



**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT**

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August 18, 2020

Malinda Matson
Economic Development Representative Northern & Coastal California
915 Second Avenue, Room 1890
Seattle, WA 98174-1012

**RE: Your US Economic Development Administration
Industrial System Rehabilitation Project
Grant Application Support**

Dear Ms. Matson,

I am writing to express the County of Humboldt's strong support for the Humboldt Bay Municipal Water District request for funding through the *EDA Grant Program*, and to also share the County's enthusiasm for its proposed project to rehabilitate its industrial water system (IWS).

The use of the District's IWS to provide raw water to industries in Humboldt County located on the Samoa Peninsula will benefit our local economy in many ways. This development is strategically aligned with the County's Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) and will strengthen the county's ability to attract and retain jobs and capital investment in our county.

One stakeholder to benefit will be Nordic Aquafarms whose project will produce approximately 200 construction jobs for 3 to 5 years with a capital investment exceeding \$400 million. Their project will also create and sustain approximately 150 operational jobs, many of which will be science professionals.

It is anticipated that Nordic Aquafarms will act as a catalyst to attract and expand aqua culture around Humboldt Bay and thereby contribute a larger multiplier affect than that which would be experienced by a single business entity. Other similar businesses have already begun to investigate the feasibility of locating on the Samoa Peninsula. Nordic is among many other water dependent businesses who will benefit from this project and who require reliable industrial water supplied by the Humboldt Bay Municipal Water District.

With these points in mind, we strongly support the Humboldt Bay Municipal Water District's efforts to bolster the regional economy by ensuring industrial water availability on the Samoa Peninsula and possibly to other industrial sites in the county in the future.

Regards,

Estelle Fennell

Chair, Humboldt County Board of Supervisors