

Newport Harbor Commission Objectives FY 2014 - 2015

As approved by the City Council on January 27, 2015

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

These objectives are subject to the review and approval of the Commission, and final approval of the Newport Beach City Council. Principal responsibility for the achievement of each objective is assigned to a subcommittee of the Harbor Commission, as noted below. The chair of each subcommittee is shown in italics. Progress towards these objectives will be reported, when appropriate, by the chair of each subcommittee during regular meetings of the Harbor Commission.

Ensuring the Long Term Welfare of Newport Harbor

1) Support Harbor Resources staff in achieving final interagency approval of the Newport Shallow Waters Eelgrass Mitigation Plan, facilitating a new Regional General Permit (RGP 54). The purpose of the Plan is to enable a more efficient and cost-effective RGP 54 permitting process for dock maintenance dredging through an ecosystem-based approach to sustaining and promoting the population of shallow water eelgrass in all areas of Lower Newport Bay where such eelgrass is found. ***[West, McIntosh, Avery]***

2) Complete the development of recommendations for the best public use of Lower Castaways, the last remaining undeveloped city-owned waterfront property. Collaborate with City Staff and the Parks, Beaches and Recreation Commission in evaluating RFP-solicited design proposals for presentation to the City Council. ***[Girling, Avery]***

3) Secure California Department of Recreation approval for a proposed amendment to the Harbor Code which would grant an exception to the harbor speed limit for sanctioned sail racing and human powered racing events. With such authorization recommend the proposed amendment to the City Council for enactment. ***[Blank, West]***

4) Create a forum for dialogue with representatives of the harbor Charter Fleet to promote the development of a shared vision of charter boat operation standards to be achieved collaboratively by 2020, with particular emphasis on environmental considerations. [**Avery, Girling, Kenney**]

5) Collaborate with the Marine Committee of the Newport Beach Chamber of Commerce in the development of strategy recommendations to support the preservation of water-dependent commercial and recreational activities as prescribed in the Harbor Area Management Plan and the Harbor and Bay Element of the General Plan. [**Stapleton, Girling, Blank**]

Promoting Newport Harbor as a Preferred and Welcoming Destination

6) Complete the evaluation of public moorage and anchorage alternatives. Specifically address the concept of an anchorage in the Turning Basin such as the one used on a temporary basis during the 2012 Lower Bay dredging project and the suggestion of day moorings off Big Corona beach. [**Avery, McIntosh**]

7) Update and publish a 3rd edition of *The Complete Cruising Guide to Newport Harbor*, first published by the Harbor Commission in 2010. [**West, Kenney, Stapleton**]

8) Investigate the availability and sufficiency of launch ramp facilities in the harbor and report findings to the Commission. Present specific recommendations to the City Council, as appropriate. [**McIntosh, Girling**]

9) Support the Harbor Resources Staff and City Council in the ongoing evaluation of a potential Harbor Waterbus Service. [**West, Girling, Stapleton**]

10) Develop and present to City Council the Commission's policy recommendations concerning the operation of water propelled vessels in Newport Harbor. [**Kenney, McIntosh**]