

**HUMBOLDT BAY HARBOR, RECREATION,
AND CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

RESOLUTION NO. 2026-06

**A RESOLUTION COMMENDING CAPTAIN JOHN POWELL FOR HIS SERVICES AS A BAR PILOT ON
HUMBOLDT BAY**

WHEREAS, Captain John Powell was born and raised in Crescent City, California. He started commercial fishing with his father aboard the Welcome at a very young age. At age 17 he began working for Crowley Maritime assisting the fuel barge into Crescent City. He married his high school sweetheart, Kay, in 1978 and they raised two children together. John and Kay moved to Eureka where John continued to work with Crowley on the Humboldt Tugs. He left to sail on offshore tugs and came back to become the Captain of the famous tug/pilot boat Thor with his mentor and teacher, Captain Art Christensen; and

WHEREAS, Captain Powell came up through the hawse pipe, having started as a deckhand and working his way up to become a pilot; and

WHEREAS, In 1985 Captain John Powell was recruited by Humboldt Bar Pilots Captain Hoey, Captain Bessielieu and Captain Ohlsson and became the youngest pilot for Humboldt Bar Pilots, being licensed on February 6, 1986; and

WHEREAS, Captain John Powell was fully employed as a Bar Pilot beginning January 1, 1988 and became licensed as a State Bar Pilot through the Humboldt Bay Harbor, Recreation and Conservation District on January 1, 1995; and

WHEREAS, Captain John Powell worked for the Humboldt Bay Harbor, Recreation and Conservation District as a Bar Pilot from October 16, 2006 to August 22, 2014 when he became a Bar Pilot for Humboldt Bay Pilots; and

WHEREAS, In the spring of 2008 Captain John Powell took a leave of absence from the Humboldt Bay Harbor District in order to operate the vessel Koos King for Knutson, as their captain had a medical emergency and there were no other qualified tugboat captains. This act averted potentially significant impact on commercial operations on Humboldt Bay; and

WHEREAS, in July of 2010 Captain John Powell was recognized by Sea Grant California for his time, expertise and vessel support for the Humboldt Bay and Eel River Estuary mapping verification. His involvement contributed to the successful collection of over 130 habitat verifications and resulted in ortho-rectified, digital imagery of Humboldt Bay and the Eel River Estuary that surpassed the quality of previous images; and

WHEREAS, Captain Powell's dedication to Humboldt Bay was proven as he pushed back his retirement for over three years in order to recruit and train his replacement; and

WHEREAS, Captain John Powell retired in 2025 having served Humboldt Bay the longest and with no "at-fault" incidents; and

WHEREAS, Captain John Powell has left a lasting legacy with numerous positive accomplishments.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE HUMBOLDT BAY HARBOR, RECREATION, AND CONSERVATION DISTRICT DOES HEREBY RESOLVE AS FOLLOWS:
That the Commissioners and staff of the Humboldt Bay Harbor, Recreation and Conservation District do hereby express our heartfelt appreciation for the best efforts and contributions of Captain John Powell as a Bar Pilot and herein wish him the best in all his future endeavors.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Humboldt Bay Harbor, Recreation and Conservation District Board of Commissioners at a duly called meeting held on the 11th day of June 2026 by the following polled vote:

AYES: Dale, Kullmann, Newman, Norton

NOES: 0

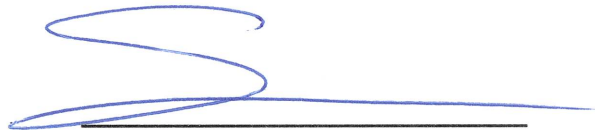
ABSENT: Benson

ABSTAIN: 0

ATTEST:



Aaron Newman, Secretary
Board of Commissioners



Stephen Kullmann, President
Board of Commissioners

CERTIFICATE OF SECRETARY

The undersigned, duly qualified and acting Secretary of the HUMBOLDT BAY HARBOR, RECREATION AND CONSERVATION DISTRICT, does hereby certify that the attached Resolution is a true and correct copy of RESOLUTION NO. 2026-06 entitled,

A RESOLUTION COMMENDING CAPTAIN JOHN POWELL FOR HIS SERVICES AS A BAR PILOT ON HUMBOLDT BAY

as regularly adopted at a legally convened meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the HUMBOLDT BAY HARBOR, RECREATION AND CONSERVATION DISTRICT, duly held on the 11th day of June 2026; and further, that such Resolution has been fully recorded in the Journal of Proceedings in my office, and is in full force and effect.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 11th day of June 2026.



**Aaron Newman, Secretary
Board of Commissioners**