

Monterey County Herald - 10/07/2017

Fisherman's Wharf is set to be serving up fancy breakfast food soon. On Thursday, city officials announced that full-service restaurant Nick's will soon occupy the 2,700 square-foot building at 43 Fisherman's Wharf where Liberty Fish Co. used to reside. The new eatery, which will offer breakfast, lunch and dinner, is owned and operated by Portco Inc. — also known as SFO Forecast Inc., a San Francisco-based firm that manages Louie Linguini's Italian restaurant and After the Quake gift and souvenir shop, both on Cannery Row. "We're thrilled to have Portco as our new concessionaire," said Assistant City Manager Hans Uslar. "This is a new operator on the wharf and they are offering an innovative menu." Portco's 10-year lease with the city is structured as a building lease rather than a ground lease with the tenant paying a minimum monthly rent or 6 percent of gross sales, whichever is greater. The company will also pay common area maintenance fees while the city is responsible for maintaining the building's pilings. Uslar noted that Wharf 1 did not yet have a restaurant that serves breakfast and that by offering one it will enhance the visitor experience.

"Now when visitors come early BUSINESS Fisherman's Wharf to welcome Nick's New restaurant will move into spot formerly occupied by Liberty Fish Co. What was formerly Liberty Fish Co. on Fisherman's Wharf in Monterey will soon host Nick's, a full-service restaurant.

in the morning they can enjoy

a breakfast," said Uslar.

"That was the interesting element of their proposal."

Lance Koehler, General

Manager of Portco,

Inc. said Nick's will offer

specialty crepes, gourmet

mini-donuts, chocolates,

ice cream, Gelato and

boxed lunches for those

on the run.

"We're absolutely excited

to join the fabric of the

community down there on Fisherman's Wharf," said Koehler, noting that at this point he expects the restaurant to open at 7:30 a.m. to cater to the nearby whale watching tours that go out at 8 a.m.

In July, city officials discussed in closed session the negotiations that were underway with four prospective tenants for the property where Liberty Fish Co. had operated since 1950. The potential lessees include

Alvarado Restaurant Partners; Dennis Joshi, president of Crabby Jim's Seafood, which is located at Fisherman's Wharf; Deborah and Michael Hannas; and Portco. Inc.

The city said Portco Inc.

plans to make \$500,000 in improvements. These include the installation of a new roof and other interior renovations.

“They own two other establishments on the Peninsula and what is also interesting is that they are willing to put half a million dollars in improvements into the property and that for us, that was also a criteria the council looked into,” said Uslar.

-