

Judge Taylor's ruling on November 13 dismissing the O'Sullivan case and vacating the order to dredge the beach was a great victory for children, seals, San Diegans, visitors from around the world, and the City of San Diego.

Thanks to the State Legislature for amending the 1931 Tidelands grant to include a marine mammal park at Casa Beach.

The creation of the park rests in the hands of our City Council. Shared use must be re-examined as the policy will only continue to cause conflicts between beach vs..seal advocates, often requiring police intervention and the daily disturbances by people standing within a few feet of resting seals. The rope placed during pupping season should be left up all year.

NOAA should replace signs indicating a 50' distance from the seals is recommended. Other improvements could include installing telescopes for close-up viewing, and closing the beach at night. Casa Beach Marine Mammal park could become a world-class tourist destination, if planned correctly.

SB 428 will become law on January 1. Decisions made now can allow harbor seals greater protection in their natural environment and end the conflict at the beach.

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