

CITY OF SANTA BARBARA WATERFRONT DEPARTMENT

MEMORANDUM

Date: April 21, 2022
To: Harbor Commission
From: Mike Wiltshire, Waterfront Director
Subject: **Cruise Ship Discussion**

RECOMMENDATION:

That Harbor Commission further discuss the impacts of the return of the cruise ship program and take action as necessary.

BACKGROUND:

The Waterfront Department established a Cruise Ship Program in 2002. Since that time, Santa Barbara has hosted nearly 200 cruise ship calls. With few exceptions, cruise ship visits are limited to the non-peak tourist season of September through May.

DISCUSSION:

After a two year pause due to COVID, the Waterfront Department resumed the cruise ship program on March 16, 2022. Prior to resuming cruise ship visits the topic of cruise ships was brought in front Harbor Commission for discussion on January 20, 2022. Additionally, the topic of cruise ships was brought in front of City Council on March 8, 2022.

Although support for the return of cruise ships was well favored by the majority of Harbor Commission, and Council, there was some interest expressed in further evaluating the environmental impacts, regulations, and policies that govern cruise ships.

Cruise ships environmental compliance is regulated by a number of entities at the federal, state, and local level. Some of these regulatory agencies include: California Air Resources Board (CARB), State Water Resources Control Board, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and the International Maritime Organization (IMO). Additionally, Santa Barbara applies an additional layer of regulation locally, which is outlined below.

Local Captains Declaration (Santa Barbara)

- Agreement between Waterfront Department and each individual visiting vessel
- Multiple requirements specific to Santa Barbara including:
 - o No discharge within 12 nautical miles of the City of Santa Barbara
 - o Voluntary speed limit of 10 knots or less within 12 nautical miles of the City of Santa Barbara
 - o Specified anchor location and approach direction

Although the Waterfront Department, and the City of Santa Barbara, are not the agencies

responsible for enforcing all levels of regulatory compliance we do strive to work with the cruise line industries to gain a better understanding of how these regulations are met both locally and throughout the California coast. All interactions with the cruise lines indicate they take environmental, and all other, regulations very seriously and have rigorous systems in place to ensure compliance.

Prepared by: Mike Wiltshire, Waterfront Director