

MINUTE ITEM

6/27/74
CRK

32. AUTHORIZATION FOR HOLDING A PUBLIC HEARING IN MONTEREY CONCERNING ESTABLISHING AN UNDERWATER PARK IN A PORTION OF CARMEL BAY, MONTEREY COUNTY - W 20756.

After consideration of Calendar Item 31 attached, and upon motion duly made and carried, the following resolution was adopted:

THE COMMISSION AUTHORIZES THE DIVISION TO HOLD A PUBLIC HEARING IN THE MONTEREY AREA ON THE SUBJECT OF LAND USE IN CARMEL BAY, INCLUDING DEVELOPMENT OF REGULATIONS TO PROTECT SIGNIFICANT ENVIRONMENTAL VALUES OF THE BAY PURSUANT TO PUBLIC RESOURCES CODE SECTION 6371.

Attachment:

Calendar Item 31 (2 pages)

31.

AUTHORIZATION FOR HOLDING A PUBLIC HEARING IN MONTEREY
CONCERNING ESTABLISHING AN UNDERWATER PARK IN
A PORTION OF CARMEL BAY, MONTEREY COUNTY

The Director, Department of Parks and Recreation, has informed the Division of his intention to apply for a lease of tide and submerged land in Carmel Bay for the purpose of establishing an underwater park. The exact location is uncertain at this time, although the area shown on Exhibit "A" is under serious consideration.

The proposal has been widely publicized in the area and considerable controversy has developed primarily with respect to what uses will be permitted or denied. The opposition stems from both business interests and conservationists. Some examples of comments received to date are:

1. Concern because of the uncertainty of the underwater park's effect on kelp harvesting within the area.
2. It will be detrimental to the environment.
3. Is it really in the community's interest to have increased skin diving activity in Carmel Bay?
4. What assurances are there that "Coney Island"-type concession arrangements won't ever be made?
5. What long-term assurances are there that this is not simply the first step to "locking-up" Carmel Bay to prevent currently well established pleasure and economic uses of its resources?
6. Will this park fill a public need?
7. Can this area withstand the substantial increase in usage that will result from the publicity that will be given such an official underwater park?
8. If it is established to protect the surroundings from abuses by divers, are the proposed boundaries inclusive enough?

Also of major concern is the fact that Carmel Bay will probably be identified as possessing significant environmental values pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 6371. It has been so nominated for its significant recreational, scientific and educational values. If the Commission approved the identification, it must also adopt regulations to protect the land.

The foregoing considerations, as well as the diversity of viewpoint and interests in the Bay, indicate the need for a public hearing in order to allow public participation in developing all facts and information for decision making.

CALENDAR ITEM NO. 31. (CONTD)

EXHIBIT: A. Location Map.

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE COMMISSION AUTHORIZE THE DIVISION TO HOLD A PUBLIC HEARING IN THE MONTEREY AREA ON THE SUBJECT OF LAND USE IN CARMEL BAY, INCLUDING DEVELOPMENT OF REGULATIONS TO PROTECT SIGNIFICANT ENVIRONMENTAL VALUES OF THE BAY PURSUANT TO PUBLIC RESOURCES CODE SECTION 6371.