

# CITY OF SANTA BARBARA WATERFRONT DEPARTMENT

## MEMORANDUM

**Date:** June 17, 2021  
**To:** Harbor Commission  
**From:** Mike Wiltshire, Waterfront Director  
**Subject:** **Director's Report**

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### **CORONAVIRUS UPDATE**

Since the last Harbor Commission meeting on May 20, 2021 there has been continued improvement with COVID case count along with an overall optimism leading into summer. Santa Barbara County moved into the Yellow (Minimal) tier, which is the least restrictive tier within the four tier system which further reduces restrictions on Waterfront tenants and business operation. Although, as of June 15, 2021 the State of California plans to move away from the tiered system in preparation of moving back to normal under the "Beyond the Blueprint" program outlined by the California Department of Public Health (CDPH).

What will change on June 15<sup>th</sup>:

- Capacity and distancing restrictions will be lifted for most businesses and activities
- Indoor mega events (greater than 5,000) will have increased safety requirements.
- Outdoor mega events (greater than 10,000) will have increased safety requirements.
- Detailed guidance on mega events can be found on CDPH website.

How the June 15<sup>th</sup> re-opening will affect the Waterfront:

- Restaurant tenants may return to regular operations
- Museums and aquariums may return to regular operations
- Retail and charters may return to regular operations
- State masking guidelines will still be in place per CDPH

Additionally, the Waterfront office is planning to reopen the front counter for in-person service on June 15<sup>th</sup>. Staff has implemented a number of safety and social distancing protocols to minimize risk for both staff and the public. As our front lobby and stairway are fairly small, we ask for the cooperation and patience from the public as we get used to a few new processes which include limiting the number of people in the lobby and on the front stairwell.

### **FOURTH OF JULY UPDATE**

The Fourth of July fireworks, and associated celebration, has been a time honored tradition put on by the Waterfront Department. Due to COVID, last year's fireworks show and celebration had to be cancelled. We are optimistic that this year could be different. As conditions improve, it is seeming very likely that this year's show will go on with a few minor changes.

In anticipation of the potential for a fireworks celebration the Waterfront Department awarded a contract to Garden State Fireworks, Inc. on May 18, 2021 in the amount of \$60,500. This includes \$55,000 for the Fourth of July show as well as \$5,500 for the December Parade of Lights show. The Fourth of July show is planned for 20-minutes, which is the same sized program as previous years. The Waterfront Department will be coordinating with Police, Fire, and Parks and Recreation Departments to arrange for increased trash receptacles, portable restrooms, and closure of Cabrillo Blvd between State and Castillo as in previous years.

Although we anticipate a fantastic fireworks show, there will be some modifications to the event. Some of the changes to the event include:

- No bandstand or live music
- No food trucks or vending of any sort
- No bleachers/grandstand on Stearns Wharf
- Signage promoting vaccinations, masks, and social distancing per the CDPH
- Providing of masks for any members of the public who needs them

We look forward to welcoming back the show and urge attendees to be safe, responsible, and considerate.

#### **TENTATIVE AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS**

- Election of Chair & Vice Chair (August Meeting)
- Fourth of July Event Recap (August Meeting)
- Commission Committee Assignments (August Meeting)
- East Beach Mooring Permit Update
- Waterfront Municipal Code Update
- Insurance Requirements for Vessels in Santa Barbara Harbor

Prepared by: Mike Wiltshire, Waterfront Director