

## **Motion for Newport Beach Harbor Commission Consideration**

**Subject:** Approval of Four (4) Day-Use Mooring Sites Off Big Corona Beach

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### **Motion:**

The Newport Beach Harbor Commission hereby directs staff to present a request to the Newport Beach City Council for the approval of four (4) day-use mooring sites located off Big Corona Beach. These mooring sites will be secured using a Helix Screw Anchoring System, providing a safe and environmentally friendly solution for temporary mooring during daylight hours only.

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### **Background and Development History:**

This proposal is the result of ongoing efforts by the Harbor Department to explore new recreational boating opportunities within Newport Beach. The concept evolved through discussions with stakeholders, environmental experts, and the local boating community, leading to the current recommendation. The Helix Screw Anchoring System was selected for its minimal environmental impact, consistent with the City's environmental stewardship goals and the State Marine Conservation Area (SMCA) requirements.

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### **Unique Offering and Justification:**

The proposed day-use mooring sites offer a unique opportunity for boaters to enjoy Big Corona Beach from a vantage point beyond the breakwater, like the experience provided by daily anchoring off Emerald Bay. Unlike traditional harbor moorings, which are located within protected waters, these sites will allow for temporary, scenic mooring in open waters. This enhances the recreational experience for boaters who seek a dynamic and picturesque location close to shore, while ensuring compliance with environmental and operational guidelines.

Restricting these moorings to day-use only ensures fair access, prevents overnight stays, and minimizes operational concerns. The decision to recommend four sites strikes a balance between availability and environmental stewardship, though this number may be adjusted based on feedback from the City Council.

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### **Vessel Size Limits:**

To maintain safety and proper use, a maximum vessel length of 60 feet will apply to these moorings. Larger vessels may pose navigational and environmental challenges and limiting vessel size ensures compatibility with the conditions off Big Corona Beach. Usage guidelines will be clearly communicated, and enforcement will be managed by the Harbor Department.

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### **Jurisdictional Authority:**

Pursuant to Title 17, Section 17.25.020, the City of Newport Beach and the Harbor Department have jurisdiction over the open waters within 500 yards of designated swimming areas, including the area off Big Corona Beach. As these waters lie within an SMCA, the selected anchoring system aligns with both environmental requirements and city policies.

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### **Financial Considerations:**

Recent cost estimates and anticipated regulatory requirements are reflected below:

- Helix Screw Anchoring System: \$15,000 per installation x 4 = \$60,000
- Coastal Development Permit (CDP) with the California Coastal Commission (CCC): \$45,000 to \$50,000
- Consulting and Engineering Services: \$10,000
- Environmental Impact Report (EIR): Between \$10,000 and \$100,000, depending on final regulatory scope.

Given these estimates, the total project cost could range between \$125,000 and \$170,000. These costs ensure compliance with regulatory processes and environmental standards, including the preparation of an EIR.

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### **CEQA Analysis:**

Although a California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) analysis is not required for the recommendation phase, a CEQA review will likely be necessary if the City Council approves the project. This review will ensure that any environmental impacts are assessed and mitigated before installation proceeds.

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### **Action Requested:**

The Harbor Commission recommends that the City Council:

1. **Approve** the installation of four (4) day-use mooring sites off Big Corona Beach.
2. **Allocate** \$60,000 for the installation of the moorings, using the Helix Screw Anchoring System.
3. **Allocate** up to \$50,000 for consulting services and the Coastal Development Permit process.
4. **Authorize** between \$10,000 and \$100,000 for the Environmental Impact Report, subject to further evaluation.

5. **Authorize** city staff to proceed with the necessary steps, including regulatory filings and contracting.
6. **Designate** the moorings for **day-use only**, with no overnight stays permitted.
7. **Enforce** a **maximum vessel size limit of 60 feet** for mooring access.

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**Conclusion:**

The approval of this motion will offer a new recreational opportunity for boaters, expanding the range of experiences available in Newport Beach. By providing day-use moorings outside the breakwater, similar to those off Emerald Bay, the City enhances its appeal to the boating community while ensuring responsible management. The Harbor Department will oversee the implementation to ensure adherence to environmental standards and operational guidelines.



**Submitted by:**

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Newport Beach Harbor Commission

**Date:** November 13, 2024