

# Message from the Harbormaster

August 25, 2009

There is good news on a number of fronts in Whittier Harbor these days. Although Transient Moorage numbers are down along with some other lines of business, Boat Launches are up. The new East Boat Ramp is immensely welcome after years dealing with adrift re-bar, drop-offs and bottlenecks. The waiting in line time has been reduced allowing people to enjoy the water more and the parking lot less.

For our Preferential Tenants and those who use the marina for Transient overnight moorage, we are reacting to customer's concern for the safety and welfare on the floats. Almost everyone who has been down on the floats has been tripped-up by the condition of the concrete. Folks who have plugged into the shore-power system have noticed the deterioration in the breakers and receptacles. Anyone who has connected a hose to the water supply who may, or may not, have gotten water will, no doubt, agree that the marina is falling apart. Hence, the Emergency Marina Repair Project.

The Whittier City Council granted the expenditure of \$60,000 from the Harbor Savings Fund to react to those who believe that we need to do something immediately to fulfill our Prime Directive. The City Code requires us to, "Preserve the lives, health, safety and well-being of the people." We are concentrating on the electrical system, float connectors, concrete condition and water supply, in that order.

Some say that this is throwing good money after bad. In light of the next piece of news that may be one way to look at the situation. The City Council has directed the City Manager to enter into an agreement with Northern Economics, Inc. to study the Harbor Enterprise Fund for economic viability. Simply stated, are we charging enough in our tariffs to operate and maintain a marina? And further, to determine a standard of economic viability to support Revenue Bonds and Grant Funding to rebuild the harbor and operate it for 30 years. If you wish to be a part of this process, there will be ample opportunity to attend Port and Harbor Commission meetings, public hearings and meetings of the City Council where this subject will be discussed. Our elected officials, harbor managers and City officials want to get the Harbor rebuilt starting in the construction season of 2010-11. The project is 100% designed and permitted and once we have a viable economic roadmap, we will get the funding required to get this thing done. Finally.

Many people have worked hard over the years to bring this idea into reality. It has always been a daunting project because of funding. We think we have a plan that will work. Please call me if you have any questions. (907) 472-2327 ext. 113