

## CITY OF SANTA BARBARA WATERFRONT DEPARTMENT

### MEMORANDUM

**Date:** June 16, 2022

**To:** Harbor Commission

**From:** Mike Wiltshire, Waterfront Director

**Subject:** Santa Barbara Deepwater Diving Monument At The Harbor

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#### RECOMMENDATION:

That Harbor Commission receive a presentation from members of the Santa Barbara Deepwater Diving Monument Committee discussing a proposal and preliminary design to install a bronze statue honoring the rich diving history in Santa Barbara.

#### DISCUSSION:

The roots of deep-water diving technology are firmly embedded in Santa Barbara, which is known as the birthplace of deep-water diving as well as the specialized diving techniques and equipment developed here.

After working with the Waterfront Department, the Santa Barbara Deepwater Diving Monument Committee is proposing to design and install a bronze statue honoring the rich diving history in Santa Barbara. The Santa Barbara Deepwater Diving Monument Committee was formed by Leslie Leaney, local historian and founder of the Historical Diving Society, and Don Barthelmess, Professor Emeritus of the Santa Barbara City College Marine Diving Technology Program. The purpose of the Santa Barbara Diving Monument Committee is to design, fund, construct, and donate a diver's monument statue to the City of Santa Barbara Waterfront Department to honor this historic period in the City's history. The project will provide an enduring attraction that confirms Santa Barbara harbor's historical significance in the development of global ocean exploration.

The project is in its early stages. Waterfront staff is supportive of the project and has been assisting with the City planning and permitting process. Preliminary design has been taken to the Arts Advisory Committee where it received unanimous approval. Currently, the Committee is working with world renowned, California-based sculptor Greg Polutanovich to design the proposed statue. Additionally, construction plans including location, structural, electrical, and signage details still need to be created to satisfy Building and Safety permitting requirements.

The proposed location for the installation of the monument in the Santa Barbara Harbor is in front of the Breakwater Café near the pedestrian entrance to the Harbor and breakwater walkway.

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The project will be fully funded by the Santa Barbara Deepwater Diving Monument Committee and provided as a gift to the City of Santa Barbara and Waterfront Department.

Prepared by: Mike Wiltshire, Waterfront Director