

Long Beach City Council  
1<sup>st</sup> Floor City Council Chamber, City Hall  
333 West Ocean Boulevard  
Long Beach, CA 90802

Petition to Approve Environmental Impact Report (EIR) &  
Deny Any Opposition to Construction of Aquatics Center  
Public Hearing 17-0371

Ella Jorgensen  
Rocketfish Swim Team  
Stanford Middle School, 8<sup>th</sup> Grade  
May 16, 2017

Hi, my name is Ella Jorgensen. I am almost 14 years old and I've been swimming with Rocket Fish for a total of about 4 years. I currently use the temporary outdoor pool in place of the old Belmont Olympic Pool.

I understand there are many reasons on why the new pool plans should not be built, for example, time and money. You may be thinking, I'm just a kid and I wouldn't be able to understand whether or not this new pool is really worth it. If you are thinking that, it's fine. Many passionate swimmers like me would agree that the new pool does matter. To me, swimming is a sport that I can relieve my stress and frustration while having a great time. By working out in a pool, I can reach peace from daily life. I enjoy being with my team and letting loose of all our daily demands of school. My fellow Rocket fishers come from different parts of Long Beach and nearby cities to meet at the Belmont Pool nearly every day. These new pools will bring communities, families, and friends together. We can all agree that we wouldn't have it any other way. When you join Rocket Fish, you become part of a strong relationship for life. Rocket Fish is my second family and the Belmont Pool is my second home. I have had the privilege of swimming alongside other teams such as Beach Swim, water polo, Wilson HS water polo, even community water exercise classes that I know the new pools are important to them and our entire community as well.

Memories are made at the Belmont Pool and will continue with the new pools. My Mom grew up at the Olympic pool in the 70's. That pool was where she learned how to swim. That pool was where she first realized she had courage and took her very first jump off the high dive as a young girl. That "old" Belmont Olympic pool was where she took me as a toddler to learn to swim. Little did I know that was the start of my passion for swim. I still remember the big Olympic Rings on the side of the building and telling myself I will get there someday in that very same pool.

It is important to encourage the community to live a fun, safe, healthy lifestyle. That is what my coach, Hank Wise, has always taught us. That is why building this new pool center is so important to me, my team, and the community. Thank you for your time and consideration for the new Belmont Beach and Aquatic Center.