

NEWS • News

Long Beach marina slip fees set to increase 3% this fall

The increase is to help the city repay bonds as Alamitos Bay Marina rebuild continues.



There may be changes coming to the Alamitos Bay Marina parking lot across the street from 2ND & PCH shopping center in Long Beach on Monday, January 17, 2022.
(Photo by Brittany Murray, Press-Telegram/SCNG)

Boat owners who keep their vessels in one of Long Beach's marinas will see the monthly rent go up by 3% on Oct. 1 to keep up with city bond payments that are due in the coming year.

Long Beach's Marine Advisory Commission will review the slip fee increase Thursday, July 14, at its regular monthly meeting. The commission can make comments and recommendations, but has no authority to set or change the fees.

The increase is part of an agreement reached in 2015 to issue \$125 million in bonds to pay for a rebuild of the Alamitos Bay Marina, the largest municipally operated marina in the country; the Alamitos Bay Marina boasts 1,655 slips in seven basins.

A design-build approach for the Alamitos Bay Marina was approved in 2005, construction didn't begin until 2010.

But in 2011, City Auditor Laura Doud issued an audit saying the city couldn't self-finance the entire multi-year project at one time. The city responded by breaking the rebuild into phases, but had trouble keeping the project going, partially because of funding issues.

So in 2015, the city agreed to issue a \$125 million revenue bond sale, both to repay loans from the state's Department of Boating and Waterways and to pay for the rest of the construction. Those bonds were guaranteed by future slip fee revenue, including a deal to increase fees as necessary to keep revenues at 125% of debt service for that year.

The city could have raised user fees of all types, including slip fees, by 5.27%, according to the City Cost Index, an estimate of how much costs increase each year. But Marine Bureau and Parks, Recreation and Marine Department officials settled on the 3% increase for boaters.

That means the fee for the most common slip, 20-foot spaces, will be \$166.71 a month, compared to the current \$161.85. At the other end of the scale, someone in a 100-foot slip will see an increase of \$84.08 a month, from \$2,802.54 to \$2,886.62.

The fee increase technically remains a proposal — after the MAC recommendation, it will be presented as part of the Fiscal Year 2023 budget to the City Council. Budget hearings at the council will begin next month.

The Marine Advisory Commission meeting is at 2:30 p.m. Thursday, July 14, at the Seal Beach Yacht Club, 255 N. Marina Drive, in Long Beach. The meeting will take place in person.

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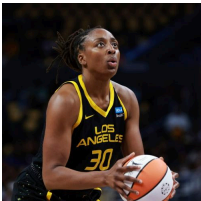
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2022 > July > 11
