THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

COUNCIL PRESIDENT PRO TEM BARBARA BRY

FIRST DISTRICT

20 May 2019

California Coastal Commission
7575 Metropolitan Drive, Suite 103
San Diego, CA 92108

RE: CDP Application No. 6-14-0691 A-1 (closure) and CDP Application No. 6-15-0223 A-2 (rope)

Dear Commissioners:

I respectfully request that you support the ten-year proposal for the harbor seal pupping season closure of Casa Beach / Children's Pool in La Jolla from December 15 through May 15 each year and continue to require the guideline rope for the rest of the year when the beach is open.

The seasonal closure has reduced seal harassment during the pupping season and continues to allow the unique viewing experience for locals and tourists. Harbor seal pups and their mothers are able to thrive in a natural environment free of harassment during this critical time.

The guideline rope has been successful in reducing human-pinniped interaction. Without the rope, people get too close to the seals and often try to pet and take selfie photos with them. This results in the seals being scared off the beach, often, with their escape route to the ocean being blocked.

Historically, the San Diego City Council and Mayor have overwhelmingly supported both policies. The California Coastal Commission has voted unanimously three times (2012, 2014 and 2015) to maintain these protections during the past five years.

In conclusion, I urge you to support the ten-year proposal for the harbor seal pupping season closure of Casa Beach/Children's Pool in La Jolla annually from December 15 through May 15, and preserving the guideline rope when the beach is open. This proposal balances human coastal access and animal habitat protection.

Sincerely,

Barbara Bry

Barbara Bry
Council President Pro Tem

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