



Regular Public Session of March 22, 2022

**Santa Cruz Port Commission
MINUTES**

Commission Members Present (via teleconference):

Reed Geisreiter	Chair
Darren Gertler	Vice-chair
Dennis Smith	Commissioner
Stephen Reed	Commissioner
Toby Goddard	Commissioner

REGULAR PUBLIC SESSION – 7:00 PM

Chair Geisreiter convened the regular public session at 7:00 PM via teleconference.

1. Pledge of Allegiance
2. Oral Communication

Commissioner Gertler reported that he recently participated in the Santa Cruz Commercial Fishermen's Association meeting, which was well attended.

The Commission expressed support for the new agenda design and layout, specifically the reintroduction of the harbor's three boat circle logo.

A brief discussion ensued regarding the Port District's logo variations. There was consensus among the Commission to reincorporate the three boat circle logo onto future letterhead and branding material.

CONSENT AGENDA

3. Approval of Minutes
 - a) Special Public Budget Meeting of February 15, 2022
 - b) Regular Public Meeting of February 22, 2022
4. Approval of Month-to-Month Rental Agreement – Paved Lot (Tenant: Bayside Marine)
5. Approval of Sublease Agreement – 2222 E. Cliff Drive, Suite 220 (Tenant: Estriatus Law)
6. Approval of Resolution 22-09, Continuing Virtual Public Meetings in Accordance with Assembly Bill 361

MOTION: Motion made by Commissioner Reed, seconded by Commissioner Smith to approve consent agenda items 3 through 6.

- *Motion carried unanimously by roll call.*
 - *Gertler: YES*
 - *Smith: YES*

- *Reed: YES*
- *Goddard: YES*
- *Geisreiter: YES*

REGULAR AGENDA

7. Consideration of 6-Pak Charter Application – Seabright Sportfishing

Discussion: Harbormaster Anderson requested that the Commission consider authorization of a 6-pak charter operation in the northeast harbor. He stated that approval of this request will have minimal impact in the area.

Commissioner Geisreiter expressed support for approving the proposed charter operation. Commissioner Smith agreed.

MOTION: Motion made by Vice-chair Gertler, seconded by Commissioner Goddard to approve a 6-pak charter permit application for Jason Collins of Seabright Sportfishing.

- *Motion carried unanimously by roll call.*

- *Gertler: YES*
- *Smith: YES*
- *Reed: YES*
- *Goddard: YES*
- *Geisreiter: YES*

8. Update on Local Chapter Formation of CSDA – Insurance Requirements

Discussion: Commissioner Goddard requested that the Commission approve the Sample Certificate for Liability Coverage, which is included as Exhibit B of the CSDA Chapter Affiliation Agreement. He stated that approval of the sample certificate will allow the Port District to continue moving forward with the formation process of a county-wide chapter of the California Special Districts Association (CSDA), if enough local interest exists among other eligible agencies.

MOTION: Motion made by Commissioners Reed, seconded by Commissioner Smith to approve sample certificate for liability insurance coverage.

- *Motion carried unanimously by roll call.*

- *Gertler: YES*
- *Smith: YES*
- *Reed: YES*
- *Goddard: YES*
- *Geisreiter: YES*

9. Consideration of Hybrid Meeting Format for Port Commission Meetings

Discussion: Administrative Services Manager (ASM) Ritter stated that the Port District has been conducting virtual Port Commission meetings in accordance with Assembly Bill 361 since January 2022. She explained that new legislation (AB 1944) is currently being considered, and if signed into law, would allow the Port District the option to offer a virtual participation component for members of the public and Commissioners at future public meetings.

ASM Ritter requested that the Commission provide direction to staff on whether there is interest in procuring and implementing equipment to facilitate a hybrid (virtual and in-person) meeting format.

A brief discussion ensued regarding the potential benefits of a hybrid meeting platform. While there was a general consensus among the Commission to return to in-person meetings in April, there was support for exploring equipment and technology needs necessary to potentially transition to hybrid meetings in the future.

10. Approval of Cash / Payroll Disbursements – February 2022 (*There was no discussion on this agenda item*)

MOTION: Motion made by Commissioner Goddard, seconded by Vice-chair Gertler to approve cash and payroll disbursements for February 2022 in the amount of \$646,386.90.

- *Motion carried by roll call vote.*

- *Gertler: YES*
- *Smith: YES*
- *Reed: YES*
- *Goddard: YES*
- *Geisreiter: YES*

INFORMATION

11. Port Director's Report

Murray Street Bridge Seismic Retrofit Project – Independent Appraisal

Port Director MacLaurie stated that the Port District's appraisal report for the Murray Street Bridge Seismic Retrofit Project has been forwarded to the City of Santa Cruz and their consultant, Bender Rosenthal Inc. (BRI). Negotiations for a final settlement agreement continue, and BRI has given a preliminary indication that their settlement offer will increase by approximately \$750,000, which includes approximately \$500,000 to cover lost visitor berthing revenue as a result of permanent slip renters from FF-Dock being displaced to end-tie spaces.

Port Director MacLaurie stated that she anticipates that a settlement agreement will be provided to the Commission for review in the coming months.

Insurance Coverage

Port Director MacLaurie informed the Commission of her intent to bind insurance coverage for FY23 by April 1. She stated that the District's insurer is having some difficulties securing coverage for the marine package policy, which includes coverage for docks, piers, and other marine infrastructure. Other coverages, such as cyber liability and public officials' liability insurance have renewals in place for April 1, with premiums increasing by approximately 15%.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Dredging Reimbursement – FY22 Appropriation

Port Director MacLaurie stated that last week, the President signed the FY22 Omnibus Appropriations Package, which included \$525,000 in reimbursement for the Port District's dredging operation. She stated that this is the first time in at least a decade that the Port District has not had to rely on a subsequent work plan process to secure these annual funds.

Staff is currently working to submit the required FY23 appropriations, which are due by April 4, 2022.

Regional General Permit (RGP)

Port Director MacLaurie stated that the Port District's RGP application is still pending approval from U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' (USACE) and California Coastal Commission. Permit issuance is anticipated in the coming months.

12. Harbormaster's Report

Harbormaster Anderson stated that staff is preparing for the upcoming recreational salmon season, which is scheduled to open on April 2, 2022.

In response to a question posed by Commissioner Goddard, Harbormaster Anderson confirmed that heavy visitation, similar to the 2021 season, is expected for the upcoming commercial salmon season.

13. Facilities Maintenance & Engineering Report

Facilities Maintenance & Engineering (FME) Manager Wulf stated that staff has reinstalled the aerators throughout the harbor in preparation for any potential heightened anchovy activity.

FME Manager Wulf stated that the dredge crew continues to make significant progress deepening the federal navigation channel.

Commissioner Reed expressed his appreciation to the dredge crew for their hard work in maintaining the entrance channel this year. He stated that the depths reflected on the most recent sounding are very favorable. Commissioner Goddard agreed.

14. Bi-Annual Slip Vacancy Report / Waiting List Statistics

A brief discussion ensued regarding the significant increase in recent waiting list

applications. It was noted that over the last year and a half, 170 new waiting list applications have been processed.

In response to a comment made by Commissioner Goddard, staff stated that the formulas listed in the spreadsheet will be confirmed prior to the distribution of the June 30, 2022 report.

15. Financial Reports (*There was no discussion on this agenda item*)
 - a) Comparative Seasonal Revenue Graphs
16. Delinquent Account Reporting (*There was no discussion on this agenda item*)
17. Harbor Patrol Incident Response Report – February 2022 (*There was no discussion on this agenda item*)
18. Port Commission Review Calendar / Follow-Up Items (*There was no discussion on this agenda item*)

Chair Geisreiter adjourned the regular public session at 7:54 PM.


Darren Gertler, Vice-chair