

Save Baby Beach

South Coast Sailing Team

32862 Staysail Drive

Dana Point, CA 92629

October 17, 2011

Dear Friends:

Over thirty years ago, when I started our Sea Scout Unit in Dana Harbor, the Orange County facility that we now utilize was a sandy mole in a newly created harbor. For several years I attended county meetings with other representatives of potential users such as the Girl Scouts, Saddleback College and the Red Cross to advise the architect. When the facility was built, the users were elated as were the Board of Supervisors. Awards came in from many sources praising both the beauty and the function of the facility dedicated to youth and group aquatic activities.

The facility has grown to provide boating instruction for all ages the year around. Paddle boarders, outrigger canoeists, sailors in boats from eight to thirty eight feet depart from this sight every day. In addition, the rooms are used for public meetings from weddings to jazzercise, from early morning to late evening. No one using the facility has expressed dissatisfaction with the facility design as it has stood for over twenty-five years.

Over the last few years an architectural firm has been preparing a revitalization plan for the harbor. Despite many public meetings no notice was given of proposed changes in our facility. Then, on September 20, with

only forty-five days for the public to respond, a million dollar architectural total harbor revitalization plan was released. The plan for our facility would decimate an award winning facility. The plan is fraught with untenable problems. All of the existing public use docks on the inner harbor side of our facility would be dedicated to private use. A ring of new docks for the boats used for the public would be constructed in the outer harbor in front of baby beach. The public beach uses including launching small craft from the beach and a safe swimming beach for small children would be impacted by the storage of motor driven vessels from fourteen to thirty-two feet in length. The public instructional vessels would be subjected to a shallow shoaling bottom and unpredictable violent surges. Small boat sailing and instruction would be forced to enter the harbor through one small entryway into the ship channel that is to be constricted by a dock for waste tank pumping. The Sea Scout Program as we have developed it over the years will be negatively impacted!!!

As opposed to thirty years ago, this time around the county officials did not hold meetings to ascertain public input. They knew what they wanted - big bucks from mega yachts. The only way that they could achieve this was to take space dedicated to the public and privatize it.

They can be stopped! The Coastal Commission usually acts in favor of public interests that are being challenged by private encroachment when alerted by affected citizens. However the deadline is November 4 at 5:00 pm. We need an outcry. Join us in a letter writing campaign. The county by law must respond to each letter and present it to the Coastal Commission. Email us at skipwehan@fea.net for more information. We will send you all of the current information including addresses and web sites.

Fair winds,

Jim "Skip" Wehan
Skipper and President