

# CITY OF SANTA BARBARA WATERFRONT DEPARTMENT

## MEMORANDUM

**Date:** March 17, 2022  
**To:** Harbor Commission  
**From:** Mike Wiltshire, Waterfront Director  
**Subject:** **Director's Report**

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### RETURN OF CRUISE SHIPS TO SANTA BARBARA

The Waterfront Department has had a successful cruise ship program for twenty years. The program has been paused for two years due to the COVID-19 pandemic. With cases on the decline, the department has received the support of Harbor Commission, City Council, and health authorities to resume the program this spring with the first ship scheduled to visit on March 16, 2022.

On March 8, 2022 the Santa Barbara City Council received a presentation from Waterfront staff which covered the history of cruise ships in Santa Barbara, details on how the program works, and the implementation of new requirements and regulations. City Council was largely in support of the return of cruise ships citing the economic benefits along with the implementation of rigorous COVID safety measures. At the City Council meeting, there were a number of public comments, which were all supportive of welcoming cruise ships back to Santa Barbara.

Waterfront staff looks forward to welcoming cruise ships back to Santa Barbara and will continue to work with a number of stakeholders to successfully resume the cruise ship program including the South Coast Chamber of Commerce, Santa Barbara Landing, Santa Barbara Airbus, Santa Barbara Police Department, and the Coast Guard.

There are 17 cruise ship visits scheduled for this spring. The latest cruise ship schedule can be found on the Waterfront [website](#).

### TENTATIVE AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

- Insurance Requirements for Vessels in Harbor
- Waterfront Municipal Code Update
- Clean Marina Program Update
- Joint Oilfield Fisheries Liaison Office Presentation

Prepared by: Mike Wiltshire, Waterfront Director