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NEWPORT BEACH

Harbor Commission Staff Report

September 8, 2021
Agenda Item No. 6.2

TO: HARBOR COMMISSION

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TITLE: Multiple Vessel Mooring System – Review and Approve Design Specification Program

ABSTRACT:

The Multiple Vessel Mooring System (MVMS) allows multiple vessels to be secured to a floating platform which is secured to a single anchor mooring system in Newport Harbor. The MVMS program has existed for many years, and the Harbor Commission subcommittee was directed to establish design standards and specifications to support the program. The subcommittee recommends the Harbor Commission review and approve the specifications, then recommend they be forwarded to the City Council for approval.

RECOMMENDATION:

- 1) Find the Project exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (“CEQA”) pursuant to Section 15301 (Existing Facilities) of the CEQA Guidelines, California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Chapter 3; and
- 2) Approve the Multiple Vessel Mooring System (1) design specifications within the Harbor Design Criteria, (2) updates to the Newport Beach Municipal Code (NBMC) Sections 17.01.030(J)(11) and 17.60.040(B)(c), and (3) updates to the Offshore Mooring Specifications for the weights and chains, and recommend that they be forwarded to the City Council for review and approval.

FUNDING REQUIREMENTS:

There is no fiscal impact related to this item.

DISCUSSION:

The MVMS has existed for many years, and was originally intended to provide increased small-boat storage at a mooring location within the single anchor mooring fields. However, plans and specifications for the program had never been developed which therefore did not provide clear direction to both the applicants and City staff during review. As a result, the Harbor Commission directed the subcommittee, consisting of Vice Chair Beer and Commissioner Williams, to develop plans and specifications that provide adequate guidance for those who apply for a MVMS.

Attachment A represents the additional language and Standard Drawing that would be inserted into the Harbor Design Criteria for Commercial and Residential Facilities. (For reference, the Harbor Design Criteria is incorporated into the larger Design Criteria and Standard Drawings for

Public Works Construction, 2021 edition.) Below is a summary of the proposed components of the MVMS program within the Harbor Design Criteria:

1. The MVMS is intended to be permitted only in the single anchor mooring systems at this time. Requests for double anchor mooring system locations will not be considered at this time, though the Harbor Commission may review these locations later.
2. Only single-hulled vessels are permitted therefore minimizing the footprint to avoid conflict with adjacent moorings and vessels.
3. For stability reasons, the minimum width of the MVMS float is 8-feet, and only two float lengths will be considered: 20-feet and 40-feet.
4. The maximum vessel length(s) shall be equal to or less than the length of the MVMS float. All vessels shall be side-tied bow and stern.
5. The overall width of the MVMS system is 25-feet (vessel + 8-foot MVMS + vessel).
6. No extraneous equipment is allowed on the dock except up to two dock boxes.
7. The MVMS float shall adhere to all provisions for harbor structures as provided in NBMC including measures to deter sea lions.

In addition to the Harbor Design Criteria, the NBMC must also be updated. See Attachment B. These proposed changes primarily reflect verbiage consistency with the Harbor Design Criteria.

And lastly, the City's Offshore Mooring Specifications, specifically the table listing the minimum requirements for weights and chain size, must be updated to reflect the added maximum load for each MVMS. See Attachment C.

Staff is compiling data on the harbor's existing MVMS inventory within the single anchor mooring system areas. Based on that research, the Harbor Commission may decide as to when the existing MVMS inventory shall be brought into compliance.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW:

Staff recommends the Harbor Commission find this Project exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA") pursuant to Section 15301 (Existing Facilities) of the CEQA Guidelines, California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Chapter 3. CEQA Guidelines Section 15301 (Class 1) applies to the "operation, repair, maintenance, permitting, leasing, licensing, or minor alteration of existing public or private structures, facilities, mechanical equipment, or topographical features, involving negligible or no expansion of existing or former use." MVMS are currently allowed within the harbor via the Newport Beach Municipal Code, and the creation of MVMS standards for construction and use supports the existing program.

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 Design Criteria
- Attachment B - Newport Beach Municipal Code (redline)
- Attachment C - Mooring Specifications for Weights and Chains