

NMA gray logo

NMA banner

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The Newport Mooring Association (NMA) Electric Pennant News page banner



News Items

(Update on [transferability](#), see [News p. 2](#))

Moorings Management Not a Done Deal

In [March](#) we wrote about the City's RFP for [mooring management](#); the City subsequently announced it would propose (to City Council) that management of moorings in Newport Harbor be awarded to Bellport Group. The City's decision was fundamentally based on Bellport's bid to provide mooring management for about \$100,000 less than the Orange County Sheriff's Harbor Department bid. The Sheriff has handled this responsibility under contract for at least 25 years with broad admiration for a job well done.

This led to a flurry of media coverage (catch up on it in last month's [RSS feed](#)) and further discussion in the MMPSC meeting. Sheriff Sandra Hutchens herself came to that meeting, along with Lt. Mark Long, Orange County Harbormaster, and she eloquently assured those present that OCSD was willing to "sharpen its pencil," to work with the City on pricing toward a mutually beneficial understanding that would allow the Sheriffs to continue to provide mooring management.

It turns out the OCSD provides three lifeguard boat slips for free to the City, worth about \$30k/year. The OCSD may also be willing to turn over the \$5/day rents collected on mooring rentals to the City—which last year amounted to about another \$30k. Here's the kicker: the NMA's 2010 mooring fee survey showed that other harbors charge \$10/day for transient mooring rentals. If the City elected to raise that fee to match other harbors, and the \$30k collected last year became \$60k this year, the difference between Bellport's bid and OCSD's bid quickly becomes nominal. **(Math recap: Slips, \$30k, plus Mooring rent, \$60k, equals \$90k, versus bid differential of about \$100k)** How does saving nominal dollars make a change from 24/7/365 law-enforcement-grade service from the Sheriff, to privatized service from Bellport, look? Apparently there will be an opportunity for the public to speak on this topic before City Council. We'll keep you posted here.

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Meetings

Annual Meeting – All Mooring Permit Holders

The NMA board has scheduled the annual meeting of members; all mooring permit holders are urged to attend. The topic is the City's renewed commitment to take a methodical look at raising fees related to moorings. The date will be 03 May 2010, 1800 hours; location ALYC at 15th Street on the Balboa Peninsula. **Please alert** your fellow mooring neighbors that **the April meeting date previously posted here has been changed**. Here are the particulars:

May 03, 2010 6 – 8:30pm : NMA annual meeting at [American Legion Yacht Club](#) (click to location on Google Maps). Click meeting place address to save to Outlook: [215 East 15th St, Newport Beach, California, 92663](#). Phone: (949) 673-5070.

Booked by: guid.newportmooringassociation.org on 19 Apr 2010 4:38pm

NMA Board Meeting

The Board of Directors meets monthly to review projects and conduct business. Mooring permit holders are welcome to attend. The date and time of the next board meeting is:

Tuesday, Apr. 6, 2010, at 18:00 hrs.

downstairs at the Newport Beach Yacht Club You are welcome to park across Bayside Drive in the parking lot.

NMA Members are welcome to attend!


**Newport Beach Yacht Club
1099 Bayside Drive
Newport Beach, CA 92660**

(949) 760-0221

Mooring Appraisal Critique

The Newport Mooring Association has received, from an

Fees study/appraisal

The City has announced it is working on an RFP for a new harbor appraisal including moorings. This follows about a year after the previous \$120k [three-part harbor valuation study](#) (pdf - 2.71MB)  was deemed not usable for many reasons. Letters from NMA members and statements of NMA Board members on that study can be found on the [Harbor Fees](#) page.



The NMA has been included in discussion about problems with the previous appraisal in preparation of this new RFP. The City is determined to evaluate fees promptly because of its forecasted budget deficit. For a comparison of fees in other harbors with moorings, see the 2010 Mooring Fee Survey, below.

Coastal Marina Permit

[Last month](#) we told you about the Coastal Marina permit proposal by the SWRCB. The RBOC put [the word](#) out that marina operators and yacht clubs needed to write the SWRCB immediately on this proposal. Since the RBOC "Call to Arms" the SWRCB has come to the negotiating table with the people who run the [Clean Marinas](#) program. This voluntary program is a public-private partnership of marina operators who foster "Best Management Practices" in marinas statewide. The SWRCB is considering whether the Clean Marinas program can implement enough of its requirements, through voluntary compliance, to obviate the requirement of Coastal Marina permits.

Randy Short, president of Almar Marinas, called the Coastal Marinas Permit the "biggest threat to the marina industry in 20 years." The RBOC opinion is that the current reprieve from the SWRCB, while it's investigating the Clean Marinas initiative, warrants immediate laying-down of pens; so please, no more letters until further advised!


2010 Mooring Fee Survey

The NMA has updated the NMA [mooring fee survey](#) (best version for printing – pdf – 819KB ) for harbors in southern California. Or read the [mooring fees survey in web page format](#) with clickable links. It shows what harbors elsewhere in California charge for a mooring permit. It also includes berth fees, liveaboards, and transferability. For comparison, see the [2008 mooring fees study](#) (Word doc-- 50KB ) (or [view as webpage](#)).

Harbor Resources Department
829 Harbor Island Dr., Newport Beach, CA
92660

(949) 644-3034, fax (949) 723-0589

Do you need to reach Harbor Resources?
[Email Harbor Resources](#) with your input.


[MAI-designated](#) independent appraiser, a critique of the City's appraisal of Newport Harbor moorings. Specifically, it addresses the direct comparison of yacht club moorings to individually permitted moorings with no adjustments. We suspected that such a comparison was not valid, but what does a professional have to say about this? Read the [appraiser's critique](#) (pdf--320 KB) .

Harbor Patrol News

The Sheriff's Department has named a new Orange County Harbormaster, Lt. Mark Long. According to this story in [The Log](#), he looks forward to building community support and developing relationships with the community of harbor users. We'll go farther working together. Congratulations, Lt. Long!

With the reassignment of Deputy Joel Monroe, a new mooring master has been named; he is Deputy Carlos Contreras. We understand he has hands-on mooring knowledge, as he is a permit holder himself!

Harbor Resources News

Manager Chris Miller presents the Harbor Commission with an update on projects and issues each month. Here is a link to his March 2010 [Update](#) (pdf--508 KB) . Click [here](#) to find other updates on the Harbor Resources site.

News from Newport Beach

What's going on in Newport Beach? Click to info about (derelict) [boat auctions](#). When the news feeds below are working, the blue boxes will contain City and harbor news. **Click any headline** to open that story in a new window. If the blue box is empty, the feed is broken or has no news. Some browsers may still click to open the news feed direct from the City of [Newport Beach](#).

City of Newport Beach Live RSS Feed

[Civic Center Work Begins May 11](#)

Source: [News RSS Feed - City of Newport Beach](#)
Published: 6 May 2010 | 12:00 am PDT

[Building Department](#)

Source: [City of Newport Beach News](#)
Published: 4 May 2010 | 11:58 am PDT

[Summer 2010 Community Emergency Response Team class](#)

Source: [News RSS Feed - City of Newport Beach](#)
Published: 4 May 2010 | 12:00 am PDT

[City Seeks Applicants to Fill Vacancies on Boards & Commissions](#)

Source: [News RSS Feed - City of Newport Beach](#)
Published: 2 May 2010 | 11:00 am PDT

Slippery Sea Lions

If you need to rethink your sea lion deterrents, please see the NMA [Pinniped Pointers](#) page in the NMA documents library. This year sea lions are "loving" the area south of Lido Isle, "F," "H," & "J" fields, and private piers in this area. Your continuing effort to keep sea lions off of your boat helps all of us. Sea lions have sunk about [ten boats](#) in Newport Harbor, recently including a 1950's [Star](#) boat.

At the February Harbor Commission meeting, a shortened time frame for notification of permit holders of sea lion problems was approved. Formerly a permit holder had 10 days to effect sea lion deterrents; now the permit holder has just [seven days](#) (pdf--40KB) from the first warning letter.

NMA Newsletters

Your eyes are now reading lines of the NMA ***Electric Pennant***, our online newsletter, available only online. It has a hardcopy cousin, ***NMA Pennant***, mailed to all dues-paid NMA members, and is the official newsletter of the Newport Mooring Association. After members receive it via postal mail, recent and past editions are available on the [Newsletters](#) page.

Mooring Loan Permission Form

Need to [loan a mooring](#) to a friend? Here is the form you fill out, print, sign, and send to the Harbor Department.

[City Seeks Proposals for Qualified Hearing Officers](#)

Source: [News RSS Feed - City of Newport Beach](#)
Published: 30 Apr 2010 | 12:00 am PDT

[Newport Beach Moves Forward with Civic Center Construction, Sunset Ridge Park Access](#)

Source: [News RSS Feed - City of Newport Beach](#)
Published: 29 Apr 2010 | 5:00 pm PDT

[Newport Beach Public Library Receives Top Ranking](#)

Source: [News RSS Feed - City of Newport Beach](#)
Published: 29 Apr 2010 | 11:00 am PDT

[Detweiler Wins Leadership Award](#)

Source: [News RSS Feed - City of Newport Beach](#)
Published: 28 Apr 2010 | 4:00 pm PDT

[Marina Park Final Environmental Impact Report and Site Plans](#)

Source: [News RSS Feed - City of Newport Beach](#)
Published: 27 Apr 2010 | 2:30 pm PDT

[Field Conditions](#)

Source: [City of Newport Beach News](#)
Published: 22 Apr 2010 | 9:42 am PDT

[Building Department Staff Meeting](#)

Source: [City of Newport Beach News](#)
Published: 21 Apr 2010 | 9:01 am PDT

[Field Conditions](#)

Source: [City of Newport Beach News](#)
Published: 12 Apr 2010 | 12:45 pm PDT

[Building Department Staff Meeting](#)

Source: [City of Newport Beach News](#)
Published: 7 Apr 2010 | 11:50 am PDT

[Field Conditions](#)

Source: [City of Newport Beach News](#)
Published: 5 Apr 2010 | 1:47 pm PDT

[Building Department](#)

Source: [City of Newport Beach News](#)
Published: 31 Mar 2010 | 8:57 am PDT

[Building Department Staff Meeting](#)

Source: [City of Newport Beach News](#)
Published: 24 Mar 2010 | 8:34 am PDT

boxes show news filed to within the last hour

Here's harbor and moorings news from [Google News](#), and other sources, to within the last hour.

Newport Harbor *Live RSS News Feed*

[A visit with Dave Beek at Island Marine Fuel](#)

By Len Bose



Dave Beek, Island Marine Fuel

While walking the docks this week, it's always interesting to hear the whine of buffing machines. It kind of reminds me of a return of a migrating bird, but it sure feels good to see everyone working.

...

Source:: [On the Waterfront](#)

Published: 6 May 2010 | 11:45 am PDT

[Prepare for pinniped presence - Daily Pilot](#)

The annual wave of sea lions is expected to make their way into Newport Harbor in May and stay through October. This year, the city is has stiffer penalties

Source:: [NMA Newport Harbor News](#)

Published: 29 Apr 2010 | 8:12 pm PDT

[Sea Lion Night Patrols to Resume - The Log Newspaper](#)

NEWPORT BEACH -- Jumbo-size visiting sea lions who seem set on calling Newport Harbor "home" this summer have been warned. If they are caught hauling out on

Source:: [NMA Newport Harbor News](#)

Published: 28 Apr 2010 | 8:57 am PDT

[Say it ain't so, Gordo!](#)

By Len Bose



Gordon "Gordo"

Christie of West Marine. It's Wednesday, it's windy, raining and I just made it through my morning sales calls. Now, I have to write my harbor column. Everyone knows where to get a weather report and that the Ensenada Race starts...

Source:: [On the Waterfront](#)

Published: 22 Apr 2010 | 2:57 pm PDT

[I Sea You!](#)

By Len Bose



Once a week I walk through our local shipyards just to make sure I am not missing anything and to keep in contact with all...

Source:: [On the Waterfront](#)

Published: 15 Apr 2010 | 10:05 am PDT

be sure to scroll down in these boxes

Jiggling Jellyfish

There are fewer moon jellyfish around than earlier in the summer. Have you [seen](#) them? Did you know that NASA took some of them into [outer space](#) for study?

Frequently Asked Questions

You may [find your answer](#) in our list of FAQs.

We always appreciate your continuing support and valued opinions.

[Click to email NMA](#)

[Click to next page](#)

Plastic in the Bay

Fish, birds, and marine mammals are innocent victims when it comes to plastic in the water. Plastic in the bay is just a tide change away from being plastic in the ocean. Please pick some up; help it find a trash can. [green badge](#)



[Learn more](#) from the people at SCCWRP. Algalita tells us there is [six pounds](#) of plastic floating in the central North Pacific Ocean for every pound of surface zooplankton. Fish, birds, and marine mammals mistake it for food. Scientists performing necropsies on deceased Laysan albatross at Midway Atoll have found so much indigestible plastic in the birds' stomachs there is no room for food. This NMA website is certified powered by 100% wind energy; we're doing what we can to minimize our impact on the environment.

Find previous copies of the News page in [Ye Olde News Archive](#).

About us -

The Newport Mooring Association is responsible for promoting the business and personal interests of mooring permittees and persons holding property, real or personal, adjacent or attached to, residing on, or anchored to tidelands or public property in, upon, or adjacent to Newport Harbor, as those interests relate to the use of the bay area.

Newport Mooring Association
P.O. Box 1118
Newport Beach, CA 92659-0118

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News *(cont. from [p.1](#))*:

Dinghy Dock Extensions



Moving forward!

Your input helped make the difference. At the March 2010 Harbor Commission meeting, Harbor Resources Manager Chris Miller [reported](#) (*.pdf - 508KB) contracts for [Fernando St](#) (*.pdf - 288KB) , [15th St](#) (*.pdf - 273 KB) and the [19th St](#) (*.pdf - 264KB) dock extensions are proposed to be awarded to Swift Slip, the lowest qualified bidder. Construction of the dock extensions will hopefully be completed by summer. These dinghy dock extensions will provide improved access for mooring permit holders as well as improved shore access for boaters looking to visit area businesses and attractions.

A newly formed subcommittee is looking at dinghy dock signage and time limits, and has also proposed that a meaningfully long-term option for dingy tie-up will be afforded to mooring permit holders. If approved, this could mean the end of car-topping a dinghy for some people who simply have no other way to accommodate a dinghy used for mooring access. It's likely a fee of some sort would be charged if this longer-term storage option is approved. By longer-term, we expect the time period would actually be weeks or months if the permit is obtained and the dinghy secured in the longer-term spots. We will keep you posted here on progress of this initiative.

Slip Survey

The City's Revenue office sent to real property owners a [survey](#) (*.pdf - 314KB) in advance of

This is page 2
[Click to page 1](#)

Mooring Transfers

The January (2009) Harbor Commission meeting saw the presentation of the draft on mooring transferability after a ten-month stop at the City Attorney's office. The document represents hundreds of hours of citizen volunteer and City Staff time updating pertinent sections of City ordinances relating to mooring transfers. This project actually began about a year before the 2007 Orange County [Grand Jury investigation](#) of City mooring administration.

You are welcome to review the [mooring transferability draft](#) (*.pdf - 150KB) .

Following the City Attorney's review of the subcommittee's draft, the document was presented to the Harbor Commission for approval, but the commission recommended it back to the subcommittee for some further consideration of educational institution and sailing club mooring ownership and other details. Following subcommittee work, the draft has been submitted to the **new** City Attorney for his review. Subsequently, the draft will again be presented to the Harbor Commission at a future Harbor Commission meeting. The Log ran a story about the January 2009 [Harbor Commission](#) meeting at which transferability was addressed. You are encouraged to read the transferability draft itself for clarification.

Harbor Commission Meetings

Note: Location change! The Newport Beach Harbor Commission typically meets on the second Wednesday each month. **The next meeting is Apr. 21 (not on the typical 2nd Wednesday) in City Council Chambers at 6PM. April 21, 2010 6 – 8pm : Harbor Commission meeting at Bonita Creek Community Center** (links to location on Google Maps). Click the address to save to Outlook: [3010 La Vida Newport Beach, California, 92660](#). Phone: (949) 644-3151. Click here to the April 2010 [Harbor Commission](#) agenda. Booked by: [guid.newportbeachca.gov](#) on 16 Apr 2010 5:38pm

Look [here](#) for agendas posted the Friday evening before each Harbor Commission meeting. Several days following each meeting, minutes are posted on the

issuing new pier permits. The survey asks whether pier and slip space is rented and asks permit holders to report vessel identification for the vessels secured. Again, this survey comes from the City's Revenue department.

City ordinance [17.35.020\(A\)\(4\)](#) (*.pdf - 297KB) (opens to p. 49) states that shore-connected piers bayward of commercial zones may be rented. If other piers are not to be rented, to raise revenue, will the City elect to issue higher-revenue commercial pier permits to residential users who have rented their piers?

Vessel Pumpout Stations

Here is a handy chart of vessel [pumpout stations](#) (*.pdf - 327KB) and public piers around Newport Harbor. The 15th St. pumpout station is operational; it has two redundant systems so it's very likely to be always operational.

Rhine Wharf progress

The Rhine Wharf is undergoing repairs scheduled for completion in March. Construction of the new public dinghy dock alongside the Rhine Wharf will follow and should take five months.

How grows the eelgrass?

At the May 14th 2009 Harbor Commission meeting, Chris Miller reported on a CRM contract modification to help document [eelgrass](#) (*.pdf - 1.82MB) beds in the harbor. Better technology led to the [discovery](#) (*.pdf - 1.29MB) that there is less eelgrass in the channels than previously reported by the Army Corps of Engineers. Investigation into eelgrass proliferation helps establish a baseline for eelgrass management and mitigation going forward, a key component of the HAMP. You can learn more about the [HAMP](#) here. Though it has been approved by the Harbor Commission, an electronic copy is not yet available for posting for your review. The HAMP's next step will be its presentation to City Council for its approval and adoption.

We always appreciate your continuing support and valued opinions.

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same page.

Newport Harbor Dredging

In February, Harbor Resources Director Chris Miller reported to the Harbor Commission that the Lower Bay Dredging Project handover to the Army Corps of Engineers marked a milestone in the project. From here, the Army Corps will be the primary agency moving the project forward to actualization. There are concurrencies of need that the Army Corps hopes to pair. LA Harbor can accept Lower Bay sediment ineligible for offshore disposal, for fill in port infrastructure expansion. Funding will still be a challenge. **(See live news feed below)**

LA Harbor use of dredged Lower Bay sediment which cannot be disposed offshore is "plan "A"" while the Lido Reach CAD site is "plan "B"" for the dredged sediments. [Anchor OEA](#) is preparing the EIR and mitigated negative declaration for the City, in case the CAD site is needed.

What determines sediment eligibility for offshore disposal is the concentration of red-tagged substances in the sediment. Measuring equipment is capable of detecting parts-per-billion, and standards are written at various levels on this scale. For perspective, one ppb is the equivalent of [50 drops of water](#) diluted into an Olympic-sized swimming pool which is over six feet deep.

Here is a link to the City's dredging and [CAD site](#) page. You can click to a Google search of [blogs](#) which discuss Newport Harbor dredging. Or, below, see a Google News live feed on news related to [dredging](#) the harbor. If there are any recent stories on this topic, they will appear in the blue box below. For history buffs, click here to a [Google News](#) archive query on Newport Harbor dredging.

Newport Harbor Live RSS Dredging Feed

[Without Earmarks Newport Harbor Would 'Become a Meadow' - VoiceofOC \(blog\)](#)

... money set aside by lawmakers for local projects -- a practice known as earmarking -- is the only way Newport Harbor will get its needed dredging. ...

Source:: [NMA Newport Harbor Dredging News & Blog Feed](#)
Published: 16 Apr 2010 | 3:18 pm PDT

[Sen. Feinstein Recommends \\$23 Million for Newport Harbor Dredging - The Log Newspaper](#)

The project would be the first comprehensive dredging in Newport Harbor since its completion in 1936. The recommendation piggybacks a request of \$6 million ...

Source:: [NMA Newport Harbor Dredging News & Blog Feed](#)
Published: 14 Apr 2010 | 4:35 pm PDT

[• Firefighters agree to forgo pay raises - Daily Pilot](#)

In 2012, the city will have to match a \$4-million grant for dredging in parts of Newport Harbor, which will also widen the budget gap. Two years from now, ...

Source:: [NMA Newport Harbor Dredging News & Blog Feed](#)

Published: 11 Apr 2010 | 4:16 am PDT

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