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**Humboldt Bay
Harbor, Recreation and
Conservation District**
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**NOTICE OF RECIRCULATION & AVAILABILITY
DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT**

Project Title: Humboldt Bay Mariculture Intertidal Pre-Permitting (SCH# 2017032068)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Humboldt Bay Harbor, Recreation and Conservation District, as lead agency, has prepared and is recirculating the Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for the Humboldt Bay Mariculture Intertidal Pre-Permitting Project for public review and comment pursuant to State of California Resources Code Section 21092 and California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines Section 15084. This notice is provided under CEQA Guidelines Section 15087. The DEIR is available for review at the locations listed at the bottom of this notice.

- Pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines Section 15088.5(a), a lead agency must recirculate a DEIR when significant new information is added to the EIR after public notice is given of the availability of the draft EIR for public review. In this case, the proposed project size has been substantially reduced from approximately 136 acres to 45 acres. The DEIR is being recirculated in its entirety.
- Consistent with CEQA Guidelines Section 15088.5(f)(1), the Harbor District advises reviewers that while previous comments will remain part of the administrative record, they do not require a written response in the Final EIR. New comments must be submitted on this Recirculated DEIR for response and consideration in the Final EIR.

PROJECT LOCATION: North Humboldt Bay, Humboldt County, California

PROJECT BACKGROUND: A Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Humboldt Bay Mariculture Intertidal Pre-Permitting Project and Yeung Oyster Farm (SCH# 2017032068) was previously circulated from August 19 – October 5, 2020. In response to the comments received, the Humboldt Bay Harbor, Recreation and Conservation District (District) has substantially modified the project by removing proposed shellfish culture from northeastern Humboldt Bay. As such, the proposed project size has been reduced from approximately 136 acres to 45 acres. Due to this substantial project change, the Harbor District is recirculating the Draft EIR for comments. The revised project and potential environmental effects are described below.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The Humboldt Bay Intertidal Mariculture Pre-Permitting Project includes oyster farm projects in north Humboldt Bay. The Humboldt Bay Harbor, Recreation and Conservation District is the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) lead agency. The goal and purpose of the project is to allow for an expansion of commercial mariculture activities in Humboldt Bay, create jobs and improve the local economy, while also increasing local and sustainable seafood production.

The Project would increase production of Kumamoto oysters (*Crassostrea sikamea*) and Pacific oysters (*C. gigas*) in Humboldt Bay, California. Under the Project, approximately 45 acres of culture would be established in intertidal areas using methods that suspend cultured shellfish off the bay bottom. The regulatory structure of the Pre-Permitting portion of the Project is unique for Humboldt Bay, where permits are typically obtained and held by private shellfish growers. Specifically, under the Pre-Permitting Project, the Humboldt Bay Harbor, Recreation and Conservation District (District) would obtain and hold the permits and lease the “pre-permitted” areas to private shellfish growers (“Lessees”).

PROJECT IMPACTS: The DEIR identifies potential significant effects in the following areas: cultural and archeological resources, biological resources, aesthetic and visual resources, air quality, and hydrology and water quality. Implementation of mitigation measures identified in the DEIR would reduce these potentially significant effects to a less than significant level.

COMMENT PERIOD: The DEIR and its appendices are available for the CEQA required 45-day public review and comment period from August 23 through October 10, 2022. Written **Comments must be received no later than 4 p.m. on October 10, 2022** (or, if applicable, within 45 days after your receipt of the NOA as indicated by certified mail, whichever is later). Submit written comments by mail or email to:

Humboldt Bay Harbor, Recreation and Conservation District
Attn: Doug Saucedo, Natural Resources Coordinator
601 Startare Drive
Eureka, CA 95501

Email: dsaucedo@humboldtbay.org

DOCUMENT AVAILABILITY: Copies of the DEIR are available for review at the following location during normal business hours and on the Harbor District’s website: www.humboldtbay.org:

Humboldt Bay Harbor District Office
601 Startare Drive
Eureka, CA 95501