

Subject: Feeling of harassment

From: "C Mohr" <bcmohr17@gmail.com>

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To: <harassed@san.rr.com>

To whom it may concern,

On Sunday Feb 19th 2012 my wife and I visited La Jolla to see the Seals & Sea Lions. As a first time visitor to the area from Michigan we learned of this great opportunity and wonderful town. We were enjoying our time looking at the seals and taking in the sights. We decided to venture onto the beach where many others were standing to watch the seals up close. We did see a yellow rope and we took the time to read the signs posted that clearly state "do not disturb the seals". Being well intended, intelligent people we took two steps past the yellow rope where others were standing to get a little closer look. We assumed it was OK because others were there, a Park Ranger was present and it didn't seem to disturb the seals. Immediately my wife and I were being harassed and yelled at by a lady using a loud bull horn telling me to step back behind the yellow rope. I took note of the park ranger not saying anything while being chastised by the bull horn lady. We did in fact step back and then began to notice what was happening.

Upon further investigation, reading and asking questions, we started to become interested in what was happening. I noticed one table in the corner that displayed the applicable laws and rules related to humans and seals on the beach and asked for more information. This group of individuals clearly articulated their position in a very informative manner. I then went to the table where the lady was with the bull horn and asked them for more information, specifically what their position on the issue was because I wanted to understand. Immediately, another lady joined the parade and began verbally assaulting myself and my wife in an abusive, foul manner accusing me of having my mind made up and being with the other camp. I was unable to get a word in while one lady, foaming at the mouth, called me names and verbally assaulted me. The other lady continued to verbally assault my wife while giving her the middle finger. I asked the ladies what the law was regarding the seals and humans on the beach. While yelling in my face and trying to belittle me, I was told that the law stated the humans could not "approach" the seals thus passing the yellow line was considered encroachment. It just happened that I had just read the sign and taken a picture of my wife standing next to it. I then opened this photo and informed the "Lady" that the sign did not say that. That the sign stated do not "Disturb" the seals all the while being yelled at with vulgar language and hostile motions. I informed her that the local Ranger is the ultimate authority in this matter and that he had not said anything to us while we were standing there so I was confused. A crowd was building to see the calamity. I asked the ladies why they were treating us with such disrespect as we had not do that to them and they continued calling us names and assuming we were "on the other side" of the issue when in fact we were on neither side, simply wanting to educate ourselves. I furthermore advised the ladies that yelling at me with a bull horn, swearing at me, and simply being abusive is not the way to educate the public and win support. This continued until we finally simply walked away and left La Jolla feeling attacked and violated.

We stopped to talk to the ranger and informed him of how we were, in our opinion, verbally assaulted. He said, paraphrasing, there was nothing he could do about it because there were no laws against "being mean". I asked him if we had done anything wrong, as he was standing 10' from us on the beach and he had said if you did I would have let you know. Although he was very polite and respectful his actions speak volumes.

My wife and I were completely taken back by attitude, hostility, and down-right anger of this group of ladies that were supposedly there to protect the seals not to mention the position of the local law enforcements actions against this riot in-sighting behavior. Our quest was to understand the issue at hand, not pass judgment. One camp was professional and informative while the other camp was down-right hostile, threatening, and immature. I spoke to others in the area and determined that this behavior is common place amongst this group. I feel compelled to say that given this abuse is apparently allowed by the local La Jolla leadership, city ordinance and laws, we will not visit La Jolla again nor will I recommend La Jolla to others. Bad word travels 20 times faster than good! Your city needs leadership and law enforcement that will stand up to "Bullies" regardless of the debate at hand.

