



April 10, 2026

Chair Harmon and Commissioners
California Coastal Commission
455 Market Street
San Francisco, California 94105

Via Email

SanDiegoCoast@coastal.ca.gov

**Re: Item W10b April 2026 Application No. 6-26-0102 (SeaWorld, San Diego)
Environmental Group Comments in Support**

Dear Chair Harmon and Commissioners:

Please accept these comments on behalf of Coastal Environmental Rights Foundation and San Diego Coastkeeper **in support** of Wednesday's Agenda Item 10b, SeaWorld's application for a Coastal Development Permit for a drone study. Coastal Environmental Rights Foundation (CERF) is a nonprofit environmental organization founded by surfers in 2008 for the protection and enhancement of California's coastal resources. The purposes of CERF are to aid the enforcement of environmental laws, raise public awareness about coastal environmental issues, encourage environmental activism, and generally act to defend natural resources in coastal areas.

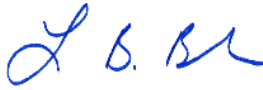
San Diego Coastkeeper (Coastkeeper) works to protect and restore the waters of the San Diego region through water quality monitoring, advocacy, education, community engagement, and enforcement. San Diego Coastkeeper is a major force in transforming the San Diego region into a leader in sustainable water management, guided by engaged and informed communities, and protective of a healthy environment that supports high biodiversity, resilient ecosystems, and thriving neighborhoods.

CERF and Coastkeeper have a long history of advocacy on the issue of fireworks discharges over water, in the coastal zone, and in particular, within Mission Bay. Most recently, CERF and Coastkeeper filed suit against SeaWorld related to its fireworks discharges to water and land. The instant CDP application is a signal to the community, including CERF and Coastkeeper, that SeaWorld is committed to a more sustainable future. As reflected in the staff report, drones are a viable, environmentally responsible, and less impactful alternative to fireworks. Therefore, CERF and Coastkeeper would like to register their strong support for the CDP.

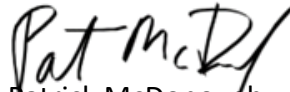
It is also worth mentioning that as San Diego was the first region in the nation to regulate fireworks discharges over water under the Clean Water Act, both the Port of San Diego and now SeaWorld are seriously pursuing drones as an alternative to fireworks. With the support of the Commission and staff, San Diego has proven to be at the forefront of resource protection. CERF and Coastkeeper are grateful for the Commission's continued leadership on this issue as well. We look forward to SeaWorld's implementation of the CDP and to supporting its transition to a more sustainable, unique experience for visitors, the local community, and the environment.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Livia B. Beaudin
Legal Director,
Coastal Environmental Rights Foundation



Patrick McDonough
Senior Attorney,
San Diego Coastkeeper