

Posner, Chuck@Coastal

From: anngadfly@aol.com
Sent: Thursday, June 06, 2013 3:31 PM
To: Posner, Chuck@Coastal
Subject: Dog Park comments #2

Thilla

Cut and pasted. Let me know if this works!

California Coastal Commission
Mr. Charles Posner
Coastal Program Analyst
California Coastal Commission
200 Oceangate – Tenth Floor
Long Beach, CA 90802

Re: **Permit Amendment**
Application Number 5-03-030-A2

Expand the unfenced off-leash dog exercise/play zone (Rosies' Dog Beach) from 2.9 acres to 4.1 acres.

June 6, 2013

Dear Commissioners and Staff:

In addition to my objections to this project made on Jan. 28, 2013 (see staff report), I would like to add these remarks:

1. All of the conditions put on the City for this amendment are already in place. There are signs and bags telling people to pick up after their dogs, but this is not being done by many owners and there is no one to monitor those who do not. One of the conditions for the dog beach says: **"The City shall clean the area and keep a record of any unclaimed dog waste."** **Has this been done and what does the record show?**
- 2) One of the conditions is that the City provide free plastic bags in various locations in the dog beach to encourage people to pick up after their pets. **This will result in more loose plastic bags ending up in the ocean, as most of the time it is windy on the beach.** I am sure the Commission is aware of the dangers plastic bags can cause to marine life. Long Beach is one of over 70 California communities which have banned the use of plastic bags in stores. It is incredible that the City would then place containers of them on the beach!



3) The current large sign shown in the staff report is in the middle of the parking lot area. **With the new addition by the boat ramp (which is far down the beach from the sign) will there be another large sign with rules erected at the new entrance? Neither dogs nor children are able to recognize the two ten foot high flagpoles as boundaries to the dog zone. The dog zone should be fenced for the protection of the public and the dogs.**

4) Although water quality is being tested, I can find no evidence that there have been tests for bacteria in the sand. Staff states: **"All previously existing public recreational activities in the project area, such as swimming and sunbathing, continue to be available to all visitors with the dog zone . . ."** (pg. 5). I wonder how many people would want to share this doggie litter box with free-running dogs?

5) Because of no wave action on this beach, it is preferred by families with small children. One of the City's rules for the dog beach reads: **"Children shall be accompanied by an adult and shall not run, shout scream, wave their arms or otherwise excite or antagonize dogs"**. How can it be claimed this dog beach is not interfering with access to, and enjoyment of, a public beach? Dogs have freedom to have fun, but children must remain quiet and not run? Having loose dogs on a public beach qualifies as an attractive nuisance in my estimation.

6) At this time, there is a **one dog per owner rule**. Also, **the dog is to be on leash until reaching the designated dog beach**. Here is just one example of the many owners who ignore this rule. On June 3, 2013, I watched as this woman took her two unleashed dogs from the car, across the beach path to the dog park.





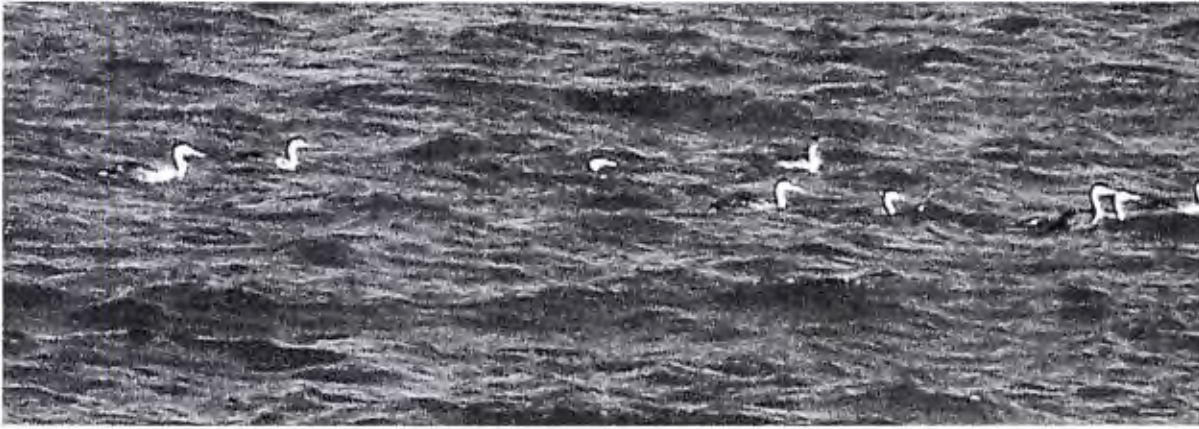
7) To get to the dog beach requires crossing the current cement beach path. This has resulted in problems with bikers, roller bladers, skateboards and runners. If another path is built, dogs will be having to go across what amounts to a freeway on busy days.

8) Dogs are supposed to have current licenses and vaccinations, but there is no monitoring of this.

9) I have been told there have been a number of people, especially runners, who have been chased by dogs and even some who have been bitten. Does the City have a record of the number of bites occurring at the dog beach since 2003? If so, I believe it should be included in this report.

10) Dogs also chase birds and surprisingly there are still seabirds that use our beach! Here are a flock of Western Grebes swimming offshore on 6/3/13. There are many gulls and shorebirds feeding on the beach. What effect do dogs have on their survival?





1. The City issued a **CEQA Exemption** for the proposed project on Feb. 2, 2012.

“As conditioned, there are no feasible alternative or feasible mitigation measures available which would substantially lessen any significant adverse effect which the activity may have on the environment.”

I would suggest there is an alternative: **do what most other beach communities do and keep dogs off the beach.** Long Beach has dog parks in five public parks. Leave the beaches for people to enjoy.

Section 30211 of the Coastal Act states:

“Development shall not interfere with the public’s right of access to the sea where acquired through use or legislative authorization, including, but not limited to, the use of dry sand . . .” I would argue that this is referring to human access, not dogs.

You have received many letters, both in opposition and in support of this project. The opposition letters focused on the many problems that dogs bring to the beach environment. The support letters are full of how much the individual and his dog enjoy the beach. This project would allow 4.1 acres of public beach to be used by a very small group of people and animals and make the area undesirable, unhealthy and even dangerous for the remaining public.

Please deny this expansion and insist that the City enforce those regulations already in place or return to the policy of no dogs on the public beach.

Sincerely,

Ann Cantrell
3106 Claremore
Long Beach, CA 90808
562/596-7288

Posner, Chuck@Coastal

From: Jeff Jones <windsurfcenter@juno.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 29, 2013 11:03 AM
To: Posner, Chuck@Coastal
Cc: gary.delong@longbeach.gov; district2@longbeach.gov; district1@longbeach.gov
Subject: 503030-a2 dog beach expansion

Dear Mr. Posner:

The expansion of the dog beach eastward to the Granada launch ramp to reduce the number of dogs being walked down the bike path makes sense. The dog leashes are a serious hazard to cyclists and skaters.

The dog use area should be reduced on the west side by an equal amount so dogs aren't being walked through the volleyball areas from the parking lot and keeping the area on the beach manageable. Currently there is only enforcement of the rules when complaints are made.

I have been personally attacked by a loose dog while walking down the beach. Last year a young woman came into my business bleeding from a dog bite. She was attacked at the dog beach while jogging. She said lifeguards were not on duty. I called the lifeguards to see if they could send a truck and give her first aid. They said no because she has left the beach! I gave her some ante-septic and bandages and she went home on the bus.

I have had numerous encounters on the bike path with dogs not just at the dog beach but as far away as a mile of people "walking to the dog beach". I see dogs outside of the dog beach area almost every evening I use the bike path.

If the city were to enforce the rules all the time with citations the word would get out and most would follow the rules. The lifeguards primary job is to save lives on the water and seem reluctant to enforce the dog beach rules.

The city needs to find a better way to enforce the dog beach rules, perhaps giving the responsibility with the Marina Police Officers. If they can't enforce the existing dog beach area rules then they should not make it even larger!

Sincerely,

Jeff Jones
Long Beach Windsurf Center
3850 E. Ocean Blvd. Long Beach Ca. 90803
(562)433-1014 Closed Mon. & Tues.
also open by appointment

Posner, Chuck@Coastal

From: Sean Furmidge <chaunch13@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 06, 2013 10:37 PM
To: Posner, Chuck@Coastal
Subject: Rosie's beach expansion. Yes, please!

To Whom it may concern.

I would love for Long Beach to expand Rosie's beach. It is just not enough space for all the fur kids. Popular destination! Such a joy to see the happy kids running around with big smiles.

Thank you,
Sean C. Furmidge

Sent from my iPhone

Posner, Chuck@Coastal

From: Michelle Engelman-Berns <be_art_smart@msn.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 06, 2013 7:22 PM
To: Posner, Chuck@Coastal
Subject: FOR Dog Beach Expansion

Dear Mr Posner,
please consider the long term benefit of this decision especially for the wheelchair access and the enrichment of the community with dogs like our BooBoo, Swiss Mountain dog and Lab mix; a 2 year old with so much energy and loves to play and romp in the ocean and as we are in an apartment like many other residents, this is one of her few local water outlets to exercise and interact with us and other dogs.

Thank you in advance!

Michelle Berns
4600 E 7th street
Long Beach CA 90804

Posner, Chuck@Coastal

From: David Yee <dye888@hotmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 06, 2013 5:34 PM
To: Posner, Chuck@Coastal
Subject: Expansion of Rosie's Dog Park

To whom it may concern:

I am in favor, support and request that you please consider in favor to expand Rosie's Dog Beach in Long Beach by 25%. Currently the off-leash area is 800' along

the Pacific Ocean, and the proposal will expand it to 1,000' long. This would be accomplished by removing 100' on the west boundary and adding 300' to the east boundary. This would move the off-leash area much closer to the concrete Granada Ave. boat launch ramp. This also allows wheelchair accessibility to those wishing to

go to the dog beach.



David Yee
323-251-9627

Posner, Chuck@Coastal

From: Sharon Kemmer <sharonkemmer@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 28, 2013 10:25 AM
To: Posner, Chuck@Coastal
Subject: Re: Hearing report for the expansion of the off-leash dog zone

I am a dog owner, resident of the Long Beach Peninsula; and I never, ever walk my dog on the beach. I am very opposed to expanding the Dog Beach. Using the beach as a giant litter box for dogs and cats is a very unsanitary, unsafe, and annoying. Every day I see numerous dogs, off leash, on the Peninsula beaches. I pick up dog and cat waste regularly, plastic bags full. My dogs, on leash, have been attacked numerous times by off-leash dogs on the sidewalks, on the streets and, jumping the walls, coming off the beaches. Animals do not belong on our regular beaches and they do not belong off-leash except in very controlled areas. There is a huge Dog Park at Recreation Park; there is plenty of room at the enormous, gigantic El Dorado Park for another one. Leave the beaches for people.

I understand that many dog owners were happy when the Dog Beach was opened. Yet now they want to expand it...right in the middle of beautiful Belmont Shore! That area should be developed for families, people and children, not dogs! If you move the Park 300 feet to the east, it should be decreased 300 feet on the west. There is no reason to increase its size on the beach and lots of reasons to increase the area for people between the Belmont Pool and the Dog Park.

Dog owners are an unrealistic and egocentric group, as a whole. Anyone who has ever worked in a Vet's office or in an emergency room can tell you just how unrealistic... "oh my dog has never attacked anyone before..." is the universal whine. If the City wants to accommodate Dog owners with Dog Parks, so be it. These parks should be fenced, so that they only endanger those on the inside. And there is no reason expressed in this report to give up an expanded area at the center of Belmont Shore's beaches for dogs: small, fanatical groups get their way all too often with the eager-to-please City employees.

In this email, I asked to see why the City was supporting this request for an expanded Dog Beach. There are no reasons in this report. The thin argument that being closer to the boat ramp would enable handicapped access to the Dog Beach is just that, thin. Handicapped access in the other Dog Parks is a lot more realistic. In these, there are areas where the owners can socialize and therefore aid the wheelchair-bound with the bags and scooping, if needed. But wheel chairs can negotiate the terrain at the other Dog Parks ... not so the sand. And, really, share the end of the boat launch with multiple wheel chairs? Not fair to either group. Another wheel chair area should really be build off to the side, at the end, so as to allow both groups to use the ramp but give each group the space they would need at the end of the ramp. Can't you just picture the handicapped person yelling across 1,000 feet of beach, "hey, get my dog off that other dog.." Breaking up fights, cleaning up after the dog, these are all responsibilities of the owners and wheelchairs and sand are a bad combination.

Dog Parks can easily be developed in areas less important to people. Please oppose this project.

Sharon Kemmer
6009 East Seaside Walk #1
Long Beach, 90803
sharonkemmer@gmail.com
(562) 434 0078

Posner, Chuck@Coastal

From: TOLEDO Rossana (MORPHO) <rossana.toledo@morpho.com>
Sent: Friday, June 07, 2013 11:02 AM
To: Posner, Chuck@Coastal
Subject: I support expansion of ROSIE's DOG BEACH, Long Beach

Mr. Charles Posner
c/o Coastal Commission
200 Oceangate 10th Floor
Long Beach 90802-4302
ph (562) 590-5071

Dear Mr. Posner –

I would like to express my support for the expansion of **ROSIE's DOG BEACH** in Long Beach. I have been a Long Beach resident for about 18 years and one of the GREAT assets of this beautiful city is that it is very dog friendly - it even has its OWN dog beach! You don't know how jealous my friends who live in other cities are of the dog beach - - - I've met people at Rosie's Beach that drive all the way from San Dimas to bring their dog to the beach (!!!).

I don't know if you are a dog owner.....but if you are..... you definitely know what a pleasure it is to take your dog for a walk/swim at the beach – either in the SUMMER OR WINTER ! ! ! !
It's not only good for the dog, but for the OWNER too ! ! ! !
An hour or two at the beach, walking and playing with your dog, is BETTER therapy than going to a shrink. The dog beach makes dogs AND humans HAPPY ! ! !
I also have to comment that most of the dog owners (95%+) are very responsible about picking up after their dogs – and when we see a “lazy” owner who doesn't do the right thing, BELIEVE me.....there are plenty of us that will MAKE that person pick up their poop!

I REALLY hope you will support the expansion of ROSIE's DOG BEACH.

THANK YOU in advance for your support for this beach expansion.

Rossana Toledo
Long time Long Beach Resident
(562) 506-5016

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