

Item 5

Additional Information



October 2, 2015

To: San Mateo County Harbor District Commissioners
RE: New General Manager Steve McGrath

On the heels of our successful Fish and Fleet Festival collaboration with SMCHD, the members of the Half Moon Bay Seafood Marketing Association and Half Moon Bay Groundfish Marketing Association, are excited to continue a productive working relationship with the commissioners and staff of the San Mateo County Harbor District.

We are pleased that the commissioners are ready to move forward with hiring a new General Manager, however, we feel the need to express some reservations before the contract is complete for Mr. McGrath. We have experienced first hand the challenges of trying to work in an environment where relationships between the harbor GM and stakeholders are strained. The commercial fishing industry is somewhat small up and down the California Coast, and we have come to understand that Mr. McGrath may also be coming from an environment of strained relationships with commercial fishing. We have no opinion on specific situations in Port San Luis, and will not rush to form opinions on Mr. McGrath. However, due to our experiences over the last 17 years, we expect you can understand our trepidation.

We believe that the ability to work closely with a diverse group of constituents and the complex issues within our harbor community is key to the success of the next General Manager and the harbor itself. Therefore we respectfully request that a probationary clause be included in Mr. McGrath's contract. This would likely make all of the diverse stakeholders in our harbor community feel more comfortable. As commercial fishermen, we prefer to make our own determinations and will be open on day one to begin forging a productive working relationship with Mr. McGrath and the rest of the staff as the transition to a transparent, well managed SMCHD continues forward.

Thank you for your consideration,
Half Moon Bay Seafood Marketing Association
Half Moon Bay Groundfish Marketing Association