

Humboldt Bay Harbor, Recreation and Conservation District Quarterly Update – Fall 2009



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Message from the Bridge Board President Dennis Hunter

Welcome to the District’s first newsletter in a very long time. Through my 20 years of service on the District’s Board of Commissioners, I have seen a lot of changes. Back in 1989, besides Woodley Island Marina tenants and some in the maritime industry, the general public in Humboldt County weren’t really aware of the Harbor District. A fellow Commissioner at the time noted people would come up to him in the early 1990’s and ask “So how are things going at that water district”. Boy have things changed. Today there are very few people that don’t know about the Harbor District. That is a good thing and something that I have strived for during my tenure on the Board. This newsletter is a further attempt to inform the citizens of Humboldt County of the wide and varied programs that the District is engaged in to further balance the harbor, recreation and conservation uses of Humboldt Bay surrounding areas in Humboldt County. Finally, as my last term winds down I would like to thank all of the voters of the Fourth Division for allowing me the opportunity to represent you over the past 20 years. It has been an incredible honor to serve and I am very proud of the accomplishments of the District while I was your representative.



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Recent Grant Activity

Grant Purpose	Year Awarded	Amount	Status
Oil Spill Response Equip (Woodley)	2009	\$25,400	Completed
Oil Spill Response Equip (Shelter Cove)	2009	\$26,000	Completed
Port Security Equip	2009	\$2, 536,000	Underway
Sewage Pumpout Station Rehab (Woodley)	2009	\$25,400	Underway
Collaborative Fisheries Research	2009	\$200,000	Submitted
Marine Highway Modernization	2009	\$10,000,000	Submitted
Regional Sediment Management Plan	2009	\$150,000	Pending
Fields Landing Boat Launch Upgrade (Cosponsored with County of Humboldt)	2008	\$574,000	Underway
Port Security Equip	2008	\$536,000	Underway
Shelter Cove Breakwater Rehab	2007	\$1,712,000	Underway
Humboldt Bay Water Quality data Compilation & Assessment	2009	\$25,000	Submitted
Publication of Water Trails Guide	2009	\$5,000	Awarded

Marine Recreation

Shelter Cove Breakwater Rehab Project Close to Reality

In response to requests by the residents of Shelter Cove, the District has been pursuing a project to rehabilitate the breakwater that protects the boat launching ramp. Since the breakwater and ramp were built in the late 1970's, the breakwater has deteriorated to the point that it is ineffective. The proposed project essentially rebuilds the breakwater in its existing configuration using bigger rock so that the structure will be more resilient to large storm waves. Final permits are being obtained and it is hoped that this project will be out to bid in late 2009. Engineering and environmental funding was obtained from the CA Coastal Conservancy with \$1.7 million construction funding from the CA Department of Boating and Waterways.

Humboldt Bay Water Trails Project Progresses 2

The District and Redwood Community Action Agency are wrapping up the first phase of a Humboldt Bay Water Trails Project. With funding from the CA Coastal Conservancy, extensive outreach, design and planning have resulted in preliminary designs for four water trail put-in/take-out locations and the development of water trail signage and map and guide. The four locations include Woodley Island Marina, Arcata Marsh and Wildlife Sanctuary, Fields Landing Boat Launch and the Samoa Bridge Launch Ramp. In the upcoming phase of this Project, the actual implementation of these plans will be realized by completing final designs, permitting, environmental compliance and construction.

2009/10 Salmon Season Highlights

The Northcoast had the unique opportunity to be the only place in California that had a recreational ocean salmon season in 2009. The season ran from August 29-September 7. Due to the uncertainty of the popularity of this unique opportunity, the District coordinated a multi-agency team to collectively plan for increased boating facility use, traffic, safety and enforcement. Although the weather was a factor early in the season and the salmon were hard to find, those that participated had a great time. When times were slow, the hardy fishermen also caught albacore and halibut. For Woodley Island Marina, the short season saw 80 more temporary slip reservations than normal, including three out of the area charter boats. This increased use resulted in more than \$5,000 direct income during the 10-day season. The agency coordination effort worked very well. If there is another season like this, the group decided that we should again work together to provide the best and safest fishing experience possible.

Other District News!

Nuts and Bolts from the Maintenance Department

Director of Facilities Maintenance, Alan Bobillot, reports that his department had a busy summer. At the Fields Landing Boat Yard, the District hauled and launched 45 vessels and reconditioned all of the electrical service boxes in the yard by replacing the 30 amp breakers, 110 and 220 volt outlets. At Woodley Island Marina, Staff repaired the fender pilings on the work dock and sleeved them with high density plastic. The sleeves will increase the protection of these piles and protect the boats using the dock. In addition, bilge system and dock metalwork refurbishment continues. Completing the metalwork and piling repairs in-house, saved the District nearly \$170,000. Another summer highlight was working with the Timber Heritage Association on the Samoa Roundhouse restoration project.



Calendar

Oct 2009

Board Meeting: 8; 22

Economic Development Committee: 28

Nov 2009

Board Meeting: 12

Humboldt Bay Management Plan Advisory Committee: 18

Economic Development Committee: 25

Dec 2009

Board Meeting: 17

District Office and Boat Yard Closed: 11-11; 11-26; 11-27; 12-25

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Humboldt Bay Symposium 2010 Planning Underway

In 2007, the District adopted the "Humboldt Bay Symposium" as a District program to occur every two years at the end of the month of April. The First District Humboldt Bay Symposium was in April 2008 and was a great success.

Planning for the 2010 Humboldt Bay Symposium has begun. **MARK YOUR CALENDARS**, the 2010 Symposium will be held April 22nd-24th, 2010 at the City of Eureka's Wharfinger Building. For further Symposium information, please periodically check the District's website (www.humboldtby.org) or call at (707) 443-0801.



Marine Life Protection Act and You

In 1999, the Marine Life Protection Act was enacted by the State of California. Since that time, several attempts have been made by the State to interpret and implement the Act. The District has participated at one level or another in all of these attempts. Outside of a difference of opinion about the State's interpretation of the implementation of the Act, the District has always insisted that marine protected areas should only be established where adequate science justifies their creation and; if established, rigorous monitoring must be funded and conducted to judge success or failure of the closure area. In the current attempt to implement the Act, the District is still not satisfied that the District's concerns are addressed. Due to the public concern over this process, the District established the Marine Protected Area Local Interest Work Group in Feb 2009. Throughout this past summer, the District continued to provide a forum for the state and concerned citizens to discuss differences. Building on the success of a letter of concern from 16 local coastal agencies on the Northcoast that relayed concern to State Resources Secretary Mike Chrisman, the District is asking these agencies to consider signing on to a Memorandum of Agreement that will develop a more formal arrangement for coastal agencies in Mendocino, Humboldt and Del Norte to communicate on not only MLPA issues, but also on other regional issues such as ocean energy, short sea shipping and sediment management. Check the District's website for updates on the Work Group.

Conservation

Did You Know?

Since 2003, nearly half (48%) of the District's licensed vehicles are zero-emission? It's true!

Humboldt Bay Management Plan: Over the summer, the District's Director of Conservation, Adam Wagschal, conducted several Humboldt Bay Management Plan Advisory Committee and subcommittee meetings. The work this past summer was aimed at developing near-term implementation strategies for the policies in the Humboldt Bay Management Plan. The implementation strategies are "living documents" which will be continually updated to reflect new information and priorities.

Other Quick Updates – Summer 2009

- District and US Fish and Wildlife Service completed summer eelgrass monitoring as part of the international sea grass monitoring project SeagrassNet. Two complete years of quarterly data have been completed.
- District continues to partner with USF&WS and Coastal Conservancy to map non-native *Spartina densiflora* and develop an eradication plan.
- District assisted scientists from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) in data calibration from a recent aerial photo mapping project of Humboldt Bay.
- District assisted Humboldt State University in the construction, installation and maintenance of a current meter placed to gain a better understanding of bay currents and to record currents generated by tsunamis.
- District assisted Humboldt State University with access and maintenance of oceanographic data recorder located in South Humboldt Bay.

Port of Humboldt Bay – Port Authority Division Update

Short Sea Shipping Update

Short Sea Shipping is the term of art for essentially moving cargoes travelling along a major highway to moving them along a parallel route off the coast. In our case the cargoes would be those typically moving along Interstate-5 to shipping lanes along the west coast of North America. The reduction in truck traffic, road congestion, air emissions and fossil fuel use makes this program very environmentally friendly. The District has been working on establishing Short Sea Shipping since 2002 and has been making good progress recently. Over the past few months, the District's Director of Maritime Commerce, Wilson Lacy, has:

- * Coordinated a West- coast effort to develop an application to the US Maritime Administration to designate a "West Coast Marine Highway Corridor"*
- * Researched information for inclusion in the District's \$10 million Humboldt Marine Highway Modernization Project TIGER grant application*
- * Assisted Humboldt Maritime Logistics, a local company dedicated to establishing marine highway service with Humboldt Bay as the base of its operations*
- * Tracked and commented on various pieces of Federal legislation aimed at establishing and implementing marine highways.*

TIGER Grants In

On September 15, 2009, the District submitted a \$10 million grant request to the US Department of Transportation as part of the TIGER grant program of the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act. The grant, entitled the "Humboldt Marine Highway Modernization Project" consists of four components aimed at revitalizing some aging harbor infrastructure to enhance Humboldt Bay's ability to participate in the America's Marine Highway Program. It is anticipated that grants in this program will be awarded in February 2010.

Harbor Business Leads

Summer 2009

Steel Recycling

Biomass Energy

Wind Generation Components

Bottled Water

Current Shipping

Wood Chips

Gasoline/Diesel

Project Cargoes

Redwood Marine Terminal Modernization Status

Following the District's receipt of the Final Feasibility Study and Business Plan in November 2008, District Staff have been working on the retention of a qualified consultant team to prepare the environmental documentation and preliminary design for the project. A recent Request for Qualifications for this work was responded to by six consultant teams. Four were selected for interviews in October 2009. It is estimated that the chosen consultant will require approximately 15 months to complete the project. The project entails the modernization of one of the oldest marine terminals on Humboldt Bay.