



February 2, 2023

Delivered via email

To: Karl Schwing
District Director, San Diego Coast
California Coastal Commission

Re: Item 16z - Application No. 6-22-0078 (Del Mar Paid Parking Facilities, Del Mar)

Dear Mr. Schwing and San Diego Coast District Staff,

The Surfrider Foundation is a nonprofit grassroots organization dedicated to the protection and enjoyment of our world's ocean, waves, and beaches, for all people, through a powerful network. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this application from the City of Del Mar to increase parking meter rates at 422 public parking spaces near the coast.

Surfrider generally supports staff's recommendations to limit the parking rate increases and ensure parking meter revenue is earmarked for projects that benefit the entire beachgoing community (Special Condition 1). We especially support Special Condition 4, which would require Del Mar to provide annual free parking for qualified low-income individuals, implement an associated outreach program, and allow after-the-fact fee waivers for ticketed individuals who are eligible for free parking. We encourage Del Mar and the Coastal Commission to include visible signage re: the free parking program on parking meters and parking enforcement signage. Additionally, information re: the parking ticket fee waiver program should be required on all parking citations issued, and the appeals process should be simple and straightforward for qualified individuals.

As staff details in the report, paid parking in Del Mar is significantly higher than surrounding areas. We are somewhat empathetic with the City of Del Mar, a very small city with limited revenue sources that is burdened with the maintenance of beaches used by millions of people every year. That said, Del Mar is one of the wealthiest communities in San Diego County, its median household income being well over \$100,000 per year according to the city's most recent Housing Cycle Update¹.

¹ [Chapter 2-9, Household Income \(Nov 2022\)](#)

Whether this application is approved or not, Surfrider encourages the City of Del Mar to look at alternative ways to increase their revenue than via high parking fees and aggressive enforcement, as these methods disproportionately burden underserved communities and further discourage and prevent equitable public access to the coast.

Lastly, Surfrider previously requested that the City provide free parking until 9:00 AM as an allowance for early morning weekday surfers and beachgoers. In addition to increasing parking meter rates, the City has also incrementally expanded metered hours from 9:00 AM-8:00 PM (CDP No. 6-94-113, Oct 1994) to 8:00 AM to 10:00 PM (CDP 6-15-2123, Nov 2016). We would appreciate clarification on whether every parking space in the current permit request was also included in the 2016 approval for 8:00 AM metering. As our request for a morning allowance still stands, we'd like to know if there are any metered spots left that are only permitted to begin metering at 9:00 AM.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Mitch Silverstein
Policy Coordinator
San Diego County Chapter, Surfrider Foundation

Kristin Brinner & Jim Jaffee
Co-Leads of the Beach Preservation Committee
San Diego County Chapter, Surfrider Foundation