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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – La Jolla Seal Activist Pays for Coastal Commission Vote

San Diego, CA

On July 11, 2012, the Coastal Commission voted to approve a year-round rope barrier at the Children's Pool. Despite significant controversy and what some commissioners said was an action "without proper environmental analysis", the Commission bowed to pressure from seal activists as well as former elected officials in approving the rope. San Diego's representative on the Commission, Esther Sanchez, led the effort with a motion to approve the rope barrier. Later, Sanchez also showed up at a San Diego Planning Commission meeting to support the rope barrier. Now, it appears that the action by Sanchez to approve the rope barrier at the Coastal Commission and subsequently advocate for it at the City of San Diego might have resulted in a conflict of interest in violation of State law.

At the time, Sanchez was seeking re-election to the Oceanside City Council and was looking for campaign money. Approximately two months after the Coastal Commission vote that Sanchez initiated and less than two weeks before Esther Sanchez testified in favor of the same rope barrier at San Diego City Hall, Seal Supporter and Children's Pool neighbor, Jane Reldan became one of Sanchez's biggest campaign contributors (<http://www.utsandiego.com/news/2012/oct/11/oceanside-sanchez-third-in-raising-campaign-cash/all/>).

Reldan was one of three individuals listed as donating the maximum allowed \$1,000 to Sanchez's campaign. This is surprising given the fact that Reldan has never before been interested in Oceanside politics and is not an Oceanside resident. However, more interesting is the fact that this contribution appears to have violated the Coastal Commission's Conflict of Interest Code.

According to conflict of interest information posted on the State Coastal Commission website (<http://www.coastal.ca.gov/legal/conflict-of-interest-workshop-6-2005.pdf>), Commissioners are barred from receiving campaign contributions of more than \$250 from an interested party or a participant with a financial interest in a proceeding. This includes accepting contributions for three months after a decision. By accepting a contribution four times the allowable amount from Reldan two months after her vote and two weeks before again expressing support for the rope barrier, Sanchez appears to have a conflict of interest.

Reldan is a well known seal activist and appears to own property on Coast Blvd. near the Children's Pool. Reldan is also a leader of the activist organization, La Jolla Friends of the Seals which has a financial interest in the rope barrier project. Reldan led seal activists in supporting the rope in front of Sanchez at the July 2012 Coastal Commission meeting (<http://www.lajollalight.com/2012/07/11/breaking-news-coastal-commission-approves-permit-for-year-round-seal-rope/>). Reldan also encouraged Commissioner Sanchez to testify at the Planning Commission meeting in September 2012 where the rope barrier issue was heard and rejected by the Planning Commission.

Interestingly, Reldan also attempted to contribute more than double the legal amount (\$2,120 total) to Mayor Bob Filner's campaign before having the money refunded. This occurred shortly before Filner became interested in the Children's Pool situation and, according to a Superior Court judge, violated the Coastal Act in his rush to install a lengthened rope barrier at Reldan's request.

The Friends of the Children's Pool are concerned about this apparent conflict of interest. Such a violation of State Law must be investigated and prosecuted. The conflict of interest legislation was enacted to prohibit just this sort of corruption on the Coastal Commission.

We also call on Assembly Speaker John Perez to avoid reappointing Commissioner Sanchez. Jane Reldan and the Friends of the Seals have been gearing up a lobbying campaign to have Sanchez reappointed.



The specific purpose of this corporation is to educate the public as to the use of the Children's Pool in accord with Miss Ellen Scripps' charitable intent in 1931 in order to protect La Jolla Children's Pool surroundings as a public park, a bathing pool for children, and public recreational usage in accordance with chapter 937 of the deed of trust between Miss Ellen Browning Scripps, the State of California, and the City of San Diego, county of San Diego. Publicize the return of Children's Pool to public recreational use. Promote water quality and safety. Facilitate cleaning the beach and adjacent areas to make it attractive and convenient for public use.



Schedule A (Continuation Sheet)
Monetary Contributions Received

Type or print in ink.
Amounts may be rounded
to whole dollars.

SCHEDULE A (CONT)

Statement covers period from July 1, 2012 through September 30, 2012	CALIFORNIA FORM 460 Page <u>13</u> of <u>22</u>
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NAME OF FILER

FRIENDS OF ESTHER SANCHEZ FOR OCEANSIDE CITY COUNCIL 2012

LD. NUMBER

1306379

DATE RECEIVED	FULL NAME, STREET ADDRESS AND ZIP CODE OF CONTRIBUTOR (IF COMMITTEE ALSO ENTERED, NUMBER)	CONTRIBUTOR CODE *	IF AN INDIVIDUAL, ENTER OCCUPATION AND EMPLOYER (IF SELF-EMPLOYED, ENTER NAME OF BUSINESS)	AMOUNT RECEIVED THIS PERIOD	CUMULATIVE TO DATE CALENDAR YEAR (JAN. 1 - DEC. 31)	PER ELECTION TO DATE (IF REQUIRED)
9/14/12	Jane Gilligan 6467 La Paloma Oceanside, CA 92057	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IND <input type="checkbox"/> COM <input type="checkbox"/> OTH <input type="checkbox"/> PTY <input type="checkbox"/> SCC	Self	\$100.00		
9/14/12	Joan Jackson 1120 Chiquapin Ave Carlsbad, CA 92008	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IND <input type="checkbox"/> COM <input type="checkbox"/> OTH <input type="checkbox"/> PTY <input type="checkbox"/> SCC	Retired	\$250.00		
9/14/12	Jane Reidan, MD 7946 Ivanhoe Ave, #312 La Jolla, CA 92037	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IND <input type="checkbox"/> COM <input type="checkbox"/> OTH <input type="checkbox"/> PTY <input type="checkbox"/> SCC	Self, Jane Reidan, MD	\$1,000.00		
9/14/12	Brenda Souza 3621 Vista Campana S, #66 Oceanside, CA 92057	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IND <input type="checkbox"/> COM <input type="checkbox"/> OTH <input type="checkbox"/> PTY <input type="checkbox"/> SCC	Retired	\$100.00		
9/14/12	Rodney Hamilton 200 N. El Camino Real, #144 Oceanside, CA 92058	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IND <input type="checkbox"/> COM <input type="checkbox"/> OTH <input type="checkbox"/> PTY <input type="checkbox"/> SCC	Retired	\$100.00		
SUBTOTAL \$				\$1,550.00		

*Contributor Codes
IND - Individual
COM - Recipient Committee
(other than PTY or SCC)
OTH - Other (e.g., business entity)
PTY - Political Party
SCC - Small Contributor Committee

FPPC Form 460 (January 05)
FPPC Toll-Free Helpline: 866/ASK-FPPC (866/275-3774)