



**To:** Jessica Bautista, Port of Los Angeles  
**From:** Meghan Reese, Interim Executive Director, Harbor Community Benefit Foundation  
**Date:** February 22, 2025  
**Re:** Community Benefit Grant Program, Round 9 & PCMTF Transfer

---

## **INTRODUCTION**

In accordance with the Operating Agreement of the TraPac Memorandum of Understanding (Operating Agreement) Section 5.A. Project Funding, the Harbor Community Benefit Foundation (HCBF) requests approval to transfer \$370,000 from the Port Community Mitigation Trust Fund (PCMTF) to support Round 9 of its Community Benefit Grant Program.

On June 1, 2024, HCBF issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) for Round 9. The round was open exclusively to previous grantees to ensure that final funds are allocated to organizations with proven effectiveness in mitigating port-related impacts. The funding aims to address environmental and community impacts caused by the Port of Los Angeles and related operations in Wilmington and San Pedro.

HCBF received 12 applications totaling \$890,000 in funding requests. After thorough evaluation by HCBF staff and the ad hoc committee, five (5) organizations were selected for funding, representing a total award of \$370,000.

## **REQUEST**

HCBF requests the Port of Los Angeles Board of Harbor Commissioners (BOHC) to:

1. Concur with the HCBF Board-approved action to fund Round 9 of the Community Benefit Grant Program, in the amount of \$370,000, supporting five (5) organizations mitigating port-related impacts in Wilmington and San Pedro.
2. Approve the transfer of \$370,000 from the Port Community Mitigation Trust Fund to HCBF in a single lump sum by issuing a joint authorization letter to JPMorgan Chase, executed by:
  - a) The BOHC or its designee, and
  - b) The Executive Director of HCBF.

## **BACKGROUND**

The TraPac MOU and Operating Agreement require HCBF to allocate PCMTF funds to projects mitigating the impacts of Port operations. Since 2013, HCBF has awarded over \$7 million through the Community Benefit Grant Program to address noise, air quality, and public health concerns stemming from port-related activities. Round 9 represents the final round of this program, emphasizing equity and long-term benefits to disadvantaged communities.

## **DISCUSSION – PROJECT SELECTION**

Consistent with Operating Agreement Section 5.B.i. (Project Selection and Performance), HCBF solicited eligible projects through an RFP. Applications were evaluated based on their alignment with port mitigation goals, feasibility, community impact, and capacity to deliver results.

## **AD-HOC COMMITTEE REVIEW**

The Board-appointed ad-hoc Grant Review Committee, comprised of Board Members Ed Avol, Richard Havenick, and Jayme Wilson met with Staff to consider and evaluate the applications. Following a thorough review, the committee identified five finalists for funding.

## **AD-HOC COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION**

Upon review and deliberation, the ad-hoc committee recommended funding for five applications, allocating the full \$370,000 budget for Round 9. Applicants often leverage HCBF grant funding with volunteer hours and matched funding from other sources. The reported match from the recommended applications totals \$62,968, demonstrating additional community investment in mitigating port-related impacts.

## **RECOMMENDED GRANTS**

Following evaluation, the HCBF Board approved funding for the following organizations:

### **1. Coalition for Clean Air (\$50,000)**

- **Focus Area:** Air Quality and Community Health
- **Purpose:** The grant will support the "All About Air Quality Bootcamp," a 2½-day educational workshop tailored for residents of Wilmington and San Pedro. The program includes interactive sessions on air quality science, regulation, and community advocacy. Up to 30 participants will be trained to understand local air quality challenges and participate in decision-making processes aimed at reducing emissions. Materials will be bilingual (English and Spanish), and the program emphasizes empowering community members to advocate for clean air solutions in port-adjacent areas.

## 2. Los Angeles Community Garden Council (\$60,000)

- **Focus Area:** Community Health and Natural Resource Access
- **Purpose:** The funding will enhance the Gaffey Street Community Garden, a 6-acre site in San Pedro. Key improvements include modernizing the irrigation system to prevent erosion, addressing water pressure issues, and stabilizing the hillside. The project also involves creating a "Green Shield" around the garden's perimeter, incorporating drought-tolerant and native plants to act as a carbon sink, reduce noise, and filter pollutants. Community education initiatives will promote sustainable practices such as water conservation and composting, contributing to local food security and environmental resilience.

## 3. Los Angeles Maritime Institute (LAMI) (\$70,000)

- **Focus Area:** Environmental Education
- **Purpose:** This grant supports the TopSail Youth Program, offering 12 single-day field trips for San Pedro elementary students aboard tall ships. The hands-on program connects students to port impacts through STEM-based activities focused on air and water quality and marine ecology. Lessons include measuring air pollution, testing harbor water for pollutants, and understanding the effects of microplastics on marine life. By integrating STEM education with experiential learning, the program fosters environmental stewardship and awareness of port-related issues among local youth.

## 4. Long Beach Alliance for Children with Asthma (LBACA) (\$90,000)

- **Focus Area:** Public Health and Air Quality
- **Purpose:** The Asthma Intervention & Education Program addresses high asthma rates in children living near the Port of Los Angeles. Through home visits and workshops, LBACA provides families with resources to reduce asthma triggers, including hypoallergenic bedding and non-toxic cleaning supplies. The program emphasizes education on managing asthma symptoms and recognizing environmental triggers. Community workshops further raise awareness about air quality impacts and promote advocacy for cleaner air in Wilmington and San Pedro.

## 5. St. Mary Medical Center Foundation (\$100,000)

- **Focus Area:** Public Health
- **Purpose:** Funding will operate a mobile respiratory care unit serving underserved residents in Wilmington and San Pedro. The unit provides screenings, consultations, and treatment for respiratory illnesses exacerbated by port-related air pollution. By bringing care directly to the community, the program addresses disparities in access to healthcare and reduces the burden of untreated respiratory conditions, improving overall community health outcomes.

## **HCBF BOARD ACTIONS**

On December 5, 2024, the HCBF Board reviewed and unanimously approved the funding recommendations.

### **The Board resolved to:**

1. Approve the ad hoc committee recommendations to fund \$370,000 for Round 9.
2. Authorize the Executive Director to:
  - a) Report to the BOHC for final approval of the funding.
  - b) Execute a joint letter with the BOHC to approve the fund transfer.
  - c) Fully execute and administer grant agreements with approved grantees.

### **Attachments:**

**Attachment 1: PCMTF Status Report: APPROVED PROJECTS & FUND BALANCE UPDATE**

**The following chart summarizes the transfer of funds from the PCMTF.**

**Attachment 2: PCMTF Funding Summary:** The following table provides a recap of the PCMTF fund activity from 09/30/2021 through 08/31/2022 with a forecast of activity through year end

## PCMTF Funding Summary:

PCMTF Funding for Grants and Studies, Approved thru 12/31/2024:		
<b>Various</b>	\$300,000	Land Use Study (as required by the Operating Agreement)
	\$290,270	Noise Studies (as required by the Operating Agreement)
	<b>\$590,270</b>	<b>Total for Studies</b>
<b>2012</b>	\$350,000	Healthy Harbor, Round 1
	<b>\$350,000</b>	<b>Total for 2012</b>
<b>2013</b>	\$450,000	Healthy Harbor, Round 2
	\$506,000	Community Benefit, Round 1
	<b>\$956,000</b>	<b>Total for 2013</b>
<b>2014</b>	\$570,000	Community Benefit, Round 2
	\$550,000	Healthy Harbor, Round 3
	<b>\$1,120,000</b>	<b>Total for 2014</b>
<b>2015</b>	\$518,000	Healthy Harbor, Round 4
	\$300,000	STEAM Pilot
	\$50,000	Community Benefit, Round 2B
	(\$15,000)	Community Benefit, Round 2 - grant cancelled
	\$350,000	Community Benefit, Round 3 (net wired \$335,000)
	<b>\$1,203,000</b>	<b>Total for 2015</b>
<b>2016</b>	\$300,000	Healthy Harbor, Round 5
	\$800,000	Community Benefit, Round 4
	<b>\$1,100,000</b>	<b>Total for 2016</b>
<b>2017</b>	\$330,019	Community Benefit Round 5
	<b>\$330,019</b>	<b>Total for 2017</b>
<b>2018</b>	\$644,794	Community Benefit Round 6
	(\$38,087)	Community Benefit - grant cancelled
	\$80,480	Community Benefit Round 6B (net wired \$42,393)
	<b>\$687,187</b>	<b>Total for 2018</b>
<b>2020</b>	<b>\$209,169</b>	Community Benefit, Round 7
	<b>\$209,169</b>	<b>Total for 2020 (COVID-19 delayed funding)</b>
<b>2021</b>	<b>\$290,831</b>	Healthy Harbor Communities Initiative (HHCI) Round 1
<b>2021</b>	<b>\$400,000</b>	Healthy Harbor Communities Initiative (HHCI) Round 2
	\$690,831	<b>Total for 2021</b>
<b>2022</b>	<b>\$131,800</b>	Community Benefit, Round 8
	\$131,800	<b>Total for 2022</b>
	\$7,368,276	<b>Subtotal as of 2022</b>
<b>Funding, pending approval:</b>		
<b>2025</b>	<b>\$370,000</b>	Community Benefit, Round 9 (pending approval)
	\$370,000	<b>Total for 2025</b>
	<b>\$7,738,276</b>	<b>Grand Total (Committed funding as of 12/31/2024)</b>