



# CITY OF NEWPORT BEACH

## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT *Planning Division*

October 19, 2012

California Coastal Commission  
South Coast Area Office  
Attn: Jeffrey Rabin  
200 Oceangate, Suite 1000  
Long Beach, CA 90802-4302

**Re: Coastal Development Permit Application No. 5-12-134 – Removal of beach fire rings**  
**Location: Balboa Pier area and Big Corona State Beach, Newport Beach (Orange County)**

Dear Mr. Rabin:

On September 13, 2012, the City received your 2<sup>nd</sup> Notice of Incomplete Application pertaining to the above mentioned application. We appreciate your review and provide the following information in response. For ease of reference, we have listed and summarized your comments and our responses follow each comment.

### **CCC Comment: Health and safety**

1. *How has the City documented the air quality impacts of the fire rings?*
  - As mentioned in our previous submittal, the City obtained input from an air quality specialist regarding potential methods for measuring the air pollutants emissions generated by the fire rings. The specialist noted that it would not be possible to definitively determine the source of the emissions in this situation because particulates may be generated by a variety of sources and would vary by weather conditions. The health impacts of wood smoke, in general, have been well documented. Our original submittal included extensive documentation pertaining to the health hazards of wood smoke. We also provided and correspondences specifically related to the concerns of the fire rings from specialists throughout the country. Additional correspondences have been received since our original submittal. These are provided as Attachment 1.
2. *Have air samples been taken at the beach or neighboring homes? If so, please provide the results of the sampling.*
  - As noted above, air samples have not been taken at the beach or neighboring homes because the result of such an analysis would be inconclusive on the basis that it would not be possible to determine the source of the particulate emissions.
3. *How does the City know definitively the source of smoke in adjacent neighborhoods?*
  - There are no other sources of wood smoke within proximity of the neighborhood and during the summer months, when the fire rings are used the most, residential fireplace use is limited.

4. *Are there regular air quality monitoring stations in Corona del Mar and the vicinity of the Balboa Pier?*
  - There are no air quality monitoring stations in the City of Newport Beach. The nearest monitoring station is located in the City of Costa Mesa.
5. *The City's applications notes that "users of the fire rings have the tendency to burn inappropriate materials such as treated paper or plastic creating toxic smoke." What evidence does the City have that this is the case?*
  - The City has not issued administrative citations for burning inappropriate materials, so quantified data is not available to substantiate the claim. The City's Park Rangers patrol the beach during peak times and witness improper burning; however, the approach is to proactively educate the public rather than issue citations. The educational materials are provided Attachment 2. The brochure informs the public of proper burning practices and cites the appropriate Municipal Code sections.
6. *In your August 10 letter you indicate that the City's Fire Code limits materials that can be burned in the fire rings to natural wood or commercial logs. Is the City enforcing this restriction? What is the penalty for failing to abide by this restriction?*
  - As stated above, the City takes a proactive approach in preventing the burning of materials other than those permitted by the Fire Code. If a user is burning improper materials, he or she will be served with a verbal warning as well as a brochure informing the user of the correct materials. If the problem persists and the user refuses to cease burning the improper materials, he or she is served with an administrative citation of \$100. If it is a second or third offence, the fee increases to \$200 and \$300, respectively. Again, the City has not had to issue an administrative citation and warnings are not tracked.
7. *The South Coast Air Quality Management District's Rule 445 exempts campfires, beach bonfires and ceremonial burning from restrictions on wood-burning fireplaces.*
  - Noted. The City's reference to SCAQMD Rule 445 was not to the rule itself, rather to the research that has been conducted and documented regarding wood burning smoke.

**CCC Comment: Use of the fire rings**

1. *How extensively are the fire rings used during the months of November, December, January and February?*
  - Although quantitative data is not collected for the amount of fire ring users, fluctuations in beach usage can be estimated using data collected for the number of vehicles accessing Corona State Beach. This data indicates that the peak beach usage is experienced during the months of June, July and August. And usage sharply declines in the other months with the slowest months in December, January and February. Using the peak months as a benchmark, and the observation that the fire rings are used 100% of time during the peak periods, the usage of the fire rings in the slower months can also be estimated as shown in Table 1. It should be noted that the number of fire rings users fluctuate tremendously during off-peak based on weather conditions.

Table 1 Estimated Fire Ring Usage				
	# of Vehicles/ Average Month (1)	% of Total	Assumed Fire Ring Usage (2)	# of Fire Ring Users/Day (holiday/weekends) (3)
July	22,893	26%	100%	600 people
August	21,063	24%		
June	12,983	15%		
September	8,306	9.4%	36%	216 people
May	6,706	7.6%		
April	5,489	6.2%		
March	3,618	4.1%	14%	30 people
October	3,208	3.6%		
November	1,268	1.4%	5%	84 people
January	1,186	1.3%		
February	1,116	1.3%		
December	775	0.9%		
<b>Total</b>	<b>88,611</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>--</b>
(1) Vehicle counts collected at Corona State Beach between 2007 and 2012 (Attachment 3)				
(2) Usage based on monthly vehicles averages.				
(3) Assumes 60 fire rings and 10 users/fire ring.				

2. *Please submit copies of the annual report covering the last five fiscal years (2007-08, 2008-09, 2009-10, 2010-11, 2011-12), which the City files each year with the California Department of Parks and Recreation. This document should include "a reasonable weekly estimate of the number of visitors to the area, as well as the number of vehicles" and a monthly attendance report.*
  - The requested annual reports are attached as Attachment 3.

**CCC Comment: Authority to remove the fire rings**

1. *Please provide copies of any correspondence and/or written authorization from the California Department of Parks and Recreation related to the removal of the fire rings in Newport Beach.*
  - The letter from Brian Ketterer, District Superintendent from the State Department of Parks and Recreation, dated September 26, 2012, is provided as Attachment 4.
2. *Has State Parks agreed that the fire rings should be removed from the Corona del Mar State Beach?*
  - The letter from Mr. Ketterer acknowledges that the City "did receive some form of permission from the State to remove the fire rings from the property."
3. *Has State Parks agreed to the replacement of the fire rings at Corona del Mar State Beach with other recreational facilities such as additional volleyball nets or a children's playground?*
  - Mr. Ketterer suggests in his letter that other avenues of recreational opportunities should be considered if the fire rings are removed. Suggestions offered include additional volleyball courts, an interpretive play structure and other passive recreation.

Based on these suggestions, the City presented an alternative recreation plan to the State Department. The Plan is provided as Attachment 5.

The alternative plan proposes to replace the fire rings at Corona del Mar State Beach with open access beach areas, as well as establishment of four new volleyball courts and a space net. The fire rings at Balboa Pier would be replaced with open beach access. The recreational benefits of the alternative plan are as follows:

- Open beach area provides greater flexibility for visitors. During peak summer season, when sand area is at high demand, an additional 20,000 square feet would be created at Corona del Mar and 24,000 square feet would be made available at Balboa Pier.
- Visitors would utilize the open beach area throughout the day. With the existence of fire rings, the area is primarily used in the evenings. Visitors may place their personal items next to a fire ring during the day to reserve it, but the fire rings area is not desirable for day time beach activities.
- Four new volleyball courts would be created in Corona del Mar, inland of the current fire ring location, meeting the high demand for this type of activity.
- The volleyball courts may serve a greater number of users per day, as compared to fire rings, on the basis that there would be a turn-over of users throughout the day-light hours.
- A “space net” would be located at Corona del Mar, adjacent to the proposed volleyball courts. A similar play net is located at Balboa Pier and quite popular among visitors. The net would provide an amenity to children throughout the day-light hours, while the fire rings do not.

**CCC Comment: History of fire rings in Newport Beach**

1. When were the fire rings installed at Corona del Mar State Beach and in the vicinity of the Balboa Pier?
  - There is not detailed documentation pertaining to the placement of the fire rings in the vicinity of the Balboa Pier; however, City Council minute archives indicate the City purchased and installed fire containers in or around 1957 on Big Corona State Beach. Discussions with individuals (i.e., retired lifeguards) working or residing in the City between the years of 1932 and 1990 recall fire pits in the Balboa Pier area being in place post World War II. Further research of City Council minute archives would suggest that the fire pits were created around this timeframe as a petition was presented in 1951 for their removal. It is not clear whether or not the fire pits referenced were City-purchased and installed containers.
2. Has the number of fire rings at those locations changed (i.e., increased or decreased) over the years?
  - The location and quantity of fire rings has not been documented overtime. However, discussions with long term residents and life guards revealed that the location and quantity of rings have varied since they were first established. See additional information below.

3. Have the fire rings always been densely concentrated as they are today? Did the City have fire rings at other beach locations prior to concentrating the fire rings at Corona del Mar State Beach and adjacent to the Balboa Pier? If so, please explain what happened to those fire rings and identify when those changes were made.
  - Based on the recollection of several long-time residents and former employees, 20 to 30 fire rings were located on the east side of the Newport Pier and an additional 20 fire rings were located between 24th Street and 28th Street in the late 1940s; however, they were subsequently removed in early 1960s. Although fire rings were installed in other areas of West Newport or the Balboa Pier, the fire rings at Coronado Street and B Street at the Balboa Pier as well as those at Big Corona have not changed location since they were initially installed.

As another consideration, Peninsula Park, an active sports park is located approximately 30 feet from the fire rings east of the Balboa Pier area (see Attachment 6). Although the park is not lit, it is well-utilized throughout the day and into the early evening when the fire rings are operating.

If you require any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Respectfully submitted,



Brenda Wisneski, AICP  
Deputy Community Development Director

**Attachments:**

- 1 Correspondences
- 2 Educational Brochure regarding open fires and barbeques at the beach
- 3 Corona del Mar State Beach Annual Report, Parking Lot Usage Data
- 4 Letter from Brian Ketterer, District Superintendent from the State Department of Parks and Recreation, dated September 26, 2012
- 5 Alternative Amenity Plan – Corona del Mar State Beach and Balboa Pier
- 6 Photos – Balboa Pier and Peninsula Park

# **Attachment 1**

Correspondence



# South Coast Air Quality Management District

21865 E. Copley Drive, Diamond Bar, CA 91765-4182  
(909) 396-2000 • [www.aqmd.gov](http://www.aqmd.gov)



August 14, 2012

Mr. Karl Schwing  
Orange County Supervisor  
California Coastal Commission  
200 Oceangate, Suite 1000  
Long Beach, CA 90802

Dear Mr. Schwing:

As the regulatory agency responsible for improving air quality and protecting the breathing public in the South Coast Air Basin, AQMD staff is providing the following information on the air quality and health impacts of wood smoke. This is in reference to concerns regarding particulate matter exposures that may be caused by burning wood in the beach fire pits in Newport Beach. The AQMD has addressed wood smoke emissions through implementation of AQMD Rule 445, although this rule does not apply to non-residential wood burning activities.

Smoke from burning wood and other biomass is a complex mixture containing carbon dioxide, water vapor, carbon monoxide, particulate matter, numerous hydrocarbons and organic chemicals, nitrogen oxides and trace minerals. The smoke composition can vary depending on a number of factors such as the fuel type, moisture content, and combustion temperature. A principal pollutant of concern from biomass burning is fine particulate matter. Particulate matter is associated with a number of adverse health effects ranging from decreased lung function, increases in emergency room visits and hospitalizations, and increases in mortality rates.

Smoke particles from wood burning are generally smaller than 1 micrometer in diameter, and thus within the PM<sub>2.5</sub> (particulate matter less than 2.5 micrometers in size) fraction. Both the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the California Air Resources Board have adopted air quality standards for PM<sub>2.5</sub> to protect against adverse health effects.

Smoke particles are a significant source of ambient levels of particulate matter. On an annual average basis, about 1 – 3% of PM<sub>2.5</sub> is made up of particulates from wood or other biomass combustion in the South Coast Air Basin (SCAQMD, 2008). During winter months, biomass burning contributions have been found to range on average from 1 to nearly 4 ug/m<sup>3</sup> (Manchester-Neesvig, 2003).



Most of the information on the health effects of smoke from wood or biomass burning has come from studies in communities where wood burning is common for heating and recreational uses and during smoke events resulting from large wildfires.

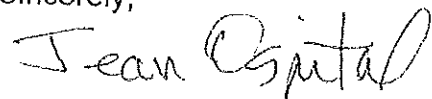
A recent review noted several studies in communities with significant wood combustion that have found associations of daily particulate matter levels and health effects, including respiratory symptoms in asthmatic children, visits to emergency rooms for asthma, and hospital admissions related to respiratory symptoms (Naeher 2007). The contribution of wood smoke to ambient particulate matter levels in these communities ranged up to 90%.

In October 2003, a series of large wildfires occurred in Southern California, with plumes of smoke covering a large area for several days. This afforded an opportunity to assess the effects of biomass burning emissions over a large population. In one study of the participants in the University of Southern California Children's Health Study, it was found that respiratory symptoms such as eye, nose and throat irritation, cough, bronchitis, wheezing, and asthma attacks, were associated with individually reported smoke exposures. Medication usage and physician visits were also reported to have increased. Risks for these effects increased with the number of reported smoky days. (Kunzli, 2006).

In another report, the relationship of hospital admissions and particulate exposures during smoky days during the October 2003 fires was examined. Associations of respiratory admissions with particulate exposures during the fires were higher than before or after the fires. The strongest associations were noted among those over 65 years of age, and those 1-4 years of age. (Delfino, 2009).

In summary, in addition to being a significant contributor to ambient fine particulate levels, smoke from wood and biomass burning are associated with adverse health effects.

Sincerely,



Jean Ospital, DrPH  
Health Effects Officer

JO:PF:mt



## References

Delfino, Ralph J, Sean Brummel, Jun Wu, Hal Stern, Bart Ostro, Michael Lipsett, Arthur Winer, Donald H Street, Lixia Zhang, Thomas Tjoa and Daniel L Gillen. The relationship of respiratory and cardiovascular wildfires of 2003 hospital admissions to the southern California. *Occup. Environ. Med.* 66:189-197, 2009

Kleeman, Michael J., James J. Schauer, Glen R. Cass. Size and Composition Distribution of Fine Particulate Matter Emitted from Wood Burning, Meat Charbroiling, and Cigarettes. *Environ. Sci. Technol.* 33 (20): 3516–3523, 1999

Kunzli, Nino, Ed Avol, Jun Wu, W. James Gauderman, Ed Rappaport, Joshua Millstein, Jonathan Bennion, Rob McConnell, Frank D. Gilliland, Kiros Berhane, Fred Lurmann, Arthur Winer, and John M. Peters. Health Effects of the 2003 Southern California Wildfires on Children. *Am J Respir Crit Care Med* Vol 174. pp 1221–1228, 2006

Manchester-Neesvig, Jon B., James J. Schauer, Glen R. Cass. The Distribution of Particle-Phase Organic Compounds in the Atmosphere and Their Use for Source Apportionment during the Southern California Children's Health Study. *J. Air & Waste Manage. Assoc.* 53:1065–1079, 2003

Naeher, Luke P., Michael Brauer, Michael Lipsett, Judith T. Zelikoff, Christopher D. Simpson, Jane Q. Koenig, Kirk R. Smith. Woodsmoke Health Effects: A Review. *Inhalation Toxicology*, 19(1): 67 – 106, 2007

SCAQMD. Multiple Air Toxics Exposure Study in the South Coast Air Basin. MATES III. South Coast Air Quality Management District, 2008. <http://www.aqmd.gov/prdas/matesIII/matesIII.html>.

Schauer, James J., Michael J. Kleeman, Glen R. Cass, Bernd R. T. Simoneit. Measurement of Emissions from Air Pollution Sources. 3. C1–C29 Organic Compounds from Fireplace Combustion of Wood. *Environ. Sci. Technol.*, 35 (9): 1716–1728, 2001

## Zdeba, Benjamin

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**From:** Detweiler, Laura  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 05, 2012 9:39 AM  
**To:** Zdeba, Benjamin  
**Subject:** FW: Fire Rings/Wood Smoke Toxicology Experts/Groups

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Due By:** Thursday, September 06, 2012 10:00 AM  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Follow up email below from Sandmeyer.

LAURA DETWEILER, MA | Director  
Recreation & Senior Services Department  
City of Newport Beach  
City Hall - 3300 Newport Boulevard, Newport Beach CA 92663  
p: 949-644-3157 | f: 949-644-3155 | e: ldetweiler@newportbeachca.gov  
visit us: [www.newportbeachca.gov/recreation](http://www.newportbeachca.gov/recreation)

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Suzanne Sandmeyer [mailto:sbsandme@uci.edu]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 22, 2012 8:46 PM  
**To:** Detweiler, Laura  
**Subject:** FW: Fire Rings/Wood Smoke Toxicology Experts/Groups

Director Detweiler

This is a continuation of my earlier message which includes (with permission) comments on wood smoke from two experts at University CA, Irvine.

[http://www.faculty.uci.edu/profile.cfm?faculty\\_id=5070](http://www.faculty.uci.edu/profile.cfm?faculty_id=5070) (Dr. Ralph Delfino)  
[http://www.faculty.uci.edu/profile.cfm?faculty\\_id=4990](http://www.faculty.uci.edu/profile.cfm?faculty_id=4990) (Dr. Rufus Edwards)

Suzanne Sandmeyer  
Professor  
Department of Biological Chemistry  
Med Sci I D240  
School of Medicine  
Director, UCI Genomics High-Throughput Facility University of California, Irvine Irvine, CA  
92697-1700

fax 949-824-2688  
phone 949-824-7571  
email sbsandme@uci.edu

-----Original Message-----

**From:** edwardsr@uci.edu [mailto:edwardsr@uci.edu]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 14, 2012 10:05 AM  
**To:** Suzanne Sandmeyer  
**Subject:** RE: Fire Rings/Wood Smoke Toxicology Experts/Groups

that is fine  
Rufus

> Dr. Edwards, would you also be ok with my forwarding your comments?  
> thank you again for the article. Thank you for the link Ralph. s

>  
> Suzanne Sandmeyer  
> Professor  
> Department of Biological Chemistry  
> Med Sci I D240  
> School of Medicine  
> Director, UCI Genomics High-Throughput Facility University of  
> California, Irvine Irvine, CA 92697-1700  
>  
> fax 949-824-2688  
> phone 949-824-7571  
> email sbsandme@uci.edu

> -----Original Message-----

> From: Delfino, Ralph [mailto:rdelfino@uci.edu]  
> Sent: Monday, August 13, 2012 4:22 PM  
> To: Sandmeyer, Suzanne; Edwards, Rufus  
> Subject: RE: Fire Rings/Wood Smoke Toxicology Experts/Groups

> Yes, please do.

> An informative and locally relevant program is the Healthy Hearths  
> initiative of the AQMD:  
> [http://www.aqmd.gov/healthyhearths/HH\\_FAQs.htm](http://www.aqmd.gov/healthyhearths/HH_FAQs.htm)

> Ralph

> -----Original Message-----

> From: Suzanne Sandmeyer [mailto:sbsandme@uci.edu]  
> Sent: Monday, August 13, 2012 11:54 AM  
> To: Edwards, Rufus; Delfino, Ralph  
> Subject: RE: Fire Rings/Wood Smoke Toxicology Experts/Groups

> Thank you Drs. Delfino and Edwards,  
> Would it be possible for me to forward this for consideration by the  
> commission? Pls do send the review that you mention. That sounds like  
> it would be very helpful. s

> Suzanne Sandmeyer  
> Professor  
> Department of Biological Chemistry  
> Med Sci I D240  
> School of Medicine  
> Director, UCI Genomics High-Throughput Facility University of  
> California, Irvine Irvine, CA 92697-1700  
>  
> fax 949-824-2688  
> phone 949-824-7571  
> email sbsandme@uci.edu  
>

> -----Original Message-----

> From: edwardsr@uci.edu [mailto:edwardsr@uci.edu]  
> Sent: Monday, August 13, 2012 9:31 AM  
> To: Delfino, Ralph  
> Cc: Sandmeyer, Suzanne; Edwards, Rufus  
> Subject: RE: Fire Rings/Wood Smoke Toxicology Experts/Groups

>  
>

above Corona del Mar beach --- I personally

>> try to avoid that beach for that reason. You are also right that  
>> there are no specific studies (to my knowledge) although I have  
>> copied Dr. Edwards who has more experience in measuring biomass  
>> burning  
emissions.

>>  
>> Ralph

Hi Suzanne,

>  
> Although there is little specifically about fire rings on beaches,  
> there is a wealth of information on the health effects of biomass  
> smoke for open fires around the world (largely cooking fires). There  
> are also a number of emissions studies which would be applicable and  
> EPA documents on the constituents of biomass smoke for fires. There is  
> a good review paper of the health impacts by Luke Naeher- let me know  
> if you need me to send it.

> There are also a number of World Health Organization documents on the  
> health impacts of biomass smoke that might help your petitions to the  
> coastal commission.

>  
> In addition to local health impacts woodsmoke aerosols contribute  
> significantly to ambient air quality issues in the Los Angeles basin.  
> with best regards

> Rufus

>  
>

>> Dr. Sandmeyer,

>>  
>> I concur with you that the fire rings there are likely a health  
>> hazard for people living

>>  
>> From: Suzanne Sandmeyer [mailto:sbsandme@uci.edu]

>> Sent: Saturday, August 11, 2012 12:26 PM

>> To: Delfino, Ralph

>> Subject: FW: Fire Rings/Wood Smoke Toxicology Experts/Groups

>>

>> Dr. Delfino,

>> I understand that you are an expert in particulate air pollutants. I  
>> am a faculty member at UCI but am writing in a completely private  
>> capacity regarding a local issue. Considerable controversy surrounds  
>> the

> fire

>> rings on the Corona del Mar State Beach. In addition to the expected  
>> wood smoke (new wood burning fireplaces and smoking on the beach are  
>> now banned I am told), people bring down various things to burn which  
>> of course adds to the complexity of the problem. The people living  
>> close to the beach (there is actually a residential street on the

>> same level as the  
>> beach) are very concerned regarding the types of pollutants released  
>> from the fire pits. We live above the beach but can certainly smell  
>> the wood fires and have been involved because of friends who are  
>> dramatically affected because of their proximity to the beach. Also  
>> there are several cancer cases in our immediate vicinity and even  
>> though the numbers are obviously too small to make inferences, it has  
>> added to the concern of locals. In addition, trash left from items  
>> burned and children stepping into the rings have caused concern.  
>> Others argue that accidents have not been frequent and people living  
>> there should not have moved there and could move away and that the  
>> fires  
> attract people and provide income for  
>> the city. I have attached a description of the problem and of possible  
>> remedies from the Coastal Commission and two letters collected by one  
>> of our neighbors which were submitted to support the case against  
>> continuing the fire rings.  
>>  
>> I am writing to inquire if you would have been involved in studies of  
>> the effects of fire rings on local air quality that would be relevant  
>> to this situation. I have not provided much information here but  
>> some of the neighborhood members I am sure would be very willing to  
>> meet with you or provide more information as indicated. My  
>> understanding of your expertise is that it is might really be closely  
>> related to this topic and I am sure there would be interest in your  
>> opinion as a UCI professor. As nearly as I can tell there has been  
>> no scientific analysis of this particular location so any comments  
>> one way or the other  
> would probably still have to  
>> be very general. At this point I think the coastal commission is  
>> meeting to consider whether to support the city recommendation to  
>> remove the firerings or to make some other disposition, at some  
>> relatively soon time, but the exact date has not been scheduled.  
>> (Fyi, the discussion is locally actually controversially because many  
>> people like to go down and have the fun of a fire on the beach.)  
>>  
>> I would very much appreciate hearing your views on this one way or  
>> the other! If you wanted to participate in the discussion with the  
>> Coastal Commission, a letter should be sent directly to:  
>>  
>> California Coastal Commission  
>> Mr. Karl Schwing  
>> Supervisor, Orange County  
>> 200 Oceangate, Suite 1000  
>> Long Beach, CA  
>> 90802  
>>  
>> At any rate, thank you for taking time to read this far. I hope you  
>> can take some interest in this issue and provide your views or  
>> references to relevant studies on the likely seriousness of the  
>> health  
> risk.  
>>  
>> Suzanne  
>>  
>>  
>>

>>  
>> Suzanne Sandmeyer  
>> Professor  
>> Department of Biological Chemistry  
>> Med Sci I D240  
>> School of Medicine  
>> Director, UCI Genomics High-Throughput Facility University of  
>> California, Irvine Irvine, CA 92697-1700  
>>  
>> fax 949-824-2688  
>> phone 949-824-7571  
>> email sbsandme@uci.edu<mailto:sbsandme@uci.edu>  
>>  
>> From: Barbara Peters [mailto:barbaraannpeters@gmail.com]  
>> Sent: Monday, July 23, 2012 10:11 AM  
>> To: Suzanne Sandmeyer  
>> Subject: Fwd: Fire Rings/Wood Smoke Toxicology Experts/Groups  
>>  
>> Hi Suzanne,  
>>  
>> Attached is the information the city submitted to the Coastal  
>> Commission requesting permission to remove the fire rings for health  
>> and safety concerns.  
>>  
>> Also, attached are examples of letters that experts have submitted to  
>> the Coastal Commission.  
>>  
>> I hope this will provide enough background information for your  
>> contact at UCI to consider writing a letter. Let me know if you'd  
>> like to  
> see more.  
>>  
>> Thank you!  
>>  
>> Barbara  
>>  
>> ----- Forwarded message -----  
>> From: Detweiler, Laura  
>> <LDetweiler@newportbeachca.gov<mailto:LDetweiler@newportbeachca.gov>>  
>> Date: Thu, May 17, 2012 at 4:33 PM  
>> Subject: RE: Fire Rings/Wood Smoke Toxicology Experts/Groups  
>> To: Barbara Peters  
>> <barbaraannpeters@gmail.com<mailto:barbaraannpeters@gmail.com>>  
>> Hi Barbara,  
>>  
>> Per your request I have attached the justification for fire ring  
>> removal that was included in the Coastal Development permit.  
>>  
>> Laura Detweiler, MA | Director  
>> Recreation and Senior Services Department City of Newport Beach  
>> p: (949) 644-3157<tel:%28949%29%20644-3157> | f: (949)  
>> 644-3155<tel:%28949%29%20644-3155>  
>> ldetweiler@newportbeachca.gov<mailto:ldetweiler@newportbeachca.gov>  
>> visit us: www.newportbeachca.gov<http://www.newportbeachca.gov>  
>>  
>> [cid:image001.jpg@01CD77E3.84535DF0]  
>>

>> From: Barbara Peters  
>> [mailto:barbaraannpeters@gmail.com<mailto:barbaraannpeters@gmail.com>  
>> ]  
>> Sent: Thursday, May 17, 2012 10:56 AM  
>> To: Detweiler, Laura  
>> Subject: Fire Rings/Wood Smoke Toxicology Experts/Groups  
>>  
>> Dear Laura,  
>>  
>> I'm looking for some guidance. In addition to Dr. Lipsett I have  
>> found several wood smoke toxicology experts who agreed to send  
>> letters/emails to the CCC regarding the health effects of wood smoke,  
>> and I would like to ask them to do this when the timing is right.  
>> I'd like to give these people specific details as to who they should  
>> address, and when they should send their letters/emails.  
>>  
>> These experts are:  
>>  
>> \* Mark Z. Jacobson, a Professor at Stanford, a Director of the  
>> Atmosphere/Energy Program, and a Senior Fellow of the Woods Institute  
>> for the Environment. Mr. Jacobson said, "I might be able to send a  
>> short letter about the health effects of particles and the buildup of  
>> particle concentrations at night on a beach. I could give you the  
>> letter to submit but would need the Coastal Commission address".  
>>  
>> \* Dr. David Brown, associated with Yale University, said, "I would be  
>> very happy to develop a letter. I get quite busy but do not mind  
>> reminders. Let me know when you need something".  
>> \* Nancy Alderman, president of a Yale group, EHHI (Environment and  
>> Human Health), said, "I will be glad to send a letter as well as Dr.  
>> David Brown".  
>> Also, I have become connected with two groups who are working to  
>> reduce particle pollution. The first has asked me to submit an  
>> article for their next monthly wood smoke newsletter that goes out to  
>> an email list of people throughout the US and Canada. They suggested  
>> I provide contact information so their readers can email the CCC.  
>> The second group is called Mom's Clean Air Force out of Washington  
>> DC, and I would like to ask them to put out a request to their  
>> members to email the CCC urging them to consider the health effects  
>> of  
wood smoke.  
>>  
>> If you have any input or if you think the city would have concerns  
>> with my doing these things., please let me know. Again, I'm looking  
>> for specific contact info. at the CCC that I could provide to both of  
>> these groups and these experts as well as any suggestion as to when  
>> is best for people to send letters/emails.  
>>  
>> Many thanks for your help!  
>>  
>>  
>> --  
>> Barbara A. Peters  
>> barbaraAnnPeters@gmail.com<mailto:barbaraAnnPeters@gmail.com>  
>> (949) 230-7409<tel:%28949%29%20230-7409> cell  
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>> Barbara A. Peters  
>> barbaraAnnPeters@gmail.com<mailto:barbaraAnnPeters@gmail.com>  
>> (949) 230-7409<tel:%28949%29%20230-7409> cell  
>>  
>  
>  
>  
>

## **Attachment 2**

Educational Brochure regarding open fires  
and barbeques at the beach



**NO OPEN FIRES  
OR BARBEQUES  
ON THE BEACH**

**FIRES IN DESIGNATED  
FIRE RINGS ONLY**  
(No BBQs inside/on fire rings)

**N.B.M.C. 11.08.010 &  
FIRE CODE 307.4.2.1**

**NO BBQ'S ALLOWED AT THIS  
PARK, BEACH OR PARKING LOT**

NBMC/Fire Code Sections 11.08.010 and 307.4.2.1 make BBQ's at this beach and park a misdemeanor punishable by up to one year in county jail and up to \$1,000.00 fine.



For more information, please visit  
**WWW.NEWPORTBEACHCA.GOV**

Please help us keep our parks/beaches safe and clean by abiding by these regulations:



No BBQ's allowed at this park, beach or parking lot



No Alcohol



No Smoking within 100 ft of park or beach



No Glass Containers



No enclosed Tents



Only wood is to be burned in the fire pits. **NO PALLET BURNING & NO CHARCOAL BRIQUETTES**



**NO OPEN FIRES, OR BARBEQUES ON THE BEACH**

**FIRES IN DESIGNATED FIRE RINGS ONLY**  
(No BBQs inside/on fire rings)

**N.B.M.C. 11.08.010 & FIRE CODE 307.4.2.1**



**WWW.NEWPORTBEACHCA.GOV**

# **Attachment 3**

Corona del Mar State Beach Annual  
Report, Parking Lot Usage Data





Corona Del Mar State Beach  
 Locally-Operated State Parks Unit  
 Annual Report submitted by the City of Newport Beach

Fiscal Year: 2011-12

	July		August		September		October		November		December		Sub Totals
	Month	avg/Week	Month	avg/Week	Month	avg/Week	Month	avg/Week	Month	avg/Week	Month	avg/Week	
Attendance	448,704	104,697	371,669	86,723	125,976	29,394	57,790	13,484	28,336	6,612	36,254	8,459	1,068,729
Vehicles	19,366	4,519	15,228	3,553	5,279	1,232	1,907	445	426	99	523	122	42,729
Revenue	\$287,019	\$66,971	\$220,878	\$51,538	\$78,973	\$18,427	\$27,392	\$6,391	\$6,090	\$1,421	\$7,543	\$1,760	\$627,895

	January		February		March		April		May		June		Sub Totals
	Month	avg/Week	Month	avg/Week	Month	avg/Week	Month	avg/Week	Month	avg/Week	Month	avg/Week	
Attendance	51,549	12,028	40,828	9,526	56,244	13,124	124,355	29,016	144,736	33,772	268,738	62,705	686,450
Vehicles	706	165	799	186	1,582	369	3,625	846	5,073	1,184	12,060	2,814	23,845
Revenue	\$10,101	\$2,357	\$11,343	\$2,647	\$22,811	\$5,323	\$53,202	\$12,414	\$81,209	\$18,949	\$176,205	\$41,115	\$354,871

Noteworthy Events:  
 Concession tenant began operations at end of May 2012.

	Totals
Attendance	1,755,179
Vehicles	66,574
Revenue	\$982,766

CDM State Beach Revenue and Expenses		
<b>Revenue</b>		
Day Pass Parking		962,912
Annual Pass Parking		148,826
Concession Rent		2,972
	<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>1,114,710</b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
Parking Lot Staff		164,240
Lifeguards		511,154
Park Patrol		16,415
Law Enforcement		484,980
Beach & Parking Lot Maintenance		235,185
	<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>1,411,975</b>
	<b>NET INCOME (LOSS)</b>	<b>(297,265)</b>



## **Attachment 4**

Letter from State Department of Parks &  
Recreation



DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

Orange Coast District  
3030 Avenida Del Presidente  
San Clemente, CA 92672

Janelle R. Beland, Acting Director

September 26, 2012

To: City of Newport Beach  
P.O. Box 1768  
Newport Beach, CA 92658  
Attn: Laura Detweiler

Dear Ms. Detweiler:

This letter is to fulfill the requirements posed by the California Coastal Commission concerning Coastal Development Permit Application No. 5-12-134, concerning correspondence and/or written authorization related to the removal of fire rings in Corona del Mar State Beach.

Corona del Mar State Beach is owned by the State of California, Department of Parks and Recreation and managed through an operating agreement by the City of Newport Beach. The 1999/2000 Budget Act authorized the agreement for a term of thirty (30) years, commencing on August 19, 1999 and ending on August 18, 2029.

Under this agreement, "the City agrees to develop, operate, and maintain the premises as a public recreational beach and park with related concession and other facilities all accessible and subject to the use and enjoyment of the general public. Such development and operation of the premises shall be conducted in accordance with all applicable federal, state, and local government statutes, laws, or regulations."

The agreement further states the City may, upon written permission of California State Parks, improve the premises; however, the improvements shall not adversely affect the public's use and enjoyment of the premises.

Through discussions with former District Superintendent, Kenneth Kramer, the State verbally acknowledged the City's ability to utilize best management practices when determining if fire rings should be removed from Corona del Mar State Beach.

California State Parks, while not in agreement with the decision, recognizes the large maintenance costs and potential liabilities associated with fire rings on the beach and would ask the City of Newport Beach to provide other avenues of recreational opportunities for the visitors which require little or no infrastructure of development if fire rings are to be removed. These opportunities may include additional volleyball courts, interpretive play structure, or other agreed upon avenues for passive recreation.

Based on the interpretation of the contract and discussions between the City of Newport Beach and former District Superintendent K. Kramer, we believe the City did receive some form of permission from the State to remove fire rings from the property. However, California State Parks believes the current fire rings to be a public benefit, which invites a more diverse visitor population to this unique recreational area. It is in the interest of these visitors that the State requests that if the fire rings are to be removed, the City enter into discussions with our offices to discuss other opportunities for passive recreation within the area which benefit all visitors.




Respectfully,

Brian Ketterer  
District Superintendent

# **Attachment 5**

Alternative Amenity Plan – Corona del Mar  
State Beach and Balboa Pier

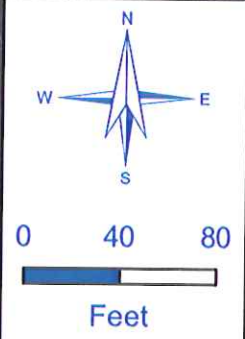


-  Space Net (Proposed)
-  Lifeguard Area
-  Public Access
-  Vehicle/Public Access
-  Emergency Vehicle Pathway
-  Volleyball Courts (Proposed)

Open Access Beach Area  
(To replace fire rings)

Lifeguard Parking

Wind Direction

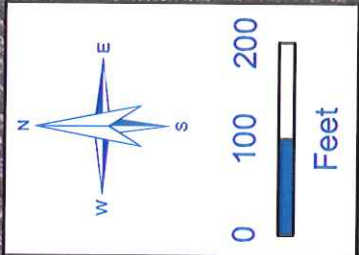







Open Access Beach Area  
(To replace fire rings)

Open Access Beach Area  
(To replace fire rings)





East of Balboa Pier

12,524 sf





West of Balboa Pier







19,639 sf



# **Attachment 6**

Photos – Balboa Pier and Peninsula Park















