

## City of Newport Beach

### Harbor Commission Purpose & Charter

Newport Harbor supports numerous recreational and commercial activities, waterfront residential communities and scenic and biological resources. The purpose of the Harbor Commission is to provide the City of Newport Beach with an advisory body representing these diverse uses of Newport Harbor and its waterfront.

1. Advise the City Council in all matters pertaining to the use, control, operation, promotion and regulation of all vessels and watercraft within Newport Harbor.
2. Approve, conditionally approve, or disapprove applications on all harbor permits where the City of Newport Beach Municipal Code assigns the authority for the decision to the Harbor Commission.
3. Serve as an appellate and reviewing body for decisions of the City Manager on harbor permits, leases, and other harbor-related administrative matters where the City of Newport Beach Municipal Code assigns such authority to the Harbor Commission.
4. Advise the City Council on proposed harbor-related improvements.
5. Advise the Planning Commission and City Council on land use and property development applications referred to the Harbor Commission by the City Council, Planning Commission, or the City Manager.
6. Make recommendations to the City Council for the adoption of regulations and programs necessary for the ongoing implementation of the goals, objectives, policies of the Harbor and Bay Element of the General Plan, the Harbor Area Management Plan, and the Tidelands Capital Plan.
7. Advise the City Council on the implementation of assigned parts of the Tidelands Capital Plan such as:
  - Dredging priorities
  - In-bay beach sand replenishment priorities
  - Harbor amenities such as mooring support service areas and public docks

### Harbor Commission - Objectives

The following objectives are intended to support the mission of both the Harbor and Bay Element of the General Plan and 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.

## City of Newport Beach – DRAFT Harbor Commission Objectives

November 12, 2025

| Current Objectives                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Functional Area                                                                                                                                                                       |
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| <p>1.1 Review and recommend updates Title 17 to reflect modern harbor use and best practices, while maintaining suggestions for future revision considerations</p> <p>1.2 Review Harbor Department responsibilities, evaluate and report to the Harbor Commission the Department’s readiness and effectiveness to deliver Harbor services as necessary for normal operations and during emergencies and make recommendations as determined necessary.</p> | <p><b>1. Harbor Regulations and Operations<br/>(Commissioner X)</b></p> <p><i><b>Matters pertaining to Operations, Policies, Codes, Regulations, and Enforcement.</b></i></p>         |
| <p>2.1 TBD</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | <p><b>2. Harbor Infrastructure<br/>(Commissioner X)</b></p> <p><i><b>Matters pertaining to Sea Walls, Sea Level Rise, Dredging, Docks, Beaches and Harbor Infrastructure.</b></i></p> |

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| <p>3.1 Evaluate harbor use and space to enhance access, navigation, safety and functionality.</p> <p>3.2 Review the Tideland Fund budget, analyze revenue sources and expenditures, provide insights to the Harbor Commission and provide recommendations for potential improvements to the overall budget and how to plan for future contemplated projects.</p> <p>3.3 Evaluate harbor amenities ensuring they adequately support the Harbor Vision for all stakeholders, including local and visiting mariners.</p> | <p><b>3. Harbor Viability<br/>(Commissioner X)</b></p> <p><b><i>Matters pertaining to Important Assets, Amenities, and Access.</i></b></p> |
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**City of Newport Beach – DRAFT Harbor Commission Objectives**  
 November 12, 2025

| <b>Current Objectives</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | <b>Functional Area</b>                                                                                                                                                       |
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| <p>4.1 Develop safety protocols and educational tools for rental operations and other stakeholders (boats, kayaks, paddleboards and personal craft).</p> <p>4.2 Monitor the need and viability for maintaining a City fire boat in Newport Harbor and update the Harbor Commission</p> | <p><b>4. Harbor Safety and Compliance<br/>(Commissioner X)</b></p> <p><b><i>Matters pertaining to Residential, Recreational, and Commercial Operators and Users.</i></b></p> |

- 5.1 Provide guidance how to Promote Newport Harbor as a welcoming destination through community outreach and input into the General Plan update.
- 5.2 Collaborate with the Water Quality/Coastal Tidelands Committee to partner on areas within the Harbor that both Commission/Committees intersect and provide updates to the Harbor Commission.

**5. Harbor Vision  
(Commissioner X)**

***Matters pertaining to Community Outreach within both the Harbor Department and other related Commissions and Committees***