

April 20, 2019

California Coastal Commission. Attn: Melody Lasiter
7575 Metropolitan Drive, Suite 103
San Diego, CA 92108

Re: Children's Pool

Unscrupulous: Behaving in a way that is dishonest or unfair in order to get what you want.

I believe if you are aware of the history of the Children's Pool and the part the City of San Diego has played you will agree with me that the city has been unscrupulous in its dealings all along.

I have been swimming in the waters off of La Jolla since the 1980's. It was because I found the waters around the Children's Pool (CP) to be the most beautiful and unique that I became involved with the individuals who sought to keep the CP open. Neither the La Jolla Shores nor the La Jolla Cove can match the underwater geography or marine life that exists in such accessible depths perfect for snorkeling or SCUBA. The seawall and protected beach allows for easy and safe access for individuals who are novices no matter their chosen mode of access to the ocean. This beach is a unique asset to the people of California. It provides safety in the ocean not found anywhere else in the area.

Over those years I found myself in danger of violating the law when the Seal Rock was turned into a reserve. During those years the numbers of seals increased and spilled over to the CP as never before. After the Seal Rock preserve expired those of us who enjoyed swimming in the area became open to threats and physical assaults as well as violating the law. Two of us became the target of civil law suits by those the city worked with behind the scenes to close the Children's Pool. Their bad behavior was rewarded with a beach closure permit.

Tens of thousands of dollars spent to keep the right to continue swimming in the area and ten years later I am still swimming but the CP is closed for five months every year. The beach is too often an offense to the nose and eyes. Seals are not as fastidious as cats and do not cover their loose stools but rather leave long stinking black trails of feces all around the beach. City politicians guiding beach use policy have created this situation but have not taken responsibility for the aftermath caused by their actions.

Children's Pool once was the jewel of La Jolla is now an abandoned and walled off wreck of a beach. The ramp access that once was used by families to easily roll strollers down cannot even be used by able bodied individuals due to the concrete abutment and the ruts in the ramp paving due to neglect. This very ramp was at one time the best beach access in all of La Jolla for small children, the elderly and handicapped who were unable to handle the stairs. The City has not made much of an effort to improve access for the disabled as called for in the permit conditions imposed by the CCC in 2014.

I should not have to list the items that the CCC requested that the city fulfill for this upcoming permit renewal. The city has acted in its typical unscrupulous manner in preparing for the upcoming renewal. It has the money and the lawyers and sees that as being all it needs to intimidate and wear down any who dare oppose it.

I pray that you of the CCC do not give in to the city's tactics.

Sincerely,

David Johnson
San Diego, CA