



News from  
**Councilmember Todd Gloria**

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City of San Diego

**NEWS RELEASE**

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**Councilmember Urges Coastal Commission to Support Seals Solution**

*SAN DIEGO, CA (July 11, 2012)* – Councilmember Todd Gloria today sent a letter to the California Coastal Commission urging approval of a year-round rope barrier to separate seals and people at the Children’s Pool Beach in La Jolla. He also stated support for an alternative proposal to monitor the area. The California Coastal Commission is considering the issue at its meeting today. Full text of the letter is below.

*I am writing in support of the City of San Diego Park and Recreation Department’s application for the installation of a year-round rope barrier at the Children’s Pool Beach. The rope will work as an effective buffer between humans and seals, and will continue to allow ocean access for swimmers and divers. This solution should help to calm some of the long-simmering conflicts that have plagued the Children’s Pool Beach for many years.*

*I would also like to add my support to comments made by the City of San Diego Park and Recreation Department about the Coastal Commission staff’s recommendation that the rope include staff monitoring from dawn to dusk. As is noted in Park and Recreation’s July 3, 2012 letter, this would not be possible under current staffing levels. An alternative has been proposed that would allow a level of monitoring that could be achieved without requirement for additional staff resources. Under this proposal, the following monitoring would occur:*

- *The assigned Park Ranger will make counts hourly while at the Children’s Pool, providing information five to six hours a day, for up to five days a week, varying seasonally.*
- *Information to be collected hourly will include the number of seals hauled out on the beach, the number of people on the beach and in the water, the number of harassment incidents observed, and tidal and weather data. This information could be collected at least sixteen days a month including weekends and holidays.*
- *In the absence of the Park Ranger, lifeguards may be able to assist by collecting the above information up to three times a day.*

*As the Chairman of the City of San Diego’s Budget Committee, it is my hope that the need to hire additional City staff can be avoided as we attempt to resolve the issues at the Children’s Pool Beach.*

*Thank you for your consideration of this proposal.*

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