

November 14, 2017

Ann Kerr Bach, President  
La Jolla Town Council  
7825 Faye Ave. Suite 200  
La Jolla, CA 92037

Re: La Jolla Community Task Force on California Sea Lions Meeting

Dear Ms. Bach:

Thank you for taking the time to meet with us on August 15, 2017. In response to the inquiries you had during our meeting and the letter sent to Mayor Faulconer dated November 3, 2016, we have considered your organization's concerns and recommendations to address the sea lion population inhabiting La Jolla Cove and the surrounding bluff areas. After considering the options and receiving input from City staff, our approach will remain first and foremost education.

As you are aware, the City of San Diego commissioned Doyle Hanan and Associates to study the sea lion population in this area and created a Marine Coastal Management Plan (MCMP) with possible methods to help find a solution that is environmentally sound, practical to implement, balanced in approach to the community and wildlife and progressive. Public safety and the enjoyment of beaches by everyone is always a priority for the City and we will continue to address these issues to the best of our abilities within the constraints of our resources and the law. After careful consideration, the City is actively pursuing several options provided in the MCMP in an attempt to better manage the situation in the Cove area including:

- Helping to better educate the public on sea lion behavior by completing the development of a docent program and informational handouts to provide the public with a better understanding of human and sea lion interactions and the potential dangers of getting too close to sea lions. This docent program will provide education in addition the informational signs that were recently installed.
- Working with the California Coastal Commission on a Coastal Development Permit to allow the installation of gates on the Cove stairways to help prevent sea lion intrusion onto the stairways, decks and sidewalk areas. These gates will never be locked closed and only be shut, if there are issues with sea lions accessing these areas.
- Continuing the application of the microbial spray to the bluff areas to mitigate the odors. We will conform to the application protocols established in partnership with the appropriate regulatory agencies

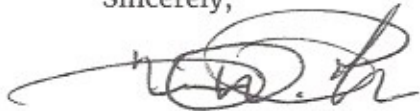
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As for your request to have the City fund an electric prototype apparatus to keep sea lions off certain areas, the City will not be participating in that endeavor.

You also had an inquiry to have a volunteer group be designated to displace the sea lions from the cove. Due to the proximity of work to bluffs, the unpredictability of wild animals and the contentious human nature of this activity, the risk is too great and we are not supportive of placing volunteers in this situation.

I truly appreciate your ongoing concerns and input regarding the sea lions in the La Jolla Cove area. However, considering the potential volatility of the situation and the fact that removing sea lions from the bluffs may actually result in the unintended consequences of negatively impacting the beach area of the Cove, a methodical and progressive approach will be implemented. The City will continue to foster an educational approach that respects wildlife in their habitat, but prioritize having the beach available to visitors.

Sincerely,



Herman D. Parker  
Director  
Park and Recreation Department

HDP/nzh

cc: Honorable Mayor Kevin L. Faulconer  
David Graham, Deputy Chief Operating Officer, Neighborhood Services  
Marshall Anderson, Director of Council Affairs, Office of the Mayor  
Jen Lebron, Director of Public Safety and Neighborhood Services Policy, Office  
of the Mayor  
Andrew Field, Assistant Director, Park and Recreation Department  
Bruce Martinez, Deputy Director, Park and Recreation Department