

From: [Duane Winter](#)
To: [James Pruet](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL]
Date: Tuesday, May 18, 2021 7:48:56 AM

Harbor ticket fees (Passenger Service Fees), Berth rent

Ahoy there my name is Duane Winter owner of the vessel Mooch Better.

I would like to make a public comment on items #13 and #14.

I respectfully ask that you do not raise our fees. We are dealing with major issues regarding our businesses. With the advent of the Covid we have had a major drop in our business. This is so bad that some of us are looking at bankruptcy and have taken a major hit. This does not include the amount of business lost due to the reduction in our fishing season due to the continuing drought and this is going to be another dire year of water shortage.

In this regards the Commissioners need to realize that we are being burdened with what is a tariff on our businesses that is not on others. (The Port District of San Francisco has no fees for passengers on fishing trips.)

There should be no retroactive fees, there should be no raising of both berth rents and passenger ticket fees. With the present state of the economy there should be a reduction in our fees to help us to just survive.

In the past, roughly 35 years ago, the passengers from the Commercial passenger vessels represented the biggest portion of the public using the harbor facilities. At that time there was 15 large Commercial Passenger Fishing Vessels and proposal to put a pay gate on the parking lot to compensate for the usage of the harbor. The wear and tear on the dock, supplies for the restrooms, etc. Instead, there was implemented a "passenger ticket fee" imposed upon the charter vessels instead of a pay gate. A parking gate would disproportionately affect lower income groups. (The passenger Service Fee was already in existence and was .90 at that time).

These fees have increased over the years with annual COL increases to a point where we are paying \$2.41 per passenger.

Since this was started there have been many changes in the harbor. We now have a tremendous amount of traffic from the off-boat sales of fish and crabs. There is a general usage fee that we all pay which is the "Commercial Activity Permit". But there are no fees collected for this off-boat sales (of fish or crab). The amount of people that are in the harbor is on an order of magnitude so much greater than what our passengers represent. Half Moon Bay and the harbor have become a destination for people of the metropolitan bay area. Now tourists from the entire 9 county area routinely visit the Harbor to see a working Harbor, enjoy the coast and get away from the heat.

This represents a great disparity between what we are obligated to pay versus the major traffic on the pier. Our passenger clientele now represents 5% or less of the commerce on the pier. Your Board report asks for 5% to make up for two years of increases. I ask you drop that all together.

Thank you for your consideration.

Captain Duane Winter (DBA Mooch Better Fishing)

Fair Winds and Flat Seas

Captain Duane Winter
Mooch Better Fishing

