

Archived: Tuesday, February 3, 2026 1:09:33 PM

From: [Scott Brown](#)

Sent: Tuesday, January 27, 2026 10:43:42 AM

To: Andrew.Murray@cityofvallejo.net

Cc: COMPLAINTS@EPA; Kalyan.Imtiaz-Ali@Waterboards; MTomko@vallejowastewater.org;

Kristin.Pollot@cityofvallejo.net; rob.bonta@doj.ca.gov; Nalungo.Conley@cityofvallejo.net; charles.palmares@cityofvallejo.net;

Chamberlain.Isabel@BCDC; Ambuehl.David@DOT; Andrea.Sorce@cityofvallejo.net; Hampton.Jackson@cityofvallejo.net;

director@wildlife.ca.gov; [CSLC CommissionMeetings](#); Davenport.Jessica@SCC; governor@governor.ca.gov

Subject: Notice of Non-Compliance: White Slough Specific Plan / AB 719 Mandate

Response requested: Yes

Sensitivity: Normal

Attention: This email originated from outside of SLC and should be treated with extra caution.

Dear Mr. Murray,

I am writing regarding the email you received on August 14, 2024, from Mark Tomko, General Manager of Vallejo Flood and Wastewater, concerning the removal of the crossing over the White Slough channel. He indicated this project could have been completed by June 2025. This proposal aligns with the White Slough Specific Plan (adopted in 1996) and its mandate to remove portions of the fill to create islands and restore water circulation (Section 4.1, "Habitat Enhancement").

The City's absence of enforcement regarding the Specific Plan has resulted in widespread environmental degradation and systemic blight throughout the entire area designated under the White Slough Specific Plan. This is not natural decay, but a direct result of unauthorized human activity, characterized by habitat destruction, accumulation of hazardous debris, and a collapse of public safety. This systemic failure is most acute at the commercial lot at 2402 Sacramento Street and the two parcels spanning the White Slough channel.

1. The Channel Parcels: Failure to Restrict Access (Section 4.1) The Specific Plan explicitly calls for removing portions of existing fill to create islands. This physical separation is a required strategy to protect this environmentally sensitive area from "human intrusion" and "clandestine dumping."

Currently, the City's failure to act allows for the continued existence of unauthorized infrastructure that facilitates unregulated occupancy in a designated wetland area. This includes failing to break apart the earth crossing as mandated in Section 4.1, and ignoring the unauthorized man-made wooden footbridge constructed at the channel entrance off Serrano Drive.

The private ownership of these parcels does not exempt them from Municipal Code enforcement, nor does it absolve the City of its duty to abate public nuisances—like unauthorized bridges—that threaten community safety.

2. The Sacramento St Property: Zoning & Visual Standards Violations (Zone 4) The current conditions at the adjacent property, 2402 Sacramento Street, represent a standing violation of the Plan:

- **Visual Standards (Appendix 2):** The Plan mandates that development must "complement the natural environment and... act as an attractive entrance to the city." The current salvage operation is non-compliant.
- **Land Use Designation (Section 4.5):** Developed areas along Sacramento Street are designated as "Waterfront Commercial." Industrial use is not permitted.
- **Permitted Uses (Appendix 2, Zone 4):** Zone 4 permitted uses are strictly listed as Residential, Civic, and

Commercial. Unlike Zone 1A, Industrial uses are **NOT** permitted in Zone 4.

3. Operation Without Business License & Failure to Enforce Although the salvage yard at 2402 Sacramento Street has been operating at this location for several years, the City of Vallejo Code Enforcement Division has only recently documented this violation. Case #ZV25-0436 (opened December 8, 2025) explicitly classifies the property's status as "ILLEGAL BUSINESS" with a case name of "Unlic. business, minor use permit requirement."

Despite this open case and the long-term nature of the operation, the facility continues to function in conflict with the Specific Plan. The continued operation of this facility is not only a zoning violation, but a failure to enforce the City's own findings.

The City's failure to abate this unpermitted use is a breach of specific requirements:

- **Vallejo Municipal Code (Duty to Enforce):** Vallejo Municipal Code (Section 16.615.02) explicitly states: *"It shall be the duty of the director to enforce all of the provisions of the Zoning Code."*
- **State Law (AB 719 / Gov. Code § 66681):** The White Slough Specific Plan was enacted pursuant to Assembly Bill 719. Specifically, California Government Code § 66681(a) mandates:
"The plan shall be implemented as follows: (a) The city and the county shall adopt the relevant provisions of the plan... and shall review and issue or deny any necessary local permits for projects within White Slough based on the requirements of the plan."

4. Resulting Public Safety Crisis The City's failure to enforce the Specific Plan's island-creation mandate has maintained a direct physical link to the protected wetlands. This prolonged inaction has converted a designated habitat into a zone of unregulated activity. In the absence of the physical barriers required by the Plan, the following incidents occurred in the immediate vicinity during 2025:

- **Homicides & Shootings:** Documented incidents on May 27 and August 12, 2025.
- **Recurring Fires & Fatalities:** The area is subject to repeated human-caused fires on the channel and the surrounding White Slough protected areas. The severity of this unregulated activity was confirmed on May 30, 2025, with the discovery of a burned body at the location.

Conclusion The continued presence of an unlicensed industrial operation in a designated "Waterfront Commercial" zone, combined with the failure to break apart the channel crossing as mandated, constitutes a failure to enforce standards adopted by the City of Vallejo and Solano County, in coordination with BCDC, the Regional Water Quality Control Board, and Caltrans.

Can your office provide a timeline for initiating the acquisition or enforcement actions necessary to break apart the earth crossing, removing the wooden footbridge, and enforcing zoning standards for Sacramento Street and all areas defined in the White Slough Specific Plan?

Reference Materials:

Public Safety Incidents on the White Slough Channel (2025):

- **May 27, 2025:** Homicide/Shooting Report (Source: CBS News, "Vallejo Shooting Homicide")
- **May 30, 2025:** Police Find Burned Body in Encampment (Source: Open Vallejo)
- **August 12, 2025:** Two Injured in Encampment Shooting (Source: Open Vallejo)

Legal & Planning Documents:

- **Email from Mark Tomko (Vallejo Flood & Wastewater):**
<https://vallejo.nextrequest.com/documents/41302074>
- **City of Vallejo Code Enforcement Case #ZV25-0436** (Status: Admin Notice / Illegal Business)
- **White Slough Specific Plan (Adopted 1996):** <https://www.cityofvallejo.net/common/pages/DisplayFile.aspx?itemId=17962203>
- **California Government Code § 66681 (White Slough Mandate):**
https://leginfo.ca.gov/faces/codes_displaySection.xhtml?sectionNum=66681&lawCode=GOV

Thank you,

Scott Brown

Archived: Monday, February 9, 2026 6:51:58 AM

From: [Luciana Guerrero-Shibatsuji](#)

Sent: Saturday, February 7, 2026 10:46:51 AM

To: [COMPLAINTS@EPA](#); [Kalyan, Imtiaz-Ali@Waterboards](#); [MTomko@vallejowastewater.org](#); [Kristin.Pollot@cityofvallejo.net](#); [rob.bonta@doj.ca.gov](#); [Nalungo.Conley@cityofvallejo.net](#); [Chamberlain, Isabel@BCDC](#); [Ambuehl, David@DOT](#); [Hampton.Jackson@cityofvallejo.net](#); [CSLC CommissionMeetings](#); [Davenport, Jessica@SCC](#); [governor@governor.ca.gov](#)

Subject: Fwd: Immediate Action Needed: Encampments at White Slough

Sensitivity: Normal

Attention: This email originated from outside of SLC and should be treated with extra caution.

Please help our City!
We don't know what else to do.
Thank you,



Luciana Guerrero-Shibatsuji

Lead Planner

Pronouns: she/her/hers

T: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] ersity and inclusivity and only collaborate with vendors that share the same beliefs."

Please note: I'm rarely in my office Fridays through Sundays during the wedding season, and I don't answer emails on these days!

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Luciana Guerrero-Shibatsuji** [REDACTED]

Date: Sat, Feb 7, 2026 at 10:24 AM

Subject: Re: Immediate Action Needed: Encampments at White Slough

To: Charles Palmares <Charles.Palmares@cityofvallejo.net>, JR Matulac <JR.Matulac@cityofvallejo.net>, Tonia Lediju <Tonia.Lediju@cityofvallejo.net>, Peter Bregenzer <Peter.Bregenzer@cityofvallejo.net>, Helen-Marie Gordon <Helen-Marie.Gordon@cityofvallejo.net>, Andrew Murray <Andrew.Murray@cityofvallejo.net>, Alexander Matias <Alexander.Matias@cityofvallejo.net>, Andrea Sorce <Andrea.Sorce@cityofvallejo.net>, Homelessness <Homelessness@cityofvallejo.net>, Jason Ta <jason.ta@cityofvallejo.net>

Hello everyone,

I am writing to follow up and to formally address the increasingly **horrendous** conditions of the parcels surrounding and within White Slough.

The current situation poses a serious threat to public safety and to the environment. White Slough is part of the Pacific Flyway, and

its waters are inhabited by many species of migrating birds. Ongoing dumping, fires, and human waste are directly impacting these waters and the habitat they support.

A spit runs through White Slough that, per Vallejo's General Plan, is supposed to be removed. Instead, it has become accessible to vehicles and is now being used for illegal activities, including drug dealing, storing stolen vehicles, and large-scale dumping. The number of derelict vehicles continues to grow daily.

At present, there are approximately 133 derelict and inoperable RVs and vehicles crowded onto the spit. Many are now stuck in place and are actively dumping trash and human waste directly into the water. Our neighbors along Sacramento Street have attempted to harden their parcels, yet fencing is repeatedly breached, and trespassing continues unabated.

There are frequent fires on the spit—at least once a month, and sometimes as often as once a week. Because Vallejo Fire Department vehicles cannot access the area, these fires are often allowed to burn themselves out, releasing additional toxic materials into White Slough. I can smell it from my backyard, and it's pretty bad.

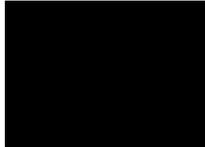
The financial cost to the City increases every day this situation remains unaddressed. More importantly, the environmental damage and public safety risks continue to escalate. Inaction is not improving conditions; it is allowing the problem to grow. We cannot continue to look the other way. This issue requires immediate intervention before it becomes irreversible.

To reiterate, White Slough is part of the Pacific Flyway, and the ongoing degradation of its waters directly impacts migrating bird populations and the broader ecosystem.

We respectfully request to act now before it is too late.

Thank you for your time and attention. We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Luciana Guerrero-Shibatsuji

Lead Planner

Pronouns: she/her/hers

T: 



"I'm passionate about diversity and inclusivity and only collaborate with vendors that share the same beliefs."

Please note: I'm rarely in my office Fridays through Sundays during the wedding season, and I don't answer emails on these days!

On Wed, Nov 5, 2025 at 4:37 PM Luciana Guerrero-Shibatsuji < > wrote:

Dear Mayor and Councilmembers,

I'm writing to express deep concern about the worsening conditions at White Slough. The area has severely deteriorated due to ongoing encampments, and it's long past time for the current Council to take responsibility for addressing the situation.

I was at Eco Thrift today and took the attached photos, which clearly show just how bad things have become. The area is unsafe, unsanitary, and neglected — a far cry from what our community deserves.

As you know, there has also been ongoing criminal activity in the area. Several people have been shot there this year alone, yet the city continues to look the other way. Businesses, homeowners, and residents nearby are being directly impacted by this "head in

the sand” approach.

Doing nothing will only make things worse. Every week that passes without real action adds to the damage — to public safety, to the environment, and to the city’s credibility with its residents. Vallejo cannot afford to keep ignoring this problem.

I urge the Council to take immediate, visible action to restore safety, health, and accountability at White Slough. This is not just about enforcement — it’s about leadership and showing that Vallejo values its residents, its businesses, and its shared spaces.

Please make this a top priority. The community is watching, and we expect better from our elected leaders.

Thank you,



Luciana Guerrero-Shibatsuji

Lead Planner

Pronouns: she/her/hers

T: [Redacted]



"I'm passionate about diversity and inclusivity and only collaborate with vendors that share the same beliefs."

Please note: I'm rarely in my office Fridays through Sundays during the wedding season, and I don't answer emails on these days!



Archived: Wednesday, February 4, 2026 2:15:49 PM

From: [Shari Dalal](#)

Sent: Wednesday, February 4, 2026 1:51:46 PM

To: [Office of the Secretary CNRA](#); [CSLC CommissionMeetings](#); [Environmental Justice@SLC](#); [LandManagementCoordinator, CSLC@SLC](#); [Public, ExecutiveOfficer@SLC](#); [Public, AssistantExecutiveOfficer@SLC](#); [Public, DESPMChief@SLC](#); [Public, DESPMAssistantChief@SLC](#); [Public, LMDChief@SLC](#); [Public, LMDAssistantChief@SLC](#); [Public, MEPDAssistantChief@SLC](#); [Villaseñor, Daniel@CNRA](#)

Subject: Urgent: Stop Catalina Island Mule Deer Eradication — Stewardship, Not Extermination

Sensitivity: Normal

Attachments:

[IMG_9860.jpeg](#) ;

Attention: This email originated from outside of SLC and should be treated with extra caution.

Dear Director and Commissioners,

I am writing to strongly oppose the permit authorizing the eradication of Catalina Island's entire mule deer population through sharpshooting.

Wildlife should not be exterminated to correct **human-created environmental problems**. These mule deer are part of a living ecosystem that deserves **stewardship, protection, and care** — not total elimination.

Healthy, intact ecosystems support biodiversity, ecological balance, and human health. Diverse natural systems reduce environmental stress, strengthen resilience, and provide proven mental and physical health benefits to communities. Wiping out an entire wildlife population is irreversible and undermines ecosystem integrity rather than protecting it.

This plan follows the rejection of a helicopter shooting proposal in 2024 after widespread public backlash over safety and animal welfare. Changing the method does not change the outcome: complete eradication.

Importantly, no option — lethal or non-lethal — should be pursued without independent, transparent science demonstrating that it is both necessary and not harmful. Extermination fails that basic ethical and scientific test.

Tens of thousands of people have signed a petition calling for this plan to be stopped:
<https://www.change.org/p/stop-the-slaughter-of-mule-deer-on-catalina-island>

I urge you to immediately suspend this permit, halt all killing, and commit to a public, science-based process that prioritizes biodiversity, ecosystem health, and compassion.

Sincerely,
Shari Dalal



BREAKING NEWS!

California Approves Plan To Wipe Out Catalina Island's Entire Mule Deer Herd With Sharpshooters

Archived: Monday, February 9, 2026 6:49:18 AM

From: [Shari Dalal](#)

Sent: Sunday, February 8, 2026 9:57:45 PM

To: [CSLC CommissionMeetings](#)

Subject: 2/9/26- PUBLIC Comment on Deer eradication on Catalina Island

Sensitivity: Normal

Attention: This email originated from outside of SLC and should be treated with extra caution.

Dear Commissioners,

I respectfully urge the Commission to require full CEQA review and to halt any action that would lead to the eradication of Catalina Island's mule deer.

This proposal involves irreversible actions with widespread public concern, yet it is moving forward without a full environmental review. Key baseline information, including a current, transparent estimate of the deer population, remains unclear or disputed. Proceeding without this information undermines both scientific credibility and public trust.

Biodiversity and ecosystem health are essential to the well-being of both nature and people. Intact, diverse ecosystems are more resilient, support clean air and water, reduce environmental stress, and provide measurable mental and physical health benefits to communities. Eliminating an entire wildlife population destabilizes these systems and causes long-term ecological harm rather than restoration.

Wildlife should not be exterminated to correct human-created environmental problems. True stewardship requires peaceful coexistence with wildlife and a commitment to protecting ecosystem integrity. Conservation must be guided by precaution, transparency, and respect for life—not by eliminating animals who are part of the natural system.

Any action—lethal or non-lethal—must be supported by independent, transparent science demonstrating it is truly necessary and does not cause harm. Total eradication fails that ethical and scientific standard.

I urge the Commission to pause this project, require full CEQA review, ensure transparent public participation, and protect biodiversity through responsible, compassionate stewardship.

Thank you for considering my comment.

Shari Dalal

Archived: Monday, February 9, 2026 6:55:33 AM

From: [Coeli Hylkema](#)

Sent: Friday, February 6, 2026 4:06:17 PM

To: [CSLC CommissionMeetings](#)

Subject: Fw: Mooring permit holder inequity

Sensitivity: Normal

Attention: This email originated from outside of SLC and should be treated with extra caution.

State Lands Commissioners,

With appreciation for your efforts to promote environmental justice and public access...

Coeli Hylkema

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: Coeli Hylkema [REDACTED]

To: Matthew.Dumlao@slc.ca.gov <matthew.dumlao@slc.ca.gov>

Sent: Friday, February 6, 2026 at 03:30:40 PM PST

Subject: Fw: Mooring permit holder inequity

Dr. Matthew Dumlao, Executive Officer of the State Lands Commission,

Hello Mr. Dumlao,

Thank you for your continued attention to the comments made by Newport Harbor mooring permit holders regarding their inequitable treatment by the City of Newport Beach.

With appreciation for your good work,

Coeli Hylkema

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: Coeli Hylkema [REDACTED]

To: CommissionerMHarmon@coastal.ca.gov <commissionermharmon@coastal.ca.gov>; CommissionerRJackson@coastal.ca.gov <commissionerrjackson@coastal.ca.gov>; CommissionerCLopez@coastal.ca.gov <commissionerclopez@coastal.ca.gov>; CommissionerJPreciado@coastal.ca.gov <commissionerjpreciado@coastal.ca.gov>; CommissionerAKelley@coastal.ca.gov <commissionerakelley@coastal.ca.gov>; CommissionerMWilson@coastal.ca.gov <commissionermwilson@coastal.ca.gov>; CommissionerLEscalante@coastal.ca.gov <commissionerlescalante@coastal.ca.gov>; CommissionerANotthoff@coastal.ca.gov

<commissioneranotthoff@coastal.ca.gov>; CommissionerSLOWenberg@coastal.ca.gov <commissionerslowenberg@coastal.ca.gov>;
CommissionerCHart@coastal.ca.gov <commissionerchart@coastal.ca.gov>; CommissionerDBochco@coastal.ca.gov
<commissionerdbochco@coastal.ca.gov>; CommissionerJLee@coastal.ca.gov <commissionerjlee@coastal.ca.gov>;
Kate.Huckelbridge@coastal.ca.gov <kate.huckelbridge@coastal.ca.gov>

Sent: Monday, February 2, 2026 at 11:08:08 AM PST

Subject: Fw: Mooring permit holder inequity

Dear California Coastal Commission Board, Staff Members and Executive Director Kate Huckelbridge,

There are so many more serious matters currently affecting the beings that share our Earth and I know that you are helping so many that cannot speak for themselves, yet, here I am, again, asking for your assistance in a matter that will seem trivial by comparison.

My husband George and I have a mooring in Newport Harbor, where George has moored his boat for 40 years. He is 90 years old, now, but while working hard as an engineer, he scrimped and saved so he could fulfill his childhood dream of owning a sailboat. As a long-time Newport Mooring Association board member, he has been all too aware of, and often frustrated by, the many changes made to mooring policy by the City of Newport Beach, and for 28 of those years the same goes for me.

From my perspective, the City is trying to run mooring permit holders out of the harbor to further gentrify Newport Harbor and commodify the tidelands. Its intention to revoke mooring transferability, again, and raise our fees some 300-500%, will cause financial hardship for those of us who had the expectation that we would be able to recoup our mooring permit deposit when we transferred our permit. If the City is allowed to go forward with its plan, our ability to sell our boat will also be difficult, as one needs a place to store a boat when it is not in use.

The City has already shown its hand. It now has 17 "City-owned" moorings and it started a "mooring license" program where it currently charges boat owners \$600.00 per month rent for a 40-foot mooring; that equals \$7,200.00 per year. The current annual fees rate for those of us with mooring permits for 40-moorings is \$1,636.40.

At a recent Harbor Commission meeting, I learned that the City has already installed a couple of helical anchors for City-owned moorings. Perhaps its intention is to go ahead with its plans to reconfigure the mooring fields, despite the CCC's February 2025 decision.

Please require the City of Newport Beach to get a CDP for any changes it intends to make to the moorings in Newport Harbor.

Thank you for your assistance.

Joy to you and yours,

Coeli (pronounced chā-lē) Hylkema

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: Coeli Hylkema [REDACTED]

To: jstapleton@newportbeachca.gov <jstapleton@newportbeachca.gov>; mbarto@newportbeachca.gov <mbarto@newportbeachca.gov>;
eweigand@newportbeachca.gov <eweigand@newportbeachca.gov>; rgrant@newportbeachca.gov <rgrant@newportbeachca.gov>;
nblom@newportbeachca.gov <nblom@newportbeachca.gov>; lkleiman@newportbeachca.gov <lkleiman@newportbeachca.gov>;
sweber@newportbeachca.gov <sweber@newportbeachca.gov>

Cc: ibeer@newportbeachca.gov <ibeer@newportbeachca.gov>; mmarston@newportbeachca.gov <mmarston@newportbeachca.gov>; sscully@newportbeachca.gov <sscully@newportbeachca.gov>; rmiller@newportbeachca.gov <rmiller@newportbeachca.gov>; rsvrcek@newportbeachca.gov <rsvrcek@newportbeachca.gov>; gwilliams@newportbeachca.gov <gwilliams@newportbeachca.gov>; dyahn@newportbeachca.gov <dyahn@newportbeachca.gov>; PBlank@newportbeachca.gov <pblank@newportbeachca.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, January 14, 2026 at 02:08:17 PM PST
Subject: Mooring permit holder inequity

To the Honorable Mayor of Newport Beach, Council Members, Harbor Master and Harbor Commissioners,

There's a negative narrative told about Newport Harbor mooring permit holders and, in part, it insinuates that we make huge profits when we transfer our mooring permits. Though untrue, it's perpetuated by past and present members of the Harbor Commission, and it finds its way into the public realm during Harbor Commission meetings, City Council meetings and through sources like the Newport Harbor Foundation (NHF), where well-connected past City policymakers sit as board members and share their opinions on its website and at pricey luncheons. The tale is used to denigrate us, which must be a profitable tactic for those who want to move forward with some unknown-to-us future plan for Newport Harbor.

Past Harbor Commissioner, Chairman and current NHF board member, Skip Kenney, spread his derogatory opinions in a *Stu News* Letter to the Editor* about the mooring-related presentation given by Newport Mooring Association (NMA) president, Anne Stenton, during the Harbor Commission meeting on September 10, 2025. She had been invited to speak. Ms. Stenton shared some of the history of moorings in Newport Harbor, along with some current concerns of mooring permit holders. I was at that meeting. Anne expressed the NMA goals to "advocate for fair policies for all mooring permittees as equal tidelands users" and to move toward more constructive dialog with the Harbor Commissioners. She was competent and civil, but Mr. Kenney suggests that she was impertinent, because she failed to show "appreciation for those who serve voluntarily" and, instead, spent time "enumerating the long list of grievances" including "broken promises...shifting policies and surprise changes" endured by mooring permit holders.

After Anne spoke, the Commissioners were invited to respond. Most had strong opinions, but it was Commissioner Gary Williams who struck the most antagonistic jabs. "Look", he said, "I've been on this Harbor Commission for 5 years and I will continue to reiterate that I feel like the NMA leadership has done disservice to the folks that are paying whatever dues they're paying...", and it got worse from there. He talked about how he "missed the slide on how folks are getting 30, 40, 50 grand for their moorings" and called Anne's presentation "Fluff". "We sat through ten slides of nothingness. Then, referring to what he perceives as profiteering, he said, "this is the piece that nobody wants to talk about..."

Well, I'll talk about it. If the Commission really wants to stop people from profiting off of their private use of the public tidelands, it should look to those with residential pier permits who the City allows to rent dock space for their private gain. It seems to me that this arrangement is a violation of Article XVI, section 6 of the California Constitution that forbids "making of any gift,

of any public money or thing of value to any individual, municipal or other corporation whatever.” (?)

I have no doubt that you're aware that many mooring permit holders paid tens of thousands of dollars for their permits and we've maintained our mooring tackle at a cost of thousands more. The City didn't/doesn't offer a standardized mooring permit fee, and the wait list was ineffective. When we did our due diligence to find out how we could get a mooring, it was City government staff who told us about mooring permit transfers. Historically, transferability has been long-sanctioned, regulated and participated in by the City and County (except for a time when Dave Kiff was City Manager).

These government agencies knew the few who were flipping moorings for profit, because they processed the transfers, there was no law against it and the issue was dealt with years ago, when the Mooring Master Plan Sub Committee, chaired by your own Marshall “Duffy” Duffield, was formed to address the concerns raised by the Orange County Grand Jury. Then later, after Mr. Kiff's dealings resulted in much higher mooring fees and an end to transferability, your own Brad Avery chaired a committee to reinstate mooring transferability. So why does the Harbor Commission, City Council and those well-connected to policymakers continue to misrepresent the facts?

Mr. Kenney distorts what actually occurred at that September 10th meeting, and he demeans and scolds members of the NMA who, he asserts, should “show respect for the commissioners and exhibit the same level of decorum to which they are treated by the Harbor Commission.” Really? His comments are contrary to fact. Watch the video [NMA@NBHC 9 10 25](#) and judge for yourselves (Commissioner Gary Williams starts his comments at 21:28).



NMA@NBHC 9 10 25

Anne Stenton's comments about “broken promises...shifting policies and surprise changes”, are undeniably true. I suspect that when Harbor Chairman, Ira Beer, and others, got a thumbs down from the California Coastal Commission for their C-Field Reconfiguration Plan, they went right to work on “Plan B”. By Fourth of July weekend, the Harbor Commission's new plan was to raise our mooring fees 300-500% and to end mooring permit transferability. Sour grapes? If

Skip Kenney is truly perplexed about why Anne mentioned the “broken promises...shifting policies and surprise changes”, all he needs to do is read the NHF article titled, “Council OKs mooring field reconfiguration pilot program, open water initiative”, by Sara Hall – May 26, 2023,

“All existing mooring permits will remain transferrable and the harbor department practices that 'a mooring permit is a mooring permit is a mooring permit' in perpetuity, until revoked or surrendered, confirmed Newport Harbormaster Paul Blank. If an existing mooring permit holder transfers his or her permit to a new person, it's the same permit number and can still continue to be transferred to other people down the line.”

Can you understand why we don't trust a what you say?

The City treats mooring permit holders unfairly compared to like-users of the harbor. We pay much higher fees and are more highly regulated than those with residential pier permits, and now we're being singled out to lose our permit transferability. Mr. Kenney may not want to recognize these facts, but I can assure you that those of us who are affected by this discrimination are paying attention. And that lack of decorum and respect inflicted on Anne Stenton, who is also a volunteer, makes our “long list of grievances” even longer!

Coeli Hylkema, mooring permit holder, resident and voter

* *Letters to the Editor*

Newport Mooring Association presentation to the Harbor Commission once again falls short

It was good to see coverage in the “Fair Game” section of *Stu News* about the activities of the Harbor Commission and specifically the reference to the presentation to be made by the Newport Mooring Association on September 10. Unfortunately, the presentation by the Association didn't achieve their stated purposes of encouraging dialogue on shared goals and identifying opportunities for collaboration.

Presented with an opportunity to indicate appreciation for those who serve voluntarily, acknowledge the Association's understanding of the Commission's mission and objectives, enumerate their own mission and objectives, point out where their mission and objectives overlap with those of the Harbor Commission, and ask for the opportunity to collaborate with the Harbor Commission, the Association proceeded to spend their time enumerating once again their long list of grievances, incorrectly stating, in my view, that there were “broken promises” and advising the commissioners that the Association had been subject to shifting policies and surprise changes.

One Association member even stood up and shouted at the commissioners.

Whether the members of the Association agree or disagree with the members of the Harbor Commission, they should show respect for the commissioners and exhibit the same level of decorum to which they are treated by the Harbor Commission.

Skip Kenney

Newport Beach

Testimony to the State Lands Commission, February 9, 2026

Dr. Richard Navarro

I would like to thank the SLC staff for your hard work and dedication to all California residents, particularly those without a voice in the policy arena. Dr. Dumlao, Jeff and Ben – you have been particularly open and available to us, thank you.

Staff Report #105 has a great deal for one to digest. However, I am here to briefly comment on what is NOT in the report.

The report does not specifically acknowledge the equal rights of all California residents, particularly mooring permit holders, to the Newport Harbor tidelands as compared to residents, yacht clubs, and other private parties that hold city permits to park their boats on state tidelands. The fact that most of us do not vote in Newport Beach elections leaves us without representation in the decision making regarding the city's management of the harbor and state tidelands. I want to emphasize that all other tidelands permit holders are represented on the City Council and the Harbor Commission.

Recently, Anne Stenton, NMA President and one other board member met with the City Manager and requested to be included in the formulation of the city's plan to respond to the staff report. The request was rebuffed and instead we were told that the city will develop its plan to which we would be able to respond after it is completed....deja vu all over again.

It is worth repeating that the city will develop its plan without input from individual mooring permit holders; and, included in "the city" are resident pier permit holders, yacht club mooring permit holders, commercial pier permit holders and other private permit holders. Where is the representation of the mooring permit holders? How are our perspectives taken into consideration in the plan's formulation?

The last time the NMA appeared at a Harbor Commission meeting at the invitation of one of the Commissioners to share our concerns, Anne Stenton was mocked and the NMA ridiculed by a few of the commissioners with impunity from the Commission chair and the city. We have sent a recording of the insulting exchange to Dr. Dunlao. I hope he has taken the time to view it. Do you seriously think the city will consider the perspectives of individual mooring permit holders?

Given the lack of representation in formulating the city's response to the SLC report, mooring permit holders like me have no other recourse to have a voice than to come before you to plead with you to ensure that the perspectives of mooring permit holders are represented in the deliberations.

As a citizen of California, I am coming before you to humbly request that you protect my rights and the rights of my mooring permit colleagues. You can have an immediate impact.

Testimony to the State Lands Commission, February 9, 2026

Dr. Richard Navarro

Tomorrow night, February 10, the Newport Beach City Council will form an Ad Hoc Committee to formulate the city's response to Staff Report 105. You can instruct them to appoint a mooring permit holder and a non-resident of Newport Beach to the Committee.

Thank you.

Skip Kenney

Newport Beach