

City of Newport Beach

Harbor Commission Purpose & Charter

Newport Harbor supports numerous recreational and commercial activities, waterfront residential communities and scenic and biological resources. The Harbor Commission's charge under Section 713 of the Newport Beach City Charter is to advise the City Council on the diverse uses of Newport Harbor and its waterfront. The Charter specifies:

There shall be a City Harbor Commission of seven members which shall have the power and duty to:

- (a) Advise the City Council on all matters relating to proposed harbor improvements and the use of Newport Harbor.
- (b) Advise the City Council on all matters pertaining to the use, control, operation, promotion, and regulation of all vessels within Newport Harbor.
- (c) Approve, conditionally approve, or disapprove applications on all permits where the City of Newport Beach Municipal Code assigns the authority for the decision to the Harbor Commission.
- (d) Make recommendations to the City Council for the adoption of regulations and programs necessary for the ongoing implementation of the goals, objectives, and policies of the Harbor and Bay Element of the General Plan.
- (e) Advise the City Council, Planning Commission and City Manager on land use and property development applications referred to the Harbor Commission by the City Council, Planning Commission, or the City Manager.
- (f) Serve as an appellate and reviewing body for decisions on permits and other harbor-related administrative matters where the City of Newport Beach Municipal Code assigns such authority to the Harbor Commission.
- (g) Perform such other duties relating to Newport Harbor as the City Council may require. (As amended effective December 14, 2020)

Harbor Commission – Objectives

The following objectives are intended to support the mission of the Harbor Area Management Plan and the two most essential responsibilities of the Harbor Commission: (1) Ensuring the long-term welfare of Newport Harbor for all residential, recreational, and commercial users; (2) Promoting Newport Harbor as a preferred and welcoming destination for visitors and residents alike.

These updated objectives are subject to the review and approval of the Commission, and final approval by the Newport Beach City Council. Harbor Commission ad hoc committees, as established by the Commission, bear principal responsibility for coordinating the Commission's efforts, along with staff support, in achieving these Objectives.

City of Newport Beach - Harbor Commission Current Objectives

Current Objectives	Functional Area
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Conduct an annual review of Title 17 and recommend updates to the City Council where necessary. (Yahn) 2. Conduct an annual review of the Marine Activities Permits and recommend updates thereto as necessary. 3. Work with City Staff to bring all onshore and offshore Mooring Permittees permit forms current and properly on file. (Beer, Cunningham) 4. Evaluate current Harbor Department Operations to determine if the department is structured properly to meet all responsibilities of the Harbor on a daily basis. 	<p>1. Harbor Operations (Yahn)</p> <p><i>Matters pertaining to the Management, Policies, Codes, Regulations, and Enforcement.</i></p>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Study and provide recommendations to the transfer permit policy for onshore and offshore moorings. (Beer, Cunningham) 2. Work with City Staff on an update of the market rent to be charged for onshore and offshore moorings. (Beer, Cunningham) 3. Evaluate the current mooring fields and provide a recommendation for new guidelines that better define rows and fairways to improve navigation, safety, and optimization of space within the mooring fields. (Beer) 4. Review the On-shore mooring vessel specifications providing a long-term plan with the goal of insuring adequate spacing between moorings, residential docks, and street ends. (Cunningham, Scully) 5. Evaluate options for additional City Moorings and/or Multi Vessel Mooring Systems (MVMS) for temporary use by visiting mariners or long-term mooring permittees. (Williams) 6. Complete evaluation for establishing day moorings off Big Corona beach and harbor moorings. (Williams) 	<p>2. Harbor Viability (Beer)</p> <p><i>Matters pertaining to Assets, Amenities, and Access.</i></p>

Current Objectives	Functional Area
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Support staff on the rehabilitation of the current public floats and gangways including areas of the harbor that could benefit with additional public access. 2. Evaluate and identify the responsibilities and obligations of the city for additional safety vessels/equipment that may be added to the Harbor in the future. 	<p>3. Harbor Infrastructure (Cunningham)</p> <p><i>Matters pertaining to Sea Walls, Sea Level Rise, Dredging, Docks, and Beaches.</i></p>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Evaluate enhancements and/or services to City amenities which will improve the operation and enjoyment of the Harbor. Additionally, identify new revenue generating offerings that would be administered through the Harbor Department. (Scully) 2. Evaluate and make recommendations for Lower Castaways. (Marston) 3. Continue the dialogue with representatives of the Harbor Charter Fleet industry, commercial vessel operators and rental concessionaires to: (1) promote best practices for all charter and commercial boat operations in Newport Harbor with particular attention to safety, operational support, speed, noise and pollution control/compliance and (2) evaluate (a) total number of vessels for hire on the harbor, (b) maximum passenger capacity for each vessel and in total, and (c) overall height of the superstructure of vessels for charter within the Harbor. (Williams) 	<p>4. Harbor Stakeholders (Scully)</p> <p><i>Matters pertaining to Residential, Recreational, and Commercial Users.</i></p>