

John wrote:

I am a local La Jolla resident that lives 1/2 mile from the Children's Pool.

Tonight around 8:20 pm I walked to the children's pool and went down the stairs to the beach. A small group of seals was at the far side of the beach by the sea wall. As I walked down the stairs a man came up behind me and told me I should not go on the beach. I told him I was just going to sit on the rock at the bottom of the stairs. He kept talking at me loudly, and I tried to ignore him as I sat on the rock, 50 yards or so from the seals. Soon another seal supporter joined the guy harassing me. She kept telling me to leave the beach. When I told her I had a right to be on the beach, she took out her video camera and walked in front of me and asked me how I liked to be filmed. She kept taking video of me and I told her to please stop taking video, to please stop harassing me. She refused, and said that it was a free beach, that she could take video of me if she wanted to. I told her that was just wrong. I stood up and approached her, asking her to please (I kept saying please) stop filming me. She just kept on filming me. Then she told me to stop harassing her! I was putting my hand up, trying to block the camera. Then she signaled to her friend and they called the police and made a false accusation that I was threatening her. I left the beach. When I reached the top of the stairs she was talking on her cell phone, presumably to the police, saying that I would not leave her alone! I said, "I am 4 feet away from you, and I am not harassing you." Then, as I turned to leave, she and the fellow that was with her told me to stick around, to come back, because the police were coming. I did not want the hassle, so I left.

I am afraid of crazy people like this taking video of me. Who knows what kind of madness they might incite with their doctored video. I have heard of violent acts committed by animal rights people, and fear their incitement may cause harm to me. Don't I have a right to not be harassed on the public beach? Please help.

John S

Same day:

I am afraid of these seal supporters, so I ask that you please make my complaint (last email) anonymous. If it comes down to it though, I will testify against them. I just don't want their hassles unless it will make a difference.

Thank you,

John S