



Special Closed and Regular Public Session of February 25, 2025

**Santa Cruz Port Commission
MINUTES**

Commission Members Present:

Toby Goddard	Chair
Reed Geisreiter	Vice-chair
Stephen Reed	Commissioner
Bill Lee	Commissioner
Robert DeWitt	Commissioner

SPECIAL PUBLIC SESSION – 4:30 PM

Chair Goddard convened the special public session at 4:30 PM at the Harbor Public Meeting Room, 365 A Lake Avenue, Santa Cruz, CA.

1. Oral Communication
2. Announcement of Closed Session Pursuant to Government Code (Ralph M. Brown Act) §54956.8

At 4:30 PM, Chair Goddard announced that the Commission will meet in closed session to discuss agenda item 3.

SPECIAL CLOSED SESSION

3. Conference with Real Property Negotiators
Property: 7th and Brommer (Southwest Parcels)
Agency Designated Representative: H. MacLaurie
Negotiating Parties: County of Santa Cruz
Under Negotiation: Property Acquisition

SPECIAL PUBLIC SESSION

4. Action and Vote Disclosure after Closed Session Pursuant to Government Code (Ralph M. Brown Act) §54957.1

Chair Goddard announced that the Commission took no reportable action in closed session on item 3.

Chair Goddard adjourned the special open session following the closed meeting at 5:25 PM.

REGULAR PUBLIC SESSION – 5:30 PM

Chair Goddard convened the regular public session at 5:30 PM at the Harbor Public Meeting Room, 365 A Lake Avenue, Santa Cruz CA (hybrid meeting platform).

5. Pledge of Allegiance
6. Oral Communication

Chair Goddard announced that the Commission took no reportable action in closed session on item 3.

Commissioner DeWitt announced that after many successful decades, the Big Brothers Big Sisters organization is no longer able to serve as the beneficiary of the Santa Cruz Yacht Club's Day on the Bay Regatta. In 2025, the event beneficiary will be the Santa Cruz Sailing Foundation.

CONSENT AGENDA

7. Approval of Minutes
 - a) Special Public Meeting of January 21, 2025
 - b) Special Closed and Regular Public Meeting of January 28, 2025
8. Approval of Resolution 24-04 – Authorizing the Port Director to Execute Documents Accepting a Replenish Grant from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife Office of Spill Prevention and Response
9. Approval of Resolution 25-05 – Authorizing the Port Director to Execute Documents Accepting a State & Local Cybersecurity Grant from the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services
10. Approval of Month-to-Month Rental Agreement for 497 Lake Avenue (Tenant: O'Connor, DeFaria LLC)

MOTION: Motion made by Vice-chair Geisreiter, seconded by Commissioner Reed to approve consent agenda items 7 through 10.
- *Motion carried unanimously.*

REGULAR AGENDA

11. Approve the FY26 Budget and Capital Improvement Plan

Discussion: Port Director MacLaurie reviewed the proposed FY26 budget and highlighted the following:

- 5% increase to marina fees (with proceeds allocated to Storm Surge Recovery Fund (F049)).
- \$50,000 allocated to the Barge Purchase Fund from the CIP.
- Various adjustments to the FY26 Schedule.

Port Director MacLaurie stated that the budget worksheet, revenue summaries, Capital Improvement Plan summary table, fee schedule, and Projected Debt

Service Ratio (DSR) have been revised accordingly since the Commission's review of the draft budget on February 6, 2025.

Commissioner Lee proposed increasing the Liveaboard Monthly Per Person Fee from \$135 per person to \$142 per person and for it to be indexed with marina fee increases in the future. There was consensus among the Commission to revise this fee.

In response to a question posed by Commissioner Lee, Port Director MacLaurie stated that planning for annual inner harbor maintenance dredging typically begins each April. She stated that development of the annual inner harbor maintenance dredge plan is guided by equipment feasibility and volume limitations imposed by regulatory permits. She also noted that the FY26 Dredging Operations Budget is sufficient to support annual inner harbor dredging needs and does not pose any constraints to performing the work.

A discussion ensued regarding the feasibility of allocating additional funding in the FY26 budget for a harbor resonance study. Commissioner Lee suggested identifying \$100,000 for this work.

Vice-chair Geisreiter acknowledged the potential benefits of a future resonance study, and recommended it for inclusion on the 2025 Priority List rather than the FY26 budget.

In response to a question posed by Vice-chair Geisreiter, Port Director MacLaurie confirmed that PNC Bank will accept the Port District's inclusion of the \$1.5 million transfer from the Reserve Fund as "Additional Revenue" on the Debt Service Ratio (DSR) sheet.

Audience member Linda Wilshusen requested that as part of CIP deliberations, the Commission consider designating an additional public restroom in the northwest harbor.

The Commission thanked staff for the budget presentation.

MOTION: Motion made by Vice-chair Geisreiter, seconded by Commissioner Reed to approve the FY26 budget and capital improvement projects, including the addition of one full-time equivalent position (Maintenance Worker) and the adjustment to the Liveaboard Monthly Per Person Fee to \$142 / person (and indexed in future budget years to marina fee increases).

- *Motion carried unanimously.*

12. Review of Emergency Action for North Harbor Dock Repair Work (*There was no discussion on this agenda item*)

MOTION: Motion made by Commissioner DeWitt, seconded by Commissioner Lee to continue the emergency action for north harbor dock repair work.
- *Motion carried unanimously.*

13. Finalize Port District Priorities 2025

Discussion: Following a brief discussion, there was consensus among the Commission to include the following priority to the 2025 list:

- Explore the feasibility of conducting a future harbor resonance study.

MOTION: Motion made by Commissioner Lee, seconded by Vice-chair Geisreiter to finalize the Port District Priorities for 2025 with the addition of the harbor resonance study item.
- *Motion carried unanimously.*

14. 2025 Election of Special District Regular Member on LAFCO

Port Director MacLaurie requested that the Commission provide direction to staff on casting the Port District's vote for a regular member and alternate member of the Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO).

Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) candidate, Lani Faulkner of Central Fire District, made a statement in consideration of the Regular or Alternate Member Seat.

There was consensus among the Commission to authorize the Port Director to vote for Lani Faulkner (Regular Member) and Ed Banks (Alternate Member).

15. Approval of Cash/Payroll Disbursements – January 2025 (*There was no discussion on this agenda item*)

MOTION: Motion made by Vice-chair Geisreiter, seconded by Commissioner DeWitt to approve cash and payroll disbursements for January 2025, in the amount of \$2,210,465.16.
- *Motion carried unanimously.*
-

INFORMATION

16. Port Director's Report

Port Director MacLaurie informed the Commission that a Request for Proposals for the Demolition and Reconstruction of FF-Dock Project will be advertised on Wednesday, February 26, 2025, with bids due on Tuesday, March 18, 2025.

A brief discussion ensued regarding the upcoming Murray Street Bridge Stakeholder Meeting, which is being hosted by the Port District to address the upcoming project and associated impacts on the harbor community.

Chair Goddard commended staff on the renewal of the District Transparency Certificate of Excellence, which is issued by the Special District Leadership Foundation.

17. Harbormaster's Report

In response to a question posed by Vice-chair Geisreiter, Port Director MacLaurie stated that staff will gather additional information regarding the US Coast Guard's plan to update the Walton Lighthouse foghorn.

18. Facilities Maintenance & Engineering Manager's Report (*There was no discussion on this agenda item*)

19. 2025 California Marine Affairs and Navigation Conference (CMANC) Agenda

Vice-chair Geisreiter stated that the Port District's presence at the annual CMANC meeting in Washington, D.C., was both timely and critical, as it coinciding with the arrival of the Port District's renewal Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) at Corps Headquarters. He noted that the trip provided an invaluable opportunity to reinforce the importance of the MOA renewal in discussions with key legislators and Corps staff. Vice-chair Geisreiter commended Port Director MacLaurie for her effective representation of the District.

20. Financial Reports (*There was no discussion on this agenda item*)

- a) Comparative Seasonal Revenue Graph
- b) LAIF & CLASS Statements

21. Delinquent Account Reporting (*There was no discussion on this agenda item*)

22. Harbor Patrol Incident Response Report – January 2025 (*There was no discussion on this agenda item*)

23. Port Commission Review Calendar / Follow-Up Items (*There was no discussion on this agenda item*)

Chair Goddard adjourned the regular public session at 6:37 PM.



Toby Goddard, Chair