

CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION

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W17a

ADDENDUM

November 8, 2022

To: Commissioners and Interested Persons

From: California Coastal Commission
San Diego Staff

Subject: Addendum to **Item W17a**, Coastal Commission Permit Application No. **6-21-0325 (San Diego Kendall Frost Reserve)**, for the Commission Meeting of November 11, 2022.

The purpose of this addendum is to acknowledge the City of San Diego's acceptance of staff's recommendation to revise the proposed project to delete the six-foot tall chain link fence topped with barbed wire along Crown Point Drive and instead place a visually permeable fence no taller than four feet and without barbed wire. Staff recommends the following changes be made to the above-referenced staff report. Deletions shall be marked by ~~strikethrough~~ and additions shall be underlined:

1. On pages 2-3 of the staff report, the final paragraph shall be modified as follows:

Regarding predation, monitoring reports have identified predation primarily arises from animals such as raccoons and opossums. To counter this, the nesting platforms within KFR/NWP have covers that the birds can enter but predators cannot. Given the size and dexterity of raccoons and opossums, the Commission's staff ecologist, Dr. Laurie Koteen, does not believe a six-foot tall fence would be very effective in keeping raccoons out. Thus, a four-foot tall fence that allows unimpeded view of Mission Bay should not pose a substantial difference in predator control efforts. The City has agreed to modify the project to delete the proposed barbed wire-topped six-foot chain link fence and instead install a visually permeable fence no taller than four feet in height along Crown Point Drive as conditioned by Special Condition No. 1.

2. On Page 15 of the staff report, the penultimate paragraph shall be modified as follows:

As discussed in the Biological Resources section, alternate fencing designs such as a lower height and alternate locations such as halfway upslope were rejected by the City as being inadequate to meet the goals of limiting encroachment and

predation in the reserve or because it would occupy upland habitat. However, there does not appear to be a human encroachment issue within the reserve, and other reserves with even more area to manage, such as the Tijuana River National Estuary have implemented lowlying barriers providing uninterrupted views of the wetlands with no major issues reported thus far (Exhibit 5). Thus, while places such as Tijuana River National Estuary are successfully operating with very low railing and post-and-rope barriers, in light of the City's desire for barriers that are not easy to scale, a feasible design that does that while protecting views for pedestrians, bicyclists, and drivers is a four-foot tall fence, as most people will be able to look over such a fence unobstructed. The City has agreed to modify the project to delete the proposed barbed wire-topped six-foot chain link fence and instead install a visually permeable fence no taller than four feet in height along Crown Point Drive as conditioned by Special Condition No. 1.

3. On Page 18 of the staff report, the final full paragraph shall be modified as follows:

Regarding predation, the City submitted a 2020 monitoring report of the Light-footed Ridgway's Rail in California, which observed among its statewide sites the KFR/NWP. The report found that historically, the number of nesting pairs in KFR/NWP fluctuates greatly, from annual lows of two to five nesting pairs in the 1990s to fourteen pairs in 2005 to two pairs in 2008 to thirty-three pairs in 2015 to seven pairs in 2020. While the report mentioned the location of the KFR/NWP within a heavy residential and recreational area as a factor in this volatility, it did also find that the area suffers from heavy predation from animals such as raccoons and opossums. To counter this, the nesting platforms within KFR/NWP have covers that the birds can enter but predators cannot. Yet while fencing can aid in keeping predators out of an area, given the size and dexterity of raccoons and possums, the Commission's staff ecologist, Dr. Laurie Koteen, does not believe a six-foot tall fence would be very effective at keeping raccoons out. Thus, a four-foot-tall fence that allows unimpeded view of Mission Bay should not pose a substantial difference in predator control efforts. The City has agreed to modify the project to delete the proposed barbed wire-topped six-foot chain link fence and instead install a visually permeable fence no taller than four feet in height along Crown Point Drive as conditioned by Special Condition No. 1.