

**Johnson, Paul@SCC**

---

**From:** Soni Melgar <melgarsoni@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 4, 2026 2:22 PM  
**To:** SCC Public Comment  
**Subject:** VIOLATION/COMPLAINT: EEM GRANT Open Space TUP/PUP

Some people who received this message don't often get email from melgarsoni@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

**[EXTERNAL EMAIL]** DO NOT CLICK links or attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

ATTENTION: Executive Officer

RE: City of Laguna Beach DogPark  
20652 Laguna Canyon Road  
APN No. 632-051-02, 629-031-10

EEM Applicant-State Agreement No 12-96-55, 12-929354  
Project No. 96-153  
96/97 Fiscal Year  
Dated: 5/1/1997  
Applicant: City of Laguna Beach  
Amount: \$200,000.00  
Currently designated "Institutional Use" under the City's LCP

DPR Grant/Habitat Conservation Wetlands Program  
Amount: \$57,000.00

( A records request was made for these records on 1/28/2026 to DPR/OGALS via online request, same day acknowledgment of request was received via email, records have not been received.)

City of Laguna Beach Open Space Fund  
Amount: \$68,000.00

TUP 7/6/2022  
Resolution No. 23.046  
CEQA Exempt Section 15304(e), 15061(b)(3)  
Extension Resolution No. 24-2518  
CEQA Exempt Section 15301, 15601  
Current TUP thru 6/2026

PUP Application Pending  
Application Date: 12/2025

I am writing to request an investigation into the Exclusive Use TUP/PUP granted by the City Of Laguna Beach to the Pacific Marine Mammal Center- a 501(c)3 (PMMC) for a Field Hospital on 2.2-acres of the 8-acre Open Space Parcel known as the Laguna Beach DogPark.

The City's internal documents reveal that in 2014 the City was aware of the Grant Use Restrictions on the 8-acre parcel which required it to remain Open Space and that any change of use required legislative approval. It was suggested in the memo that City Staff research avenues to CIRCUMVENT the restrictions for alternative use projects.

For the past 2 years the PMMC has operated the Field Hospital under an original 1 year TUP and 2 subsequent 1 year extensions- with the current extension expiring in June 2026. The Field Hospital treats the "sickest of the sick" at the site while their nearby main location undergoes extensive remodel. Approximately \$1.5 million was invested in "temporary" infrastructure for the Field Hospital prior to beginning operation.

Throughout the course of the Field Hospital's operation the DogPark has experienced ongoing flooding around sprinkler heads that is believed to be back flow due to water lines shared with the Field Hospital. It is not clear whether pathogens from the sick animals have contaminated the backflow. The situations results in standing water in the DogPark lasting from a few days to weeks.

In December 2025 the PMMC and City Noticed the Public that the PMMC would be moving out and returning the space to its original Open Space as agreed..

A few days later the PMMC applied for a PUP which granted the City use of the concrete slab at the facility if the PUP was not granted. It is my understanding that the adjacent Food Pantry is interested in expanding into the site.

Public Hearing for the PUP was held on 1/13/2026 and 1/27/26 during which Opposition to the PUP, CEQA exemption, and formation of an Ad Hoc committee, as well as GRANT RESTRICTIONS prohibiting the Permit was heard. By both writing and Oral Comment a formal request was made to the City to table the Ad Hoc committee and further activity on the PUP until the impact of the Grant Restrictions and CEQA Exemptions could be made, as well as production of CEQA pathway reports.

The matter was tabled.

On 2/3/2026 the Ca. Coastal Commission denied a complaint/ investigation request involving incursions of the Field Hospital and Main PMMC Facility onto the Blue Line/Laguna Canyon Waterway.

Thank You for your assistance with this matter.

Soni Melgar  
310.490.1931  
[melgarsoni@gmail.com](mailto:melgarsoni@gmail.com)