



For Immediate Release

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**Councilmember LaCava, Parks and Recreation Director Andy Field Recognize Start of Sea Lion Pupping Season
Emphasizing “Responsible Tourism”**

San Diego —Today, Councilmember Joe LaCava stood alongside Andy Field, director of the City of San Diego Parks and Recreation Department, recognizing the start of sea lion pupping season and emphasizing the importance of responsible recreation this summer.

“La Jolla’s shoreline parks, beaches, and coastlines have always been a summer destination for San Diego residents and visitors,” said Councilmember LaCava. “Unique to La Jolla, is the proximity of seals and sea lions inhabiting the La Jolla coastline. There are few places where you can be on dry land and watch the seals and sea lions up close in their natural state. Being this close has its advantages; it’s a memorable experience for children and adults alike. However, we also have to remember that seals and sea lions are wild animals that deserve their space and our respects.”

Sea lions are naturally protective and can move surprising fast on land despite their size. During sea lion pupping season, which runs from June 1 until October 31, sea lion mothers and their pups will be vulnerable as the pups cannot leave dry land for the first few months. Mothers will naturally be protective of their pups during the season. This natural process is as delicate as it is memorable and can be dangerous unless common sense safety measures are followed.

Continuing to ensure the safety of both marine animals and humans alike and anticipating many first-time visitors, the City of San Diego is developing additional signage and educational materials to be displayed this season. These materials will remind visitors of the importance of maintaining minimum distance from the animals, and other safety protocols around the area.

“We are expecting large crowds at our parks and beaches this summer which is why it is so important that we are taking steps to ensure both the public and sea lions are safe during pupping season,” said Andy Field, director of the City’s Parks and Recreation Department. “Park rangers and City partners will be actively engaging and educating the public about the sea lion population, and the additional signage will serve as another reminder to keep a safe distance and not to disturb these wonderful animals.”

In addition to the educational materials provided by the City Parks and Recreation, a City Park Ranger and a contingent of city interns, in addition to National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) enforcement agents, will be keeping a watchful eye on the seals, sea lions, and visitors. These specialists will be available to make your visit to the area a safe, as well as educational, experience.

“Just like you, I’m looking forward to spending the summer with friends and family enjoying all La Jolla’s shoreline parks, beaches, and rocky coastline has to offer.” Said Councilmember LaCava. “When visiting the area, please follow safety

guidance, read the signs, and respect the sea lions as well as all our natural environment so we can continue to enjoy them for generations.”

Councilmember Joe LaCava represents San Diego City Council District 1, which includes the communities of Carmel Valley, Del Mar Heights, Del Mar Mesa, La Jolla, Pacific Highlands Ranch, Torrey Hills, Torrey Pines, and University City.

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