

To	From
BOARD OF HARBOR COMMISSIONERS	
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR	
DED & CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER	
DED - DEVELOPMENT	
CHIEF OF PUBLIC SAFETY & EMERG MGT	
DED – MKTG & CUSTOMER RELATIONS	
DED - STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT	
SR DIRECTOR, COMMUNICATIONS	
ACCOUNTING	
CARGO/INDUSTRIAL REAL ESTATE	
CARGO MARKETING	
CITY ATTORNEY	
COMMISSION OFFICE	
COMMUNITY RELATIONS	
CONSTRUCTION	
CONSTRUCTION & MAINTENANCE	
CONTRACTS & PURCHASING	
DEBT & TREASURY MANAGEMENT	
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT	
ENGINEERING	

CITY OF LOS ANGELES
HARBOR DEPARTMENT

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

January 9, 2023

To	From
ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT	
FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT	
GOODS MOVEMENT	
GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS	
GRAPHIC SERVICES	
HUMAN RESOURCES	
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY	
LABOR REL & WORKFORCE DEV	
MANAGEMENT AUDIT	
MEDIA RELATIONS	
PLANNING & STRATEGY	
PORT PILOTS	
XX PORT POLICE	X
RISK MANAGEMENT	
TRADE DEVELOPMENT	
WATERFRONT/COMM REAL ESTATE	
WHARFINGERS	

SPECIAL ORDER 23-01

TO: All Port Police Sworn Personnel

SUBJECT: NOTIFICATION AND APPROVAL PROCESS FOR MARINE OPERATIONS IN HAZARDOUS WEATHER CONDITIONS

The marine environment poses unique hazards, particularly related to inclement weather conditions. Operating on, in, or under the water in certain conditions increases these hazards and requires consideration of the risks, the reason for the operation, and the skill of the operators.

In order to ensure that Command Staff is notified, and has approved, any operation with the potential for high-risk activities, the following procedures shall be adhered to.

When any of the listed conditions exist, the notification / approval procedure shall be followed:

- For any vessel operations outside the breakwall, whenever predicted waves are 10 feet or larger, or the National Weather Service has issued a Small Craft Advisory or greater.
- For any vessel operations anywhere where sustained wind is predicted to be 30 knots or greater.
- For any vessel operations anywhere where visibility is restricted to less than ¼ mile. This includes where the Pilots request a vessel escort under the Reduced Visibility Escort Program (As a point of reference, the width of the main channel is roughly ¼ mile). Vessel Operators shall notify the Watch Commander when visibility is reduced to this point.
- For any operation where divers or swimmers enter the harbor waters for any training operation within 48 hours of rain runoff into the harbor.

WATCH COMMANDER:

The Watch Commander and Coxswains will maintain situational awareness of predicted marine weather at the start of each watch by accessing the National Weather Service - Marine Weather forecast at <https://www.weather.gov/lox/marine>.

Then click on the link for Southern and Central California. This will take you to a text listing of specific coastal zones. Scroll through the list you will find the prediction for our area under the heading:

PZZ655-061115

Inner waters from Point Mugu to San Mateo Pt. CA including Santa Catalina and Anacapa Islands.

For real time weather observations, the best source is either www.windy.com or www.sailflow.com where conditions at the Los Angeles Light (Angels Gate) are displayed.

If any of the thresholds listed above are met, the Watch Commander shall notify the Marine Operations Division (MOD) Captain or Command Duty Officer (CDO) of the proposed mission.

Approval may be sought at start of watch for scheduled events or pre-planned missions.

Emergency responses may be initiated at the same time as the approval process where there is an imminent risk of loss of life or serious injury.

CDO / MOD CAPTAIN:

The CDO or MOD Captain shall immediately obtain approval from a Deputy Chief or Chief of Police to continue, modify, or cancel the marine operation.



THOMAS E. GAZSI
Chief of Police

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