



NEWPORT BEACH

Harbor Commission Staff Report

June 10, 2026
Agenda Item No. 6.1

TO: HARBOR COMMISSION

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TITLE: Vessels in Newport Harbor Subject to Removal and Sale or Destruction

ABSTRACT:

Newport Beach Municipal Code- Title 17, authorizes code enforcement staff to abate and remove vessels that are derelict, sunken, abandoned and subject to impound, or determined to be marine debris. The City follows the procedures contained in California Harbors and Navigation code for vessel removal, (and in certain circumstances, sale or destruction) based on numerous factors, including the condition of the vessel, where the vessel was found, and the estimated value of the vessel.

This report will update the Harbor Commission and the public on the different categories and processes the Harbor Department implements upon discovering a vessel in one of the above referenced categories.

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.

FUNDING REQUIREMENTS:

There is no fiscal impact related to this item.

DISCUSSION:

The Harbor Department- code enforcement officers are tasked with enforcing the City's municipal code- specifically Title 17. Vessels in Newport Harbor may be subject to

removal (and possibly sale or destruction) if they are determined to be marine debris (Harbors & Navigation Code Section 550), sinking/or at risk of sinking in the Harbor (Harbors & Navigation Code Section 522), or abandoned and subject to impound (Harbors & Navigation Code Section 523). Once the specific facts surrounding the vessel are determined, code enforcement staff follow the procedures in the California Harbors and Navigation Code to implement the appropriate vessel removal process.

Harbor Department Code Enforcement Officer (CEO) Goldfarb recently gave a presentation on this topic at the annual California Boating Safety Officers Association conference in Lake Tahoe. CEO Goldfarb will reprise his presentation for the Harbor Commission and the public.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW:

Staff recommends the Harbor Commission find this action is not subject to 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.

NOTICING:

The agenda item has been noticed according to the Brown Act (72 hours in advance of the meeting at which the Harbor Commission considers the item).