

Redlined Review– Draft Harbor, Bay, and Beaches Element

Comment 1: Under Policy HBB-1.4, consider adding a reference to modern mooring technology (e.g., helix anchors) and mooring field optimization to improve safety, environmental impact, and capacity.

Comment 2: For Policy HBB-1.9, we should be more proactive than “teach customers how to safely operate the watercraft” entails — should this be more formal training, safety briefings, or informational materials?

Comment 3: Goal HBB-4 – Open space initiative. This even refers to “view corridors”.

Comment 4: In “Goal HBB-6 Maintenance and enhancement of deep-water channels should include a long-term sediment management funding plan. Without funding language, dredging goals may be hard to achieve.

Comment 5: Policy HBB-6.3 has Policy HBB-7.1 in it repeated twice and should be incorporated in HBB-7.1. Confusing wording.

Comment 6: In the “Economic Value of Newport Harbor” section, the data is from 2018, should we get later data than this and add a note that this data will be updated every X years to maintain relevance.

Comment 7: Policy HBB-8.7 – this is on “Live Aboard permits”, shouldn’t we change “Reasonable maximum number” for a live-aboard permit and tie it to a specific percentage of moorings as it is today?

Comment 8: Goal HBB-9 – Consider adding language about adopting technology for harbor management (smart buoys, online mooring rentals, vessel tracking) to improve efficiency and user experience. This is in process today.

Comment 9: Goal HBB-10.5 – Expand on this to commit to funding and include the Harbor Department and on the water fire suppression.

Comment 10: Goal HBB-11 – Expand wayfinding beyond signage to include digital tools (apps, QR codes, real-time maps) for visitor navigation which is in effect today.

Comment 11: There is no mention of the Harbor Department’s current role in managing the harbor, coordinating safety, providing on-the-water support, and generating revenue for the Harbor Department budget and the Tidelands Fund. Including these functions would acknowledge the Department’s importance in daily operations and long-term harbor sustainability.

Comment 12: The Orange County Sheriff’s Harbor Patrol role is mentioned only indirectly through safety policies. Consider adding a specific policy on collaboration between the City and the Sheriff’s Department to ensure consistent, effective, and well-coordinated law enforcement on the water.