



Regular Public Session of May 26, 2026

**Santa Cruz Port Commission
MINUTES**

Commission Members Present:

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

REGULAR PUBLIC SESSION – 5:30 PM

Chair Geisreiter 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).

1. Pledge of Allegiance
2. Oral Communication

Vice-chair DeWitt reported that on May 18, 2026, he attended a two-hour SB 827 Fiscal and Financial Training workshop offered by the California Special Districts Association. He noted that the workshop satisfies new statutory requirements and covered topics including municipal budgeting, capital financing, debt management, and financial reporting.

CONSENT AGENDA

3. Approval of Minutes
 - a) Special Public Meeting of April 8, 2026
 - b) Special Closed Meeting of April 22, 2026
 - c) Regular Public Meeting of April 28, 2026
4. Approval of Month-to-Month Rental Agreement for 2222 East Cliff Drive, Suite 208 (Tenant: Camilla J. Manheimer)
5. Award of Contract for California State Parks Ocean Lifeguard Services (NTE \$36,933)

MOTION: Motion made by Commissioner Goddard, seconded by Vice-chair DeWitt, to approve consent agenda items 3, 4, and 5.
- *Motion carried unanimously.*

REGULAR AGENDA

6. Approval of Lease Amendment for UCSC Community Boating Program

Discussion: Port Director MacLaurie reported that staff met with representatives from UCSC's Real Estate Division to discuss extending the lease term for the UCSC Community Boating Program. She stated that the current lease, as amended by

Amendments 1 through 7, is set to expire on June 30, 2026. She noted that UCSC requested a nine-year lease extension, establishing a new lease term of July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2035, with no other changes to the lease terms.

Staff recommended approval of the Eighth Amendment to the lease for the UCSC Community Boating Program.

MOTION: Motion made by Vice-chair DeWitt, seconded by Commissioner Goddard, to approve the Eighth Amendment to lease for the UCSC Community Boating Program.

- *Motion carried unanimously.*

7. Consideration of Additional Excess Liability Insurance Coverage

Discussion: Port Director MacLaurie stated that up until FY24, the District maintained approximately \$15 to \$16 million in combined general and excess liability insurance coverage. She stated that rising premiums over the past several years made it impractical to maintain that level of coverage, and the District reduced total coverage to \$10 million. She stated that, given stabilizing premiums and a favorable claims history, the District is now considering purchasing an additional \$5 million excess liability layer to restore total coverage to approximately \$15 million.

She stated that if the Commission elects to proceed with purchasing the additional excess liability insurance layer, staff recommends utilizing the approximately \$100,000 in realized FY27 insurance budget savings, with the remaining balance funded through unrestricted cash.

A brief discussion ensued regarding whether the District's liability coverage limits apply on a per-occurrence basis or as an annual aggregate limit. *(Following the meeting, Port Director MacLaurie confirmed with the District's insurance broker that the answer depends on the underlying policy. Coverage for Protection & Indemnity (P&I), Marine Employers Liability (MEL), and Auto Liability is provided on a per-occurrence basis, but the Marine General Liability is subject to an annual aggregate limit, under which the total amount available during the policy year is capped at \$15 million.)*

Chair Geisreiter and Commissioner Reed expressed support for increasing the District's total coverage limit from \$10 million to \$15 million.

MOTION: Motion made by Commissioner Reed, seconded by Vice-chair DeWitt, to authorize the purchase of an additional \$5 million excess liability insurance layer.

- *Motion carried unanimously.*

8. Approval of Cash/Payroll Disbursements – April 2026 *(There was no discussion on this agenda item)*

MOTION: Motion made by Commissioner Goddard, seconded by Commissioner Reed, to approve cash and payroll disbursements for April 2026, in the amount of \$3,137,429.46.
- *Motion carried unanimously.*

INFORMATION

9. Port Director's Report

Port Director MacLaurie stated that letters were sent to Senators Padilla and Schiff thanking them for their support of the District's FY27 Energy & Water Community Project Funding request. Copies of the letters were distributed as a handout. She stated that the District's Washington representative has been effective in monitoring the request and maintaining communication with Senate representatives throughout the appropriations process.

In response to a question posed by Commissioner Reed, Port Director MacLaurie stated that the District's dredge funding reimbursement request was excluded from the House appropriations process, along with many other California ports and harbors. She stated that there are reasonable assurances that the District's request may be included in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' FY27 Work Plan.

10. Harbormaster's Report

Harbormaster Anderson stated that the Thursday Night Beach BBQ events, hosted by the Crow's Nest, resumed on May 21, 2026, and will continue through September 3, 2026. He noted that the first event was moderately attended.

A brief discussion ensued regarding safety provisions for the events. Harbormaster Anderson confirmed that the Crow's Nest's 2026 Entertainment Permit (issued by the Police Department) includes additional provisions for heightened security / patrol, similar to last year's permit.

In response to a question posed by Commissioner Reed, Harbormaster Anderson confirmed that the events are all-ages and that alcohol service is managed through a wristband identification system upon entry.

11. Facilities Maintenance & Engineering Manager's Report

Facilities Maintenance & Engineering (FME) Manager Wulf stated that *Twin Lakes* has been moved to its offseason mooring for maintenance, including removal of the snorkel, "Christmas tree," and related equipment. He stated that staff anticipates returning the dredge to the launch ramp for haulout on July 6, 2026.

A brief discussion ensued regarding the upcoming dredge haulout project. FME Manager Wulf stated that staff is holding weekly coordination calls with Dredging Supply Company (DSC) to align contractor activities with the harbor's operational schedule.

In response to a question from Commissioner Goddard, Port Director MacLaurie stated that an estimated 200 cubic yards of sediment were removed from the AA-Dock fairway during the 2025–26 dredge season. She stated that lower-than-expected volumes were due to subsurface

conditions, including repeated encounters with hard pan and rocky shelf that limited dredging depth in the A-Dock area.

12. Murray Street Bridge Seismic Retrofit & Barrier Replacement Project Update

Port Director MacLaurie stated that the City intends to provide the public with two weeks' advance notice prior to the next full closure of the Murray Street Bridge, which is currently anticipated to begin on June 10, 2026. She stated that the east access road is also expected to remain closed, but that the east and west access roads will not be closed simultaneously.

13. Financial Reports

- a) Comparative Seasonal Revenue Graph
- b) Quarterly Comparative Budget Report
- c) Quarterly Employee Count
- d) Quarterly Fuel Sales Report
- e) Quarterly Boatyard Report
- f) Quarterly Concession Percentage Rent Report
- g) LAIF & CLASS Statements

In response to a question posed by Chair Geisreiter, Finance Officer Eldridge stated that the District's auditors will be on-site in the coming weeks for year-end closing procedures.

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

15. Harbor Patrol Incident Response Report – April 2026 (*There was no discussion on this agenda item*)

16. Port Commission Review Calendar / Follow-Up Items

Commissioner Goddard proposed that the Sea Scouts submit annual reports in lieu of semiannual reports, consistent with reporting requirements for other nonprofit organizations operating within the harbor.

O'Neill Sea Odyssey (OSO) Executive Director Tracy Weiss announced that OSO will host a 30th anniversary celebration at the Seymour Marine Discovery Center on August 21, 2026, and noted that invitations will be distributed.

Chair Geisreiter adjourned the regular public session at 6:15 PM.



Reed Geisreiter, Chair