

Date: March 8, 2024

To: Thomas B. Modica, City Manager



From: Brent Dennis, Director of Parks, Recreation and Marine



For: Mayor and Members of the City Council

Subject: **West Beach Dog Exercise Area Project**

On July 18, 2023, the City Council approved a recommendation to request the City Manager to work with the Parks, Recreation and Marine (PRM) Department and Public Works (PW) Tidelands Development Team to identify potential sites located in Council District 2 for a second dog beach in the City of Long Beach (City). This memorandum provides a general overview.

Since 2003, Rosie's Dog Beach in Belmont Shore has been the City's beachfront dog exercise area and the only off-leash dog beach in Los Angeles County. Located on Ocean Blvd. between Granada and Roycroft Avenues, Rosie's Dog Beach provides 4.1 acres of free-roaming recreational space for dogs from 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. seven days a week, all year long.

West Beach waterfront residents, residents from Central Long Beach, and all dog owners who live west of Belmont Memorial Pier may benefit from an additional dog beach site located in the western part of the beach. The beachside landscape in this area offers ample space and is similar in character to Rosie's Dog Beach.

On October 1, 2023, City Council-approved funds became available in the Fiscal Year 24 CIP fund for the activation of a Downtown Dog Beach Play Area/Dog Run project. PRM Marine Bureau has identified two possible locations of equivalent size and space to Rosie's Dog Beach at Alamitos Beach and Junipero Beach (Attachment). These two locations have been identified due to proximity to available beachfront parking in the Alamitos Beach Parking Lot and Junipero Beach Parking Lot. Staff review of dog exercise areas along the Southern California coastline has demonstrated proximity to parking as a key factor to successful implementation. Waterfront Eelgrass surveys and biological studies are required to assess the environmental feasibility of each location. PW has onboarded Tidal Influence, an ecological consulting firm, to engage regulatory groups and address anticipated surveys, studies, and permitting needs.

An introductory meeting was held on December 4, 2023, with staff from PRM, PW, and Tidal Influence to discuss the purpose of the project, planning phase scope, and the two potential locations on the West Beach for analysis. Starting in March 2024, Tidal Influence will conduct Eelgrass surveys and biological surveys in the two potential locations. Once the surveys and studies have been completed, Tidal Influence will prepare a Biological Technical Report. This report will incorporate the findings of the Eelgrass surveys along with vegetation mapping, bird-use surveys, and information about Grunion spawning in the potential areas. The report will be the foundation of a response to the Department of Community Development's Planning Bureau

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queries. Tidal Influence will also submit for California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) review once the technical report is complete.

By Summer/Fall 2024, staff anticipates issuance of a Categorical Exemption (under CEQA), and approval by our local agency (Community Development's Planning Bureau). With CEQA Categorical Exemption and local agency approval, PRM and PW will then apply for a Coastal Development Permit with the California Coastal Commission.

If you have any questions, please contact Brent Dennis, Director of Parks, Recreation and Marine, at (562) 570-3170 or Brent.Dennis@longbeach.gov.

ATTACHMENT

CC: DAWN MCINTOSH, CITY ATTORNEY
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KEVIN LEE, CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER
MONIQUE DE LA GARZA, CITY CLERK (REF. FILE #[23-0769](#))
DEPARTMENT HEADS

ATTACHMENT A - Potential Dog Exercise Area Locations

