

CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION

SAN DIEGO AREA
7575 METROPOLITAN DRIVE, SUITE 103
SAN DIEGO, CA 92108-4421
(619) 767-2370



Th20c

6-16-0989 (SEAWORLD SAN DIEGO)

MAY 11, 2017

CORRESPONDENCE



ITEM Th20c – BRIEFING SHEET
APPLICATION NO: 6-16-0989 (SEAWORLD)
Agenda: Thursday, May 11, 2017

Summary of Proposal

- SeaWorld San Diego proposes a new nighttime attraction called “Cirque Electrique.” The show is located in SeaWorld’s waterfront stadium and is an acrobatic show that includes lights. See Exhibit A.
 - The proposed use involves installation of new lighting, which requires a Coastal Development Permit. The proposed permit includes conditions to protect impacts to public access, marine resources/sensitive habitat, visual resources, and water quality. The proposed project also reduces the number of SeaWorld’s fireworks shows to 14 annually.
 - Lighting is kept at the lowest limits to ensure no effect on sensitive biological receptors.
 - No construction or modifications to existing structures are proposed on the island; changes are done with color, dressing, etc.

Support

- Marco Gonzalez of Coast Law Group has written a letter of support for the project because he supports an alternative to the summertime fireworks shows.

Opposition

- There is no known opposition to the project.

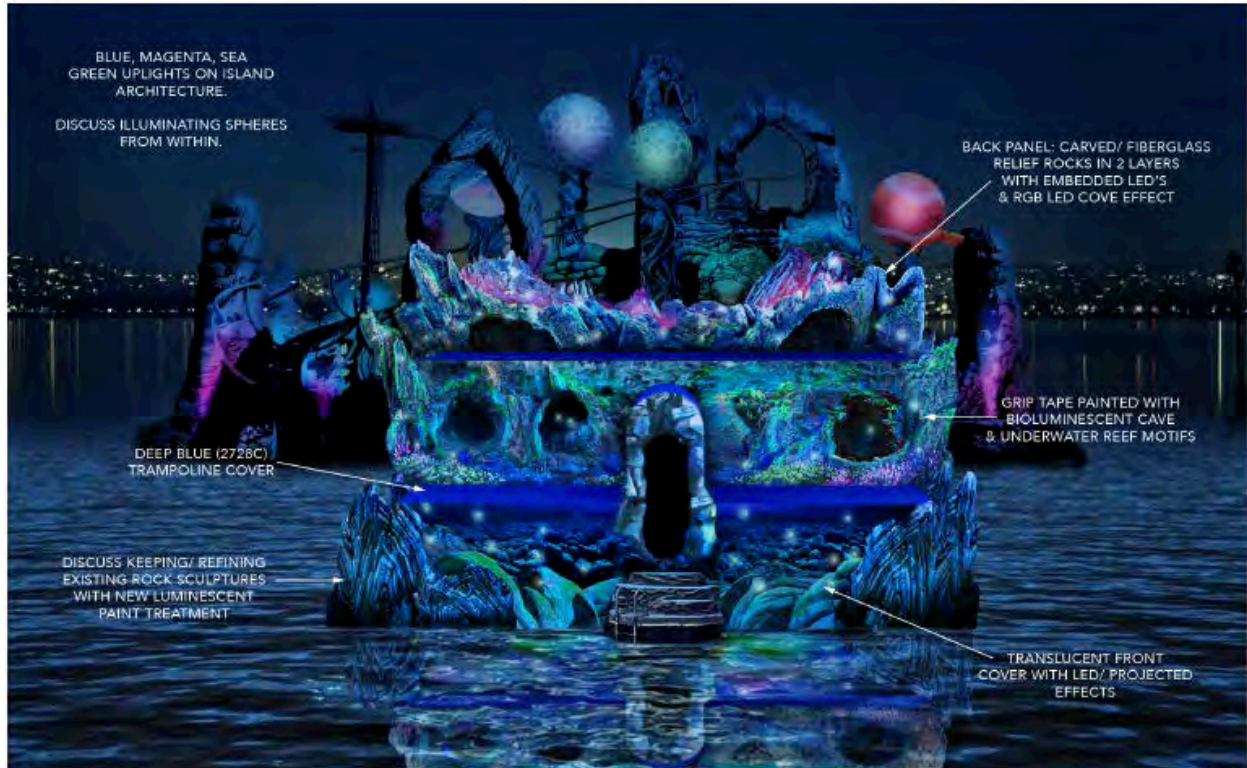
Additional Facts

- SeaWorld voluntarily recommended monitoring to ensure confidence by coastal staff in the lighting design. Merkel & Associates will review the design and provide post construction verification in conjunction with US Fish & Wildlife and CA Fish & Wildlife.

Conclusion

- SeaWorld supports the staff recommendation and will accept the revised special conditions requiring enhanced monitoring for potential impacts to sensitive wildlife as set forth in the Staff Report and Addendum.

Exhibit A – Cirque Electrique rendering



Llerandi, Alexander@Coastal

From: Marco Gonzalez <marco@coastlawgroup.com>
Sent: Friday, March 31, 2017 3:59 PM
To: Llerandi, Alexander@Coastal
Subject: Sea World Fireworks

Hello Alex

I've been following Sea World's current application for various changes at the park, including its proposal for a new Electric Eel roller coaster and evening light show. As you may be aware, I have been particularly involved in issues related to Sea World's fireworks shows since approval of the Sea World Master Plan update in 2001. In 2006, on behalf of San Diego Coastkeeper my firm sent Sea World a 60-day notice letter of intent to sue under the Clean Water Act, ultimately leading to the first fireworks NPDES permit in the country. On behalf of Coastal Environmental Rights Foundation, Coast Law Group was the driving force behind the Regional Water Quality Control Board's general permit for fireworks discharge, lawsuits regarding fireworks over an ecological reserve in La Jolla, and the Port of San Diego's recently released Draft Environmental Impact Report for the annual 4th of July Big Bay Boom. After more than 15 years working on policy and activism regarding fireworks' toxic effects to natural waterbodies, we have learned much about the additional impacts to wildlife (from light, glare, and noise), pets (especially dogs and horses), and humans (notably babies and veterans with PTSD). At this point, any effort to reduce fireworks activities should be considered a positive.

I'm therefore writing to express support for Sea World's willingness to explore an alternative to its summer fireworks program. The proposed Cirque Electrique would significantly reduce the impacts to the surrounding community, including the Least Tern nesting site nearby.

I would also ask that Commission staff consider the importance of timing for this issue – if the program is not approved at the May Commission hearing, there is a strong likelihood it will not be implemented this summer, and we would lose the significant and meaningful benefit of avoiding dozens of fireworks shows this summer. Sea World should be commended for exploring this alternative, and the Commission should consider it a meaningful precedent as it considers the impacts to water bodies from other fireworks shows up and down the coast.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns regarding the foregoing.

-Marco



MARCO A. GONZALEZ
Managing Partner

Coast Law Group LLP
1140 South Coast Highway 101
Encinitas, California 92024
tel. 760.942.8505 x102
fax 760.942.8515
marco@coastlawgroup.com
www.coastlawgroup.com