

James Lenthall, President
Dana Point Boaters Association
Testimony to CCC for Harbor Revitalization September 9, 2020

Good morning. My name is James Lenthall. I am the president of the Dana Point Boaters Association. I also presently serve as chair of our Dana Point Harbor Advisory Board, which is a community stakeholder group that serves effectively as our harbor commission. Today I am speaking on behalf of our Boaters Association as a representative of our community of more than 3000 boaters.

As you know, our Harbor Revitalization Plan was launched more than 20 years ago. Many of our docks are nearly 50 years old, well past their planned life expectancy. This project is now long, long past due. However, that's still no reason to approve the wrong project. Despite the age and condition of our marinas, my organization would not support a project that didn't properly serve and preserve the character that Dana Point Harbor is beloved for.

But this is the right project. After so many promises and false starts over the past 20+ years, and early visions for this project that wildly altered the character of our harbor, we now have a development partner with the means to perform, and a plan that represents the culmination of intense stakeholder collaboration and promises to not only protect, but enhance the character and charm we are dedicated to.

Part our Boaters Associations' foundational mission is to protect the affordability of coastal access and recreational boating. We opposed early visions for our harbor that radically altered the slip mix in favor of larger vessels. However, we also have a logjam in our waitlists, where owners of smaller vessels who wish to advance to larger boats find themselves waiting 15 years or longer. We believe this plan subtly and properly alters the mix to bring just a little parity to these waitlists while still facilitating quick access to smaller slips. Not only do we support this marina plan, it is also a product of our input.

Since we began working with Dana Point Harbor Partners during the RFP process in 2017, then in close collaboration after they were selected in 2018, we have been pleased by their partnership with our Association and other community stakeholders. We are confident that this collaboration will continue through the implementation of the plan and management of our marinas into the future.

On behalf of the Dana Point Boaters Association and our community of boaters, we support approval of this application.

Thank you for your time.