

SECTION NO. 4.30 – SOUTH SAN DIEGO BAY ANCHORING, MOORING AND AQUATIC ACTIVITIES REGULATED

(a) Purpose

California law (San Diego Unified Port District Act, Harbors and Navigation Code, Appendix I, Sections 55 and 56) requires the Board of Port Commissioners to regulate and control the anchoring, mooring, towing and docking of vessels, and to make and enforce all necessary rules and regulations governing the use and control of navigable waters within the District. The purpose of this Section of the San Diego Unified Port District Code is to implement that responsibility within South San Diego Bay. South San Diego Bay is naturally shallow with depths ranging from One (1) to Six (6) Feet at low tide, except in marked channels. Problems associated with water quality and flotsam are more prevalent in the South Bay owing to the lack of tidal flushing in this area. Numerous sunken vessels, submerged obstructions and dilapidated watercraft have been abandoned in the area, complicating navigation.

Duly published regulations and restrictions promulgated by competent State or Federal authority shall be paramount in the event of conflict with provisions of this Code.

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(b) Definitions

1. “South San Diego Bay” – The part of San Diego Bay lying southward of a line extending in a west southwesterly direction from the southwesterly corner of the Sweetwater Wharfin Latitude 32° 38' 52" N, Longitude 117 07' W, to a point on the southerly shore of Crown Cove at Latitude 32 38' 10" N, Longitude 117° 08'20" w.
2. “Coronado Cays Channel” – That channel marked by buoys and daymarkers lying east of Coronado Cays; including approaches to floats and berthing facilities in the Coronado Cays complex.
3. “Chula Vista Harbor Channel” – That channel marked by daymarkers leading from the Sweetwater Channel turning basin in a southerly direction toward the Chula Vista Harbor entrance situated at Latitude 32° 37' 23" N, Longitude 117 06' 15"W.
4. “Chula Vista Small Craft Harbor” – That deepened and protected portion of South San Diego Bay lying eastward of Longitude 117° 06' 15" W.
5. “Chula Vista Wildlife Preserve” – That man-made peninsula of approximately Eighty (80) acres in surface lying southerly of the Chula Vista Harbor, and westerly of San Diego Gas & Electric power plant at Latitude 32° 37' N.

(c) Regulations

1. It shall be unlawful to anchor, moor, make fast to the bottom, strand, or ground any vessel or structure or to be in control or possession of or to operate any vessel or structure which is anchored, moored, made fast to the bottom, stranded or grounded within South San Diego Bay as defined in Sec. 4.30(b)1 of this Code.
2. Watercraft engaged in public works projects, patrol, derelict removal, geological or environmental survey, or other work permitted by competent local, State or Federal authority shall be exempt from this restriction during the course of such work. This section shall not apply to vessels of less than Eighteen (18) Inches loaded draft engaged in fishing during daylight hours.
3. It shall be unlawful for any vessel to be operated at a speed in excess of Five (5) Miles Per Hour in South San Diego Bay as defined in Sec. 4.30(b)1 of this Code, except while transiting the Chula Vista Harbor Channel seaward of daymarks 11 and 12. Vessels must maintain a reasonable and prudent speed pursuant to Section 4.04 of this Code.

- (d) Penalty
 - 1. Any person who violates any provision of this Section, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor.
 - 2. Any vessel anchored in violation of any provision of this Section shall be subject to removal and storage by any Harbor Police Officer pursuant to Section 8.25(a) of this Code. The registered and/or legal owner of the vessel may be liable for all costs related to the removal and storage of any vessel removed and stored pursuant to this Section.

(Enacted February 10, 1987 – Ordinance No. 1200)

(Amended June 18, 1991 – Ordinance No. 1435)

(Amended March 9, 2004 – Ordinance No. 2284)