

CITY OF SANTA BARBARA WATERFRONT DEPARTMENT

MEMORANDUM

Date: March 18, 2010
To: Harbor Commissioners
From: John N. Bridley, Waterfront Director
Subject: Harbor Operations Report

Tsunami Response

On February 27th, the Waterfront Department activated its Reverse 911 system due to a Tsunami Advisory for the Pacific Coast issued in response to an 8.8-magnitude earthquake in Chile. In keeping with the Advisory, the Reverse 911 message urged the public to avoid beaches and the harbor area for several hours.

Although no significant harbor damage was reported, frequent tidal fluctuations of up to three feet generated significant surges and swirling currents, making navigation in and out of the harbor tricky. The surges dragged navigational buoys marking the harbor's federal channel off station and caused some vessels entering the harbor to either become confused or lose steerage in the currents, leaving a few temporarily soft aground. All were either safely towed to deeper water or carried there by the rush of a subsequent tidal surge. Some other boats broke dock lines in their slips and one accidentally ran over and severed a navigational buoy.

Wet Wednesday Races Begin March 17th

As a sure sign that boating season has arrived, Santa Barbara Yacht Club celebrated opening day ceremonies March 7th, with Wet Wednesday races slated to begin March 17th. The races are open to any boat entered by a member of a U.S. Sailing Association-recognized club. Locally, this means Santa Barbara Sailing Club and Santa Barbara Yacht Club boats, with occasional out-of-town visitors invited to participate. Also, anyone can race as crew aboard an eligible boat. Wet Wednesday courses vary with wind conditions and boat size, and vary in length from 2-8 miles. The first start is at 5:10 p.m., followed by six other classes spaced five minutes apart. Following each Wednesday race, an "after party" barbeque open to all racers and their guests is held at the Yacht Club's clubhouse. Wet Wednesday races will run through October 20th. For more information, contact the Santa Barbara Yacht Club at 965-8112 or visit their website at www.sbyc.org

West Beach and Catamaran Beach Permits

- **West Beach Permits:** On Friday, March 12th at 8:00 a.m., the Department will begin selling annual permits to store outriggers, small sailboats and rowing dories on West

Beach. A total of 50 permits are available at a cost of \$250 apiece. In addition, six permits for storage racks accommodating human-powered craft are available for \$400 apiece. All West Beach permits are issued at the Harbormaster's Office. For more details call Kathy Sangster, Administrative Supervisor, at 805-897-1963.

- **Catamaran Beach Permits:** On Friday, April 2nd at 8:00 a.m., the Department will begin selling seasonal permits to store small catamarans (up to 26 feet) on Leadbetter Beach. A total 65 "Cat Beach" permits are available at a cost of \$200 apiece. All Cat Beach permits are issued at the Harbormaster's Office. For more details call Kathy Sangster, Administrative Supervisor, at 805-897-1963.

Harbor Swap Meet and Hazmat Turn-In Day May 15th

- **Harbor Swap Meet:** The Harbor Nautical Swap Meet, sponsored by the Waterfront Department and Harbor Merchants Association, returns to Santa Barbara Harbor on Saturday, May 15th, from 8:00 a.m. to noon. Come to the Marina 3 parking lot to buy, sell, peruse or to just enjoy good company, coffee and donuts at this uniquely local event. Typical sales items include sailboat rigging, fishing gear, outboard motors, surfboards, kayaks and all manner of boat parts. Signups for vendor spaces (\$10 apiece) will occur at the Harbormaster's Office beginning Monday, April 12th.
- **Hazmat Turn-In:** And while taking inventory of what you need to buy or sell, check your dock box, too, since this year's event is again coupled with a Hazmat Turn-In Day. Located next to the Swap Meet, you'll find a marked disposal area for hazardous materials you may wish to get rid of before boating season begins—items like old cans of varnish, lacquer or paint, or small amounts of gasoline or diesel. In an effort to limit the Hazmat event to harbor boat owners only, an "entry ticket" will be included in May's slip billing. The ticket entitles the slip permittee to dispose of any appropriate items that are in his or her boat or dock box. No ticket is necessary to participate in the Harbor Swap Meet. Questions? Call Mick Kronman, Harbor Operations Manager, at 805-897-2587.

Prepared By: Mick Kronman, Harbor Operations Manager