



Justin Smith/OSU

Officials from Oregon State University and the National Science Foundation toured the shipyard building the campus' new research vessel in Houma, La.

OSU's new ship will conduct research off Oregon coast

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Construction of a new research ship for Oregon State University began this month in Louisiana.

The 199-foot vessel is expected to help the school's researchers and students advance the science of coastal environments and support research on topics such as ocean acidification, hypoxia and sea level rise.

A student and a teacher from Warrenton High School joined OSU scientists in September aboard another of the campus' research vessels, the Oceanus.

The ship that's under construction will be the first in a class of Regional Class Research Vessels funded by the National Science Foundation.

The ship will be christened "Taani," a word used by the Siletz people meaning "off-shore." It's scheduled for delivery to OSU in spring 2021 and will be fully operational after a year of outfitting and testing.

Research utilizing Taani will focus on the West Coast.

"This new class of modern

vessels will support future research focused on the physical, chemical, biological and geologic processes in coastal waters," said Roberta Marinelli, dean of Oregon State's College of Earth, Ocean and Atmospheric Sciences.

"This research is critical to informing strategies for coastal resilience, food security, and hazard mitigation not only in the Pacific Northwest but around the world."

The ships will be equipped to conduct detailed sea-floor mapping to reveal geologic structures important to understanding processes such as subduction zone earthquakes that may trigger tsunamis.

Taani will have berths for 16 scientists and 13 crew members. The ship will be able to stay out at sea for about 21 days before returning to port, and will routinely send streams of sensor data to shore via satellite.

In 2017, the National Science Foundation awarded OSU a grant of \$122 million for the research vessels, representing the largest grant in the university's history.

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Dec. 4th Town Hall Meeting to discuss the Pacific Seafood dormitory housing proposal

Pacific Seafood (PSF) has an urgent need to be able to offer a low-cost housing option to their seasonal workers who cannot afford local rental rates for their seasonal work. (PSF) owns both the Pacific Fab and BioOregon Protein operations which are located on the far eastern edge of Hammond, directly adjacent to the Columbia River.

(PSF) is requesting a text change to the existing zoning rules for this area that would allow them to create a new type of low-cost housing known as "Dormitory" and to locate this housing in the west end of the Pacific Fab building which would fulfill their short-term need.

I do not know the Warrenton ordinances well enough to confirm if the following statement is true. However, in my opinion (PSF) is seeking a "Precedent"-setting change that any private property owner in Warrenton that is zoned for housing could also request to be allowed to build the identical type of facility (not necessarily the same shape or size) on their land so they could compete in the same low-cost housing market for other low-income people willing to live in this type of facility with their specific requirements if this request is approved.

I personally consider this a "Legacy" decision for this commission. I think the goal of this request is laudable. However, there is no reasonable way to estimate what unforeseen problems may occur in the future because of this potential change. The commission is being forced to choose between the needs of (PSF) and the future quality-of-life concerns of nearby property owners. It is very important that this decision be fully thought out

and justified with public comments by each individual commissioner to explain their final vote when they make it.

This new housing would be "High Density" (50 to 100 people) located nearby (within 200 yards) standard residential housing. The nearby residential property owners are concerned this new "Dormitory" type housing might cause them quality-of-life problems in the future as there is no history in the Warrenton or Hammond areas for this type of housing that could be used to show the likely future impact of this facility so close to their homes.

(PSF) has verbally indicated to the Warrenton City Commission (WCC) at the 11/13/18 public commission meeting that they would be willing to consider accepting a "Conditional" zoning text change in lieu of the current request for an "Outright" zoning change which would have provided them with more flexibility.

Additionally, (PSF) has indicated verbally they would be willing to create a detailed "Contract with the City of Warrenton or with the neighbors (I cannot remember which)" which would spell out the specific steps they would take to protect the interests of Warrenton residents. All of these verbal comments from (PSF) should be made a "Conditional" requirement as a minimum to receive the zoning text change.

There are many currently unanswered questions about this new type of housing. Would all of the people of this facility be of the same gender or would it have both men and women using it? (PSF) has verbally stated there would be no children.

What is the maximum number of people that would be living in this facility?

The (PSF) contract would include "Specific Rules" for all (PSF) employees living in the new dormitory which they would be required to follow as a condition for them to retain their jobs and also to be able to live in that building.

Most people own a car, therefore, there is a potential for a substantial increase in traffic in the Pacific Fab area (50 – 100 people) caused by these employees during times they are not working when they want to go out to restaurants, shopping, or seeking entertainment away from their housing.

(PSF) has stated that they will be using one or more shuttle vehicles they own to transport these "Dormitory" employees back and forth between where they live and where they work. Feeding and entertaining a large number of people is a concern as it will have an impact on how often these workers would want to leave this facility for reasons other than work related.

I feel the Warrenton commission should consider as "Conditional" a requirement for (PSF) to offer expanded shuttle options to their seasonal workers that would provide shuttle transportation at scheduled times for all workers living in the "Dormitory" to be able to go to and return from various local businesses. Substantial potential road traffic on Warrenton drive needs to be addressed in order to prevent future unintended consequences.

Paid for by Scott Widdicombe