

Port Briefing

news & updates from Port of Newport

December, 2019



Keeping Posted:

Here's what on GM Paula Miranda's mind

In November, our management team and President Sara Skamser met with the state's Regional Solutions Team. That meeting was attended by Business Oregon, DEQ, DSL, ODFW, DLCD, ODOT, as well as Oregon Cascades West Council of Governments. With new leadership at the Port and the recent completion of a Strategic Business Plan, the meeting was organized as a chance to get to know each other and also discuss our future plans.

The RST's objective is to recognize the unique needs of groups like ours and work to together to help solve problems and seize opportunities to get projects done. I believe this meeting was very beneficial to all of us and we really appreciate the State making this effort to get to know us and better understand our strategic plan.

We look forward to future meetings with members of this group as we pursue some of the projects discussed.

Army Corps to look at commercial marina depth

The Port of Newport is pleased to announce that, in response to our request, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will consider establishing deepening the channel into and out of the Port of Newport's commercial marina. Among other things, dredging would make Port Dock 7 more accessible to larger vessels. The project would also including dredging to and from the commercial hoist dock.

The first step is for USACE to gather available information to form a Federal Interest Determination (FID), which will help them decide whether continuing on to a feasibility study is consistent with the program under which it would be funded. The first \$100,000 in this process is provided by federal funds, which would include all of the FID process.

Click to get the details from our [press release](#) and read both [our letter of request](#) and the [USACE response](#).



Bond refinancing gets a final closing date

After reviewing a variety of proposals and with an A1 rating from Moody's in hand, the Port of Newport will finalize the refinancing of the bonds issued in 2010 for the construction of the NOAA facility this month.

After a scheduled closing on Dec. 17, the Port is expected to save \$254,000 annually or \$2.5 million over the remaining 10 years of what was originally a 20-year bond. The result is a new average interest rate of 3.47% compared to the original average rate of 5.42%. The refinancing will effectively allow the Port to create a reserve fund for future projects.

The Port worked extensively with bond council Hawkins Delafield & Wood LLP and municipal advisor David Ulbricht from the Special Districts Association of Oregon to put together a favorable package that ultimately led to Robert W. Baird & Co. underwriting the \$18 million in bonds.

Part of the process involved getting a Moody's rating for the project. A detailed look at the rationale behind the "stable outlook" described by the credit rating agency can be found [HERE](#).

In addition to this particular project, the Port is also refinancing \$5.3 million in general obligation bonds issued to rehabilitate the International Terminal back in 2011. The refinancing will ultimately reduce the tax obligation of taxpayers in the Port District by slightly more than \$800,000.

The savings from the NOAA bond will be used for a reserved fund that can be tapped when future infrastructure project grants require a financial match or other further development needs.

"After working with financial and legal advisors over the past few months, this is the culmination of our efforts to use refinancing as a method bring money to the Port's coffers," said Paula Miranda, General Manager. "This is an important step in allowing us to benefit from future grant opportunities that require match."

Happy Holidays



Update on Dungeness Crab Season



After the second round of preseason testing, the official start to the Oregon Dungeness Crab season will be delayed until at least December 31, [according to ODFW](#).

Around the Port of Newport, the activity level has increased considerably as crews prepare crab pots and boats for the upcoming season.

For comparison, the 2018/19 crab season opened on Jan 4, 2019. From January through August of 2019, landings at the combined port group of Newport, Waldport, and Depoe Bay totaled more than 6.8 million pounds – slightly more than a third of all Oregon landings. ([Source: ODFW](#))

From all of us at the Port of Newport, we extend best wishes for a safe and successful crab season to all in the commercial crabbing industry.

Visit our Website:
PortofNewport.com

