



**HARBOUR COMMISSION
MINUTES**

**Thursday, March 26, 2026
Meeting Room B-8
2000 Main Street
Huntington Beach, CA 92648**

CHRIS NIELSEN, Chair
VAN VU, Vice Chair
WILLIAM LARKIN, Board Member
KIMBERLEY MILLIGAN, Board Member
CRAIG SCHAUPPNER, Board Member
MEL WILLIAMS, Board Member
DIANE WOOD, Board Member

COUNCIL LIAISONS

PAT BURNS, Councilmember Liaison
GRACEY VAN DER MARK, Councilwoman Liaison

STAFF

ERIC MCCOY, Fire Chief
TREVOR MCDONALD, Marine Safety Division Chief
KEVIN JUSTEN, Senior Management Analyst

CALLED TO ORDER

Nielsen called the meeting to order at 5:03 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Nielsen led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

City Council Members Present: Burns

Commissioners Present: Larkin, Milligan, Nielsen, Schauppner, Vu, Williams

Commissioner Absent: Wood

Staff Present: Justen, McDonald, Villa

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There was one public comment: Amory Hanson reiterated his support for the Harbour Commission's proposed revisions to *Municipal Code Chapters 13.32, 13.36, 13.40, 13.44* as currently written.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Approval of Meeting Minutes – February 26, 2026

MOTION: A motion was made by Schauppner, seconded by Larkin, to approve the February 26, 2026, meeting minutes.

The motion carried by the following vote, 6-0:

AYES: Larkin, Milligan, Nielsen, Schauppner, Vu, Williams

NOES: None

SPECIAL REPORTS/PRESENTATIONS

Captain Kyle A. Caldwell, Commanding Officer of Naval Weapons Station Seal Beach

Captain Kyle A. Caldwell, assisted by USN Public Affairs Officer Gregg Smith, provided a background briefing and update on Naval Weapons Station Seal Beach. It included a *PowerPoint* presentation.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. *Infrastructure Ad Hoc Committee*

Williams provided a committee report, including progress on evaluation of the possibility of a regional permit process for bulkheads in the Harbour. He also submitted a summary handout. The committee will continue to evaluate this and report back to the Commission.

2. *Vessels and Watercraft Ad Hoc Committee*

Williams and Larkin mentioned various problems with Duffy rentals in the Harbour, including a recent incident reported in the Neighborhood Watch newsletter.

3. *Water Quality Ad Hoc Committee*

Schauppner said that the Coastkeepers had a successful Oyster shell string distribution event on the previous Sunday, with over 250 shell strings distributed. He also mentioned the Earth Day event on April 26, 2026 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. sponsored by the Huntington Harbour Yacht Club. In 2025, the City's Public Works Department and the Roomba vendor participated and he asked if they can do so again. Justen said he would follow-up with them and report back. Justen also gave an update on the Public Works Department evaluation on the possibility of a cutout basin in the Harbour for waste diversion.

STAFF COMMENTS

McDonald reported that the Marine Safety Division has been very busy with recruitments, promotions and academy training to prepare staff for the upcoming summer season. In Huntington Harbour there is a now a Lifeguard boat patrolling daily from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. He also said that they have been very busy and

there were 64 water rescues on the previous Wednesday. Justen said that he followed up on the biodiversity survey for Huntington Harbour and City Public Works staff said that they did not believe that one had been done, but is checking with Orange County Public Works to be sure. He also said that staff is requesting an Orange County Public Works Department representative to speak at the May or June Harbour Commission meeting on debris flow mitigation measures in the Harbour.

MEMBER COMMENTS

Milligan requested to be excused from the April Harbour Commission meeting. Wood sent a message thanking Sergeant Villa and Orange County Sheriff’s Department representatives for participating in the shell string distribution project.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: A motion was made by Vu, seconded by Williams, at 6:13 p.m. to adjourn to the regular meeting on April 23, 2026.

The motion carried by the following vote, 6-0:

AYES: Larkin, Milligan, Nielsen, Schauppner, Vu, Williams

NOES: None

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Harbour Commission will be on April 23, 2026, at a time and location to be announced.

NAVAL WEAPONS STATION SEAL BEACH BACKGROUND BRIEFING & UPDATE



HUNTINGTON BEACH HARBOUR COMMISSION
March 26, 2026

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 **NAVAL WEAPONS STATION SEAL BEACH**
Installation Statistics

- We serve a majority of the U.S. Pacific Fleet
- The only major weapons station port within 1,000 miles of the fleet concentration in San Diego

Land (acres)	5,256
Magazines	110
Ordnance Storage (sq. feet)	913,500
Railroad Track (miles)*	0
Roads (miles)	80
Local Economic Impact	\$168 Million/year (FY 17)
Personnel (civilian/military)	520/225 (+ 1100 reserve)

* Railroad system dismantled starting November 2025.

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NAVY MUNITIONS COMMAND PACIFIC

Unit Seal Beach Mission

We support the provision of ordnance services to Pacific Fleet operating forces. These services include:

- Storage of Navy and USMC ordnance.
- Pier-side munitions loading and unloading of Navy surface ships.
- Maintenance on some Navy weapons systems.

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NAVAL WEAPONS STATION SEAL BEACH

Environmental Stewardship

Our mission enhances natural resource conservation. We protect:

- The only National Wildlife Refuge in the LA Basin.
- An important coastal migratory stopover point for turtles, raptors, waterfowl, and shorebirds.
- A breeding stronghold for federal and state endangered species (Light-footed Ridgway's Rail, California Least Tern and Belding's Savannah Sparrow).
- Our agricultural out-lease program supports some of the last large-scale urban farming operations in Orange County.

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NAVAL WEAPONS STATION SEAL BEACH

Recent Updates

- Ammunition Pier Replacement Project Operational
- Additional Missile Magazines Constructed
- More Reserve Units
- Solar Power / Battery Project Complete
- Pacific Coast Highway Area Reutilization Project



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NAVAL WEAPONS STATION SEAL BEACH

Base Map



Magazine Construction

Navy Reserve Additions

PCH Reutilization Project

Ammo Pier Project

Solar / Battery Project

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NAVAL WEAPONS STATION SEAL BEACH

Ammunition Pier Project

- A replacement ammunition pier (approximately 1,100-foot by 125-foot).
- Dredging for a larger turning basin.
- A new and separate small boat access channel for civilian traffic to and from Huntington Harbour.
- Working to add Shore Power to pier.

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NAVAL WEAPONS STATION SEAL BEACH

Other Projects

Missile Magazine Construction

- Storage bunkers for Navy ship-launched missiles.
- Ten magazines recently completed, more planned.

Additional Reserve Units on Base

- Maritime Expeditionary Security Squadron Seven
 - Established April 2025. Eventually will add ~30 active duty Sailors + reservists.
- Requested move of Navy Reserve Center LA from Bell, CA facilities - Timeframe is still to be determined.
 - Would add ~35 more active duty and ~400 reservists.

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NAVAL WEAPONS STATION SEAL BEACH

Other Projects

Solar Power / Battery Backup System

- 12 megawatt solar power system with 16 megawatt-hour battery backup.
- Feeds community, not hooked into base grid.
- Base to receive electrical infrastructure improvements.

Pacific Coast Highway Area Reutilization

- Outlease of up to 27 acres near the corner of Seal Beach Boulevard and PCH.
- Primary goal is to support military family quality of life improvements.
- RFQ solicitation coming in Spring.

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NAVAL WEAPONS STATION SEAL BEACH

Anaheim Bay

- Occasional restricted area boater violations.
 - Working on Comprehensive Signage Plan.
- Working CFR Changes with Army Corps, Coast Guard.
 - Updated 33 CFR ~344.930 draft for public review soon.
 - Draft language lifts PWC restrictions. Hand-powered watercraft restrictions remain.
- Dredging Plan taking place in phases.
 - Initial phase in entrance channel, completed March 3.
 - Bathymetric survey next.
 - Follow-on Maintenance Dredging TBD, likely in FY 27.

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NAVAL WEAPONS STATION SEAL BEACH

Rules of the Road Reminder

- **At sea or in port, stay at least 100 yards away from any Navy warship, and as far as possible from high-value units (carriers, submarines).**
 - **Naval Vessel Protection Zone info - 33 CFR 165.2030**
- **Always monitor Channel 16 in the presence of Navy vessels.**
- **Immediately acknowledge and obey instructions from Navy units of any type.**
- **No Drones over or near military installations, or within 3,000 feet of Navy vessels.**

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QUESTIONS?

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Infrastructure Ad Hoc Committee Harbour Commission update

Commissioners: Williams, Larkin, and Vu

Introduction

Huntington Harbour bulkheads operate as a continuous structural system. Failure in one section affects neighboring properties and ultimately exposes the City to public safety and financial risk.

Problem

The current permitting process is fragmented, expensive, and slow. Residents often defer necessary repairs because the regulatory pathway is uncertain and duplicative.

Strategic Proposal

A Regional General Permit would create a clear, predictable process for maintenance-level repairs. This increases compliance, reduces long-term infrastructure risk, and supports environmental oversight.

Fiscal Responsibility

Having an RGP would protect the City's General Fund by stabilizing the waterfront property tax base for the future.

The ad hoc committee met on Wednesday March 18 to discuss the practicality of a Regional General Permit in Huntington Harbour and to research best practices from neighboring harbors.

On Monday March 22nd, the Ad Hoc Committee met with Ed Selish.

Biography – Edward Selish

Upon completing his college education he was employed by the City of Huntington Beach California Planning Department. In 1976 he was appointed Director of Planning and Environmental Resources. During his tenure he supervised the creation and adoption of the General Plan for the city of Huntington Beach, the writing and adoption of a new Zoning Code, the creation and adoption of the Local Coastal Plan, the writing and adoption of the City Sign Ordinance and administration of the city's Housing and Community Development Block Grant Program.

Mr. Selich was a member of the City of Newport Beach Planning Commission from July 1995 to June 2005, serving three terms as chairman. Mr. Selich was Mayor of the City of Newport Beach in 2008, 2009 and 2015. He has served on the city's Zoning Code Update Committee, General Plan Advisory Committee and Local Coastal Plan Advisory Committee among numerous other City committees. He was a member of the City's Economic Development Committee from 1995 to 2005 and Chairman from 1998 to 2005.

Meeting Highlights with Ed Selish

- Mr. Selish was instrumental in creating Newport Harbor's Regional General Permit (RGP54).
- RGP54 is issued by the US Army Corps of Engineers in coordination with the California Coastal Commission and Regional Water Quality Control Board.
- RGP54 is a streamlined permitting system covering Newport Harbor-wide maintenance and minor development activities
- Requires compliance with standard conditions, including construction methods, biological protection measures, and reporting
- RGP54 covers
 - Dock and Pier Work
 - Bulkhead / Seawall Work
 - Dredging and Sediment Management
 - Installation or modifications of moorings, floats, and gangways, and utility connections.
 - Additions to overwater structures
- RGP 54 is heavily conditioned around eelgrass protection, which is the primary ecological constraint in Newport Harbor:

How RGP54 Functions Operationally

- Property owner submits a simplified application to the City/Harbor Department
- Project is reviewed for conformance with RGP standards
- If compliant within RGP54 -> fast-track approval (weeks vs. many months/years)
- If outside limits of RGP54 -> requires individual permit pathway

RGP 54 is a comprehensive, multi-activity harbor permit that enables efficient maintenance and minor development by pre-approving standardized work under strict environmental controls. It serves as the benchmark model, shifting the process from a fragmented regulatory burden to a streamlined, programmatic system.