



CITY COUNCIL
Staff Report

Meeting Date April 11, 2017
To: Mayor and City Council
From: Kevin Crawford, City Manager
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Subject A resolution authorizing a 2017 pilot program to provide peak season lifeguard services and enhanced law enforcement on the beach between Oak Avenue and the northern Carlsbad city limit

Recommended Action

Adopt a resolution authorizing a 2017 pilot program to provide peak season lifeguard services and enhanced law enforcement on the beach between Oak Avenue and the northern Carlsbad city limit, in an amount not to exceed \$300,000.

Executive Summary

Increased usage and calls for service on the beach between Oak Avenue and the northern Carlsbad city limit (the north beach) have raised public safety concerns, prompting the City Council to direct staff on February 28, 2017 to conduct community outreach and present recommendations regarding public safety service needs and the need for locking gates to restrict access to the north beach by summer 2017. This report summarizes the community feedback received to date, and presents a resolution for City Council consideration, authorizing a 2017 pilot program to implement staff's public safety service recommendations, as described in detail below.

Discussion

Lifeguarding and law enforcement services are currently provided by the California Department of Parks and Recreation on the majority of Carlsbad's coastline because those areas are part of the State Parks system, owned and managed by the State of California. The north beach is not part of the State Parks system and therefore, generally lacks these services (see North Beach Area Vicinity Map – Exhibit 2). The city maintains easements along the north beach, which allow public access and would allow the city to provide services there. The primary mission of implementing the recommended 2017 pilot program on the north beach would be to reduce risk to the community through preventive actions, user education, rescue and emergency services, and regular lifeguard and law enforcement patrols.

Staff has researched and evaluated public safety needs for the north beach using a combination of direct observations, data analysis, and the advice and assistance of lifeguard agencies operating throughout Southern California. This included research and assistance provided by lifeguard agencies serving the cities of Oceanside, Encinitas, Newport Beach, Santa Monica, Del Mar, Solana Beach, Ventura, Huntington Beach, Pismo Beach, LA County's Avalon Beach, and California State Parks, as well as Carlsbad Fire Department personnel with full-time lifeguard experience.

Based upon staff's research and analysis, a 2017 pilot program to provide peak season lifeguard services and enhanced law enforcement is recommended for the period of Memorial Day through Labor Day. Staff has also determined that the need for locking gates to restrict access to the north beach presents a variety of complex land use and permitting issues requiring additional research and evaluation prior to making a formal recommendation. Implementing the recommended pilot program would allow staff time to conduct additional research and evaluation of the need for locking gates to restrict access to the north beach. Following the conclusion of the 2017 pilot program, staff will return to Council with recommendations concerning the need for locking gates and the overall approach to safety services on the north beach going forward.

Community Feedback

Over the past nine months, the city heard from several community members expressing their concerns about public safety on the north beach. Throughout March, 2017, city staff gathered community feedback on the need for lifeguard services and locking gates, as directed by the City Council. About 150 people provided input through a variety of channels, including a public meeting attended by about 50 community members, an online survey with 135 responses, and emails and phone calls with city staff. A summary of public comments received at the March 27, 2017 public meeting is attached as Exhibit 5. Online survey responses are attached as Exhibit 6.

Although the feedback cannot be considered representative of the entire Carlsbad community, the majority of those who provided input felt there was a need for lifeguards and enhanced law enforcement in this area. Many expressed concern for their own safety and the safety of families with small children and visitors unfamiliar with ocean safety. Most also agreed law enforcement issues such as having items stolen, smoking and drinking on the beach needed more enforcement. The issue of enforcement against dogs on the beach was raised by some, while others indicated they would like the city to consider allowing dogs, at least under some conditions.

Staff did not specifically seek community input on the need for locking access gates since it was determined that the variety of complex land use issues and permitting requirements would require additional time for research and evaluation prior to making a formal recommendation. It is anticipated that, should Council direct staff to proceed with the recommended 2017 pilot program, it would provide staff the necessary time and opportunity to more fully evaluate the need for locking gates to restrict access to the north beach. However, some community members raised the issue of gates and requested the existing gates remain unlocked and no additional gates be installed.

Some community members questioned why the city had not previously provided lifeguard services, expressed concerns about the cost and thought the beach in this area should remain as is since lifeguard service is available elsewhere for those who want it.

Other beach related issues beyond the scope of the lifeguard and law enforcement pilot program included the need for public restrooms and concern about neighbor impacts from creating new gathering places as part of the planned beach access improvements.

Service Model Options

Coastal California cities that provide lifeguard services primarily utilize two service delivery models: 1) lifeguards employed by the city, and 2) lifeguard services contracted through neighboring cities, the county, or the state. Fire Department staff contacted several neighboring and countywide agencies, including Oceanside, Encinitas/Solana Beach/Del Mar, San Diego, and California State Parks to discuss potential partnering opportunities for a 2017 pilot program.

California State Parks was the only agency that expressed interest in entering a service contract with the city; however, it was determined that a contract could not be negotiated and executed in time for a summer 2017 pilot program. However, a preliminary cost estimate is provided later in the staff report to provide the general magnitude of this future potential option.

Recommended 2017 Pilot Program Service Model

Without the option to contract with a neighboring agency for services, it is recommended that the city's Fire and Police departments administer the recommended 2017 pilot program.

Due to the short duration of the proposed pilot program, staff is recommending that enhanced law enforcement and beach maintenance services be provided utilizing existing city staff and contractors. This service would be provided without incurring significant additional costs or decreasing the levels of service in other parts of the city.

Typical methods to deploy lifeguard services include the use of lifeguard towers, patrols in motorized vehicles, and on personal watercraft and other rescue vessels. The Carlsbad Fire Department will deploy resources in a variety of methods during the pilot program in order to gain an understanding of predictable beach use patterns and to identify best practices for effective service delivery. At the conclusion of the pilot program (after the 2017 Labor Day holiday), the information, experience, and feedback from the community will be the basis to develop an aquatic safety plan, scalable to jurisdictional boundaries, and to be presented to the City Manager and City Council.

The Fire Department anticipates taking a phased approach to the pilot program. Initial deployment will include two existing firefighter paramedics with previous lifeguarding experience and recent United States Lifesaving Association (USLA) training, patrolling in a 4WD vehicle. This initial phase will focus on prevention and risk reduction, and will not degrade current citywide fire and EMS service levels.

From mid-June through Sept 4th programming will incorporate the addition of seasonal lifeguards (1,000 hour employees). Increased staffing will allow the Fire Department to provide a greater measure of safety on the beach to meet the recommended pilot program service level, including three observation points, one supervisor, common communications, and access to watercraft in the north beach area.

The pilot program is proposed to run from Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day weekend (May 26-September 4, 2017), and provide the following services:

- Lifeguard and law enforcement patrols
- Preventative actions (i.e., signage to close dangerous sections of the beach and separate uses)
- Safety contacts
- Water rescues
- Enforcement by education (referring citable offenses to the Carlsbad Police Department)
- Common communications among Police and Fire departments
- Access to rescue watercraft from neighboring agencies
- Advanced life support care
- Record keeping and data collection on preventative actions, safety contacts, rescues, and beach attendance

Pilot Program Cost

The estimated cost of the pilot program will be \$242,000, including personnel, equipment, and the purchase of a new 4WD vehicle equipped with Code 3 emergency lights. Staff is also requesting an operating contingency of approximately \$58,000 and a not to exceed amount of \$300,000. For a detailed breakdown of estimated program costs, see Exhibits 3 and 4.

As shown below, the baseline cost to provide beach patrol (two full time personnel for 12 hours per day from May 26 to September 4, 2017, and four seasonal personnel for 12 hours per day from mid-June to September 4, 2017), including equipment and uniforms, will be \$197,026. Actual costs will be dependent on variables such as length of season, ocean conditions, weather, supply/equipment replacement, crowds after hours, and after hours incidents, which may require over-staffing or extended work hours. The purchase and outfitting of a 4WD vehicle is estimated at a cost of \$45,000. This vehicle could be repurposed within city operations at the conclusion of the pilot program, if deemed necessary.

2017 Pilot Program Cost Estimate

Personnel	\$188,136
Equipment/Uniforms	\$8,890
Operating Subtotal	\$197,026
Vehicle Purchase/Outfit	\$45,000
Total Program Cost	\$242,026
Operating Contingency	\$57,974
Not to Exceed Amount	\$300,000

California State Parks (State) Cost Estimate

Although it has been determined that the State is unable to provide lifeguard services on the north beach this year, the following information summarizes a conceptual service model outlined by the State, and serves as a point of comparison to help evaluate the Police and Fire departments' approach.

In the State model, three fixed observation points staffed with lifeguards, a lifeguard supervisor, partial coverage by a vehicle, and a rescue watercraft from Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day weekend (May 26-September 4, 2017) would be provided.

The State estimated their cost to provide services at \$195,000. The State would also require that the city provide a 4WD vehicle equipped with Code 3 emergency lights at an estimated cost of \$45,000. Therefore, the total estimated cost would be \$240,000.

Legal Issues

Three primary legal issues have been raised in recent conversations regarding Carlsbad's north beach coastal area.

The first issue focused on the potential for city liability, and how or whether the city's exposure to risk might relate to incidents occurring on either a guarded or unguarded north beach. A full discussion on that subject was provided in the February 28, 2017 staff report to City Council. To briefly summarize, staff determined that the city is immune from liability for a claim of dangerous condition of public property should a swimmer drown at the unguarded north beach area, as warning signs are posted and maintained. It was further noted that a variety of other immunities would apply to shield the city from liability, notwithstanding the provision or absence of public safety services such as lifeguards.

The second issue focused on access to the public beach, which is protected under the California Constitution, which affirms the common law public trust doctrine. Article X, Section 4 prohibits any person or entity with a claim to or possession of tidal lands or a harbor, bay, inlet, estuary, or other navigable water, to exclude the right of way to such water when required for any “public purpose.” The California Supreme Court includes recreational purposes among “public purposes” for this provision. (*Gion v. Santa Cruz* (1970) 2 Cal.3d 29, 42-43; Cal. Public Resources Code § 30314(b).)

To implement this constitutional protection, the California legislature enacted California Government Code section 66478.3, which declares that public access to public natural resources is essential to the health and well-being of all citizens of California.

A basic principle governing California’s shoreline is that land below mean high tide is public. California owns all land below tide water and below the ordinary high-water mark within the state. (See Cal. Civil Code § 670.) Generally speaking, wet sand is public. Dry sand can be private, but subject to easements or agreements that entitle the public to use the beach.

A “public beach” is any beach area used for recreational purposes that is owned, operated, or controlled by the State, a state agency, or a local agency. (Cal. Gov. Code § 54090.) California Government Code section 53035, protects public access to beaches and coastal lands.

The California Coastal Commission is charged with implementing the California Coastal Act of 1976. (See Cal. Public Resources Code § 30330; See also *Marine Forests Society et al. v. California Coastal Comm’n* (2002) 104 Cal.App.4th 1232, 1235.) The Coastal Act contains a legislative declaration that one of the “basic goals of the state for the coastal zone” is to “maximize public access to and along the coast and maximize public recreational opportunities in the coastal zone consistent with sound resources conservation principles and constitutionally protected rights of private property owners.” (*La Costa Beach Homeowners’ Assn. v. California Coastal Comm’n* (2002) 101 Cal.App.4th 804, 815; Cal. Public Resources Code, § 30001.5, subd. (c).) The Coastal Act authorizes the Commission to issue permits for development in the coastal zone and to place conditions on the permits to mitigate the adverse effects of the development.

A common form of mitigation takes place in the form of “offers to dedicate” [OTD] public access to the beach from the highway, or along the beach. A property owner who wishes to develop coastal property can offer to dedicate a portion of the property to public use in exchange for and as a condition of receiving a coastal development permit. (*Nolan v. California Coastal Comm’n* (1987) 483 U.S. 825; *Dolan v. City of Tigard* (1994) 512 U.S. 374.) For example, a beachfront property owner may offer to dedicate access to a path from the highway to the beach (a “vertical OTD”) in exchange for a permit to build onto his or her house. A property owner may also offer to dedicate access to land that runs parallel to the ocean above the mean high tide line (a “lateral OTD”). OTDs are recorded legal documents that run with the land – typically for 21 years from the date of recording – OTDs are only offers of easements. Until the offer is accepted by a government agency or a nonprofit organization, the interest belongs to the property owner. (See Cal. Public Resources Code § 30212(a)(3).)

In 2002, California passed legislation that declared the state’s intent to accept OTDs that are about to expire to prevent permanent loss of public access. (Cal. Public Resources Code § 31402.1.) Under that legislation, the California Coastal Conservancy must accept all public access OTDs that are within 90 days of their expiration. (Cal. Public Resources Code § 31402.2.)

Finally, the issue of whether the city has the authority to provide services and enforce laws on the north beach was raised. The California Constitution grants charter cities the power to make and enforce “all ordinances and regulations *in respect to municipal affairs.*” (Cal. Const., art. XI, § 5, subd. (a), italics added.) Enforcement of the Carlsbad Municipal Code is a municipal affair. Police officers have the authority to enforce state and local laws throughout the state. (See *Brierton v. Department of Motor Vehicles* (2005) 130 Cal. App. 4th 499, 513; Cal. Penal Code § 830.1(a).)

Research and analysis concerning these issues leads staff to conclude that: a) the city would not be faced with a material increase or decrease in exposure to civil liability based on the provision or absence of public safety services (i.e. lifeguards) on the north beach; b) the public, including the city have the right to access the north beach for public purposes (e.g. recreation); and c) the city has the power to provide safety services and enforce laws on the north beach.

Permitting Requirements

The installation of permanent or temporary structures, such as lifeguard towers, located in the coastal zone require the issuance of a coastal development permit (CDP). Locking gates or other improvements designed to limit or restrict access to the beach via the access easements would also require a CDP. Feedback and data collected during the proposed pilot program will give city personnel an opportunity to better understand the needs and wishes of the public, providing an opportunity to address these issues in the future and move forward with any necessary permitting.

Enforcement

Lifeguards will serve as a visual presence upon the beach. Lifeguards will be knowledgeable of the relevant municipal codes and associated laws and have the ability to educate beach goers of the laws when violations are observed. If the need for enforcement arises, lifeguards will notify the Police Department via radio or telephone of the incident so that police personnel may respond to take enforcement action.

There will be police officers assigned to the north beach area during the Memorial Day, 4th of July, and Labor Day weekends; additional foot patrols will occur as needed.

Fiscal Analysis

The 2017 pilot program requires an appropriation of \$300,000 for staffing, equipment, and vehicle purchase. Staff recommends appropriating the funds from Council Contingency. Sufficient funds are available in the Council Contingency account to accommodate this request.

Next Steps

If the pilot program is approved by the City Council, staff would immediately begin implementation with the goal of starting May 26, 2017, Memorial Day weekend. Staff would return to the City Council with a report and further recommendations following the Sept. 4 Labor Day holiday.

Environmental Evaluation (CEQA)

Pursuant to Public Resources Code section 21065, this action does not constitute a “project” within the meaning of CEQA in that it has no potential to cause either a direct physical change in the environment, or a reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment, and therefore does not require further environmental review.

Public Notification

City staff has maintained a list of community members who have expressed an interest in this issue and invited them to provide input on the proposed plan. Input collected through this process is included in attachments to this staff report (Exhibits 5 and 6). In addition, staff notified the public of the opportunity to provide input through the following:

- Direct mail post card to 763 owners and occupants in the surrounding neighborhood
- Emails to stakeholders who have participated in the outreach efforts for the Ocean Street Beach Access project, groups and individuals with an interest in coastal issues in general, city boards and commission members, and people signed up for the city's e-newsletter
- Public meeting attracting 55-60 attendees
- Banner notifying passersby just south of the Ocean Street parking lot.
- Online survey with 137 responses
- Facebook post reaching 1,865 people
- Facebook ad reaching 16,488 people, with 433 clicks on the link for more information
- Twitter post to the city's 9,472 followers
- News release to local media
- Notification of state agencies with jurisdiction over coastal issues

Exhibits

1. A resolution authorizing a 2017 pilot program to provide peak season lifeguard services and enhanced law enforcement on the beach between Oak Avenue and the northern Carlsbad city limit (the north beach), in an amount not to exceed three hundred thousand dollars (\$300,000)
2. North Beach Area Vicinity Map
3. 2017 Lifeguard Pilot Program Cost Estimate
4. Medical Supplies Cost Estimate
5. Summary of March 27, 2017 Public Meeting Comments
6. Online Survey Report

RESOLUTION NO.

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CARLSBAD, CALIFORNIA, AUTHORIZING A 2017 PILOT PROGRAM TO PROVIDE PEAK SEASON LIFEGUARD SERVICES AND ENHANCED LAW ENFORCEMENT ON THE BEACH BETWEEN OAK AVENUE AND THE NORTHERN CARLSBAD CITY LIMIT (THE NORTH BEACH), IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED THREE HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$300,000)

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Carlsbad, California directed staff on February 28, 2017 to conduct community outreach and present recommendations regarding public safety service needs and the need for locking gates to restrict access to the north beach by summer 2017; and

WHEREAS, city staff gathered community feedback on the need for public safety services and locking gates through a variety of channels, including a public meeting held on March 27, 2017, an online survey, and emails and phone calls; and

WHEREAS, city staff have researched and evaluated public safety service needs for the north beach using a combination of direct observations, data analysis, and the advice and assistance of lifeguard agencies operating throughout Southern California; and

WHEREAS, upon concluding the research and evaluation of public safety service needs, staff recommends implementing a 2017 pilot program to provide peak season lifeguard services and enhanced law enforcement on the north beach; and

WHEREAS, staff has determined that the need for locking gates to restrict access to the north beach presents a variety of complex land use and permitting issues requiring additional research and evaluation prior to making a formal recommendation; and

WHEREAS, implementing a 2017 pilot program to provide peak season lifeguard services and enhanced law enforcement would allow staff to conduct additional research and evaluation of the need for locking gates to restrict access to the north beach; and

WHEREAS, the focus of the pilot program will be to reduce risk to the community through preventive actions, user education, rescue and emergency services, and regular lifeguard and law enforcement patrols; and

WHEREAS, at the conclusion of the pilot program (after the 2017 Labor Day holiday), the information, experience, and feedback from the community will inform the development of an aquatic safety plan, scalable to jurisdictional boundaries, to be presented to the City Manager and City Council.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Carlsbad, California, as follows:

1. That the above recitations are true and correct.
2. That the City Manager is authorized to implement a 2017 pilot program to provide peak season lifeguards and enhanced law enforcement on the beach between Oak Avenue and the northern Carlsbad city limit (the north beach).
3. That the Administrative Services Director is authorized to transfer and appropriate \$300,000 from Council Contingency to the participating departments for implementation of the 2017 lifeguard pilot program and purchase of associated vehicle.

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED at a Regular Meeting of the City Council of the City of Carlsbad on the ___ day of _____, 2017, by the following vote, to wit:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

MATT HALL, Mayor

BARBARA ENGLESON, City Clerk

(SEAL)

North Beach Area Vicinity Map



2017 Lifeguard Pilot Program Cost Estimate

ESTIMATED PERSONNEL COST - SHIFT, FULL TIME & SEASONAL

Shift Personnel

Stays on 24 hr shift - 12 hrs. lifeguard / 12 hrs. firefighter (12 hrs. OT to cover shift)

# of positions per day	1
# of hours per day	12
Estimated # of shifts	100
Estimated OT cost per hour	\$47
	\$56,400

Full-Time Personnel

Moved from 24 hr shift to 40 hr work week (24 hrs. OT to cover shift)

# of positions per day	1
# of hours per day	24
Estimated # of shifts	67
Estimated OT cost per hour	\$47
	\$75,576

Seasonal Personnel

1,000 hr employees - staffed as needed

# of positions	4
# of hours per day	12
Estimated # of shifts	78
Estimated cost per hour	\$15
	\$56,160

Total Estimated Shift, Full Time & Seasonal Personnel Cost	\$188,136
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ESTIMATED UNIFORM/EQUIPMENT COST

Shift/Full Time Personnel

Uniforms

no cost

Equipment

Rescue Can	1 per position	\$ 50	\$ 100
Fins	1 set per person	\$ 50	\$ 250
Rescue Board	1 per vehicle	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000
Medical Supplies			\$ 1,500
			\$ 2,850

Seasonal Personnel

Uniforms

Board shorts	2/person	\$ 20.00	\$ 480
T-shirt	4/person	\$ 15.00	\$ 720
Sweatshirt	2/person	\$ 30.00	\$ 720
Jacket	1/person	\$ 50.00	\$ 600
Sweatpants	2/person	\$ 20.00	\$ 480
Hat	1/person	\$ 20.00	\$ 240
Sunscreen			\$ 1,000
			\$ 4,240

Equipment

Rescue Can	1 per position	\$ 50	\$ 200
Fins	1 set per person	\$ 50	\$ 600
Rescue Board	1 per vehicle	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000
			\$ 1,800

Medical Supplies Cost Estimate

Item	Vendor	Catalog #	Quantity	Price	total
Pelican Airway Box 1600	Boundtree	6816041	1	\$264.87	\$264.87
Lid Insert 1600	Boundtree	21604	1	\$81.59	\$81.59
Adult C-collar	Boundtree	260281H	1	\$12.21	\$12.21
Child C-collar	Boundtree	260280H	1	\$12.21	\$12.21
STA Block Headbed	Boundtree	260975	1	\$5.83	\$5.83
Adult BVM	Boundtree	D5101	1	\$11.29	\$11.29
Infant BVM	Boundtree	D5103	1	\$18.39	\$18.39
Child BVM	Boundtree	D5102	1	\$18.02	\$18.02
Nasal Airways	Boundtree	28055	1	\$55.99	\$55.99
Oral Airways	Boundtree	21008	1	\$2.91	\$2.91
Adult BP Cuffs	Boundtree	170775	1	\$15.27	\$15.27
Child BP cuff	Boundtree	170775C	1	\$15.27	\$15.27
Stethoscopes	Boundtree	5402210	1	\$9.99	\$9.99
O2 Regulator	Boundtree	D2401	1	\$107.23	\$107.23
V-Vac Starter Kit	Boundtree	590100	1	\$79.95	\$79.95
Pulse Oximeter	Amazon		1	\$20.00	\$20.00
Trauma Sheers	Boundtree	68008	1	\$1.79	\$1.79
Nasal Canulas	Boundtree	30050	4	\$0.50	\$2.00
Non Rebreathers Child	Boundtree	3058	3	\$2.90	\$8.70
Non Rebreathers Adult	Boundtree	30052	3	\$1.62	\$4.86
Shovel	HomeDepot	204412401	1	\$9.97	\$9.97
First Aid Box	Boundtree	36102	1	\$126.90	\$126.90
Pelican Buoy	WalMark		1	\$36.46	\$36.46
Bk Board Straps	Boundtree	16684	4	\$5.29	\$15.87
Tow Box	WalMart		1	\$20.99	\$20.99
Medical Clipboard	Boundtree	16806	1	\$33.99	\$33.99
Shaps Container-1 Quart	Boundtree	R1008	1	\$12.69	\$12.69
Husky Flashlight (1000Lumen)	HomeDepot	1001392674	1	\$28.31	\$28.31
Trauma Gauze, Hemostatic	LifeAssist	BA7350	1	\$36.17	\$36.17
Trauma Tourniquet	LifeAssist	TQ31	1	\$26.19	\$26.19
Trauma Chest Seal	LifeAssist	AT0037	1	\$12.87	\$12.87
Trauma Kit (PPE)	Boundtree	295814	1	\$14.79	\$14.79
Medical Blanket	Boundtree	661258	2	\$6.79	\$13.58
Box Gloves M	Boundtree	295202	1	\$14.79	\$14.79
Box Gloves L	Boundtree	17650	1	\$11.29	\$11.29
Box Gloves XL	Boundtree	17643	1	\$14.79	\$11.00
Glove Holders	Boundtree	290003	2	\$60.00	\$120.00
Binoculars	West Marine		1	\$189.99	\$189.99
					\$1,484.22

Summary of March 27, 2017 Public Meeting Comments North Beach Area Lifeguard & Law Enforcement Services

Breakout Tables

City Services

- Concerns about gates. Don't want them locked. Don't want more.
- Questions about easements, rights to access, rights to provide services, limitations
- Questions about beach access project and restrooms.

Law Enforcement

- Concerns about drinking, dogs, homelessness, fires on the beach, quality of life

Lifeguard Services

- Questions about lifeguard towers, number and locations. Concerns about blocking views

Public Comments

Neighborhood Resident

A year and a half ago I was boogie boarding with all the ladies here dressed like me. On that day, they were wise enough to get out when the water got rough. I was not that smart. So I was tumbled about by the waves and broke my neck. As I washed on the beach there was an off-duty lifeguard who came to help. Without his help, I would not be here today. Knowing the part of the beach that they are mentioning, that $\frac{3}{4}$ mile, there are senior citizens, there are children and there will be incidents that happen, particularly during the summer months, there are circumstances when a lifeguard will be required not just in the water but on the beach as well. So because of my experience I truly urge all of you to consider it's not just people who are injured but people who have other problems. There could be a heart attack on the beach. There could be a child bitten by a dog or stinging nettle or something like that. It is extremely important and thank you for letting me speak.

Neighborhood Resident

On the condo board. We are concerned about more people using the beach. Our thinking is maybe we want more mobile service, like a big jeep type truck and something in the water, seems to be the most effective. We were there last July when it was really bad and they made most of those rescues. We noticed that the water rescues were much more effective than people coming down the beach through the heavy surf.

Carlsbad Resident

Glad to see this is being looked at. As a former lifeguard, I want to make sure everyone understands that seconds count and minutes count. So having a presence on the beach as much as possible is really what is needed. I do know some of the history here and why the city hasn't taken this step in the past were both financial and liability concerns and those are still there. What I would like to see is if this is going to be done that it needs to be done right and not a token effort. It needs to be done on a year-round basis. Those of you who've been in Carlsbad for a while know that our weather is highly variable. We can have prolonged heat

waves at any time of year, so we really need to think about – summer is obviously a priority – but we need think about this on a year-round basis.

Neighborhood Resident

At the risk of being redundant, I've been at the beach many years and I've seen it morph into something very different. My family used be the only ones down there and now it is just packed. I'm talking about the lagoon area, lots more people are in jeopardy. Time is of the essence. Many times cell phones don't work down there and you can't even call for help. You can always climb up the stairs but you are losing valuable time. Our friend Judy proves that it has to be immediate when the help comes. I am so excited you are looking at this and are so sincere this time because I've been waiting for this for many, many years and I want to say thank you. Let's get it done.

Neighborhood Resident

I am new in town. We live next to the Buena Vista Lagoon in a new complex. I have a big thank you. We came from another city nearby. We called on some graffiti and in the city we lived in before it would have taken years to get rid of the graffiti and it was gone in two days in Carlsbad. Incredibly impressed with how you took care of the homeless city developing and urban core which took care of that as well were so impressive. My suggestion is to look at cities like Coronado for a night curfews. I'm not really for gates but I think if we had curfew 11 p.m.-4 a.m. and limited parking by time in the evening that might be a way to start with some of the crime. Thank you again, City of Carlsbad.

Tanglewood Resident

I've lived here for 22 years and my son is a state park lifeguard. I have seen what happened at north beach last year. It was really a nightmare for the lifeguards to go through that. I just want to say I'm really happy Carlsbad is considering this. I have a lot of confidence in my city and I want them know that I don't want Carlsbad to be another community. I want Carlsbad to be Carlsbad. I don't want us to try and do what other cities are doing if it's not what's best. I just want us to what's best for the safety of the citizens that use our beaches. That's what's important: people's lives.

Oceanside Resident

I am a resident of Oceanside but I am a prolific surfer and I love to spend time in the water. My comments are fully in support of putting lifeguards on this beach. I've done a little research into this and the City of Carlsbad, this section of beach, it is the only city beach south Ventura that does not provide lifeguards. The state park has always offered their hand, they have offered countless times, please contract with us, please use our guards. Their guards have stood in the backs of their trucks with binoculars and looked at those beaches on really busy days in order to take care of the people that are there, and a lot of people there are us, residents. But I think tourists expect that there is safety there. We have a lot of tourists there and we have a moral obligation to not only take of ourselves but to take care of those people who are coming here to recreate. It's common sense. It's what you should do. It's also moral. It's a moral imperative. So thank you for considering this for this summer.

Carlsbad Connected – Survey Report

TOPIC: Help us develop a plan to provide lifeguards and increased law enforcement on the beach from Oak Avenue to the northern border with Oceanside.

DATES: March 23 through March 31, 2017

During the summer, on average, about how many times a month do you visit the beach north of Oak Avenue (see map above) in Carlsbad?

Average: 10.48

Count: 168

Skipped: 4

What about other times of year? About how many times a month?

Average: 7.12

Count: 166

Skipped: 6

What do you do when you come to this part of the beach? (check all that apply)



From your observations, please tell us when you think this part of the beach is the most crowded (1=ghost town; 5=peak crowds):

January/February



March/April

		Response Percent	Response Count
1		5.7%	9
2		29.7%	47
3		41.8%	66
4		14.6%	23
5		0.6%	1

May

		Response Percent	Response Count
1		1.9%	3
2		15.8%	25
3		27.2%	43
4		39.2%	62
5		9.5%	15

June

		Response Percent	Response Count
1		0.6%	1
2		4.4%	7
3		12.7%	20
4		24.7%	39
5		53.8%	85

Lifeguard survey responses

July



August



September



Lifeguard survey responses

October

		Response Percent	Response Count
1		5.7%	9
2		20.9%	33
3		33.5%	53
4		24.7%	39
5		6.3%	10

November

		Response Percent	Response Count
1		23.4%	37
2		40.5%	64
3		21.5%	34
4		5.7%	9
5		0.6%	1

December

		Response Percent	Response Count
1		36.7%	58
2		40.5%	64
3		10.1%	16
4		2.5%	4
5		0.6%	1

Lifeguard survey responses

Please rate your agreement with the following statements?

I would visit this area more if it had lifeguard service.



If lifeguard service is important to people, they can go to the other nearby beaches that have that.



I feel unsafe in the water because there is no lifeguard service in this area.

		Response Percent	Response Count
Strongly Disagree		20.2%	33
Disagree		16.0%	26
Neutral		22.1%	36
Agree		22.7%	37
Strongly Agree		18.4%	30

I am worried about other people's safety in the water because there is no lifeguard service.

		Response Percent	Response Count
Strongly Disagree		14.1%	23
Disagree		8.0%	13
Neutral		11.7%	19
Agree		19.6%	32
Strongly Agree		46.6%	76

I don't want lifeguard service because it will attract more people to the area and negatively affect my quality of life.

		Response Percent	Response Count
Strongly Disagree		46.6%	76
Disagree		17.8%	29
Neutral		12.9%	21
Agree		5.5%	9
Strongly Agree		16.6%	27

Lifeguard survey
responses

Please tell us which of these laws need better enforcement in this area (1=No problem with current level of enforcement; 5=Needs a lot more enforcement):

No dogs on the beach

		Response Percent	Response Count
1		30.1%	47
2		5.1%	8
3		17.3%	27
4		17.3%	27
5		30.1%	47

No smoking

		Response Percent	Response Count
1		19.9%	31
2		6.4%	10
3		20.5%	32
4		30.1%	47
5		22.4%	35

No littering

		Response Percent	Response Count
1		11.5%	18
2		6.4%	10
3		20.5%	32
4		35.9%	56
5		23.7%	37

No loitering

		Response Percent	Response Count
1		22.4%	35
2		10.9%	17
3		25.0%	39
4		20.5%	32
5		19.2%	30

Lifeguard survey responses

No alcohol on the beach

		Response Percent	Response Count
1		24.4%	38
2		9.6%	15
3		25.6%	40
4		22.4%	35
5		16.7%	26

No public urination

		Response Percent	Response Count
1		17.3%	27
2		10.3%	16
3		19.9%	31
4		25.6%	40
5		25.6%	40

Theft of personal items on the beach

		Response Percent	Response Count
1		23.1%	36
2		10.9%	17
3		33.3%	52
4		19.2%	30
5		11.5%	18

Car and bicycle theft

		Response Percent	Response Count
1		21.2%	33
2		10.9%	17
3		38.5%	60
4		17.9%	28
5		10.3%	16

No fighting

		Response Percent	Response Count
1		31.4%	49
2		10.3%	16
3		35.3%	55
4		10.3%	16
5		7.1%	11

Other*

		Response Percent	Response Count
1		3.2%	5
2		0.6%	1
3		3.8%	6
4		1.9%	3
5		5.1%	8

***If other, please specify:**

Answered: 24

Skipped: 148

The homeless problem.

Helicopters flying TOO LOW, TOO CLOSE to homes and people on the beach. It's a HUGE safety and noise issue. Last summer a helicopter crashed and injured beach goers. No one died but it's only a matter of time. FAA laws NEED to be enforced on Carlsbad beaches.

Fires on the beach at night. People sleeping on the beach at night. Graffiti has increased. Night curfew and/or locked gates at night coupled with a greater police presence would be appreciated for these issues.

Lifeguard survey responses

no fishing in swimming area; regulation of dangerous objects that could present a hazard to swimmers in the surf zone; restrictions on launching/operation of motorized vessels; damage/removal of natural resources (preservation of beach sand/seashells); blocking/impeding public coastal access; tampering with lifesaving equipment; failure to follow the lawful direction/order/signal of a city lifeguard; vending/solicitation/peddling on public beach; tents/camping/vagrancy

cluttered with poles and people soliciting on the beach

Anyone taking pictures or video of children that do not belong to them. Survey Monkey

Graffiti

skateboards, rollers skates, and bikes often on seawall and no enforcement.

Not exactly on the beach, but the street that runs parallel to the beach between Beech and Christiansen behind the Episcopal church (can't remember the name of the street) that is mostly for parking, there are RVs that park there and live in them. I hate parking my car on that block and leaving it because they can see exactly when I leave and what my plans are (whether I'm running or have a beach chair for the sand). I don't feel safe about that.

I keep moving and haven't observed any fighting or theft.

Graffiti

parking enforcement - blocking beach access, driveways, sidewalks, etc. RV Parking on public streets overnight

Bathrooms needed

bathroom no. beach please

dogs are a real problem I have been bitten on the beach no animal control ever

The biggest problem we have had is theft from of items on patio and garage and cars in street. Every once in a while, we have people from the clubs get a little loud at night, but it is pretty mild compared to other areas, like Mission Beach or the urban beaches toward and in L.A. I like the current rules on fires on the beach. (i.e. they are allowed, but must be in a metal container, not on the sand)

Lifeguard survey responses

Excessive late night partying involving drinking and drugs on beach in front of residences on Ocean Street.

Fishing in the Surfline where children are nearby

Please leave the dogs alone unless you receive a complaint re aggressive or owner not cleaning up after dog

Dont want any gates they reduce access to dusk to dawn in the(cypress ave) gate and are subject to abuse by private property owners and have no affect on saftey stats

after Christmas we saw an incredible amount of DRONES on the beach. Noisy and disturbing. And not the feeling we want on our coastlines.

there should be no fires on the beach;....even police operators disagree on what is or isn't ok

Japanese Lanterns that are launched from the beach are a fire hazard & bonfires on the beach that don't conform to the ordinance

sleeping on the beach thru the night, the city ordinance of no fires of any kind

What else would you like us to consider when creating a plan to provide lifeguard and law enforcement services?

Answered: 109

Skipped: 63

Should already be enforcing laws because it is within the city limits. Nothing else necessary.

Creation and implementation of a junior lifeguard program. It will educate our youth about water safety(which will have a compounding effect on beach safety), teach them CPR, and teach responsibility and sense of community to our kids.

this beach area is fine

Lifeguard survey responses

I have been waiting 30+ years for the City to add lifeguard service to this area. Thanks.

Lifeguards not only respond to emergencies but a large portion of their services are preventative. They focus on warning beachgoers of potential unsafe conditions, as well as providing first aid and water rescues. Police and fire respond AFTER an event has occurred, lifeguards save many lives through PREVENTION.

This area of beach is absolutely fine how it is. There is no need to revamp public safety in the area because of a couple people complaining. I've lived in Carlsbad for over 25 years and never had a single issue with this stretch of beach. Lastly, I am strongly for public safety and law enforcement in almost all situations. That being said, we apparently have enough law enforcement in Carlsbad that they have the time to be increasingly petty with their citations and interpersonal relations. I strongly oppose any proposal to increase the number of LEOs in our city.

Because there are lifeguards on the other beaches most people assume that the lifeguards cover this area as well. That's a dangerous assumption. It makes me nervous to take children to the beach closest to my house because of the lack of lifeguards and would probably choose other beaches. Unfortunately to get to the other beaches I would probably have to drive and find parking, increasing congestion and parking problems in an already busy area.

both lifeguard & law enforcement essential.

Please make this commitment to safety. A public restroom is also needed.

None

Law enforcement is most important. Currently lifeguards are not present 12 months of the year along the portion of beach that is under state parks jurisdiction. The Northern portion has less beach traffic and the beach is not wide enough at high tide to accommodate a lifeguard stand. Plus, a stand would severely effect most of the homes along that portion of the beach. It will potentially create more problems than any good.

Lifeguard service includes "Prevention". Lifeguards constantly scan the beach to keep the public safe - if they see potential situations (i.e. people unfamiliar with the water heading out in unsafe conditions) they will warn people to prevent them from becoming an emergency response statistic. Prevention saves lives and money. Police and fire respond AFTER something has happened; lifeguards focus on prevention as well as

Lifeguard survey
responses

rescues. This area is highly visited by tourists with small kids who may be unfamiliar with the ocean -

In the last few weeks, graffiti had increased on the northern most part of the beach. Additionally a homeless encampment had sprouted up by the railroad tracks. I want to thank the city of Carlsbad for responding to our calls and immediately removing graffiti and taking action to remove the homeless. The homeless people were using the Buena Vista Lagoon as their toilet and garbage was increasingly a health hazard. Since the removal of graffiti and the elimination of the homeless camp and increased police presence, our beautiful beach is beautiful again. Carlsbad might look at Coronado's curfew on the beach (and parking) at night and the success in minimizing crime.

Please do this now. This issue is a decades old problem. I first became aware in the late 1990's when I started life-guarding for the state parks. It creates an unnecessary stress and workload on State Lifeguards. It is technically not within their area of responsibility, but try telling that to the tower guard at Pine Av who essentially needs to guard almost a mile of beach.

permanent/full time staff to be on-duty 365 days/year from dusk to dawn and based at a station/office that has clear and unobstructed view of the shoreline. Permanent staff must reside within City limits and be available for emergency response to water/ocean related incidents. ALL-terrain emergency vehicle outfitted for lifeguard response to ocean rescue incidents; additional patrol /support vehicles as needed: permanent lifeguard staff shall have authority of "Public/peace officer" in order to issue citations and make arrests for muni code violations and State codes (Fish & Game, Harbors & Navigation; staff should also monitor/record/report the daily surf/beach/weather conditions and make them available for the public via phone/internet; permanent lifeguard staff augmented by, and provide training for, seasonal / part-time staff of lifeguards utilized during summer months)

If towers are considered, they can be moved off of the beach during the off season. A world-class City should have world-class lifeguards. Jr. Lifeguard programs can provide revenue for the program.

We just need them there -- that's all there is to it!

Lifeguard survey responses

Distinctly separate the lifeguard service plan from the law enforcement change plan. The two should not be connected. I am perfectly OK with not changing anything about the lifeguard situation, but want the law enforcement enhancements.

Beaches need lifeguards during the summer months. It's the right thing to do. It saves lives.

Clearly post what dates and hours lifeguards will be on duty. Consider increasing TOT rate by small amount to cover annual expense.

I think it is an urgent matter and should be resolved before this summer season.

I don't visit the beach much anymore, but we need to provide basic safety to those who do use the beach. The beach and ocean are beautiful and we wouldn't want it fenced or made inaccessible. We have to protect the safety of beach goers if we have a beach.

should consider using the existing services already in place from the adjacent State Beach as opposed to building a separate new entity with the associated costs

Lots of tourists in the area have no idea of water safety, we need guards

Save money - buy signs: NO LIFEGUARD ON DUTY
ENTER THE WATER AT YOUR OWN RISK

Lifeguards are always a worthy investment no matter the time of year. We are famous for our beaches. It is irresponsible to not have proper lifeguard services.

Signs explaining ripcurrents for visitors. Survey Monkey

Since the beach access program will be inviting people to the north shore, we need to have enough lifeguard services. This is a dangerous beach with lots of rip tides.

The most important thing to consider is the safety of people on the beach and in the water. Lifeguard services are needed to help people and save lives.

Carlsbad has inns and vacation rentals along this entire stretch. Lifeguards absolutely should be stationed here. As locals it's our favorite area with our kids along since it's near restaurants.

Lifeguard survey
responses

Year round service. Restrooms other than just Pine and Magee Park. Placement of the Lifeguard towers.

Leave it and keep the mobile lifeguards and warn folks that don't understand rips.

This survey is geared towards residents, and the lifeguard services would greatly enhance and protect the lives of VISITORS. We care about those visiting our beaches. A tourist drowned last year in front of his granddaughter. We have a moral obligation to protect those visiting our beaches that aren't familiar with the ocean.

-
- 1) Cost
 - 2) Army Navy has life guard most of the time

Please take into account Quality of Life for permanent residents. One of the main social and physical activities I participate in is playing volleyball in this area of beach. Adding a lifeguard tower could jeopardize this quality asset for myself and other permanent Carlsbad residents.

Large number of rescues being made by State Guards who leave their posts to the south to save lives. State Guards are forced to split their attention between the area they are employed to cover and the north beach area. This detracts from the safety on the State beach. The State already faces staffing shortages without this extra burden. The City should contract with the State to provide guards on the northern beach area. This would be the most efficient approach. We would be willing to have a tower in front of our residence.

A year round lifeguard and law enforcement presence. Police and lifeguards in vehicles that can patrol and respond to public safety needs year round. Additional lifeguards and towers added seasonally. Police vehicles (ATV's considering the crowds) and rescue water craft (Rescue water ski) during summer months and the weekends before and after summer.

Please consider forming alliance with Army and Navy Academy for a lifeguard presence. I have been part of the community next to Rue de Chateaux entrance since 1964 (before that entrance) and would like to see Army & Navy Academy be greater part of this issue. My family and I are excellent swimmers and used to the rip current, etc. at beach. However, I have pulled others from ocean who are not equipped and/or aware and feel with more people accessing this beach that lifeguard presence is essential. Really appreciate the City's interest and time on this issue.

Lifeguard survey responses

The city is decades behind in offering basic life guarding services on their beaches that every other city in SoCal offers.

A roving lifeguard truck during non peak months. Coordinate with Army Navy Academy as they do have lifeguards on duty at certain times of the year.

If Packard wants to spend millions to trench the train tracks because he's worried about a few dopes who get killed, then why isn't he equally concerned with the people who drown here?

Army Navy Academy has a lifeguard a lot of the time.
Put lifeguard at Beech st. where most people are.

Times POSTED on lifeguard stations of when they will be on duty

Only offer service when service is needed

ask and provide for donations at the beach to help pay for lifeguards

Two or three public restrooms

There are lots of kids that play and swim there in summer. The tides aren't very safe and it would be better for them to swim elsewhere, but since that isn't happening, I think we need lifeguards. The lifeguards could give warnings to families and kids about tides or

I would support regulations allowing dogs on the beach.

What time of day will they be guarding? Will it just be during the summer months? How many people who frequent the north beach are tourist? Locals?

People are sue happy and my worry is that the City will be liable if something happens. Unfortunately, everyone assumes they will be safe in the water, even if they are not swimmers and the reality is that tourists are not likely to go a distance from where they are staying just for lifeguards. As a mother of a former lifeguard, I have many stories about stupid tourists. Growing up here, I went to the Beach Terrace Beach and never had a problem, but I just don't trust people to make wise choices these days.

I was hurt at this beach and the lifeguards made it in time but had I been having a rip tide emergency or near drowning I would have been lost

Lifeguard survey
responses

Restrooms. At least port-a-pottys in peak months. Trash cans

I see Lifeguards from Oceanside and Carlsbad daily patrol this area as well as Carlsbad police. The jet ski lifeguards patrol on key summer weekends as well. I once saw a threatening homeless man on the top steps one day and reported it to police who promptly responded. The beach is clean and safe. Trash cans are provided, used and emptied daily by city crews.

Rip currents and past drownings or near drownings

Enforcement of seawall rules of what's not allowed

I think it would be great to officially allow dogs on part of that stretch of beach; they have a blast and people take them there anyway.

Get rid of the \$880000.00 cameras and pay for state lifeguards This is the only city south of Ventura that doesn't have guards.

The surfers are causing issues with those that want to swim. It's very dangerous for all of us in the water when they surf right at us and we have to duck. Also some of the surfers don't leash their boards and the boards come in fast and hard and we've had to yell at people to watch out or they'd get hit with a board.

I thought this was all private property and that is why there is no lifeguard services down there

Cost -- and appearance on the beach with the life-guard stations. The beach is narrower in this area than south and the stations are unsightly.

Same coverage for other areas on Carlsbad beaches.

This is long overdue. I've lived and gone to the beach here my entire life(I'm 60+) until the rip currents and my sensibility sent me to Warm waters near the power plant several years ago.

Has the state offered to help or support Carlsbad in these lifeguarding efforts?

For small children in the area, it would be better to have lifeguard service.

Lifeguard survey responses

The placement of movable lifeguard stands would be something to consider. Crowds are thickest from Christiansen and south in the summer months.

Don't decrease lifeguard services in other areas of the beach to bring them here.

Have fire pits in this area

If additional services are approved, just extend the contract with the State to cover this portion. Hiring full-time City lifeguards costs too much.

Safety

All public beaches should have a lifeguard on duty, especially over the summer.

The main issue appears to be vagrancy. The enforcement needs to extend to the village where people are using the alleys as public restrooms and using drugs

Only during peak season. Warning signs posted at beach entrance about beach hazards such as rip tides.

Inexperienced beach goers should stay out of water! I go to secluded beaches to get away, but I stay out of water if it is not safe. Visitors should do the same.

Consider the cost to the City to provide permanent restroom facilities as well as the cost of lifeguard service in an area that is unlikely to be crowded due to the minimal parking available, especially from the Army-Navy Academy north to the Oceanside City Limits. Perhaps a compromise plan that would extend from Oak Street only to the Army-Navy Academy would be better than trying to cover the entire area?

Some type of Cost-Benefit Study might also be appropriate. For example, a few more traffic officers to control speeding and crosswalk violations could save far more lives than lifeguards on a relatively deserted part of Carlsbad beachfront.

The Northern most part of the beach is never crowded because of the limited nearby parking and the complete isolation of the southern part of Oceanside by a gated community. Oceanside does not have permanent lifeguards south of the Strand except at Buccaneer Beach. Providing expensive lifeguard service in this area would not seem to be a top priority to the majority of people who use Carlsbad beaches if it is considered in relation to many other amenities and services that could be provided.

Please consider creating a Park Ranger program for the City of Carlsbad. Even if unarmed (with the exception of pepper spray and/or batons), they could have peace officer status, direct communication with Carlsbad Police, and the ability to issue

Lifeguard survey responses

citations for most of the above nuisance/quality of life issues. The City of Del Mar and the City of San Diego both have park rangers with peace officer status that could serve as models. Designate this portion of beach a city park and provide it enhanced lifeguard and park ranger service. The park rangers could serve other city parks, as well.

-
1. Please don't remove life guards from the areas to the south.
 2. CPD ignores the people using bikes, shateboards, and roller skates in the state beach area nine months out of the year. On a recent Sunday I witnessed five violations on the lower sea wall walkway in a ten minute period including a father teaching his daughter how to ride a bike. State lifeguards tell me their patrol starts at the sand and CPD ignores these violations.

If we are going to provide services. Why can't we then allow leashed dogs on the beach. This is the primary reason. I do not use a beach in carlsbad

more dog enforcement.. no lifeguards

Have year round lifeguard service ASAP. A service needs to be in operation. Summer is only 9 weeks away until Memorial Day. Better consistent weekend lifeguard services for all of Carlsbad

consider effects on neighbors

someone who walks the beach to set presidence. Enforce the rules. Lifeguards in the stations will not be enough

safety in water

I've witnessed a few accidents along this stretch of coast that probably could have been avoided if we'd had lifeguards out. There a many tourist rentals / resorts along that stretch, and the tourists tend to be the ones with the least amount of experience with the ocean and / or with swimming. I've seen little kids (under 10) playing along the shore or venturing into the ocean, with their parents nowhere in sight (or maybe they were the ones enjoying a cocktail from their third floor balcony while "watching their children). Also, the ocean tends to be more rough in some spots along this stretch....I'm not sure why. So lifeguards would be really helpful along here.

If you are going to erect lifeguard towers, I would hope they would be in front of the public access and not block any home owners view of the ocean. I hope that public rest rooms, if erected, will not block any views and not be a smelly area on the beach.

Lifeguard survey
responses

I can see where life guard towers would be good for increased safety. Towers should be strategically located near public access points so that visual sight lines are not taken away for people like myself that watch there loved ones in the water from our home (2955 ocean street). I would imagine no one would want there view blocked which is huge. My family is in the water all day long, and my parents have the luxury of sitting inside and watching them from our place.

Towers should be placed in front of public access points, so that the ocean view from the home located along the beach is not obstructed.

The lifeguard stations and or public restrooms need to be located at the end of the public access stairs. Putting them in front of homes, condos or other residences would block residential views. Putting them at the end of the public access stairs would make them quickly accessible to emergency personnel.

If lifeguard stands are placed in this area, please place them at public access points and not in front of privately owned properties. Owners pay a high price for the peacefulness that comes from not having public restroom facilities or lifeguard stands near them.

I would like to see at least 2 LG towers on this beach. we shouldn't wait for someone else to drown before we do this. I think guards are more important than police. it is always really mellow and family friendly when I am there but I don't visit in the evening so maybe that's when there are issues.

if lifeguard stands or toilets are to be installed, they should be near the public access to the beach. They should not be located in front of the homes and condos that have been built facing the beach.

place it near public access

Life guard plan- I think they do a pretty good job of patrolling, especially when the rip tide is running strong. As far as I know, they amount of rescues that have had to be performed is relatively low. I don't know of any drownings on that beach in last 10 years. Policing: I think the owners of property along that stretch do a very good job of policing themselves and their guests and making sure that people respect beach and neighbors, Could use more bike and foot patrols at night to stopp theft and vandals.

We would not like a lifeguard tower in front of our property at 2955 Ocean Street which would block our view. In addition, at night people already party and drink on the other lifeguard towers further south. If there are restrooms they should be near public access,

Lifeguard survey
responses

but these will not stop people from trying urinating at the base of our building. There should also be additional enforcement at night along Ocean Street.

I believe we must provide law enforcement but don't necessarily need to provide life guard services

If must add more lifeguards, place them where public stairs and bathrooms already exist and make sure they are cleaned and locked each evening. As for police, please have more night patrols on the beach reduce loitering, drug use, break-ins, and thefts. The officers do a great job and are always tell us in casual conversation he/she want to focus on the "bigger" issues that affect Carlsbad's reputation so unless there is a complaint received about specific dog (re aggressive or owner not cleaning up after dog), let responsible dog owners have their dogs play in peace, especially in late-afternoon or evening. Also, so long as campfires in metal containers, they should be permitted as should basic firecrackers and sparklers lit by/over the water on 4th of July. If someone is shooting them at a building or vegetation, ticket them. For the families letting their kids waive sparklers or set of a bottle rocket over the waves, let it go for one night.

a dog beach, just like Del Mar and Ocean beach

It is a nice quiet stretch of beach where people can just go sit and read or walk without dodging frisbees and crowds. There are plenty of lifeguarded areas where families can go and swim safely. The parking around the stretch is very limited and not conducive to busy beachgoing. Just leave it alone and maybe put signs that say no lifeguards, swim at your own risk.

Please try to place lifeguard stations at public access points instead of putting them in front of residences.

Signs on beach showing location of restrooms and early morning hours for dog owners ie 6:30 - 7:30am some communities have this option

Don't go overboard

I think that we would decrease serious ocean incidents if this portion of the Carlsbad beach had lifeguards during the peak season (June-August). Has there been a study to measure the cost to the city to dispatch police and fire to this portion of the beach versus the projected cost of employing lifeguards for this area?

Lifeguard survey responses

This beach is as representative of our community as any other beach along our 7 mile coastline. The City of Carlsbad and its citizens have a responsibility to protect our visitors and our citizens on ALL 7 miles of our beaches. People's lives are at risk, and that is not OK! Second of all the best solution needs to be whatever will provide the best protection to the people at these beaches during all of the hours that people will be visiting these beaches. State Parks lifeguards are protecting the rest of our beaches between 9:00 am and 7:00 pm and they stay on the beach longer if requested ahead of time. There is a vehicle driving along the beaches this whole time and I think the towers are under operation between 11:00 am and 7:00 pm. The North Beach in Carlsbad needs and deserves and should have the same coverage.

You need to consider that the stretch north of Oak has a large number of beach rentals, hotels and a school. It also has a high number of rips. The Best Western is known as the "Death Western" due to the number of near drownings and drownings. That area is notorious for rip currents. Lifeguards that sit at the towers south should not jeopardize the safety of their beaches by having to run half a mile to do a rescue in an area not covered by the city. The city wastes a lot of money on needless things like promoting Measure A instead of paying for safety at their north beaches.

Leave that area as is. Better signage including no lifeguard on duty. Patrol Ocean and parking lots more if needed.

I think that "law enforcement" would perhaps be better phrased as "safe places for community working with engaged police staff". We are not a police state and we want to have a good relationship with our officers. We want to know that they are there to keep us safe and not to look for criminals. It is a pretty safe place, but could definitely use restrooms, better trash pick up, and lifeguards for sure. And additional measure for those who live adjacent for what they see.

Reduce or eliminate backshore flooding....there are weeks where people cannot access the beach at CVD and Beech Hotel and tourism industry should provide beach safety brochures for adults/kids who have not been in the ocean before...and should be signs warning of dangers of riptides

All beach access-ways should have gates and be locked at 11 pm

I would want to see the lifeguard towers/bathrooms on the beach at the end of the public access stairs from Ocean Street so that so that they are easily accessible in emergencies and so that beach house views of local residents are not obstructed.

Lifeguard survey responses

maintain the beauty of those beaches / safety at night/ no dogs even when it begins to get dark (not good for quality of water for swimmers)/ no dog law also needs to be enforced on seawall and beach (blatantly ignored) particularly around sunset and after

Depending on what the standard is for the length of beach a lifeguard can cover, there should be one or two stands in front of the motel areas from Christiansen Way to Pine. There should be a mobile unit that patrols to the north keeping an eye on rips and unsafe behavior. The crowd north of the Academy is not large enough to warrant the cost of a permanent guard.

There should be a more present police presence. Guards have a bigger job to do than enforcing city ordinances, and many of the problems on the beach happen after guard hours. Police presence should not be limited to daylight hours. If the ordinances posted at beach entrances are not going to be enforced, they should be changed. It breeds disrespect for the law.

How to pay for this? Forget the stupid idea of trenching the train tracks. Return the cameras that are an invasion of our privacy.

Some responses to this survey re: fires on the beach show ignorance of the actual ordinance. Currently there are no fires allowed under any conditions on city or state beaches. When the state beach had fire pits and allowed fires in containers, there were never any fires allowed north of Pine. People leave the detritus of a fire behind in the sand or dump it in the ocean.

Having taken this survey, what questions do you have?

Answered: 70

Skipped: 102

Where will the money for this come from?

None

how much money does Carlsbad have to spend? there are Carlsbad citizens in need - why not reach out to them?

What's taken so long? This is long overdue.

It's about time - thanks

Why aren't there lifeguards on the north beaches?

When will this happen?

Lifeguard survey
responses

—
none

—
Just how much is this survey costing the taxpayers? We pay consultants for so called "input" but the majority never gets what they want. It's usually all smoke and mirrors so City Council can do whatever they (5 people, possibly 4 if you exclude Cori Schumacher) want. Will it be any different this time?

—
The cost is part of the public's expectation of government - to provide safety.

—
I've only been a resident of Carlsbad for one year....I am so impressed with the City government including the police for being so interested, responsive, and competent in keeping the Village, especially the beautiful place it is. Thank you!

—
will staff also patrol the lagoon?

—
How soon?

—
Please don't allow the selfish interests of a few privileged homeowners to endanger the lives of visitors to our beaches.

The beaches belong to ALL of us. Lifeguards are long overdue at all of Carlsbad beaches.

- 1. what is the overall goal of the City in managing beaches in Carlsbad?
2. what are the proposed costs to provide
3. what are the costs to let the State provide

—
The sooner the better we get lifeguards.

—
Why is the city AGAIN wasting more money and time with more insignificant nonsense?

—
Things are fine. People can go swim where they already have lifeguards.

—
How soon can they start?

—
Why wouldn't the nearby hotels insist upon better safety?!

—
What day will the service begin? I don't think it should end.

—
Lifeguard survey
responses

This is the last stretch of south west facing coast that I dont have to worry about black ball. Please leave it.

Why have you waited this long to put in lifeguards? It is unconscionable that you have put so many lives at risk on City beaches. We hope this happens this summer, before another life is lost or someone else is seriously hurt.

1)What is the cost and who is paying for it.

When and where will public conversation on this topic be held? I don't disagree with providing safer beaches, however I hope the wishes of Carlsbad residents will be heeded.

Why would we want more parking issues and visitors on this beach ? Leave them at Frazee.

Why was the North Beach Public Safety Agenda Item taken off the September 27, 2016 Council Meeting Agenda? (At that time city staff was prepared to make the same presentation that was presented to Council on February 28, 2017.)

When will we get real leadership in Carlsbad? We need more Coris.

Why has it gone unguarded for so long?

no, thanks for addressing public safety needs.

how many accidents before you put traffic lights near Carlsbad high, Magnolia, and Valley???? 6000 kids daily and you put the traffic lights all over downtown, which does not have 12000/day crossings daily!!!!!!

Why have there been no lifeguard services or public restrooms for all of these years? This is a public stretch of Carlsbad Beach that people come from all over to use. Your lack of concern for public safety is appalling.

How soon can we get lifeguards? I'd love to see lifeguards on this stretch of the beach.

Would this mean that Carlsbad assumes or has a plan to assume municipal ownership/stewardship of these beach areas?

Lifeguard survey
responses

How will the city pay for the services? What about portable toilets for the north end of the beach?

None

why hasn't there been a lifeguard in that area during the summer before now?

When will the lifeguards be there? What is their job aside from dealing with water safety?

Do the right thing for once. Come on city.

Just think dogs, smoking & surfers are issues that need to be addressed.

I am surprised this is even an issue. Sure hope it's not a few voices making this a bigger issue than it needs to be. I also thought this was private property and that is why we don't have services there.

Has this plan been initiated because of complaints by beach-goers or has the city come up with an-other reason to spend money?

Will you consider the greater good of safety for beach-goers over concerns of property owners that life-guard stand impedes their view of the ocean?

What happened to the green foliage that lined the access stairs near McGee Park?
Could you please budget a bathroom north of CVD/Grand Ave?

n-a

None

We need amenities like food and bathrooms
survey monkey

how much would additional services costs?

you will do the best for the city

The issue is village wide, not just one little strip of beach. You need to look at the big picture.

Lifeguard survey
responses

How much will this plan cost? Will the lifeguards be Carlsbad employees, with the cost of their benefits and retirement plans included? Or will Oceanside and/or State Lifeguards be hired under contract to Carlsbad?

Will a Cost-Benefit Study be part of the plan before it is submitted to the City Council? What other alternatives could be provided for the same cost for more police, fire, or EMT protection throughout the City? Same question for more recreational opportunities? Same question for more traffic calming?

None.

CPD won't patrol beach area already assigned to them. What makes you think putting lifeguards in the area to the north will reduce any crime? What makes you think CPD will take care of this area when they ignore the area already assigned to them?

just do it

as a public beach it is Carlsbad city to protect the public in water. Tourists do not know about rip tides high tides, etc. cell phone service is poor in this area. no emergency phone or way to get help.

If you add towers, PLEASE watch the locations and place them in line with the public walkways. THANK YOU!

Will this increase property taxes for property that 'fronts' on the beach?

If it is decided that lifeguard towers will cover the beach in the area not covered now, when will it be implemented?

what do we have to do to get animal control?

I think the restrictions on fireworks should be suspended on certain holidays. We used to have firework display/contests between groups of property owners and it was well controlled and handled safely. We should be allowed to have those again. Is the city willing to consider letting us adults be treated like adults on this issue? I think dogs should be allowed on beach provided that people are responsible and have access to waste bags and disposal bins.

please have surveys for ALL actions requiring input from residents, i.e, new planning issues, barrio issues....

Lifeguard survey
responses

How about coop with Army Navy academy for beachside lifeguard tower providing enhanced safety for students and public?

The question of money should NOT come into this equation. When lives are at stake we need to step up and do the right thing. No one needs to die at Carlsbad beaches because of lack of lifeguard coverage or lifeguard's not trained adequately. They City Council need to complete a thorough evaluation of this situation and then make the right decision. I do not want to feel like this is a knee jerk reaction where everyone is running around trying to come up with a quick solution. I want to know and believe that all angles were researched and the visitors and citizens of Carlsbad are getting the best lifeguard's in the state. I am not sure if adding a lifeguard department to our current Fire Department is the best solution, but if the Fire Department truly believes that they can handle, the scheduling, and provide above average guards, than that solution could work. When I say above average lifeguard training, I am talking about the State Parks training program in Huntington Beach, not a City provided 3 day classroom training and a two day beach activities. Being a lifeguard is a high pressure job that requires people with a strong commitment and a strong resolve and that needs to be proven to someone who gets it before that lifeguard is put in a tower.

Are you going to have the California State Lifeguards add towers to cover that area?

None

What are you considering? How will you engage the community? Will the solutions benefit residents or tourists. Residents should be first priority. This is our favorite beach and the one we go to most often from the time since our children were small. We love keeping natural places in Carlsbad.

I know our Police Department is 'small' and 'stretched thin'. However, dogs on the beach are a major issue at the north end of the beach. Could another department be tasked with issuing tickets or citations when people [EVERY morning] bring their dogs down and let them 'run free'? Senior Volunteers?

If a plan for lifeguard Services is approved, how soon would it be implemented?

In what ZIP code do you live?



If "None of the above" please specify your ZIP code here:

- 91107 x1
- 92024 x1
- 92056 x1

(Note 2 of 5 responses to this question had actually responded with "92008" i previous question and repeated that response in this field)

Do you live in the neighborhood around this stretch of beach?



Do you own property in this neighborhood?



Do you own a business in this neighborhood?



Which age category are you in?



If you would like to be kept up to date on this issue, please provide your email. It will not appear on this website, nor be used for any other purpose.

Lifeguard survey responses

Answered: 10
Skipped: 162

Lifeguard survey
responses