



== CITY OF ==

NEWPORT BEACH

Harbor Commission Staff Report

November 13, 2019
Agenda Item No. 6.7

TO: HARBOR COMMISSION

FROM: Kurt Borsting, Harbormaster
kborsting@newportbeachca.gov

TITLE: Harbormaster Update – October 2019

ABSTRACT:

The Harbormaster is responsible for the 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 October 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:

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

On October 21 Harbor Commissioner Ira Beer, Public Works Manager Chris Miller, and Harbormaster Kurt Borsting attended a meeting with various representatives of the US Coast Guard, at their LA/LB Sector Base in San Pedro. The purpose for the meeting was to seek clarification and direction in connection with a previously submitted proposal to establish a permanent anchorage area adjacent the Harbor's Turning Basin immediately West of Lido Isle. The consultation yielded valuable insights about potential modifications that the City may wish to incorporate into its previously submitted proposal, prior to resubmitting the West Anchorage concept for further USCG review.

Public Information and Departmental Outreach Efforts

Outreach to community stakeholder groups continued during October 2019. Taking advantage of these 'get the word out' opportunities has assisted the department in informing the general public about the Harbor Department and its mission.

On October 2 the landing page and multiple sub-pages of Harbor Department's website were updated. Enhancements to the site include scrolling banner photos on the site's main page, incorporating on-line slip and mooring reservations functionality into the site, reducing the number of 'clicks' required by users to navigate to topics of interest, as well as updating informational text and photos. These efforts are on-going, with additional sub-pages of the site now under review.

On October 9 a mass-email was sent from the Harbor Department to all City mooring permittees. The message provided information about expected high wind conditions, predicted as part of local weather forecasts. In advance of this expected high-wind event, boat owners who utilize the mooring fields were encouraged to check on their vessels, the condition of their lines, as well as confirming their boats were properly and safely secured to their moorings.

On October 17 Harbormaster Kurt Borsting, along with Assistant City Manager Carol Jacobs and Harbor Commission Chairperson Paul Blank co-presented overview information about the Harbor Department to participants of the Leadership Tomorrow program, as part of their "Water Day" workshop. Leadership Tomorrow is a non-profit organization serving the communities of Costa Mesa, Irvine, Newport Beach and Tustin. The program brings business and civic leaders together from across these communities, for a series of monthly workshops and seminars on topics of shared interest.

Abandoned Vessel Auction – October 30

On Wednesday, October 30, an abandoned boat auction was held at the City's Marina Park guest slip facility. The public sale featured twenty-three previously impounded and abandoned vessels. Sixteen of the vessels were small kayaks, row boats, and other human powered crafts. One 15' Bayliner with outboard, and four sailboats ranging from 14' to 34' in length were also available for purchase. The program was well attended. Twelve of the smaller human-powered craft were sold, yielding \$890 in revenue to the department. Boats which did not sell will be removed from the harbor and dismantled, following a required ten day hold period. Competitive bids for their removal are in the process of being collected.

As has been done with other recent boat sales, the auction was organized to take place concurrent with the OC Sheriff's Boat Auction, allowing both agencies to share resources and benefit from a larger pool of bidders vs. hosting individual events at different times.

Code Enforcement Activity

During October 2019, Code Enforcement staff opened 84 new cases and successfully resolved/closed 69 existing files.

During October 2019, four pre-dawn Harbor patrols were organized by Code Enforcement and Harbor Service Worker Lead staff. These activities, which began at 4:30 a.m., focused on collecting follow up information associated with potential unauthorized live-aboard activity in the City mooring fields. These early morning patrol efforts will be continuing into November.

October 16 Code Enforcement and Fire Department personnel conducted inspections of all commercial docks in the Harbor. Ten violations were observed, associated with improper vessel storage, which if left unaddressed, would have fire safety implications. All dock operators were notified of these violations, requesting timely correction non-compliant issues. Re-inspections of the docks will take place in the coming weeks to ensure the identified areas of concern were brought back into compliance.

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 – Harbor Department Statistics, Fiscal Year through October 2019