



San Diego City Attorney Mara W. Elliott

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City Attorney Wins Case Over Future of Belmont Park

The City Attorney's Office today defeated a lawsuit that sought to invalidate the City lease of Belmont Park in Mission Beach to a company that has invested more than \$20 million in improvements to the oceanfront amusement park, home of the historic Giant Dipper roller coaster.

The lease, which took effect in 2015, will bring a minimum of \$100 million in revenue to the City if it runs its full course.

The lease terms include \$18 million in capital improvements and upgrades, \$2.5 million to refurbish the Giant Dipper, and \$5.9 million in renovations to The Plunge, the park's iconic indoor swimming pool which had been closed for years before the lease took effect.

"Many of us remember when Belmont Park was a sketchy and rundown venue. Under the new lease, an upgraded Plunge will reopen, safety is improved, and Belmont Park is again a place for families and tourists alike to create memories," City Attorney Mara W. Elliott.

San Diegans for Open Government sued to halt the lease, arguing that the lease terms should have gone to a public vote and that it violated the City Charter, the Coastal Act and the California Environmental Quality Act.

Superior Court Judge Judith F. Hayes issued a final decision that found the City correctly followed the law on all issues.

The City was represented by Chief Deputy City Attorney M. Travis Phelps who was assisted by Deputy City Attorney Hilda R. Mendoza and Senior Chief Deputy City Attorney Leslie FitzGerald of the City Attorney's Civil Advisory Division.

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