

**CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION**

South Coast District Office  
301 E Ocean Blvd., Suite 300  
Long Beach, CA 90802-4302  
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# W12a

A-5-LGB-21-0060 (HIGHGATE HOTELS, LAGUNA BEACH)  
MARCH 7, 2022

CORRESPONDENCE

# UNITE HERE! Local 11

March 4, 2022

California Coastal Commission, South Coast District Office  
301 E. Ocean Blvd., Suite 300  
Long Beach, CA 90802  
SouthCoast@coastal.ca.gov

RE: Support – Item 12a – Application No. A-5-LGB-21-0060 (Pacific Edge Hotel remodel, Laguna Beach)

Dear Honorable Chair Brownsey and Commissioners:

On behalf of the 32,000 hotel and food service members of UNITE HERE Local 11, we write to urge you to approve the Pacific Edge Hotel remodel “Project.” The applicant proposes a project that is entirely responsive to the issues we raised in our appeal, namely the lack of on-site affordable accommodations and parking access, particularly for the hotel workers. **We are in strong support of the staff recommendation. We are proud that the advocacy of hotel workers and the community has resulted in an excellent project that will increase coastal access in the City of Laguna Beach for working families and set a new standard for the region if approved.**

In our appeal, we discussed our history of working with the Coastal Commission to identify “optimal locations for on-site affordable accommodations based on the input from hotel workers.” We argued that the Pacific Edge was an ideal site for on-site mitigation because the Applicant was proposing new, luxury rooms. Now, the Applicant has come back with a project that proposes *six* affordable rooms at \$130 per night, *in addition to* an in-lieu payment of \$31,750. This proposes exactly what we advocated for, which will increase access to the coast. This will ensure that families have equal access to luxury-level accommodations at an affordable price.

We also raised significant concerns regarding the previous project’s impacts on parking for the public and workers. In direct response to our objections, the applicant now proposes to fully fund transit passes for hotel workers commuting via public transit, and to ensure adequate parking spots onsite for hotel workers. The applicant also proposes a detailed transit demand management plan will ensure offsite parking intended for public use is not used for hotel guests, another major objection we raised in our appeal.

In sum, UNITE HERE Local 11 proudly supports the updated plans for the Pacific Edge Hotel remodel, and urges the Coastal Commission to approve it. It will be a net gain in coastal access for working families and the public.

Sincerely,



Ada F. Briceño

Co-President

UNITE HERE Local 11

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