

# CALIFORNIA FISHERMEN'S RESILIENCY ASSOCIATION

1118 6th St.  
Eureka, CA 95501

**January 31, 2024**

## **7C Fishermen's Working Group Honoraria Report to OPC**

### **History**

In January of 2023, the CFRA was approached by OPC with a request to manage honoraria for fishermen that would be participating in the upcoming Coastal Commission's 7C Fishermen's Working Group.

The California Coastal Commission's Condition #7 for OSW development requires the formation of a fishermen's working group (FWG). Fishermen had requested a per diem honoraria payment for attending these working group meetings. However, state agencies did not have a vehicle for providing compensation to fishermen.

At the time, the CFRA was funded and operating through a \$99,000/year reimbursement grant from OPC. It was suggested that OPC could amend this grant to include an additional task to support participation in the Coastal Commission's Condition #7 working group and that additional funding could be added to the grant.

The CFRA was willing to take on this responsibility as it would speed up the state's ability to form the fishermen's working group, and dovetail with the CFRA goal of avoidance, minimization and mitigation of impacts to the fishing fleet from OSW development.

### **Agency Support**

Commercial fishermen's associations are appreciative of the support from OPC and Coastal Commission staff for providing the very first opportunity in the five year debate on OSW developments for fishermen to actually participate in a Federal/State/OSW Developer process concerning conflict avoidance, permit conditions and industry-to-industry agreements between fishing organizations and developers. The CFRA Board of Directors included honoraria to participants as further OPC/Coastal Commission support.

### **Applying for Cable Grants**

The OPC grant is a reimbursement grant, and the CFRA anticipated that there could be a problem with “cash flow” Despite the additional funding for honoraria from OPC, the CFRA was concerned that we would not have sufficient “upfront” funding to cover the additional honoraria. It was estimated that the initial “upfront outlay” for 7CWG honoraria could be as much as \$4000 per meeting and would be in addition to the monthly operating needs of the CFRA and could potentially exhaust CFRA funds (cash on hand). The CFRA Board decided to apply for grant funding from the South Bay Cable Fisheries Liaison Committee and the Central Coast Cable Fisheries Liaison Committee. The purpose for the requested grant funds was to increase the working cash flow of the CFRA in light of the additional Ocean Protection Council task to manage and disburse honoraria payments to fishermen participants on the Coastal Commission 7C Fishermen’s Working Group (7CFWG) for offshore wind power permitting. Both cable funds were familiar with the Coastal Commission’s mandate to establish the 7C Fishermen’s Working Group and were supportive in directing financial assistance to the CFRA as requested. In June of 2023, the CFRA received grant funding from the SBCFLC and the CCCFLC.

### **SB286 - Support for California’s Fishing Industry**

In October of 2023, Governor Gavin Newsom signed SB286 (McGuire, 2023) into law. The Fisheries and Offshore Wind Power Bill authored by the Honorable Mike McGuire is a first step in promoting long term resiliency for the fishing industry and a careful transition to renewable energy through the construction of enforceable operational protocols and protective permit conditions by the California Coastal Commission, including industry to industry agreement.

This bill provided for representatives of the commercial fishing industry, recreational fishing industry, and California Native American tribes who were selected to participate in the 7C working group to be compensated for expenses reasonably incurred for approved working group activities, including attendance at meetings. Compensation of \$50.00 per hour with a maximum of \$500.00 per day for a virtual meeting was to be paid to meeting participants.

Senate Bill 286 provides for hourly compensation at \$50.00 per hour, or a maximum \$500.00 per day for **virtual (zoom) and in-person meeting** attendance by qualified fisheries and tribal representatives. The Ocean Protection Council and the California Coastal Commission have provided \$1000 for travel expenses to “**in person**” meetings by qualified fisheries and tribal representatives. Travel expenses are only payable to 7C participants traveling from 50 miles away or further.

### **Who Qualified for Honoraria**

The Coastal Commission and the Ocean Protection Council understood the negative economic impact of meeting attendance on fishing families and supported funding for the participation of fishermen. The CCC and OPC made the determination of which 7CWG participants would qualify for honoraria payments.

Qualified participants included fishermen, fishermen's association representatives that were not being paid to attend these meetings and tribal representatives who were not being paid by their tribes to attend these meetings.

It was also determined that the alternates to these qualified participants would receive honoraria in the case that they were representing a primary participant that was absent.

### **Outreach from the CFRA**

At the December 6th meeting Ken Bates, of the California Fishermen's Resiliency Association and a 7CWG participant, made a presentation outlining the establishment of honoraria payments by SB286 and the determination of who would qualify. He also outlined the process by which a qualified participant would apply for honoraria. This process required that a qualified participant provide a mailing address and a tax number to the accounting firm currently working with the CFRA. On the day of the 7CWG meeting, the CFRA sent a letter to each qualifying participant with instructions for applying for honoraria. ( See enclosed letter)

### **Process**

1. Kearns and West were tasked with conducting a formal roll call of all 7CWG participants at the beginning of each meeting.
2. This roll call would then be posted w/meeting minutes. It was noted that the list of participants could change each time there is a new meeting .
3. Within five business days of a meeting, Kearns and West would forward to the CFRA ([californiafishermensresiliency@gmail.com](mailto:californiafishermensresiliency@gmail.com)) a list of participating, qualified fishermen and tribal 7CWG members that attended the past meeting including total meeting hours (duration of meeting).
4. The CFRA would then forward the meeting attendance list to the accounting firm who would then issue honoraria as per the Kearns and West list.
5. The CFRA will provide to Kearns and West, Ocean Protection Council and the Coastal Commission staff a list of honoraria issued per each 7C Working Group meeting.
6. CFRA Certified Public Accountant will issue 1099's to honoraria recipients at the end of the calendar year. The CPA will send a yearly report to OPC concerning Honoraria funds.

### **Results**

On December 15, 2023, Kearns and West provided the CFRA with spreadsheets detailing attendance of qualified participants at the December 6th meeting. The CFRA organized and then forwarded this information to the accounting firm of Hutchison, Hohman LLP. There were ten recipients including fishermen, a fishing representative and two tribal members that qualified for honoraria. Checks were issued on December 20, 2023 totaling \$3850.00.

Thank you.

Ken Bates and Linda Hildebrand, Executive Director Services  
California Fishermen's Resiliency Association

This is a copy of the letter that was sent to 7C participants.

## CALIFORNIA FISHERMEN'S RESILIENCY ASSOCIATION

1118 6th St.  
Eureka, CA 95501

December 6, 2023,

Dear 7C Fishermen's Working Group participants,

### Honoraria Payment Information

The California Fishermen's Resiliency Association (CFRA), has been asked to handle honoraria payments for qualified 7C Fishermen's Working participants. We are working with an accounting firm who will be writing the checks and sending them to you. Please, let us know if you have any questions.

Please provide the following information:

1. Your name
2. Mailing address
3. SSN# or Federal ID

**Without this information honoraria checks cannot be processed.**

The California Coastal Commission and Ocean Protection Council understand the negative economic impact of meeting attendance on fishing families. To this end, OPC and the Coastal Commission have funded the participation of fishermen, and tribal representatives as follows:

1. Virtual Meetings -- Senate Bill 286 provides for hourly compensation at \$50.00 per hour, maximum \$500.00 per day for virtual (zoom) meeting attendance by qualified fisheries and tribal representatives.
2. In-person Meetings — The Ocean Protection Council and the California Coastal Commission have provided a daily honoraria rate for “in person” meetings and travel expenses of \$2000 for attendance by qualified fisheries and tribal representatives.
3. OPC and CCC have provided a daily honoraria rate of \$1000 for “in person” meetings to offset travel expenses only for fisheries association representatives
4. Alternates - Fisheries, tribal and fisheries association “alternates” will qualify for honoraria rates, as described above, for any 7CWG meetings they may attend while occupying the 7CWG seat for primary representatives unable to attend a given meeting.
5. Honoraria Checks —Kearns and West will record meeting attendees at the beginning of each meeting and will forward to the CFRA a list of “honoraria qualified” fisheries, tribal and fishing association representatives at each meeting. The CFRA certified accounting firm of Hutchison, Hohman & Co, LLP, will issue honoraria compensation in the form of CFRA checks sent via U.S. Mail to the addresses supplied to the CFRA's CPA. Additionally, the CFRA's CPA will issue IRS 1099 tax documents to honoraria recipients at the end of the calendar year.
6. Please! Cash these checks when you get them. The CFRA operates under a stringent and scrupulous bookkeeping system. Uncashed honoraria check exposes CFRA staff to the wrath of the bookkeeper.
7. Disclaimer - The CFRA Board and staff is actively working on OPC grant applications for next year. We will endeavor to make honoraria funding available for as long as possible and are looking forward to providing honoraria management services to OPC and the Coastal Commission as a CFRA Grant Deliverable.

Thank you

Ken Bates, Executive Director

California Fishermen's Resiliency Association (CFRA)