

CAPITOLA
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Council adopts stringent rules for users of wharf

By BOB SMITH
There's a new list of "don'ts" this week in Capitola.

The City Council passed an emergency ordinance last week, setting up new rules for its wharf and asking judges to levy heavy fines on violators of one rule.

The new rules are effective immediately and ban all dogs from the wharf, prohibit diving and jumping from the wharf, restrict tying up of boats to the two landings under the wharf, ban overhead casting while fishing from wharf, and bars most cars from the wharf.

The council, however, struck one "No" from its list last Thursday night, and will now allow a limited number of sail and rowboats to be stored overnight on the city-controlled Hooper's Beach west of the Capitola Wharf.

Boat owners have until July 20 to apply for one of 10 seasonal permits that will allow them to keep their boats on the beach

overnight until September 1.

Five other permits will be available for up to two weeks at a time to visitors and others not receiving one of the seasonal permits.

The city now has an ordinance, required by the state Coastal Commission-approved Local Coastal Plan, banning overnight storage on the beach.

Boat owners protested earlier this summer about the ordinance after city police began citing violators.

The new ordinance almost died aborning, however, when councilmen Dennis Beltram and Michael Routh objected to the \$30 a month fee for the seasonal permit holders. Short-term users will be charged \$3 a night.

A compromise of sorts was worked out between the two dissenters and the fee supporters — Mayor Ron Graves and councilmen Robert Bucher and Jerry Clarke.

Routh and Beltram agreed to support the

emergency ordinance, which needed a four-fifths vote to become effective immediately, in return for terminating the ordinance on Nov. 1.

A new ordinance, possibly with a lower fee schedule, will be drawn up for next year.

Beltram and Routh argued that the \$30 month or \$1 a day fee for each of the 10 seasonal spaces on the beach could not be justified by the city's

cost for administering the program.

Beltram said he didn't believe the city should charge a fee for the use of the beach.

"I view it as something these people (the boat users) deserve as members of the public. We are not really providing a special service," Beltram said, "we are just accomodating another member of the public."

Routh suggested doing

away with the permits and fees. Instead, he suggested designating an area of the beach where boats could be stored. Boats kept outside the area overnight would be cited by police.

The other councilmen and City Manager Steve Burrell argued that the city should recover its administrative costs and that the fee was competitive with other charges, such as the Santa Cruz

Yacht Harbor, and that the city will probably spend more than it receives this year on setting up and administering the program.

The council gave Burrell the authority to allow certain vehicles on the wharf, but made it clear they wanted the total number of authorized cars and trucks on the wharf tightly regulated.

Some delivery vehicles, a limited number of

cars and trucks belonging to concessionaire Rick Karleen, city maintenance trucks, and cars and trucks towing boats to and from the boat launching hoist at the end of the wharf will be allowed on the wharf, Burrell said.

The council almost included a three ton (6,000 pound) weight limit for vehicles going on the wharf in the emergency ordinance, but

backed away from it at the last minute. Burrell and City Public Works Director Craig French were asked to supply council members with data on the wharf's construction and specific recommendations on the wording of an ordinance before the council acts on that section. French said the design load capacity for portions of the wharf is less than 9,000 pounds.

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