

AGENDA
EMERGENCY MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
HUMBOLDT BAY HARBOR, RECREATION AND CONSERVATION DISTRICT

DATE: February 21, 2019

TIME: **Emergency Session – 4:00 PM**

PLACE: Woodley Island Marina Meeting Room

The Meeting Room is wheelchair accessible. Accommodations and access to Harbor District meetings for people with other handicaps must be requested of the Director of Administrative Services at 443-0801 at least 24 hours in advance of the meeting.

1. **Call to Order Emergency Session at 4:00 P.M. and Roll Call**
2. **Pledge of Allegiance**
3. **Public Comment**

Note: This portion of the Agenda allows the public to speak to the Board on the various issues not itemized on this Agenda. A member of the public may also request that a matter appearing on the Consent Calendar be pulled and discussed separately. Pursuant to the Brown Act, the Board may not take action on any item that does not appear on the Agenda. Each speaker is limited to speak for a period of three (3) minutes regarding each item on the Agenda. Each speaker is limited to speak for a period of three (3) minutes during the PUBLIC COMMENT portion of the Agenda regarding items of special interest to the public not appearing on the Agenda that are within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Board of Commissioners. The three (3) minute time limit may not be transferred to other speakers. The three (3) minute time limit for each speaker may be extended by the President of the Board of Commissioners or the Presiding Member of the Board of Commissioners at the regular meeting of the District. The three (3) minute time limit for each speaker may be enforced by the President of the Board of Commissioners or the Presiding Member of the Board of Commissioners at the regular meeting of the District.

9. New Business

- a) **Consider a Declaration of Emergency Regarding Shoaling Hazards at the Entrance to Humboldt Bay**

Recommendation: Staff recommends the Board: Adopt a Resolution Declaring the Emergency.

Summary: In January of 2019, a major storm which closed Humboldt Bay caused significant shoaling within the Army Corps of Engineers (USACOE) maintained federal navigation channel, in the area known as "Rock and Roll Alley" (Buoy # 9). In response to these conditions, the District, the Harbor Safety Committee, the USCG, the Humboldt Fisherman's Marketing Association, the Wiyot Tribe, and Humboldt County requested that emergency dredging be initiated to remove the hazard. The USACOE immediately reacted and dispatched a vessel to conduct emergency soundings to confirm the hazardous conditions and the need for emergency dredging. This morning the USACOE posted the results of the sounding and the Harbor District immediately met with the Humboldt Bar Pilots, the Chair of the Harbor Safety Committee, and other local maritime navigation experts.

At the conclusion of this meeting, the Humboldt Bar Pilots drafted a letter placing 21-foot draft restrictions in an area that is authorized to be at 48 feet. These conditions place an extreme hazard to life, property, and the environment. Up to 30 - 40 commercial boats and up to an additional 30 – 40 recreational boats cross "Rock and Roll Alley" (Buoy # 9) daily. Fisherman report life threatening conditions in that they "gamble every time you go out." There are large cross waves and extremely large sneaker waves at buoy # 9. There is real danger of crab pots shifting, crew members being thrown overboard or capsizing due to shoaling caused waves.

Approximately six million gallons of gasoline, diesel, and aviation fuel traverse the Humboldt Bay Bar every nine days. With a draft restriction of 21 feet, the areas fuel supplies are at risk. The commercial shipping industry has reported that they have postponed chip ships that were scheduled to arrive.

USACOE will be reviewing the new official soundings and options to determine the appropriate action required to address this emergency condition.

13. Adjournment