



Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) on Coastal Commission Hearing on the City of Long Beach Belmont Beach and Aquatics Center

What is the Belmont Beach and Aquatics Center?

The City of Long Beach wants to build a new beach-front swimming pool complex at the site of the old Belmont Pool, near the Belmont Pier. The proposed pool complex would have seven water features from pools to spas to a water play area for children. The complex would be open to the public and used for competitive swimming and diving events, swim club practices, and private classes. The Coastal Commission will decide whether or not to approve the project on February 11.

What is the California Coastal Commission?

The Coastal Commission is a state government agency that preserves and protects California's coast and ocean for the people. The Commission does this by looking at how development affects the environment and public coastal access. Agency staff makes recommendations to the Commissioners, who take a final vote.

When will the Commission make a decision about the Belmont Beach and Aquatics Center?

On February 11, 2021, the Commission will hold a virtual public hearing on Zoom about the Belmont Beach and Aquatics Center. The Commission will hear from its staff, government representatives, and members of the public. The Commission is expected to either approve or deny the Belmont Beach and Aquatics Center or make changes to it. The public hearing is an opportunity to make your voice heard on the proposed project. All are welcome.

How does this affect me?

The project site selected by the City is in the same location as the old Belmont Pool facility that was opened in 1968 and demolished in 2014. This site is in a more affluent part of Long Beach that is harder to get to from other parts of the City, including many lower-income neighborhoods. The City has developed a program to encourage individuals from underserved parts of Long Beach to use the facilities and participate in programs at the proposed pool complex, including a new bus route. The Commission is considering additional measures to address environmental justice concerns raised by the project.

What is the staff recommending to the Commission?

Staff is recommending that the Commission approve the project with a number of additional requirements, including that the City develop a new plan based on community input to make sure everyone in Long Beach has equitable access to the aquatic center and, if determined to be appropriate, other community pools. Staff is also recommending more public use of the facilities (fewer private classes and events) and discounted or free access for underserved community members. There may be other ways to increase the accessibility and affordability of this public project. The Commission wants to hear from you.

How can I participate?

- Email comments to dani.ziff@coastal.ca.gov
- Mail comments to 301 East Ocean Boulevard, Suite 300, Long Beach, CA 90802
- Speak at the virtual February 11 meeting by filling out a speaker slip for Item Th14a: <https://www.coastal.ca.gov/meetings/request-testimony/thursday/>
- Virtual hearing procedures: <https://documents.coastal.ca.gov/assets/virtual-hearing/VIRTUAL-HEARING-PROCEDURES.pdf>
- Commission's staff reports: <https://documents.coastal.ca.gov/reports/2021/2/Th14a/th14a-2-2021-report.pdf>
- For questions, contact Dani Ziff, Coastal Program Analyst at dani.ziff@coastal.ca.gov or (562) 590-5071