

CITY OF SANTA BARBARA WATERFRONT DEPARTMENT

MEMORANDUM

Date: July 15, 2010
To: Harbor Commissioners
From: John N. Bridley, Waterfront Director
Subject: Dock Ladders

RECOMMENDATION:

That Harbor Commission, at the request of Chair Frank Kelly, receive and consider a staff report related to the placement of dock ladders in Santa Barbara Harbor

BACKGROUND:

Periodically, the Harbor Commission has discussed possible deployment of dock ladders in Santa Barbara Harbor, for the exit of persons who accidentally fall in the water. As early as 2001, Department staff researched the history of persons who had fallen in the water in Santa Barbara Harbor (Attachment 1). In July 2008, staff presented a report to the Harbor Commission outlining the pros and cons of adding dock ladders to harbor docks, concluding that implementing dock ladders was not warranted at that time (Attachment 2). Recently, Chair Kelly asked staff to bring the issue of dock ladders back to the Commission for consideration and possible placement on the Department's list of future Capital Improvement Projects.

DISCUSSION:

A recent staff analysis suggests the equipment cost of deploying dock ladders has not changed significantly since the 2008 report. Three-step "Up and Out" ladders (the least expensive ladder that can be stored on the dock) cost \$175 each. To place 66 ladders (one at mid-span on each side of each dock finger) including labor, would cost approximately \$15,000. This estimate is comparable with the 2008 estimate, which included more ladders that were individually more expensive (six per finger compared to four per finger, four-step compared to three-step). Staff provides these separate scenarios (different ladders and different deployment options) to assist the Commission's consideration of the cost/benefit ratio of dock ladder deployment.

Attachments: 1. 2001 Waterfront Department memorandum, people in the water
2. July 17, 2008 Harbor Commission staff report, dock ladders

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