



Date: November 7, 2022

To: Thomas B. Modica, City Manager *T.M.*

From: Christopher J. Garner, General Manager of Long Beach Water *C. Garner*

For: Mayor and Members of the City Council

Subject: Under Ocean Floor Seawater Intake and Discharge Demonstration Project

Background

About 15 years ago, with approval from the Coastal Commission, the Water Department installed an Under Ocean Floor Seawater Intake and Discharge Demonstration Project (Project) at the beach near Junipero (see attached maps).

This was a major project that involved quite a construction along about 700 feet of beach and also some extensive shoring to push back the ocean water while an intake pipeline and discharge pipeline were built at the ends of the pipeline along the beach, extending outward into the ocean.

This was a temporary research project with a Coastal Commission requirement that the City remove the Project in 2010. We were granted a two-year extension in 2009, a five-year extension in 2011, another five-year extension in 2016, and a final one-year extension in May of this year with the express understanding that no further extensions would be granted and that the Project must be removed during the beach's off-season, by no later than May 26, 2023, before Memorial Day weekend.

In June 2021, Water's design team's construction staging area, consisting of the entire eastern portion of the Junipero Beach parking lot, was shared with Public Works and PR&M. With no objections, Water moved forward and received the Regional Water Quality Control Board's permit in November 2021 and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers permit in March 2022.

Unfortunately, this major construction project will temporarily impact the Saltwater Deck restaurant due to the Project location as well as the extensive construction staging area required. While it is not uncommon for construction projects to impact nearby businesses, this Project is very unique owing to the completely isolated nature of the restaurant on the beach with very limited alternative parking and accessibility options.

Discussions with Saltwater Deck

As there is no ability to delay the Project removal, the Water Department has been working with the owners of Saltwater Deck for the past 2-3 weeks to see what measures can be taken to lessen the Project's impact to the business of the restaurant. The owners have been very cooperative. The primary concerns are to make sure that the public is aware that the restaurant remains fully open for business, that accessibility is maintained, that the customer experience is maintained to the extent possible, and that accessibility continues for both product deliveries and for customer food delivery services such as Uber Eats. Working with the restaurant owners and the Project contractor (Contractor), we have reached agreement on some initial options to implement, as follows:

- Temporary signing using Saltwater Deck's logo will be made very visible to notify the public that the restaurant is open for business during construction. Directional arrows pointing to the restaurant will be placed along the fencing. At Saltwater Deck's request, a temporary sign will be installed, pointing to where deliveries can be made.
- Saltwater Deck requested that the Project's mesh fencing to show art work or Cityscapes on the fencing fronting the restaurant, instead of regular green mesh. Water will work with our Contractor and Public Works/Development Services on obtaining fencing that is eye catching with clear signs indicating Saltwater Deck's "Open for Business".
- The Contractor will create a fenced section of the northwest corner of the east parking lot to facilitate the delivery trucks and the customer food delivery services.
- Saltwater Deck requested use of a flatbed cart to bring deliveries from the far end of the east parking lot to the restaurant. The cart will be driven from the delivery area, along the adjacent bike path, to the restaurant. Water will offer to reimburse Saltwater Deck for the cost of the flatbed cart rental.
- Part of the Contractor's extensive staging area plan would obstruct the ocean view from the restaurant's seating area. We are working with the Contractor to see if the fencing layout could be modified, if the sequencing of construction could reduce the timeframe of this obstruction, etc. The Contractor will get back to us.
- As the actual construction progresses, Water will continue to have ongoing discussions with the owners of Saltwater Deck to ascertain if any other accommodation options might be appropriately considered. An example for future consideration will be the possibility of a golf cart-type transportation being temporarily provided to transport restaurant customers to and from the restaurant

and the available west end of the parking lot due to the Project's staging area encompassing all of the east end of the parking lot, adjacent to the restaurant.

- While there was thought about possibly moving Saltwater Deck's sitting area east to enable the continued ocean view, that will not be doable as with the pending liquor license, there is a requirement for the customers who purchase alcohol to be fully visible from the restaurant.
- On a weekly basis, the Contractor will be providing Water with 3-week look ahead schedules. Water will share this information with Saltwater Deck to that they are aware, in advance, of the construction activities for the duration of the Project.
- Move-in date by our Contractor is November 9, 2022. While we don't have the initial schedule yet, the fencing around the staging area is expected to start going up sometime next week.

Should you have any questions, please contact me at (562) 570-2318.

Attachments

cc: Long Beach Board of Water Commissioners
Charles Parkin, City Attorney
Douglas P. Haubert, City Prosecutor
Laura L. Doud, City Auditor
Linda F. Tatum, Assistant City Manager
Teresa Chandler, Deputy City Manager
Katy Nomura, Deputy City Manager
April Walker, Administrative Deputy City Manager
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