



Ventura Port District: Six Project Request

Recipient: Ventura Port District
Project Period: 4/15/2022 – 3/25/2024
Award Amount: \$93,301.02
Project Number: #8006.22.074211

Summary of Accomplishments

Ventura Port District (VPD), an independent special district within the City of Ventura, was awarded a \$93,301.02 grant on September 12, 2022, from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation to complete six projects across Ventura Harbor for the benefit of the public. VPD is pleased to report that it has completed the projects considered under the grant. Projects one, two, three, and six were completed as separate projects while the projects four and five were merged into one combined project. In total there are five completed projects. Details on the accomplishments and recreational benefits to the public can be found below:

1. Project one procured and installed a new radio repeater for use by Ventura Harbor Patrol as well as lifeguards on Harbor Cove, South, and Surfer's Knoll Beach. Ventura Harbor Patrol patrols Ventura Harbor year-round while lifeguards are subcontracted from California State Parks every summer. VPD's old repeater was over ten years old and functioned inadequately. The new radio repeater better facilitates communication and increases the communication range for Ventura Harbor Patrol and summer lifeguards thereby increasing public safety. This is because the new radio repeater allows for faster, more reliable, and more efficient communication that facilitates faster response times and better organized and compartmentalized communication on a day-to-day basis. This is especially true in regard to intra and inter agency communications during emergency situations. The repeaters have been delivered, installed, and are currently in use by Ventura Harbor Patrol and lifeguards to communicate and ensure public safety throughout the Ventura Port District.
2. Project two installed three new light poles at Harbor Cove Beach to increase the public's recreational enjoyment, safety, and usage of that beach. The old light poles had been there approximately seventeen years and due to the harsh marine environment had become dilapidated. Subsequently, inadequate lighting in the Harbor Cove Beach parking lot was a public safety concern. The completion of this project at Harbor Cove Beach delivers the public with a continuation of lighting provided by safe structures throughout the parking lot at night for their enjoyment and extended daily usage. In addition, the new light poles use LED lights which are significantly more environmentally friendly as they reduce the power consumption of the lights.
3. Project three procured a mobile traffic sign for use by Ventura Harbor Patrol to provide and communicate essential messages and information to the public. Oftentimes, it is necessary to advise

the public of sea conditions that make boating and/or swimming particularly dangerous, road or dock closures, and hazardous conditions. The newly procured mobile sign allows Harbor Patrol to communicate necessary information to motorists, pedestrians, boaters, swimmers, and any other members of the public residing at or transiting through Ventura Harbor that need to be made aware of necessary and relevant information. With nearly two million visitors per year to the Harbor, nearly all of which travel via different roadways into the harbor, the new mobile traffic sign will be a powerful tool for years to come to communicate effectively at scale with the public.

4. Projects four and five of the original grant application, the MobiChair Floating Wheelchair and Aqua Creek Beach Access Chair, were combined into a single procurement. Due to research done by our Harbormaster, VPD determined that the MobiChair Floating Wheelchair would not be sufficiently safe for public operation in open ocean water. Therefore, two Beach Access Chairs were procured (instead of one) from Marine Rescue Products, Inc. In addition, the District also purchased a new 20' storage container for the wheelchairs was procured to store the wheelchairs at the beach, rather than at VPD headquarters (this was done as an in-kind contribution to the project). The VPD already owns one Beach Access Wheelchair bringing the total owned to three, with two in new condition and the old one as a spare. Available upon request, these newly procured wheelchairs benefit the public by providing increased access to Ventura Harbor's beaches, particularly for those with mobility impairments or needing assistance with beach mobility. The three wheelchairs are stored securely in the new storage container when not in use. Now that they are stored at the beach, they allow much easier and faster access and transfer when requested by a member of the public. A sign acknowledging the NFWF grant is being ordered to go on the container.
5. Project six (of the original grant application) was the procurement of a beach access mat along Harbor Cove Beach. Blue Jay Roll-up Walkway will be installed at Harbor Cove and Surfers Knoll beaches. The Walkway has been delivered as six 50'-long sections. Due to the busy summer season having already begun at the time of the delivery of the new beach mats, as well as the need to grade the sand prior to installation, the new mats will be installed after beach grading in early 2024. Members of the public will be able to bring beach carts, strollers, wagons, wheeled coolers, as well as wheelchairs and other mobility assistance devices at both beaches without having to cross the deep sand that lines the beautiful beach. The procurement and future installation of the beach mats has furthered the VPD's mission of making all our facilities ADA accessible.

Project Activities

The primary activities as well as relevant quantitative indicators for each project can be found below:

1. Project one, the procurement of a new radio repeater for use by Ventura Harbor Patrol and lifeguards, was ordered from Telcom, Inc. for a cost of \$19,997.33. This amount has been paid to Telcom, Inc. to complete the procurement. Since \$22,514.13 was awarded in the original grant application, this project was \$2,516.80 under budget. The surplus \$2,516.80 was applied towards the extra costs of the light poles project (#2). The radio repeater has been delivered to the VPD, installed, and is currently in use by Ventura Harbor Patrol and lifeguards on Ventura Harbor's beaches. The new radio repeater has significantly extended range compared to the handhelds used by Ventura Harbor Patrol in the past. A strong, consistent radio connection throughout Ventura Harbor has now been established because of

the new radio repeater. Further costs regarding the radio repeater, including maintenance and upkeep, will be covered by the VPD.

2. Project two, the installation of three new light poles at Harbor Cove Beach, was contracted out to JPL Construction Inc. for a cost of \$32,544. This was done using the VPD's standard contractor procurement policy. Before the original application for this grant had been submitted, JPL Construction Inc. had quoted the cost of the labor, equipment, and materials to replace the light at \$32,544. However, after beginning the work, JPL Construction Inc. informed the VPD that the concrete base of one of the light poles had corroded to the point where it needed to be replaced as well. As a result, an amendment to the original contract was signed expanding the Scope of Work to include the concrete base. The cost of the project increased by \$18,744 to a grand total of \$51,288. This meant the project was \$18,744 over budget. \$5,037.15 of this cost was covered by extra funds from other projects part of this grant while \$13,706.85 was covered by the VPD as in-kind contribution. As of the submission of this report, the three light poles at Harbor Cove Beach have been installed and are operational for members of the public to utilize at night. The new lights are more structurally sound compared to the old light poles. Further, the usage of LED lights reduces energy consumption and provide improved lighting compared to the previous lights. The three new light poles have an expected lifespan of 30-35 years before needing refurbishment.
3. Project three, the procurement of a mobile traffic sign for use by Ventura Harbor Patrol, was ordered from ManeriDirect for a cost of \$23,560.66. \$20,995 was awarded in the original grant meaning that the project was \$2,565.66 over budget. VPD has covered the additional cost of \$2,565.66 as in-kind contribution. When not in use, the sign is stored in a storage facility owned and secured by Harbor Patrol. As the retiring sign saw an estimated usage of about 250-300 days per year, the new, more modern sign will be heavily utilized over the years by Ventura Harbor Patrol to communicate pertinent and important information to the public.
4. Projects four and five, the procurement of two additional PVC Beach Access Wheelchairs with Large Sand Tires (modified from the original projects of two different wheelchair styles), was ordered from Marine Rescue Products, Inc. for a cost of \$3,375.00. Originally, \$3,933.89 was awarded for procurement of these two separate wheelchairs in projects four and five. \$3,375.00 was used from this budget to procure these two wheelchairs. The remaining \$558.89 was applied towards the extra costs of the light pole project. In addition, a storage container was procured for a cost of \$3,908 from the Container Alliance to store the wheelchairs at the beach. VPD has covered the additional expense of the storage container as an in-kind contribution to supplement this project. The two new Beach Access Wheelchairs and Storage Container have been acquired by the VPD. Both wheelchairs have been assembled and are ready for use by members of the public upon request. The wheelchairs are now located in the storage container at the lot at the end of Spinnaker Drive beside the beach. Whenever a member of the public requests a Beach Access Wheelchair, a member of Ventura Harbor Patrol provides it to them at no cost other than a temporary collateral.
 - a. The final iteration of projects four and five has discrepancies between the original grant proposal and the final iteration. Project four in the grant proposal called for the procurement of a MobiChair Floating Wheelchair and project five called for the procurement of an Aqua Creek

Beach Access Chair with Rear Articulated Wheels for the use by the public. After the grant application was submitted and approved, the VPD consulted with the vendor and determined the following: (1) the MobiChair Floating Wheelchair was a safety risk to be used in open water and (2) that the PVC Beach Wheelchair with Large Sand Tires is a more stable and safer model for members of the public to use on its beaches than the model with rear articulating wheels. As such, the projects were changed to procure two PVC Beach Wheelchairs with Large Sand Tires to supplement the older model already owned by the VPD. In addition, a storage container was acquired to store the wheelchairs closer to the beaches to make them more easily accessible to members of the public. Together, the two PVC Beach Wheelchairs with Large Sand Tires from Marine Rescue Products, Inc. and the Storage Container entail the final products of projects four and five as detailed in the original grant application.

5. Project six, the procurement of Blue Jay Roll-up Walkway to be installed at Surfers Knoll and Harbor Cove Beaches, was ordered from Deschamps Mats Systems for a cost of \$11,352.54. \$13,314 was awarded in the original grant meaning that the project is \$1,961.46 underbudget. The \$1,961.46 was applied towards the extra costs associated with the light pole project. The mat, consisting of six 50' segments, was delivered to the Ventura Port District after the beginning of the busy summer season, making installation possible but impractical due to the need to grade the sand before installation (and since the mats are removed before the winter beach erosion season). Currently, the segments of the mat are stored in the same storage container as the PVC Beach Wheelchairs. VPD plans to deploy the mats in the spring of 2024 after the beach is graded. Portions of the old mat still in serviceable condition will be kept as spares. The new mat will enable access for those requiring assistance across the sand to near the edge of the water further than what is allowed by the pre-existing mat.

All the projects funded under this grant are completed. The installation of the three light poles at Ventura Harbor Beach and the radio repeater are complete and in active use daily. The Beach Access Wheelchairs are available to members of the public upon request and the mobile traffic sign is deployed by Harbor Patrol as needed. The beach mat has been procured and delivered and will be installed at the beginning of the busy summer season 2024. The total cost of these projects is \$113,481.53. VPD will be covering the \$20,180.51 additional cost between the grant awarded and the total amount spent (in-kind contribution). The \$20,180.51 the VPD is covering is divided among three projects: the light poles (\$13,706.85), the traffic sign (\$2,565.66), and storage container (\$3,908).

The Future

The immediate next step for the VPD is to finish the installation of the beach access mat on Harbor Cove Beach. The mat has been procured from Deschamps Mat Systems and could be installed by the VPD tomorrow if needed. However, due to practical and logistical reasons, the mat will not be installed until the beginning of the busy summer season 2024.

Moving forward, the VPD has several plans in place to continue to improve general recreation and amenities at the beaches in the special independent district.

- Currently, the VPD has an outstanding grant application with the NFWF for Round Two of the Refugio Beach Oil Spill Settlement for \$200,000 consisting of five different components. Two of those five components are ADA access improvements to the Harbor Cove Public Restrooms and Shower Area and Surfer's Knoll Public Restrooms and Shower Area to better connect their respective parking lots

to the beaches. After the completion of these projects, a wheelchair user utilizing either their own personal wheelchair or one of the VPD's PVC Beach Access Chair with Large Sand Tires will be able to travel from the parking lot to the sand of Harbor Cove and Surfer's Knoll Beach using the beach mats, upgraded ADA showers & restrooms, ADA parking spaces, and ADA accessible sidewalk grades. The completion of these projects will further the VPD's goal of making all of Ventura Harbor ADA accessible.

- In addition, VPD strives to make the Port District a destination for residents, those seeking recreation, and access to Channel Islands National Park. As such, many events and festivals are held at Ventura Harbor such as open-air movie nights in the summer, a Halloween Dog Costume Competition, Chalk Art Festival, and an annual mermaid month in March. With people constantly coming in and out of the harbor at all hours, the mobile traffic sign will be used to advertise these events as well as inform the public about relevant road conditions, weather events, and water conditions.
- The Harbor also can experience coastal hazards, such as high surf/wave/wind conditions or even tsunamis that can make it dangerous to the public to be on or near the water. The mobile traffic signs and improvements in Harbor Patrol communication throughout the harbor work together to enhance public safety, emergency response, and public notification.
- For events going into the night at Harbor Cove Beach or nearby, the new streetlights will provide adequate lighting and safety for members of the public.

Lessons Learned

The single greatest unplanned expense of the project was the need to redo the concrete base of one of the three light poles at the Harbor Cove Beach parking lot. Quoted as being \$32,544 to simply replace the poles, upon removal of the original poles from the concrete base, it was determined that this base had corroded to the point that it needed to be replaced. This incurred an \$18,744 cost to address. Moving forward, the VPD will be performing a more thorough preliminary analysis of other light pole foundations and related infrastructure that need replacement or refurbishment receiving a quote from a potential contractor. The VPD will seek to better predict the full costs of a project before construction begins in order to more effectively spend both grant and its own funds.

The VPD will also seek to further evaluate ADA products for optimal safety considerations based on consumer and vendor feedback prior to sourcing specific brands and models. After the grant had been approved, the VPD Harbormaster made the decision to change the procurement of beach wheelchairs from the MobiChair Floating Wheelchair and Aqua Creek Beach Access Chair with Rear Articulated Wheels to two PVC Beach Access Chairs with Large Sand Tires from Marine Rescue Products. This change was made for purposes of public safety and still maximizing inclusive recreational enjoyment of the beaches of Ventura Harbor. In the future, the VPD will conduct more preliminary research into the products it purchases from vendors to ensure they are the safest available and in the best interest of the public.

During the procurement process, supply chain issues delayed the full procurement of several items funded by this grant. In the future, VPD will consider supply chain conditions when procuring items benefitting public usage and enjoyment of its beaches and amenities. However, as supply chains are fickle and subject to change due to factors outside the control of the VPD, this might not always be possible (particularly regarding highly complex items).

To conclude, the VPD is grateful of the grant process experience and lessons learned as well as of the grant financial support in elevating the experience at the harbor for the public.

Project Photos



Project 1: Boxes of radio repeater equipment before installation (left). A radio repeater currently in use by the Ventura Harbor Patrol to facilitate and enable communications across their area of operation (right).



Project 2: "Before" photo of base of light pole at Harbor Cove Beach with cracks in it and need of replacement (left). "Before" photo of the top of one of the light poles at Harbor Cove Beach with significant rust and corrosion, and in need of replacement (center). "After" photo of one of the installed light posts at Harbor Cove Beach that are currently in use (right).



Project 3: The back of a mobile traffic sign that was procured for usage by the Ventura Harbor Patrol to inform the public of relevant information (left). The front of a mobile traffic sign that was procured for usage by the Ventura Harbor Patrol to inform the public of relevant information (right).



Project 4 & 5: Two new PVC Beach Access wheelchairs with umbrellas that were procured to supplement the one Beach Access chair that the Ventura Port District had already (left). Three PVC Beach Access wheelchairs in a storage container that was also procured to store the beach chairs and beach mat when not in use (right).



Project 6: Procured beach mats before deployment to help Harbor Cove Beach be more accessible (left). Currently deployed mat with a tear on the lower right side that will be replaced at the beginning of the 2024 season by the new mat (right).