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# NEWPORT BEACH

## Harbor Commission Staff Report

September 9, 2020  
Agenda Item No. 11.5

**TO:** HARBOR COMMISSION

**FROM:** Kurt Borsting, Harbormaster, (949) 270-8158  
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**TITLE:** Harbormaster Update – August 2020

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**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 August 2020.

**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:**

**West Anchorage Proposal**

On August 5, 2020 the Harbormaster, Chris Miller with the City's Public Works Department, and Harbor Commissioner Beer met with representatives from the local US Coast Guard's Aids to Navigation team. The meeting was organized to review and discuss the City's planned resubmittal of a proposal to establish a second public anchorage in Newport Harbor's turning basin, immediately west of Lido Isle. The meeting was informative and productive.

As a next step in the process, public outreach efforts will soon be launched to solicit and collect stakeholder feedback associated with the West Anchorage proposal. Following this public comment period, the City's updated proposal may be resubmitted to USCG for their consideration.

## **General Harbor Activity Volume**

Boating activity in Newport Harbor remained brisk during the month of August. The Harbor experienced high volumes of weekend use of the public anchorage (West of Lido Isle), which in some cases resulted in overcrowding, vessels setting anchor outside designated boundaries, noise concerns, and related issues. The Harbor Department has modified our weekend patrol boat assignments in response to these issues, which has yielded some operational improvements.

## **Staff Recruitment Effort**

Significant progress associated with recruiting part-time Code Enforcement Officers took place during the month of August 2020.

An initial screening process, followed by in-person interviews of candidates based on that screening process were both completed. Candidate reference checks are currently underway. Candidates of choice are expected to be advanced to the Human Resources Department in early September, hopefully leading to a completed successful process later in the month.

## **Code Enforcement Activity / Marine Activities Permits**

During August 2020, Code Enforcement staff opened 84 new cases and successfully resolved/closed 38 existing files.

The Harbor Department would like to congratulate Mike Ong the owner of Southwind Kayak Center, for having been issued a recent Marine Activities Permit for his business.

Southwind Kayak Center is located at 100 N. Bayside Drive. The business provides kayak and paddleboard rentals.

## **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 August 2020