

Newport Harbor Commission Purpose & Charter

Newport Harbor supports numerous recreational and commercial activities, waterfront residential communities and scenic and biological resources. The Harbor Commission's charge under Section 713 of the Newport Beach City Charter is to advise the City Council on the diverse uses of Newport Harbor and its waterfront. The Charter specifies:

There shall be a City Harbor Commission of seven members which shall have the power and duty to:

- (a) Advise the City Council on all matters relating to proposed harbor improvements and the use of Newport Harbor.
- (b) Advise the City Council on all matters pertaining to the use, control, operation, promotion, and regulation of all vessels within Newport Harbor.
- (c) Approve, conditionally approve, or disapprove applications on all permits where the City of Newport Beach Municipal Code assigns the authority for the decision to the Harbor Commission.
- (d) Make recommendations to the City Council for the adoption of regulations and programs necessary for the ongoing implementation of the goals, objectives, and policies of the Harbor and Bay Element of the General Plan.
- (e) Advise the City Council, Planning Commission and City Manager on land use and property development applications referred to the Harbor Commission by the City Council, Planning Commission, or the City Manager.
- (f) Serve as an appellate and reviewing body for decisions on permits and other harbor-related administrative matters where the City of Newport Beach Municipal Code assigns such authority to the Harbor Commission.
- (g) Perform such other duties relating to Newport Harbor as the City Council may require. (As amended effective December 14, 2020)

Harbor Commission – Objectives

The following objectives are intended to support the mission of the Harbor Area Management Plan and the two most essential responsibilities of the Harbor Commission: (1) Ensuring the long-term welfare of Newport Harbor for all residential, recreational, and commercial users; (2) Promoting Newport Harbor as a preferred and welcoming destination for visitors and residents alike.

These updated objectives are subject to the review and approval of the Commission, and final approval by the Newport Beach City Council. Harbor Commission ad hoc committees, as established by the Commission, bear principal responsibility for coordinating the Commission's efforts, along with staff support, in achieving these Objectives.

2024 Newport Beach Harbor Commission Goals and Assignments

1. Conduct annual review of Title 17 and recommend updates to City Council where necessary (Commissioner Yahn).
2. Collaborate with the Water Quality/Coastal Tidelands Committee to partner on areas within the Harbor that both Commission/Committees intersect (Commissioners: Svrcek, Scully)
3. Successful implementation of the mooring reconfiguration initiative, including design, testing, permitting, execution, and monitoring (Commissioner: Beer).
4. Collaborate with Parks, Beaches, and Recreation Commission and Staff to evaluate the best use for Lower Castaway and make a recommendation to City Council (Commissioners: Marston, Svrcek).
5. Work with staff to identify opportunities to add additional Harbor Services (Restrooms, additional pump out stations, dock space, Shore Boat Service, Boat Launch Ramp, and development of the mobile app) (Commissioners: Marston, Yahn)
6. Continue with the participation of businesses, nonprofits, and the Harbor Department with a Newport Harbor Safety Committee to promote best practices and address safety issues on the water (Commissioner: Scully).
7. Review Harbor Department responsibilities, evaluate the Department's readiness and effectiveness to deliver Harbor services as necessary for normal operations and during emergencies and make recommendations as determined necessary (Commissioner: Scully, Williams).
8. Work with City Staff on an update of the market Rent to be charged for onshore and offshore moorings (Commissioner: Cunningham, Beer).
9. Evaluate establishing day moorings off Big Corona Beach (Commissioner: Williams).
10. Support staff in all efforts related to the dredge completion of the Federal Navigation channels in addition to the upcoming agency renewals of Regional General Permit (RGP54) shallow water dredging permit. (Commissioners: Cunningham, Svrcek)