

CITY OF SANTA BARBARA WATERFRONT DEPARTMENT

MEMORANDUM

Date: July 16, 2009
To: Harbor Commissioners
From: John N. Bridley, Waterfront Director
Subject: Harbor Operations Report

Reverse 911 Coming to the Waterfront

In partnership with the County Sheriff's Office, Waterfront staff has been working to develop a Reverse 911 system for slip permittees and harbor tenants. In May, staff sent comprehensive database contact information to the County, expecting further refinements over the summer.

By late summer or early fall, we will test the system. First, staff will work with the Sheriff's Office on the Reverse 911 message ("this is a test. . ."). Second, staff will enclose a reminder of the upcoming test in a monthly slip billing, noting the date and time of the test (tenants will be alerted at their association meetings). Third, staff will post marina gates well before the test, reminding boaters that it's coming. Finally, following the event, we will survey slip permittees and tenants, inviting their response and any suggestions for improving the system.

Following development of the Reverse 911 system, staff will begin researching availability of a general notification system that can be used in cases that are not full-blown emergencies, but warrant a phone message to affected boaters or tenants. Examples might include an electrical outage or the need to relocate boats during a harbor maintenance or construction project.

Harbor Nautical Swap Meet and Hazmat Turn-In

Drawing 40 vendors from Dana Point to Watsonville, this year's Harbor Nautical Swap Meet was a big hit. The Harbor Merchants Association (beneficiary of the event) and Santa Barbara Roasting Company provided free coffee and donuts for vendors and the public alike. Items sold at the Swap Meet included boats, fishing gear, sailboat rigging, pumps, anchors, nautical literature, antique nautical charts, safety equipment and more.

The May 16th event also included a hazmat turn-in station for slip permittees, provided by Clean Harbors Environmental Services, Inc. Dozens of boaters deposited paint, batteries, oil, gasoline, propane tanks, expired flares and more. Staff looks forward to repeating this annual one-day event (swap meet *and* hazmat turn-in) next May.

July 4th Recap

Clear skies, moderate temperatures and a spectacular 22-minute fireworks display highlighted a successful July 4th celebration at the Waterfront. Thousands of revelers packed the marinas and the beaches to enjoy the show, fired from West Beach. Thanks in part to considerable on-site education provided by Harbor Patrol and the Department of Boating and Waterways, no boaters were arrested for Boating Under the Influence, a departure from previous years, when at least one BUI arrest was typical.

MLPA Update

Round Two of three rounds in the Southern California Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA) process concluded in early June, following a contentious three-day Regional Stakeholder Group (RSG) meeting in Santa Ana, where the struggle for cross-interest agreement continued. A Science Advisory Panel, the Department of Fish and Game and a governor-appointed Blue Ribbon Task Force (BRTF) are now evaluating six draft Marine Protected Area (MPA) arrays advanced by RSG workings groups—winnowed down from nine submitted at the end of Round One.

Public MLPA “open houses” will be held throughout Southern California in June and July, during which visitors can review MPA proposals, provide comments and ask questions of MLPA staff and RSG members. In addition, the Maritime Museum will host an MLPA presentation and discussion on the evening of July 14th.

The RSG will meet in early August and again in early September. At the conclusion of the September meeting it will forward final draft-array proposals to the BRTF, which will review them and pass its recommendation to the California Fish and Game Commission for a final decision on MPA sites and designations.

Check the MLPA website at <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/mlpa> or call (916) 654-1885 for dates and locations of upcoming meetings, plus all related information on the MLPA process.

Prepared By: Mick Kronman, Harbor Operations Manager