

COUNTY OF MONTEREY

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Malinda Matson
U.S. Economic Development Administration
A bureau of the U.S. Department of Commerce
915 Second Avenue, Room 1890
Seattle, WA 98174

November 28, 2023

RE: Climate Change Resilience and Economic Capacity Building for Moss Landing Marine Laboratory

Dear U.S. Economic Development Administration:

It is with great pleasure that the County of Monterey Board of Supervisors provide this letter in support of the proposed “Climate Change Resilience and Economic Capacity Building for Moss Landing Marine Laboratory (MLML)” Project submitted to the U.S. Economic Development Administration by San José State University Research Foundation.

The proposed MLML Project seeks to:

- Demolish the Marine Operations Building located at 7539 and 7722 Sandholt Road in Moss Landing, California 95039 and replace it with office space to mobilize scientific expeditions, dive support, and storage.
- Replace the floating dock to one that is adaptive to sea level rise and can accommodate both the MLML fleet and working boats from private foundations and local government/special districts.
- Demolish the Del Mar Wharf and replace it with one that is adaptive to sea level rise, able to accommodate additional commercial fishing vessels.
- Improve the security fencing, utilities, and drainage/grading at the Shore Lab building to accommodate wet lab work.
- Replace the temporary shade with a permanent shade structure.
- Rebuild the deck at the Shore Lab to incorporate utility chases with appropriate load testing and in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).
- Reorganize the interior of the Shore Lab to accommodate academic research, private aquaculture companies, and marine technology startups.

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MLML is part of the Asset Inventory for the County of Monterey (County) Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDs). The proposed improvements align with CEDs goals by (1) making additional, climate-change-adapted wharf space available to commercial fishing boats and (2) providing dock space for smaller vessels owned by non-profit and research organization. Improvements at the Shore Lab facility will expand access to private aquaculture companies, create high-wage jobs in the agriculture sector, and provide incubator space for startup companies focusing on marine technologies.

As the County Board of Supervisors, we appreciate the ongoing support of local projects which strengthen economic development, thereby ensuring a diversified and healthy economy. This collaboration with the MLML through the Disaster Recovery grant will enhance collective efforts to build resilience and create a sustainable future for the community. Thank you for your consideration and we look forward to the opportunities this grant will create in our region.

Sincerely,

Luis A. Alejo, Chair
County of Monterey Board of Supervisors