

**NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT A
MITIGATED NEGATIVE
DECLARATION
For the Commercial Fishing Modernization Project
PFIPL-6197(008)
Caltrans PPNO No. 6321
Advantage ID No. 724000321**

This serves as the Oxnard Harbor District's (District) Notice of Intent (NOI) to adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) for the Commercial Fishing Modernization Project, prepared in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), CEQA Guidelines, and local implementation procedures.

Lead Agency: Oxnard Harbor District, 333 Ponoma Street, Port Hueneme, CA 93041

Project Title: Commercial Fishing Modernization Project (Project)

Project Location: The Project Site consists of two sites in Ventura County. The first site is located at 333 Ponoma Street at the Port of Hueneme, Oxnard Harbor District, located in the City of Port Hueneme. The second site is located at 1449 Spinnaker Drive within the Ventura Harbor in the City of Ventura.

Project Description:

The Project would construct a new commercial squid offloading facility in the Ventura Harbor. The new facility would increase the landing capacity to offload, process, and transport commercial squid at the Ventura Harbor to allow Ventura Harbor to process squid previously processed through the Port of Hueneme. The existing commercial squid offloading facilities at the Port of Hueneme would then be demolished.

To minimize disruption to existing fishing operations, the Project would be implemented over four phases, which are anticipated to commence as early as 2027. Phase 1 would construct a new 7-bay offloading facility in the southwest area of the Ventura Harbor project site that is currently a parking lot and planters, and offloading operations would be shifted to this new facility. Phase 2 would demolish the existing approximately 5,000-square-foot commercial fishing building at Ventura Harbor and prepare that area for a new commercial fishing building and second offloading facility. Phase 3 would construct additional loading platforms, an approximately 4,900-square-foot commercial fishing building as well as approximately 1,344 square feet of expanded restaurant space for the adjacent existing seafood restaurant at Ventura Harbor. Lastly, Phase 4 would demolish the existing approximately 5,500-square-foot squid offloading facility in the Port of Hueneme site and the site would be graded and paved to serve as expanded cargo storage and sorting space to conform with the surrounding area that is already used for this purpose. Phase 4 is anticipated to commence as early as 2028.

It is expected that construction staging would remain within the Project's boundaries at the respective harbors. However, if required, two privately owned vacant parcels that are 1.6 acres and 2.8 acres in area, respectively, would be made available for construction equipment staging for the Ventura Harbor component of the Project. Both parcels are located east of the

Project Site, across Spinnaker Drive.

The Project Site at the Port of Hueneme site is not listed on a hazardous release database pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5. The Project Site at the Ventura Harbor was identified by the State Water Resources Control Board to have a reported incident of a leaking underground storage tank; however, that case was closed in September 2009, which was also confirmed as closed by the California Department of Toxic Substances Control.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the District proposes to adopt a MND for the above-cited Project. The MND is based on the finding that the Project would not have significant adverse impacts. The reasons for such a finding are documented in the MND prepared by the District.

Public Review: Copies of the NOI have been transmitted to the California State Clearinghouse and to applicable responsible and trustee agencies. This NOI, the MND, and supporting materials are available for public review on the District's website at: <https://www.portofhueneme.org/notice-of-intent-mitigated-negative-declaration-port-of-hueneme-squid-offloading-relocation-project/>

The 30-day NOI public review period begins on May 2, 2025, and ends on June 2, 2025.

All interested parties are invited to comment in writing to the District and/or appear at the public hearing detailed below regarding this Project. Please send your written comments to:

Susim Gedam, Engineering Manager III
Port of Hueneme, Oxnard Harbor District
333 Ponomo Street
Port Hueneme, CA 93041
sgedam@portofh.org

Please include your name, address, and contact information in your correspondence. Written comments must be sent no later than 5:00 p.m. on **Monday, June 2, 2025**.

Public Hearing: A special meeting of the Board of Harbor Commissioners to consider the Project is anticipated in early June, and the exact date of that meeting will be determined at the next Board hearing on May 19. Please refer to the District's website for the date of the special meeting for this Project. The location of the forthcoming hearing will be held at the Port of Hueneme office, 333 Ponomo Street, Port Hueneme, CA 93041.