



May 21, 2026

The Honorable Alex Padilla  
United States Senate  
331 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Padilla:

On behalf of the Santa Cruz Port District, thank you for your strong support of the harbor's Fiscal Year 2027 Energy & Water Community Project Funding request.

Annual maintenance dredging is required to keep the harbor operational year-round and sustain regional economic activity, national security operations, public-safety response, and the livelihood of local families and businesses that rely on a safe and navigable entrance channel. Beyond commercial activity, Santa Cruz Harbor plays a critical role in national security and public safety by providing berthing and operational support for the U.S. Coast Guard and maintaining 24/7 first responder search and rescue capability through its Harbor Patrol Department. In addition to these important attributes, Santa Cruz Harbor remains one of the only small craft harbors in the nation that shares in the cost of performing the Corps' federal dredging responsibilities, which demonstrates the Port District's commitment to maximizing the value of federal investment. Your leadership on this project will help ensure the harbor's critical dredging operations can continue safely.

We thank you for your leadership on this project and appreciate the hard work and dedication of your excellent staff in Washington and in California. We look forward to working with you and your staff as the FY 2027 appropriations process moves forward this summer.

Sincerely,

Reed Geisreiter  
Chair, Santa Cruz Port District Commission