

CITY OF SANTA BARBARA WATERFRONT DEPARTMENT

MEMORANDUM

Date: June 18, 2015
To: Harbor Commission
From: Scott Riedman, Waterfront Director
Subject: **Facilities Management Report**

DOLPHIN FOUNTAIN LANDSCAPING

The Dolphin Fountain is one of the most visited landmarks in the City of Santa Barbara. A bronze statue of three dolphins created by local artist, Bud Bottoms, sits atop the fountain and was unveiled to the public on July 15, 1985. With Council's Stage 2 Drought Declaration in May 2014, regulations were adopted prohibiting the use of water in fountains. Considering the importance of this iconic landmark, City staff working with Santa Barbara Beautiful, the Chumash Foundation, Santa Barbara Men's Garden Club, and Bud Bottoms have conceived a plan to restore the statue and landscape the fountain to improve the aesthetics while the drought continues.

After almost 30 years, the bronze statue of the dolphins has deteriorated and is in need of restoration. The City has contracted with Masters in Metals to clean and remove the existing scale and patina, apply a new patina and urethane sealer. This effort will restore the brilliant sheen of the bronze sculpture and protect it from the marine elements for many years.

Water has been off in the Dolphin Fountain since May 2014. Signs informing the public of the severe drought and why there is no water have been placed in the fountain's moat. The Parks & Recreation Department recently installed drought tolerant potted plants in the fountain at the Chase Palm Park Expansion setting an example for how to maintain the aesthetics of fountains while conserving water. The Santa Barbara Men's Garden Club prepared a planting palette with input from the Chumash for the Dolphin Fountain. Drought tolerant succulents and sages in potted plants will be installed in the fountain's moat and directly under the statue. The landscape plan was reviewed and approved by the Historic Landmarks Commission on June 3.

Santa Barbara Beautiful and the Chumash Foundation have both generously offered grants of \$5,000 each to offset the cost of the Dolphin Fountain statue restoration and landscaping. July will mark the 30th anniversary of the Dolphin Fountain and the Chumash are planning a rededication ceremony. The ceremony will include Chumash dancers and additional plantings of drought tolerant succulents native to the Channel Islands. This project is an excellent demonstration of several community organizations' commitment to maintaining the Dolphin Fountain as the world-renowned landmark that it is.

GARDEN STREET PARKING LOT – FUNK ZONE ACCESS

As the Funk Zone gains in popularity, property owners have expressed concern about the lack of public parking. Waterfront staff began working with adjacent land owners in 2013 to improve access from the Garden Street parking lot to the Funk Zone. Although the Garden Street lot is the least used among the Waterfront's eight parking lots, there is considerable foot traffic in the area along Cabrillo Boulevard from tour buses and people gathering information from the Chamber of Commerce Visitor Center, located at the southeast corner of the lot.

The adjacent property owners requested that the fence in the northwest corner of the lot be removed allowing access onto their properties and the Funk Zone area. Upon Building Department review it was apparent that significant changes were required in the Garden Street lot and the adjacent properties to meet Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Building Code requirements. An ADA compliant path of travel was required from Cabrillo Boulevard to the northwest corner of the lot where the opening was proposed. An ADA compliant ramp leading onto the adjacent properties was also required. These improvements were initially achieved with restriping and minor grading in the landscape planter but they did not pass inspection for several reasons.

This seemingly simple project was much more complicated than staff anticipated. Coordination with major changes to the adjacent properties was required. Improvements at the Garden Street lot required review and approval by the City's Historic Landmarks Commission (HLC) since the property is located adjacent to the El Pueblo Viejo Landmark District. Improvements on the adjacent properties required review and approval by the City's Architectural Board of Review (ABR). After HLC and ABR approvals, the projects went through rigorous review and modifications through the City's building permit process. These review processes took much longer than staff or the adjacent landowners anticipated but resulted in significant improvements to all properties involved. The path of travel had to be completely re-graded after initial striping to meet cross slope requirements resulting in what is now functionally a sidewalk. The ADA ramp also had to be re-graded to meet slope requirements. The ramp also required a handrail which was not initially included in the improvements.

The Garden lot improvements as well as required improvements on one of the adjacent properties are now complete. The other adjacent property improvements have been approved by ABR with the building permit pending. Funk Zone property owners are expected to promote the Garden Street lot as a viable option for parking in this area and staff expects increased parking revenues as a result.