

## CITY OF SANTA BARBARA WATERFRONT DEPARTMENT

### MEMORANDUM

**Date:** January 22, 2015  
**To:** Harbor Commission  
**From:** Scott Riedman, Waterfront Director  
**Subject:** **West Beach Outrigger Permits**

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**RECOMMENDATION:** That Harbor Commission;

- A. Receive a report on proposed amendments to City Council Resolution 14-048 related to distribution of annual West Beach outrigger, sailboat, rowing dory and surf ski permits; and
- B. Recommend City Council approval of amendments and incorporation into Council Resolution.

**BACKGROUND:**

For over 30 years, the west end of West Beach (on the sand behind Sea Landing) has been used to store outrigger canoes, plus Sea Shell Association vessels and storage sheds, which themselves date to the 1960s. Over time, permitted uses have grown to include small sailboats, rowing dories, surf skis and eight small-vessel storage racks. The Department accommodates these vessels and racks within a limited footprint, to support beach-launched, small-craft ocean recreation, occasionally amending its policies to accommodate changes in the types of craft utilizing nearshore waters (Attachment 1). The vessel-storage area has not been expanded, however, due to limits on developing West Beach, plus potential conflicts with other recreational and industrial uses like volleyball courts, dredge-yard/dredging activities and fireworks displays (Attachment 2).

**Note:** One exception is Ka Nai'a Outriggers, which since 1990 has occupied the far *easterly* end of West Beach, near Stearns Wharf, to accommodate numerous community activities including joint ventures with the City's Parks and Recreation Department.

**DISCUSSION:**

The Department sells annual West Beach permits on a first-come, first-served basis, beginning the second Friday of March. Typically, not all outrigger permits sell out, though occasionally, as occurred in 2014, they do. As a result, the owner of an OC-6 (six-person outrigger canoe), a longtime user of West Beach and outrigger-club representative, could not purchase a permit.

In June, 2014, outrigger-club members contacted the Department, requesting to meet and discuss ways the permit program could be improved to better serve paddling clubs and the community members they serve. The Harbor Operations Manager and Administrative Supervisor met with the paddlers three times through September, 2014, exchanging ideas of how best to administer the program so it serves the greatest number of outrigger enthusiasts.

Three proposed amendments to City Council Resolution 14-048 (Attachment 3), were identified during these meetings:

1. Relocate surf skis from the “combined 22 permits for sailboats, rowing dories and surf skis” category because they resemble outriggers more than dories or sailboats by design and use. Include surf-ski permits among 28 available outrigger permits;
2. Remove one of three permits available from the “sailing outrigger” category since these permits are underutilized (one was left unassigned last year). Add the “removed” sailing outrigger permit to the 28 outrigger permits available the first day of permit sales. Make the remaining two permits convertible to general outrigger permits if unassigned by March 31st of any permit year.
3. Grant a “right of first refusal” to outrigger clubs utilizing OC6 and OC4 outriggers and established prior to January 1, 2015. These clubs serve a larger segment of the paddling community compared to one-person or two-person canoes that are typically owned by one individual and used by a limited number of paddlers. The right of first refusal should be granted through March 31st of any permitting year. If not utilized by then, qualifying permits would return to the general category of outrigger permits, to be assigned on a first-come, first served basis.

## **CONCLUSION:**

While keeping the total number of West Beach permits at 50, proposed amendments to City Council Resolution 14-048 will help streamline the permitting process, accommodating the greatest number of shore-based boating enthusiasts while ensuring access to permits for longstanding outrigger clubs.

Attachments: 1. City Council Resolution No. 14-048 (L)  
2. Drawing – West Beach Vessel Storage Area  
3. Proposed Amendments to City Council Resolution No. 14-048 (L)

Prepared by: Mick Kronman, Harbor Operations Manager

L. OUTRIGGER, SAILBOAT, ROWING DORY AND SURF SKI  
PERMITS FOR WEST BEACH

A permit fee of \$250 per vessel shall be charged to place an outrigger, sailing outrigger, sailboat, rowing dory, or surf ski within the area designated by the Harbormaster on West Beach. Outriggers and rowing dories shall be no longer than 45 feet nor wider than 7 feet. Sailing outriggers shall be no longer than 45 feet nor wider than 18 feet. Sailboats shall be no longer than 16 feet overall nor wider than 6 feet. Permits shall be sold on an annual basis beginning on the second Friday of March. No vessel may be stored on West Beach at any other location and no vessels other than those permitted by the Harbormaster may be placed on West Beach.

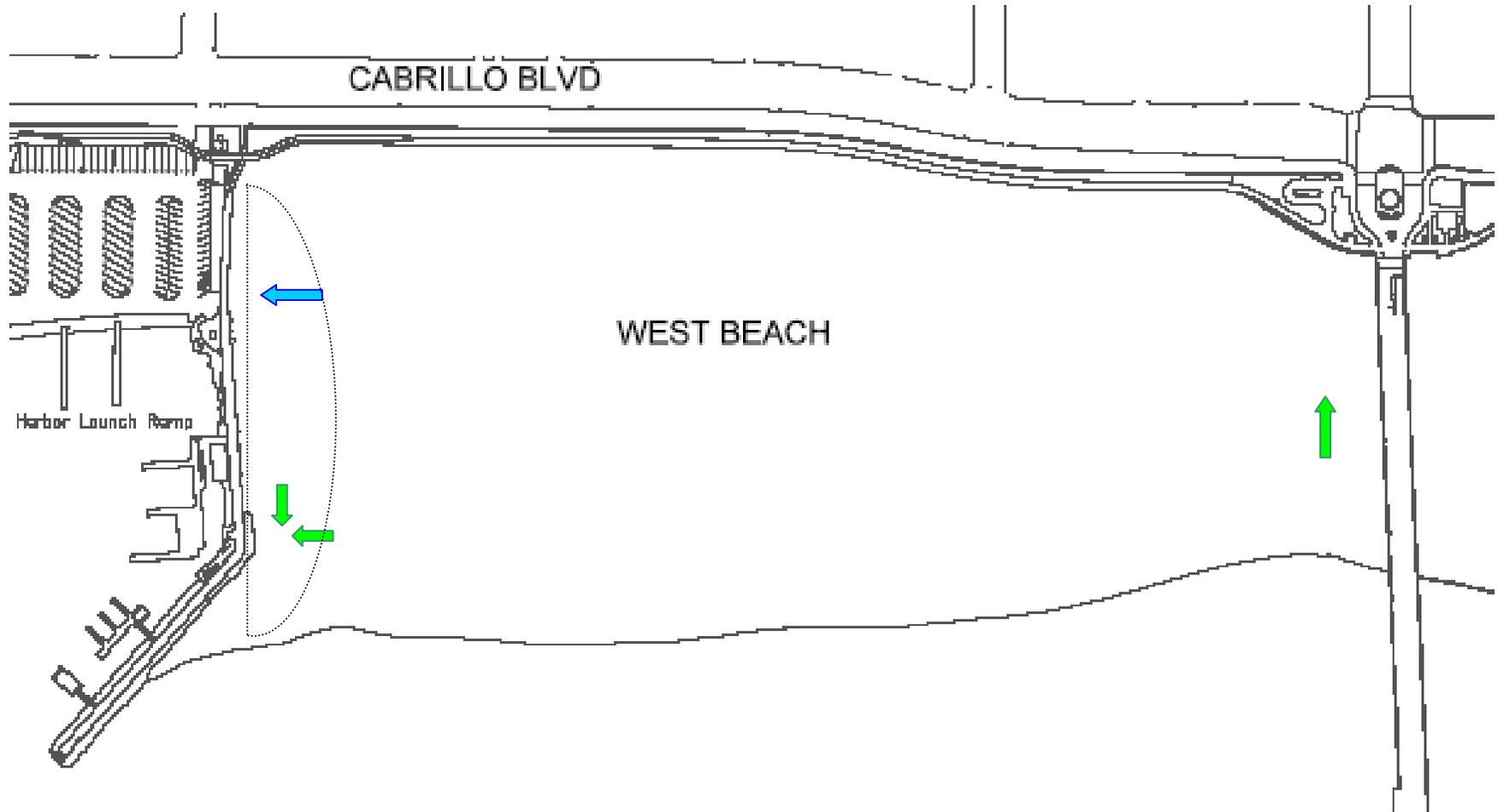
A maximum of 50 permits shall be issued each year, divided as follows:

- A combined maximum of 22 permits for sailboats, rowing dories and surf skis.
- A maximum of 3 permits for sailing outriggers.
- A maximum of 25 permits for outriggers.

No permit is valid unless proper application is made to the Harbormaster and the permitted vessel displays a valid permit sticker in addition to current California registration numbers if required. No commercial activities shall be conducted. Permits are non-transferable and non-refundable.

A fee of \$800 each shall be charged for storage racks for outrigger club activities, each accommodating a maximum of eight, single-person, human powered vessels and placed within the area designated by the Harbormaster on West Beach. A total of six renewable annual permits shall be available for this purpose. Each rack and each vessel stored on a rack must display valid, corresponding permit stickers. No additional permit fee shall be charged for corresponding permits issued to vessels stored on permitted storage racks. Rack permits are non-transferable and non-refundable.

The Santa Barbara Youth Foundation shall be allowed to place two racks for the storage of 16 laser-style sailboats assigned by the Foundation within the area designated by the Harbormaster on West Beach. A fee of \$800 shall be charged for each rack. Each rack and each vessel stored on a rack must display valid, corresponding permit stickers. No additional permit fee shall be charged for corresponding permits issued to vessels stored on permitted storage racks. Rack permits are non-transferable and non-refundable.



**West Beach Permit Areas**

Green Arrows:      Outriggers  
Blue Arrows:      Sailboats & Dorries

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A maximum of 50 permits shall be issued each year, divided as follows:

- A combined maximum of 22-20 permits for sailboats, and rowing dories and surf skis.
- A maximum of 3-2 permits for sailing outriggers, convertible to outrigger permits if unassigned by March 31<sup>st</sup> of any permit year.
- A maximum of 25-28 permits for outriggers and surf skis.

A right of first refusal for annual permits shall be granted to outrigger clubs utilizing OC6 and OC4 outriggers and established prior to January 1, 2015. The number of permits issued to individual clubs shall not exceed the maximum number issued in any year prior to this date. This right of first refusal may only be exercised by notifying the Harbormaster in writing no later than 72 hours prior to the start date of annual permit sales and shall only be granted through March 31<sup>st</sup> of any permitting year. If not utilized by that date, qualifying permits shall be assigned on a first-come, first served basis.

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