

**Biddle, Jennifer**

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**From:** Blank, Paul  
**Sent:** November 12, 2024 10:51 AM  
**To:** Admin  
**Cc:** Biddle, Jennifer; Shintaku, Cynthia  
**Subject:** RE: Public Comments for Harbor Commission Meeting 11/13/24 Agenda Item 6.1 (Current Business-2025 Harbor and Beaches Master Plan)

Ms. Stenton:

Thank you for your input on this important matter.  
Your contribution will be included in what the Commissioners consider and published with the materials associated with the Harbor Commission meeting scheduled for tomorrow evening.

Best,



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**From:** Admin <mail@newportmooringassociation.org>  
**Sent:** November 12, 2024 10:36 AM  
**To:** Harbor Commission <HarborCommission@newportbeachca.gov>  
**Cc:** City Clerk's Office <CityClerk@newportbeachca.gov>  
**Subject:** Public Comments for Harbor Commission Meeting 11/13/24 Agenda Item 6.1 (Current Business-2025 Harbor and Beaches Master Plan)

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Dear Chair Cunningham, Vice Chair Beer, Secretary Marston, and Commissioners Scully, Svrcek, Williams and Yahn,

Thank you for the work you do to keep our harbor safe, clean, and accessible to all. We recognize and appreciate the dedication that goes into maintaining and enhancing Newport Harbor, and we are grateful for your efforts.

I would like to raise a concern regarding the proposed large-scale conversion from the existing weighted mooring system to helical mooring anchors. While the potential benefits of helical anchors may be worth considering in some locations, the costs associated with this change in Newport Harbor are substantial. As noted in the proposal, the pilot project to replace all mooring weights in Mooring Field C with helical anchors alone is estimated to cost \$472,000. Additionally, the Harbor and Beaches Master Plan outlines a broader conversion of up to 1,500 moorings, which could exceed \$11 million.

With costs like these, it's crucial to assess who will bear the financial burden—where will the \$11 million come from? Will it be from mooring holders, who already face rising costs, or will it be covered with general tidelands funds, or City taxpayers? We believe the existing mooring system could be improved through targeted upgrades without such an expensive, comprehensive overhaul.

Ultimately, this change could lead to higher-costs for berthing a vessel on a mooring, putting harbor access out of reach for many boaters on a budget. This shift is concerning, as it may effectively limit harbor access to wealthier individuals and could potentially undermine the accessibility goals highlighted by both the California Coastal Commission and the State Lands Commission this year.

I urge the Commission to consider whether a 100% conversion to helical moorings is the most cost-effective and inclusive path forward. The Newport Mooring Association stands ready to collaborate on alternatives to improve the existing mooring system to benefit all stakeholders. Thank you again for your time and for considering the community's perspective on this important issue.

Respectfully,

Anne Stenton

President, Newport Mooring Association