

Harbor receives FEMA grant

October 31, 2023



The Crescent City Harbor District secured a \$1.35 million Federal Emergency Management Agency grant for disaster preparedness

The development is the result of an application submitted in 2022 as part of FEMA’s Hazard Mitigation Grant Program. It is a pivotal grant that will finance the development of mitigation strategies and the implementation of defenses against future tsunamis and sea level rise.

“We’ve always emphasized that the best way to honor our past is to ensure a safer future,” CEO/Harbormaster Tim Petrick said. “With this grant, we are doing just that, ensuring that the tragedies of yesterday do not define our tomorrows.”

The dedicated efforts will amplify the impact of grant funding, President of the Board of Harbor Commissioners Wes White said.

“The additional grant funds we’ve secured recently are a testament to the Harbor’s progress,” he said. “This grant signifies a crucial step forward, ensuring the Harbor remains resilient against natural calamities.”

The Harbor District recognizes the importance of such investments, White said. Many in the community still recall the haunting events of March 28, 1964 when a succession of five tsunamis devastated Crescent City, resulting in the loss of 11 lives, injuring 24, and obliterating 29 city blocks.

This grant is a proactive step to ensure history does not repeat itself, Petrick said. The first phases of the grant will fund engineering assessments that identify and prioritize potential mitigation projects, followed by detailed planning, design work, and environmental compliance for the highest rated projects.

“We also want to highlight the support received from U.S. Congressman Jared Huffman and California State Senate Majority Leader Mike McGuire. Their leadership played a crucial role in advocating for this vital infrastructure investment,” Petrick said.

“Additionally, our gratitude goes out to the many talented individuals both within and outside the Harbor organization, who work behind the scenes to make the Harbor a treasure to enjoy. Many individuals selflessly volunteer their time, often without expecting recognition.”

The Harbor District will eventually approach FEMA with shovel ready plans and request additional funding for construction.

The team at Community System Solutions (CSS), a professional grant writing and management firm, led the grant initiative and successfully managed the grant application process by working closely with FEMA and the CCHD Leadership Team.

“Together, we’re building a safer, stronger future for our community. With this funding, we’re not just looking at immediate solutions, but envisioning a future where the Harbor stands as a beacon of resilience and preparation,” White said.

“Both the board and I are deeply appreciative of their unwavering dedication to elevating the condition of the Harbor’s infrastructure.”