



October 24, 2020

Kevin Faulconer
Mayor San Diego
202 C Street, 11th Floor
San Diego, CA 92101

Subject: Request for Ban on Wood Beach Fires

Dear Mayor Faulconer,

Request for Action

The Barber Tract Neighborhood Association requests that the City of San Diego implement a ban on wood and charcoal fires at our beaches.

Background

In 2020, neighbors in the Barber Tract have seen a significant increase in beach fires. These fires pose a significant safety hazard to beach goers and residents. The particulates from these fires also pollute the environment. Illegal fires are built in the sand and then abandoned, leaving hot embers and log remnants. Hot embers pose a serious burn risk to others, especially when abandoned and covered with sand. Some logs are washed into the ocean creating a hazard for surfers and others enjoying the water. Fires built close to private property are a risk of causing residential fires. Fire rings can't be installed at our beaches due to substantial seasonal shifts in sand levels. Existing laws regarding illegal beach fires have had little effective enforcement.

Voice of Our Neighborhood Association

The Barber Tract Neighborhood Association membership recently voted overwhelmingly to request a ban of wood and charcoal fires on our beaches. However, we do support the use of portable propane grills and other propane fuel devices. As a result of our membership vote, the BTNA has taken a position to advocate this ban with our city leadership and other community organizations.

Benefits for Our Community and Beachgoers

Our association feels that a ban on wood and charcoal beach fires will significantly reduce health risks to nearby residents and to beach visitors. With this change, signage could be made unambiguous. Enforcement should be easier since any wood fire on the beach would be conspicuous and there would be no question that it is illegal. Beach visitors would be allowed to bring propane fuel devices to enjoy barbeques and the warmth of a fire at the beach.

Thanks for your assistance in supporting the interests of our neighborhood in San Diego.

Mike Cole
President
Barber Tract Neighborhood Association
(858) 459 1493

cc: City Councilmember Barber Bry (District 1)