



Meeting of the Port Fisherman's Wharf Advisory Committee (FWAC)

June 26, 2024 (9:00 to 11:00 AM)

Virtual Public Meeting via Teams

Meeting Notes

FWAC Attendees

Jenn Brokaw (Swimmers)
Joe Burgard (Excursion Operations)
Mariann Costello (Restaurants)
Taryn Hoppe (Retail)
Darlene Plumtree (Museums), Co-Chair
Dante Serafini (Restaurants)
Sina von Reitzenstein (Pier 39)
Sarah Bates (Fishers), Co-Chair
John Barnett (Crab Boat Owners)
Mike Rescino (Charter Fishing)

FWAC Members Absent

Mike LaRocca (Fish Processing)

Port Staff

Amy Cohen, Business Generation Manager
Scott Landsittel, Deputy Director of Real Estate and Development
Eric Young, Director of Communications
David Beaupre, Deputy Director, Planning and Environment
Meghan Wallace, Economic Recovery Manager
Kimberley Beal, Assistant Deputy Director, Real Estate
Ming Yeung, Assistant Deputy Director, Planning and Environment
Dominic Moreno, Assistant Deputy Director, Maritime
Kyle Thomas, Security and Emergency Preparedness Manager
Uday Prasad, Acting Chief Harbor Engineer
Messiah Foster, Public Relations Manager
Robert Davis, Port Real Estate
Luis Barata, Port Waterfront Resilience
Don Kavanagh, Senior Property Manager
Harold George, Property Manager
Wendy McArthur, Maritime

Chris Horiuchi, Project Manager
Michael Martin, Port Assistant Director
Zachary Adami, Maritime Wharfinger
Ryan Wassum, Planner
Richard Berman, Assistant Deputy Director, Planning and Environment
Gabe Mikulich, Maritime Wharfinger

Announcements and Introductions

- 1. FWAC Ground Rules for Meetings**
- 2. Approval of Draft May 1, 2024, Meeting Notes**
- 3. Quick Project Updates**
 - A. **Crab and Salmon Fisher Relief Plan**, Dominic Moreno, Assistant Deputy Director, Maritime
 - B. **SkyStar**, Michael Martin, Port Assistant Director
 - C. **Little Embarcadero Activation Update**, Amy Cohen, Port Real Estate
- 4. PG&E Beach Street Offshore Sediment Remediation Project:** Presentation on the remediation project to address impacts to sediments from historic operations of the former nearby Beach Street Manufactured Gas Plant (MGP) - Luke Vernagallo, PG&E Project Manager and Kathryn Purcell, Port Planning & Environment.
- 5. Fisherman’s Wharf Revitalized:** Update and request for early design feedback on the Fisherman’s Wharf Revitalized project proposal – Wyatt Donnelly-Landolt, Carrie Morris, Port Development and Representatives of Fisherman’s Wharf Revitalized
- 6. Agenda Setting for Future Meetings**

Item #1 - FWAC Ground Rules for Meetings

Gabe Mikulich of the Port provided ground rules and other information to start the meeting.

Item #2 - Approval of Draft Meeting Notes

May 1, 2024, Meeting Notes were accepted by the FWAC Co-Chair without comment.

Item #3 – Quick Project Updates

A. Crab and Salmon Fisher Relief Plan

Dominic Moreno from the Port reported that Maritime presented a Crab and Salmon Fisher Relief Plan to the Port Commission. There is nothing that the fishers should do right now. Additional details of the plan and eligibility requirements will be provided at a later date.

Questions/Comments:

- No Comments or Questions.

B. SkyStar Update

Michael Martin from the Port reported that there was a revised schedule for the Skystar foundation work. It is estimated that it will reopen on or around July 4th.

Questions/Comments:

- No Comments or Questions.

C. Little Embarcadero Activation Update

Amy Cohen from the Port presented updates on the Little Embarcadero Activation project, with Randall Scott and Kaitlin Thresher from Fisherman's Wharf CBD, and consultant Julie Flynn. The presentation included 3D renderings of the planned installations, noting that the light posts will not be blue. The project involves partnering with Fisherman's Wharf CBD to improve the area, including four pop-up businesses in containers that will also serve as storage and mural canvases.

Amy Cohen provided updates on various elements, such as the installation of wooden planter boxes, pergolas, and movable tables and chairs. The project includes new seating, performance spots, and spinny chairs. Despite plans for sea lion statues, they have not been acquired yet. A ground mural is scheduled for the next phase in September.

Amy Cohen shared that the project received positive feedback from the Port Commission on June 11th, which led to re-allocating and increasing the grant funds. The installation is set to begin the week of July 8th, with the Port maintenance team assisting. The project will be implemented in phases over three weeks, involving bench rearrangements, planter moves, and the installation of pergolas and containers. Fisherman's Wharf CBD will manage daily operations, including setting up tables, chairs, and games, with minimal disruption expected.

Questions/Comments:

- No Comments or Questions
-

Item #4 - PG&E Beach Street Offshore Sediment Remediation Project

Kathryn Purcell, Project Manager from the Port of San Francisco Planning and Environment division, and Luke Vernagallo, PG&E's project manager, discussed the Beach Street offshore sediment remediation project. Their goal was to provide background on the project, regulatory oversight, milestones, outreach, and detailed plans for upcoming activities.

From 2017 to 2020, PG&E and the Port conducted multiple sediment investigations from the East Marina to Pier 43 1/2, collecting samples and analyzing them to understand the impact of the historic Beach St manufactured gas plant, which operated from the early 1900s until 1931. The findings were documented in a remedial investigation report submitted to the Water Board in 2020. Following this, a feasibility study and a remedial action plan were developed, recommending remediation efforts such as dredging contaminated sediments and capping affected areas. This project, overseen by the San Francisco Regional Water Quality Control Board, has included extensive planning and permitting.

In February 2022, the Water Board issued a site cleanup order, mandating the Port and PG&E to remediate the impacted sediment. The focus since then has been on pre-remediation design and obtaining necessary permits. Remediation is set to begin in 2025, with dredging and capping activities extending from Pier 43 1/2 to the East Marina over several years.

Luke Vernagallo highlighted that the cleanup is driven by ecological concerns and aims to protect the benthic species in the Bay. The project involves minimal upland presence, with most work conducted from the water. Sediments will be processed at either Pier 94 or Montezuma, ensuring safe disposal.

Key project controls include health and safety plans, water quality monitoring, and community air monitoring. Regular engagement with regulatory agencies, the Port, and impacted tenants has been crucial. The project team has provided updates to the Port Commission and will continue to do so as the project progresses.

Questions/Comments:

- No Comments or Questions.

Item #5 - Fisherman's Wharf Revitalized

Seth Hamalian from Fisherman's Wharf Revitalized stated that the project aims to support the fishing industry, create an authentic space, provide Bay access, and ensure sustainability and resilience. The goals are to activate the space, increase visitor diversity and duration, and create new Bay connections. Initial designs for Pier 45 and a nearby triangular lot have been revised based on feedback, emphasizing the fishing industry and minimizing external uses. The Pier 45 sheds will now focus on internal industry uses, while the triangular lot will enhance the connection between the waterfront and Jefferson St., with a visitor center and family-friendly spaces.

The current phase involves visioning, gathering feedback, and iterative design, with future steps including defining a term sheet, environmental evaluations, and aiming for a final design phase by late 2025/early 2026. Detailed design elements include 3D diagrams of proposed uses like a seafood market, exhibition hall, multipurpose rooftop, and event center at Pier 45, along with an enlarged promenade, beverage garden, and vacation rentals at the triangular lot. The project integrates public access with market operations, supporting the fishing industry while increasing visibility and appreciation.

Feedback has been positive, with concerns addressed through ongoing iterative processes, ensuring all inputs contribute to the final planning and design stages.

Questions/Comments:

Question: There was a question of the geographical definition of "Little Embarcadero," noting its varying uses and contexts.

Answer: One participant suggested that it referred to the promenade area but mentioned that they would start calling it "Pier 43 Promenade" to avoid confusion. Another participant provided a more specific definition, identifying "Little Embarcadero" as the area from Pier 39 to Pier 45, emphasizing its importance for product movement and the fishing industry.

Comment: A long-time member of the fishing community expressed concerns about reallocating a quarter of Pier 45 for other uses, stating that this would break an implied contract with the fishing industry. They argued that this reallocation would weaken the industry, harm the city's food security, and reduce public access. The speaker stressed the need to invest in fishing infrastructure to prepare for future industry growth, despite current downturns.

Comment: Another participant appreciated the committee's response to previous comments but remained concerned about the project's impact on the fishing industry, emphasizing the need for sufficient space and capacity for future growth. They reiterated the importance of investing in infrastructure to support the industry's long-term sustainability. They emphasized the significant impact of increased pedestrian and vehicular traffic on daily operations, especially with high volumes of people. They highlighted the safety and practicality issues of having pedestrians around busy forklift operations. The participant pointed out the visual impact and redundancy of adding entertainment venues in San Francisco, which already has many. It was stressed that preserving water-based activities at Fisherman's Wharf is uniquely necessary, as it cannot be relocated. The participant suggested utilizing old Shed C for fleet investment, such as blast freezers, net space, seafood markets, and facilities for fish processing. They expressed concern that the proposed project could divert essential space and resources from the local fleet to other activities.

Seth Hamalian, Fisherman's Wharf Revitalized Response:

- Seth clarified that the project focuses on the waterfront area along Taylor St., aiming to complement the fishing industry.
- He assured that the project would prioritize providing enclosed space for the fishing industry and minimize visitor interference by keeping public activities to specific edges of the area.

2. Additional Comments and Questions:

- There was a query about a webpage for the Fisherman's Wharf Revitalization project.
- It was noted that presentations are posted on the Port's website, and links are included in upcoming agendas.

Item #6 - Agenda Setting for Future Meetings

The next FWAC meeting will be held on September 4, 2024.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:45 AM.