



== CITY OF ==

# NEWPORT BEACH

## Harbor Commission Staff Report

January 8, 2020  
Agenda Item No. 8.2

**TO:** HARBOR COMMISSION

**FROM:** Kurt Borsting, Harbormaster, (949) 270-8158  
[kborsting@newportbeachca.gov](mailto:kborsting@newportbeachca.gov)

**TITLE:** Harbormaster Update – December 2019 Activities

---

**ABSTRACT:**

The Harbormaster is responsible for the management of the City's mooring fields, the Marina Park Guest Marina and Harbor on-water code enforcement activities. This report will update the Commission on the Harbor Department's activities for December 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; and
- 2) Receive and file.

**FUNDING REQUIREMENTS:**

There is no fiscal impact related to this item.

**DISCUSSION:**

**New Patrol Vessels Delivered**

On December 4 the Harbor Department's two new patrol vessels were received, inspected and launched into Newport Harbor, following their delivery from Chislett's Boating of New Hampshire. The 20' 9" center console design vessels have since gone through their break-in period and initial engine services. Harbor Department staffers have undergone introductory training sessions with the new equipment. The boats are now in active daily use. Preliminary reports from staff about their experiences in the field, related to vessel handling, performance and features, have been very encouraging. Two catamaran style vessels, previously used by the department, under a rental agreement with a local non-profit organization, have since been returned.

### **111<sup>th</sup> Newport Beach Christmas Boat Parade**

Boating activity was heavy in Newport Harbor, December 18 through 22 due to the annual Newport Beach Christmas Parade festivities. The Harbor Department scheduled additional resources throughout the five nights of the program. This support included land-side staffing at the Marina Park facilities and on-water patrols of the harbor. In an expanded role vs. prior years, one of the Harbor Department vessels (and crew) was utilized as one of the parade's marshal vessels throughout the program. Marina Park facilities were well used during the parade week with 23 guest slips near full capacity throughout the parade-week along with 16 parade-related bookings of off-shore moorings. Harbor Department services were well utilized, and the parade activities were largely free of incident.

### **Award Notice – 2019/20 Surrendered and Abandoned Vessel Exchange (SAVE) Grant**

On December 20 the Harbor Department received notice from the State of California's Division of Boating and Waterways (DBW), that the City of Newport Beach has been selected to receive a \$175,000 grant award to aid in the removal of derelict boats from the harbor. Once the grant is fully executed, following its official acceptance by the City Council, these funds will be available to reimburse the City for the removal and disposal of both abandoned and surrendered vessels from Newport Harbor. Following the grant's execution, use of these awarded funds will be available immediately and through September 30, 2021. This \$175,000 award represents the full amount requested by the City and a 40% increase over what was received by the City during the grant program's prior funding cycle.

### **Harbor Department Response following December 26 Rain Storms**

A powerful rain storm came through the Southern California area on December 26, and left it's mark on several vessels within Newport Harbor. In the two days following those rains, Harbor Department staff assisted owners of small vessels by dewatering a total of 45 craft throughout the harbor (both on shore and off shore mooring fields), making contact with owners as needed. Several other small craft were also recovered by staff, after having been found adrift. A number of off-shore mooring permittees were also contacted, with staff having observed their moored vessels listing or otherwise needing attention following the rains.

### **Lights atop Various Buoys in Newport Harbor**

For the past several years some members of the local boating community have expressed their interest in the City installing lit markers at select locations within Newport Harbor, to serve as after dark boater safety enhancements. Harbor Department staff are now researching commercially available equipment which meets US Coast Guard requirements and specifications for such an application. Following this research, community outreach efforts will take place with members of the local boating community and harbor adjacent residents to determine if such equipment will in-fact aid boater safety while also not detracting from the enjoyment of harbor adjacent private homes. Should the results of this community outreach warrant pursuing this concept further, the City will request approval from the USCG to permit the installation of such lighting equipment.

**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).