

## RESOLUTION NO. 4526-2022

### RESOLUTION OF THE FORT BRAGG CITY COUNCIL APPROVING FEDERAL EARMARK FUND REQUEST TO ESTABLISH MUNICIPAL OCEAN WATER INFRASTRUCTURE TO SUPPORT AQUARIUMS, RESEARCH, AND AQUACULTURE INNOVATION HUB

**WHEREAS**, the City received funding from the U.S. Department of Economic Development Administration (EDA) to develop a strategy to diversify Fort Bragg's economy; and

**WHEREAS**, this project identified the Pacific Ocean, Noyo Harbor, and Noyo Center for Marine Science as strong community assets that are central to Fort Bragg's identity; and

**WHEREAS**, the City is leading a regional conversation to consider how a strategic focus on the development of ocean resources and emerging Blue Economy opportunities could improve livelihoods, while nurturing healthy marine ecosystems; and

**WHEREAS**, access to ocean water intake and discharge infrastructure is a crucial component to many emerging blue economy opportunities related to aquaculture, research, climate change, tourism, and more; and

**WHEREAS**, permitting processes for ocean water intake/discharge infrastructure are prohibitively expensive and complex, taking several years to secure and therefore out of reach for small operators; and

**WHEREAS**, the City is well positioned to take on the permitting and construction of ocean water infrastructure to support the Noyo Center for Marine Science and Blue Economy Innovation Hub; and

**WHEREAS**, the City identified Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds to secure engineering services in order to develop concept designs and cost estimates to establish municipal ocean water infrastructure for this purpose; and

**WHEREAS**, these concept designs will be presented to decision makers and the public as part of the Blue Economy Symposium & Learning Festival scheduled for May 19-22, 2022; and

**WHEREAS**, this event is presented by Noyo Ocean Collective – a regional collaboration including the City of Fort Bragg, Noyo Harbor District, Noyo Center for Marine Science, Sherwood Valley Band of Pomo, Mendocino College, and West Business Development Center with the generous support of California Sea Grant for the purpose of exploring the needs and potential for developing a resilient and vibrant blue economy in and around Fort Bragg; and

**WHEREAS**, Day One of the symposium will focus on potentials for municipal ocean water infrastructure and harbor infrastructure improvements, discussions with commercial/recreational fishers and associated businesses about sustainable blue economies, followed by education, entrepreneurship and job force training considerations to support growing a blue economy; and

**WHEREAS**, Day Two of the symposium will explore the potential for developing an aquaculture park in the region where speakers will present information on different aspects of aquaculture activities that are restorative and commercial in nature; and

**WHEREAS**, the Environmental Defense Fund (EDF) supports the use of federal earmark funds to establish aquaculture hubs and is working with San Jose State University and Moss Landing Marine Laboratory to administer funds to the City of Fort Bragg, Kashia Band of Pomo Indians, and the Port of San Diego's Aquaculture and Blue Technology Program to support establishment of aquaculture hubs in order to reduce barriers to small operators; and


**WHEREAS**, based on all the evidence presented, the City Council finds as follows:

1. The Blue Economy offers opportunities for our region to diversify its economy, while improving livelihoods and supporting healthy marine ecosystems; and
2. Permitting for ocean water intake/discharge infrastructure is costly and complex; and
3. The City is well positioned to navigate the permitting process.

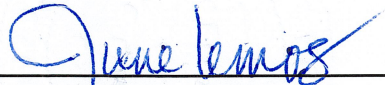
**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the City Council of the City of Fort Bragg does hereby approve the City's participation in a request for federal earmark funding to support the establishment of municipal ocean intake/discharge water infrastructure to support aquariums, research and aquaculture.

The above and foregoing Resolution was introduced by Councilmember Peters, seconded by Councilmember Albin-Smith, and passed and adopted at a regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Fort Bragg held on the 28<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2022, by the following vote:

**AYES:** Councilmembers Albin-Smith, Morsell-Haye, Peters, Rafanan and Mayor Norvell.  
**NOES:** None.  
**ABSENT:** None.  
**ABSTAIN:** None.  
**RECUSED:** None.

  
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**BERNIE NORVELL**  
Mayor

**ATTEST:**

  
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June Lemos, MMC  
City Clerk