

WATER-PROPELLED VESSELS IN NEWPORT HARBOR

PURPOSE

The City Council supports recreational and commercial activity within Newport Harbor that preserves and contributes to the charm and character of the harbor. Quality regulations protect the interests of all users of Newport Harbor including recreational and commercial boaters, visitors, and residents.

The City Council finds that specific recreational and commercial activities may create noise and safety concerns that detract from the unique environment for other harbor users and waterfront properties.

Recreational and commercial vessels powered or maneuvered by means of mechanical water propulsion above the surface of the water have the potential to disproportionately impact the use and enjoyment of other harbor users, and if left unregulated create potential health, safety and welfare issues. To ensure safe and enjoyable access to all users of Newport Harbor, the City Council has determined that water-propelled vessels operated above the surface of the water should be regulated and restricted.

Newport Beach Municipal Code Section 17.20.060, or any successor statute, prohibits recreational and commercial vessels powered or maneuvered by means of mechanical water propulsion above the surface of the water, unless authorized under a permit issued by the Harbor Resources Manager, or his or her designee. The intent of this policy is to provide additional guidance to the Harbor Resources Manager, or his or her designee, for the issuance of a permit to a commercial operator for the use of these unique vessels in Newport Harbor.

POLICY

- A. The Harbor Resources Manager, or his or her designee, may issue up to one (1) permit for a commercial operator to operate a vessel(s) powered or maneuvered by means of mechanical water propulsion above the surface of the water in Newport Harbor. This policy does not require the Harbor Resources Manager, or his or her designee, to issue a permit.
- B. No permit shall be issued to a non-commercial operator to operate a vessel powered or maneuvered by means of mechanical water propulsion above the surface of the water in Newport Harbor.

- C. The Harbor Resources Manager, or his or her designee, shall issue a Request for Proposals (“RFP”) for the selection of a commercial operator under this policy. When reviewing RFP responses, the Harbor Resources Manager, or his or her designee, shall consider the operating history, safety record, compliance with applicable laws, and financial stability of the commercial operator, in addition to any other factors the Harbor Resources Manager, or his or her designee, deems relevant. A new RFP shall be issued no less than once every five (5) years, or as otherwise directed by the Harbor Resources Manager, or his or her designee.

Adopted – May 26, 2015