



March 16, 2025

The Honorable Sean Duffy
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
Maritime Administration
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Re: Support for the Shelter Island Commercial Fishing Wharf Modernization Project – Port Infrastructure Development Program Grant Application

Dear Secretary Duffy:

On behalf of the San Diego Fishermen's Working Group (SDFWG), a non-profit organization representing the major fisheries in the region, we urge strong support of the grant application by the Port of San Diego for the Port Infrastructure Development (PIDP) grant program. The Port of San Diego has applied for funding for the Shelter Island Commercial Fishing Wharf Modernization Project (Project).

The SDFWG is a non-profit organization with a board of directors made up from representatives from the greater San Diego region's major commercial fisheries. As key infrastructure, the renovation of the Shelter Island Commercial Fishing Wharf is of critical importance to the SDFWG's 150 members.

This Project seeks to demolish outdated infrastructure in poor condition at the Shelter Island Commercial Fishing Wharf (Site). In addition, infrastructure improvements will be made to continue support of commercial fishing. These proposed improvements include:

- Dock and Gangway Construction;
- Fish Offloading Pier Construction;
- Heavy Work Dock and Ramp Construction;
- Wave Attenuator Construction; and


- Electrical Improvements.

Commercial fishing has a long and rich history in San Diego, and this Project seeks to modernize facilities for this critical industry. Rebuilding the commercial fishing infrastructure proposed in the grant application will enable US-caught seafood products to provide for the region's food security, and lessen the amount of foreign seafood imports.

The Port of San Diego is a vital economic driver for the San Diego region, with over \$9.7 billion in economic impact in San Diego County. Included in that are over 69,000 jobs in the tourism and commercial industry (which includes commercial fishing). This Project will ensure the continued viability of commercial fishing, and its impacts on the San Diego Region.

The San Diego Fishermen's Working Group thanks you for your consideration of this application, and urges your support for the Port of San Diego's request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Pete Halmay', with a long, sweeping tail stroke extending downwards and to the right.

Pete Halmay
President

San Diego Fishermen's Working Group

peterhalmay@gmail.com

(619) 957-7121