

CITY OF SANTA BARBARA WATERFRONT DEPARTMENT

MEMORANDUM

Date: July 21, 2011
To: Harbor Commissioners
From: Scott Riedman, Interim Waterfront Director
Subject: Harbor Operations Report

Harbor Nautical Swap Meet

Despite chilly, overcast skies and a below-average turnout of 32 vendors, hundreds came to enjoy the annual Harbor Nautical Swap Meet on May 14th. Fishing gear, marine hardware, surfboards, charts, compasses and more were sold in a frenzy of activity. And when people weren't buying, selling or trading goods, they were busy enjoying free donuts, oranges, bagels and bananas, care of the Harbor Merchants Association. Staff will reexamine its advertising strategies for this event, with an eye toward increasing vendor participation by 10%-15% next year.

Meanwhile, in addition to the swap meet, a hazardous materials drop-off station did brisk business all morning. Boaters deposited hundreds of gallons of used paint, varnish and the like, taking the opportunity to empty their dock boxes in time for the busy boating season.

July 4th Celebration

The Waterfront teemed with good times on July 4th as tens of thousands of locals and visitors enjoyed warm ocean waters, sunny skies and a spectacular 20-minute nighttime fireworks show. Harbor Patrol made no significant ocean rescues and very few law enforcement contacts during the family-oriented event, though several persons were injured during the day, including a young man who jumped from the seawall to the sand (suffering a broken leg), and a serious bicycle accident on Stearns Wharf.

Fifteen Suspected Illegal Aliens Rescued from Santa Cruz Island

On July 10th, the Coast Guard Cutter Blackfin rescued and transported 15 suspected illegal aliens from Santa Cruz Island to Santa Barbara Harbor. Harbor Patrol assisted with medical assessment and detention of the individuals in the Marine Center Classroom. Working with Santa Barbara City firefighters, they also provided food, water and restroom facilities. Five hours after the suspects' arrival in Santa Barbara, Customs and Border Protection agents transported them to San Clemente for processing. Soon after the event, Harbor Patrol received a commendation letter from the commanding officer of the Blackfin for their role in ensuring the safe detention of the suspects, as well as making sure the event did not turn into a public spectacle.

SB 623 Update—Copper Bottom Paint

In May, staff reported progress on state Senate Bill 623, which, as originally drafted, would prohibit boat manufacturers from selling recreational vessels with copper-based hull paint after 2014 and would prohibit recreational boat owners from using or applying

copper-based paint after 2018. The measure is designed to reduce copper contamination in harbors throughout the state.

Since May, the bill has grown more complex as it passed out of the Senate and migrated into Assembly committees, where its first stop was the Environmental Safety and Toxic Materials Committee on June 28th. It was approved on a 6-2 vote. Next stop: the Assembly's Appropriations Committee in August.

One amendment requires that after January 1, 2019, if the State Water Resources Control Board "does not demonstrate that the trend line of measured water quality data points toward attainment of the dissolved-copper water quality objectives in California marinas and harbors, the use or application of antifouling paint on recreational vessels shall be prohibited one year after the determination." Some boaters and boating groups object to this amendment because it does not single out copper, but would ban *all* antifouling paints if state water sampling results are sub-standard.

Another amendment allows the use of "low leach-rate copper antifouling paints," tasking the Department of Pesticide Regulation with establishing those thresholds and identifying by January 2014, which paints meet this standard. One year later, all other copper-based paints would be banned for recreational boat hulls.

Meanwhile, at the Commission's request, staff has attached a copy of the Waterfront section of the City's 2011 Legislative Platform, an annually revised document that articulates City Council's position on various issues. Once adopted, the Platform allows staff to write letters to lawmakers or regulators consistent with the Platform, without having to go through the entire Council review process to do so.

Clean Marina Recertification

In 2006, the Waterfront Department's pollution-prevention equipment, policies and regulations were examined by an industry-sponsored California Clean Marinas Program, earning a score of 96% and certification as a California Clean Marina. At the time, Santa Barbara Harbor was the 42nd facility certified. Today, 108 marinas have earned that distinction.

Since 2006, the program has expanded to other regional states such as Nevada and Arizona and has been renamed the "Clean Marinas Program." On June 23rd, the Waterfront's program was re-examined as part of an (upgraded and tougher) five-year recertification review, passing again with a 96% score. Staff is proud of this recognition and wishes to thank the boating community for its partnership in limiting pollution in Santa Barbara Harbor.

Attachments: 1. Score Sheet, Clean Marinas Recertification
2. 2011 Waterfront Legislative Platform

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