

## **CITY OF SANTA BARBARA WATERFRONT DEPARTMENT**

### **MEMORANDUM**

**Date:** February 26, 2009  
**To:** Harbor Commission  
**From:** John N. Bridley, Waterfront Director  
**Subject:** **Director's Report**

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#### **COUNCIL ACTIONS**

- Adopted an ordinance approving a ten-year license agreement with the Santa Barbara Youth Sailing Foundation, effective March 26, 2009, for a 2,500 square foot water space in Marina 1, at an initial rent of \$595 per month.

#### **CALIFORNIA MARINE AFFAIRS AND NAVIGATION CONFERENCE (CMANC)**

On February 11, 2009, the City of Santa Barbara hosted the Winter Meeting of CMANC. Approximately 95 attendees converged on the MarMonte Hotel located on East Cabrillo Boulevard. The conference was fortunate to have Mr. John P. Woodley, Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works) address the State's Harbor and Port Directors. Although he will likely soon be replaced with a new appointee from the Obama Administration he provided insight into the future of the Corps of Engineers and New Administration. He also provided timely views and data on the new Stimulus Bill, in which the Corps expects to revive some two billion additional dollars. The Department has submitted both the ongoing harbor maintenance dredging and reconstruction of Marina 1 as part of the Stimulus Bill. Many of California Ports and Harbors will anxiously be reviewing any or all funding opportunities as part of this new initiative.

Currently, with the November 2008 election of a new administration, the federal government continues to operate without an adopted budget (continuing resolution) and no President's Budget has been submitted for fiscal year 2010. This is a bit unusual and poses less certainty on funding levels and appropriations for the upcoming year. It is expected that the Obama Administration will file a budget within the next 60 days. Given the low volume of sand in the main navigational channel, funding for the remaining spring dredging cycle should not be a problem. However, two concerns have recently surfaced regarding future dredge funding. First, because of the multi-billions of dollars being poured into the Stimulus Bill, concerns are surfacing about the impact or amount of funding expected to be budgeted for the Corps of Engineers for fiscal year 2010. Second, due to cost cutting measures by the federal government, the Santa Barbara dredge contract has lost what was called a "continuing contract provision." Simply put, this puts our dredge operations at risk should the federal government not

adopt a budget by the October 1<sup>st</sup> deadline. Total project funding must be appropriated and funds available at the time the contract is to be executed or issued a notice to proceed. To put this into perspective, the federal government has not adopted a budget on time for the past two years. Under a continuing resolution situation, the Corps could not initiate the fall cycle dredging (Oct/Nov). The contract would be delayed until all total funds are available to begin dredging. This is a concern going forward.

This will most likely be an interesting and a business not as usual year due to the changing administration and both the potential positive or negative impacts of the Stimulus Bill on the Corps of Engineers... Stay tuned.

The conference concluded with an evening harbor, sunset cruise aboard the Channel Cat and a dinner held at the Maritime Museum catered by Chuck's Waterfront Grill.

#### **TENTATIVE AGENDA ITEMS FOR MARCH**

- Clean Marina Program
- Harbor Laundry Lease Agreement