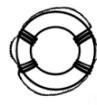


# FIX OUR HARBORS



## Vote Nicole David & Tom Mattusch for Harbor District



Dear Voter,

I've been an active Half Moon Bay commercial fisherman for 56 years and a leaseholder at Pillar Point Harbor for over 30 years. I first learned to fish with my dad and my wife Kim also started fishing as a kid. Now that I'm 70 my son Porter is running our boat the "Merva W," and Kim still operates the forklift and manages the family business.

The scathing **2014 Grand Jury report** against the San Mateo County Harbor District confirmed what's long been common knowledge among commercial fisherman and the harbor community: **The present Harbor Commission is not up to the task of running our harbors.**

In 2012 the Harbor Commission raised the fish unloading fees, and they are now the highest rate on the West Coast. The fees are passed onto fishermen and ultimately onto consumers. For the past several years I've attended countless Harbor District meetings to raise awareness regarding the harm these fees are having on small fishing businesses and on the local economy.

Commissioners Jim Tucker, Will Holsinger, and Robert Bernardo stubbornly insist they are entitled to a percentage of the commercial fishing fleet's catch without the risks involved in going to sea. Commissioners are aware that the fees they're imposing are 8 to 10 times those of anywhere else in California, and inconsistent with market conditions at all West Coast commercial fishing ports. Commissioners should understand that requiring outrageous and unprecedented fees for unloading fish at Pillar Point Harbor isn't a sustainable approach to generating revenue.

We desperately need to **VOTE out the incumbents**, and try to begin anew with a board made up of folks genuinely concerned about how the harbor operates.

While trying to work with the present harbor commissioners, Jim Tucker, Will Holsinger, and Robert Bernardo, it has become so obvious that "The Good Old Boys Club" is not interested in working with the user groups, or the fishing community.

Robert Bernardo has stated that the "commission has found a new revenue source." What he hasn't said is, that new "revenue source" comes off the backs of the hard working men and women that risk their lives everyday to make a living out on the ocean, bringing in fresh local seafood for everyone's enjoyment.

Will Holsinger recently said that property values in the County are increasing and that the District can expect to receive even more tax revenue in the coming years. This comment makes it appear likely that the use of public property tax money to subsidize enterprise functions will not only continue, but increase.

After putting a halt to the videotaping of harbor commission meetings, which were installed in the interest of transparency, **Jim Tucker voted to terminate the video coverage calling it "a fungus" and accused the public of grandstanding when asking for transparency.**

Now at election time Tucker and Holsinger claim to be supported by the commercial fisherman they are trying to put out of business. Nothing could be further from the truth.

The three incumbents up for election (Tucker, Bernardo, and Holsinger) have turned their backs on the fishing community by imposing the highest unloading fees in the State of California.

**It is time for a change!**

In the report the Grand Jury revealed that over the last 5 years the District's operating expenses have exceeded its revenue by more than \$18 million. Last year the cost of salaries and benefits to the district was 103% of its operating revenue. The District's operating revenue only covers 48% of expenses, the other 52% must therefore be taken from property taxes.

The Harbor District recently misplaced \$40,000 in tenant checks for berthing, and now \$30,000 in fishing fees are missing. Over the past few years members of the public have asking numerous questions about accounting irregularities. When bank records were requested, management made excuses and refused to provide useful information.

**There's no way to sugar coat it, the San Mateo County Harbor Commission is in disarray**, often requiring police presence at commission meetings, and being asked to leave certain venues. While tenant's rent checks are being lost, public comments are being rescheduled to the last few minutes of the meeting ensuring the public speakers will not have time to speak. It's no wonder the Civil Grand Jury has received numerous complaints from the public about the harbor commissioners.

**Please reform our troubled Harbor District by voting for Nicole David (4 year seat) and Tom Mattusch (2 year seat).**

Please contact me with any questions 650-703-5498.

Michael D. McHenry  
Merva W (60-foot fishing vessel built in 1971)  
Leaseholder, Pillar Point Harbor  
Berth Holder, Pillar Point Harbor  
Member, Half Moon Bay Seafood Marketing Association

### THE DAILY JOURNAL

"Harbor District officials need to shape up."

—Dave Pine, President, SMC Board of Supervisors, July 2014

"The Harbor District needs a sustainable financial plan, their audit reports are inadequate."

—Don Horsley, SMC Board Supervisor, July 2014

"In 2012, the Harbor District began charging the highest fish buying fees in the state. The decision has been at the center of upheaval between the District and those in the commercial fishing industry."

—Samantha Weigel, June 6, 2014

"There's ongoing distrust and frankly, our commercial fishing association has not been happy with the way commissioners have been conducting District business," Steve Fitz said. "We simply want to be considered because the decisions they make, impact our businesses directly. And we deserve to be at the table and we haven't been."

—Samantha Weigel, May 29, 2014

"As one observer commented, the meeting could be summed up in one action, when Commissioner James Tucker asked a staff person, whose imminent maternity leave had just been approved, to waddle across a crowded room to fetch a glass of water."

—Lee Engdahl, Aug. 12, 2013

### Half Moon Bay Review

"The San Mateo County Harbor Commission has lost its way, and constituents are paying the price. The most disappointing fact of all is that violations of law, breaks in decorum and offenses to the practice of good governance are too numerous to mention in this space."

—Clay Lambert, Editor, Sept. 26, 2013

"\$38,000 in tenants' checks were missing. The 37 checks, some dating as far back as early 2012, were never deposited and had been sitting for months in an employee's desk drawer. The checks were first discovered in July by the district's newly appointed finance director, and the incident was related to the commission two months later."

—Mark Noack, Oct. 31, 2013

"Whatever the rationale for replacing video with audio, the perception will be that commissioners are afraid of the light that comes with those cameras. Good politicians know better than to court that kind of perception."

—Clay Lambert, Editor, Aug. 21, 2013

### San Jose Mercury News

"The district's proposal raised eyebrows because it followed several unusual occurrences over the past year, including the reported discovery last summer of \$38,000 in checks from district tenants that had never been deposited and the board's decision in November to stop videotaping its meetings."

—Aaron Kinney, Feb. 3 2014

### CONTRACOSTA TIMES

"San Mateo County Harbor Commissioner compensation, \$25,757 in cash and benefits for attending 21 meetings that lasted an average of 77 minutes each, came out to \$955 an hour."

—Editorial, Dec. 30, 2013

### MontaraFog

"Robert Bernardo, who looks and acts more and more like a well-trained puppy with every passing meeting, agreed with Jim Tucker that the meeting behavior was a problem but then pointed out that maybe they just weren't used to interacting with the public, period."

—Darin Boville, Editor, Sept. 18, 2013

Half Moon Bay Seafood Marketing Association

HalfMoonBaySeafood.org



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