

CITY OF SANTA BARBARA WATERFRONT DEPARTMENT

MEMORANDUM

Date: September 17, 2009
To: Harbor Commissioners
From: John N. Bridley, Waterfront Director
Subject: Harbor Operations Report

King Harbor Race

Some 108 sailboats (81 from out of town) departed Santa Barbara Harbor July 31st in the 37th annual King Harbor Race, an 81-mile course that terminates at King Harbor in Redondo. Racers encountered moderate, ideal winds during much of the race, with no accidents reported. As a result of the good sailing weather, more boats made it to the finish line than usual. Race organizers were pleased that participation for this event (down from 120 boats last year) did not drop as much as other similar events in 2009. The Newport-to-Ensenada race in April, for example, dropped from 450 to 250 entries due to financial and health concerns (swine flu). Race organizers were also thankful that this year's event did not coincide with Fiesta, citing logistical problems when the two occur on the same weekend. They will likely continue to stick with the weekend prior to Fiesta in the future.

Local entry *Bandit* (skipper Ted White) was the last boat to enter the regatta but ended up with a top-three overall finish. Three other Santa Barbara boats won their classes—*Captain Sluggo*, *Rush Street* and *Escapade*. Several other local boats finished high in their classes—overall another great showing by Santa Barbara sailors.

Reverse 911 Test September 18th

On September 18th the Waterfront Department will test the County Sheriff's Reverse 911 system, which will be utilized during a community emergency. All Waterfront slip permittees and tenants should all receive a Reverse 911 call. The test will begin at 10:00 a.m. and take about two hours to complete. The test message will be:

"This is the Santa Barbara County Reverse911® system with a test for the Santa Barbara Waterfront area. This is only a test and you do not need to take any action at this time. In the event of a community emergency involving the Santa Barbara Waterfront, Reverse911® will be one of the methods we will use to contact you. You will be contacted again by the Waterfront Office for a survey collecting the results of this test, and to ask for your comments and suggestions. Thank you."

Slip permittees can expect the post-test survey to arrive with their October billing notice. Waterfront tenants will receive the survey either via email or distributed at Harbor Merchants Association or Stearns Wharf Business Association meetings.

Following the test, staff will begin researching information delivery systems for non-emergency situations like electrical outages, vessel relocations and such. Staff will regularly report any progress on this effort to the Commission.

MLPA Update

Regional Stakeholder Group (RSG) members in Southern California's Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA) process deliberated two days in August, working to amend proposed Marine Protected Area (MPA) arrays to better meet guidelines imposed by the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) and a Science Advisory Team (SAT). The RSG members also wrestled with rationales (explanations) for both the location of proposed MPAs and for shortcomings related to SAT and CDFG guidelines.

Over 200 members of the public addressed the RSG on the first day of the two-day meeting. Testimony—much of it very emotional—reflected not only passion surrounding the process, but a broad range of interests, including preservationists, government agencies, wastewater agencies, marine-mammal support groups, schoolchildren, quiet-water recreational enthusiasts, kayak fishermen, passenger-carrying fishing boat operators and grandfathers pleading to keep areas open to fish with their grandchildren. A final RSG meeting will take place September 9th and 10th in the Los Angeles area and will conclude with recommendations forwarded to the BRTF. Staff will report results of this meeting at the Commission's September meeting.

Harbor and Seafood Festival October 10th

The 2009 Harbor and Seafood Festival, complete with all the trappings, will take place on Saturday, October 10th from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. This free-admission event will again feature a smorgasbord of marine-related fun, including the legendary albacore barbeque, plus lobsters, crabs and oysters right off the boats, fish tacos, Brophy's clam chowder, lobster bisque from the Waterfront Grill, seafood cooking demonstrations, free boat rides, tall-ship tours and much more. The City Pier will host 16 marine-related agencies and non-profits distributing information and mixing with the public. Over 40 arts and crafts vendors will line Harbor Way, offering a variety of goods for all members of the family. Finally, superb musicians, including *Spencer the Gardener* and *Fish and the Seaweeds*, will grace center stage with hours of great tunes.

Waterfront staff invites the public to this signature autumn event, one that showcases all reasons the harbor remains the go-to spot for food, fun and a first-hand encounter with our working harbor.

Prepared By: Mick Kronman, Harbor Operations Manager