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NEWPORT BEACH

Harbor Commission Staff Report

May 8, 2019
Agenda Item No. 6.5

TO: HARBOR COMMISSION

FROM: Kurt Borsting, Harbormaster, (949) 270-8158
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TITLE: Harbormaster Update – March & April 2019

ABSTRACT:

The Harbormaster is responsible for on-water management of the City's moorings, the Marina Park Marina and code enforcement on the water. This report will update the Commission on the Harbor Department's activities for March and April, 2019.

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, Chapter 3, because it has no potential for resulting in physical change to the environment, directly or indirectly.
- 2) Receive and file.

FUNDING REQUIREMENTS:

There is no fiscal impact related to this item.

DISCUSSION:

CA Division of Boating and Waterways SAVE Grant - Application Submitted

On April 12 the Harbor Department formally submitted the City's application to the California Division of Boating and Waterways (DBW), requesting \$175,000 in funding as part of the upcoming 2019-20 SAVE Grant Program. The program combines the State's Abandoned Watercraft Abatement Fund (AWAF) and the Vessel Turn-In Program (VTIP) grants into a single program. This allows participating local agencies greater flexibility in managing the removal of abandoned recreational vessels and marine debris from local waterways, as well as assisting individual California boaters who wish to voluntarily turn-in aging vessels for responsible disposal at the end of their useful lifecycle. The City of Newport Beach was previously awarded \$125,000 as part of a prior SAVE Program funding cycle. These monies have been effectively utilized, funding the removal of twenty-six derelict vessels from Newport Harbor, which we hope will be viewed as a favorable track record by DBW as they consider our expanded funding request.

Removal and Destruction of Abandoned/Derelict Vessels

Associated with the aforementioned grant, during the months of March and April, price quotes were solicited for the removal and responsible destruction of three abandoned vessels under the care and control of the Harbor Department. Quotes were requested from five (5) qualified firms, expanding the Department's previous list of local demolition/salvage service providers. The effort resulted in a competitive process for selecting firms. Contract development is currently underway for the two firms selected to remove the vessels from the Harbor, with their removal expected sometime in May, 2019.

Introductory Meeting with US Coast Guard Representatives (LA/LB Sector)

On Friday, April 5 an introductory meeting was held between the City Harbormaster and three representatives of the US Coast Guard (LA/LB Sector Base). Topics of interest that were discussed included: 1) establishing a permanent West Anchorage; 2) removing fixed navigational aids in favor of floating markers; 3) reinstalling lights at various buoys in the Harbor; and 4) exploring a community member's proposal to upgrade the navigational aid at the West Jetty with a more robust architectural element. The introductory meeting was productive and follow up efforts on these four topics are currently underway.

Visiting Boater Welcome Packet / Customer Satisfaction Survey

The Harbor Department has compiled a "Visiting Boater Welcome Packet". This material is being provided upon a customer's arrival to the Marina Park Guest Slips. Information within the packet includes: 1) Welcome Message from the Harbormaster; 2) Harbor Map; 3) Neighborhood Guide and Visitor Map (*courtesy of Newport Beach and Company*); 4) Customer Satisfaction Survey; and other resources associated with their stay (wi-fi codes, parking pass, and marina restroom/shower key card).

Since implementing this arrival packet, eleven (11) customer satisfaction surveys have been completed and returned to the office. A summary of the preliminary feedback/data received from customers is attached as part of this report.

Staff Recruitment Effort

Part-time Harbor Department staff recruitment efforts are currently underway for available Harbor Service Worker positions. Thirty (30) applications were received as of Friday, April 27. Following preliminary screening of applications, eighteen (18) candidates were advanced by Human Resources staff for a first-round panel interview and swim test, scheduled for May 6 and 7. Second round interviews will be scheduled shortly thereafter, with the goal of completing the hiring process by late May.

Public Dock Time Limits – Education and Enforcement Efforts

Renewed public education and code enforcement took place with posted time limits at public docks during March and April, 2019. Prominent sandwich board posters were displayed, reinforcing the shared use expectations associated with these docks. This educational effort took place one week in advance of the active monitoring and enforcement efforts. March and April activities focused on the 15th Street and 19th Street public docks (due to their high volume use).

May education and enforcement activities will be expanding to other public dock locations throughout the Harbor.

Public Information and Departmental Outreach Efforts

Several mass-emails were sent during March and April from the Harbor Department. The first such communication took place in mid-March, sent to all City mooring permittees and private dock owners with contact information on file. This message shared information about Sea Lion deterrence, encouraging boat-owners and dock-owners to take proactive measures ahead of the prime Seal Lion season. A second mass-email was sent to this same stakeholder group, in mid-April, regarding an upcoming series of Santa Ana Water Quality Board – Public Workshops, concerning proposed copper paint regulations being considered by the Water Board. These mass-emails have proven to be an effective outreach tool to Harbor stakeholders.

Code Enforcement Activity

During March and April 2019, Code Enforcement staff opened 148 new cases and successfully resolved/closed 160 existing files.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW:

Staff recommends the Harbor Commission 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, 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).

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment A – Marina Park Guest Slip Customer Survey Results for April 2019

Attachment B – Harbor Department Statistics, Fiscal Year through April, 2019