



Plans are in the works to build a new home for the Coronado Yacht Club. Rendering courtesy of the Coronado Yacht Club

# New \$18.5M Home Planned for Coronado Yacht Club

## REAL ESTATE: Plans Include Clubhouse, Sailing School Classrooms, New Dinghy Launch

■ By RAY HUARD

**CORONADO** – Pending an environmental review, an \$18.5 million club house and sailing school would replace the 1947 government surplus building that has been home to the **Coronado Yacht Club** for decades.

“It was never supposed to be a permanent structure,” said **Ken Wilson**, the yacht club commodore.

The project is being financed by the yacht club.

“The real impetus for this is the cost of maintenance, as we go forward, has just been getting more and more,” Wilson said.



**Ken Wilson**  
Commodore  
Coronado Yacht Club

Strong tides are also coming close to flooding the existing yacht club, and with climate change causing ever higher tides, “a still breeze from the south during a king tide would see water coming into the building,” Wilson said.

King tide is a term used to describe the highest tide of the year.

Plans call for the 11,000-square-foot yacht club building to be demolished and replaced with a two-story, 17,000-square-foot structure on the same site at 1631 Strand Way on Glorietta Bay.

Designed by **AVRP Studios** and pending the environmental review, details on what the new yacht club would have are still being worked out as part of the environmental review, but they would include a 1,200-square-foot youth sailing school with classrooms, storage and offices for coaches, replacing the 715-square-foot existing sailing school that would be razed, according to Wilson.

The new yacht club would also include a new dinghy launch, hoist and gangway and restrooms.

No changes would be made to the 264 exiting boat slips.

### Expanded Public Access, Youth Programs

Founded initially in 1913, but disbanded during World War 1, the club traces its second founding to 1932 when six men leased a wing of the **Hotel del Coronado Boat House**.

The club leased its present site in 1946 and moved the old government building to the site in 1947.

Since then, the club has grown to have 650 flag members, 100 senior flag members and 200 junior members, according to Wilson.

“We have reached a sort of maximum at the size we are right now due to the size of the facilities,” Wilson said, adding that the larger structure that’s planned would allow the club to host more events and have room for other community groups to use.

“In the new yacht club, specifically with the larger junior sailing center that we’re planning, we’ll be able to expand our offerings to more children in the area learning how to sail,” Wilson said.

As it is, the club has one of the largest youth programs in the country, according to Wilson.

“We have people who raced in the America’s Cup who used to be junior members. We have former all-Americans.

The new project would include a public promenade around the waterfront where there is now no public access, leading to a viewing area.

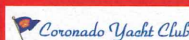
“This is real, actual coastal access, not just a token walkway that goes nowhere,” Wilson said.

The yacht club hosts several regattas, and the new promenade “would allow members of the public to come and watch the start of the regattas,” Wilson said. “Part of our mission is to promote yachting. Ingrained, and a big part of our ethos, is expanding access to the water.”

Ideally, Wilson said that construction of the new yacht club would start within a year or two after receiving permits.

“We’re about halfway through the process of getting a coastal development permit,” said Wilson, who has been a club member for 11 years and whose wife, **Lauren Bernsen Wilson**, competed in 1999 on the United States Youth Worlds Team. ■

### Coronado Yacht Club



**FOUNDED:** 1913  
**HEADQUARTERS:** Coronado  
**COMMODORE:** Ken Wilson  
**BUSINESS:** boating  
**MEMBERS:** 650  
**WEBSITE:** www.coronadoyc.org  
**CONTACT:** 619-435-0522  
**NOTABLE:** The Coronado Yacht Club started in a leased wing of the Hotel del Coronado Boat House



Rendering of the entrance to new main clubhouse for the Coronado Yacht Club. Rendering courtesy of the Coronado Yacht Club