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Harbor, Recreation and Conservation District
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NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY
FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT

Project Title: Coast Seafoods Company Humboldt Bay Shellfish Aquaculture
Permit Renewal and Expansion Project (SCH# 2015082051)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Humboldt Bay Harbor, Recreation and Conservation District, as lead agency, has prepared the Final Environmental Impact Report (FEIR) for the Coast Seafoods Company Humboldt Bay Shellfish Aquaculture Permit Renewal and Expansion Project pursuant to California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines §§ 15089 and 15132.

In accordance with Public Resources Code § 21092.5, public agencies that commented on the Draft EIR are being provided a copy of the FEIR along with this notice, including responses to comments. Other interested parties may review and/or obtain a copy of the FEIR at the locations listed below.

DOCUMENT AVAILABILITY: Copies of the FEIR are available for review at Harbor District Offices, 601 Startare Drive, Eureka, CA 95501, on the Harbor District’s website: www.humboldtbay.org (left side menu under ‘Current Items’), and at the Humboldt County Library – Main Branch, 1313 3rd Street, Eureka, CA 95501.

PROJECT LOCATION: North and central portions of Humboldt Bay, Humboldt County, CA.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The project involves: (1) extending regulatory approvals for Coast’s existing approximately 300 acres of shellfish culture; (2) increasing shellfish culture within an already permitted floating upwelling system by adding eight culture bins; (3) authorizing culture of Pacific and Kumamoto oysters within Coast’s existing clam rafts; (4) relocating approximately 5 acres of existing cultch-on-longline culture; and (5) permitting a total of 622 acres of additional intertidal culture in two phases.

In consideration of comments received on the Recirculated DEIR (R-DEIR), an additional project alternative was identified to address concerns related to herring, eelgrass, the East Bay Management Area (EBMA), black brant, green sturgeon, recreational hunting and boating. This additional EBMA Avoidance Alternative (1) decreases the overall size of the proposed expansion area, (2) removes all proposed expansion areas in the EBMA, (3) focuses expansion on consolidating existing operations (e.g., Bird Island and Mad River vicinities), and (4) avoids eelgrass where possible (e.g., Gunther Island and East Bay expansion areas). See FEIR Section 4 for a complete discussion and analysis of the EBMA Avoidance Alternative.

PROJECT IMPACTS: The EIR identifies potential significant effects in the following areas: cultural and archeological resources, biological resources, air quality, and hazards and hazardous materials. Implementation of the identified mitigation measures would reduce these potentially significant effects to a less than significant level. After incorporation of the mitigation measures identified in the EIR, the project is not anticipated to have any significant and unavoidable adverse environmental impacts.

FEIR CERTIFICATION: The FEIR will be presented to the Harbor District Board of Commissioners to certify as a complete and adequate analysis of the environmental effects of the Project under CEQA at a public meeting in the Harbor District Conference Room, Woodley Island on January 19, 2017, at 7 p.m. All interested persons are invited to be present and be heard. Written communications may be directed to: Jack Crider, Executive Director, 601 Startare Drive, Eureka, CA 95501, or by email to jcrider@humboldtby.org.

Notice Date: December 23, 2016