

CITY OF SANTA BARBARA WATERFRONT DEPARTMENT

MEMORANDUM

Date: March 17, 2011
To: Harbor Commission
From: John N. Bridley, Waterfront Director
Subject: **General Lottery Drawing—East Beach Mooring Area**

RECOMMENDATION:

That Harbor Commission, via the Chair, conduct a General Lottery drawing to select and rank prospective Mooring Permittees in the East Beach Mooring Area.

DISCUSSION:

Established in 2006, the Permitted Mooring Area east of Stearns Wharf includes 46 mooring sites (recently reduced to 45, following discovery of a wrecked boat on the seafloor near one site). Moorings are owned by individual permittees and inspected annually by City-approved inspectors, the cost borne by the permittees who also pay annual permit renewal fees of \$250 apiece.

City Council Resolution No. 09-075 (Attachment 1) requires that any time the number of Mooring Area permittees declines to 30 or fewer, the Waterfront Department shall undertake a new lottery to fill the vacant mooring sites. The Department conducted lotteries in 2006, 2007 and 2010 to assign vessels to vacant mooring sites. Owing to termination and/or relinquishment of several mooring permits during the past year, the current number of active mooring permits is 29. As such, the Department will conduct a general lottery, open to the public, to help fill currently vacant mooring sites.

In accordance with Resolution No. 09-075, the Waterfront Department offered a window period for submitting lottery applications beginning February 3, 2011, closing March 3, 2011. Applications were available at the Harbormaster's Office and on the City's website. Opportunity to participate in the lottery was advertised in Santa Barbara and Ventura newspapers, and an article about it appeared in *The Log*, a bi-weekly regional boating publication.

The Department received 46 lottery applications during the advertised window period. Staff requests that the Commission Chair randomly draw names of all lottery applicants, one by one, and rank them for potential assignment of Mooring Permits in remaining, un-assigned Mooring Sites (Attachment 2). After the drawing, staff will mail permit applications to the ranked individuals, who will have 14 days to return the applications or lose the opportunity to qualify for a Mooring Permit. When applications are returned, staff will discuss with each applicant the possible location of a proposed mooring, beginning with the person ranked first. While the Department retains the right to assign

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Mooring Permits to Mooring Sites that best serve the orderliness and safe operation of the Mooring Area, it intends, whenever possible, to meet permittees' requests. Ability to do this depends primarily on the size of vessel proposed to be moored and availability of a site accommodating a vessel of that size.

Once offered a Mooring Permit, a prospective permittee has 90 days to place an approved vessel on the Mooring Site, provide vessel ownership documentation, pay all fees due and prove compliance with minimum ground tackle specifications. The names of all ranked lottery participants who timely return permit applications will be held until all mooring sites are assigned (i.e. the Mooring Area is "full") or prospective, ranked permittees have chosen all available sites, whichever comes first. If all sites are assigned or if all available Mooring Sites are utilized before the list is exhausted, the names of remaining, ranked individuals will be discarded. Staff hopes that with completion of this process, the Mooring Area will be nearly or fully subscribed.

Attachments: 1. Resolution No. 09-075
 2. East Beach Mooring Area Map - Including Available Mooring Sites
 3. Lottery Drawing Advertisement

Prepared by: Mick Kronman, Harbor Operations Manager