

CITY OF SANTA BARBARA WATERFRONT DEPARTMENT

MEMORANDUM

Date: April 20, 2017
To: Harbor Commission
From: Scott Riedman, Waterfront Director
Subject: **Facilities Management Report**

SEA LANDING BOARDWALK

During cruise ship visits the sidewalk along Sea Landing is fenced off separating cruise ship passengers from the general public as required by the Facilities Security Plan. People that want to visit the Rock Groin had to walk on the sand along West Beach just outside the fence past dozens of outrigger canoes. This wasn't an ideal situation for providing access to the Rock Groin during cruise ship visits. During a previous visit to Santa Monica, staff noticed several at-grade wooden walkways that provided access across the very wide beaches in the area. Based on this model, staff recently designed and built a wooden walkway running parallel to and just east of the Sea Landing sidewalk, allowing access to the Rock Groin during cruise ship visits.

Three tile mosaics recovered from the sidewalk along Cabrillo Boulevard add a nice touch to the walkway. The mosaics were removed, then replaced, a couple years ago, when the Gas Company replaced one of its distribution lines. The Gas Company's contractor was required to dispose of the extracted, perfectly good tiles, but offered them to the Waterfront instead. The new walkway seemed like an ideal new home, embellishing a boardwalk that provides access to one of the best views of the harbor entrance.

FEDERAL CHANNEL DREDGING

Spring cycle dredging began three weeks early after another year of large swells and unusually high sand deposition in the federal channel. The Corps of Engineer's contractor, Pacific Dredge, worked diligently to open a new channel after the entrance was partially closed for several days. The volume of sand in the entrance channel greatly exceeded the amount that could be removed under the regular dredge contract and staff worked closely with the Corps of Engineers to secure additional funds. The dredge suffered significant damage after opening the new channel and had to shut down for several weeks for repairs. Dredging resumed on April 10 and is currently under way. Dredging should be completed the week of April 17 after approximately 200,000 c.y. of material is removed, significantly more than the 120,000 c.y. typically removed under contract in the spring.

Upon completion of spring cycle dredging, the Waterfront typically requires that the dredge contractor remove sand from common shoal areas just outside the federal channel in exchange for summer moorage. For example, there is constant accretion of

sand on the harbor side of the sandspit, at the tip of the Rock Groin, and the sub-tidal area off West Beach. The dredge moors on the harbor side of the sandspit and that is the area usually dredged as required by the Waterfront, although the other areas are occasionally dredged as needed. Pacific Dredge conducts regular bathymetric surveys to determine volume calculations for payment. Staff has observed very shallow water off West Beach this year and asked Pacific Dredge to survey the area with the intention of requiring dredging in that area. Unfortunately, there is significantly more sand off West Beach than has been observed in many years, much more than the Waterfront could require for removal in exchange for summer moorage.

West Beach shoaling has been a problem for years. Surplus sand has been removed by several different agencies over the years using a variety of methods. Most recently, the County took 6,000 c.y. from the intertidal area to Goleta Beach, a relatively small percentage of the material that should be removed to maintain adequate depths in this quiet water area for small craft. In anticipation of this ongoing need, the joint powers agency BEACON (Beach Erosion Authority for Clean Oceans and Nourishment) has submitted an application to the Division of Boating and Waterways on behalf of Santa Barbara, Ventura, and Channel Islands Harbors for funds to dredge the West Beach area and similar areas on the other harbors. This multi-million dollar grant application is currently under review. If BEACON is successful and the grant is awarded, funds would be available in July 2018. If the grant funds are not awarded, the Waterfront will have to consider other funding sources to eventually remove excess sand from this quiet water area.

Prepared by: Karl Treiberg, Waterfront Facilities Manager