

Crescent City Harbor District Awarded Infrastructure Grant by MARAD

November 6, 2022



The Crescent City Harbor District is proud to announce that the United States Maritime Administration (MARAD) awarded CCHD a grant in the amount of \$7,366,566.00. The funding is part of a nationwide Port Infrastructure Development Program (PIDP). Funds were awarded on a competitive basis throughout the nation to projects showing the greatest potential to improve the safe and efficient movement of goods within America's ports. The PIDP grant program is focused on helping to ease supply chain problems that have challenged the United States recently.

The grant awarded to CCHD will primarily fund the replacement of a vital seawall that runs perpendicular to Citizens Dock. Over the years, the seawall has proven essential to protect against damaging wave action and erosion. Importantly, the seawall has enabled safe unloading of Dungeness Crab every season, by protecting truck transportation routes and parking areas. The seawall was one of the first projects completed shortly after the Crescent City Harbor District was established in 1935. Recent engineering studies have identified the seawall as being well beyond its useful life. The seawall replacement will be part of a larger effort to

restore vital Harbor infrastructure that supports the commercial fishing industry, and enhances opportunities for recreation and enjoyment of the Harbor.

Crescent City Harbor Commission President Rick Shepherd stated that “commercial fishing ports in California are struggling to make ends meet. As a consequence, major infrastructure repair is often deferred indefinitely. Fortunately, our federal partners have recognized the dire need of the Crescent City Harbor, and have funded a new seawall to protect our Harbor. The commercial fishermen of Crescent City would like to thank Congressman Huffman for helping our Harbor secure the 7.37-million-dollar grant that will help the success of the commercial fishing industry in Crescent City, a fleet that is the largest shrimp producer in California, and which produces over 50% of the Dungeness crab caught in California.”

The seawall formerly included a public hoist for moving cargo. PIDP grant funds will enable the Harbor’s cargo handling equipment to be restored, improved, and modernized.

The grant funds will ensure that the outer harbor infrastructure will be restored to the same condition as the inner harbor (which was recently replaced after a tsunami devastated the Harbor in 2011). Harbor staff worked diligently for months to prepare the requisite grant application documents, ensuring that CCHD submitted a successful proposal. Special thanks go to Mike Bahr, a professional grant writer with strong ties to the Crescent City area, and also to the Harbor’s Executive Leadership Team, and the many talented individuals inside and outside the Harbor organization who always give their heart and soul to make the Harbor a fantastic treasure to enjoy.

In FY2022, the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) appropriated \$450 million to the PIDP. An additional \$234 million was made available to the program under FY2022 Consolidated Appropriations Act. Therefore, a total of \$684,310,000 of funding was available to make awards under the FY 2022 PIDP grant program.