The City of SAN DIEGO
Mayor Todd Gloria

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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# City of San Diego Improves Boat Storage Permit Process for Mission Bay

## UPDATES WILL ENSURE AN EQUITABLE PERMITTING SYSTEM

SAN DIEGO – Today the City Council approved updates to the City's existing Mission Bay boat storage program, including the establishment of a new lottery system for boat storage permits. The updates will provide more opportunities for public participation, a fair and equitable distribution of permits for boat storage spaces every two years, and ensure all users are paying competitive fees.

Through the boat storage program, the City offers two options for boat owners in Mission Bay Park: beach bars and moorings. Dry boat storage racks, referred to as boat beaching bars, offer space where people can secure small boats on the shore for a long-term basis. Moorings are seabed anchors used to secure boats in the water in the coves of Mission Bay.

In November 2024, the Office of the City Auditor received a Fraud Hotline report regarding the management and oversight of beach bar permits issued by the City. To address these concerns, the City Auditor made 10 recommendations to improve the City's boat storage permit administration, facilities, fee recovery and compliance operations.

**"Our staff worked closely with the Auditor's Office to review the recommendations and ensure we establish a fair system for boat owners to access these convenient storage options,"** said Andy Field, Director of the City's Parks and Recreation Department. **"By implementing the program updates approved by the City Council today, we are giving more individuals the opportunity to access recreation options in Mission Bay and ensuring the permit costs remain competitive."**

Among the recommendations approved today is a lottery system to ensure applicants have an opportunity to receive a beach bar permit. Through the lottery, individuals that did not receive a beach bar storage permit will be placed on a wait list. If space becomes available during the two-year permit cycle, the space will be available to those on the wait list in the order applications were received.

Today the City Council also approved fee updates for boat storage permits. While existing program fees have historically been based on cost recovery, this action updates some fees based on a benchmarking study of similar services in other jurisdictions. The new fee structure compared the City's fees against

similar cities and agencies based on the premise that the Boat Beach Bar and Boat Mooring rental fees are the use of government property and can be set at market rates.

An annual Boat Beach Bar Rental fee of $347.00 will be effective on Jan. 1, 2027, along with a Boat Mooring Rental per mooring fee of $1,704 effective July 1, 2027.

On Friday, Nov. 13, current permit holders were notified by email of the proposed changes. Ahead of the new permitting process, applications and outreach materials will be available on the City's website.




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