



Yana Garcia
Secretary for
Environmental Protection



Department of Toxic Substances Control

Katherine M. Butler, MPH, Director
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Gavin Newsom
Governor

SENT VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

May 30, 2025

Susim Gedam
Engineering Manager
Oxnard Harbor District
333 Ponomo Street
Port Hueneme, CA 93041
sgedam@portofh.org

RE: MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION FOR THE COMMERCIAL FISHING
MODERNIZATION PROJECT DATED MAY 5, 2025, STATE CLEARINGHOUSE
NUMBER [2025050181](#)

Dear Susim Gedman,

The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) reviewed the Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) for the Commercial Fishing Modernization Project (Project). The Project would construct a new commercial squid offloading facility in the Ventura Harbor to allow Ventura Harbor to process squid previously processed through the Port of Hueneme. Phase 1 would construct a new 7-bay offloading facility in the southwest area of the Ventura Harbor project site that is currently a parking lot and planters, and offloading operations would be shifted to this new facility. Phase 2 would demolish the existing approximately 5,000-square-foot commercial fishing building at Ventura Harbor and prepare that area for a new commercial fishing building and second offloading facility. Phase 3 would construct additional loading platforms, an approximately 4,900-square-foot commercial fishing building as well as approximately 1,344 square feet of expanded restaurant space for the adjacent existing seafood restaurant at Ventura Harbor. Lastly, Phase 4 would demolish the existing approximately 5,500-square-foot squid offloading facility in the Port of Hueneme site and the site would be graded and

paved to serve as expanded cargo storage and sorting space to conform with the surrounding area that is already used for this purpose. DTSC recommends and requests consideration of the following comments:

1. All imported soil and fill material should be tested to assess any contaminants of concern and meet screening levels as outlined in the [DTSC Preliminary Endangerment Assessment \(PEA\) Guidance Manual](#). Additionally, DTSC advises referencing the [DTSC Information Advisory Clean Imported Fill Material Fact Sheet](#) if importing fill is necessary. To minimize the possibility of introducing contaminated soil and fill material there should be documentation of the origins of the soil or fill material or, if applicable, sampling be conducted to assess that imported soil and fill material are suitable for the intended land use. The soil sampling should include analysis based on the source of the fill and knowledge of past land use. Additional information can be found by visiting [DTSC's Human and Ecological Risk Office \(HERO\) webpage](#).
2. While the presence of Underground Storage Tanks (USTs) is not expected to result in a significant environmental impact, their existence should still be acknowledged and monitored during project planning and implementation. Any USTs encountered should be handled in accordance with applicable regulatory requirements, including proper notification, investigation, and removal procedures, if necessary. Awareness and documentation of their locations are important to avoid potential environmental or health risks during construction activities.
3. Be aware of signs of contaminated soil, residual staining, or odors during the construction process and advise collecting appropriate samples for waste characterization. Contact DTSC if further assessment is necessary. DTSC recommends compliance with all applicable or relevant and appropriate environmental laws.
4. If buildings or other structures are to be demolished on any project sites included in the proposed project, surveys should be conducted for the presence of lead-based paints or products, mercury, asbestos containing materials, and

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polychlorinated biphenyl caulk. Removal, demolition, and disposal of any of the above-mentioned chemicals should be conducted in compliance with California environmental regulations and policies. In addition, sampling near current and/or former buildings should be conducted in accordance with [DTSC's PEA Guidance Manual](#).

DTSC would like to thank you for the opportunity to comment on the MND for the Commercial Fishing Modernization Project. Thank you for your assistance in protecting California's people and environment from the harmful effects of toxic substances. If you have any questions or would like clarification on DTSC's comments, please respond to this letter or via our [CEQA Review email](#) for additional guidance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dave Kereazis".

Dave Kereazis
Associate Environmental Planner
HWMP - Permitting Division – CEQA Unit
Department of Toxic Substances Control
Dave.Kereazis@dtsc.ca.gov

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cc: (via email)

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