



December 26, 2025

TO: Each Supervisor

FROM: Gary Jones, Director

SUBJECT: **SECOND MARINE MAMMAL REGIONAL CONVENING - 15-DAY
REPORT (ITEM 22, AGENDA OF MAY 6, 2025)**

Caring for Our Coast

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Gary Jones
Director

Amy M. Caves
Chief Deputy Director

LaTayvius R. Alberty
Deputy Director

Warren Ontiveros
Deputy Director

On May 6, 2025, your Board took several actions to address a rise in stranded marine mammals along Los Angeles County (County) beaches, approving the motion, “Urgent Response to a Rise in Stranded Marine Mammals Affected by Domoic Acid Along Los Angeles County Beaches.” Amongst the various directives in the motion, your Board directed the Department of Beaches and Harbors (DBH) to: a.) Lead and coordinate a regional convening within 60 days, bringing together all relevant jurisdictions and agencies along the Los Angeles County coastline – including, but not limited to, individual coastal cities, pertinent County offices, state and federal representatives and agencies, and other key stakeholders, to create a shared understanding, promote cross-agency collaboration, and identify actionable strategies and resources including but not limited to sustainable equitable funding mechanisms to mitigate the impacts of the Domoic Acid Crises; b.) Establish a schedule for a regular convening, meeting as needed, but at minimum quarterly, to monitor progress, share updates, and further coordinate ongoing response and mitigation efforts; and c.) Report back to the Board in writing with a summary report, including identified strategies, recommendations, progress, and next steps within 15 days following each convening.

As reported in the 60-day report, dated July 7, 2025, in coordination with your staff, DBH held the inaugural Marine Mammal Regional Convening (Convening) on June 26, 2025. On December 11, 2025, DBH facilitated a second Convening, which included representatives from the offices of Congressman Ted Lieu, State Senator Ben Allen, Assemblyman Mike Gipson, California Department of Parks and Recreation, Councilmember Tim McOsler; coastal cities, including Manhattan Beach, Redondo Beach, and Santa Monica; Los Angeles County Fire Department’s Lifeguard Division, Los Angeles County Beach Commission; California Wildlife Center, and Marine Mammal Care Center (MMCC).

Attendees received a verbal summary of the motion, as well as agenda items and ideas for long-term solutions that were discussed during the first Convening. Based on the proposed sustainable solutions, DBH provided an overview of short-term solutions that could be implemented, such as educational campaigns, tabling space at County-sponsored events, beach safety signage focusing on reporting stranded animals, and



inclusion in the County Charitable Giving Campaign. Participants also received updates from agencies on their recent activities to address marine mammal care services, which included but are not limited to:

- John Warner, Chief Executive Officer of MMCC, reported on recent sea lion strandings in California, provided updates on current patients, stressed the need for preparedness for future strandings through stronger partnerships and increased response capacity, and thanked partner agencies that have signed service agreements.
- DBH highlighted its collaboration with MMCC, including FY 2024–25 funding for medical services, community outreach at Burton Chace Park in Marina del Rey, a beach signage program, and a planned multi-year services agreement for County-owned and operated beaches.
- Mayor James Light outlined Redondo Beach's support for MMCC, including offering space for a new facility and exploring expansion of the marine mammal barge.

During the Convening, funding challenges and preparedness for marine mammal strandings were also discussed, particularly in light of upcoming major events such as the 2026 World Cup and 2028 Olympics in Los Angeles. Mr. Warner also emphasized the need for sustained funding to hire additional responders and maintain capacity, as well as the importance of regional collaboration.

We anticipate holding another Convening in February 2026, during which participants will continue brainstorming ideas to develop a long-term strategy for regional collaboration on marine mammal issues. Meanwhile, DBH will continue to assess and provide updates on the feasibility of proposed funding ideas for long-term support of marine mammal response.

GJ:AC

c: Beach Board Deputies
Marina Board Deputies
Executive Office of the Board of Supervisors
Chief Executive Officer
Office of Emergency Management