

CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION

CENTRAL COAST DISTRICT
725 FRONT STREET, SUITE 300
SANTA CRUZ, CA 95060
PHONE: (831) 427-4863
FAX: (831) 427-4877
WEB: WWW.COASTAL.CA.GOV



Th7a

Prepared October 5, 2020 for October 8, 2020 Hearing

To: Commissioners and Interested Persons
From: Susan Craig, Central Coast District Manager
Colin Bowser, Coastal Program Analyst

Subject: Additional hearing materials for Th7a (NOID Application Number SCZ-NOID-0004-20 (Younger Lagoon Reserve Beach Public Access Management Plan))

This package includes additional materials related to the above-referenced hearing item as follows:

Additional correspondence received since the staff report was distributed

Colin - See email below and summary from Beth to help support your response to the comment you received.

The high school students that Mr. Levy mentioned observing on the beach are part of a program that we are especially proud to support, the *Monterey Bay Aquarium's Watsonville Area Teens Conserving Habitat (WATCH) Program*. This program brings students from the Pajaro Valley Unified School District to the reserve to conduct field-based hands-on science projects. The students make multiple visits over the summer and fall to set up their projects and collect data. They spend the winter analyzing and writing up their data, and then present to members of the public in the spring. The students are accompanied by staff from the reserve, aquarium, and Seymour Center on their visits, as well as their classroom teachers and science mentors (usually grad students from a local institution) who help to ensure that they are respectful of the reserve and its habitats.

Oxo Slayer, Senior Physical Planner

University of California, Santa Cruz

Physical Planning, Development & Operations

Tel: (831) 212-0185 Email: oslayer@ucsc.edu

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Elizabeth Howard** <eahoward@ucsc.edu>

Date: Tue, Sep 29, 2020 at 12:52 PM

Subject: Fwd: Public Comment on September 2018 Agenda Item Thursday 12a - University of California Santa Cruz Notice of Impending Development SCZ-NOID-0004-18 (Younger Lagoon Reserve Beach Public Access Plan, Santa Cruz)

To: Oxo Slayer <oslayer@ucsc.edu>, Gage Dayton <ghdayton@ucsc.edu>, Jolie Kerns <kernsj@ucsc.edu>

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Kimberly Swan** <KSwan@mbayaq.org>

Date: Fri, Sep 7, 2018 at 2:12 PM

Subject: Public Comment on September 2018 Agenda Item Thursday 12a - University of California Santa Cruz Notice of Impending Development SCZ-NOID-0004-18 (Younger Lagoon Reserve Beach Public Access Plan, Santa Cruz)

To: CentralCoast@coastal.ca.gov <CentralCoast@coastal.ca.gov>

Cc: Amy Wolfrum <AWolfrum@mbayaq.org>, Rita Bell <RBell@mbayaq.org>, Elizabeth Howard <eahoward@ucsc.edu>

On behalf of Monterey Bay Aquarium, I'm contacting you in support of agenda item Th12a, the University of California at Santa Cruz's Marine Science Campus Coastal Long Range Development Plan that includes Younger Lagoon.

Since 2006, over 550 high school students from Pajaro Valley Unified School District (PVUSD) have participated in Watsonville Area Teens Conserving Habitats (WATCH), a year-long field-based research program co-taught by PVUSD faculty and Monterey Bay Aquarium educators. Many of these students have been Latino, first generation students who have a limited experience with the environment. Beginning in 2014, WATCH students from Aptos High School began conducting field research investigations at Younger Lagoon. The reserve staff and volunteers provide guidance, equipment and expertise as the students develop their own testable questions, design their investigations and gather and analyze data in the Lagoon. This unique ecosystem provides a fantastic location for students to conduct experiments, carry out long-term scientific monitoring projects, and learn about this unique natural space that has limited impact from the public.

We truly appreciate the access and resources that the staff of Younger Lagoon has provided for the students of the Monterey Bay Aquarium's WATCH program. The experience the students receive at Younger Lagoon and support from the staff are critical elements to the success of WATCH. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Kim Swan

Teen Programs Manager

Monterey Bay Aquarium

Kimberly Swan

Teen Programs Manager

P 831-647-6852 M 831-402-9014 F 831-855-1461



Monterey Bay Aquarium

886 Cannery Row, Monterey, CA 93940

www.montereybayaquarium.org

Our mission is to inspire conservation of the ocean.

From: CentralCoast@Coastal
To: [Bowser, Colin@Coastal](mailto:Bowser_Colin@Coastal)
Subject: Fwd: Younger Lagoon Reserve Beach public access SCZ-NOID-004-20
Date: Wednesday, September 23, 2020 12:49:56 PM

Sent from Samsung Galaxy smartphone.
Get [Outlook for Android](#)

From: Seth Levy <seth@rtpacific.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 23, 2020 10:07:53 AM
To: CentralCoast@Coastal <CentralCoast@coastal.ca.gov>
Subject: Younger Lagoon Reserve Beach public access SCZ-NOID-004-20

Dear Coastal Commision,

I have found the current Younger lagoon access to be public in name only and insufficient to allow for ocean beach access for water users as provided under california state law. I propose a simple path that can exclude sensitive areas and allow the public to truly access this beach and the water. This is the only practical access point for this portion of the coast, the areas north either being private land or inaccessible cliffs. Wilder beach is closed to the public.

I took the docent led private tour which is quite restrictive in when you can go and what you can do. Due to these restrictions it renders the beach worthless as a public access point for recreation and ocean access. While on the tour I observed 20+ high school students roaming all over the area and flying a drone as part of a school project. This begs the question if the area is so sensitive why are high impact activities such as this allowed?

In my mind the reserve in its current form remains the private domain of the marine lab, and the supposedly public access does not come close to meeting the standards the coastal commission should be enforcing.

Sincerely,

Seth Levy
Santa Cruz, CA