



CITY OF NEWPORT BEACH HARBOR COMMISSION AGENDA

Wednesday, November 12, 2025 - 5:00 PM

Harbor Commission Members:

Ira Beer, Chair
Marie Marston, Vice Chair
Steve Scully, Secretary
Bob Miller, Commissioner
Rudy Svrcek, Commissioner
Gary Williams, Commissioner
Don Yahn, Commissioner

Staff Members:

Paul Blank, Harbormaster
Cynthia Shintaku, Management Analyst

The Harbor Commission meeting is subject to the Ralph M. Brown Act. Among other things, the Brown Act requires that the Harbor Commission agenda be posted at least seventy-two (72) hours in advance of each regular meeting and that the public be allowed to comment on agenda items before the Commission and items not on the agenda but are within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Harbor Commission. The Chair may limit public comments to a reasonable amount of time, generally three (3) minutes per person.

The City of Newport Beach's goal is to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) in all respects. If, as an attendee or a participant at this meeting, you will need special assistance beyond what is normally provided, we will attempt to accommodate you in every reasonable manner. Please contact Paul Blank, Harbormaster, at least forty-eight (48) hours prior to the meeting to inform us of your particular needs and to determine if accommodation is feasible at (949) 270-8158 or pblank@newportbeachca.gov.

Questions and comments may be submitted in writing for the Harbor Commission's consideration by sending them to harborfeedback@newportbeachca.gov. To give the Harbor Commission adequate time to review your questions and comments, please submit your written comments no later than 5 p.m. the day prior to the Harbor Commission meeting. All correspondence will be made part of the record.

NOTICE REGARDING PRESENTATIONS REQUIRING USE OF CITY EQUIPMENT

Any presentation requiring the use of the City of Newport Beach's equipment must be submitted to the Harbor Department 24 hours prior to the scheduled meeting.

- 1) CALL MEETING TO ORDER**
- 2) ROLL CALL**
- 3) PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
- 4) PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Public comments are invited on non-agenda items. Speakers must limit comments to three (3) minutes. Before speaking, we invite, but do not require, you to state your name for the record. The Harbor Commission has the discretion to extend or shorten the speakers' time limit on non-agenda items, provided the time limit adjustment is applied equally to all speakers. As a courtesy, please turn cell phones off or set them in the silent mode.

5) **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

5.1) **Draft Minutes of the October 8, 2025 Harbor Commission Regular Meeting**

[10.8.2025 Harbor Commission Meeting Minutes Draft](#)

[10.8.2025 Harbor Commission Meeting Minutes Draft Chair Beer](#)

[10.8.2025 Harbor Commission Meeting Minutes Draft Vice Chair Marston](#)

[10.8.2025 Harbor Commission Meeting Minutes Draft Secretary Scully](#)

6) **CURRENT BUSINESS**

6.1) **2026 Harbor and Beaches Master Plan - Review**

Staff will provide an overview of the draft 2026 Harbor and Beaches Master Plan. The Harbor Commission is requested to provide initial comments this evening, then consider final approval at the next meeting.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. Determine this action is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Sections 15060(c)(2) and 15060(c)(3) of the CEQA Guidelines, California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Division 6, Chapter 3, because it has no potential for resulting in physical change to the environment, directly or indirectly.
2. Receive and file.

[Staff Report](#)

[Attachment A- 2026 Harbor and Beaches Master Plan DRAFT](#)

6.2) **Update on Copper TMDLS in Newport Harbor**

In 2022, the Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board adopted a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for copper in Newport Bay to meet the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's California Toxics Rule standard of 3.1 parts per billion (ppb) for dissolved copper. Approved by the State Water Resources Control Board in 2025, the TMDL establishes a 12-year schedule to achieve a 60% reduction in copper loading, primarily targeting leaching from copper-based antifouling paints on vessel hulls.

The City of Newport Beach has taken a proactive role in implementing TMDL requirements through water quality monitoring, public education, best management practices, and collaboration with the California Department of Pesticide Regulation and regional partners. Monitoring results indicate that copper concentrations are trending downward and, in many areas, already meet water quality objectives.

Although challenges remain-such as technical uncertainties, limited alternatives to copper-based paints, and differing regulatory perspectives on dredging benefits-the

City remains on track to meet TMDL milestones through continued monitoring, outreach, and adaptive management. These efforts support the City's commitment to maintaining Newport Harbor as a clean, safe, and well-enjoyed resource.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. Determine this action is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Sections 15060(c)(2) and 15060(c)(3) of the CEQA Guidelines because this action will not result in a physical change to the environment, directly or indirectly; and
2. Receive and file

[Staff Report](#)

[Attachment A - Copper Concentration Survey 2020](#)

6.3) Recommendation on Draft Harbor, Bay, and Beaches Element of the General Plan

At its meeting of October 9, 2024, the Harbor Commission established an ad hoc subcommittee to review proposed updates to the Harbor, Bay and Beaches (HBB) Element of the City's General Plan. On August 13, 2025, Ben Zbeda from the Community Development Department presented an overview of the General Plan Update process and introduced the draft HBB Element for Commission input.

The General Plan Update Committee has requested feedback from the Harbor Commission on the draft HBB Element. The ad hoc subcommittee will report its findings and recommendations, after which the full Commission may choose to formalize recommendations for transmittal to the General Plan Update Committee-or conclude its review without adopting formal comments.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. Determine this action is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Sections 15060(c)(2) and 15060(c)(3) of the CEQA Guidelines because this action will not result in a physical change to the environment, directly or indirectly; and
2. Consider the report and proposal from the Ad Hoc Subcommittee on the Harbor, Bay and Beaches Element; and if appropriate, direct staff to forward the Commission's recommendations to the General Plan Update Committee;

OR

3. Determine not to adopt a formal recommendation on the draft Harbor, Bay and Beaches Element at this time;

AND

Disband the Harbor, Bay and Beaches General Plan Update Ad Hoc Subcommittee.

[Staff Report](#)

[Attachment A – DRAFT Harbor, Bay and Beaches Element](#)

[Attachment B – Vice Chair Marston Comments on Draft](#)

[Attachment C – Secretary Scully Comments on Draft](#)

6.4) Discuss and Review Harbor Commission Objectives for 2026

The Harbor Commission periodically conducts a review of its current objectives. At the August 13, 2025 meeting, the Harbor Commission approved formation of an ad hoc subcommittee to review the current objectives. Recommendations related to the objectives will be presented by the subcommittee to the Harbor Commission for review. Once finalized, the objectives will be taken to the City Council for review and consideration.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. Determine this action is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Sections 15060(c)(2) and 15060(c)(3) of the CEQA Guidelines because this action will not result in a physical change to the environment, directly or indirectly; and
2. Receive and file.

[Staff Report](#)

6.5) Ad Hoc Committee Updates

Several ad hoc committees have been established to address short term projects outside of the Harbor Commission objectives. This is the time the ad hoc committees will provide an update on their projects.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. Find this action exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Sections 15060(c)(2) (the activity will not result in a direct or reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment) and 15060(c)(3) (the activity is not a project as defined in Section 15378) of the CEQA Guidelines, California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Division 6, Chapter 3, because it has no potential for resulting in physical change to the environment, directly or indirectly; and
2. Receive and file.

[Staff Report](#)

6.6) Harbor Commission 2024 Objectives

Each ad hoc committee studying their respective Objective within the Commission's 2024 Objectives, will provide a progress update.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. Find this action exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Sections 15060(c)(2) (the activity will not result in a direct or reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment) and 15060(c)(3) (the activity is not a project as defined in Section 15378) of the CEQA Guidelines, California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Division 6, Chapter 3, because it has no potential for resulting in physical change to the environment, directly or indirectly; and
2. Receive and file.

[Staff Report](#)

[Attachment A- Harbor Commission 2024 Objectives](#)

6.7) Harbormaster Update - October 2025 Activities

The Harbormaster oversees the City Harbor Department and is responsible for the management of the City's mooring fields and Balboa Yacht Basin marina, support for the Harbor Commission, municipal code enforcement on the harbor, events and marine activities permitting, safety and rescue operations, management of the Marina Park visitor serving marina, marine sanitation pump out equipment and public pier maintenance, water quality monitoring and maintenance, impound and disposition of abandoned and unclaimed vessels and public relations and information dissemination on and about Newport Harbor as well as several special projects.

This report will update the Harbor Commission and the public on the Harbor Department's recent activities.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. Determine this action is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Sections 15060(c)(2) and 15060(c)(3) of the CEQA Guidelines because this action will not result in a physical change to the environment, directly or indirectly; and
2. Receive and file.

[Staff Report](#)

[Attachment A - Harbor Department Statistics Infographic](#)

MOTION FOR RECONSIDERATION

A motion to reconsider any action taken by the Harbor Commission must be made at the same meeting or the subsequent meeting at which the action was taken and may only be made by one of the Harbor Commission members who voted with the prevailing side.

COMMISSIONER ANNOUNCEMENTS (NON-DISCUSSION ITEMS)

MATTERS WHICH COMMISSIONERS WOULD LIKE PLACED ON A FUTURE AGENDA FOR DISCUSSION, ACTION OR REPORT (NON-DISCUSSION ITEM)

DATE AND TIME FOR NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, December 10, 2025 at 5pm

ADJOURNMENT