



**CITY OF NEWPORT BEACH**

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Newport Beach, California 92660  
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February 28, 2024

**Mayor**

Will O'Neill

**Mayor Pro Tem**

Joe Stapleton

**Council Members**

Brad Avery

Noah Blom

Robyn Grant

Lauren Kleiman

Erik Kenneth Weigand

The Honorable Diane Dixon  
California State Assembly  
State Capitol  
P.O. Box 942849  
Sacramento, CA 94249-0072

**Re: Support for AB 3153: Emissions standards: marine vessels: exemption.**

Dear Assemblymember Dixon,

As Mayor of the City of Newport Beach, I write to express the City's support for AB 3153, a bill that would exempt certain vessels from burdensome environmental regulation, including the Balboa Island Ferry.

Privately owned by the same family since its inception, the 100-year Balboa Island Ferry is considered a community asset to those who live, visit or commute through Newport Beach. As the only ferry service providing transit across Newport Harbor, the ferry is an essential traffic circulation element in coastal Orange County. It currently carries approximately 1.5 million passengers and about 350,000 cars across Newport Harbor each year. Combined, the Balboa Island Ferry's three boats use an annual average of just 23 gallons of high-grade diesel fuel per day, significantly less than the estimated 64,000 gallons of gasoline that would be used by the 350,000 cars that utilize the ferry each year to drive the distance between the Ferry's landings on the Balboa Peninsula and the Balboa Island.

The California Air Resources Board's (CARB) recently adopted zero emission regulations that will require all short-run ferries in California to convert to zero emission propulsion by December 2025. Meeting these new standards creates significant design and financial challenges for the Balboa Island Ferry. AB 3153 seeks to address these challenges by granting an exemption for short run ferries, including the Balboa Island Ferry, and will allow them to continue operating in their current capacities.

For these reasons, the City of Newport Beach supports AB 3153, and looks forward to working with your office to ensure this bill is signed into law.

Sincerely,

Mayor Will O'Neill  
City of Newport Beach

cc: Senator Janet Nguyen  
Newport Beach City Council