



Regular Public Session of January 27, 2026

**Santa Cruz Port Commission
MINUTES**

Commission Members Present:

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

Bryan Shields, Field Representative for North Cal Carpenters Union Local 646, introduced himself and expressed interest in serving as a potential resource for the Port District, particularly regarding upcoming pile driving projects.

Takoda Fletcher, a representative of The Salty Sheep program and ferry captain for the San Francisco Water Emergency Transit Authority, introduced himself to the Commission. Mr. Fletcher indicated that he and vessel owner Ryan Althaus (slip D 21) intend to work with staff to resubmit a charter permit application for Port Commission consideration.

CONSENT AGENDA

3. Approval of Minutes
 - a) Special Closed and Regular Public Meeting of November 25, 2025

MOTION: Motion made by Vice-chair DeWitt, seconded by Commissioner Reed, to approve consent agenda item 3.
- *Motion carried unanimously.*

REGULAR AGENDA

4. Authorization to Purchase Replacement Variable Frequency Drive for Booster Pump (NTE \$50,000)

Discussion: Facilities Maintenance & Engineering (FME) Manager Wulf stated that the Port District's booster pump is a critical component of north harbor dredging operations, as it assists in transporting dredged sediment from the north harbor to the offshore disposal zone adjacent to Harbor Beach. He stated

that although the booster pump was serviced as part of offseason maintenance and found to be fully operational, days prior to the planned commencement of north harbor dredging, the variable frequency drive (VFD) controlling the booster pump failed. He stated that the VFD has reached the end of its useful service life and requires full replacement.

He stated that staff recommends authorizing the purchase and installation of a replacement VFD in an amount not to exceed \$50,000.

MOTION: Motion made by Commissioner Lee, seconded by Vice-chair DeWitt, to authorize the purchase and installation of a replacement Variable Frequency Drive for the Port District's booster pump, in an amount not to exceed \$50,000.

- *Motion carried unanimously.*

5. Approval of Federal Advocacy and Grants Consulting Services

Discussion: Port Director MacLaurie stated the District's longtime federal advocacy firm, Carpi & Clay, concluded its services at the end of 2025. She stated that staff evaluated several firms and selected The Ferguson Group (TFG) based on experience and a prior working relationship. She stated that the transition is expected to bring renewed energy and perspective to advocacy efforts. She stated that the contract includes flexible grants consulting services, with dedicated experts assisting with federal and state grants.

Commissioner Goddard suggested requesting TFG's assistance in advocating for increased funding for the Surrendered and Abandoned Vessel Exchange (SAVE) grant.

In response to a question posed by Chair Geisreiter, Port Director MacLaurie confirmed that the District's interests will continue to be represented through the California Marine Affairs & Navigation Conference (CMANC), which remains represented by Carpi & Clay.

MOTION: Motion made by Commissioner Goddard, seconded by Commissioner Reed, to authorize the Port Director to execute a services agreement with The Ferguson Group for federal advocacy and grants consulting services.

- *Motion carried unanimously.*

6. Port District Priorities 2026

Discussion: Port Director MacLaurie stated that the Port District Priorities are reviewed by the Commission on an annual basis and are used to help guide the budget process, provide direction for staff, and assist in tracking accomplishments.

The Commission expressed support of the Port District priority list for 2026 and suggested the following revisions:

- Organization & Culture:
 - Add Priority “Actively identify, evaluate, and advance initiatives that improve safety.”
- Infrastructure Maintenance:
 - Revise Priority “Institute an asset management system and preventative maintenance practices encompassing the District’s land and waterside infrastructure.”

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

MOTION: Motion made by Vice-chair DeWitt, seconded by Commissioner Lee, to approve cash and payroll disbursements for November / December 2025, in the amounts of \$733,656.15 and \$675,234.33, respectively.
 - *Motion carried unanimously.*

INFORMATION

8. Port Director’s Report

Port Director MacLaurie expressed appreciation to Administrative Services Officer Ghisletta and Administrative Assistant Crews for their work on the Harboropoly promotional campaign, which concluded on December 31, 2025. She noted that the campaign was successful and that staff intends to implement it again in the upcoming year.

Commissioner Goddard commended the walkway improvements completed as part of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers’ West Jetty Repair Project and recommended that the warning sign be revised to more accurately reflect the hazard from large waves. Port Director MacLaurie stated that staff will propose a replacement sign similar to the previous design.

9. Harbormaster’s Report

Commissioner Reed commended staff for the successful coordination of the Expired Marine Flare Turn-In event on November 9, 2025. Harbormaster Anderson stated that 1,700 expired flares were turned in for disposal.

10. Facilities Maintenance & Engineering (FME) Manager’s Report

FME Manager Wulf stated that work on the Launch Ramp Sinkhole Repair Project is expected to resume on Wednesday, January 28, 2026. He stated that the substructure beneath the launch ramp is in satisfactory condition and that the previously dislodged concrete panel has been properly reset in place.

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

Port Director MacLaurie stated that Murray Street Bridge is anticipated to reopen for one-way eastbound vehicle traffic and two-way pedestrian traffic on Wednesday, January 28, 2026, and that the east side access road beneath the bridge will remain closed. She stated that the City purchased and installed a new trash compactor in the southeast harbor parking lot to help mitigate the impacts on garbage hauling service during the access road closure.

12. Committee Assignments 2026 (*There was no discussion on this agenda item*)

13. Annual Review of Vessel Use List - 2025

Commissioner Lee remarked that it was encouraging to see 17 vessels turned in, noting his support for the Vessel Turn-In Program (VTIP).

A brief discussion ensued regarding boat partnerships as a means to increase vessel use. The Commission noted that authentic partnerships are encouraged under Ordinance Section 302(h) and recommended that staff promote such partnership opportunities through the newsletter, Harbor Exchange, and other communications.

14. 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 and CLASS Statements

In response to a question posed by Commissioner Goddard, Port Director MacLaurie stated that interest income in FY26 is lower than the prior year due to a reduction in cash reserves resulting from capital project expenditures, as well as declining interest rates. However, actual interest revenue is in line with budget projections.

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

16. Harbor Patrol Incident Response Report – November / December 2025 (*There was no discussion on this agenda item*)

17. Written Correspondence

- a) FY26 Work Plan Funding Request Letters from Port Director MacLaurie
- b) Letter from Port Director MacLaurie to the California Coastal Commission

In regard to item 17b. Tracey Weiss, Executive Director of O'Neill Sea Odyssey (OSO), expressed appreciation for the letter to the California Coastal Commission supporting OSO's Whale Tail Grant proposal. She noted that, if awarded, the grant would support the creation of an educational activity book designed to help students better understand the role of Santa Cruz Harbor, the beach ecosystem, and Monterey Bay.

In regard to item 17a. Commissioner Goddard expressed appreciation for the FY26 Work Plan funding requests, specifically noting the inclusion of national security considerations and the Harbor's role in supporting U.S. Coast Guard operations.

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

Chair Geisreiter adjourned the regular public session at 6:25 PM.



Reed Geisreiter, Chair