



CITY OF NEWPORT BEACH HARBOR COMMISSION AGENDA

Wednesday, September 10, 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, Administrative Coordinator

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 ALLEGIENCE

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 August 13, 2025 Harbor Commission Regular Meeting

[8.13.2025 Harbor Commission Regular Meeting Minutes Draft](#)

[8.13.2025 Harbor Commission Regular Meeting Minutes Draft Chair Beer](#)

[8.13.2025 Harbor Commission Regular Meeting Minutes Draft Secretary Scully](#)

6) CURRENT BUSINESS**6.1) Presentation from the Newport Mooring Association**

The Newport Mooring Association (NMA) will provide the Harbor Commission with a presentation on its role, activities, and priorities in support of the City's mooring permittees and the broader harbor community. The NMA is a nonprofit organization that represents the interests of mooring permit holders within Newport Harbor and serves as a liaison between permittees and the City. The presentation will include an overview of the Association's history, current initiatives, and ongoing efforts to promote responsible harbor use, enhance communication with stakeholders, and support the City's management of the mooring program. The purpose of this presentation is to familiarize the Commission with the NMA's work, encourage dialogue on shared goals, and identify opportunities for collaboration.

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](#)

[NMA Presentation](#)

6.2) Discussion of Potential Safety Requirements for Single-Day Small Vessel Rental Customers in Newport Harbor

The Harbor Commission will conduct a discussion regarding potential safety requirements for single-day small vessel rental customers in Newport Harbor. The purpose of this discussion is to explore options that could improve the safety of renters, other harbor users, and the general public by addressing issues such as renter orientation, life jacket usage, operator age or experience, general harbor rules and the rules of navigation awareness. The Commission will consider current practices, review examples from other jurisdictions, and provide input to staff or a Commission Subcommittee on possible approaches for enhancing renter safety while maintaining accessibility to recreational boating in Newport Harbor.

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; or

3. Provide direction to staff or the Newport Harbor Safety Committee on the development of guidelines and requirements related to safety for single-day, small vessel rental customers

[Staff Report](#)

[Attachment A - Florida Boating Safety Education Requirements](#)

[Attachment B - Georgia Rental Boat Requirements](#)

[Attachment C - Harbor General Rules Signage](#)

[Attachment D - Harbor Map Sticker](#)

6.3) 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](#)

6.4) 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 Objectives 2024](#)

6.5) Harbormaster Update – August 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](#)

[Attachment B - Harbor Department Statistics by Month, Current Year](#)

[Attachment C Harbor Department Statistics- Year over Year Comparison](#)

[Attachment D - Harbor Department Definitions](#)

7) **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.

8) **COMMISSIONER ANNOUNCEMENTS (NON-DISCUSSION ITEMS)**

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

10) **DATE AND TIME FOR NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, October 8, 2025 at 5 p.m.**

11) **ADJOURNMENT**