

CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION

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6-22-0113-A1 (City of San Diego Point La Jolla Closure)

September 7, 2023

EXHIBITS

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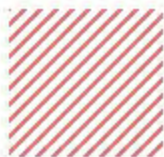
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Legend



CCC CDP Jurisdiction



City of San Diego
CDP/CCC Appeals
Jurisdiction



EXHIBIT NO. 2

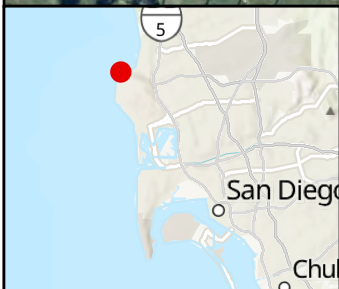
APPLICATION NO.

6-22-0113-A1

Jurisdiction Map



California Coastal Commission



Point La Jolla Year-Round Closure



Ocean Access



Closure Boundary

Coordinate System: NAD 1983 StatePlane California VI FIPS 0406 Feet

N

0 37

EXHIBIT NO. 3

APPLICATION NO.

6-22-0113-A1

Closure Area



California Coastal Commission

Area Closed City Personnel Access Only sign (size 24-inches by 18-inches) in English and Spanish for Year-Round Closure located on the gate at the top of the stairs.



Mockup of gate without sign at the top of the access stairs for illustrative purposes only. Final gate design is in process.



Mockup of gate with sign at the top of the access stairs for illustrative purposes only. Final gate design is in process.

EXHIBIT NO. 4

APPLICATION NO.

6-22-0113-A1

Gate Plan



California Coastal Commission



SIERRA CLUB

SAN DIEGO CHAPTER



June, 30, 2023

To: Andy Field, Director Park and Recreation
Karen Denison, Assistant Director Park and Recreation
Randy Wilde, Sr. Policy Director, Mayor Todd Gloria's Office
Joe La Cava, Council Member La Jolla

Cc: Melody Lassiter, Coastal Analyst, CA. Coastal Commission

On May 1, 2023, the Pt. La Jolla seasonal closure for sea lion pupping season began. Unfortunately, there have been incursions into the closed area during and after Ranger working hours. When the people were asked by rangers or docents why they were in the closed area, they said they didn't see the 2 closed signs posted along the long low wall. In the cases of the kids with fishing rods, a spear fisherman, and another well-known individual inside the Pt. La Jolla closed area, they were seen climbing over the chained stairs or wall and chose to ignore the closed signs. The photos below support our and the public's requests for:

- adding 4 more closure signs along the low wall above the rookery closure area.
- increasing patrolling by Rangers.
- accelerating the installation of surveillance cameras at the rookery.
- add patrolling by police or security guard before and after ranger hours (many spearfisherman go early in the morning or at sunset) and sunset is the peak viewing time by visitors.
- encouraging rangers, lifeguards and police to issue citations so the word gets out that violating the closure will not be tolerated.

At the moment, there are 2 "Closure" signs along the wall between the stairs and the K rail as per the map attached and shown in yellow. We suggested additional locations in red.



8304 Clairemont Mesa Blvd., Ste 101 • San Diego, CA. 92111

TEL: 858-569-6005

<http://sandigosierraclub.org>

EXHIBIT NO. 5

APPLICATION NO.

6-22-0113-A1

Sierra Club Letter

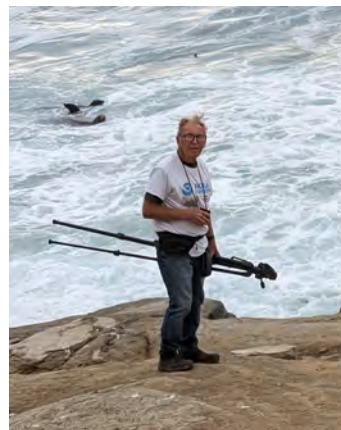


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The distance between the “Closure” sign in front of the bridge club is quite a distance from the k-rail and the “Ocean Access” Corridor and can be seen more clearly in this photo than the map. Crowds often obscure the signage.



Examples of incursions in the closed area since May 1, 2023 Seasonal Closure for sea lion pupping season



May 25, 2023, 6:29 pm. Local spearfisherman enters a closed area, flushes pregnant sea lions. **(Right)**. Known person enters Pt. La Jolla.



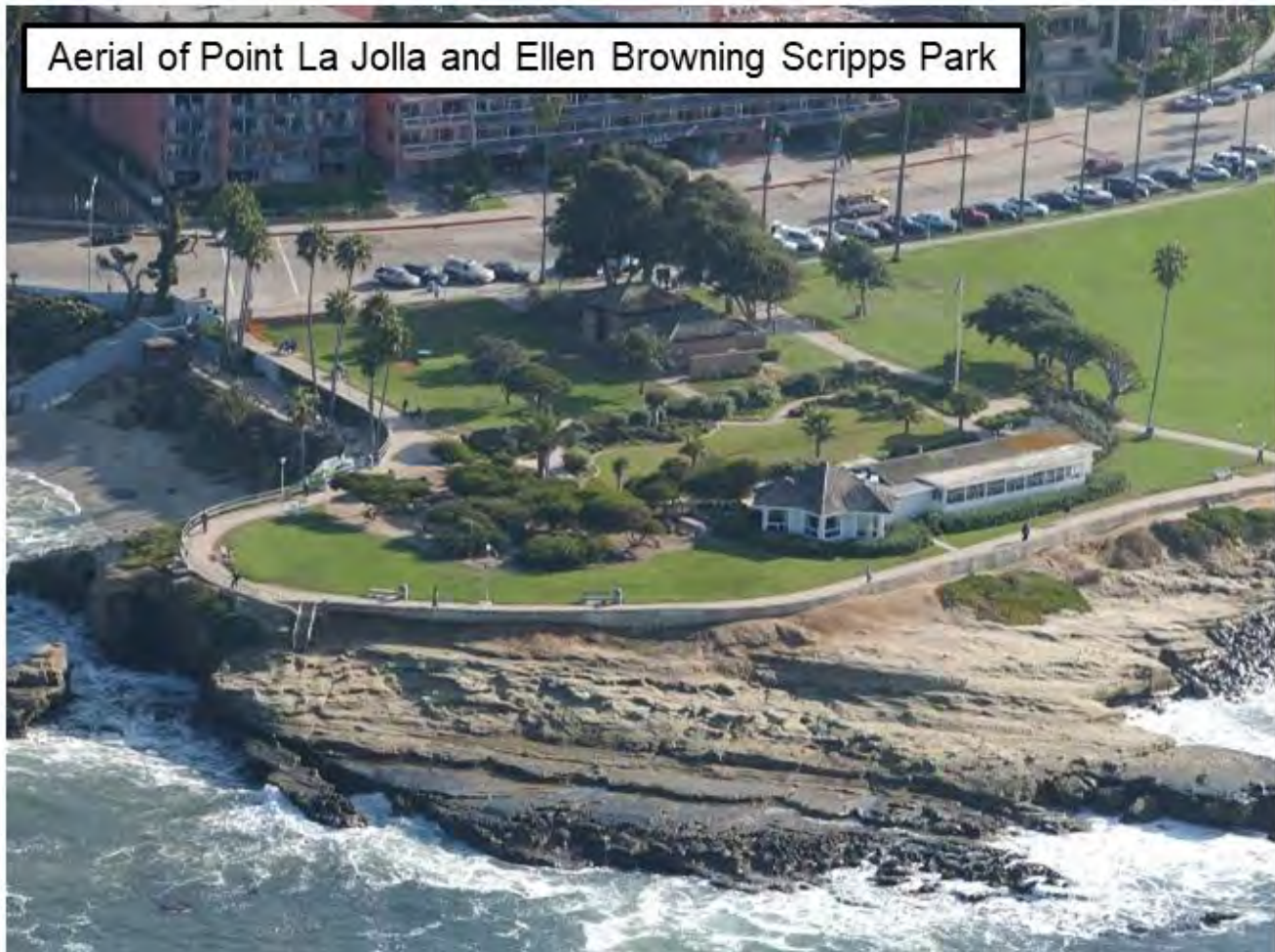
6/2/23, 1:31 pm. Kids with fishing rods inside the closure area. They went down the closed stairs.

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Aerial of Point La Jolla and Ellen Browning Scripps Park



View of Point La Jolla during seasonal closure looking north.



EXHIBIT NO. 6

APPLICATION NO.

6-22-0113-A1

Photos

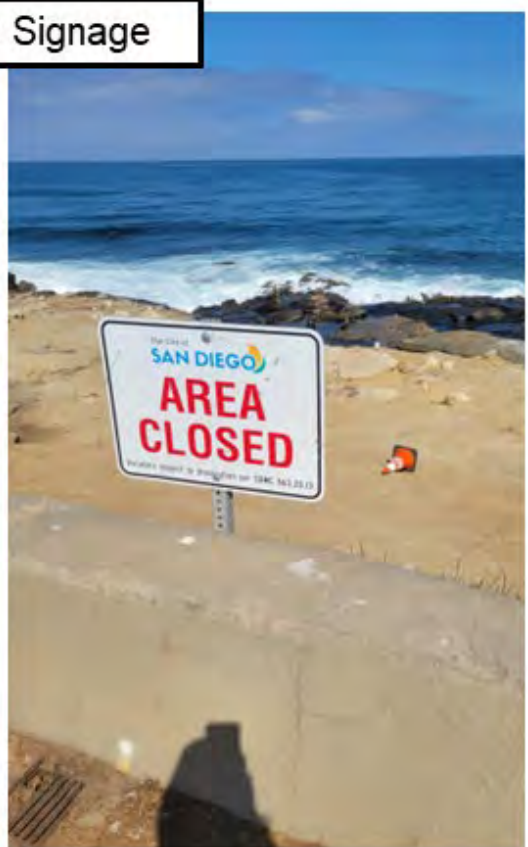


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K-rail and signage during closure



Closure Signage



Point La Jolla Nov. '22, following seasonal closure (credit: Sierra Club)



The City of
SAN DIEGO
Parks and Recreation Department

Date: March 1, 2023

To: Executive Director, California Coastal Commission

From: Richard Belesky, Senior Park Ranger, Shoreline Parks, Parks and Recreation Department, City of San Diego

Subject: Pt. La Jolla Seasonal Closure Monitoring Report

2022 Monitoring Report

For the Pt. La Jolla Seasonal Closure

May 1, 2022, through October 31, 2022

Coastal Development Permit Application No. 6-22-0113

On April 8, 2022, the California Coastal Commission approved Coastal Development Permit Application No. 6-22-0113 requested by the City of San Diego for development consisting of the closure of Pt La Jolla to all public access during California Sea Lion pupping season, May 1 to October 31 of each year. The permit was accepted by the City on May 9, 2022. Special Condition 3B of the granted permit requires the City of San Diego to submit a written report annually by March 1 summarizing the results of the data collected during the monitoring period, the condition and performance of the closure and signs, make recommendations for modifications, and photographs. The following is submitted in fulfillment of that requirement.

Requirement #1: All records of measurements, analyses, and conclusions created in conformance with the approved Monitoring Plan:

The data compiled during the closure monitoring period is entered on the Pt La Jolla Data Collection 2022-5-1 to 2022-10-31 Seasonal Closure (enclosure 1) Excel spreadsheet. Observations are made hourly and entered directly into the spreadsheet by the on-duty Park Ranger. The observations were made during the day between the hours of 10:00 am and 6:00 pm, 11:00 am and 7:00 pm between Memorial Day and Labor Day. An observation consists of a count of all sea lions hauled out (out of the

EXHIBIT NO. 7
APPLICATION NO. 6-22-0113-A1
2022 Seasonal Closure Monitoring
 California Coastal Commission

water) within the entire closure area; (divided into the Pt. La Jolla bluff and Boomer Beach, the beach area to the south of the bluff); the number of visitors viewing the area on the walkway; the number of people accessing the water via the ocean access corridor; the number of people (if any) on the bluff in violation of the closure; as well as weather conditions and state of the tide.

Summary of Data Collected

Sea Lion Population Summary

At Pt. La Jolla, California Sea Lion bull males arrive in May to establish breeding territories on the bluff. Bull males maintain a 35 to 40-foot separation between other breeding males and have been observed to attract up to 15 females to their territories. Breeding age female sea lions, which have been pregnant for the past year, give birth mainly in June, although the first surviving pup observed this season was born May 24th. Females come into estrus 20 to 30 days after giving birth, which makes mid to late July the period when female sea lions become pregnant again. After breeding is completed for the season male sea lions migrate north. Adult females, new pups, and juvenile sea lions remain in the area year-round.

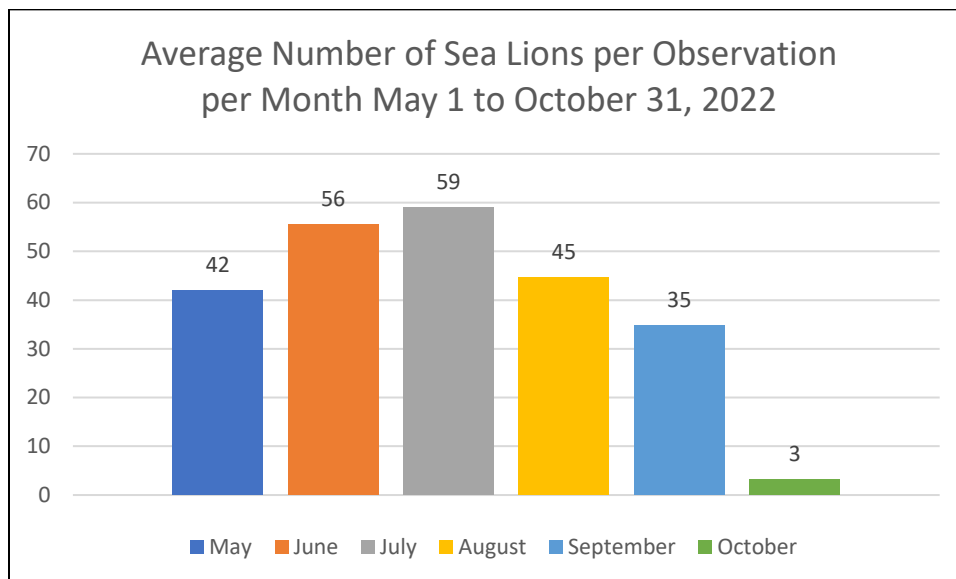


Table 1

Table 1 displays the average number of sea lions counted by Rangers within the entire closure area each month of the closure period. There were 100 or more sea lions observed 23 times, with 137 on May 18th the largest number counted. Given that females, pups, and juveniles remain in the area year-round, the drop-off in the number observed in October cannot be explained yet. A year or two more of data collection may reveal a reason or pattern not yet understood.

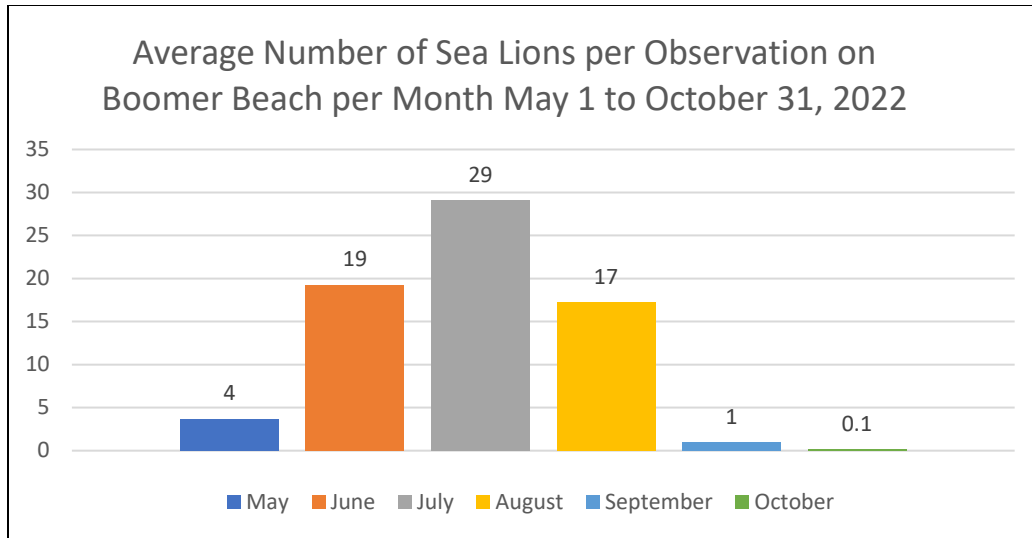


Table 2

Table 2 displays the average number of sea lions per observation on Boomer Beach each month of the closure period. June, July, and August have shown to be the primary time sea lions haul out onto the beach. The most likely reason can be seen in figures 1 and 2. Figure 1 was taken April 29th and shows no sand on the otherwise rock covered beach. High energy, locally generated, shorter period swells in the fall and winter erode all sand off the beach and deposit it just offshore. Lower energy, longer period summer swells pick up the sand offshore and deposit back on the beach eventually covering the rocks, leaving a beach much more comfortable for sea lion mothers and pups to haul out on to, as seen in figure 2, taken May 27th.



Figure 1. Boomer Beach April 29, 2022. No sand on the beach



Figure 2. Boomer Beach May 27, 2022. Sand on the beach

Sea Lion Pup Statistics

According to Sea World Rescue and the Sierra Club Seal Society there were 35 sea lion pups born alive during the 2022 pupping season. It is very difficult to keep an accurate count of all the pups being born since births can occur at any time of the day or night so the number 35 should be considered an estimate. The first healthy pup was born May 24, 2022 and is believed to be the only pup not born in June. One pup carcass was removed by Park Rangers from the closure area and one probably abandoned pup was rescued by SeaWorld.

Visitor Statistics Summary

E.B. Scripps Park, which Pt. La Jolla is adjacent to and a part of, and the famous La Jolla Cove, which is just yards away, attract hundreds of thousands of visitors a year. The Park's perimeter walkway is the primary viewing area during the closure period for visitors to observe the sea lions on the bluff and beach below. Rangers counted the number of visitors on the walkway hourly during the eight-hour monitoring period. The average number of visitors per observation was 44, with 324 being the largest number counted during the closure period.

Ocean Access Corridor

Coastal Development Permit Application No. 6-22-0113 directed the creation of an ocean access corridor to allow people to legally enter and exit the ocean across Boomer Beach through the closure area. City of San Diego Municipal Code 63.0102 (f) delineates the boundaries of the corridor. Park Rangers observed 555 public uses of the corridor during the closure period. Many swimmers and divers mentioned to on-duty Rangers how appreciative they are that can enter and exit the water through the closure area and the existence of the corridor greatly reduced opposition to the creation of the seasonal closure.

Harassments and Other Incidents

The Harassment Documentation Form is included as sheet #8 in Pt La Jolla Data Collection 2022-5-1 to 2022-10-31 Seasonal Closure (enclosure 1) Excel spreadsheet.

The approved monitoring plan defines sea lion harassment as “each separate action by a human while on the Pt. La Jolla bluff or Boomer Beach, that causes at least one marine mammal to flush into the water in response to that action.” Park Rangers observed no sea lions being harassed as defined during the closure period. Rangers did report 322 instances of visitors trespassing into the closure area. No visitors received citations. All immediately abided by Ranger requests to exit the area. No sea lions were observed to have been harassed during these trespass incidents.

There were 9 incidents of vandalization recorded during the closure period. Signs were stolen, destroyed, or damaged requiring replacement. The plastic orange K-rail which marks the closed area south boundary was cut open in an apparent, unsuccessful, attempt to drain its water ballast and remove it. These incidents occurred at night. There were no witnesses and no suspects were identified.

Rangers and other visitors observed two or three different sub-adult male sea lions which individually climbed over the low wall bordering the walkway and lay down on the walkway or the grassy area next to the walkway on multiple occasions (figure 3). The animals were surrounded by orange cones to alert visitors on the walkway. There were no injuries to visitors or the sea lions during the animals’ excursions out of the bluff area.



Figure 3

Requirement #2: Recommendations for repair, maintenance, modifications, or other work to the development.

The City will continue to replace signs should they be vandalized. The City will order the same plastic orange K-rail to replace the damaged K-rail for the upcoming seasonal closure. This is the first seasonal

closure of Point La Jolla and currently, there are no additional recommendations for repair, maintenance, modifications, or other work to the development.

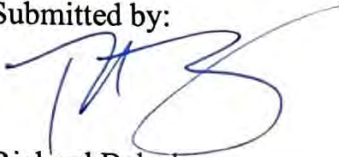
Requirement #3: Photographs taken from pre-designated sites (annotated to a copy of the site plans) indicating the condition, performance, and effectiveness of the seasonal beach closure and associated signage

Photographs are included on the attached CD.

Enclosures (on attached CD):

1. Pt. La Jolla Data Collection 2022-5-1 to 2022-10-31 Seasonal Closure Excel spreadsheet
2. Folder labeled Bluff Closure Photos 2022
3. Folder labeled Sea Lion Pup Photos 2022
4. 2022 Pt La Jolla Seasonal Closure Monitoring Report unsigned PDF copy

Submitted by:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'R. Belesky', written over a horizontal line.

Richard Belesky
Senior Park Ranger
Shoreline Parks/Developed Regional Parks Division
City of San Diego Park and Recreation Department
2125 Park Boulevard, MS 30M
San Diego, CA 92101