

Marine Services at Pillar Point Harbor

The Pillar Point Harbor of Refuge offers no marine services. To be specific, the following are not available:

1. Haul-out facilities
2. Marine electricians
3. Marine engine mechanics
4. Fiberglass repair facilities
5. Marine HVAC technicians
6. Metalwork facilities for stainless steel or aluminum
7. Riggers
8. Sail loft / canvas workers
9. Marine retailers (with the exception of recreational fishing supplies)

The nearest locations with most or all of these services is Santa Cruz (50 miles south), Alameda/Oakland/Richmond (50 miles north then east) and Moss Landing (75 miles south).

The lack of these services is a self-reinforcing problem: no facilities means that skilled tradespeople are unable to work, which means there is no way to satisfy demand, and potential customers know there is no point in attempting to get work done when their vessel is in the area.

Mission Statement

The Pillar Point Harbor¹ mission statement is:

To assure the public is provided with clean, safe, well-managed, financially sound and environmentally pleasant marinas.

In contrast, the Moss Landing mission statement² includes the provision of services, notably lacking from the Pillar Point Harbor District mission statement:

The Moss Landing Harbor is the number one commercial fishing harbor in the Monterey Bay with 600+ slips for recreational boaters and commercial vessels. Partnering with marine research and education, the Moss Landing Harbor District (MLHD) provides full public access to the environment.

*Designated as a year round port of safe refuge, Moss Landing Harbor provides safe, reliable marine refuge **and services** to boating members of this community and welcomed guests. Moss Landing Harbor District continually strives to protect the surrounding natural resources and preserve our fishing heritage, not only for the enjoyment of this generation but for generations to come.*

¹ <https://www.smharbor.com/pillar-point-harbor>

² <http://www.mosslandingharbor.dst.ca.us/>

Note that this mission statement does not require that the Moss Landing Harbor District be in the business of directly providing marine services; instead, the provision of those services by private enterprise are encouraged. Just how that encouragement might be accomplished at Pillar Point Harbor is a potential subject for discussion.

As a point of reference³, Moss Landing is smaller than Half Moon Bay, with a population of 204, and one-third smaller than Princeton⁴, which has a population of 294. Like Pillar Point Harbor, Moss Landing lies within the Monterey Marine Sanctuary⁵. Again, like Pillar Point Harbor, which contains the Pillar Point Marsh Wetlands, Moss Landing is sandwiched between the Moss Landing State Wildlife Area and the Salinas River State Beach, and lies at the head of the Monterey Canyon. Moss Landing is often referred to as “the gateway to Elkhorn Slough”, one of the largest wetlands in California. Elkhorn Slough is ranked in the top 10 best birding spots in the US according to the Audubon’s annual bird count.

The Moss Landing Harbor District berths over 600 boats, including 350 fishing boats, 200 pleasure craft, 30 research vessels, and a half dozen tour and charter boats. Some of the marine services at Moss Landing include:

- Moss Landing Boat Works (75-ton travelift, chandlery, contract tradespeople)
- Peninsula Diesel (Engine rebuilding service)
- Sanctuary Stainless (Aluminum and stainless steel welder)
- Woodward Marine (Marine supplies)
- Gregg Marine (Marine supplies)

This informs us that marine services are not incompatible with wildlife and nature conservation.

³ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Moss_Landing,_California

⁴ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Princeton-by-the-Sea,_California

⁵ <https://montereybay.noaa.gov/>