



**CITY OF**

---

---

# **NEWPORT BEACH**

## **Harbor Commission Staff Report**

October 13, 2021  
Agenda Item No. 6.4

**TO:** HARBOR COMMISSION

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

**TITLE:** Harbormaster Update - September 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 September 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:**

**Department Recruiting, Staffing and Development**

All team members learned how to perform the inspections required before a vessel can be assigned to a mooring as a permittee or sub-permittee. This class was led by Code Enforcement Officer Jeff Goldfarb who has been conducting the majority of these inspections. Inspections will take place more efficiently and effectively going forward.

Two additional Harbor Services Workers joined the team, Scott Mayberry and Keegan Heagerty.

One additional team member, McKenna Rindahl has been cleared to start with the Department and will do so in early October.

We are working to fill the open Dockmaster position which will free up time for Leads to spend more time on the water. The previous/original Dockmaster has expressed interest in the position.

**Extraordinary Labor Day Activities**

Permits were issued for four (4) raft-ups in the east anchorage over the long holiday weekend. Two of those were out of compliance with the conditions of their permits. Continuous and repeated on-the-water attempts were made to bring the permittees into compliance. Limited efforts to come into compliance were witnessed. Uniformed support from the NBPD were called upon to help encourage compliance but ultimately, even they left unsatisfied. The permits were revoked as the event continued. Subsequently, four administrative citations with financial penalties were issued, two each to the two permittees. The citations were for:

- Non-compliance with the number of vessels permitted in the raft-up (special condition #4 on the permits)
- Failure to obey the lawful orders of any code enforcement officer, peace officer, or other city official (special condition #5 on the permits)

The process and execution of calling out for NBPD support was not perfect, but the process worked, we felt supported and were very pleased to have had the experience. Much learning took place and, should the need arise again, we will be that much better prepared to deal with it.

**Support for Commission Activities and Objectives**

A detailed field audit of mooring sites, sizes, assigned vessels and surrounding conditions was carried out in support of the H-3 and mooring extension objective.

Submissions were collected from Commissioners on revised objectives for 2022. The submissions will be collated and available for review shortly.

Submissions on proposed revisions to Title 17 were also collected. In addition, Department team members have collaborated and drafted recommended language for Title 17 revisions in the areas of:

- Auxiliary floats and lifts
- Raft-ups and permitting
- Allowing visiting mooring sub-permittees the opportunity stay aboard their vessels

**VTIP and SAVE Program Wrap-up at September 30**

The current Vessel Turn In Program (VTIP) and Surrendered and Abandoned Vessel Exchange (SAVE) grant periods ended on September 30. In the grant period a total of 46 vessels were removed and destroyed from local waters and upland storage sites. In total, \$161,278 of the \$175,000 available was used. Conditions of the grants include a 10% contribution from the City as well as all of the administrative time to arrange for the identification, bidding, collection, destruction and subsequent documentation. A renewed grant for the same amount was accepted by Council at the September 28, 2021 meeting. The new grant period will open before the end of the year.

### **Mooring Shuttle Program with Newport Mooring Association**

We began monitoring the “Shuttle” program and utilization as well as any associated easing of congestion at the 15<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> Street Public Piers. No conclusive results yet to report.

### **Presentations to the Finance Committee and Speak Up Newport**

Significant effort was put into preparing and delivering presentations on Department operations to the City Finance Committee and Speak Up Newport. The Finance Committee was particularly interested in funds and effort used in the VTIP and SAVE programs. There was also interest in further analysis of actual versus budget financial figures in the most recent years.

Harbor operations and activities were the subject of an hour-long presentation with subsequent question and answer section to the online and first in-person Speak Up Newport meeting in 18 months. The presentation was well received and much appreciation by SUN leadership and the audience was expressed.

### **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 Department Statistics by Month, Current Year

Attachment B – Harbor Department Statistics, Year over Year Comparison

Attachment C – Harbor Department Definitions