



CITY OF OCEANSIDE

MAYOR
ESTHER SANCHEZ

COUNCIL MEMBERS
KORI JENSEN
RYAN KEIM
CHRISTOPHER RODRIGUEZ
PETER WEISS

November 2, 2021

Ms. Liane Randolph, Chair
c/o Harborcraft
California Air Resources Board
1001 I Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Proposed CA Air Resources Regulations on Harbor Crafts

Dear Chair Randolph:

On behalf of the City of Oceanside, I'm writing regarding proposed regulations by the California Air Resources Board (CARB) which would negatively impact family-owned fishing and other small businesses at the Oceanside Harbor. CARB staff is undertaking a process to amend or replace the existing regulations to further reduce emissions from harbor craft, scheduled for Board consideration this year. The new amendments would instill costly and stringent requirements and mandates for engines operating on harbor craft, and would place smaller vessels at the Oceanside Harbor into categories with tank barges, tugboats, and dredges. These smaller vessels are already subject to engine emission limits.

We understand the importance of reducing harbor craft emissions to attain greater air quality, reduce community risk, and mitigate climate change, but Oceanside Harbor craft owners have already made considerable investments to replace older engines with newer, cleaner engines to comply with the existing regulations. Due to loss of income during the pandemic and already low profit margins, Harbor business owners are facing financial hardship and will likely be unable to pay for new or retrofitted vessels by the compliance date. Further, the proposals could require a reduction of passenger loads due to the weight of new engine modifications necessary to comply. This could devastate the commercial fishing and whale watching industry in Oceanside. It would be more reasonable that new-build vessels be fitted with enhanced low-emission technology and be required to meet the proposed regulations as vessels are replaced.

These concerns prompt me to request that the CARB pause to work more closely with smaller sport and sea life adventure industries to develop air quality rules that are economically achievable for our small business owners, and will allow them to continue to serve the community.

Sincerely,

Esther C. Sanchez
MAYOR

Cc: Oceanside City Council
California Air Resources Board Members
Senator Pat Bates
Assembly Member Tasha Boerner Horvath