

**CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION**

South Coast Area Office  
200 Oceangate, Suite 1000  
Long Beach, CA 90802-4302  
(562) 590-5071

Permit Application No. **5-03-030**

Date: May 21, 2003

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**W3a**

RECORD PACKET COPY

**ADMINISTRATIVE PERMIT****APPLICANT:** City of Long Beach Department of Parks, Recreation & Marine**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:** Install two 8-foot high signs to designate a 2.9-acre (705'x 180') beach area as an unfenced off-leash dog exercise/play zone (for 12-month pilot period).**LOCATION:** On the public beach seaward of the Belmont Plaza Public Beach Parking Lot located at 4300 E. Ocean Blvd., City of Long Beach, Los Angeles County.**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S DETERMINATION:** The findings for this determination, and for any special conditions, appear on subsequent pages.

NOTE: P.R.C. Section 30624 provides that this permit shall not become effective until it is reported to the Commission at its next meeting. If one-third or more of the appointed membership of the Commission so request, the application will be removed from the administrative calendar and set for public hearing at a subsequent Commission meeting. Our office will notify you if such removal occurs.

This permit will be reported to the Commission at the following time and place:

**Wednesday, June 11, 2003, 9:00 a.m.**

**The Queen Mary  
1126 Queens Highway  
Long Beach, CA  
(562) 435-3511**

**IMPORTANT** - Before you may proceed with development, the following must occur:

Pursuant to 14 Cal. Admin. Code Sections 13150(b) and 13158, you must sign the enclosed duplicate copy acknowledging the permit's receipt and accepting its contents, including all conditions, and return it to our office. Following the Commission's meeting, and once we have received the signed acknowledgement and evidence of compliance with all special conditions, we will send you a Notice of Administrative Permit Effectiveness.

**BEFORE YOU CAN OBTAIN ANY LOCAL PERMITS AND PROCEED WITH DEVELOPMENT, YOU MUST HAVE RECEIVED BOTH YOUR ADMINISTRATIVE PERMIT AND THE NOTICE OF PERMIT EFFECTIVENESS FROM THIS OFFICE.**

PETER DOUGLAS  
Executive Director

By: Charles R. Posner  
Title: Coastal Program Analyst

**STANDARD CONDITIONS:**

1. Notice of Receipt and Acknowledgment. The permit is not valid and development shall not commence until a copy of the permit, signed by the permittee or authorized agent, acknowledging receipt of the permit and acceptance of the terms and conditions, is returned to the Commission office.
2. Expiration. If development has not commenced, the permit will expire two years from the date this permit is reported to the Commission. Development shall be pursued in a diligent manner and completed in a reasonable period of time. Application for extension of the permit must be made prior to the expiration date.
3. Interpretation. Any questions of intent or interpretation of any term or condition will be resolved by the Executive Director or the Commission.
4. Assignment. The permit may be assigned to any qualified person, provided assignee files with the Commission an affidavit accepting all terms and conditions of the permit.
5. Terms and Conditions Run with the Land. These terms and conditions shall be perpetual, and it is the intention of the Commission and the permittee to bind all future owners and possessors of the subject property to the terms and conditions.

**SPECIAL CONDITIONS:** See Page Five.

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S DETERMINATION (continued):**

The Executive Director hereby determines that the proposed development is a category of development which, pursuant to PRC Section 30624, qualifies for approval by the Executive Director through the issuance of an Administrative Permit. Subject to Standard and Special Conditions as attached, said development is in conformity with the provisions of Chapter 3 of the Coastal Act of 1976 and will not have any significant impacts on the environment within the meaning of the California Environmental Quality Act. If located between the nearest public road and the sea, this development is in conformity with the public access and public recreation policies of Chapter 3.

**FINDINGS FOR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S DETERMINATION:**

**A. Project Description**

The City proposes to install two eight-foot high signs on the sandy beach in order to designate a 2.9-acre (705'x 180') beach and inter-tidal area as an unfenced off-leash dog exercise and play zone (Exhibits #2-4). The City is not proposing any new limits or restrictions on public access or existing recreational activities within proposed dog zone. Existing public recreational activities in the project area, such as swimming and sunbathing, would continue to be available within the proposed dog zone to all visitors, whether they bring a dog or not. Dogs, however, would be allowed in the proposed dog zone only during the hours of 6-to-9 a.m. and 4-to-6 p.m. (Exhibit #3).

Currently, dogs are prohibited on all City beaches, whether on-leash or off-leash, except during limited one-day temporary events known as "Haute Dogs on the Beach." The popular "Haute Dogs on the Beach" temporary events have been held in the same shoreline area as the currently proposed dog zone (Exhibit #2).

The City's current proposal is limited to a twelve-month pilot period, during which time the City would observe and monitor the use (and effects) of the proposed dog zone. The City pledges that the proposed dog zone would be altered or terminated if it is determined that the program is having a detrimental effect on water quality (Exhibit #4). The City proposes to continue its on-going water quality-testing program as part of its overall plan to ensure that the proposed dog zone does not result in any adverse impacts to coastal waters. The City's water quality plan also includes the following actions and procedures to minimize the potential for adverse impacts:

- The City will ensure that additional dog-waste bag dispensers and trash containers are placed in the area.
- The City will provide informational and advisory signage in the parking lot.
- The City will monitor the use of the dog zone and will cite persons who neglect to properly collect and dispose of their dog's waste.
- The City beach maintenance staff will clean the area and monitor the amount of any unclaimed dog waste.
- The Long Beach Recreation Dog Park Association will continue its public education programs and will also supplement the City's maintenance efforts.

All of the proposed project's potential negative effects on coastal resources have been adequately mitigated by the City's proposed water quality plan, its joint beach use policy, the limited hours for dog access, the limited twelve-month term, and the special conditions of the coastal development permit. Therefore, as conditioned, the proposed project is consistent with the Chapter 3 policies of the Coastal Act.

#### **B. Water Quality**

The proposed development has a potential for a discharge of polluted runoff from the project site into coastal waters. The development, as proposed and as conditioned, incorporates maintenance, management and monitoring features to minimize the effect of the proposed activity on the marine environment. Therefore, the Commission finds that the proposed development, as conditioned, conforms with Sections 30230 and 30231 of the Coastal Act regarding the protection of water quality to promote the biological productivity of coastal waters and to protect human health.

#### **C. Public Access and Recreation**

The proposed development, as conditioned, does not interfere with public recreational use of coastal resources and will not have any new adverse impact on public access to the coast or

to nearby recreational facilities. The proposed development, as conditioned, protects coastal areas suited for recreational activities. Therefore, the Commission finds that the proposed development, as conditioned, is in conformity with Sections 30210 through 30214 and Sections 30220 through 30224, and 30252 of the Coastal Act.

**D. Habitat**

As conditioned, the development will not result in significant degradation of adjacent habitat, recreation areas, or parks and is compatible with the continuance of those habitat, recreation, or park areas. Therefore, the Commission finds that the project, as conditioned, conforms with Section 30240(b) of the Coastal Act.

**E. Visual Resources**

The development is located within an existing developed area and, as conditioned, will be compatible with the character and scale of the surrounding area, has been designed to assure structural integrity, and will avoid cumulative adverse impacts on public access. Therefore, the Commission finds that the development, as conditioned, conforms with Sections 30250, 30251, 30252, 30253 and the public access provisions of the Coastal Act.

**F. Local Coastal Program**

A coastal development permit is required from the Commission for the proposed development because it is located within the Commission's area of original jurisdiction. The Commission's standard of review for the proposed development is the Chapter 3 policies of the Coastal Act. The City of Long Beach certified LCP is advisory in nature and may provide guidance. The Commission certified the City of Long Beach LCP on July 22, 1980. As conditioned, the proposed development is consistent with Chapter 3 of the Coastal Act and with the certified LCP for the area.

**G. California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)**

As conditioned, there are no feasible alternatives or feasible mitigation measures available which would substantially lessen any significant adverse effect which the activity may have on the environment. Therefore, the Commission finds that the proposed project, as conditioned to mitigate the identified impacts, is the least environmentally damaging feasible alternative and can be found consistent with the requirements of the Coastal Act to conform to CEQA.

**SPECIAL CONDITIONS:**

**1. Permit Compliance**

All development must occur in strict compliance with the proposal as set forth in the application for permit, subject to any special conditions. Any deviation from the approved plans, no matter how minor, must be submitted for review by the Executive Director to determine whether an amendment to this coastal development permit is required.

**2. Twelve-Month Pilot Period**

As proposed by the City, the approved development is authorized for a twelve-month pilot period, which shall commence on June 13, 2003. At the end of the twelve-month pilot period (June 12, 2004), the City shall remove all development authorized by this permit and restore the site to its prior condition. The City may request, and the Commission may approve or reject, a permit amendment to extend the term of the proposed development.

**3. Best Management Practices (BMP) Program**

By acceptance of this permit, the City agrees that the dog zone will be managed in a manner that protects water quality. The City shall be responsible for the implementation of the following BMPs:

- A. The City shall ensure that free provisions (e.g. refuse bags) for the proper disposal of pet feces are provided in the parking lot adjacent to the dog zone, on trash receptacles, and on the sign posts approved pursuant to this coastal development permit.
- B. The City shall ensure that adequate trash receptacles are provided in the dog zone.
- C. The City shall ensure that the trash receptacles are maintained and routinely emptied in order to prevent spillage of refuse.
- D. The City shall provide informational and advisory signage in the parking lot to inform people of the necessity and method for proper disposal of pet feces.
- E. The City shall monitor the use of the dog zone and shall cite persons who neglect to properly collect and dispose of their dog's waste.
- F. The City shall clean the area and keep a record of any unclaimed dog waste.

**ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF PERMIT RECEIPT/ACCEPTANCE OF CONTENTS:**

I/We acknowledge that I/we have received a copy of this permit and have accepted its contents including all conditions.

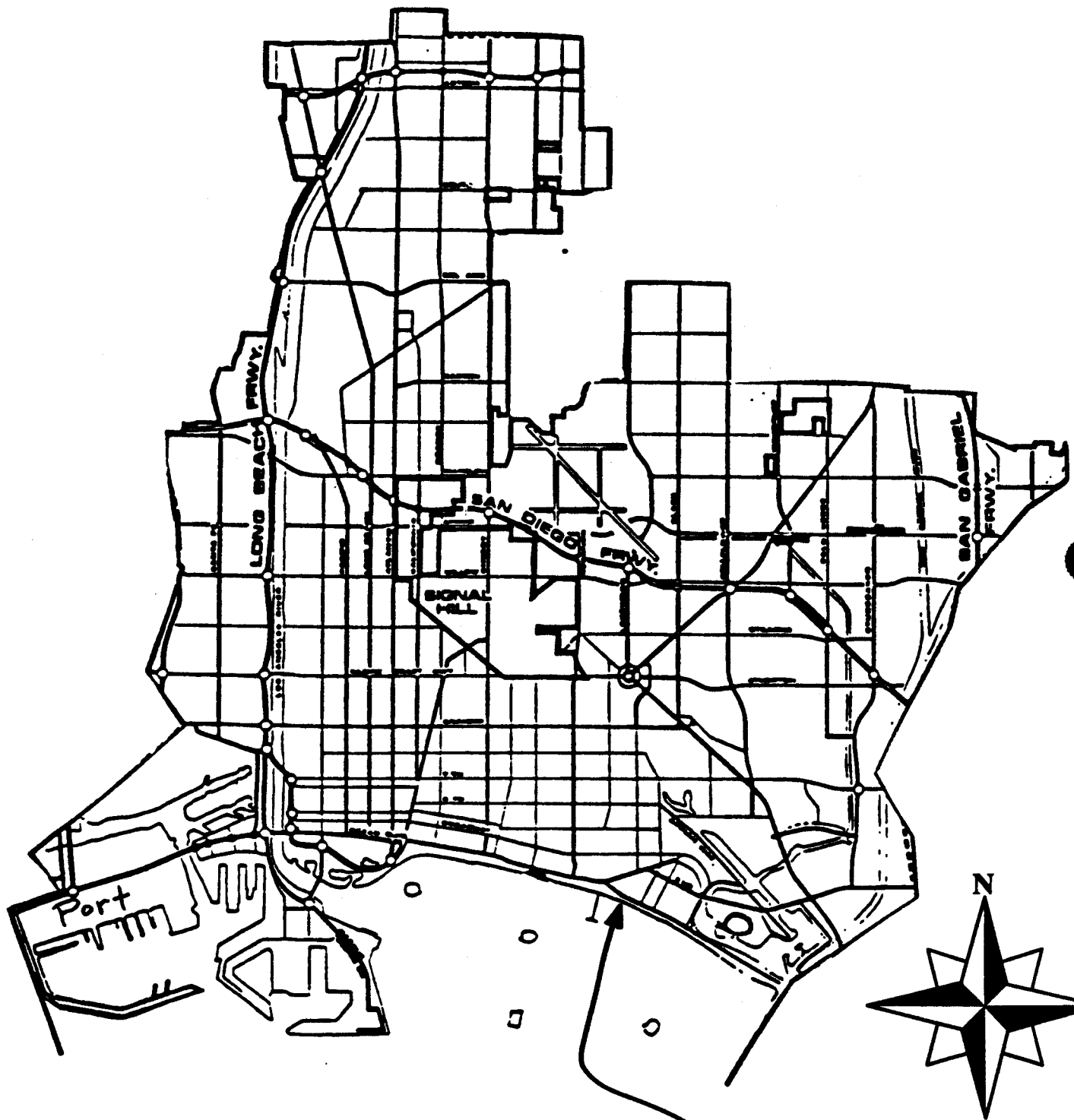
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Applicant's Signature

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Date of Signing

# City of Long Beach



Proposed Dog Zone

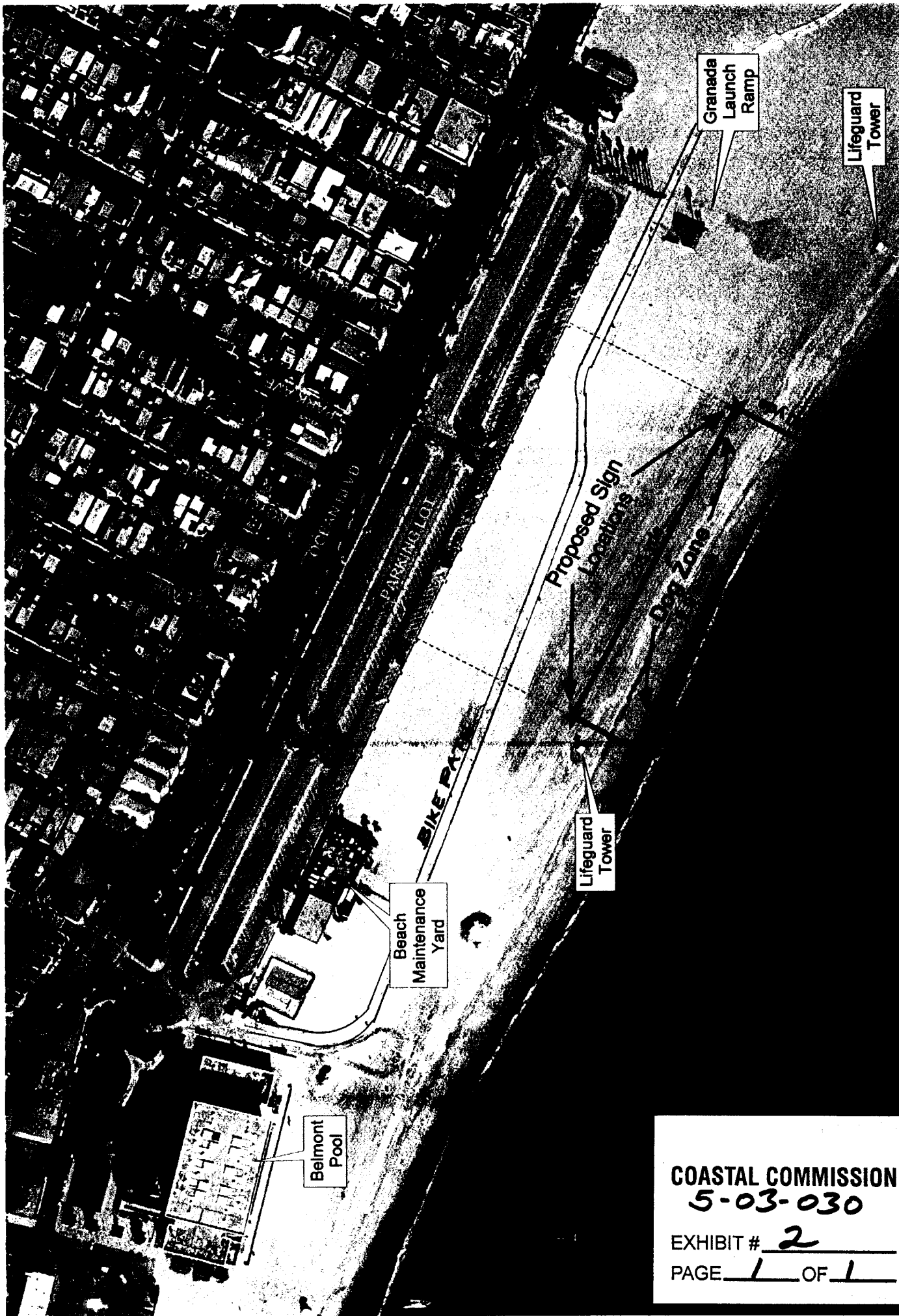
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EXHIBIT # 1  
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Proposed "Dog Zone"

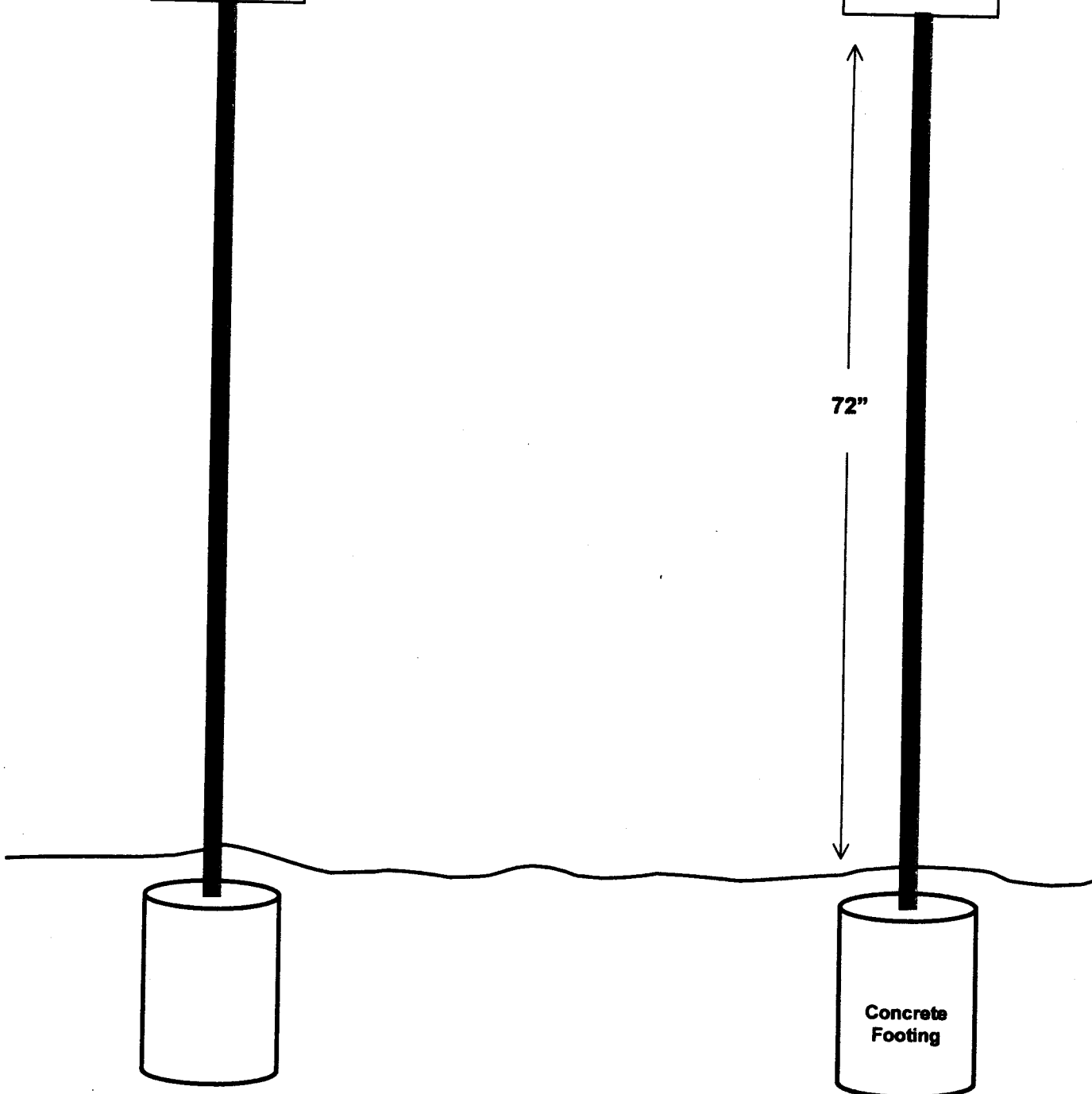
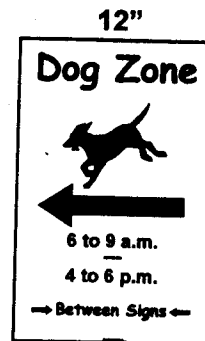
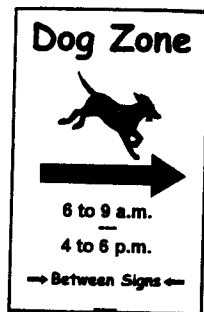


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EXHIBIT # 3

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12"

**Dog Zone**



**6 to 9 a.m.**

**4 to 6 p.m.**

**→ Between Signs ←**

18"

Wt

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EXHIBIT # 3  
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# **Dog Zone**

## **Water Quality Impacts and Assurances**

### **Introduction**

City staff, as well as elected officials, are keenly interested in maintaining, if not improving, the environmental quality of our shoreline. To that end, the proposed "Dog Zone" pilot program will be altered, or terminated, if it is determined that dog access to the beach is having a detrimental effect on the water quality of our shoreline.

### **Water Quality Testing**

As a matter of practice, the water quality of our shoreline is tested every week in numerous locations, including that which has been selected for the proposed pilot program. No negative impacts attributable to the monthly "Haute Dogs" events, in which dogs are allowed on a section of the beach for the afternoon, have ever been recorded. However, to better evaluate the immediate effects of one of these events, a testing protocol was implemented by the City's Health Department for the event that took place on Sunday, March 30, 2003.

Water sampling was conducted for five days in the area of the event – two days before the event, the day of the event, and two days after the event. Samples were taken from seven locations within the 235-yard stretch of the proposed Dog Zone. The sampling was conducted at 9:00 a.m. each day. The samples were tested for total coliforms, fecal coliforms, and enterococci. Based on the results of the testing, the Health Department concluded that the presence of dogs on the beach did not appear to have any effect on the levels of the three indicator bacteria.

City staff recognizes that dog access to the beach via the proposed Dog Zone will be different than that permitted under the monthly event. However, as approximately 300 dogs (with their owners) participate in these events (see attached), it is reasonable to assume that dog waste, if removed, will not impact water quality.

### **Assurances**

The removal of dog waste, or the lack thereof, will likely be the key determinant of the success of the pilot program. The following actions and procedures will be taken to ensure that dog waste does not impact water quality:

- Additional trash containers and bag dispensers will be placed in the area.
- Educational and organized maintenance efforts will be undertaken by the Long Beach Recreation Dog Park Association.
- Beach maintenance staff will monitor the levels of "unclaimed" dog waste.

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EXHIBIT # 4  
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- Informational and advisory signage will be placed in the parking lot.
- Use of the Dog Zone will be monitored periodically. Dog owners observed not picking up their dog's waste will be cited.
- Water testing will be continuous.

### **Conclusion**

Dog owners will determine the success, or failure, of the proposed pilot program. If they do not clean up after their dogs, and this is determined to have a detrimental effect on our shoreline, the pilot program will be terminated.

NO

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TO: COASTAL COMMISSION SOUTH COAST DISTRICT OFFICE  
200 OCEANGATE LONG BEACH CA 90802  
FROM: Shirley Kays Shirley Kays  
141 Quincy Avenue (562) 439-7423  
Long beach Ca 90803-3048

DATE: October 27, 2002

I have some concerns after reading an article about the proposed Dog Beach in Belmont Shore. The article stated that the Huntington Beach Dog Beach averaged one dog bite a month and those bitten were mostly non-dog owners.

What measures are being considered for the safety and well-being of the bike riders, joggers, skaters and walkers who use our Long Beach path from, 6:00-9:00 a.m. and those using it in the evening?

Will the dog area be fenced? If not and someone is bitten, who is liable?

The City is going to take responsibility for how much of this proposed dog area?

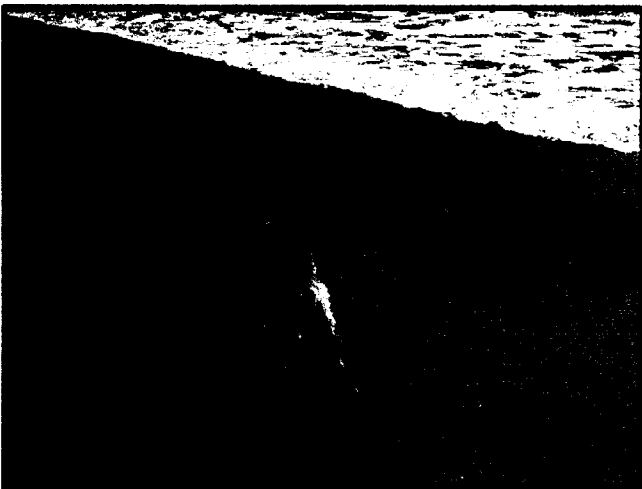
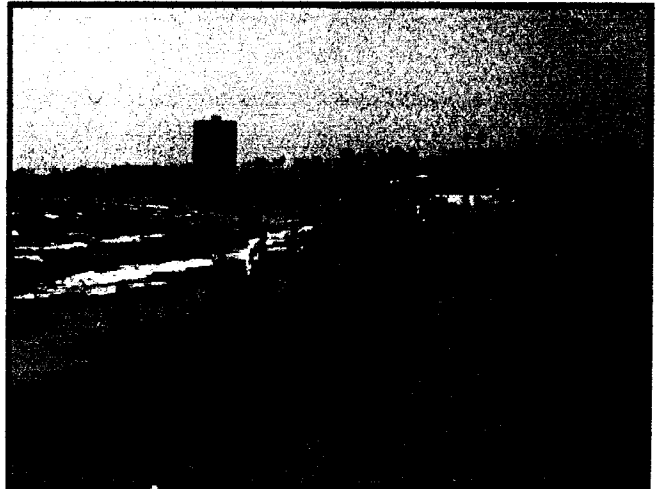
Is the area going to be patrolled in any manner to make sure the owners are in control of their pets? Is there a limit to the number of dogs that can be in the area at one time and who will do the counting?

An official at the city of Huntington Beach stated that their Dog Beach would not work if it wasn't for a dedicated group of volunteers who solicit money, stake out doggie bags, constantly supervise and patrol the area, counsel dog owners, and in general take it upon themselves to see that the area runs smoothly. Do we have such a group in Long Beach?

\* Note: The Huntington Beach Dog Beach does not have a Bike/Pedestrian path that runs on the sand between the ocean and parking lots.

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March 30, 2003



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