



## Central California Joint Cable/Fisheries Liaison Committee Commercial Fishing Industry Improvement Fund

### **Project Title:**

“Port San Luis Harbor District - CMANC Washington Week 2022”

### **Project Definition:**

**Description:** Send up to two District personnel to the California Marine Affairs and Navigation Conference in Washington DC (“CMANC Washington Week 2022”), to represent the Central Coast to the US Army Corps of Engineers, to our federal legislators and their staff and to other federal agencies as appropriate or necessary.

This opportunity to present our case to the Legislature and the USACE Headquarters staff is critical to the likelihood of success to these two ventures.

### **Discussion:**

#### **Dredging**

Dredging has been and remains a significant issue for the District. The shoaling in of the two launch sites results in decreased access for commercial fishermen and recreational boaters and for Public Safety agencies such as the Harbor Patrol.

Additionally, maintenance and consistency on our relationships with USACE staff is critical in order to maximize the potential for realizing other options, for example, use of Port San Luis as a borrow site for potential beach replenishment in Pismo Beach as a component of USACE approved bluff stabilization projects.

#### **Breakwater Repair & Sea Level Rise Planning**

USACE owns and is responsible for maintaining the federal breakwater at Port San Luis. Previous advocacy trips resulted in funding being allocated to breakwater repairs that are scheduled to begin soon. However, most California breakwaters, including Port San Luis, will also need follow up work to raise their design height in preparation for sea level rise. Funding for this work is separate from the repair budget and will require ongoing advocacy.

The breakwater plays a crucial role in the safety of the harbor. Port San Luis Harbor is designated by the California legislature as a harbor of safe refuge.

The Port is home to approximately 200 vessels. These include commercial and sport fishing vessels that contribute to the economy and job markets in central California. The supporting landside businesses are dependent on the local fleet to generate jobs and revenue producing

goods and services - including vessel haul-out and repair facilities, fueling stations, seafood buying stations, and ancillary services.

Pressing the case for ongoing maintenance and improvements to the breakwater is crucial.

Other:

While in Washington, your harbor representatives will seek opportunities to influence decision makers, both staff and elected, in areas related to regional sediment management, marine sanctuaries, U.S. Coast Guard (both regulatory and for fishermen and assistance for public safety), fisheries, harbor infrastructure and security.

Separately from this annual legislative visit, the District attends two other CMANC meetings in California, and retains the services of a legislative advocate in Washington, to enhance and multiply the benefits of our association with CMANC. As a current CMANC officer, the Harbor Director also attends a separate trip to Washington for small-group meetings, and takes advantage of opportunities throughout the year to meet with decision makers.

**Project Cost:** \$8,000; see detail below

**Project Duration:** 6 days

**Project Staff:** Two District personnel will attend the conference in Washington DC and represent the Central Coast and Port San Luis to the USACE Headquarters Staff and the Legislature. If selected to represent the District, Commissioner Brandy is a Director of CMANC, and in his time on the Harbor Commission has developed strong relationships with USACE staff, amongst others. Harbor Director Suzy Watkins currently serves as the Statewide Chair for CMANC and is responsible for leading key Washington meetings on behalf of all California ports and harbors.

**Deliverables:** This opportunity to present our case to our congressional representatives, the USACE Headquarters Staff and other federal agencies is critical to the likelihood of success on many fronts. On return to Port San Luis, the District will prepare and deliver a comprehensive report on the activities, meetings and any outcomes of the trip.

**Financial Benefits:** Direct and measurable financial benefits from this sort of lobbying and legislative activity are difficult to measure. Constancy and consistency are key to the success of these efforts. The cost to the local fishing community of a failure of the breakwater is great; the benefits of federal dredging or a voice in the development of Marine Sanctuaries Act legislation, or receipt of major grant funds for travel hoist pier extension are very significant.

**Secondary Benefits:** All patrons of the port will benefit secondarily from success in any of our federal initiatives.

**Project Plan**

The CMANC agenda for Washington Week 2022 is not published yet. In previous years, your representatives arrived early to participate in various meetings specific to the needs of Port San Luis, and as arranged by the Port's legislative advocate, Julie Minerva. As CMANC meetings typically occur Monday through Wednesday, District personnel will remain after the meetings, for the same purpose.

On return to Port San Luis, District staff will prepare and deliver a comprehensive report on the activities, meetings and any outcomes of the trip.

The dates for Washington Week 2022 are on hold pending the reopening of congressional and government administrative offices to the public. There has been some progress made in returning to normal functions. CMANC is monitoring the situation with input from Julie Minerva, and the CMANC board does intend to schedule in-person visits as soon as possible.

## **Financial Schedule**

### **Project Cost:**

The District estimates total project cost at this time as **\$8,000**:

Estimated Costs for Two Attendees

	<u>Each</u>	<u>Grant Total</u>
CMANC Conference Registration	\$ 395.00	\$ 790.00
Hotel (up to 6 nights @ \$309/night,+ taxes+ internet) (Liaison Capitol Hill CMANC rate is \$309/night)	\$2,172.75	\$4,345.50
Round trip airfare San Luis Obispo to D.C., (United Airlines Economy Class/ non-refundable, estimated)	\$ 786.25	\$1,572.50
Baggage fees and other airline add-ons (estimated)	\$ 100.00	\$ 200.00
Meals (6 days @ \$71/day, estimated)	\$ 426.00	\$ 852.00
Taxis and other incidentals, estimated		\$ 240.00
Total Estimated Cost		<u>\$8,000.00</u>
<b>Amount of Grant Request</b>		<b>\$8,000.00</b>

No funding will be required until the completion of the trip.

On return to Port San Luis, an itemized statement of costs will be submitted, requesting reimbursement.