

What are California  
State Lands  
Commission

# Benchmark Rates for Tidelands?

SIMPLE – TRANSPARENT – FAIR – RELIABLE



The City of Newport Beach must manage Newport Harbor fairly on behalf of all Californians. Due to increasing pressure from the State Lands Commission (SLC), the City is reviewing their tidelands management and are considering new rates for tidelands users including pier and mooring permit holders. We believe the City should adopt the SLC Benchmark Rates, which are state-approved “**uniform rental rates**” that ensure **consistency** and **fairness** across the harbor.

## Why should Newport Harbor use Benchmark Rates?

- Complies with CA Statutes, the Public Trust Doctrine, & SLC guidelines
- No more expensive, questionable appraisals
- Avoids improper gifting of public lands
- Avoids discrimination between user groups (e.g., piers vs. moorings)

## Benchmark Rates For Docks and Moorings

- SLC’s Category 1 rates apply to **private docks, piers, and moorings**
- Current Benchmark Rate for Southern California, including Newport, is **\$0.45/ sq ft**

## Wait— isn’t that less than the current City rates in Newport Harbor?

- Yes! Rates are already higher and could increase exponentially. Recent City appraisals recommend mooring rates of \$6.00/sq ft or more, with similarly increased dock rates possible.
- Current Newport Beach Rates:
  - **Piers..... \$0.58 sq ft**
  - **Moorings.....\$1.39 sq ft**

## What can you do?

**RSVP for our Stakeholder Zoom Meeting May 14, 2026 @ 6:00 pm** to learn more. Click the link to RSVP: <https://forms.gle/odkEp3TAbSkybv2G8>

**Contact Newport Beach City Council** Members to let them know you support fair & reasonable SLC Benchmark Rates in Newport Beach. You can email: [citycouncil@newportbeachca.gov](mailto:citycouncil@newportbeachca.gov)

