

STANDING COMMITTEES
OF THE SENATE
PUBLIC SAFETY CHAIR
EDUCATION, VICE CHAIR
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
EUDGET AND FISCAL REVIEW

SUBCOMMITTEES
SUBCOMMITTEE ON
CRIMINAL PROCEDURE CHAIR
BUDGET AND FISCAL REVIEW
SUBCOMMITTEE NO. 2
SUBCOMMITTEE NO. 3
SUBCOMMITTEE ON
HIGHER EDUCATION

California State Senate

SENATOR
BRUCE MCPHERSON
FIFTEENTH SENATORIAL DISTRICT

CHAIRMAN
SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY

JOINT COMMITTEES
JOINT COMMITTEE ON THE ARTS
JOINT COMMITTEE TO DEVELOP
A MASTER PLAN FOR EDUCATION
JOINT COMMITTEE ON
FISHERIES AND AGRICULTURE

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CALIFORNIA HORSE RACING INDUSTRY
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COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY
ADMISSIONS AND OUTREACH
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
GOVERNMENT OVERSIGHT
SCHOOL SAFETY
TECHNOLOGICAL CRIME
AND THE CONSUMER

June 15, 2004



Paul Morabito, Chairman
State Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 11th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612-2530

Dear Chairman Morabito:

I wish to express my support for the City of Morro Bay's grant request in the amount of \$180,000 to purchase and install an ice machine to serve the local commercial fishing industry.

In recent years, the Morro Bay fishing fleet has been struggling to remain economically viable, just as other commercial fishing fleets in the State, due to depletions of some fish stocks, increasing regulatory restrictions, high overhead and low prices. A recent Coastal Conservancy funded economic feasibility study indicates that a market exists both in the City and San Luis Obispo County for fresh fish of sustainable species, including direct to consumer sales, which would enable fishermen to sell fish off their boats at a lower cost to the consumer and a higher price for the fishermen. To capitalize on this market, an economical and reliable source of ice is needed.

Currently, ice service is provided to the fleet by the delivery of 300-pound blocks, which are stored onsite in icehouses. However, state regulations will prevent bloc ice from being used for this purpose beginning in 2006. In addition, the current provider is expected to discontinue service by the end of this year. In anticipation of the 2006 deadline, ice machines similar to the proposed for this project have been installed at harbors in Santa Cruz, Port San Luis, and Santa Barbara where local commercial fleets currently operate. Without this project, one of the last remaining commercial fishing fleets in California may be shut down.

For the above reasons, I support funding for this very worthwhile project. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

BRUCE MCPHERSON
Senator, 15th District

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City of Morro Bay

HARBOR DEPARTMENT
1275 Embarcadero
Morro Bay, CA 93442
Ph. 805-772-6254
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June 2, 2004

TIM DUFF

Paul Morabito, Chair
State Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 11th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612-2530

RE: MORRO BAY HARBOR FISHING FLEET ICE MACHINE

Ice service is critical to the continuation of a commercial fishing fleet in Morro Bay harbor and the ancillary businesses. Fishing vessels must have a dockside ice facility to provide ice to maintain the fish at a cool enough temperature to meet safety and freshness criteria. It is not feasible to vessels to have to travel to Port San Luis to obtain ice due to the high additional travel cost, time constraints and at times unsafe navigation conditions. At a time when the fishing fleet is facing increasing regulations, higher fuel prices and a more competitive market, it is essential to be able to provide ice to the fishing fleet.

Currently ice service to fishing boats in Morro Bay harbor is provided by two sites (DeGarimore Fuel and Ice at the foot of Beach Street, and the new Morro Bay Commercial Fishermen's Organization dock at the North T-Pier) through delivery of block ice from Oceano Ice Company. The 300-pound blocks are stored in icehouses until put into a large grinder and blown onto the boats as needed.

Approximately two years ago, Oceano Ice Company notified us that they were planning to cease making and delivering block ice in favor of installing a large flake ice machine at their facility in South County. Since that time the City, Morro Bay Commercial Fisherman's Organization (MBCFO) and the Central Coast Joint Fisheries/Cable Liaison Committee (Liaison Committee) have been working on a project to install a flake ice machine on City property to provide ice service to boats in the future.

The Morro Bay City Council entered into a \$400,000 grant agreement with the Liaison Committee on April 26, 2004 for purchase of the ice machine. The City estimates it will incur cost of approximately \$60,000 for engineering and project management. Dock modifications services installation and earthquake retrofitting are estimated to add an additional cost of \$180,000 to the final installation of the ice machine.

We appreciate your assistance in making the ice machine a reality for the fishing fleet operating out of Morro Bay harbor and welcome the opportunity to provide any additional information.

Sincerely,

Rick Algert
Harbor Director

cc: City Manager
Mayor & City Council
MBCFO
Liaison Committee

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JUN 04 2004

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OAKLAND, CALIF.