



May 2, 2025

Delivered via email

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

Re: W7e - Permit No. 6-25-0109 (Loews Coronado Bay Resort and California State Parks, Coronado)

Honorable Commissioners,

The Surfrider Foundation is a nonprofit grassroots organization dedicated to the protection and enjoyment of our world's ocean, waves, and beaches through a powerful network. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this permit application. We share staff's concerns about public access, but support this partnership between Loews Coronado and California State Parks thanks to the agreed-upon conditions for this permit.

Surfrider appreciates the entire suite of special conditions in the permit to ensure that the concession stand, *and especially the area they've been allotted to set up beach chairs and umbrellas for hotel guests and the public*, does not create the perception of a private beach area. We support the requirements to limit the area and amount of rental equipment, the price caps on rentals for the general public, and the additional signage intended to educate beachgoers.

We also appreciate the condition to prohibit the concessionaire from selling single-use plastic items to beachgoers, along with the installation of a water refill station. The San Diego County Chapter conducts over 100 beach cleanups every year at beaches countywide; year after year, single-use plastics dominate what we remove from our beaches. 83% of over 400,000 items collected by our volunteers in 2024 were made from plastic, the vast majority consisting of single-use plastic items or fragments. Any business operating on public lands should have strong restrictions on selling the very items that consistently trash our environment and harm wildlife. The beach is a special place, so special rules *must* apply. Thank you for taking an assertive approach to reducing single-use plastic pollution in CDP applications.

We believe that if the conditions are followed, the Loews Coronado concession stand will provide a net benefit to Silver Strand beachgoers. Additionally, the income from the operation is an important source of revenue for the maintenance, operations, and programming at Silver Strand State Beach. It would be a shame for the CA State Parks to lose this additional funding.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Mitch Silverstein
Sr. San Diego Policy Coordinator
Surfrider Foundation
619.736.7757
msilverstein@sandiego.surfrider.org