

Minutes of March 10th, 2009 General Meeting

Meeting held at La Jolla Brew House – called to order at 7:00 pm by Scott Anderson, President.



Introduction

Scott gave a short overview of Council issues and actions.

Guest Speaker

An introduction to the MLPA by Benjamin Pister, Marine Ecologist Who works for Cabrillo National Monument and National Park Service and is a member of the Southern Coast Regional Stakeholders Group. He showed the layers of decision leading to the submission of recommendations by the Blue Ribbon Task Force to DFG, the final deciders. The proposals submitted by Regional Stakeholders and Science Advisory Team are sent to the BRTF after due deliberation and lots of public input, which is gathered in different Cities in weekday meetings. Proposed maps were shown of San Diego County, as maps A, B, and C, in varying degrees of percent of the coast becoming MPA protected areas.

Public input samples were included. Two from seal advocates wanting La Jolla full protections were in it, but one sent in from the San Diego Council of Divers was not in the samples. The reception of public input is still on, with letters and such delivered now to the BRTF, as it weighs the recommendations of regional stakeholders and scientists.

The actual carrying out of recommendations is under the Marine Life Protection Initiatives coming up. Funding comes from a non-profit group called the Resources Legacy Fund Foundation or none of this would be happening because the State is broke.

Next General Meeting scheduled 4/14/09 at the La Jolla Brew House

The speaker will be announced later.

4. Club Activities

- a. Dive Animals will meet on April 15th, El Torito, 8223 Mira Mea Blvd. and their picnic and membership drive day will be May 16th at La Jolla Shores with free boat rides for new and renewing members.
- b. The Bottom Bunch 1st Wed meeting will be April 1 at the Casa Machado Restaurant.
- c. Freedivers will meet March 28 at Naked Café in Solana Beach. Spearfishing contest in June.
- d. Underwater Photographic will be having the 40th Annual Film Festival at Qualcomm Hall on April 25. \$20 for multiple shows.
- e. San Diego Dive Club will meet first Thursday, April 2nd at Giovanni's Pizza. Looking forward to the Easter Egg hunt and breakfast at the Shores.
- f. A new club, called Scuba Diving San Diego has formed around Bill Powers and with no meetings or dues, has grown quickly. We hope this can help the representation of unaffiliated divers in the Council.

5. Children's Pool

The City voted to ask State Senator Kehoe to introduce a bill SB428 to amend the Trust that protected Children's Pool and had caused the courts at every level in the State to rule the City was obligated to restore the Pool to public use. The exact wording only adds a marine mammal park to the front of the allowed list of uses the City shall be able to use Children's Pool for. Since that contradicts other uses listed, either it will only create a legal contradiction leading to

more litigation, or the Trust will be fixed on the senate floor to make an exclusive marine mammal park the dominant possible use.

Meanwhile, seals have begun to land on South Casa and activists are busily carving lines in the sand and shooing people back behind them, and blocking the stairs at night with construction cones and caution tape. Should one find a physical blocking of a beach access, the police ask you request of anyone around to remove it, since refusal will demonstrate ownership of the barrier. If nobody will remove it, call the police and wait for them to arrive. They do respond.

This demonstrates the activists will not be happy with only one seal viewing beach, and as the seal population increases other beaches will fall, or sea lions may soon take up positions on La Jolla Cove. It also shows what happens when the City has discretion it wants to solve seal-human problems on a City beach.

6. Open offices in the Council

We have openings for Vice President, Secretary, and a director and will accept nominations at the next meeting. In fact we will accept volunteers on the spot. We have more projects than organizers.

7. Membership Cards

Membership cards in the Council have been made, and members in good standing were able to pick theirs up at this meeting. If you don't know if you are a current Council member, inquire at JLeek001@san.rr.com.

Submitted 3/13/09

John Leek, Secretary