



San Diego City Attorney Mara W. Elliott

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## **Convention Center Expansion Ruled Legally Sound** *Project complies with coastal, environmental protection laws*

The City's plans for expanding its waterfront convention center have been ruled legally sound and fully compliant with the California Coastal Act and the California Environmental Quality Act.

The ruling by Superior Court Judge Joel R. Wohlfeil in *San Diego Navy Broadway Complex Coalition v. Coastal Commission* is a strong validation of the planning processes of the three public agencies involved in the project: the California Coastal Commission, the Unified Port of San Diego and the City of San Diego.

**“This is a resounding victory that supports our efforts to bring new jobs, visitors and revenues to San Diego,”** City Attorney Mara W. Elliott said. **“Just as importantly, this ruling protects coastal access and recreational opportunities on the waterfront while ensuring our region’s needs are met.”**

The decision (attached) clears the way for an eventual expansion that was approved by the San Diego City Council and the Port Commission in 2012 and by a unanimous Coastal Commission in 2013.

**“Today’s strong ruling is tremendous news for San Diego’s economy and removes one of the biggest hurdles to expanding the convention center,”** Mayor Kevin L. Faulconer said. **“This expansion is all about creating jobs and growing tourism as well as keeping and attracting large conventions like Comic-Con. I want to thank the City Attorney’s Office, the Port and the California Coastal Commission for their hard work in winning this important case.”**

The project would add new exhibit space and meeting rooms needed to accommodate the nation’s largest conventions. The plans include an elevated five-acre public park with panoramic views of San Diego Bay, improvements to an existing pier for use as a public recreational viewpoint, and the replacement of loading docks and other pedestrian-unfriendly uses with visitor-serving amenities that encourage use of the area.

The case was argued for the City by Deputy City Attorney Glenn T. Spitzer.

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