



CITY OF SAN DIEGO  
COUNCILMEMBER SHERRI S. LIGHTNER  
DISTRICT ONE

M E M O R A N D U M

DATE: May 26, 2009  
TO: Honorable Mayor Jerry Sanders  
Honorable City Attorney Jan Goldsmith  
FROM: Councilmember Sherri Lightner, District 1  
SUBJECT: Children's Pool

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sherri S. Lightner".

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The Children's Pool is a gift granted to the City, in trust, to be used exclusively for a public park and children's pool. Since a growing number of seals continue to overtake Children's Pool it has led to lawsuits, litigation costs to taxpayers and a risk that the City will not keep the public's trust of maintaining the tidelands as a public park and children's pool.

In an effort to diminish litigation while keeping the public's trust, I suggest the City consider allowing dogs on the beach at the Children's Pool. Allowing dogs will keep the seals away from the Children's Pool and allow the area to once again be used by San Diego families.

Allowing dogs at Children's Pool will not eliminate the seal quandary as the seals may move to other nearby beaches. However, the key difference between other beaches in the area and Children's Pool is that Children's Pool was given to the City to be used as a public park and children's pool.

I am requesting that city staff and the City Attorney's office provide a report in the next 30 days that includes a response to the following questions:

- Are there additional costs beyond regular beach maintenance associated with allowing dogs at Children's Pool?
- What are the costs of the City's current plan to amplify the sound of barking dogs and use water spraying from 6 a.m. to sunset every day compared with allowing dogs at Children's Pool?
- What are the maintenance costs for the dog beach located in Ocean Beach compared to similarly sized beaches?
- What are the maintenance costs for the dog beach located in Coronado compared to similarly sized beaches?

- How do other cities (i.e. San Francisco, Monterey, Santa Barbara) manage seal population? What solutions have they found? What are the costs associated with their solutions?

If you have any questions regarding this request, please feel free to contact myself or my chief of staff John Rivera at 619-236-6611.

SL:jr

cc: Honorable Members of the City Council  
Andrea Tevlin, Independent Budget Analyst