



Special Closed and Regular Public Session of October 28, 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 – 4:00 PM**

Chair Goddard convened the special public session at 4:00 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 and §54957

At 4:00 PM, Chair Goddard announced that the Commission will meet in closed session to discuss agenda items 3 and 4.

### **SPECIAL CLOSED SESSION**

3. Conference with Real Property Negotiators  
Property: 790 Mariner Park Way  
Agency Designated Representative: H. MacLaurie  
Negotiating Parties: Pacific Yachting & Sailing  
Under Negotiation: Lease
4. Public Employee Performance Evaluation  
Title: Port Director

### **SPECIAL PUBLIC SESSION**

5. 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 items 3 and 4.

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).

- 6. Pledge of Allegiance
- 7. Oral Communication

Chair Goddard noted that the commercial crabbing season has been delayed due to an abundance of humpback whales in the area and emphasized the resulting hardship on commercial fishers. He stated that the California Department of Fish and Wildlife will conduct another risk assessment survey in mid-December to evaluate a possible season opening in January 2026.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

- 8. Approval of Minutes
  - a) Regular Public Meeting of September 23, 2025
- 9. Approval of Termination of Memorandum of Lease (Harbour Services, Inc.)
- 10. Approval of Resolution 25-08 – Surrendered and Abandoned Vessel Exchange (SAVE) Grant

MOTION: Motion made by Vice-chair Geisreiter, seconded by Commissioner DeWitt, to approve consent agenda items 8, 9, and 10.  
 - *Motion carried unanimously.*

**REGULAR AGENDA**

- 11. Award of Contract for the East Side Public Pier Decking Project (NTE \$165,000)

Discussion: Port Director MacLaurie stated that a request for proposals for the East Side Public Pier Decking Project was advertised, commencing September 27, 2025. She stated that three bids were received, and SSB Construction (SSB) was the low bidder.

She provided the figures below that represent the estimated construction budget based on SSB's bid:

Contract Amount	\$ 147,290
Contingencies (approx. 10%)	<u>\$ 17,710</u>
Total Construction Cost	\$ 165,000

MOTION: Motion made by Commissioner Lee, seconded by Commissioner Reed, to award a contract for the East Side Public Pier Decking Project; authorize the Port

Director to execute the contract with SSB Construction; authorize a not-to-exceed amount of \$165,000; and approve an appropriation in the FY26 budget for the amount of the contract plus a contingency.

- *Motion carried unanimously.*

12. Allocation of CalOES Disaster Recovery Assistance Funds (\$1,404,237)

Discussion: Port Director MacLaurie stated that the District received \$1,404,237 in CalOES Disaster Recovery Assistance funding as partial reimbursement for eligible debris removal and reconstruction costs from the December 23, 2024, storm surge event.

Port Director MacLaurie summarized the Reserve Fund activity highlighted in the staff report and proposed the following allocations:

- \$1,072,988 – FY26 Reserve Fund
- \$331,249 – Unallocated Capital Improvement Program Fund (F099)

A discussion ensued regarding alternative allocation options to help address some of the District's more urgent capital needs. There was consensus among the Commission to allocate the funds as follows:

- \$572,988 – FY26 Reserve Fund
- \$831,249 – Storm Surge Recovery Fund (F049)

MOTION: Motion made by Vice-chair Geisreiter, seconded by Commissioner DeWitt, to authorize the allocation of \$1,404,237 in CalOES Disaster Recovery Assistance funding as follows, \$572,988 to FY26 Reserve Fund and \$831,249 to Storm Surge Recovery Fund (F049).

- *Motion carried unanimously.*

13. Introduce Ordinance Section 105.1 – Authority of Harbor Patrol

Discussion: Port Director MacLaurie introduced Ordinance Section 105.1 to formalize Harbor Patrol's authority and clarify enforcement roles following operational changes under California Senate Bill 2.

In response to questions posed by the Commission, Port Director MacLaurie stated that throughout the District's Ordinances, "General Manager" refers to the Port Director and that "Harbor Police" is the legally required term, as designated in the California Harbors and Navigation Code.

Harbormaster Anderson stated that this ordinance is an important component in implementing the updated policies and procedures manual and will help ease the transition for staff.

MOTION: Motion made by Commissioner DeWitt, seconded by Vice-chair Geisreiter, to authorize legal advertisement of proposed Ordinance Section 105.1 – Authority of Harbor Patrol, in accordance with Harbors and Navigation Code Section 6309.2.

- *Motion carried unanimously.*

#### 14. Review of Proposed Dredge Haulout Approach

Discussion: Port Director MacLaurie stated that *Twin Lakes* is approaching its tenth dredge season and requested Commission direction regarding the proposed dredge haulout approach.

A discussion ensued regarding the scope of work, the proposed Moss Landing haulout location, and preliminary cost estimates.

Facilities Maintenance & Engineering (FME) Manager Wulf stated that the estimated cost includes transportation of the dredge onto and off land, disassembly, welding, sandblasting, painting, and reassembly. He stated that dredge crew members will oversee and assist with the work as necessary.

Port Director MacLaurie stated that prior quotes from Bay Area shipyards exceeded one million dollars and confirmed staff's support for proceeding with the proposed approach in coordination with DSC Dredge.

There was consensus among the Commission to authorize staff to proceed with the proposed haulout approach for *Twin Lakes*, including initiating negotiations, refining project logistics, and developing a detailed cost estimate and project schedule.

#### 15. Mid-Fiscal Year Review of Capital Improvement Program

Discussion: Port Director MacLaurie presented the mid-year report and highlighted the following:

- There are currently 17 projects funded in the District's Capital Improvement Program (CIP) (including the Unallocated CIP Fund):
  - 4 have been completed (\$4,300,981 in expenditures)
  - 7 remain in progress (\$478,893 in expenditures to date)
  - 9 are slated to commence in future fiscal years.
- The CIP balance as of September 30, 2025, totals approximately \$5,674,804.

In response to questions posed by Chair Goddard, Port Director MacLaurie provided the following updates:

Launch Ramp Sinkhole Repair Project (Phase 1)

- The repair of the launch ramp sinkhole is not included in the CIP as it represents an unanticipated expenditure in the current fiscal year; however, it will be incorporated into future CIP planning.

Piling Inspection Report

- In addition to routine piling inspections performed by District staff, a comprehensive condition assessment and underwater pile inspection was performed by Moffat & Nichol following the December 23, 2024, storm surge event. The results of these assessments will inform subsequent decisions regarding piling replacements.

Chair Goddard suggested that, given the high cost of fully rehabilitating the single I-Dock restroom facility, the allocated funds be redirected toward more modest upgrades across all harbor restroom facilities.

Chair Goddard commended staff for their accomplishments on CIP projects during this fiscal year, particularly in light of the commencement of construction on the Murray Street Bridge.

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

MOTION: Motion made by Commissioner Reed, seconded by Commissioner Lee, to approve cash and payroll disbursements for September 2025, in the amount of \$797,540.24.

- *Motion carried unanimously.*

**INFORMATION**

17. Port Director's Report

In response to a question posed by Commissioner Reed, Port Director MacLaurie stated that she is engaged in discussions with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to ensure proper authorizations are received to commence dredging, despite the current federal government shutdown.

In response to a question posed by Commissioner Lee, Administrative Services Officer Ghisletta stated that the extended water taxi service hours have been updated on the Port District website to reflect an end time of dusk.

18. Harbormaster's Report

Harbormaster Anderson stated that the delay in the crab season was anticipated; however, there remains the possibility of a pop-up gear fishery in the future, which could allow crabbing activities during the holiday period.

Harbormaster Anderson expressed concern regarding the reduction in State funding for the Surrendered and Abandoned Vessel Exchange (SAVE) grant program and indicated that the Port District may consider participating in community meetings to raise awareness for the program's importance.

Chair Goddard suggested that the Commission could potentially engage in legislative efforts to support the continued funding of the SAVE program.

19. Facilities Maintenance & Engineering Manager's Report

Facilities Maintenance & Engineering (FME) Manager Wulf stated that the dredge crew is scheduled to move *Twin Lakes* from its off-season mooring in the north harbor to the entrance channel during low tide on November 5, 2025. He stated that dredging operations will begin shortly thereafter, contingent upon receiving final authorization from regulators, which has been delayed due to the federal government shutdown.

FME Manager Wulf stated that the work for the Launch Ramp Sinkhole Repair Project (Phase 1) is tentatively scheduled to begin on November 4, 2025. He stated that project construction is anticipated to take approximately four weeks, with tidal conditions resulting in short and variable work windows.

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

In response to a question posed by Commissioner Reed, Port Director MacLaurie stated that as the in-water work window for the Murray Street Bridge Project concludes, staff is internally assessing the need to fill the position of Port District Liaison. She stated that staff maintains regular communication with the City and attends weekly project meetings and therefore does not anticipate needing to fill the position at this time.

In response to a question posed by Vice-Chair Geisreiter, FME Manager Wulf stated that the City is procuring a new garbage compactor for the Port District, which will be installed near the S-Dock waste-oil station and remain the property of the Port District upon project completion.

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

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

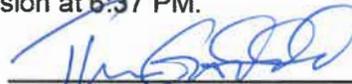
22. Delinquent Account Reporting (*There was no discussion on this agenda item*)

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

24. Port Commission Review Calendar / Follow-Up Items

Chair Goddard requested that staff issue a reminder to Commissioners who are required to complete their biannual ethics training.

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



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Toby Goddard, Chair