

## CITY OF SANTA BARBARA WATERFRONT DEPARTMENT

### MEMORANDUM

**Date:** November 19, 2009  
**To:** Harbor Commissioners  
**From:** John N. Bridley, Waterfront Director  
**Subject:** Harbor Operations Report

---

#### Harbor Festival Recap

Under cool, cloudy autumn skies, thousands of locals and visitors attended the 8th annual Harbor and Seafood Festival on October 10<sup>th</sup>. Commercial fishermen provided fresh lobster, shrimp and crab straight from their boats. Other vendors offered barbequed albacore, clam chowder, lobster bisque, paella, fish tacos and fresh oysters. Besides the seafood bounty, visitors enjoyed 42 arts and crafts booths, cooking demonstrations, boat rides, tall-ship tours and marine-related educational opportunities. Wendy Hofstetter from Gualala, California won a SMART Car raffled off by the Maritime Museum. While enjoying the activities and seafood, festival-goers also soaked up live music by *Spencer the Gardner* and *Fish and the Seaweeds*. Overall, the festival was a terrific success. So circle your calendars now for Saturday, October 9, 2010—next year's Harbor and Seafood Festival.

#### Reverse 911 Test Results

On Friday, September 19<sup>th</sup>, the County tested its Reverse 911 alert system at the Waterfront. Over a period of two hours and five minutes, 2,612 test calls went to slip permittees and tenants, both in the harbor commercial area and on Stearns Wharf. Of these calls, 2,148 (82%) were either answered directly or successfully delivered to an answering machine. Sheriffs and the City's Emergency Services Manager consider this rate of "connection" a significant success. The rest of the calls were either operator interrupted (possibly blocked), fax tones, busy or "timed out." Waterfront staff is working with the County to identify and address phone numbers in these categories in an effort to maximize coverage in the event of a true emergency.

As of November 1<sup>st</sup>, 153 slip permittees and tenants had responded to a follow-up survey regarding the Reverse 911 test. Survey results, which staff can explain in detail, are attached. In the meantime, while the City and County work to reconcile phone numbers and discuss altering the message based on survey results, Waterfront staff will begin Phase 2 of its information distribution project. In the coming weeks and months, we will work to identify means and methods—either by telephone, email or both—for alerting slip permittees or tenants to non-emergency events that would not warrant a Reverse 911 call. Examples might include vessel relocations during marina construction projects, temporary electrical outages or something as simple as a reminder to sign up

for the Parade of Lights. Staff will continue reporting progress on both phases its information distribution project during the upcoming months.

### **Abandoned Vessel Bill Signed Into Law**

Governor Schwarzenegger recently signed legislation co-sponsored by the California Association of Harbor Masters and Port Captains that is designed to create a cost-effective means of stemming the growing number of abandoned boats in California waterways. Assembly Bill 166 establishes a vessel turn-in program that permits boat owners to voluntarily transfer ownership and surrender dilapidated vessels to identified public agencies before the vessels become environmental hazards.

It is expected this legislation may help stem the tide of abandoned vessels in California waters, the number of which soared to levels during the first quarter of 2009 equal to the total number of boats abandoned in 2008.

On November 18<sup>th</sup>, the Department of Boating and Waterways will host a meeting to discuss implementation of this law. Agencies who frequently dispose of abandoned vessels will attend, including the City of Santa Barbara, represented by Harbor Patrol Supervisor Steve McCullough. Staff will report results to the Commission at its November 19<sup>th</sup> meeting.

### **MLPA Update**

In October, a Southern California Regional Stakeholder Group met jointly with a governor-appointed Blue Ribbon Task Force (BRTF) to attempt compromise on which Marine Protected Area (MPA) map the BRTF would forward to the California Fish and Game Commission as its “preferred alternative” for a network of coastal marine closures—a requirement of the Marine Life Protection Act. Besides the preferred alternative, the BRTF, acknowledging a year’s work on the MLPA, will also advance proposed maps from three Stakeholder working groups for the Commission’s review.

During this seminal meeting of the MLPA process, one day was devoted almost entirely to public comment. Nearly 1,200 speakers had their say during sessions that lasted until midnight, when final speakers, who had waited 15 hours to voice their opinions, were allowed 15 seconds to do. Owing in part to the time allotted for public comment, the BRTF’s final decision on what map it would forward was postponed until November 10<sup>th</sup>. Staff will report results of that decision to the Commission at its November 19<sup>th</sup> meeting.

### **Parade of Lights December 13<sup>th</sup>**

The 24<sup>th</sup> annual Parade of Lights, sponsored by the Stearns Wharf Business Association and the City’s Waterfront Department, will take place Sunday, December 13<sup>th</sup>. The theme for this year’s event is “Underwater Wonderland.” Festivities begin with a Santa’s Village event at 3:00 p.m. on the City Pier, featuring visits with Santa and

Harbor Operations Report

November 19, 2009

Page 3

10 tons of snow for children to play in. A tree lighting ceremony on Stearns Wharf will kick off the parade at 5:30 p.m. A short fireworks display will follow the parade, followed in turn by an awards ceremony and after-party at the Endless Summer bar-café. As always, this promises to be an entertaining family event celebrating the holiday season at the Waterfront.

Attachments: 1. Outbound Call Log Report—Reverse 911 test  
2. Survey Results as of 11/01/09— Reverse 911 test

Prepared By: Mick Kronman, Harbor Operations Manager