



United States House of Representatives
19th Congressional District, California
Jimmy Panetta

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January 23, 2026

The Honorable Russell Vought
Director
Office of Management and Budget
725 17th Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20503

Mr. Adam Telle
Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works
United States Army
108 Army Pentagon
Room 3E446
Washington, D.C. 20310

Lt. General William H. "Butch" Graham Jr.
Chief of Engineers and Commanding General
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
441 G Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20226

Dear Director Vought, Lieutenant General Graham, and Mr. Telle:

As you develop the Fiscal Year 2026 (FY26) Work Plan for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), we write to request \$630,000 in funding for the Santa Cruz Port District. For nearly forty years, the Santa Cruz Port District and USACE have maintained an innovative partnership to support the critical dredging needs of the federally authorized Santa Cruz Harbor.

As you know, this cost-share agreement was recently updated to memorialize terms for the annual reimbursement. This reimbursement enables annual maintenance dredging and is essential to sustaining 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.

The importance of Santa Cruz Harbor to California's 19th Congressional District cannot be overstated. Santa Cruz Harbor is a small craft harbor and federal navigation project on California's Central Coast constructed by USACE in 1964 and operated by the Santa Cruz Port District in accordance with its federal legislative mandates: commercial fishing, recreation, and harbor of refuge. In addition to providing refuge for coastal mariners, Santa Cruz Harbor supports a presence by the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) which maintains Station Santa Cruz on a seasonal basis. The Santa Cruz Harbor Patrol provides first response search and rescue in North Monterey Bay when Station Santa Cruz is not staffed by the USCG. From January 1, 2022, to December 31, 2024, Santa Cruz Harbor Patrol responded to 219 search and rescue calls, saving

117 lives—functions that simply cannot be performed without a safe and navigable channel in place.

Additionally, Santa Cruz Harbor supports commercial operations including commercial fishing, charter operations, and business operators such as Boat U.S., as well as provides berthing for several public entities including, but not limited to, the California Air National Guard, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, California State Parks and numerous programs which benefit the public such as O’Neill Sea Odyssey’s renowned marine education program, the University of California Santa Cruz sailing program, Santa Cruz Sailing Foundation’s youth programs, and the Santa Cruz Sea Scouts.

This federal funding ensures not only the continued dredging but also the consistent commercial and recreational use of Santa Cruz Harbor. As you develop the FY26 Work Plan, we request that you include full funding for the Santa Cruz Port District to maintain safe and navigable depths in the federal channel at Santa Cruz Harbor.

Thank you for your attention to this request and please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'J. Panetta', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Jimmy Panetta
U.S. Representative
19th Congressional District, California