



CITY OF

NEWPORT BEACH

Harbor Commission Staff Report

July 14, 2021
Agenda Item No. 8.6

TO: HARBOR COMMISSION

FROM: Paul Blank, Harbormaster, (949) 270-8158 pblank@newportbeachca.gov

TITLE: Harbormaster Update - June 2021 Activities

ABSTRACT:

The Harbormaster is responsible for the management of the City's mooring fields, the Marina Park Guest Marina, a variety of Harbor activities and Harbor on-the-water City code enforcement. This report will update the Commission on the Harbor Department's activities for June 2021.

RECOMMENDATION:

- 1) Determine this action is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Sections 15060(c)(2) and 15060(c)(3) of the CEQA Guidelines because this action will not result in a 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:

Status of West Lido Channel Temporary Anchorage

We received word June 11, 2021 that the permit application for the buoys marking the boundaries of the West Anchorage was finally approved. The buoys were put in place on June 18 and the anchorage has been open and operating since with good utilization.

The buoys marking the boundaries of both anchorages now have signage attached indicating the Harbor Department can be reached on VHF channel 19A, via phone at 949.270.8159 and via the MyNB app. Similar signage will be placed on the public piers and City owned/maintained pump-out docks soon.

There is a possibility that the anchorage will stay in place past the originally permitted date in September.

Registration and Identification of Department Patrol Boats

All three Harbor Department patrol boats now have temporary operating permits (CA DMV registrations). Identifying stickers are in process and should be applied within the next 60 to 90 days.

In addition, bold City colored stripes now adorn the fronts of the center consoles on all three patrol boats to better identify them as part of the City Harbor Department fleet. Similar stripes will be placed on the sides of the vessels when time and opportunity permit.

The patrol vessels now also sport proper, forward facing American flag decals on the starboard sides and proper ensigns. The ensigns are affixed with Charlevoix clips and are brought in daily at the end of watch with other equipment.

Large Vessel Anchorage Permit

A Special Event took place at Lido Marina Village June 26. The event included an aerial performance from the end of a spinnaker pole from a vessel anchored just off the docks. We wrote a Harbor Events Permit for the performance and provided some traffic control and safety patrol during the performance. All indications were that the event was a success and had lots of visibility. The event organizer has reached out to discuss future such events and possible locations.

I received communication from the US Coast Guard Sector Long Beach/LA Commander indicating they no longer have an interest in reviewing such permit applications. The Commander recommended reaching out to the US Army Corp of Engineers and coordinate with them on such matters which we will do.

NBPD Uniformed Support Arrangement continues

We continue to stay in contact with Deputy Chief Rasmussen and Lieutenant Carpentieri in the NBPD. We renewed our arrangement for calling out for uniformed support if necessary, in anticipation of the busy July 4th holiday weekend. We still have not yet called out for service, but it is very comforting to know that we can. We are very pleased to count on them as our partners.

Related to one vessel of concern, some excellent cooperation and great detective work led to identification of the vessel and a meeting with the owner. Better behavior and compliance were noted over the July 4th weekend from that vessel

Support deterring Bridge Jumping

We continue to issue warnings and, in some cases administrative citations to people jumping off bridges and the navigations markers. Compliance has been generally polite and contrite. Feedback from folks in the Balboa Coves/Newport Island has been very positive and very prolific. On patrol in that area, the Harbor Services Workers are greeted with large smiles and expressions of appreciation by the residents.

Going forward we are coordinating schedules with the Lifeguards who have a dedicated resource at the Lido Bridge seven days per week and at the 38th Street Bridge Friday through Sunday.

Contracts finalized for various services to the Harbor

A new contract with Tidal Marine to do City owned mooring overhauls and maintenance is now in place.

A new contract with Swift Slip is now in place for City owned dock/pier/float repair.

New contacts with Perry and VesselAssist/TowBoatUS are in place for vessel removal and destruction.

MAPs and SHORs

As the Department statistics report indicates, there has been significant progress in identifying those businesses and commercial enterprises operating on Newport Harbor which require a Marine Activities Permit (MAP) or Small Harbor Operator Registration (SHOR). In addition to those already granted, there are seven more in process at the end of June.

Progress on VTIP grant program

A majority of the vessel owners on our VTIP interest list were contacted. Several of them indicated they no longer had their vessels. Authorized demolition and disposal contractors were sent out to provide bids on removal of seven vessels. We expect to have those seven vessels removed in July and then will continue down the list until the money runs out.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW:

Staff recommends the City Council find this action is not subject to 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 City Council considers the item).

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment A – Harbor Stats – Year to Date

Attachment B – Harbor Stats – Year over Year Comparison

Attachment C – Harbor Stats – Definitions