

Lopez, Maria [COB]

Correspondence
Bd. 8/25, 2026, Item 18

From: Donna Kalez <dmkalez@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, August 22, 2026 2:46 PM
To: COB_Response
Subject: Please accept my letter for Board Meeting 8/25/26 Dana Point Harbor Hotels #18
Attachments: Board of supervisors 2 (Dana Point Harbor Hotels).pdf

Attention: This email originated from outside the County of Orange. Use caution when opening attachments or links.

Thank you so much - I will also try to call in.
My letter is attached - please do not share my email address with the public

Donna Kalez, Co- Owner
Dana Wharf Sportfishing & Whale Watching
34675 Golden Lantern
Dana Point, Ca. 92629
949.496.5794 ext 116

www.danawharf.com

www.linktr.ee/danawharf

Dana Point: Certified Whale Heritage Area & home of the trademark "Dolphin and Whale Watching Capital of the World®"

Chair: Festival of Whales Foundation

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August 20, 2026

Orange County Board of Supervisors

Dana Point Harbor Hotels Support Letter 8/25/26 item 18

Dear Chairman Chafee and Members of the Board,

My name is Donna Kalez , co-owner of our family-owned business, Dana Wharf Sportfishing and Whale Watching. We were the first business in Dana Point Harbor in 1971, founded 55 years ago by my father, Don Hansen. He dedicated his life to bettering our community and the business he loved. It was his dream to see the harbor fully revitalized in his lifetime; sadly, he did not get to see it finished. It is now my family's goal to carry on his legacy and see this through to the end. I have been engaged in the Harbor Revitalization Plan for over 27 years. The project has had 4 different Supervisors over those years . We have attended hundreds of meetings and written many letters in support of the overall project, so I consider myself uniquely qualified to speak to this agenda item regarding the Dana Point Harbor Hotels.

I want to express my **strong support** for the Dana Point Harbor Hotels. This project will enhance the Dana Point , Orange County economy and allow for long-overdue improvements and upgrades to the current Dana Point Marina Inn. We have been supportive since the plan was submitted to have two new hotels built in the harbor—particularly one that maintains a commitment to **affordability like the current one**.

Dana Wharf Sportfishing and Whale Watching relies on affordable options for our visitors, including recreational fishers , whale watchers , and children of all ages who

love the ocean. We provide affordable access to the water for the general public. Furthermore, we serve passengers with special needs as well as underserved communities. Having a harbor hotel that can accommodate them at an affordable rate is a necessity, as many travel long distances and depart as early as 6:00 AM. New, accessible harbor hotels with affordable rooms are vital to the overall health and success of the revitalization plan.

As you know, all businesses around us will close on October 31, 2026. After 55 years we are getting a new harbor. We will be operating from temporary trailers for our whale watching , private charters and fishing trips, alongside Catalina Express . This transition is already difficult, we are a small business that employs 40 people. We are staying positive and working with our landlord , we are open for business. The recent uncertainty over the hotel project has brought unnecessary negativity to all of us . This is a sound project that has passed the Coastal Commission. I urge you all to come together and pass this important project so that we do not experience any further delays. We are excited for the entire project to be completed, one that has already spanned ½ my life . Thank you all for your leadership and your hard work to get us to this point .

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Donna Kalez". The script is cursive and fluid.

Donna Kalez

Owner, Dana Wharf Sportfishing and Whale Watching

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