



## **What does 3rd District Council member Price say about falling oil prices, Tidelands funds, and the \$103.7 million Belmont Beach and Aquatics Center?**

Suzie Price, speaking at the 2015 City Council Meeting re falling oil prices, Tidelands Capital Fund priorities, and the Belmont Beach and Aquatics Center:

(to watch the video see City of Long Beach 15-0543 5 yr Capital Plan)

“Times have changed and our financial circumstances have changed. We are residents together, this is our city and we have to adjust to the changing financial times together with an attitude that’s very collaborative and collective....we share with the community.”

“We’re not going to close that gap {to fully fund the aquatics center} with a million here or a million there,” {but only} when more tidelands money comes in and we’re able to give a significant amount of money.”

Pool fund is “money tied up”.....a million set aside for the pool could mean that “6 or 7 projects would not be funded.”

**USA Swimming estimates that an Aquatics Facility can be built at @\$180 per sq. ft., in which case the 125,500 sq. ft. Belmont Beach and Aquatics Center should cost \$22,590,000 not \$103,700,000.** Yet Price stated that “the price per sq. ft. of the pool is the same price per sq. ft. as competitive aquatics facilities in the U.S, in fact it falls right in the middle range.” Noting that the Tidelands Oil Fund will never be able to fully fund the project, Suzie Price, then voted to spend Tidelands monies in the FY17 budget to hire a private fundraising company re the pool.

### **Should Long Beach build community pools instead?**

The Center for Disease Control states that “swimming skills can be lifesaving,” and yet Swimming USA reports that 70% of black children, 65% of Asian American and Native American children, 60% of Hispanic children, and 40% of white children cannot swim.

**Long Beach has no public pools in 6 of its 9 city council districts. Why is the city planning to build one facility with two Olympic-size pools in the affluent 3rd District when districts with higher population density, and more poor and minority children have no public pools?** The Belmont Beach and Aquatics Center project violates the city’s Healthy Communities Policy which prioritizes “health equity,” and states that “neighborhoods with historic barriers to health, wellness, and safety” will be the first to have new recreational facilities.

**Isn’t it about time to focus on public safety, including drowning prevention, and not let a pay to play “aquatics community” control Tidelands funds and monopolize public resources?**

# **Tidelands Funds can be used to address homelessness, health, and safety in the 2nd & 3rd Districts**

**Should there be a reassessment of the Tidelands Operating Budget and 5-Year Capital Plan in light of growing concerns re the homeless population, public health, and safety issues on our beaches and in adjacent neighborhoods?**

**Should a portion of the \$43,659,769 in Tidelands Capital Funds set aside in 2015 for the Belmont Beach and Aquatics Center be redirected (per the prioritization criteria adopted in 2015) to address the homeless population, public health, and safety issues on our beaches and in adjacent neighborhoods?**

## **Tidelands Funds - Purpose**

The Tidelands Funds are used to account for operations, programming, maintenance and development of the Tidelands area including beaches and waterways, the Convention Center and Hyatt Hotel leases, the Queen Mary and adjacent properties, the Aquarium of the Pacific, Rainbow Harbor area, Pike at Rainbow Harbor and the marinas. **Operations include Police, Security, Fire, Lifeguards, Refuse, Park and Beach maintenance**, lease management, parking structure operations and other support functions.

**Strategy for the Tidelands Operating Budget and 5-Year Capital Plan and the Tidelands Capital prioritization criteria (adopted by the City of Long Beach in 2015)**

**Following are the suggested prioritization criteria, in order of importance:**

- 1. Public Health and Safety - The extent to which the project impacts maintaining and improving public health and safety;**
- 2. Number of California Residents Impacted - The number of users of the project/facility and/or the California residents impacted;**
- 3. Urgency - The extent to which there are adverse ramifications if the project is not done in the near term;**
- 4. Poor Condition / High Need - The extent to which an existing facility is in poor repair or condition, or alternatively for a non-existing facility, the degree of unmet need;**
- 5. Quality of Life - The extent to which the project adds to the quality of life for California residents, in accordance with the Coastal Act, with a focus on local residents quality of life as well;**
- 6. Revenue Generation - The extent to which the facility will generate funds for the economy, Tidelands revenue, or other revenue. Operating expenses should be included in the evaluation;**
- 7. Ability to Attract Additional Funding - The extent to which partially funding this project from Tidelands funds will result in additional funding from non-City sources to support the project financing;**
- 8. Lack of Alternative Funding Sources - The extent to which this project lacks the ability to be funded from other non-City sources such as an assessment, donations, grant dollars, fees for service, or other means;**
- 9. Capital Cost - A lower capital cost uses up less funding. The lower the net capital costs to Tidelands, the higher the score for this item.**