

CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION

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F13

Deputy Director's Report for Los Angeles County

May 10, 2024

Correspondence

FW: Friday Item 13

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Fri 5/3/2024 5:14 PM

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Sent: Friday, May 3, 2024 5:00 PM

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Subject: Friday Item 13

To: CCC and Staff

From: Sierra Club Los Cerritos Wetlands Task Force

Re: May 10, 2024 Agenda Item 13 So CA Director's Report

The City of Long Beach requests a second one-year Time Extension to Coastal Development Permit Nos. 5-18-0788, A-5-LOB-17-0032, and A-5-LOB-20-0007 granted by the California Coastal Commission on February 11, 2021, which was previously extended for one year. This Permit is for: Closure of Olympic Plaza to automobile traffic, removal of park landscaping, demolition of two outdoor pools, conversion of temporary pool and associated facilities to permanent structures, and construction of an outdoor pool complex including a 12,320 sf. competitive pool, 4,560 sf. recreation pool, 1,000 sf. teaching pool, 500 sf. spa, 5,660 sf. diving well, and spray garden, 1,555 permanent seats, a 15,181 sf. approx. 29 ft. high pool facilities building with locker rooms, offices, food concessions, changing rooms, and storage rooms, 141,558 sf. hardscaped open space, 92,297 sf. passive park area, and public restrooms.

The Sierra Club Los Cerritos Wetlands Task Force is respectfully asking for a de novo hearing to give the public a chance to discuss these issues before a second extension is granted

Here is the description of the pool plans voted on Feb. 11, 2021:

[February 2021 Appeal No. A-5-LOB-17-0032 \(City of Long Beach Belmont Beach and Aquatic Center, Long Beach\)](#)

[Appeal No. A-5-LOB-17-0032 \(City of Long Beach Belmont Beach and Aquatic Center, Long Beach\)](#)

Appeals by Commissioners Bochco and Turnbull-Sanders, and Citizens About Responsible Planning (CARP), et al., from decision of City of Long Beach granting permit with conditions for construction of approx. 125,500 sq.ft. swimming pool complex with **indoor component with max. building height of 71-ft. above 10-ft. graded plinth and outdoor component** including approx. 1,500 sq.ft. café, 600 sq.ft. public restroom, and 55,745 sq.ft. of park area on 5.8 acre beachfront site, at 4000 Olympic Plaza, Long Beach, Los Angeles County. (DZ-LB)

The original plan was for an indoor pool with a plastic bubble roof, a diving well, spa, restaurant and seating for spectators which would be built on current park space and close Olympic Plaza.

The Commission required nine 'modifications' which have resulted in the City providing new plans for **outdoor pools** with no diving well, moveable floor, spa, restaurant or spectator seating.

There is still no valid plan for a community pool which will serve the disadvantaged population of Long Beach. A few children, whose parents are willing to allow them to be bussed across town from 2 distant parks, will be able to come swim outside in late afternoon. It is doubtful that many will have the opportunity to learn to swim.

There is also no plan for rising sea level rise, other than moving sand in front of the pool and then tearing it down in 50 years when it will be under water.

These changed plans require a new Environmental Impact Report for the following reasons:

New pool will have **no roof**. Without a new EIR, there is no knowing the effects of **noise, light and energy use**.

What will the increased maintenance costs be?

Will blowing **sand clog the filtering system?** **Can the pool be kept clean and free of sand and bird poop?**

Will the **disabled and elderly** use an outside pool, especially at night and in winter?

There has been **no traffic study** since Ocean was narrowed to one lane in each direction.

There is no plan for **special event parking**.

A new EIR is needed to also study Alternative locations. Alternative locations have changed with the Jehovah Witnesses convention now being held on Zoom, freeing up the Convention Center Parking Lot.

The land around the Queen Mary is also no longer being under lease.

The City has had over 3 years to comply with the requirements for this pool. It is time to find a safer, cheaper location.

Respectfully,

Ann Cantrell, co-chair

Sierra Club Los Cerritos Wetlands Task Force