



**Written Public Comment Submitted For:
Harbor Commission Meeting of June 20, 2024**



From: [Lori Rafferty](#)
To: [Nikolas J. Lopez](#)
Cc: [Jeanette Prusinski](#); [Lori Rafferty](#)
Subject: still smarting from this slip fee increase because last year was said otherwise
Date: Monday, June 17, 2024 1:37:19 PM

Nico,
please forward this email to Harbor Commission members.
thanks,
) Lori (slip permittee holder since 1987)

Harbor Commission Folks,
many of us recreational boaters are shocked when you look at the increases in slip permit fees since 2020.
After it was published last budget cycle in 4/2023, see copied below, increases for 2025 were only being recommended as a 5% increase, which seemed reasonable.

Flash forward to current, this is beyond reasonable. Why am I only bringing this up now? Guess I assumed wrongly that the Waterfront Department would not keep being so “parasitic” and thinking that all recreational boat owners are a cash cow, that they would even dare to increase it again to 10%. And dont even get us going on parking rate increases, especially when it is harder and harder to find spaces to park due to increased tourism. Unlike the Santa Cruz Harbor and even some in San Francisco that provide discounted and/or marked spaces just for boat access.
Where is our updated Marina Comparison survey, please send me a link if there is one.

Not happy... this is the largest range of slip permit fee increases ever!!!

) Lori (recreational boat owner and slip permittee holder since 1987)

copied below from archived meeting notes:

**CITY OF SANTA BARBARA WATERFRONT DEPARTMENT MEMORANDUM
April 20, 2023**

Harbor Commission

Mike Wiltshire, Waterfront Director

Fiscal Year 2024 And 2025 Waterfront Budget Recommendation, Excluding Slip Transfer Fees

RECOMMENDATION:

That Harbor Commission receive a presentation on the Waterfront Department’s proposed Fiscal Year 2024 and 2025 budget submittal. Discuss and forward recommendation to City Council for approval of the Waterfront Department’s proposed Fiscal Year 2024 and 2025 budget, excluding Slip Transfer Fees, and incorporation into the City budget process.

PROPOSED FEE UPDATES (for 2024 and 2025):

- Recommend approval of a 10% Slip Permit Fee increase in Fiscal Year 2024;
- **Recommend approval of a 5% Slip Permit Fee increase in Fiscal Year 2025;**
- Recommend approval of a \$25 increase to the Administrative Processing Fee;
- Recommend approval of a 10% Live-Aboard Permit Fee increase in Fiscal Year 2024

- Recommend approval of a 5% Live-Aboard Permit Fee increase in Fiscal Year 2025

WHAT REALLY JUST HAPPENED...

- **Recommend approval of a 10% Slip Permit Fee increase in Fiscal Year 2025;**

WHAT ALREADY HAPPENED...

- Approved of a 10% Slip Permit Fee increase in Fiscal Year 2024
- Approved of a 5% Slip Permit Fee increase in Fiscal Year 2023
- Approved of a 3% Slip Permit Fee increase in Fiscal Year 2022
- Approved of a 2% Slip Permit Fee increase in Fiscal Year 2021
- Approved of a 1% Slip Permit Fee increase in Fiscal Year 2020

TOTAL INCLUDING 2025 = 31% increase !!!

did I add this up right?

From: [Christopher Naughton](#)
To: [Nikolas J. Lopez](#)
Cc: [Anna Jacobson](#)
Subject: Public Comment: June 20th Directors Report City Council Budget Adoption Update
Date: Wednesday, June 19, 2024 7:28:20 AM

You don't often get email from chrisnaughton06@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Hello Mr. Lopez,

Hoping that you can relay this message to the Waterfront Director, Mr. Whiltshire, prior to the commission meeting tomorrow night.

1. In the posted [directors report](#), there is no detail as to how rate increases will equitably meet the objectives of the revenues planned and approved by the city (page 283 of [city budget plan](#)). Recommend that the directors report provides transparency to show how parking fees, slip fees, tenant rents, etc, with forecasted volumes and proposed rates will accrue necessary revenue.
2. Stating that "this year's waterfront budget was challenging due to continued increases" is subjective and does not provide value to the report. Recommend that the directors report provides transparency and show these costs with forecasted vs actual values. If there was delta between forecasted vs actual, the report should provide explanation.

Addressing these two recommendations will provide the public with subjective information to help justify rate increases. The proposed rate increases (~10%) are not consistent with the planned revenue increases outlined in the city budget plan (2.6% FY24 [\$7,859,770] to FY25 [\$8,064,900]) and explanation is warranted.

Thank you for your consideration as these costs greatly impact slip tenants like myself.

Best Regards,
Chris Naughton
805-757-6837