

**MINUTES OF THE
REDONDO BEACH HARBOR COMMISSION MEETING
OCTOBER 27, 2020**

A. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

A Virtual special meeting of the Harbor Commission was held pursuant to Executive Order N-29-20 issued by Governor Newsom on March 17, 2020 and was called to order by Chair Light at 6:30 p.m.

B. ROLL CALL

Commissioners Present: Bauer, Callahan, Carlson, Chrzan, Light, Kilroy, Walters

Officials Present: Stephen Proud, W.E.D. Director
Laurie Koike, W.E.D.
Andy Winje, City Engineer
Geraldine Trivedi, Public Works Engineer
Antonio Gardea, Senior Planner
Elizabeth Hause, W.E.D.

C. SALUTE TO THE FLAG

Commissioner Kilroy led the assembly in the salute to the flag.

D. APPROVAL OF ORDER OF AGENDA

Motion by Commissioner Callahan, seconded by Commissioner Kilroy to approve the order of the agenda, as presented. Motion approved, unanimously, by roll call vote.

E. BLUE FOLDER ITEMS – ADDITIONAL BACK UP MATERIALS

E.1. For Blue Folder Documents Approved at the Harbor Commission Meeting

W.E.D. Director Stephen Proud noted Blue Folder Items related to Item No. J.1.

Motion by Commissioner Callahan, seconded by Commissioner Kilroy to receive and file the Blue Folder Items. Motion approved, unanimously, by roll call vote.

F. CONSENT CALENDAR

F.1. APPROVAL OF AFFIDAVIT OF POSTING FOR THE HARBOR COMMISSION MEETING OF OCTOBER 27, 2020

W.E.D. Director Proud announced there were no eComments or emails received from the public.

Motion by Commissioner Kilroy, seconded by Vice Chair Carlson, to approve the Consent Calendar, as presented. Motion approved, unanimously, by roll call vote.

G. EXCLUDED CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS - None

H. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

H.1 For eComments and Emails Received from the Public

W.E.D. Director Proud announced this item was removed from the agenda as this is a special meeting of the Harbor Commission.

I. ITEMS CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS AGENDAS - None

J. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION PRIOR TO ACTION

J.1. DISCUSSION REGARDING THE DREDGING OF KING HARBOR

CONTACT: STEPHEN PROUD, WATERFRONT & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

W.E.D. Director Proud presented details of the Sampling and Analysis Plan Report for the King Harbor Maintenance Dredging project addressing background, previous approvals by the City Council and efforts to coordinate dredging with breakwater repairs and deferred to Kimbrie Gobbi, of Wood Consultants, to continue with the report.

Ms. Gobbi continued with the report addressing the Sediment Sampling and Characterization Study; noted it focused entirely on navigation within King Harbor; discussed dredging areas, proposed placement of dredging materials, regulatory requirements, project summary, dredge area sampling, chemical and physical analyses, grain size results, chemical results summary, conclusions, the beneficial reuse of sediment placement in the harbor, consideration of direct beach placement, biological concerns related to Redondo Submarine Canyon and a summary of responses to regulatory comments.

Chair Light asked about the Commission's options as it considers this item and W.E.D. Director Proud reported the City has submitted its application to the Army Corps of Engineers; stated the Army Corps of Engineers has opened the comment period and the Commission expressed an interest in reviewing the dredging project and noted that although the Commission could submit comments if it feels it is necessary, he recommended taking the information and receive and file it. Chair Light felt the Commission's input should have been considered prior to submitting the application and asked why the hand-launch boat ramp is not being considered. W.E.D. Director Proud explained it was not considered under the scope of work and staff does not feel the application should be amended to include it. He discussed the possibility of applying for a separate, low-volume maintenance permit with the Corps as it would allow the City to deal with smaller areas that require more frequent dredging to keep them open and available to the public. Chair Light suggested it might be more cost-effective to take advantage of the equipment and staff in the harbor to dredge the hand-launch ramp at the same time the larger dredging project is active. W.E.D. Director Proud noted the project focused on navigation operations rather than boat launch facilities. Ron Noble explained pocket areas were discussed, initially, but it was determined the project would focus on deep-water navigation; referenced a low-volume dredging program implemented by the City of Newport Beach; addressed mobilization of equipment and stated the smaller dredging projects allow for quick mobilization of equipment by the smaller dredging companies, effectively and more cost-efficiently. He added that to amend the project at this point, would stop the project, entirely, and delay the process substantially. Chair Light expressed disappointment that the Harbor Commission was not consulted.

Chair Light asked about the levels of DDT, PCBs and arsenic compared with the previous dredging and Ms. Gobbi stated the sediment report is similar to prior studies; explained they could come from stormwater or watershed sources and addressed other emergent contaminants of concern. Chair Light

expressed concerns with increased shoaling when waves come through the harbor mouth if material is dumped in the harbor. Mr. Noble explained it should not be a concern as heavier sand will be placed over the finer sand at the bottom of the depressed area. Chair Light noted fine sediments will creep in and lay on top. Mr. Noble explained the fine sediments will move around, anyway, with the ebb and flow of the tides. Chair Light referenced a Blue Folder Item relative to the proximity of the Sea Bass nursery and Ms. Gobbi reported the nursery habitat is at the head of the canyon and is approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile in relation to the edge of the borrow site. Chair Light discussed a study that appeared in the Winter 2020 California Fish and Wildlife, where it was found to be 650 feet away, not $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile. Ms. Gobbi stated she will review the matter; noted this is a location that has been used for many years and noted there are options available to include in the Debris Management Plan to reduce impacts. Chair Light stated prior precedence does not mean it is the right thing to do and discussed the breeding time.

Vice-Chair Carlson noted he gave a copy of the study to W.E.D. Director Proud, earlier this year; expressed disappointment that the Commission was not consulted and that the project seems rushed; referenced inconsistencies in the report and noted the author is available to respond to questions. Vice-Chair Carlson reported the sand in the hand-launch and the southern channel is very dense sand and asked for an explanation as to how placing that sand in the middle of the harbor will be beneficial. Mr. Noble indicated he has not looked at the circulation pattern at the hand launch; reported it is possible there will be movement of material in the depression area but felt it is less likely to move heavier sand in a depressed area and the heavier sand will protect further movement of the finer sands.

Vice Chair Carlson discussed previous dredging of the harbor and asked whether the northern break wall area has been dredged, previously. W.E.D. Director Proud noted there was a map of the area submitted to the Army Corps of Engineers; reported staff can verify deposition is growing and expanding in the northern area and stated it is not impeding into the main channel. Mr. Noble explained the proposed dredging will have no effect on the stability of the breakwater.

Vice Chair Carlson asked about screening for debris during disposal and Mr. Noble discussed efforts to curtail debris which may include containment curtains; he noted techniques have improved since that last time the harbor was dredged and spoke about inspections throughout the process.

In response to Vice Chair Carlson's question regarding contaminants of concern, Ms. Gobbi discussed ERL and ERM noting they are sediment quality guidelines, just for marine sediments, and are not regulatory driven; added they are used to drive decisions related to a particular chemical and stated they exist for many chemicals. She reported that water-quality impacts were not specifically reviewed, they could test samples to determine impacts to water quality from the placement of materials. Vice Chair Carlson expressed concerns that the amount of DDT is not tapering off and asked about safe access to the water throughout the dredging operation. Ms. Gobbi asserted the amount of chemicals going into the water would not be at a level that would cause human health impacts but stated more testing would be needed. Vice Chair Carlson expressed concern about stirring up hazardous chemicals; stated he has a longer list of comments to submit to the Army Corps of Engineers; expressed frustration as to how this item was brought forward and noted he was not aware of the document that was submitted from the City to the Army Corps of Engineers. He added the document could have been shared with the Commission prior to the application being submitted and asked about the process for submitting comments to the Army Corps of Engineers. W.E.D. Director Proud explained individuals are free to submit comments to the Corps and Mr. Noble reported the Corps typically respond to questions which will be in the public record.

Commissioner Callahan understood the purpose of this special meeting was to draft a letter listing the Commission's concerns, to the Army Corps of Engineers. W.E.D. Director Proud reiterated the Commission is free to submit a letter, to the Army Corps of Engineers, but that it is important that they

understand where the City is in the process. He added that having the Commission, as a body of the City, submit comments on its own application is awkward; stated the Commission should understand the consequences of doing so. Commissioner Callahan expressed concern this will be the norm. W.E.D. Director Proud noted this has been a unique circumstance; reiterated his apology and accepted full responsibility for the omission.

Commissioner Callahan questioned why there will be dumping of dredge materials so close to the entrance of the harbor; commented on Topaz as one of the premiere surf spots in the South Bay; agreed with Vice Chair Carlson that stirring up debris so close to shore is not a good idea; expressed concern about the migration of the dredge spoils and noted potential impacts to the sand dollar colony and the grouper habitat have not been addressed. Mr. Noble reported the Topaz area has been studied by the Corps and the County of Los Angeles; noted it has been used as a disposal site, successfully, in the past and stated it stores material that could be used later, on beaches.

Ms. Gobbi discussed the biological surveys and reported no significant impacts were identified to sensitive species.

Commissioner Chrzan asked about the timing and impacts if the Commission were to offer amendments to the document. Ms. Gobbi reported sediment testing results are valid for three years; discussed smaller placement of dredge materials versus larger placements and addressed sample collection and testing. She added that agencies expressed interest in direct beach placement of the dredge material and were not concerned about negative impacts.

Discussion followed regarding the uncertain timing for the Army Corps of Engineers project and W.E.D. Director Proud reported it needs to be placed on their formal workplan, which has not occurred, yet. Mr. Noble addressed the possibility of coordinating smaller maintenance projects with the larger work project.

Commissioner Chrzan asked about the City's ability of sell the sand and Mr. Noble stated there is not enough volume for it to be a feasible venture.

Commissioner Bauer stated that by moving the dredge material and stirring it up, the DDT will be suspended; addressed components of DDT including DDTR and asked whether there are plans to monitor the activities or remediate the situation. Ms. Gobbi stated the subject was not discussed at the agency review and was not something of concern. Commissioner Bauer opined the discussion should have occurred a lot earlier in the process.

Commissioner Kilroy stated the biggest area of concern is redepositing the dredge material in the harbor and asked about additional costs incurred to transfer the material outside the harbor. Mr. Noble stated it will depend on how the contractor bids the project and Commissioner Kilroy recommended the contract specify that disposal of the material be outside the harbor which would address some of the major concerns voiced by the Commission. He reported sending an EPA report to W.E.D. Director Proud indicating that the Palos Verde peninsula is a "super fund" site for DDT and referenced studies about how DDT has contaminated the ocean bottom in the Southern California area; spoke about sewage outfalls; asserted it would be prohibitively expensive to remediate levels of DDT in the harbor; explained it is not soluble in water and sits in the sediment and agreed with Commissioner Bauer that it might be safer to deposit the material on the sand considering the sun's impact in degrading it. He recommended that the bid specify the transport of all the sediment, outside the harbor and discussed trying to parallel the maintenance permit at the same time.

Commissioner Walters asked about levels of PCBs and PAHs compared to previous analyses and Ms. Gobbi reported they were a little elevated from previous levels and discussed at what levels the Corps

and the Water Quality Board would determine the water is unsafe; noted they raised no concerns regarding the levels of hazardous substances and indicated they required no mitigating measures in terms of chemical levels. Regarding the possible source of the chemicals, Mr. Noble reported the prevailing sediment transport is north to south and addressed the amount of dredge material to be placed in the harbor versus outside the harbor. W.E.D. Director commented on revising the application to the Corps to specify placement of the dredge material outside the harbor.

Commissioner Chrzan suggested amending the amount of material to be placed outside the harbor to indicate "up to" the full amount and W.E.D. Director Proud agreed. In response to Commissioner Chrzan's question, W.E.D. Director Proud explained the process for issuing a contract and noted that typically, Public Works contracts are not presented to the Harbor Commission for its consideration.

City Engineer Andy Winje addressed the process for developing and issuing a construction bid document and noted normally, it will go directly to City Council for approval, unless otherwise directed by City Council.

Chair Light invited public comments on this item.

Michael Couffer, Consulting Biologist on the Giant Sea Bass Program, referenced a paper he wrote entitled, "Planning Shoreline Infrastructure Projects at Redondo Beach, California to Avoid Impacting a Giant Sea Bass Nursery Site"; explained the time period babies are in the nursery site when no work impacting the site should be done; noted the intent of the paper was to offer the City and the resource agencies best management practices to consider when planning shoreline infrastructure projects; stated if work is done from the beginning of the year to mid-July, there should be no significant impacts on baby sea bass and indicated the further the dredge material is placed outside the harbor, the better.

Motion by Chair Light, seconded by Commissioner Callahan, to extend the speakers time for another three minutes. Motion carried, unanimously, by roll call vote.

Mr. Couffer discussed the area of the nursery site; stated work should only occur when the nursery site is inactive; commented on placement of the dredge material directly onto the beach and reported the jetty can be considered the boundary for the nursery site.

In response to Vice Chair Carlson's question, Mr. Couffer confirmed he would be concerned if the dredge material had significant amounts of debris but indicated his focus is on his area of expertise which is the Giant Sea Bass Program.

Lee Collier, Commodore, King Harbor Yacht Club, asked about the dredging area; spoke about substantial debris in the dredge material from the Marina del Rey dredging project and hoped cleanup of the material will be addressed for any future dumping.

Ken Curtis listed his experience as a member of the diving community; referenced materials he submitted to the Commission including a video entitled, "The Trashing at Veterans Park"; expressed concerns with placement of dredging material in the area; discussed the area as a dive area, sea bass nursery and a squid breeding area; commented on the impacts of the Marina del Rey dredging project including decreased visibility and black sludge and opposed dumping the dredge material within the harbor.

Vice Chair Carlson reported sending a link to the video to staff.

Motion by Chair Light, seconded by Commissioner Bauer, to receive and file the video entitled, "The Trashing at Veterans Park" submitted by Mr. Curtis. Motion carried, unanimously, by roll call vote.

W.E.D. Director Proud played the video for the Commission.

Mark Hanson, King Harbor Boaters, agreed with the Commission regarding moving contaminants from one area of the harbor to another; felt the dredge material should be deposited outside the harbor; spoke about increased paddle boarding in the harbor; suggested cleaning up the water in the harbor rather than stirring up existing contaminants; felt the Harbor Commission should have been consulted prior to submission of the application to the Corps and suggested the Harbor Commission send a letter to the Corps letting them know the Harbor Commission will be recommending to City Council that the contract be altered to requirement placement of the dredge material offshore.

There were no other members of the public wishing to address the Commission on this matter or eComments and public comments were closed.

Chair Light summarized discussions so far including opposition to dumping the dredge material inside the harbor; confirmed Giant Sea Bass nursery dates; addressed the possibility of accelerating the maintenance dredge permit; expressed concern with increased pollution and indicated he would like to see the contract prior to it being approved by City Council.

Commissioner Bauer asked about the possibility of placing the material directly on the beach and Ms. Gobbi reported more samples would need to be collected and analyzed and would require appropriate timing. Mr. Noble added permission would be needed from the County and noted it would be more costly.

Motion by Commissioner Kilroy, seconded by Commissioner Bauer, to recommend to City Council, that the contract specify and the permit be amended to require that all dredging sediment be transported outside the harbor, that dredging occur during the first six months of the year, when the Giant Sea Bass nursery is inactive, and that the maintenance dredge permit be accelerated and parallel with the main permit in the hopes that both activities may occur at the same time.

W.E.D. Director Proud indicated the only item that could disturb the process would be the requirement that the dredge material be placed outside the harbor. He added the permit would need to specify that 100% of the dredge material would be disposed outside the harbor and would require an amended application to remove the in-harbor disposal location from consideration.

Ms. Gobbi addressed the requirements and process for amending the application; noted the DMMT would have to evaluate further testing results and noted it would cause a timing delay. City Engineer Winje added there would be a financial implication. Mr. Noble noted it would add to the construction costs.

Commissioner Callahan expressed concern regarding the increased pollution in the dredge material and asked about possible mitigation measures. Mr. Noble discussed the need to develop best-management practices to screen the sediment.

Vice Chair Carlson stated the project should move forward; agreed with disposing the material outside the harbor; recommended a friendly amendment to the motion stating that the contractor allow observers and that the Commission choose the observers; suggested asking the contractor to define how trash will be handled and hoped the Commission will have the opportunity to review the contract prior to approval by City Council.

City Engineer Winje reported it will be a low-bid contract and will need to include, in the specifications, the requirements to follow best-management practices and the City would hire inspectors to monitor the process. Mr. Noble discussed the need for a construction management firm to be on board.

Commissioner Kilroy spoke about the importance of having detailed specifications in the RFP to make sure the City gets exactly what it wants, including how trash will be removed from the dredge material.

Vice Chair Carlson withdrew his friendly amendment and spoke about the importance of keeping the area clean.

In response to Commissioner Walters's question, Mr. Noble was unsure how the Army Corps of Engineers would react to comments from the Commission. Ms. Gobbi stated the matter would have to go back to the DMMT to approve the alternative placement option and addressed the Army Corps of Engineers process for public comment review.

Discussion followed regarding the impacts of amending the City's application to the Army Corps of Engineers.

Commissioner Kilroy stated making comments to the Army Corps of Engineers at this time, may not be very fruitful; suggested moving forward with directing staff to amend the permit to allow dumping of the dredge material outside the harbor; include the Commission's desire to review the specifications relative to how trash will be removed from the dredge material and ask staff to fast track the maintenance permitting process so that smaller areas can be dredged at the same time.

Motion by Commissioner Kilroy, seconded by Commissioner Bauer, to direct staff to amend the permit to require that all dredging sediment be transported outside the harbor, that the specifications for trash removal in the RFP be presented to the Harbor Commission and to fast track the maintenance permitting process so that smaller areas can be dredged at the same time.

W.E.D. Director Proud noted the need for an internal conversation to determine the best course of action, going forward.

Discussion followed regarding the timing for the Army Corps of Engineers' work on the breakwater.

Substitute Motion by Chair Light, seconded by Commissioner Callahan, to form a subcommittee of three members of the Harbor Commission, to submit a letter reflecting the Commission's concerns to the Army Corps of Engineers and to City Council with recommendations as discussed.

Discussion followed regarding the deadline of the comment period to the Army Corps of Engineers.

Substitute Motion carried, unanimously, by roll call vote.

Motion by Commissioner Callahan, seconded by Chair Light to nominate Chair Light, Commissioner Kilroy, and Vice Chair Carlson to the subcommittee, with Vice Chair Carlson acting as Chair of the subcommittee. Motion carried, unanimously, by roll call vote.

K. MEMBER ITEMS AND REFERRALS TO STAFF

Commissioner Callahan asked to place consideration of the homeless camp to be placed in the tidelands on the next Harbor Commission agenda. W.E.D. Director Proud reported City Council has not requested the Harbor Commission's input on this item and was unsure whether it can be agendized. Commissioner Callahan asked to agendize consideration of COVID-19 protocols for recreational boating for non-household guests. W.E.D. Director Proud indicated he will need to review the matter further prior to agendizing it.

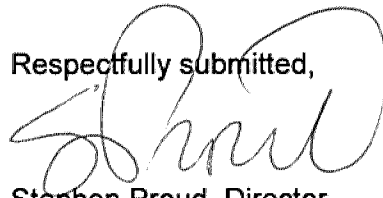
Vice Chair Carlson suggested the COVID-19 item may best be reviewed by the Disaster Council and noted the need to fix the intersection at Harbor Drive and Yacht Club Way.

L. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Commissioner Kilroy, seconded by Commissioner Walters to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried, unanimously, by roll call vote.

At 10:17 p.m., Chair Light adjourned the meeting to the next regular meeting of the Harbor Commission on December 14, 2020 at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S. Proud", written over the text "Respectfully submitted,".

Stephen Proud, Director
Waterfront & Economic Development