

Dear Harbor Commissioners,

The recent experience concerning jetpacks in the harbor has demonstrated once again that the interests of residents and businesses around the harbor take second place to the City's pursuit of more and more visitors to Newport Beach. A visiting boat anchorage in the Turning Basin will bring as much of the party-town mindset that visitors for years have brought with them to vacation rentals, bars, and restaurants further down on the peninsula, along with the inevitable negative impact on the surrounding neighborhood. Nevertheless, the current proposal to "try" a visiting boat anchorage again in the Turning Basin probably will result in the same "balance" of interests, with visitors holding far more sway than the City's harbor constituents, residents and property owners.

Based on the last out-of-control temporary boat anchorage in the Turning Basin, another trial seems based on the hope the City will somehow control dozens of boats filled with people in a party mood, complete with loud music, drinking, yelling, foul language, and doing everything boaters on vacation usually do. I spent years vacationing by boat so I'm familiar with what boaters do and what to expect—just like last time. This giant party is again set in a residential area where the sound travels farther over water and bounces side to side in a horseshoe shaped part of the bay. Add one or two jetpacks weaving around the whole area and it promises to be quite a summer for those who live and work here.

Since the approval of the anchorage is probably a fait accompli, below are my thoughts on how to minimize some of the impact on the harbor residents and businesses and on the bay itself:

1. The City cannot control the activities in the Turning Basin without dedicated monitoring and enforcement. Therefore, a Harbor Patrol boat or other City enforcement boat should be permanently assigned to the Turning Basin, full-time and all day. An enforcement boat is necessary to catch unmanned drifting boats improperly anchored, a common occurrence last time. Dedicated enforcement is also necessary to maintain the boundaries of the anchorage, which were routinely ignored last time. Enforcement is required to monitor the speed and interaction of the jetpacks among the anchored boats and other harbor users, control excessive noise, and to otherwise keep order in the Turning Basin. During the last trial anchorage, phone calls to the Harbor Patrol usually meant waiting an hour for the Harbor Patrol to arrive, if it arrived at all.
2. Assign a dedicated person or department, including a 24-hour telephone number, where residents, businesses and other property owners can ask questions or register complaints about the activities in the anchorage. Clarify who is responsible to enforce the City's permitted activities and City ordinances. During the last "trial anchorage," no one seemed to know who was in charge of what went on in the Turning Basin. For example, when called about the live bands and giant raft ups, the Harbor Patrol apparently knew nothing about whether they were permitted and referred calls to "the City," which of course was closed on weekends so there was no recourse for ongoing activities.

3. Prohibit boaters from having amplified music outside their boats, enforceable by the Harbor Patrol or other enforcement boat. The City prohibits amplified music on the commercial party boats, and prohibits restaurants along PCH from opening their windows to prevent amplified music travelling across the water to the residents. There is no reason to make an exception for boaters located far closer to the homes than the restaurants and party boats. The City also would not allow loud music on land coming from a party in a residential neighborhood, so it shouldn't be acceptable on the water. In the anchorage last time, a homeowner's own music could not compete on their own patios with the amplified music from one or more boats. Moreover, the "music" coming from more than one boat at a time created a cacophony of intolerable noise that wasn't music at all.
4. Institute a program in which dye tablets will be put in holding tanks. The Turning Basin does not flush as well as the bay closer to the open ocean. The small beach at the west end of Lido is used for swimming by summer campers and other beach goers, and will be used by boaters as well. The pollution levels need to be continuously monitored to ensure in the water along the beach and in the Turning Basin is safe for swimmers.
5. Please clarify whether boats in the proposed boundaries are allowed to swing outside the boundary. If boats are allowed to swing outside the boundary, the proposed boundary (especially Chris's proposal) closest to the residential docks will make it difficult or impossible for large boats (up to 80 feet) to maneuver into their slips, especially when backing in or in strong winds or currents.

To say I am discouraged with recent decisions regarding the Turning Basin would be an understatement. The City's desire to bring ever more visitors to the Turning Basin is not without costs, its decisions just determine who pays them. With the jetpacks still roaring in front of my house, the giant Invictus sometimes parked like a building in front of my house, its lights illuminating my living room all night, and now this "temporary" giant boat party in front of me, the City has really done a number on the beautiful bay, my own and my tenants' quality of life, the income I depend on and the property values of real estate investments my husband and I made in Newport Beach, including my own home's property value. Property owners like me have paid and will continue to pay a real price, both financially and in our quality of life, because the City wants more and more business revenue from visitors. After 30 years of living here, it is clear tourist money is valued above anything else and making the Turning Basin into a tourist "fun zone" is all part of the plan. The Turning Basin used to be a beautiful open space populated by birds, fish and marine mammals, appreciated by tourists, residents and property owners alike. People wanted to live here and dreamed about living here. Unfortunately, the City has not been a good steward of the natural resources and open space we had, and I can't say this City is a good place to live anymore.

Thank you for considering my suggestions and thoughts on this latest Turning Basin issue.

Sincerely, Pam Whitesides

Proposed Turning Basin Anchorage

Harbor Commission
June 8, 2015



CITY OF NEWPORT BEACH

Public Works Department
Harbor Resources Division

May 22, 2015

Dear Property Owner/Resident Adjacent to the Turning Basin,

Greetings!

I am writing to inform you that the Harbor Commission is considering a proposal to add a temporary anchorage in the Turning Basin area this summer. The Turning Basin is defined as the body of water surrounded by the western tip of Lido Isle, the greater Lido Marina Village area, the Newport Boulevard bridge, and the western portion of Pacific Coast Highway. An anchorage area is defined by four buoys, and vessels may anchor for up to five days at a time (extensions allowed). The anchorage area rules and regulations are managed by the Harbor Patrol.

The Harbor Commission is considering this temporary anchorage as a way to augment the existing, primary anchorage which is located between the eastern tip of Lido Isle and Bay Island. The temporary anchorage in the Turning Basin would be installed for approximately 2-3 months this summer as a trial which would then be evaluated by the Harbor Commission and City Council at a later date. Depending on the outcome of this evaluation, a permanent anchorage could be pursued in the future.

The Harbor Commission will be considering this proposal at their next scheduled meeting, and you are invited to attend and provide comments. This meeting will be at:

Newport Beach Civic Center
Council Chambers
100 Civic Center Drive
Newport Beach, CA 92660
Monday, June 8, 2015
8:30 PM

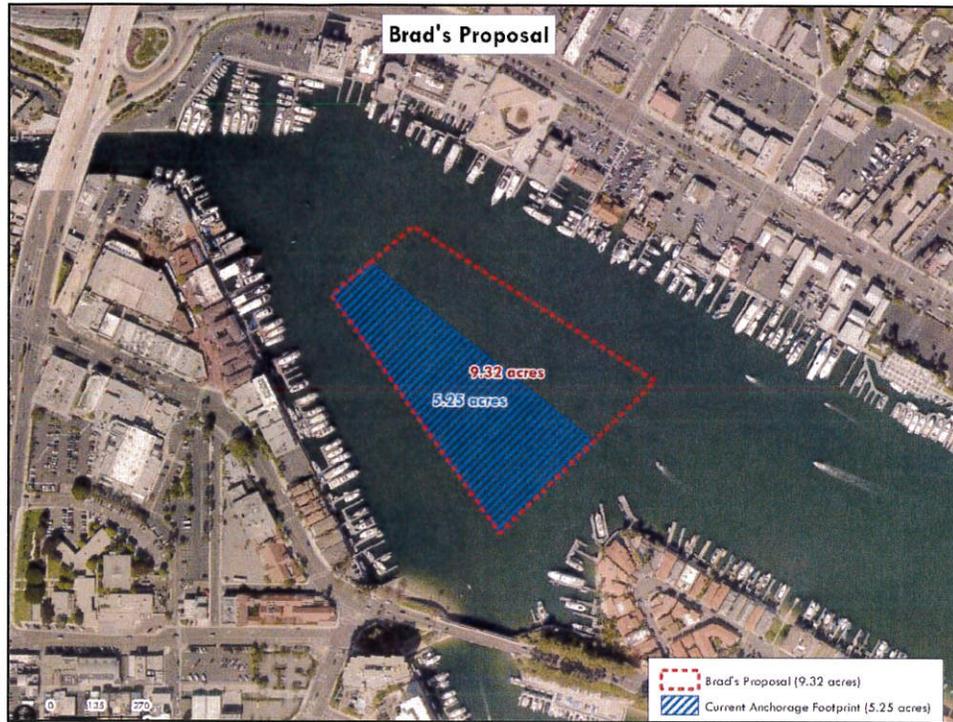
If you have any questions, please feel free to contact either myself or Shannon Levin, Harbor Analyst, (949) 644-3041 or Shannon@newportbeachca.gov

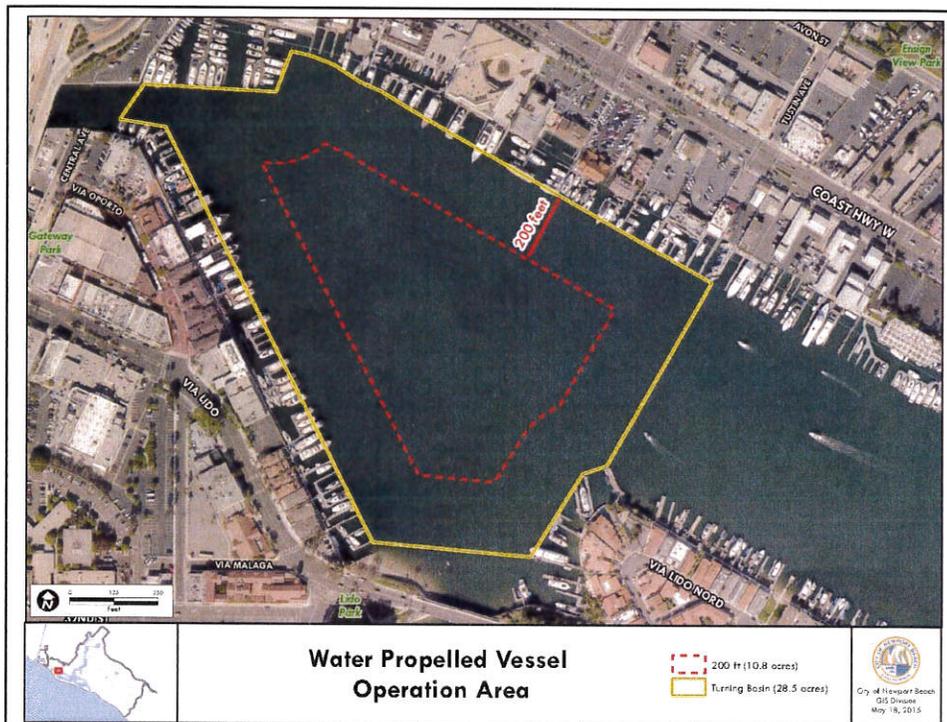
Thank you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Chns Miller".

Chns Miller
(949) 644-3043
cmiller@newportbeachca.gov







Questions ?

Chris Miller, Harbor Manager

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Shannon Levin, Harbor Analyst

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