

# CITY OF SANTA BARBARA WATERFRONT DEPARTMENT

## MEMORANDUM

**Date:** January 21, 2021  
**To:** Harbor Commission  
**From:** Mike Wiltshire, Waterfront Director  
**Subject:** **Harbor Operations Report**

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### **“PARADELESS” PARADE OF LIGHTS**

The COVID-19 Pandemic was the cause for the cancellation of most of the usual Parade of Lights festivities like fireworks and Santa’s Village, but, with a little ingenuity, Waterfront Department staff was able to save one beloved aspect of the event - the vessel lights contest.

This year, staff made the contest virtual so there were no crowds and vessels didn’t even have to leave their slips to participate. Staff walked the docks and photographed all 25 vessels. Instead of the traditional in-person judges, staff posted the photos online and made it possible for the public to judge and score the entries. Roughly 900 people voted!

This year’s first place award winners included:

<u>Category:</u>	<u>First Place Winning Vessel:</u>
Commercial Fishing	<i>Perseverance</i>
Commercial Other	<i>Scrub a Dub</i>
Sailboat	<i>Natural Mystic</i>
Power Boat	<i>Coconut</i>

*Natural Mystic* earned Grand Prize honors, taking a gift pack valued at approximately \$1000.00.

This year, staff was able to secure a \$4,000.00 sponsorship from T-Mobile and dispersed those funds through purchased gift cards from Harbor and Wharf businesses to be used as prizes.

A huge thank you to all who participated. A special thank you also goes to Chris Bell, Administrative Analyst with the Waterfront Department, who worked tirelessly to promote and organize a very creative and successful event!

### **SAFETY EQUIPMENT FOR COMMERCIAL FISHERMEN**

The County of Santa Barbara has established the Fisheries Enhancement Fund (FEF) to help offset the impact cause by offshore oil and gas facilities. Based on impacts to commercial fishing identified in Environmental Impact Report (EIR) documents prepared for individual oil and gas projects in Santa Barbara County, a condition of approval requires

each applicant to contribute to the Fisheries Enhancement Fund. The Fisheries Enhancement Fund, a 'mitigation' fund, is designed to provide mitigation for project-specific impacts and cumulative impacts to affected fisheries. The fundamental target of the Enhancement Fund is the affected commercial fisherman.

Currently, the Safety Equipment Reimbursement Program is the only program that is being funded. Please note, in 2021, the County has updated and increased the amounts to be reimbursed for certain equipment.

If you have any comments or questions, please contact Kathy Pfeifer, Planner with the County of Santa Barbara, at [kathypm@co.santa-barbara.ca.us](mailto:kathypm@co.santa-barbara.ca.us) and (805) 568-2507.

## **HEAL THE OCEAN SETS SIGHTS ON GROUNDED VESSELS**

Previously reported at the November 2020 Harbor Commission meeting, the sailing vessel *Peaceful Warrior* went aground November 7, 2020, between East Beach and Butterfly Beach – just outside of City of Santa Barbara property line. The vessel remained on the beach for approximately one month and began to break apart during a large surf event. The Santa Barbara Waterfront Department was contacted by Hillary Hauser, Executive Director of Heal the Ocean, and was informed that Heal the Ocean would be taking action to have the vessel removed from the coastline. Within 24 hours, vessel *Peaceful Warrior* was salvaged by MarBorg Industries. The associated cost was paid with funds through the Johnson Ohana Charitable Foundation, as well as Heal the Ocean.

Special thanks to Hillary Hauser with Heal the Ocean, and Brian Borgatello with MarBorg Industries, for their continued support toward keeping our ocean and beaches clean.

## **EXXONMOBIL CREW BOAT USE AT CITY PIER UPDATE**

Previously reported at the October 2020 Harbor Commission meeting, ExxonMobil has been actively conducting crew exchanges from the City Pier. There have been no issues reported associated with their crew exchange operations. Additionally, Beacon West (formerly Venoco, Inc.) and Halliburton has approached staff with a similar request for personnel crew exchanges at the City Pier. Beacon West has not pursued use of the City Pier facility at this time and is currently using the Goleta Pier for their crew exchange. Halliburton is currently looking at options of using the City Pier, but was encouraged to use other locations so as not to oversubscribe the area currently being used by ExxonMobil and the public. Staff will update Harbor Commission as these companies continue to seek out alternative crew exchange locations while negotiations continue with use of Ellwood Pier.