



For Immediate Release

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**Councilmember LaCava Affirms Seasonal Closure of Point La Jolla and Boomer Beach;
Protects Interests of Visitors and Wildlife**

San Diego — On Tuesday, May 24, the San Diego City Council unanimously approved the permit conditions for an annual seasonal closure of Point La Jolla and Boomer Beach. This closure, which was authorized by the California Coastal Commission on April 8, will occur annually from May 1 – October 31. It will ensure the safety and health of both visitors to the area and the sea lions.

The closure covers the rocky shoreline known as Point La Jolla and a portion of Boomer Beach. The action also safeguards the remainder of Boomer Beach as an ocean-access zone for those accessing the water for bodysurfing, swimming, or spearfishing. The design reflects feedback received during a robust public engagement period and balances restricting access to the rookery during pupping season while preserving water access.

“Today’s action codifies the boundaries and the timing of the closure and allows for what all sides of this issue want – greater enforcement,” said Councilmember LaCava. **“This effort was only possible with the input of the Mayor Gloria’s office, Parks & Recreation Department, our lifeguards, advocates, La Jolla community groups, and the over 1,500 individuals that completed the public survey. With their input, we achieved a compromise that preserves ocean access and keeps the public at a safe distance to enjoy the natural wildlife on our coastline.”**

Prior to proposing a closure, last year, the City facilitated public education efforts to encourage appropriate and safe behavior. When harassment incidents and conflicts continued, the California Coastal Commission directed the City to take emergency action and close Point La Jolla for the second half of the pupping season. This initial closure worked, with incident reports becoming nearly non-existent.

“Over the years we have witnessed—I have witnessed—behaviors of harassment that endangered birthing sea lions, their pups, and risked the safety of the public and their children interacting with wild animals,” said Councilmember LaCava. **“Today’s vote is the culmination of a year-long effort to safely preserve this unique wildlife experience while representing the interests of visitors and wildlife alike.”**

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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