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SUMMARY OF ADVISORY COMMITTEES FOR THE HUMBOLDT BAY OFFSHORE WIND HEAVY LIFT MARINE TERMINAL PROJECT

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OBJECTIVE OF THIS DOCUMENT

The purpose of this document is to summarize the purposes, formation, and logistics of the various advisory committees that have been formed for the project. The following content is a “living document” that will evolve over time, with regular changes expected.

BACKGROUND

The Harbor District has received over \$445M of State/Federal grants to implement a “Heavy Lift Marine Terminal” to service the development of offshore wind. Permitting and design for the project are well underway and scheduled to be completed in late-2025. The District has a project-specific webpage (<https://humboldt-bay.org/humboldt-bay-offshore-wind-heavy-lift-marine-terminal-project-3>) as well as YouTube videos (<https://www.youtube.com/@humboldt-bay-harbor-district>) that provide more detailed information about the project. The District has been implementing a “[Community Engagement Strategy](#)” to guide community engagement and relations. Since March of 2022, the District has participated in over 180 meetings with various interested parties, including Tribal governments, environmental advocacy non-governmental organizations (NGO), neighborhood associations, individual fishermen, fishermen associations, aquaculture businesses, regulatory agencies, and many other interest groups. The District has also hosted two public meetings, one of which included over 150 members from the general public, with nearly 80 people commenting. The project’s California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Notice of Preparation (NOP) received 108 comment letters. The District’s elected Board receives monthly project updates during open public meetings at 6:00 PM on the second Thursday of each month.

Consistent with the Community Engagement Strategy (linked above) and to enhance the community engagement efforts of the project, the following advisory committees have been formed. Each committee focuses exclusively on the Heavy Lift Terminal Project in Humboldt Bay (and not offshore wind farms in the ocean or electrical transmission projects). The membership of some committees was “self-selected,” while the membership of other committees was selected by the Harbor District Board-appointed “Offshore Wind Subcommittee,” which consists of two elected Board members. The following outlines the status of each committee, how each committee was formed, and each committee’s objectives.

TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

1. Status: Fully established and actively engaged since early 2024.
2. Formation and membership: A list of names was recommended by District staff and several key partners of the Harbor District. Membership was selected from that list by the District Board’s Offshore Wind Subcommittee. The technical advisory committee has approximately 12 members.
3. Meeting frequency: As needed.
4. Committee specific objectives:
 - a. Receive periodic technical updates from engineering/permitting/mitigation consultants.
 - b. Provide analysis & recommendations of the project’s technical components: engineering, permitting, mitigation, etc.
 - c. Provide recommendations regarding community engagement on technical topics.
 - d. Serve as a screening board for the evaluation of proposals submitted in response to competitive funding solicitations associated with the project.
 - e. Other objectives to be determined throughout the lifetime of the Committee.

COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

1. Status: Fully established and actively engaged since January 2025.
2. Formation and membership: A list of over 100 people was developed based on the recommendations of Tribal Council members from several Tribes, the Technical Advisory Committee, District staff, staff and elected officials from other local governments, and other key partners of the Harbor District. The District Board’s Offshore Wind Subcommittee then selected

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~30 people from the list. The Committee itself is in the process of nominating additional members for the Board President to confirm.

- a. Members include representatives from Humboldt Waterkeeper, Environmental Protection Information Center, residents of Manila, residents of the Town of Samoa, Wiyot Tribe, Blue Lake Rancheria, Cal Poly Humboldt, Northern California Indian Development Council, County of Humboldt, College of the Redwoods, commercial fisherperson(s), Humboldt Builders Exchange, CoreHub, Sierra Club, aquaculture industry representatives, labor union representative, Humboldt County Supervisor, City of Eureka Councilperson, City of Arcata Councilperson, State Lands Commission, California Energy Commission, and others.
 - b. The following have been invited but have not yet confirmed their membership: Bear River Rancheria, Trinidad Rancheria, Big Lagoon Rancheria, Yurok Tribe, Hoopa Tribe.
 - c. The committee is in the process of nominating additional representatives to cover some or all of the following: K12 education, social services/homelessness, healthcare, law enforcement/corrections, housing advocacy, childcare advocacy, business advocacy, Coalition for Responsible Transportation, State Coastal Conservancy, bar pilot, North Coast Environmental Center, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Manilla Community Services District, Surfrider Foundation, business advocacy, chamber of commerce representative, and others.
 - d. The committee has self-selected a committee chair.
 - e. The committee currently has over 30 members, with an ultimate membership forecast to exceed 40 people.
3. Meeting frequency: No less than once quarterly; no more than once per month. The meeting schedule is determined by members of the committee.
 4. Committee specific objectives:
 - a. Focus primarily on the Heavy Lift Terminal Project in Humboldt Bay (and not offshore wind farms in the ocean or electrical transmission projects).
 - b. Seek to understand and represent the perspectives, concerns, interests, and priorities of everyday citizens and a diverse range of categories of community members.
 - c. Periodically receive up-to-date information about the project.
 - d. Help the broader community to accurately understand the project by sharing reliable sources of information.
 - e. Review and provide recommendations regarding the District's "Community Benefit Program."
 - f. Make recommendations to enhance overall community engagement.
 - g. Provide other advisory recommendations to the project team.
 - h. Other objectives to be determined throughout the lifetime of the Committee.

TOWN OF SAMOA ADVISORY COMMITTEE

1. Status: Fully established and actively engaged since December 2024.
2. Meeting frequency: As needed.
3. Formation and membership: Since September of 2024, the District has hosted one meeting per month for all residents of the Town of Samoa. The number of attendees at those meetings has ranged from ~3 to ~20. In November of 2024, the attendees of the meeting requested the ability to self-select a "Steering Committee." Per their request, District staff sent an email seeking volunteers. The email was sent to all attendees of the general meetings that had provided their email address via sign-in sheets. All six of the individuals that volunteered became members of the Steering Committee.
4. Committee specific objectives:
 - a. Serve as representatives of the residents that live within 1000 feet of the project site. Bolster public voices by compiling and convey community interests, concerns, requests, and preferences. Help share resources for residents to learn more about topics of interest.
 - b. Help develop agendas for the monthly community meetings including to recommend speakers/topics for the community to hear and provide input. Encourage residents to come to the meetings. Present updates at the monthly community meetings. Help to keep meetings focused on discussions of impacts to Town of Samoa community.
 - c. Receive periodic project updates with a focus on the components of the project most likely to impact residents immediately neighboring the project site. This may include review of ongoing project reports.
 - d. Evaluate the project's proposed actions and designs that are intended to alleviate or eliminate the neighbors' concerns.
 - e. Propose/recommend additional actions and project designs that can help to further alleviate or eliminate concerns.
 - f. Other objectives to be determined throughout the lifetime of the Committee.



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AQUACULTURE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

1. Status: Fully established and actively engaged since November of 2023.
2. Formation and membership: Any business with a license to conduct aquaculture in Humboldt Bay has been invited and is encouraged to send one or more representatives. The Committee members also self-selected multiple staff from various regulatory agencies to be added. The committee currently has over 40 members.
3. Meeting frequency: Either monthly or every-other-month, depending on agenda. This is decided by members of the committee.
4. Committee specific objectives:
 - a. Receive periodic project updates with a focus on the components of the project most likely to impact aquaculture businesses within Humboldt Bay.
 - b. Serve as a voice of aquaculture businesses. Compile and convey their interests, concerns, requests, and preferences.
 - c. Evaluate the project's proposed actions and designs that are intended to alleviate or eliminate those concerns.
 - d. Propose additional actions and project designs that can help to further alleviate or eliminate concerns.
 - e. Other objectives to be determined throughout the lifetime of the Committee.

FISHERMEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

1. Status: Fully established and actively engaged since November of 2023.
2. Formation and membership: The District Board has appointed two Board members to serve on a "Fishing Subcommittee." A group of fishermen then nominated a list of fishermen to add to the committee. That list was presented to the Board appointees, who selected the membership in collaboration with several fishermen. More members are nominated and added as needed. The committee currently has approximately 10 members.
3. Meeting frequency: As needed (determined by the members of the committee).
4. Committee specific objectives:
 - a. Receive periodic project updates with a focus on the components of the project most likely to impact fishing businesses.
 - b. Serve as a voice of fishing businesses. Compile and convey their interests, concerns, requests, and preferences.
 - c. Evaluate the project's proposed actions and designs that are intended to alleviate or eliminate those concerns.
 - d. Propose additional actions and project designs that can help to further alleviate or eliminate concerns.
 - e. Other objectives to be determined throughout the lifetime of the Committee.

HUMBOLDT YACHT CLUB COMMITTEE

1. Status: Fully established and actively engaged since early 2024.
2. Formation and membership: Self-selected. The committee currently has four members.
3. Meeting frequency: As needed.
4. Committee specific objectives:
 - a. Receive periodic project updates with a focus on the components of the project most likely to impact recreational sailing.
 - b. Serve as a voice of recreational sailing. Compile and convey their interests, concerns, requests, and preferences.
 - c. Evaluate the project's proposed actions and designs that are intended to alleviate or eliminate those concerns.
 - d. Propose additional actions and project designs that can help to further alleviate or eliminate concerns.
 - e. Other objectives to be determined throughout the lifetime of the Committee.

REGULATORY AGENCY WORKING GROUP #1: IN-WATER WORK WINDOWS

1. Status: Fully established and actively engaged since early 2024.
2. Formation and membership: Relevant regulatory agencies were asked to assist the District with this topic. The following agencies have dedicated staff members to participate: CA Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), US Fish and Wildlife Service, National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), California Coastal Commission (CCC) and North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (NCRWQCB).
3. Meeting frequency: As needed.
4. Committee specific objectives:
 - a. Review typically required in-water work windows as they relate to the project.



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- b. Evaluate the potential benefits and impacts of implementing modifications to the typical in-water work windows.
- c. Recommend resources and information about successful model projects from other Harbors.
- d. Provide related advisory recommendations to the District.
- e. Other objectives to be determined throughout the lifetime of the Committee.

REGULATORY AGENCY WORKING GROUP #2: DREDGING REGULATIONS AND SAMPLING ANALYSIS PLAN

1. Status: Fully established and actively engaged since early 2024.
2. Formation and membership: Relevant regulatory agencies were asked to assist the District with this topic. The following agencies have dedicated staff members to participate: US Army Corps of Engineers, US Environmental Protection Agency, California Department of Public Health, CDFW, CCC, NMFS, and NCRWQCB.
3. Meeting frequency: As needed.
4. Committee specific objectives:
 - a. Review regulations related to dredging and the preparation of a Sampling Analysis Plan as related to the project.
 - b. Evaluate the potential benefits and impacts of various approaches to dredging.
 - c. Recommend resources and information about successful model projects from other Harbors.
 - d. Provide related advisory recommendations to the District.
 - e. Other objectives to be determined throughout the lifetime of the Committee.

REGULATORY AGENCY WORKING GROUP #3: BIOLOGICAL IMPACT ANALYSES AND COMPREHENSIVE MITIGATION PLANNING

1. Status: Fully established and actively engaged since early 2024.
2. Formation and membership: Relevant regulatory agencies were asked to assist the District with this topic. The following agencies have dedicated staff members to participate: CCC, CDFW, NMFS, NCRWQCB, County of Humboldt, USACE, EPA, USFWS, State Coastal Conservancy and State Lands Commission.
3. Meeting frequency: As needed.
4. Committee specific objectives:
 - a. Review regulations related to biological/ecological impacts and mitigation as related to the project.
 - b. Evaluate potential methods of reducing biological impacts from the project.
 - c. Evaluate the potential benefits and impacts of various approaches to mitigation.
 - d. Seek to implement a single large mitigation project with greater ecological benefits rather than multiple small mitigation projects.
 - e. Recommend resources and information about successful model projects from other Harbors.
 - f. Provide related advisory recommendations to the District.
 - g. Other objectives to be determined throughout the lifetime of the Committee.

OTHER COMMITTEES THAT MAY BE ESTABLISHED

1. Green Terminal Advisory Committee: Either this committee will be formed in mid-2025 or one of the above committees will assume this role.
2. Offshore Wind Long-term Baywide Master Strategic Plan Committee: Either this committee will be formed in mid-2025 or one of the above committees will assume this role.
3. Environmental Contamination and Cleanup Advisory Committee: Either this committee will be formed in mid-2025 or one of the above committees will assume this role.
4. Environmental Advocacy NGOs – TBD if such a committee will be formed.
5. Others may be established as needed.

Note: In addition to the Committees outlined above, the District also regularly meets with Tribal governments, elected officials, regulatory agencies, governmental entities, labor organizations, port authorities, environmental advocacy NGOs, social justice NGOs, educational institutions, trade associations, service clubs (e.g. Rotary), and many other individual stakeholder groups.

