



Ventura Harbor
HOME OF THE CHANNEL ISLANDS NATIONAL PARK

Summer 2019
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Harbor Views



Ventura Harbor Beaches Replenished for Summer

A recent massive dredging project at Ventura Harbor has provided for a fuller, cleaner and more Earth-friendly experience for harbor beachgoers this summer.

During the off season, the Ventura Port District's Board of Commissioners oversaw the sweeping dredge of 470,000 cubic yards of sand at the harbor entrance and sand trap area; the dredge resulted in the thorough replenishment of Surfers Knoll and Harbor Cove – the harbor's public beaches along Spinnaker Drive.

"The contrast between the beach contour before and after the dredging is remarkable," said Harbormaster John Higgins. "The big soft sand beaches after the dredge are more naturally beautiful and inviting than ever."

And upon these fresh sands are a wealth of summer fun options.

Starting with safety, the Port District is again providing lifeguard services, through Labor Day, at Harbor Cove and Surfers Knoll. The port commissioners unanimously approved the \$88,682 state lifeguard contract.

In addition to swimming, surfing and sailing in the safe harbor waters, beachgoers have a variety of other

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"The big soft sand beaches after the dredge are more naturally beautiful and inviting than ever."

— John Higgins
Harbormaster

Brian Pendleton Takes Helm of Port District

The Ventura Port District Board of Port Commissioners has announced the appointment and promotion of Brian Pendleton to general manager of the Ventura Port District. Pendleton moved up on May 1 from his previous role as deputy general manager, to succeed Oscar Peña, who retired as GM after 20 years of service.



Pendleton joined the Port District in 2015, as business operations manager. In 2018, he was promoted to Deputy GM, to perform asset management duties for port real estate holdings including Ventura Harbor Village, hotels, marinas, boatyards and rental housing.

"I look forward to collaborating with our board to establish key priorities in the coming months," Pendleton said, "and to work alongside our Port District team, harbor tenants and key stakeholders to achieve our goals."

In his new role, Pendleton plans to enhance and expand the Port's mission to provide a safe and

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Port Commission Announces New Appointments

The Ventura Board of Port Commissioners welcomes a new member and a new leader.

Commissioner Chris Stephens is now chairman of the five-member board, taking the reins from Everard Ashworth, and Commissioner Jean Getchell takes over as board secretary. Brian Brennan continues as vice chairman.

New to the board is local attorney Jackie Gardina. Confirmed this spring by the Ventura City Council, Gardina fills the post vacated by Jim Friedman, who left the commission to join the Ventura City Council

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Change is in the air at the Ventura Harbor Village Marina, where a \$4.6 million dock improvement project is underway.

Ventura Harbor Marina Begins Major Transition

On the heels of a major upgrade at its Fish Pier, the Ventura Harbor Village Marina, operated by the Ventura Port District, is making another large investment as one of the most active commercial fishing ports between San Pedro and Morro Bay.

In April, the District invested \$430,000 into the resurfacing of the Fish Pier, which serves large and small commercial fishermen. Next, an extensive Ventura Harbor Village Marina Dock Improvement Project will increase the availability of larger slips and improve infrastructure. Commencing in mid-May, the sweeping project is scheduled for completion in September.

Both projects align with the Ventura Port District goal of positioning the harbor marina as a world-class commercial harbor.

Seven years in the planning, the dock improvement project will cost an estimated \$4.6 million as part of the Ventura Port District's Capital Improvement Program, to accommodate the harbor's ever-expanding fleet of commercial vessels.

For more on Ventura Harbor marinas, boater amenities or the improvement project, visit venturaharbor.com.

Commercial Fishing Improvements

FY2018-19 – FY2019-20

Project	Cost	Status
Fish Pier Renovations	\$430,000	Completed
Harbor Village Dock Replacement C, D, G & H	\$4.6 million	Ongoing
Grant Request:		
Refurbish Fisherman's Gear		
Storage and Net Repair	\$230,000	In progress*
Fish Pier Crane (New)	\$249,000	By 2020

Total = \$5.5 million

In 2017, based upon data from California Department of Fish and Wildlife, the Ventura Harbor was rated No. 1 in the state for poundage of fish offload and landing value. The District supports commercial fishing because it creates jobs in the region and feeds millions of dollars into the Ventura County economy.

*District staff has successfully negotiated a new lease for the Fisherman's Gear Storage and Net Repair at 1410 Angler Court. The lease term is five years plus a five-year option. Lease will commence July 1, 2019.



Welcome to Ethan McKinley, the new Superintendent of Channel Islands National Park. A 12-year veteran of the National Park Service, McKinley takes over following the retirement of Russell Galipeau. McKinley grew up in Littleton, Colorado. He and his wife, Zoe, now live in Ventura.

Beaches Replenished for Summer

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summer recreational options available, as well. Among them: beach volleyball, on public sand courts at Harbor Cove provided by local coach Jack Richards of Rincon Volleyball Club; kayaking; kite-flying; and YOGAqua and Paddle Into Fitness classes and lessons, which take place in the calm waters of Harbor Cove. For nature lovers, another benefit of the beach replenishment is the emergence of more nesting grounds, on the beaches and dunes, for endangered bird species such as the snowy plover.

The harbor and its beaches are among the city's most popular summer destinations. Beach restrooms and open-air showers are available, as is free parking in the dedicated beach lots and along Spinnaker Drive. In addition, a beach ADA wheelchair is available on a first-come, first-served basis; for availability, call ahead to Harbor Patrol at 805-642-8538.

Conveniently located, the Ventura Harbor beaches are just steps from the Channel Islands National Park Visitor Center and the popular Harbor Village, with its many food, entertainment and retail amenities.

For more information on the beaches of Ventura Harbor, visit venturaharbor.com.



The sweeping effect of the harbor dredging project is apparent in these before and after beachfront photos.

Oscar Peña, Port District General Manager, Retires

After 20 years of leadership at the Ventura Harbor, Oscar F. Peña retired as general manager of the Ventura Port District on April 30, 2019. Under a short-term agreement, Peña will stay on with the Port District as Business Operations Manager, overseeing real estate transactions and special projects, until a complete transition is made.



In his distinguished Port District career, Peña administered the management, leasing and staffing of the harbor under the direction of the five-member Board of Port Commissioners. The harbor encompasses 100-plus tenants that provide myriad services to residents, boaters, fishermen and visitors.

Among his notable achievements, Peña negotiated a 50-year ground lease in early 2000 for Portside Ventura Harbor, a massive multiuse waterfront development that includes 300 homes, 20,000 square feet of commercial space, a public park and a marina. "I'm grateful for the collaborative efforts Mr. Peña delivered over the last 20 years, to bring Portside Ventura Harbor to fruition," said Michael Sondermann, president of Sondermann Enterprises Inc. and partner of Portside Ventura. "His knowledge of how complicated private-public partnerships work was instrumental in getting Portside to the finish line."

Today, the Ventura Port District employs 35 full-time employees and generates \$8 million in annual revenue. Thanks to Peña's efforts, "the Port District has grown into an economically diverse and fiscally sound community asset of which the city can be proud," said Board Chairman Chris Stephens.

"I've greatly enjoyed working with tenants in the harbor and a dedicated staff that has contributed to the District's success over the years," Peña said. "Needless to say, many volunteer board members have provided the leadership needed to make the Ventura Harbor what it is today."

In retirement, Peña will focus on rebuilding his home, which was destroyed in the 2017 Thomas Fire. He also plans to spend more time with his wife and three daughters and he looks forward to traveling.

Brian Pendleton Takes Helm

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navigable harbor and a seaside destination that benefits residents, visitors, fishermen and boaters.

A longtime community activist, Pendleton serves on a number of local boards, including for the Ventura Chamber of Commerce, where he is chairman of the Economic Development & Legislative/Government Affairs Committee.

Pendleton holds a bachelor's degree in public administration and a master's in real estate development from USC and he's a licensed real estate professional in California. He and his wife, Arlene, and three children, Matt, Shane and Melissa, are longtime Ventura County residents.



Sailing for Kids: Youths ages 8 to 18 are invited to sign up for the Ventura Yacht Club's annual Summer Sailing Camp taking place in the Ventura Harbor. One-week camps run through Friday, Aug. 16, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily. For details and an application, visit vocyouthsailing.org.

New Appointments

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after he won that election in November.

Stephens' and Gardina's terms expire on June 30, 2021. Getchell's term runs through June 30, 2019. Brennan's term runs through 2020 and Ashworth's through 2022.

"The Harbor District is ready for the busy year ahead of it," said new Chairman Stephens, a port commissioner since 2017 and retired director of the Ventura County Resource Management Agency. "We look forward to the opening of the first units at the new Portside Ventura Harbor, as well as the expanded Holiday Inn Express. In addition, we will continue our efforts to bolster the commercial fishing industry with our pursuit of the Ventura Shellfish Enterprise project, and we will be freshening up the Harbor Village to provide an improved visitor experience."

For her part, new Commissioner Gardina brings an interest in environmental changes and their effects on the harbor. "The future of the harbor is very much going to be intertwined with climate change and making sure that we're creating a resilient coast and a sustainable harbor," she said.

A Ventura resident, Gardina is dean and chief academic officer of the Santa Barbara and Ventura Colleges of Law. An avid outdoorsperson, she spends much of her leisure time in the ocean off Ventura.



Jackie Gardina

New Casa: Ventura Harbor Village welcomes Casa de Regalos to its new location near the Channel Islands Courtyard! A longtime retailer in the Village, Casa de Regalos offers original Ventura wear, seaside gifts, authentic Hawaiian shirts and coastal decor.



JOIN US EVERY WEDNESDAY

THROUGHOUT JULY & AUGUST

WATER FRONT

SHOP DINE & DRINK SPECIALS

Wednesdays

SEASIDE FUN TOURS & TASTES



SHARE YOUR #waterfrontwednesdays WITH US!



JOIN SEASIDE KIDS CLUB
THURSDAYS 11 AM - NOON
JULY 11 - AUGUST 8
DAILY OR JOIN AS A MEMBER! (\$)



SEA-SATIONAL Summer

Steel Drum Saturdays JULY & AUGUST 1 - 4 PM

Seaside Live Music SUMMER SUNDAYS 1 - 4 PM

VENTURA HARBOR VILLAGE COM



Just in Time for Summer ...

New bike racks have been installed at Harbor Village, inviting visitors to travel healthy, be Earth-friendly and enjoy the harbor sights up close on two wheels!

A New Way to See Wildlife

This summer, Island Packers adds a longer wildlife viewing trip to its schedule. Its new Three-Quarter-Day Wildlife Viewing Tour travels farther and stays at sea longer than its popular Half-Day Wildlife Viewing Tour.

The new tours last five hours and generally travel to the west end of Santa Cruz Island; half-day (3.5-hour) tours take passengers to the eastern channel, cruising the shoreline of Anacapa Island, with a closeup view of Arch Rock.

Tour prices start at \$28. For more details or to book a trip, visit islandpackers.com or call 805-642-1393.



30 Years at Ventura Harbor Village

Congrats to Ventura Dive & Sport and to its owners, James and Christy Smith, on delivering three decades of diving excellence in Ventura Harbor Village. Thanks for providing world-class diving courses, gear, rentals and excursions, including to the Channel Islands, for 30 years!



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Ventura Harbor participates in 100% Green Energy via Clean Power Alliance



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Ventura Port District
VenturaHarbor.com
Brian Pendleton, *General Manager*

1603 Anchors Way Dr. • Ventura • CA • 93001
Phone 805-642-8538 • Fax 805-658-2249

Board of Port Commissioners

- Chris Stephens, *Chairman* (appointed: 7-1-17/expires: 6-30-21)
- Brian Brennan, *Vice Chairman* (appointed: 8-1-16/expires: 6-30-20)
- Jean Getchell, *Secretary* (appointed: 6-4-18/expires: 6-30-19)
- Everard Ashworth, *Commissioner* (appointed: 6-16-14/expires: 6-30-22)
- Jackie Gardina, *Commissioner* (appointed: 3-4-19/expires: 6-30-21)