



Special Closed and Regular Public Session of January 28, 2025

**Santa Cruz Port Commission  
MINUTES**

*Commission Members Present:*

Toby Goddard      Chair  
Reed Geisreiter      Vice-Chair  
Bill Lee      Commissioner  
Robert DeWitt      Commissioner

*Commission Members Absent:*

Stephen Reed      Commissioner

**SPECIAL PUBLIC SESSION – 4:30 PM**

Chair Goddard convened the special public session at 4:30 PM at the Harbor Public Meeting Room, 365 A Lake Avenue, Santa Cruz, CA.

1. Oral Communication
2. Announcement of Closed Session Pursuant to Government Code (Ralph M. Brown Act) §54956.8

At 4:30 PM, Chair Goddard announced that the Commission will meet in closed session to discuss agenda item 3.

**SPECIAL CLOSED SESSION**

3. Conference with Real Property Negotiators  
Property: 790 Mariner Park Way  
Agency Designated Representative: H. MacLaurie  
Negotiating Parties: Chardonnay Sailing Charters  
Under Negotiation: Lease

**SPECIAL PUBLIC SESSION**

4. Action and Vote Disclosure after Closed Session Pursuant to Government Code (Ralph M. Brown Act) §54957.1

Chair Goddard announced that the Commission took no reportable action in closed session on item 3.

Chair Goddard adjourned the special open session following the closed meeting at 5:05 PM.

**REGULAR PUBLIC SESSION – 5:30 PM**

Chair Goddard convened the regular public session at 5:30 PM at the Harbor Public Meeting Room, 365 A Lake Avenue, Santa Cruz CA (hybrid meeting platform).

5. Pledge of Allegiance

6. Oral Communication

Chair Goddard announced that the Commission took no reportable action in closed session on item 3.

In response to a question posed by slip renter Joseph Altmann, Port Director MacLaurie stated that various inner harbor locations, such as the A, B, and C-Dock fairways, can be considered for inclusion in the 2025-26 dredge plan.

Audience member Greg Cotten thanked staff for their response during the December 23, 2024, storm surge event and emphasized the need to plan and adapt for future winter storms.

In response to a question posed by slip renter Robert Pollie, Harbormaster Anderson stated that a comprehensive relocation plan is in place for the rowing rack facilities located beneath the bridge, which are within the temporary construction easement area for the Murray Street Bridge Seismic Retrofit & Barrier Replacement Project.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

7. Approval of Minutes

- a) Special Closed and Special Public Meeting of December 10, 2024
- b) Special Public Meeting of December 20, 2024
- c) Emergency Meeting of December 23, 2024

8. Approval of Resolution 25-02 – Approving Salary Schedules and Authorizing Amendments to the Port Director’s Employment Agreement

MOTION: Motion made by Vice-chair Geisreiter, seconded by Commissioner DeWitt to approve consent agenda items 7 and 8.

- *Motion carried. Commissioner Reed ABSENT.*

**REGULAR AGENDA**

9. Storm Surge Recovery Efforts

Discussion: Port Director MacLaurie provided an update on the ongoing recovery efforts following the December 23, 2024, storm surge, which caused significant infrastructure damage within the harbor.

A discussion ensued regarding the potential availability of state disaster recovery assistance for this event. Port Director MacLaurie stated that the Port District’s formal request for disaster recovery assistance has been submitted to CalOES and a determination is pending. If disaster recovery assistance is made available, 75% of eligible debris removal and reconstruction costs become reimbursable by CalOES, with the remaining 25% covered by the Port District.

10. Review of Emergency Action for North Harbor Dock Repair Work

Discussion: Port Director MacLaurie stated that at its special public session on January 21, 2025, the Port Commission waived the competitive bid process and approved a contract with Cushman Construction in an amount not to exceed \$1,500,000 for emergency dock repair in the north harbor.

Port Director MacLaurie stated that the Public Contract Code requires the Port Commission to review the emergency contract action at its next regular meeting (and each subsequent regular meeting) after approving the contract and determine by 4/5ths vote whether the emergency contract should continue.

MOTION: Motion made by Commissioner DeWitt, seconded by Commissioner Lee to continue the emergency action for north harbor dock repair work.  
- *Motion carried. Commissioner Reed ABSENT.*

11. Approval of Resolution 25-03 – Authorizing a One-Time Expenditure from the Reserve Fund in the Amount of \$1,500,000 for Emergency Dock Repair in the North Harbor

Discussion: Port Director MacLaurie stated that at its special public session on January 21, 2025, the Port Commission approved a contract with Cushman Construction in an amount not to exceed \$1,500,000 for emergency dock repair in the north harbor. She stated that as part of the approval process, the Commission elected to utilize reserve funding for this project.

Port Director MacLaurie stated that in accordance with the District's Reserve Fund Policy, a resolution approving the appropriation from the Reserve Fund to the Capital Improvement Program is required.

MOTION: Motion made by Commissioner Lee, seconded by Vice-chair Geisreiter to approve Resolution 25-03.  
- *Motion carried. Commissioner Reed ABSENT.*

12. Authorization of \$2 Million Line of Credit with PNC Bank for Storm Surge Recovery Efforts

Discussion: Port Director MacLaurie recommended that the Port Commission authorize the execution of loan documents with PNC Bank for a \$2 million line of credit to assist with financing storm surge recovery efforts. She stated that establishing this line of credit will offer the Port District a flexible financing option, if needed, and can be repaid with potential CalOES disaster recovery assistance (if made available) or through alternative debt service planning in the FY26 budget.

Port Director MacLaurie stated that PNC is currently determining the legal fees associated with this agreement, which are anticipated to be minimal.

Vice-Chair Geisreiter expressed support for authorizing the line of credit and recommended that the process move forward only if the total associated fees do not exceed \$7,500.

MOTION: Motion made by Vice-chair Geisreiter, seconded by Commissioner DeWitt to authorize the Port Director to execute loan documents with PNC Bank for a \$2 million line of credit to assist with financing storm surge recovery efforts, contingent upon associated fees not exceeding \$7,500.  
- *Motion carried. Commissioner Reed ABSENT.*

13. Port District Priorities 2025

Discussion: Port Director MacLaurie stated that the Port District Priorities are reviewed by the Commission on an annual basis and are used to help guide the budget process, provide direction for staff, and assist in tracking accomplishments.

The Commission expressed support of the Port District priority list for 2025 and suggested the following revisions:

- Organization & Culture:
  - Include the word "and" in regard to "Maintain an organizational structure that best meets current and future business needs of the District."
- Navigation & Dredging:
  - Add Priority "Actively plan for inner harbor dredging needs, while balancing permitting and equipment constraints."

14. Approval of Cash/Payroll Disbursements – December 2024 (*There was no discussion on this agenda item*)

MOTION: Motion made by Vice-chair Geisreiter, seconded by Commissioner Lee to approve cash and payroll disbursements for December 2024, in the amount of \$1,135,012.26.  
- *Motion carried. Commissioner Reed ABSENT.*

## INFORMATION

15. Port Director's Report

Port Director MacLaurie stated that the annual CMANC conference in Washington DC will be held on February 11-12, 2025. There was consensus among the Commission to approve out-of-state travel for Port Director MacLaurie and Vice-chair Geisreiter to attend the conference.

16. Harbormaster's Report

Vice-Chair Geisreiter thanked Harbormaster Anderson for including the annual fisheries landing data.

Chair Goddard thanked Harbor Patrol for their role in saving 23 lives in 2024.

17. Facilities Maintenance & Engineering (FME) Manager's Report (*There was no discussion on this agenda item*)

18. Committee Assignments 2025 (*There was no discussion on this agenda item*)

19. Lease Assignment – 2218 East Cliff Drive (Crow's Nest Restaurant) (*There was no discussion on this agenda item*)

20. Annual Review of Business Use of Slips (*There was no discussion on this agenda item*)

21. Financial Reports (*There was no discussion on this agenda item*)

- a) Comparative Seasonal Revenue Graph
- b) Quarterly Comparative Budget Report
- c) Quarterly Employee Count
- d) Quarterly Fuel Sales Report
- e) Quarterly Boatyard Report
- f) Quarterly Concession Percentage Rent Report
- g) LAIF and CLASS Statements

22. Delinquent Account Reporting (*There was no discussion on this agenda item*)

23. Harbor Patrol Incident Response Report – January 2025 (*There was no discussion on this agenda item*)

24. Written Correspondence

- a) Letter from J. & D. Grigsby of Kayak Connection to the Port Commission

A discussion ensued regarding the impacts of the storm surge event on slip renters and landside concessionaires. The Commission directed staff to evaluate hardship requests on a case-by-case basis, ensuring an equitable and consistent process for making any adjustments

25. Port Commission Review Calendar / Follow-Up Items (*There was no discussion on this agenda item*)

Chair Goddard adjourned the regular public session at 6:55 PM.



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Toby Goddard, Chair