

Council/Agency Meeting Held: _____	_____ City Clerk's Signature
Deferred/Continued to: _____	
<input type="checkbox"/> Approved <input type="checkbox"/> Conditionally Approved <input type="checkbox"/> Denied	
Council Meeting Date: 10/15/2007	Department ID Number: CS007-008

**CITY OF HUNTINGTON BEACH
REQUEST FOR CITY COUNCIL ACTION**

SUBMITTED TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS

SUBMITTED BY: *Penelope Culbreth Graft*
PENELOPE CULBRETH-GRAFT, DPA, CITY ADMINISTRATOR

PREPARED BY: JIM B. ENGLE, DIRECTOR, COMMUNITY SERVICES *JBE*

SUBJECT: APPROVE THE CONCEPT OF PLACING PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT ON THE BEACH

Statement of Issue, Funding Source, Recommended Action, Alternative Action(s), Analysis, Environmental Status, Attachment(s)

Statement of Issue: Should the City Council approve the concept of placing play equipment on the city beach per design and location as recommended by the Community Services Commission.

Funding Source: No funding source identified at this time. Staff will seek grants and other methods to fund the project, estimated at \$202,000.

Recommended Actions: Motion to:

1. Approve conceptual placement of play equipment on city beach with the intent to install the equipment once funding becomes available; and
2. Approve proposed design and location of the conceptual playground.

Alternative Action(s):

1. Do not approve placing play equipment on the city beach as presented.
2. Recommend an alternative design and/or location for the play equipment.

Analysis: Based on requests from the public, the Community Services Commission directed staff to explore the possibility of placing play equipment within the city beach. Many coastal cities such as San Diego, Oceanside, Seal Beach, and Long Beach have constructed playgrounds at their public beaches. In analyzing the project, the Community Services Commission and staff evaluated suitable locations, compatible designs with the surrounding areas, and appropriate types of play equipment, considering their play value, accessibility, and the environment. Following are the results of research and analysis by the Community Services Commission and staff regarding location, design, and cost estimates for the project.

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Location – The city-operated beach between Beach Boulevard and Seapoint Street was divided into seven areas. The four areas located north of the pier were identified as N-1, N-2, N-3 and N-4; areas to the south were identified as S-1, S-2 and S-3 (see Attachment No. 1.)

The commission evaluated the possibilities and constraints at each location and narrowed their choices (selection) to two areas, N-1 and S-3. N-1 is immediately north of the condominiums on the beach and adjacent to the southern end of Bluff top Park. S-3 is in South Beach between Beach Boulevard and Huntington Street.

N-1 is the preferred site for the following reasons: it is immediately adjacent to Bluff Top Park; parents and children could enjoy the park and beach; the tot lot could easily be viewed or supervised from the park; play equipment in this area would not be in conflict with beach events; there is disabled access to this location; and it is adjacent to one of the proposed permanent restroom locations in Bluff Top Park.

A drawback that was identified for this area was limited parking, but the adjacent parking on PCH and in Pier Plaza was deemed to be sufficient. At the time of commission review, the lack of permanent restrooms was a concern. This will be remedied with the Bluff Top Restroom Project.

The S-3 area was considered an alternate location. The advantages to the S-3 site are ample parking, proximity to a snack bar, and permanent restrooms, as well as the site not impacting special events. However, the commission felt the view of the playground equipment could be a concern for the hotels. Staff did contact a representative of the Mayer Corporation, who did confirm that, although they liked the concept of a beach playground, they would rather the playground not be in front of either hotel.

Design – As directed by the Community Services Commission, staff worked with the play equipment company to design a layout for the beach playground including the types of equipment, color scheme, and design themes suitable for the surrounding area. The proposed design would include typical play units found in neighborhood and community parks throughout the city as well as a climbing wall structure and spring toys. The playground would also include benches and picnic tables, and be surrounded by sand walls. The benefits of the sand walls would be twofold: to help keep sand and other debris off the safety surfacing, and provide a barrier from the existing beach paths for increased safety for the children utilizing the playground.

The plan also includes a dark blue, light blue and beige color scheme for the two large play units in order to complement the surrounding environment. Spring toys and panel graphics added to the play units would provide splashes of bright colors to the overall scheme. Graphics would depict beach- and marine-related images.

Cost Estimates - Cost estimate for the project including purchase of equipment, site preparation, and installation is \$202,000. Currently a funding source for the project has not

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been identified; however, staff would seek to fund the project through grants and other sources as they become available. Pursuit of grants or other funding sources is contingent upon City Council approval of concept of adding play equipment on the city beach. Commission also discussed having a donation wall, walkway, etc. as ways to recognize donors. This has been done successfully at other similar playgrounds.

Strategic Plan Goals: Installation of play equipment on the city beach creates an environment that promotes tourism to increase revenues to support community services and create a destination economy. Secondly, the project would provide quality public services with the highest professional standards to meet community expectations and needs, assuring that the city is sufficiently staffed and equipped overall.

Environmental Status: Project would go through the necessary environmental review as required by the entitlement process.

Attachment(s):

City Clerk's Page Number	No.	Description
4	1.	Site map for potential sites
8	2.	Site photographs
11	3.	Assessment of potential locations
13	4.	Project Layout

Author: DDominguez/mkl

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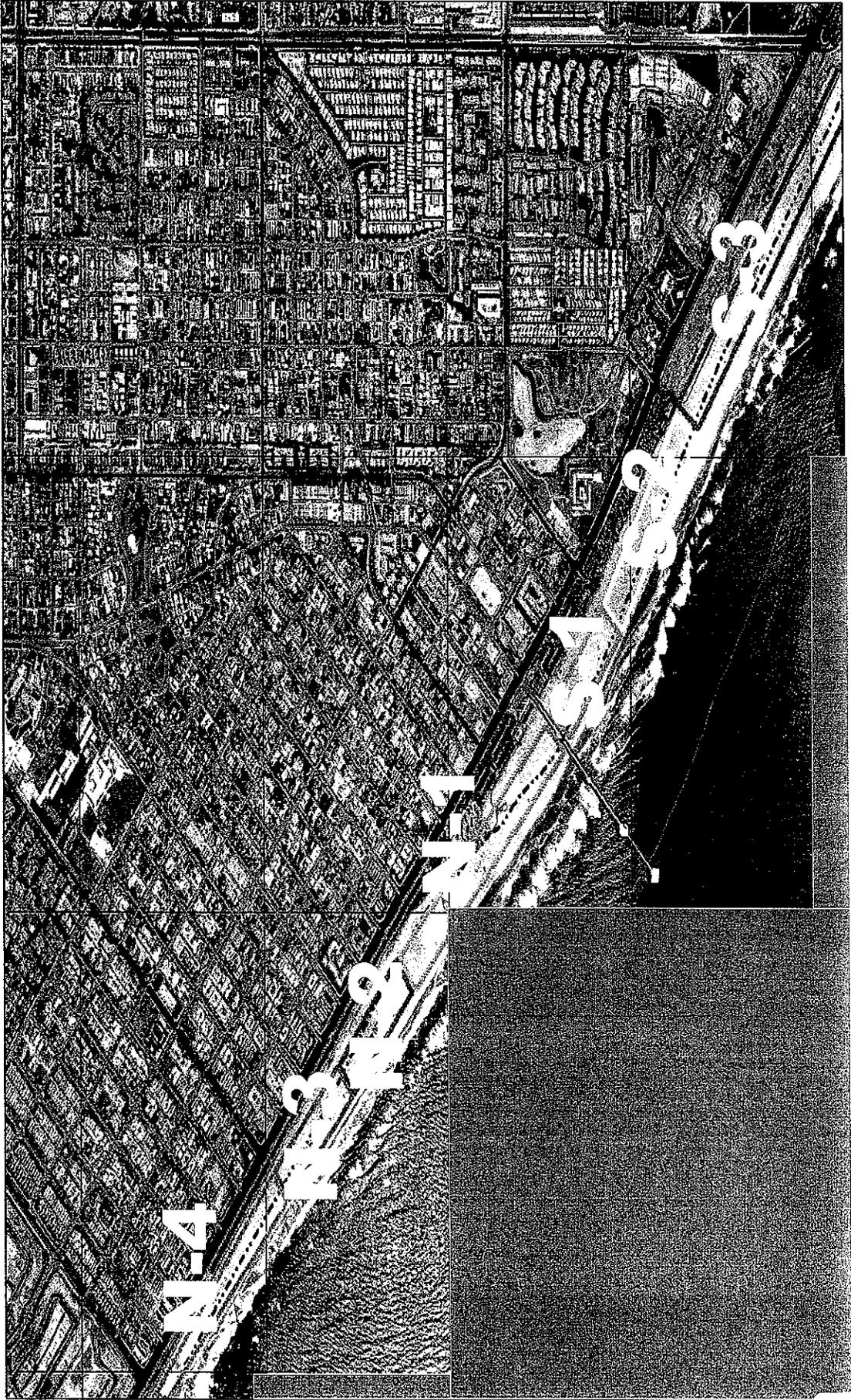
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ATTACHMENT #1

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Areas N1-N4 & S1-S3

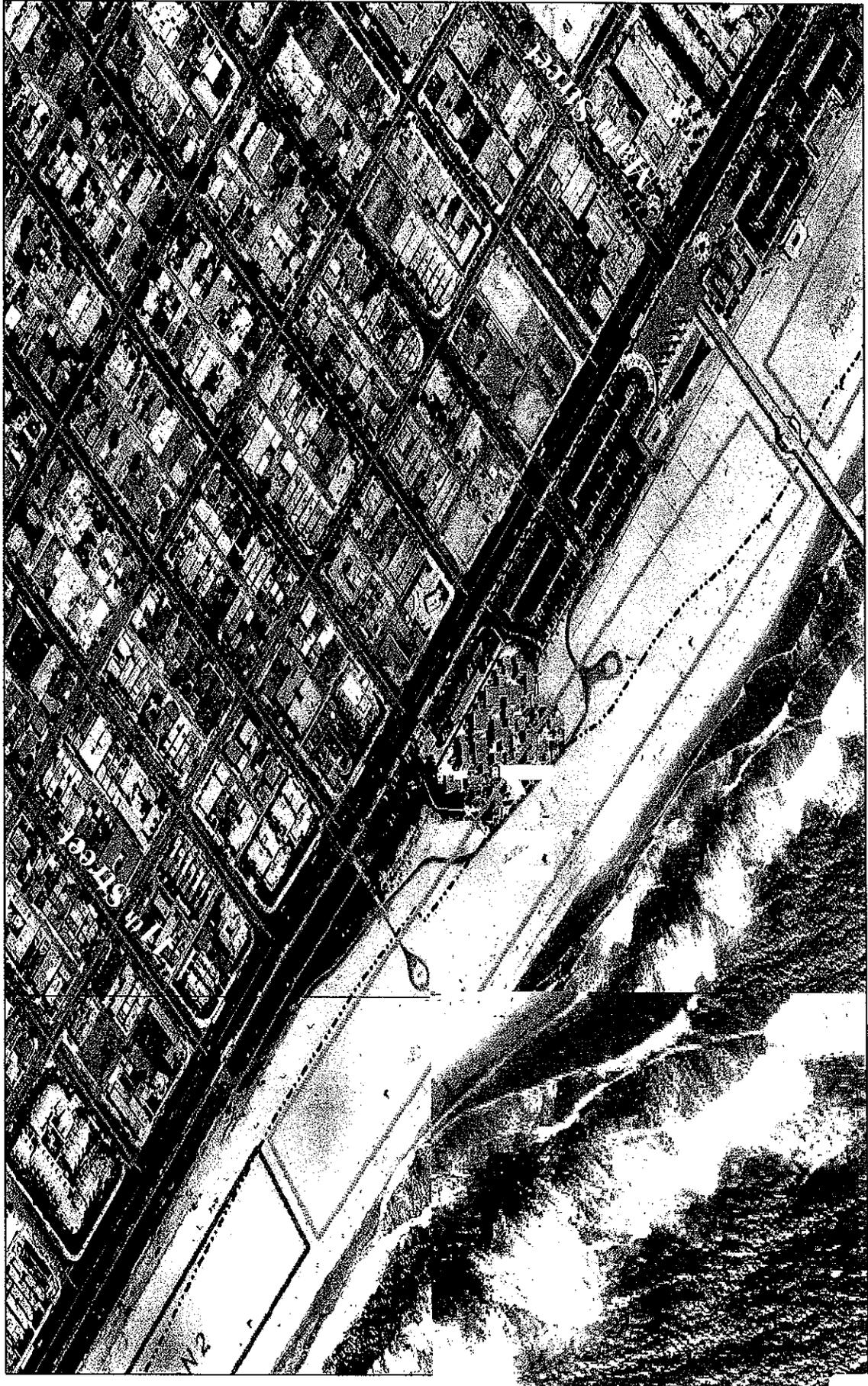
Pier North to Goldenwest St & Pier South to Beach Blvd



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Area N1 – Community Services Commission #1 Site

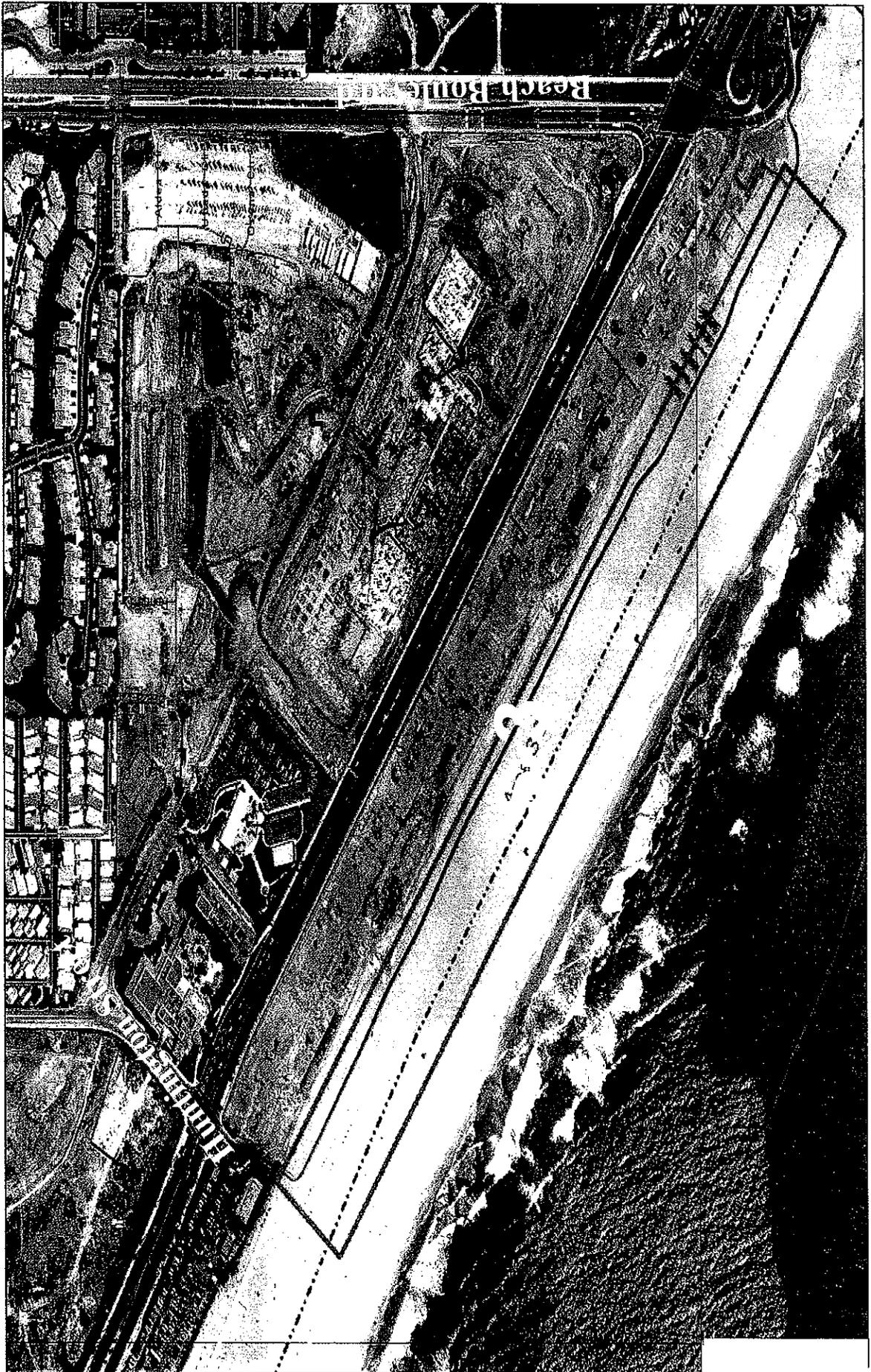
Pier North to 11th St



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Area S3 – Community Services Commission Alternate Site

Huntington St South to Beach Blvd



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ATTACHMENT #2

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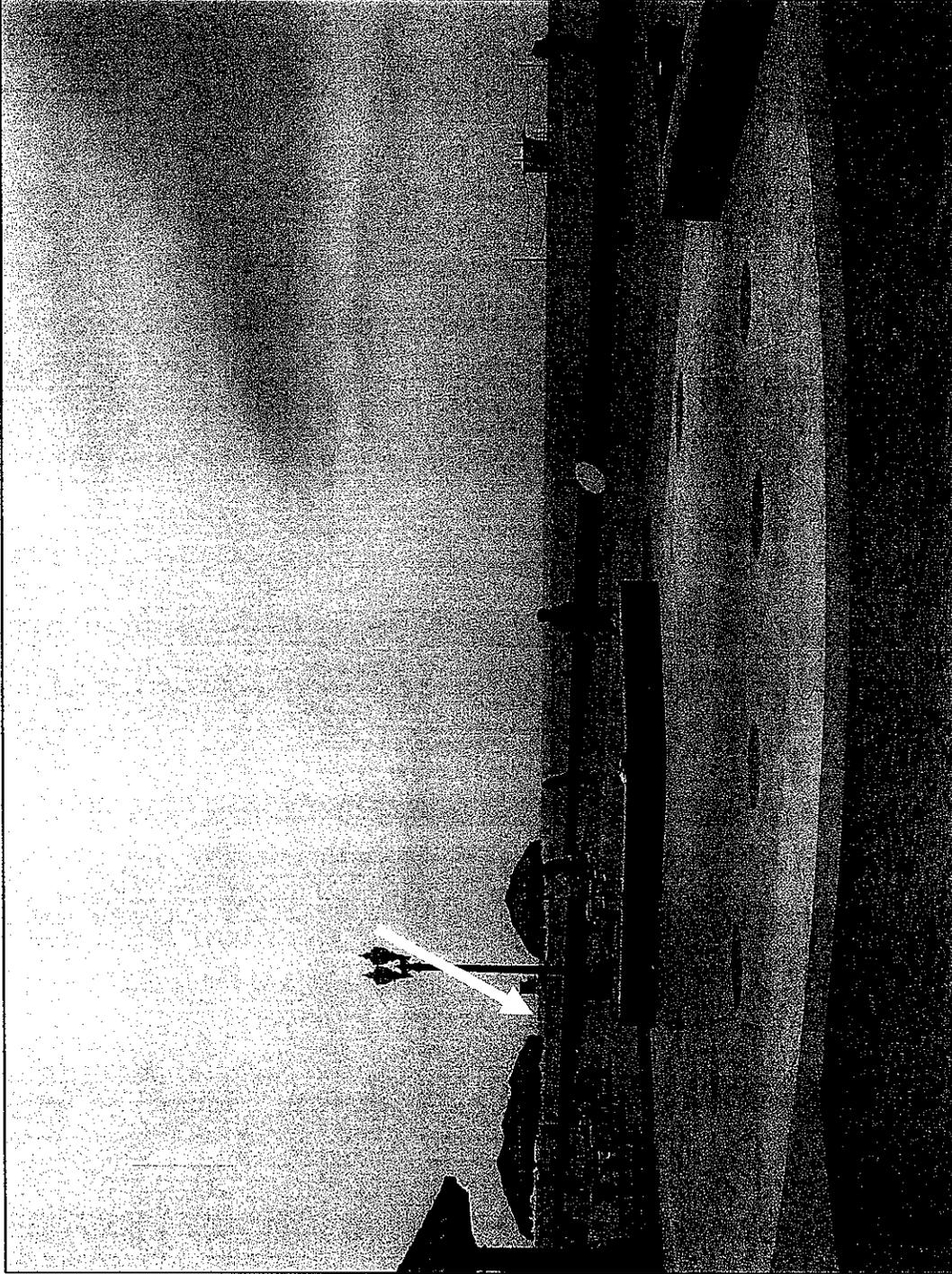
N-1 SITE – PLAY AREA



VIEW FROM SIDEWALK

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S-3 SITE – PLAY AREA



ALTERNATIVE LOCATION

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ATTACHMENT 3

**Beach Play Equipment
Assessment of Potential Locations**

N-1

Pros	Cons
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Park setting between 9th and 11th Streets • Existing asphalt access on sand near 11th Street • No major events or volleyball courts in area (9th Street North) • No fire rings • Accessible to proximal residents • ADA Access 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limited public parking • No permanent restrooms * • Possible maintenance issues with accessible surfacing • Higher potential for vandalism due to location <p><i>* Note: Bluff Top Permanent Restroom Project will remedy the concern.</i></p>

S-3

Pros	Cons
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ample public parking • Permanent Restrooms • Play equipment visible from parking lot • Public plaza and grass areas • Possible amenity for hotel(s) guests * <p><i>* Note: Hotel representative contacted later and would rather not have a playground at this location</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some fire rings may need to be removed • Existing sand walls will have to be altered to allow access or placement of play equipment • Some major events in area (near foot-bridge) • Potential view issues - hotels • Possible maintenance issues with accessible surfacing • Distance from residential area

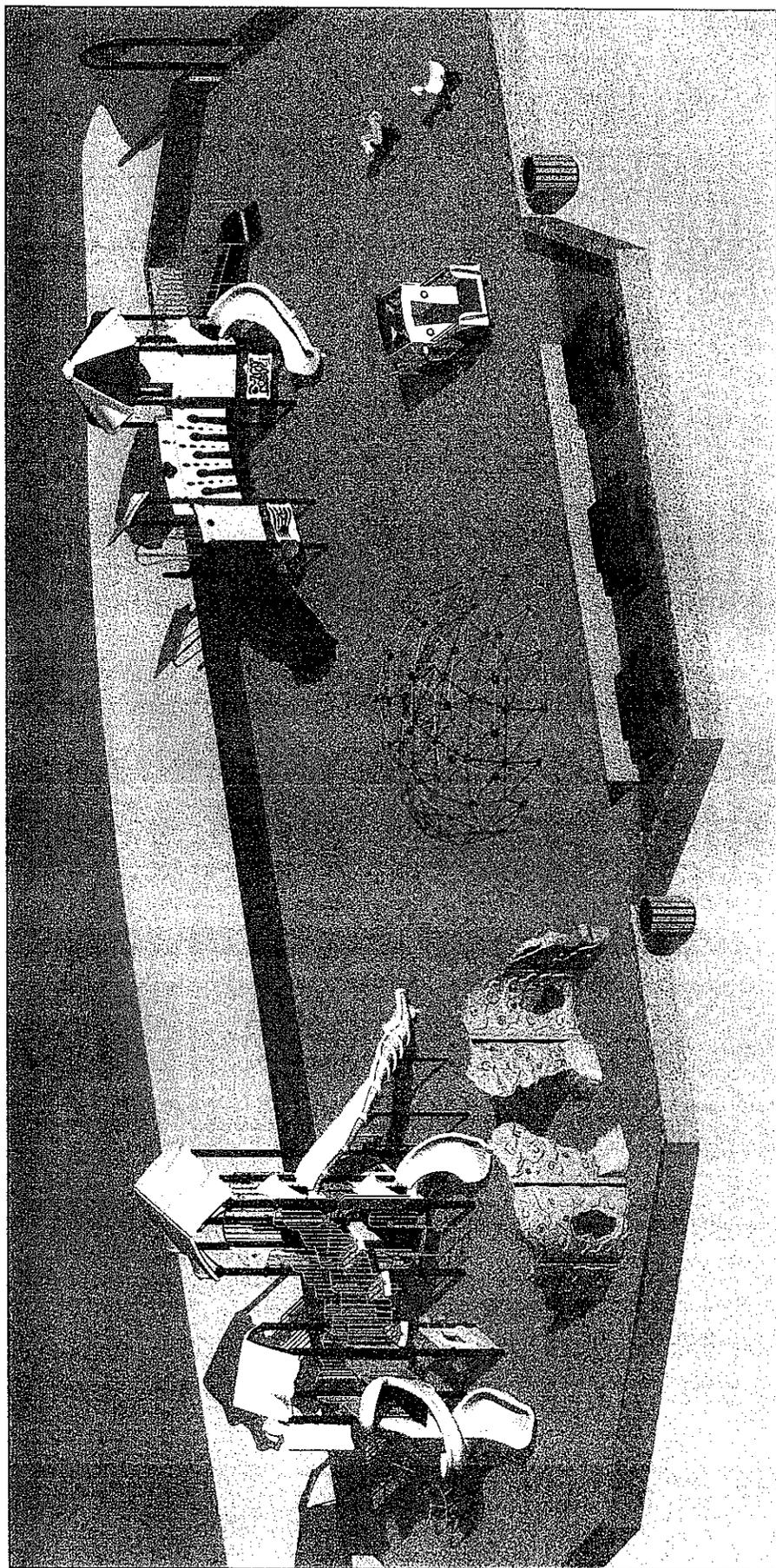
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ATTACHMENT 4

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Beach Play Equipment

PLAYGROUND LAYOUT



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