Community Services Department

CSA-17 Advisory Committee Presentation

February 10, 2026

Department History

- Established in 1965

- Community Services Department
  - Lifeguard Services
  - Enforcement Services
  - Open Space Operations

- Roughly 90 employees
  - 6 full time and 70 part time Lifeguards

- Open daily year-round

Lifeguard Operations

- 2.2 miles of Beach: Sandy beach from Powerhouse Park North to San Dieguito River-mouth. Cliff lined areas South from Powerhouse Park to Torrey Pines State Beach and north from River-mouth to Solana Beach.

- 17th Street Headquarters, 20th Street, and 25th Street Towers are stationary. 15th Street, 29th Street, and North Beach Towers are portable. 4 smaller portable towers to move to dangerous areas. Addition of new tower along North Beach Bluffs (Border Tower) due to increased sand deposits.

- Patrol beach via 4x4 trucks and ATVs We operate Inflatable Rescue Boats for patrols in the ocean and diving operations.

Department Operations

- Planning and permitting for over 300 public and private events in parks, City buildings, and beach each year
- Beach permits include local school PE and club programs, surf and volleyball camps
- Maintain public beach restrooms, Powerhouse Community Center, and Beach Safety Center
- Parking management and enforcement
- Enforcement of municipal code in parks, beach and the San Dieguito Lagoon

Lifeguard Operations

- Public safety through education – *Safe Fun in the Sun*
- Beach and Ocean Safety Presentations to local elementary, middle, and high schools (1,500 students)
- SALT-Surfers Awareness in Lifesaving Techniques-Teach local Surf PE, Surf Clubs, and Surf Teams
- AED's in all towers and vehicles
- Jan –Dec 2025:
- 1,104 ocean rescues, 29,519 safety contacts,

  5,915 dog contacts, and 1,283 medical aids this year
  - Over 3 million visitors

Lifeguard Operations

- Beach and ocean safety, emergency medical care, enforcement of local laws for roughly 3 million beach patrons annually

- Capabilities include EMT’s, SCUBA, Technical Rope Rescue, Technical Animal Rescue, and Swiftwater

Lifeguard Operations
Junior Lifeguard Program

- Junior Lifeguard Program:
- Four two week sessions
- 240 kids (60 kids in each session)
- New program Super A’s: One week program for 14-15 year old's who are interested in becoming Ocean Lifeguards- Advanced skills, CPR training, ocean rescue techniques, Inflatable Rescue Boat introduction, swift-water introduction, and mock interviews.

Coordinated Regional Approach

- Integral part of the EMS system with response efforts 24/7
- Training, coordination, and reciprocity with regional agencies
- SDR ALERT – Regional Aquatic Task Force
- California Chief's Association
- *United States Lifesaving Association*
- *California State Lifesaving Association*

Updates

- Replaced an inflatable rescue boat
- Focus on training for technical teams
  - Weekly, interdepartmental training
  - Medical, Swiftwater, Ropes, IRB, SCUBA
- Celebrating 65th year of service

1965 THE CITY OF DEL MAR STATE OF CALIFORNIA 2025
LIFEGUARD

Challenges

- Cliff education and signage
- Hiring qualified and motivated part-time staff
  - Wages (Student LG $17.40, LGI 20.79)
  - Increase this year, & Holiday pay
  - Off-season availability to supplement FT staff
- Public education and enforcement
  - Challenging interactions (dogs, alcohol, business)
- Maintaining and replacing equipment
- Migrants and abandoned vessels (Flipped Panga incident)
- Maintaining beach access

Challenges

- Abandoned vessels
- Wildlife- DA poisoning-sea lions, dolphins, & birds
- Worked with Sea World to rescue/recover numerous sick and deceased marine animals/birds.

Challenges

- City Projects
  - Bluff project (DMB-5)
  - San Dieguito Bridge
  - Undergrounding
- Potential Technology
  - Surfline AI
  - Placer AI
  - Starlink

Thank you and Questions

- Questions?