

CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION

South Coast Area Office
301 E. Ocean Boulevard, Suite 300
Long Beach, CA 90802
(562) 590-5071

Th6b



Staff: Fernie Sy – LB
Date: November 21, 2019

ADMINISTRATIVE PERMIT

Application No. 5-19-0269

Applicant: City of Newport Beach

Agent: Swift Slip Dock and Pier Builders

Project Description: Removal of two 12-inch square concrete guide piles and installation of a 10-foot x 16-foot (160 square feet) public floating swim dock and two 12-inch square concrete guide piles.

Project Location: Newport Bay waters offshore of Ruby Ave, Newport Beach (Orange County)

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S DETERMINATION

The findings for this determination, and for any special conditions, appear on subsequent pages.

NOTE: P.R.C. Section 30624 provides that this permit shall not become effective until it is reported to the Commission at its next meeting. If one-third or more of the appointed membership of the Commission so request, the application will be removed from the administrative calendar and set for public hearing at a subsequent Commission meeting. Our office will notify you if such removal occurs.

This permit will be reported to the Commission at the following time and place:

Thursday, December 12, 2019
9:00 am
King Gillette Ranch
26800 Mulholland Hwy
Calabasas, CA 91302

IMPORTANT - Before you may proceed with development, the following must occur:

Pursuant to 14 Cal. Admin. Code Sections 13150(b) and 13158, you must sign the enclosed duplicate copy acknowledging the permit's receipt and accepting its contents, including all conditions, and return it to our office. Following the Commission's meeting, and once we have received the signed acknowledgement and evidence of compliance with all special conditions, we will send you a Notice of Administrative Permit Effectiveness.

BEFORE YOU CAN OBTAIN ANY LOCAL PERMITS AND PROCEED WITH DEVELOPMENT, YOU MUST HAVE RECEIVED BOTH YOUR ADMINISTRATIVE PERMIT AND THE NOTICE OF PERMIT EFFECTIVENESS FROM THIS OFFICE.

JOHN AINSWORTH
Executive Director

By: Fernie Sy
Title: Coastal Program Analyst

STANDARD CONDITIONS

This permit is granted subject to the following standard conditions:

1. **Notice of Receipt and Acknowledgment.** The permit is not valid and development shall not commence until a copy of the permit, signed by the permittee or authorized agent, acknowledging receipt of the permit and acceptance of the terms and conditions, is returned to the Commission office.
2. **Expiration.** If development has not commenced, the permit will expire two years from the date the Commission voted on the application. Development shall be pursued in a diligent manner and completed in a reasonable period of time. Application for extension of the permit must be made prior to the expiration date.
3. **Interpretation.** Any questions of intent or interpretation of any term or condition will be resolved by the Executive Director or the Commission.
4. **Assignment.** The permit may be assigned to any qualified person, provided assignee files with the Commission an affidavit accepting all terms and conditions of the permit.
5. **Terms and Conditions Run with the Land.** These terms and conditions shall be perpetual, and it is the intention of the Commission and the permittee to bind all future owners and possessors of the subject property to the terms and conditions.

SPECIAL CONDITIONS: SEE PAGES SIX THROUGH NINE.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S DETERMINATION (continued):

The Executive Director hereby determines that the proposed development is a category of development, which, pursuant to PRC Section 30624, qualifies for approval by the Executive Director through the issuance of an Administrative Permit. Subject to Standard and Special Conditions as attached, said development is in conformity with the provisions of Chapter 3 of the Coastal Act of 1976 and will not have any significant impacts on the environment within the meaning of the California Environmental Quality Act. If located between the nearest public road and the sea, this development is in conformity with the public access and public recreation policies of Chapter 3.

FINDINGS FOR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S DETERMINATION

A. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The proposed project is the removal of two 12-inch square concrete guide piles and installation of a 10-foot x 16-foot (160 square feet) public floating swim dock and two 12-inch square concrete guide piles ([Exhibit No. 2](#)). The new dock system will be comprised of wood and composite material and concrete. The location, size, and water coverage of the proposed dock float will be consistent with a previous float that was installed in 1947 and removed in 1970. The proposed dock float is generally consistent with past Commission-approved public dock floats, and there are no expected impacts to eelgrass.

The subject site is on the bay side of the Balboa Peninsula off of the Ruby Avenue street end on Balboa Island in the City of Newport Beach, Orange County ([Exhibit No. 1](#)). The dock will be in the same location as a public floating swim dock supported by piles built in 1947 and entirely removed in 1970 due to its deteriorated condition. The project will also remove two 12-inch square concrete guide piles installed previously in the immediate vicinity of the former swim dock, which were used to attach a swim line. The City states that the public dock will maintain typical design features that identify it as a public dock, such as white finial(s) mounted on top of the dock piles that signify public docks within Newport Harbor, and improved signage. While no plans have been submitted, the City stated that they will install visitor-serving/coastal access directional sign(s) on the existing informational signage located on the sandy beach landward of the swim platform at the Ruby Avenue street end and on the swim dock itself. Thus, the Commission imposes **Special Condition No. 1**, which requires the applicant to submit final plans identifying the location of the visitor-serving/coastal access directional signage prior to construction of the project.

The proposed project does not result in adverse impacts to public access, however, in order to preserve and maintain access to the public beach and tidelands, **Special Condition No. 5** is imposed stating that the approval of a coastal development permit for the project does not waive any public rights or interest that exist or may exist on the property.

The site was surveyed by Marine Taxonomic Services, Ltd. on behalf of the City of Newport Beach Public Works Department as a part of the City's harbor-wide eelgrass survey (*Newport Harbor Shallow Water Eelgrass Survey 2018, Marine Taxonomic Services, Ltd.*) and eelgrass was discovered within the project area, but the project has been designed to avoid impacts to eelgrass. The eelgrass survey took place between July 2nd and October 3rd, 2018 and eelgrass surveys completed during the active growth phase of eelgrass (typically March through October) are valid for 60-days with the exception of surveys completed in August-October. A survey completed in

August - October shall be valid until the resumption of active growth (i.e., March 1). The project is agendized for the December 2019 Coastal Commission meeting so the eelgrass survey no longer continues to be valid. Therefore, a subsequent eelgrass survey will be required prior to beginning any construction. A pre-construction *Caulerpa taxifolia* survey was completed between July 2nd and October 3rd, 2018 as required by the City of Newport Beach Harbor Resources Division and no *Caulerpa taxifolia* was discovered in the project area. *Caulerpa taxifolia* surveys are valid for 90 days. The project is agendized for the December 2019 Coastal Commission meeting and by this time the *Caulerpa taxifolia* survey would not continue to be valid since 90 days have passed since the survey was completed. Thus, an up-to-date *Caulerpa taxifolia* survey must be conducted prior to commencement of the project. Therefore, the Commission imposes **Special Conditions No. 3 and No. 4**, which identify the procedures necessary to be completed prior to beginning any construction. Also, if any *Caulerpa taxifolia* is found on the project site, **Special Condition No. 4** identifies the procedures necessary to be completed prior to beginning any construction.

The storage or placement of construction material, debris, or waste in a location where it could be discharged into coastal waters would result in an adverse effect on the marine environment. The proposed project includes measures to help ensure protection of coastal waters and marine resources during construction. Measures proposed include: floating debris shall be removed from the water and disposed of properly, all construction activities shall occur within the designated project footprint, and silt curtains shall be used during pile replacement. The Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) has determined that the proposed project will not adversely impact water quality if standard construction methods and materials are used. The applicant has applied for a permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the permit is pending coastal development permit approval. **Special Condition No. 6** requires the permittee to comply with all requirements, requests and mitigation measures from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, the Regional Water Quality Control Board, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service with respect to preservation and protection of water quality and marine environment. To ensure that all impacts (pre- and post- construction) to water quality are minimized, however, and to reduce the potential for construction related impacts on water quality, the Commission imposes **Special Condition No. 2**, which requires, but is not limited to, appropriate storage and handling of construction equipment and materials to minimize the potential of pollutants to enter coastal waters; and the continued use and maintenance of post construction BMPs.

The proposed development is located seaward of the mean high tide and is within the Commission's original permit jurisdiction. The standard of review for development within the Commission's original permit jurisdiction is Chapter 3 of the Coastal Act. The City's certified LCP is advisory in nature and may provide guidance for development.

B. MARINE RESOURCES

The proposed recreational swim dock development and its associated structures are an allowable and encouraged marine related use. The project design includes the minimum sized pilings and the minimum number of pilings necessary for structural stability. There are no feasible less environmentally damaging alternatives available. As conditioned, the project will not significantly adversely impact eelgrass beds and will not contribute to the dispersal of the invasive aquatic algae,

Caulerpa taxifolia. Further, as proposed and conditioned, the project, which is to be used solely for recreational boating purposes, conforms to Sections 30224 and 30233 of the Coastal Act.

C. WATER QUALITY

The proposed work will be occurring on, within, or adjacent to coastal waters. The storage or placement of construction material, debris, or waste in a location where it could be discharged into coastal waters would result in an adverse effect on the marine environment. To reduce the potential for construction related impacts on water quality, the special conditions are imposed requiring, but not limited to, the appropriate storage and handling of construction equipment and materials to minimize the potential of pollutants to enter coastal waters. To reduce the potential for post-construction impacts to water quality the permit requires the continued use and maintenance of post construction BMPs. As conditioned, the development conforms to Sections 30230 and 30231 of the Coastal Act.

D. PUBLIC ACCESS

The proposed development will not affect the public's ability to gain access to, and/or to make use of, the coast and nearby recreational facilities. Therefore, as proposed the development conforms with Sections 30210 through 30214, Sections 30220 through 30224, and 30252 of the Coastal Act.

E. LOCAL COASTAL PROGRAM (LCP)

The City of Newport Beach LCP was effectively certified on January 13, 2017. The proposed development is located seaward of the mean high tide and is within the Commission's original permit jurisdiction. The standard of review for development within the Commission's original permit jurisdiction is Chapter 3 of the Coastal Act. The City's certified LCP is advisory in nature and may provide guidance for development. As conditioned, the proposed development is consistent with the Chapter 3 policies of the Coastal Act.

F. CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (CEQA)

As conditioned, there are no feasible alternatives or additional feasible mitigation measures available that would substantially lessen any significant adverse effect that the activity may have on the environment. Therefore, the Executive Director finds that the proposed project, as conditioned to mitigate the identified impacts, is the least environmentally damaging feasible alternative and can be found consistent with the requirements of the Coastal Act to conform to CEQA.

SPECIAL CONDITIONS

This permit is granted subject to the following special conditions:

1. Final Updated Plans.

- A. PRIOR TO CONSTRUCTION OF THE PROJECT, the permittee shall submit, for the Executive Director's review and written approval, two (2) 11" x 17" sets of the final updated plans, which shall substantially conform with the plans received on April 2, 2019 except they shall be modified as required below:
 - i. The updated project plans shall show the location of the visitor-serving/coastal access directional sign(s) located in a conspicuous location on the adjacent public beach and on the public floating swim dock itself; and
 - ii. The proposed sign(s) shall be in compliance with the Coastal Access Sign Program submitted as part of the City of Newport Beach Implementation Plan (IP) that was approved by the Commission on January 13, 2017.
- B. All final updated plans shall be prepared and certified by a licensed professional or professionals as applicable (e.g., architect, surveyor, geotechnical engineer), based on current information and professional standards, and shall be certified to ensure that they are consistent with the Commission's approval and with the recommendations of any required technical reports.
- C. The permittee shall undertake development in conformance with the approved final updated plans unless the Commission amends this permit or the Executive Director determines that no amendment is legally required for any proposed minor deviations.

2. Water Quality

- A. Construction Responsibilities and Debris Removal. By acceptance of this permit, the applicant agrees that:
 - (1) No demolition or construction materials, equipment, debris, or waste shall be placed or stored where it may enter sensitive habitat, receiving waters or a storm drain, or be subject to wave, wind, rain or tidal erosion and dispersion;
 - (2) Any and all debris resulting from demolition or construction activities, and any remaining construction material, shall be removed from the project site within 24 hours of completion of the project;
 - (3) Demolition or construction debris and sediment shall be removed from work areas each day that demolition or construction occurs to prevent the accumulation of sediment and other debris that may be discharged into coastal waters;
 - (4) Machinery or construction materials not essential for project improvements will not be allowed at any time in the intertidal zone;
 - (5) If turbid conditions are generated during construction a silt curtain will be utilized to control turbidity;
 - (6) Floating booms will be used to contain debris discharged into coastal waters and any debris discharged will be removed as soon as possible but no later than the end of each day;
 - (7) Non buoyant debris discharged into coastal waters will be recovered by divers as soon as possible after loss;

- (8) All trash and debris shall be disposed in the proper trash and recycling receptacles at the end of every construction day;
- (9) The applicant shall provide adequate disposal facilities for solid waste, including excess concrete, produced during demolition or construction;
- (10) Debris shall be disposed of at a legal disposal site or recycled at a recycling facility. If the disposal site is located in the coastal zone, a coastal development permit or an amendment to this permit shall be required before disposal can take place unless the Executive Director determines that no amendment or new permit is legally required;
- (11) All stock piles and construction materials shall be covered, enclosed on all sides, shall be located as far away as possible from drain inlets and any waterway, and shall not be stored in contact with the soil;
- (12) Machinery and equipment shall be maintained and washed in confined areas specifically designed to control runoff. Thinners or solvents shall not be discharged into sanitary or storm sewer systems;
- (13) The discharge of any hazardous materials into any receiving waters shall be prohibited;
- (14) Spill prevention and control measures shall be implemented to ensure the proper handling and storage of petroleum products and other construction materials. Measures shall include a designated fueling and vehicle maintenance area with appropriate berms and protection to prevent any spillage of gasoline or related petroleum products or contact with runoff. The area shall be located as far away from the receiving waters and storm drain inlets as possible;
- (15) Best Management Practices (BMPs) and Good Housekeeping Practices (GHPs) designed to prevent spillage and/or runoff of demolition or construction-related materials, and to contain sediment or contaminants associated with demolition or construction activity, shall be implemented prior to the on-set of such activity; and
- (16) All BMPs shall be maintained in a functional condition throughout the duration of construction activity.

3. Pre-Construction Eelgrass Survey. A valid pre-construction eelgrass survey (whether for *Zostera marina* or *Z. pacifica*) shall be completed for the project site and a 10m buffer area. The pre-construction survey shall be completed no more than 60 days prior to the beginning of construction and shall be valid until the next period of active growth. If any portion of the project is subsequently proposed to occur in a previously unsurveyed area, a new survey is required during the active growth period for eelgrass in that region and no more than 60 days prior to commencement of work in that area. The eelgrass survey and mapping shall be prepared in full compliance with the California Eelgrass Mitigation Policy (CEMP), and in consultation with the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW). If side-scan sonar methods will be used, evidence of a permit issued by the California State Lands Commission (CSLC) for such activities shall also be provided prior to the commencement of survey work. The applicant shall submit the pre-construction eelgrass surveys for review and approval by the Executive Director within five (5) business days of completion of each eelgrass survey and in any event, no later than fifteen (15) business days prior to commencement of any development. If eelgrass surveys identify any eelgrass within the project area, which may be potentially impacted by the

proposed project, the Permittees are required to complete post-project eelgrass surveys consistent with the section below.

Post-Construction Eelgrass Survey. If any eelgrass is identified in the project site or the 10m buffer area by surveys required in subsection B of this condition (above), within 30 days of completion of construction, or within the first 30 days of the next active growth period following completion of construction that occurs outside of the active growth period, the applicant shall survey the project site and the 10m buffer area to determine if any eelgrass was adversely impacted. The survey shall be prepared in full compliance with the CEMP adopted by the NMFS (except as modified by this special condition), and in consultation with the CDFW. If side-scan sonar methods are to be used, evidence of a valid permit from CSLC must also be provided prior to the commencement of each survey period. The applicant shall submit the post-construction eelgrass survey for the review and approval of the Executive Director within thirty (30) days after completion of the survey. If any eelgrass has been adversely impacted, the applicant shall replace the impacted eelgrass at a minimum final 1.38:1 (mitigation: impact) ratio on-site, or at another location, in accordance with the CEMP. Any exceptions to the required 1.38:1 minimum final mitigation ratio found within the CEMP shall not apply. Based on past performance of eelgrass mitigation efforts, in order to achieve this minimum, the appropriate regional initial planting ratio provided in the CEMP should be used. Implementation of mitigation to ensure success in achieving the minimum final mitigation ratio (1.38:1) shall require an amendment to this permit or a new coastal development permit unless the Executive Director provides a written determination that no amendment or new permit is required.

4. **Pre-Construction *Caulerpa Taxifolia* Survey.** By acceptance of this permit, the applicant agrees to: not earlier than 90 days nor later than 30 days prior to commencement or re-commencement of any development authorized under this Coastal Development Permit the applicant shall undertake a survey of the project area and a buffer area at least 10 meters beyond the project area to determine the presence of the invasive alga *Caulerpa Taxifolia*. The survey shall include a visual examination of the substrate. If any portion of the project commences in a previously undisturbed area after the last valid *Caulerpa Taxifolia* survey expires, a new survey is required prior to commencement of work in that area.

The survey protocol shall be prepared in consultation with the Regional Water Quality Control Board, the California Department of Fish and Game, and the National Marine Fisheries Service. Within five (5) business days of completion of the survey, the applicant shall submit the survey:

- (1) for the review and approval by the Executive Director; and
- (2) to the Surveillance Subcommittee of the Southern California Caulerpa Action Team (SCCAT). The SCCAT Surveillance Subcommittee may be contacted through William Paznokas, California Department of Fish & Game (858/467-4218) or Robert Hoffman, National Marine Fisheries Service (562/980-4043), or their successors.

If *Caulerpa Taxifolia* is found within the project or buffer areas, the applicant shall not proceed with the project until 1) the applicant provides evidence to the Executive Director that all *Caulerpa Taxifolia* discovered within the project and buffer area has been eliminated in a manner that complies with all applicable governmental approval requirements, including but not limited to those of the California Coastal Act, or 2) the applicant has revised the project to avoid any contact with *Caulerpa Taxifolia*. No revisions to the project shall occur without a Coastal Commission approved amendment to this Coastal Development Permit unless the Executive Director determines that no amendment is legally required.

5. Public Rights

The approval of this permit shall not constitute a waiver of any public rights that exist or may exist on the property. The permittee shall not use this permit as evidence of a waiver of any public rights that may exist on the property.

6. Resource Agencies

The permittee shall comply with all requirements, requests and mitigation measures from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, the Regional Water Quality Control Board, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service with respect to preservation and protection of water quality and marine environment. Any change in the approved project that may be required by the above-stated agencies shall be submitted to the Executive Director in order to determine if the proposed change shall require a permit amendment pursuant to the requirements of the Coastal Act and the California Code of Regulations.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF PERMIT RECEIPT/ACCEPTANCE OF CONTENTS

I/We acknowledge that I/we have received a copy of this permit and have accepted its contents including all conditions.

Applicant's Signature

Date of Signing