

McNamara, Cade

From: Honsal, William
Sent: Tuesday, February 15, 2022 5:05 PM
To: CEQAResponses
Cc: McNamara, Cade
Subject: Support for Aquafarms project
Attachments: no_reply_20220215_165412.pdf

Please see the attached letter of support. Thank you.

William F. Honsal, Sheriff

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February 15, 2022

Cade McNamara
County of Humboldt Planning and Building Department, Planning Division
3015 H Street
Eureka, CA 95501



Dear County of Humboldt Planning and Building Department,

It is my pleasure to write this letter in support of Nordic Aquafarms' project planned for the Samoa Peninsula. Nordic Aquafarms focuses on fish welfare and environmental sustainability. The end-results are modules ready for truly large-scale fish farming – and a key solution in contributing to increasing seafood supply without leaving a material environmental footprint.

I had the opportunity to visit the proposed site in Samoa. I was able to see first-hand the deplorable condition of the old pulp mill site. I was able to see the proposed plans to clean up the environment and build an eco-friendly facility that will provide a vital food source to people along west coast. The Aquafarms' project will be providing many community benefits, including clean-up of a long-abandoned site containing hazardous materials, abandoned buildings and industrial debris. The project will also stimulate economic activity and provide a wide range of employment opportunities. In addition to what Nordic will directly contribute to our local economy, the Nordic project will be a draw for other aquaculture businesses on the peninsula, thereby increasing economic prosperity and employment opportunities for our region.

Nordic Aquafarms has been actively engaging in our community through public meetings, site tours and targeted outreach to stakeholders. Nordic is working closely with College of the Redwoods to revitalize their aquaculture program and with HSU to ensure a steady pipeline of local qualified professionals. Nordic is also working with the Humboldt County Office of Education to introduce information to students about careers in aquaculture and to offer support in classroom educational programs.

The time is right for the county to approve this project. The personnel from Nordic Aquafarms have spent numerous hours addressing the publics concerns. They have made themselves available to provide valuable feedback on their project while being entirely transparent. I believe they have proven themselves to be invested in becoming a valued member of our community. Humboldt county should welcome them with open arms and this project should move forward.

Sincerely,

William F. Honsal

Sheriff