

CITY OF SANTA BARBARA WATERFRONT DEPARTMENT

MEMORANDUM

Date: September 16, 2021
To: Harbor Commission
From: Mike Wiltshire, Waterfront Director
Subject: **Director's Report**

CRUISE SHIP PROGRAM UPDATE

Over the years, the City has operated a successful cruise ship program, which has been touted for providing significant positive economic impacts to the community, and Waterfront Department, while strategically minimizing impacts by scheduling visits only on shoulder seasons and often mid-week. Multiple City Departments, Waterfront tenants, Visit Santa Barbara, and the Chamber of Commerce all work together to seamlessly manage the visiting guests. Overall, this program has been a huge success.

Due to COVID, we haven't had a cruise ship visit since March of 2020. With a continued rise in COVID cases, and uncertainty, the City has made the decision to continue the suspension of cruise ship visits through March 2022. This will result in the cancellation of 14 previously scheduled ship visits between September and December of this year. This will give us time to see how COVID unfolds as well as work with the industry and stakeholders to ensure we can bring this program back safely and effectively.

Overall, the Waterfront has received positive response from the community, and City Council, regarding the continued suspension of cruise ships, although some from the business community, along with a couple cruise passengers, have expressed disappointment.

The Waterfront will continue to work with the cruise industry, CDC, local health authorities, and our community to evaluate when is the right time to reinstate the cruise ship program safely. There is continued demand from the cruise lines and the Waterfront Department is continuing to schedule visits further out in 2022 and 2023. The Waterfront Department is optimistic that Santa Barbara will return as a premier destination for cruise ships as conditions with COVID improve. As of now, the next scheduled cruise ship visit is March 10, 2022.

TENTATIVE AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

- Waterfront Municipal Code Update
- Clean Marina Program Update
- Insurance Requirements For Vessels In Harbor

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- Capital Improvement Plan
- Annual Dredging Update
- Waterfront Parking Permit Sales

Prepared by: Mike Wiltshire, Waterfront Director