Moon Bay Seafood Marketing Association are greatly affected by decisions made regarding the configuration of hoists and freezers on Johnson Pier. Our businesses depend on the ability to efficiently access loading and offloading facilities, as well as fuel and ice etc.

We believe that changes to the infrastructure on which fishermen depend requires a great deal of consideration and planning. Therefore, we would like to request that industry members be consulted and allowed to participate in the process prior to any hoist installations or infrastructure changes that affect the fleet. Our board of directors and members can be reached at [hmbsmaboard@gmail.com](mailto:hmbsmaboard@gmail.com) in order to schedule a meeting prior to any changes to the pier.

Sincerely,

Porter McHenry  
President  
Half Moon Bay Seafood Marketing Association