



Fiscal Year 2023 Budget and Fee Changes

Brian Bosse, Waterfront Business Manager

Waterfront revenues for Fiscal Year 2022 (July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022) are expected to exceed budget projections. The Department continues to maintain 100% occupancy in slip and lease rentals and Stearns Wharf and the Harbor continue to see visitors returning to the area following two years of COVID impacts.

During Fiscal Year 2023 (July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023), the Department expects to fund approximately \$1,725,000 in capital improvements. Existing projects that will continue in FY 2023 include: Parking Self Pay System (\$75,000) to replace aged Luke Pay Stations throughout the Waterfront; the Marina Annual Maintenance Program (\$350,000), which includes replacing dock fingers, dock boxes, power centers, and utilities in the various marinas; and, the Stearns Wharf Timber/Pile Replacement Program (\$550,000).

New projects in Fiscal Year 2023 include Fire Alarm System Update (\$50,000), Leadbetter Beach Pedestrian/Bike Path Conceptual Design (\$50,000), Harbor Gateway Conceptual Design (\$50,000), Harbor Patrol Shed/ Jibcrane/ Float Replacement (\$150,000), Roof Replacement: 132 Harbor Way (\$200,000), and Leadbetter Restroom Renovation (\$250,000).

As in prior years, fee increases are necessary to complete these projects, maintain the Harbor, Stearns Wharf, and other Waterfront facilities, and keep the Department's emergency and construction reserves at required levels.

Fee adjustments beginning July 1, 2022 include:

Slip and Mooring Fees:

- Monthly Slip Permit Fee increase of 5%.
- Monthly Live Aboard Permit Fee increase of 5%.
- Late Slip Permit Fee Payment increase from \$35 to \$50 per occurrence.
- Slip Permit New Boat/Add Spouse/Permit Exchange Fee increase from \$50 to \$75 per occurrence.
- Slip Permit Transfer Fee changes per the recommendation of the Slip Assignment Policy Subcommittee.
- Late Fee Visitor Slip payment increase from \$5/day to \$10/day.
- Skiff Row permit fee increase from \$200 to \$250.
- Marina gate key increase from \$7 to \$10 and fob increase from \$12 to \$15.
- Cruise ship passenger fee increase from \$7 to \$10.

Parking Fees:

- Hourly parking rate increase from \$2.00/hour to \$2.50/hour.
 - Non-Surrendered ticket increase from \$20 to \$45 per occurrence.
- Stearns Wharf hourly parking rate increase \$2.50/hour to \$3.00/hour.
 - Non-surrendered ticket increase from \$20 to \$30 per occurrence.
- Boat trailer without time dated ticket increase from \$40 to \$65 per occurrence.

Miscellaneous Fees:

- Catamaran Beach permit increase from \$200 to \$250.
- West Beach Outriggers annual permit increase from \$275 to \$300.
- West Beach Outrigger rack/SBYF rack annual permit fee increase from \$1,200 to \$1,500.
- Bike locker fee increase from \$100/year to \$125/year.

Waterfront staff reviewed the proposed Fiscal Year 2023 budget, including proposed fee changes, with the Harbor Commission Budget Subcommittee on January 26, February 09, and again on April 1, 2022. Waterfront staff reviewed the proposed Fiscal Year 2023 budget, including proposed fee changes, with the Harbor Commission on March 17, and April 21, 2022. City Council reviewed the Waterfront Department's proposed budget at a May 5th work session and the City's Finance Committee reviewed the proposed fee adjustments on May 10th. City Council adopted the City's overall budget on June 21st. The approved City budget can be found on the City of Santa Barbara's Finance Department homepage at: <https://www.santabarbaraca.gov/gov/depts/finance/budget/default.asp>



Independence Day Event a Booming Success!

One of the best Independence Day celebrations in recent memory took place July 4th at the waterfront. Thousands of people who flocked to West Beach and Stearns Wharf were treated to incredible, free performances by local musicians and dancers. The festivities were capped with a spectacular 20-minute fireworks display, care of Garden State Fireworks. A music simulcast via KJEE 92.9 FM accompanied the display.

Over the long holiday weekend, Harbor Patrol participated in “Operation Dry Water,” a nationwide campaign that puts a heightened awareness on boating under the influence. Officers were out in full force, educating boaters and keeping things safe on the water.

With thousands flocking to our beaches for Independence Day, unfortunately a lot of litter ends up on the sand. This year, the Waterfront Department partnered with Santa Barbara Channelkeeper and the Santa Barbara Creeks Division to conduct volunteer beach cleanups of Leadbetter Beach and East Beach. The volunteers did a fantastic job and the beaches looked great afterwards.

Special thanks to the many workers from the Waterfront, Parks and Recreation, Public Works, and Police departments who spent their holiday making sure everyone else enjoyed theirs.





Slip Permit Transfer Fee Changes

by Mike Wiltshire, Waterfront Director

Over the last 18-months, the Harbor Commission Slip Assignment Policy Subcommittee has met several times to evaluate various slip assignment policy issues to assess and make any necessary changes if warranted. There were three major topics addressed throughout the course of these meetings: County Possessory Interest Tax, Addition of Family Members to Slip Permits, and Slip Permit Transfer Fees.

Issue 1: County Possessory Interest Tax

A Taxable Possessory Interest is a tax that is collected as a result of someone having exclusive access to public owned property such as our slips. Possessory interest tax on slip permits is managed and assessed by the Santa Barbara County Assessor's Office. The City's Waterfront Department receives no revenue from possessory interest tax and has no control over this program. The Waterfront Department does provide new slip permittees with relevant information about Possessory Interest Tax as well as contact information for the County Assessor's Office. No changes were recommended by the Slip Assignment Policy Subcommittee as this is outside the purview of the Harbor Commission and the Waterfront Department.

Issue 2: Addition of Family Members to Slip Permits (and/or Inheritance of Slip Permits):

Slip permits are not inheritable as they are month to month license agreements associated with publicly owned property. There are no ownership rights associated with a slip permit as all slips, and water space, are held in trust for the public by the City of Santa Barbara Waterfront Department. With regards to adding family members to slip permits for free or at a reduced rate, the Waterfront Department, City Attorney, and State Lands Commission came to similar conclusions that this would violate the City's fiduciary duty under the Public Trust doctrine, violate express terms of the Tidelands Trust document which prohibits discriminatory rates, as well as not be a fair and equitable practice. As such, no changes were recommended by the Slip Assignment Policy Subcommittee due to legal constraints.

Issue 3: Slip Permit Transfer Fee Rates:

Slip permit transfer fees are owed to the Waterfront Department as a part of the slip permit transfer process. Slip permit transfer fees have been in place since the 1980's and were put in place due to concerns with slip permit transfer abuse and profiting off the trust owned land. In reviewing the current slip permit transfer fees, the Slip Assignment Policy Subcommittee recommended reducing the transfer fee on slips under 40-feet while continuing to increase transfer fees on slips 50-feet and above. This change in transfer fees was recommended to help remedy the proportional imbalance between smaller and larger slips. It was also decided to spread these changes over a 3 to 7 year timeframe where the reduction in transfer fees for smaller slips will happen over 3 years whereas the increase in transfer fees for larger slips will happen over 5-7 years. These changes began July 1, 2022, as a part of the adopted Fiscal Year 2023 budget. Proposed changes to slip permit transfer fees for

Fiscal Year 2023 can be seen in the chart below.

Implementation Timeline	20 Foot Slip (\$/ft)	25 Foot Slip (\$/ft)	28 Foot Slip (\$/ft)	30 Foot Slip (\$/ft)	35 Foot Slip (\$/ft)	40 Foot Slip (\$/ft)	43 Foot Slip (\$/ft)	45 Foot Slip (\$/ft)	50 Foot Slip (\$/ft)	51 Foot Slip (\$/ft)	60 Foot Slip (\$/ft)
FY2022 - Current Transfer Fee	\$200	\$350	\$400	\$400	\$525	\$525	\$525	\$525	\$525	\$525	\$525
FY2023 - Adopted Transfer Fee	\$175	\$300	\$350	\$350	\$500	\$525	\$525	\$525	\$575	\$575	\$600

Supporting historical documents for the Slip Policy Subcommittee are located on the [Harbor Commission website](#).

Additionally, if you have any questions about the slip assignment policy, slip permit transfer fees, or anything slip related, feel free to contact Jeanette Prusinski, Administrative Supervisor, at jprusinski@santabarbaraca.gov or 805-897-1963.



DIY tips from Vessel Tech Mark Stouder



New Little Free Library Docks in Harbor

Beaches and boats are two of the best places to read a book and now you can find a tantalizing tome right here in the harbor - for free! Waterfront Maintenance staff has just installed a little free library under the stairs at 132 Harbor Way outside of West Marine.

Little free libraries are book lending boxes where anyone can take a book to borrow or keep at no cost. It's run on the honor system so if you see a book you like, go ahead and take it and if you have a book on you, leave it or bring a book or two next time you're around.

Appropriately, the harbor's little free library has a nautical theme. It was designed by Maintenance Superintendent Nels Anderson and built by Maintenance Coordinator Kyle Langelier and Senior Maintenance Worker Dustin Mendenhall.

So if you're looking for a good read, stop by the harbor's little free library anytime, it's open 24/7.



City Declares Stage Two Water Shortage Alert

by Madeline Ward, Water Conservation Coordinator

On June 21 the Santa Barbara City Council declared a Stage Two Water Shortage Alert in response to Governor Newsom's executive orders declaring a statewide drought emergency and mandating that water suppliers move to a higher level of drought response.

With the conservation practices already adopted by residents and businesses, and the City's investment in a diversified water supply, including the desalination plant, Santa Barbara's water supply outlook is good, even if dry conditions persist. However, in recognition of the severity of drought statewide, Santa Barbara is taking the next step to encourage conservation.

Current Water Use Regulations

- Hoses must be equipped with an automatic shut-off nozzle when in use, including washing vehicles and boats.
- No hosing down sidewalks, buildings, or other hard surfaced areas with potable water. Exceptions are for preventative maintenance or for health and safety measures provided a pressure washer, bucket, or other tools are used to limit the amount of water used.
- Irrigation is prohibited between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. for in-ground automatic or manual irrigation systems. Hand watering is allowed at any time, but a shut-off nozzle must be used.
- Statewide ban on potable irrigation of non-functional turfgrass at commercial, industrial, and institutional sites. Non-functional turf is defined as turf that is solely ornamental and not regularly used for human recreational purposes or for civic or community events.



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