

**CALENDAR ITEM
C24**

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S	18	G. Kato

**CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL OF A PROPOSED EXPENDITURE OF \$850,000
OF TIDELANDS TRUST FUNDS BY THE CITY OF SANTA BARBARA, PURSUANT
TO CHAPTER 193, STATUTES OF 1975, TO RECONSTRUCT A PORTION OF THE
HARBOR LAUNCH RAMP WITHIN SANTA BARBARA HARBOR,
CITY OF SANTA BARBARA, SANTA BARBARA COUNTY**

GRANTEE:

City of Santa Barbara
Waterfront Department
P.O. Box 1990
Santa Barbara, CA 93102-1990

The city of Santa Barbara, as trustee of the State, is requesting approval for the expenditure of \$850,000 from the Tidelands Trust Fund to reconstruct a portion of the harbor launch ramp within Santa Barbara Harbor (Harbor). Chapter 193, Statutes of 1975, requires the State Lands Commission to review and approve of capital expenditures of Tidelands Trust Funds by the city of Santa Barbara in excess of \$250,000.

The Harbor was first developed in 1927 and provides the only marina and public launching facilities for the Santa Barbara area. The Harbor consists of four marinas with slips for 1,133 pleasure and commercial vessels. The Harbor is publicly operated by the city of Santa Barbara Waterfront Department.

The proposed project is at the existing launch ramp area, on the easterly side of the harbor, just west of West Beach and Stearns Wharf. The existing launch ramp facility is comprised of four drivable, grooved concrete launching lanes (each 18 feet wide) and two boarding floats. The drivable lanes and boarding floats were constructed in 2001 and are in acceptable condition. On the east and west sides of the launch ramp are older, deteriorated concrete slabs estimated to have been constructed in the 1960s. These concrete slabs are in poor condition, and have a history of slip/fall, tripping, and trailer drop-off incidents. These areas are blocked from trailer use by plastic highway delineators. The four drivable lanes are often at capacity, and because the east side is closest to West Beach,

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the older, deteriorated area is used by persons launching kayaks, small sailboats, skiffs, rowing shells, outrigger canoes, and other small water craft.

The proposed project is to remove and replace, in-kind, the concrete slabs on the east and west side of the launch ramp. The east side will be approximately 72' wide x 70' long, for a total of 5,040 square feet. The west side will be approximately 32' wide x 70' long and 30' wide x 91' long, for a total of 4,970 square feet. The total amount of concrete to be replaced for these two areas is 10,010 square feet. This project will not expand the size of the launch ramp.

In addition, an 8' x 100' articulated floating dock is proposed as a boarding float. The dock will be constructed on the east side of the launch ramp and will not incorporate piles. The boarding float will be suitable only for hand-carried vessels, as the water is relatively shallow in this area. These facilities will reduce conflicts between non-motorized vessels and larger trailer boats which utilize the launch area to the west. Funding for the replacement slabs will be through a State grant from the Department of Boating and Waterways.

The city of Santa Barbara received authorization for the proposed project from the L.A. District office of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers on July 28, 2010. Commission staff reviewed the proposed project and the City's financial status. Commission staff believes the proposed project is consistent with the public trust and statutory trust under which the lands are held and recommends the Commission approve the proposed expenditure.

OTHER PERTINENT INFORMATION:

1. The Commission, in its consideration of the proposed expenditure of Tidelands Trust Funds, will be acting under its authority pursuant to Chapter 193, Statutes of 1975.
2. **Launch Ramp Replacement:** Pursuant to the Commission's delegation of authority and the State CEQA Guidelines (Title 14, California Code of Regulations, section 15061), staff determined this activity is exempt from the requirements of CEQA as a categorically exempt project. The project is exempt under Class 2, Replacement or Reconstruction, Title 14, California Code of Regulations, section 15302.

Authority: Public Resources Code section 21084 and Title 14, California Code of Regulations, section 15300.

3. **Floating Dock:** Pursuant to the Commission's delegation of authority and the State CEQA Guidelines (Title 14, California Code of Regulations,

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section 15061), staff determined this activity is exempt from the requirements of CEQA as a categorically exempt project. The project is exempt under Class 3, New Construction of Small Structures; Title 2, California Code of Regulations, section 2905 (c)(1).

Authority: Public Resources Code section 21084 and Title 14, California Code of Regulations, sections 15300 and Title 2, California Code of Regulations, section 2905.

4. This activity involves lands identified as possessing significant environmental values pursuant to Public Resources Code sections 6370, et seq., but such activity will not affect those significant lands. Based upon the staff's consultation with the persons nominating such lands and through the CEQA preview process, it is staff's opinion that the project, as proposed, is consistent with its use classification.

APPROVALS OBTAINED:

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
California Regional Water Quality Control Board

EXHIBIT:

- A. Location and Site Map

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE COMMISSION:

CEQA FINDING:

Launch Ramp Replacement: Find that the activity is exempt from the requirements of CEQA pursuant to Title 14, California Code of Regulations, section 15061 as a categorically exempt project, Class 2, Replacement or Reconstruction; Title 14, California Code of Regulations, section 15302.

Floating Dock: Find that the activity is exempt from the requirements of CEQA pursuant to Title 14, California Code of Regulations, section 15061 as a categorically exempt project, Class 3, New Construction of Small Structures; Title 2, California Code of Regulations, section 2905 (c)(1).

SIGNIFICANT LANDS FINDING:

Find that this activity is consistent with the use classification designated by the Commission for the land pursuant to Public Resources Code sections 6370, et seq.

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AUTHORIZATION:

1. Find that the city of Santa Barbara has sufficient Tidelands Trust Funds for the proposed project.
2. Find that the Launch Ramp Repair Project is consistent with the Public Trust and is in the best interest of the people of the State.
3. Approve the proposed expenditure of up to \$850,000 of Tidelands Trust Funds, including grant funds from the Department of Boating and Waterways to the City of Santa Barbara for the purpose of the Launch Ramp Repair Project within Santa Barbara Harbor, City of Santa Barbara, Santa Barbara County.