

Mission Bay Park Committee Letter to City of San Diego and California Coastal Commission

September 17, 2024

Dear \_\_\_\_\_

Mission Bay has seen fireworks displays since 1968. The frequency has steadily increased over the years, from an annual Independence Day show to up to 150 nights of fireworks per year. The Mission Bay Park Committee is growing increasingly concerned over the potential harm of these fireworks displays to children, combat veterans, air and water quality, domestic pets, and wildlife.

Members of the community have repeatedly addressed the following in public comment:

1. Children. Parents of children as far away as Banker's Hill have spoken to the negative effects of the noise from the displays on their young children.
2. Veterans. San Diego is home to a large population of military veterans. For veterans, fireworks can be a traumatic experience; the loud noise, explosions, crowds, and even the smell of fireworks can trigger symptoms including anxiety, stress and nightmares.
3. Air Quality. A representative from the Pediatricians for Clean Air warned of the harm of fireworks on asthma and Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease. Even a 6 minute fireworks display can release 200 pounds of explosive chemicals into the air.
4. Pets. Pet owners have spoken about the terrible reactions their pets have had to the noise, regularly needing calming medications or removal from their homes. Between July 4<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> of this year alone, 316 stray household pets were brought to the San Diego Humane Society's shelters, attributed to these fireworks displays.
5. Water Quality. Fireworks can cause spikes in perchlorate, barium, copper, and cadmium in water. In the Sea World Master Plan Amendment, there is language that suggests Sea World agreed to conduct a water quality monitoring program. The committee would like to know the results of this program over the past 17 years.
6. Wildlife. Members of the San Diego Bird Alliance monitored the seabird colony during and following fireworks displays on July 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>. They noted panicked flights of large flocks of terns as well as carcasses of 20 adult terns, chicks, and eggs washed ashore on the Kendall Frost Preserve.

The Mission Bay Park Committee strongly requests the \_\_\_\_\_ consider the impact 150 nights of fireworks has on the surrounding community and determine what actions are necessary to significantly reduce or cease fireworks displays in Mission Bay.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

Chuck Dunning, Member

Dr. Judith Munoz, Member and past Chair

Julie Roland, Member