



## **HARBOUR COMMISSION MINUTES**

**Thursday, January 26, 2023  
Room B8, Lower Level  
2000 Main Street  
Huntington Beach, CA 92648**

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

### **COUNCIL LIAISON**

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

### **STAFF**

SCOTT HABERLE, Fire Chief  
ERIC DIETERMAN, Marine Safety Battalion Chief  
BONNIE TO, Principal Administrative Analyst  
KEVIN JUSTEN, Senior Administrative Analyst

### **CALLED TO ORDER**

VanVoorhis called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM.

### **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Led by VanVoorhis

### **ROLL CALL**

Commissioners Present: Larkin, Schauppner, VanVoorhis, Wood

Commissioner Absent: Milligan, Nielsen, Vu

Councilmember Liaisons Present: Burns, Van Der Mark

Staff Present: Eric McCoy, Eric Dieterman, Kevin Justen, Ashley Wysocki, Terry Tintle, Jimmy Hoang,

Devin Michaelis, , Michael Bartlett, Roman Altenbach, Chuck Johnson, Ron West

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no public comments.

## **CONSENT ITEMS**

- A) Approval of Meeting Minutes – December 1, 2022

**MOTION:** A motion was made by Schauppner, seconded by Larkin to approve meeting minutes dated December 1, 2022.

The motion carried by the following vote, 4-0:

AYES: Larkin, Schauppner, VanVoorhis, Wood

NOES: None

## **SPECIAL REPORTS/PRESENTATIONS**

### Report on Anaheim Bay Bridge

Justen introduced a presentation on the Anaheim Bay Bridge, providing an overview of when it was built, rebuilt and the various jurisdictions with responsibility for it. Tintle explained the public works issues and challenges and said that since Caltrans has responsibility for the infrastructure City staff usually provides referrals for any maintenance needs and public requests. Bartlett went over marine safety issues, along with Johnson and West. Huntington Beach Marine Safety staff inform and educate the public when there are violations, such as fishing from the bridge or jumping off it. Bartlett said that the overwhelming majority of the time members of the public comply with Marine Safety staff requests. Johnson added that the major of the concerns of the Sheriff's Department have to do with public safety. He said that the Navy will be installing additional signage and higher fencing. VanVoorhis noted that there are no 5 MPH signs around the bridge and Johnson responded that he has spoken to Navy representatives regarding this and they are attempting to address the need for no trespassing, no fishing and 5 MPH signs, but noted that any buoys with signs must also be approved by the U.S. Coast Guard and added to navigational charts. Altenbach said that the law enforcement issues are addressed by Seal Beach Police Department because this is their jurisdiction. On a few occasions, Huntington Beach Police Department has provided assistance with traffic mitigation on Pacific Coast Highway when there are accidents on the bridge. Larkin asked where the jurisdiction line is for the bridge and Altenbach provided a detailed description of where it is located. Larkin asked when the bridge would be rebuilt and Justen said he would find out if it is on the State's CIP schedule and report back.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### Public Safety Ad Hoc Committee

Schauppner noted that the Commission has requested that the issue paper on the Transnational Organized Crime Group (TOCG) be transmitted to the City Council, via the Intergovernmental Relations Committee (IRC). He asked when they will next meet and if this will be on their agenda. He also provided a detailed overview of the issues identified in the paper. Justen said he will be

contacting Shannon Levin, the Staff Liaison to the IRC, 10 days before the meeting and informing Commission members if it is on the agenda. Council Liaison Van Der Mark said that she serves on the IRC and looks forward to discussing this further with Commissioners at the February 15, 2023 meeting. VanVoorhis said that he recently saw an episode of the show *Law and Order* where crimes committed by TOCG were discussed. He noted that it is a nation-wide problem. Altenbach cited the challenges presented by federal and state laws regarding what local law enforcement can do related to visa violations and Johnson said that Senate Bill 54 is the law that restricts municipal law enforcement from taking action in this area.

Larkin asked about crime activity in the Harbour area over the last month and Altenbach said that there was one burglary, which is still under investigation, and one robbery of an elderly man. He also reported that the Police Department is unable to park unoccupied police cars in the Harbour area as a crime deterrent due to the resources required. The use of electronic signboards with crime prevention information in this area will continue. Wood asked about the possibility of having a police substation in the Harbour area and Altenbach responded that he would bring this up with his Police Captain and report back.

## ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

### 1. Harbour Report

Dieterman provided the Harbour Report, including a detailed explanation of the City's response to the recent storms. These efforts were divided into three elements: preparation, outreach and response. Dieterman explained each element and said that staff was able to address the many challenges presented by high surf, flooding, over seven (7) inches of rain, much debris flow and other difficult circumstances. Tintle explained the efforts of the Public Works Department, including building the protective sand berm on the beach and removing several tons of debris. He showed the Commission a number of photos of the debris and described the techniques used to remove it. To date over 400 cubic yards of debris has been removed and efforts are continuing. Larkin asked where the debris goes and Tintle explained that the removal process includes utilization of 40-yard containers from Republic Services, who hauls them away. Van Der Mark asked how many days were required to complete the removal and Tintle said removal has been ongoing since the January 6, 2023 storm, with the major removal efforts occurring right afterward. Wood asked if the City owns the heavy equipment used in debris removal and Tintle confirmed that it does. Schauppner asked if Tintle has viewed the video of the stormwater cleanup system used by Los Angeles County Public Works Department in Ballona Creek and if he has talked to them about it. Tintle said he viewed it and discussed it with Justen, but has not spoken to Los Angeles County representatives. Schauppner also asked how much it costs, to which Justen said it is over \$1 million. West added that the Company is called *Ocean Cleanup* and this approach is used in a number of countries, with some of the debris being recycled. Larkin said the City of Baltimore also uses this approach.

The water quality report was provided by Dieterman and he noted that since the Harbour Report was prepared the Orange County Health Care Agency released additional information, which includes water quality advisories for elevated bacteria levels in the Seabridge area, near the 11th Street rental beach area and within 300 feet off Coral Cay Beach. Justen said the advisory was just received and he would forward it to commissioners on the following day. VanVoorhis asked if there is a link on the Harbour Commission website to the water quality reports. Justen said there is a detailed section on water quality and it includes this link.

Justen provided an update on changes to the Harbour Commission website since the December

1, 2022 meeting. He also said that the link to the *Surf City Break* article on the CUBAR Odyssey trip to Mexico where surplus HBFD equipment was donated to fire departments would be added. He will also send the link to Commissioners. Finally, he explained the upgrade and branding of all City webpages. He said this would be completed in about two (2) months and is taking longer than initially anticipated due to the large site mapping effort, which involves condensing 15,000 web pages into 8,000.

## 2. Harbour Commission Strategic Plan

Justen gave an update on the Harbour Commission Strategic Plan, stating that three (3) of the 11 project objectives have been accomplished. He added that a fourth objective, the installation of location maps to Harbour beaches would be accomplished soon.

## 3. SUP Update

Wysocki provided an update on the standup paddleboard (SUP) and kayak vendor permits. She reported that the contract has been executed. It has a three (3) year term, with two (2) one (1) year options for extension. OEX is the authorized vendor.

## 4. Election of Harbour Commission Chair and Vice Chair

VanVoorhis nominated Schauppner for Chair and Milligan for Vice Chair of the Harbour Commission.

**MOTION:** A motion was made by Wood, seconded by Larkin for Schauppner to serve as Chair and Milligan to serve as Vice Chair of the Harbour Commission.

The motion carried by the following vote, 4-0:

AYES: Larkin, Schauppner, VanVoorhis, Wood

NOES: None

## STAFF COMMENTS

Justen said that he distributed parking passes to those present and reminded them to turn in the accompanying Vehicle Permit Application. He also reminded Commissioners of the February 16, 2023 Board, Commission, and Committee Member Reception and Onboarding Training. He said thus far three (3) Commissioners and four (4) staff members have expressed an interest in attending. VanVoorhis said that he would hope that all Commissioners would attend and Justen said he would contact the four (4) Members who have not signed up to see if they will do so. He also said he spoke with City CFO Rief regarding the amount of Tidelands revenue generated in the Harbour. She provided a financial report showing that it has averaged \$111,000 for each of the past five (5) years. She also referred him to her contact at State Lands Commission to request a breakdown by area. Justen said after a number of emails and phone calls he was able to speak to the Tidelands Agency Supervising Management Auditor, who said the detailed amount cannot be broken down this way. A discussion ensued regarding the nature of the revenue and how this information could be obtained. A consensus was that though it might be possible to obtain the breakdown by area, it would be very time consuming and might require expenditure for the public records request. Finally, Justen said that although Merid could not attend the meeting due to a scheduling conflict he wanted to provide a summary report on the

December 8, 2022 tour of the Harbour provided to the Industrial Environmental Coalition of Orange County (IECOC). Justen read Merid's summary report on the tour. Larkin asked what the next steps of the IECOC would be and Justen said that they meet monthly and Merid will continue to provide updates to the Commission. Larkin also asked if the Coalition would be pursuing similar measures to those taken by Newport Beach to protect their watershed. He said that these were very effective in improving water quality. Justen said he would provide these comments and recommendations to Merid. Wood asked if a similar Harbour tour could be provided for Commissioners and Justen said he would also follow up on this. Wysocki said there is an historical boat named the *Electra* moored in the Harbour at this time and she would provide the link to the website about the boat to Commissioners. She said it is over 100 years old and has a very interesting and colorful history.

### COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

VanVoorhis welcomed Burns and Van Der Mark as the new Councilmember Liaisons to the Harbour Commission. Van Der Mark thanked the Commission Members for all they do and said she looks forward to further discussing issues related to the Transnational Organized Crime Group at the February 15, 2023 meeting of the Intergovernmental Relations Committee. Burns also thanked Commissioners for their service. Schauppner thanked VanVoorhis for his service and leadership as Chair of the Commission. Wood asked if additional information about the City's sustainability initiative would be provided to the Commission and McCoy said this would be followed up on and reported back to the Commission. Wood also said that she thought that a number of the initiatives currently being pursued by the Harbour Commission would coincide with such an initiative.

### ADJOURNMENT

**MOTION:** A motion was made by Schauppner and seconded by Larkin at 6:07 p.m. to adjourn to the meeting on February 23, 2023.

The motion carried by the following vote, 4-0:

AYES: Larkin, Schauppner, VanVoorhis, Wood

NOES: None

The next regularly meeting of the Harbour Commission will be scheduled for February 23, 2023 and will be held at a location to be announced.



# HARBOUR COMMISSION REPORT



# HARBOUR COMMISSION REPORT

Anaheim Bay Bridge





# DESCRIPTION AND JURISDICTION

- Located on Pacific Coast Highway over Anaheim Bay
- Built – 1933, Replaced - 1967
- Jurisdiction for bridge infrastructure is the State of California – Caltrans
- Jurisdiction for waterway is County of Orange on inland side and U.S. Navy on ocean side
- Jurisdiction for law enforcement is Seal Beach Police Department





# ISSUES AND CHALLENGES

- Public Works:
  - Issues – Maintenance, graffiti removal, trash removal
  - Infrastructure and maintenance needs are addressed by Caltrans
  - City of Huntington Beach Public Works staff will make referrals, when necessary

# ISSUES AND CHALLENGES

- Marine Safety:
  - Issue - Access to Restricted Areas
    - Comments: Kayakers, jumpers, others accessing restricted areas can present a challenge
  - Issue – Illegal Fishing Underneath and Around Bridge
    - Comments: Fishing underneath and adjacent to bridge occurs, sometimes resulting in injuries
  - Issue – Waterway Navigation
    - Comments: Nighttime bridge lighting can be lacking, some sailboats have difficulty going under bridge
- OC Sheriff's Harbour Patrol Issues
  - Minimal challenges, narrow width can create "bottleneck" for large boats, kayakers/paddleboarders sometimes enter Naval Weapons Station due to strong currents in the area of the bridge

# ISSUES AND CHALLENGES

- Public Safety:
  - Issues – Traffic control, homelessness, other requests
  - Public safety needs are addressed by Seal Beach Police Department
  - Huntington Beach Police Department can provide assistance, if requested
  - Mutual aid assistance is rarely needed and has mostly been for traffic mitigation

# ISSUES AND CHALLENGES

- Questions?

# HARBOUR COMMISSION REPORT


Harbor Report



# STORM RESPONSE

- MARINE SAFETY
- Preparation
- Outreach
- Response




The Latest City Hall Community Improvements Public Safety

## SIGNIFICANT WEATHER SYSTEMS ANTICIPATED BEGINNING JANUARY 4, 2023

SurfCityBreak | Featured, Public Safety | January 4, 2023

### STORM ADVISORY



The City of Huntington Beach is expecting numerous significant weather systems bringing heavy rain, significant winds, and high surf beginning this evening and into the coming days. The City is advising residents in low-lying areas to prepare for the potential for localized flooding and to remain vigilant of hazardous storm conditions.

In anticipation, the City has deployed additional resources to assist residents and businesses with preparations.

Free sandbag fill stations are available to Huntington Beach residents and businesses at the following locations:

- Edison Community Center – 21377 Magnolia Street (Available 24/7)
- Warner Fire Station – 3831 Warner Avenue (Available 24/7)
- Huntington Beach Corporate Yard – 17371 Gothard Street (Available 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.)

Due to expected high tide and surf, staff is conducting ongoing inspection and reinforcement of the berm located in Sunset Beach to safeguard residents and property. At this time, there are no beach or pier closures in effect. Marine Safety will be monitoring beach and pier conditions and will issue closures, if necessary.

Avoid flood channels and driving or entering water of unknown depth, as moving water can quickly sweep you and your vehicle away. To report severe flooding, please call (714) 536-5921. To report downed trees, please call (714) 536-5480.

We wish to remind everyone to call 9-1-1 ONLY if you are experiencing a life-threatening emergency. If you require public safety assistance, but are not experiencing a life-threatening emergency, please call (714) 960-8811.

### Latest Stories

# STORM CLEANUP

- PUBLIC WORKS
- Summary Report











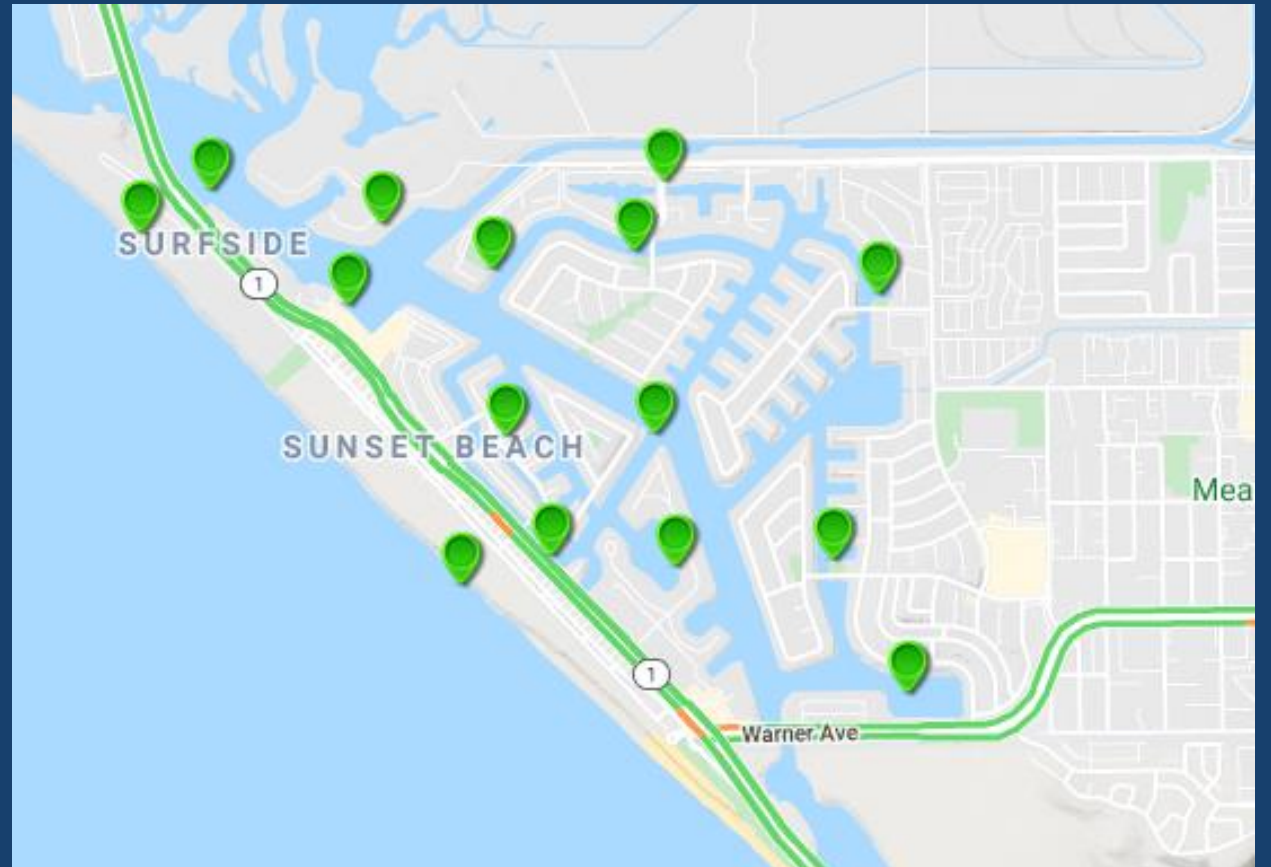






# WATER QUALITY REPORT

- Currently no advisories or closures in effect
- OC Healthcare Agency
  - <https://ocbeachinfo.com/>
- Water quality testing
  - <https://ocbeachinfo.com/faq/>





# HARBOUR COMMISSION WEBSITE UPDATE

Kevin Justen



# HARBOUR COMMISSION WEBSITE

- Features Added Since December Meeting:
  - Replaced *Harbour Commission Monthly Summary Report* with October version
  - Added October minutes to agenda website, including *Harbour Report*
  - Added January meeting agenda
  - Removed information from USN regarding visiting Huntington Harbour during the holidays
  - Removed Huntington Harbour Boat Parade pictures
- Features To Be Added:
  - Link to article on trip with donation of HBFD equipment to departments in Mexico
  - Additional Information on Harbour Commission Strategic Plan Projects, as they occur
  - Upgrade and rebranding of entire City website, including Harbour Commission site

# STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE

## Harbour Commission 2022/24 Strategic Plan

GOAL: Safety					
DATE DUE	ASSIGNMENT	STATUS			COMMENTS
		DONE	ON TARGET	REVISED	
December 31, 2022	Refine safety protocols for kayaks and stand-up paddleboards.	X			Safety flyer designed and distributed through vendors, website, social media; MS staffing on rental beach; article in City newsletter; PSA complete.
March 31, 2023	Review current Harbor municipal codes and advise on any changes or updates needed in regards to Harbour safety and water quality.		X		All related municipal code sections provided to Harbour Commissioners for review on 8/1/22.
Ongoing	Partner with County, State and Federal agencies to ensure public safety and participate in and provide public safety programming.		X		Police Department continues to collaborate with surrounding and regional agencies and has taken a number of related actions, including extensive coordination with OCSD assigned to Harbour.

# STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE

## Harbour Commission 2022/24 Strategic Plan

GOAL: Infrastructure					
DATE DUE	ASSIGNMENT	STATUS			COMMENTS
		DONE	ON TARGET	REVISED	
June 30, 2024	Explore feasibility of obtaining California State Lands revenue from Harbour residents and businesses with docks and decks over the main and midway channels and report back to the Harbour Commission. In doing so, analyze expanding City of Huntington Beach control of Huntington Harbour and consider steps to enhance revenues dedicated to public safety, public access and infrastructure improvements.		X		
December 31, 2022	Follow-up projects to Harbour Jurisdiction Study.	X			Provided detailed status report on 10 project recommendations at the October 27, 2022 meeting.

# STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE

## Harbour Commission 2022/24 Strategic Plan

GOAL: Usage					
DATE DUE	ASSIGNMENT	STATUS			COMMENTS
		DONE	ON TARGET	REVISED	
September 30, 2022	Add maps to the existing sign posts on harbor beaches.			x	Location maps currently being developed. Will require additional time for design and installation.
December 31, 2022	Improve Harbour security issues (robbery, home invasion, boat damage/theft, etc.) and set up community meetings on home safety.	x			Two community meetings have occurred and Police Department has taken a number of actions to address residential security, as reported at June 2022 meeting; website information added; issue paper presented to Intergovernmental Relations Committee.
March 31, 2023	Create liaisons with surrounding jurisdictions so that everyone involved is informed and moving in the right direction (Orange County, Seal Beach, Bolsa Chica Wetlands, etc.).		x		Outreach to NB Harbor Master and OC Coast Keepers has occurred; will schedule with other organizations.
Ongoing	Promote more community and social events, such as Harbour summer fair, bbq, concerts, etc.		x		Promoted Teamaddi Paddle Out; will promote additional events as they are scheduled.

# STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE

## Harbour Commission 2022/24 Strategic Plan

GOAL: Environmental					
DATE DUE	ASSIGNMENT	STATUS			COMMENTS
		DONE	ON TARGET	REVISED	
June 30, 2023	Recommend to the Huntington Beach City Council to request Orange County Public Works to conduct a feasibility study for a trash collection system for Edinger and Wintersburg Channels.		X		Presentation will be provided at Commission meeting.
June 30, 2024	Working with Orange County Parks and Public Works, City of Huntington Beach Public Works and related agencies, develop and implement a plan to reduce upstream pollution flowing into Huntington Beach watershed from upstream neighbors, thus improving water quality and marine habitat.		X		Bolsa Chica and Huntington Harbor Trash and Debris Task Force has been formed and meets quarterly; trash mitigation plan has been drafted.



# STAND UP PADDLEBOARD/KAYAK UPDATE

Ashley Wysocki