

CITY OF SANTA BARBARA WATERFRONT DEPARTMENT

MEMORANDUM

Date: March 18, 2021
To: Harbor Commission
From: Mike Wiltshire, Waterfront Director
Subject: **Director's Report**

CORONAVIRUS UPDATE

Since the last Harbor Commission meeting on February 18, 2021 there have not been many significant changes with respect to COVID and the Waterfront. Although we seem to be trending in the right direction, Santa Barbara County still remains in the Purple (Widespread) tier. The Statewide *Blueprint for a Safer Economy* program sets County's tiers based on metrics derived from case rate, testing positivity rate, and health equity. Under this guidance restrictions continue to remain in place on a number of Waterfront tenants including:

- Restaurants can open for outdoor dining only
- Museums/Aquariums can open with outdoor service only
- Wineries can open for outdoor service only
- Retail/charters can open at 25% capacity

It is anticipated that Santa Barbara County could move into the Red (Substantial) tier in the near future if case numbers continue to improve. This would further loosen restrictions on some Waterfront tenants and allow for:

- 25% indoor dining at restaurants
- 25% indoor capacity at museums/aquariums
- 50% capacity at retail/charters

Additionally, the County continues with the vaccine rollout and has administered roughly 110,000 doses to the roughly 450,000 Santa Barbara County residents. As a result of requiring two doses, roughly 8% of the County has been fully vaccinated to-date.

In support of increasing access to COVID testing, the Waterfront will host the County mobile COVID testing bus for two-weeks from March 15, 2021 through March 26, 2021. The mobile testing unit will be located in the Cabrillo West Parking lot near the Cabrillo Pavilion. Testing is free but reservations must be made online at lhi.care/covidtesting or by calling 2-1-1.

EMERGENCY WORK ON DESALINATION INTAKE

You may have noticed a large barge working about a mile off the coast just east of Stearns Wharf during the last week of February and first week of March. The Waterfront Department certainly did, and received a number of questions and comments.

This barge was required to perform maintenance and repair work to the City's desalination plant intake equipment. The sea water intake for the Charles Meyer Desalination Plant is located on the sea floor about a mile off coast. The two large pumps that pump sea water to the on-land desalination facility failed and needed to be repaired. These repairs required coordination with the Waterfront Department, Public Works, and various contractors to remove large pieces of equipment to be serviced offsite.

The desalination plant is a critical piece of Santa Barbara's water supply portfolio with the ability to generate roughly 3-million gallons of fresh drinking water per day. This represents roughly 30% of the City's demand. The shore side infrastructure is located on Yanonali Street right near the El Estero Water Resource Center. An underground pipe runs from there all the way out to the ocean intake location which is where this work was taking place.

TENTATIVE AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

- Air Pollution Control District Presentation

Prepared by: Mike Wiltshire, Waterfront Director