



**Written Public Comment Submitted For:
Harbor Commission Meeting of March 21, 2024**



From: [Victoria Valente](#)
To: [Nikolas J. Lopez](#)
Cc: [Mayor & City Council](#)
Subject: Leadbetter Beach Restroom facility needs ADA accessibility NOW
Date: Wednesday, March 20, 2024 11:08:34 AM

Dear Harbor Commissioners,

First I would like to express appreciation for your support of the actual users of the Leadbetter Beach Restroom facility. Their needs and input should have been sought out and considered early in the project planning process.

However, why was an ADA upgrade project tied together with a project that would rob existing users of the facilities that they rely on? Was this designed to force existing users to say nothing or else look bad? Or was this meant to pit one group against the other? (those with ADA requirements vs those that are able to use the facilities as is). Thankfully, neither of these things happened.

One thing is clear as a bell, and that is that ADA upgrades to these facilities should have been done YESTERDAY. I find it atrocious that it has taken this long to even think about bringing these facilities up to the basic standards of this century (or the last).

In the future, the renovation of these facilities will once again come up for consideration. When the time comes, I hope that the City will follow expected procedures by notifying the public well in advance and by seeking input from the actual user groups while considering growth and the future needs of Santa Barbara. ADA compliance is a given.

I realize that Leadbetter Restroom project funding has been allocated elsewhere. What needs to happen now is to make some simple ADA fixes so that Leadbetter Beach is open to all, inclusive of those with ADA needs.

What "fixes" could be squeezed out of the budget right now? While we wait for the renovation of the facilities (something that won't likely happen for years), we need:

- 1) A portable ADA restroom, similar to the one that was in place at Stow Grove Park for many years
- 2) Demolition of ONE separation mini-wall in the women's changing area to provide sufficient space for wheelchair access
- 3) A simple fix to the existing showers - a lower shower head, in which the pole could be mounted to the outside of the wall.

When considering the injustice of the City's inordinate ADA compliance delays, these fixes cost nothing.
This needs to happen NOW.

I appreciate your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,
Victoria Valente

From: [Wicked Reel](#)
To: [Wicked Reel](#)
Cc: [Access Advisory Committee](#); [Sarah Knecht](#); [Jim Marston](#); [Bryan Latchford](#); [Mayor & City Council](#); [Nikolas J. Lopez](#); [Elizabeth Sorgman](#)
Subject: From Cyndi Coyne & Leadbetter Beach Community
Date: Wednesday, March 20, 2024 3:48:25 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from wickedreel@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

cc'ing ADA Director, Members, SB City Administrator

Dear Harbor Commission, Honorable Mayor Rowse and City Council Members,

The Leadbetter Beach Community is very pleased that the Access Advisory Committee joined us in clarifying that the much needed ADA Compliance upgrade did not require the demolition of the shower walls and outdoor changing walls of The Leadbetter Bathhouse Facility.

We were also very impressed with how the AAC communicated that taking away a structure such as a facility used daily by the community or benches on a main street of a city does not solve the unhoused and vagrancy issues.

Most importantly, the AAC also stated clear, precise and cost effective solutions to the long overdue ADA upgrades. This included a lower placed shower easily added to the existing shower wall.

So we have to ask, why didn't the Waterfront go straight to the AAC for their input initially?

The Waterfront came back with a statement that they have put the project on pause and will redesign in the future with community input.

While one might think the ocean community was successful in their working together to preserve the Leadbetter Bathhouse Facility, we are all one community and are not at all satisfied with this unacceptable outcome.

The Waterfront tells us that the funds for the project are already allocated to other projects.

This entire renovation was based on ADA compliance and now the ADA bathrooms are being eliminated. We do not support the bathrooms being left non-compliant.

The American with Disabilities Act was the world's first comprehensive civil rights law for people with disabilities. It was signed by President George Bush on July 26, 1990.

This legally required upgrade is 34 years past due.

We would like to see the Leadbetter Bathhouse Facility brought up to ADA code immediately with input from the AAC who know precisely what is needed.

We would also like to see something placed temporarily until the upgrades are complete. All of this with the guidance and supervision of the AAC.

Our Leadbetter Community petition to preserve our bathhouse facility, which is nearing 700 signatures, emphasizes that "We %100 support the ADA upgrades".

Again, we are all one community.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Cyndi Coyne
Maura Lundy
Carol Shaw
Daniel Simon
Patrick Boyle
Michael Riley
Susan Worthington
Mary Foster
Kevin Smith
Representing the Leadbetter Beach Community

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Cyndi Coyne
@wickedreelartist
wickedreel@gmail.com

"Age is something that doesn't matter, unless you are a cheese."
Luis Buñuel (Feb 22, 1900 - July 29, 1983)

From: [Steve W](#)
To: [Nikolas J. Lopez](#)
Cc: [Randy Rowse](#); [Alejandra Gutierrez](#); [Mike Jordan](#); [Oscar Gutierrez](#); [Kristen Sneddon](#); [Eric Friedman](#); [Meagan Harmon](#)
Subject: Clarification & Recommended Motion RE Leadbetter Bathroom Compliance March 21, 2024 meeting
Date: Wednesday, March 20, 2024 3:59:41 PM

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Dear Commissioners and Waterfront staff:

Clarification:

In watching the video of the advisory meeting of February 23, 2024 it seemed that there may have been some confusion with regards to perceived different goals of open water swimmers AKA “The Leadbetter swimmers” and that of the Access Advisory Committee. This is not the case; the goals are the same for both groups as the petition indicates:

<https://www.change.org/p/preserve-leadbetter-beach-walls-changing-areas-santa-barbara>

The petition states in the second sentence “We 100% support the ADA upgrades to bathroom stalls.” 682 Santa Barbara citizens have signed this letter (including 50 written). Several conversations with both AAC members and the swimmers have confirmed there is no change to this view.

Recommended Motion:

Long-term plans for updating the facilities at Leadbetter Beach remain a goal worth pursuing. That said, it seems very straightforward that the City/Waterfront ought to proceed with the improvements suggested by the AAC regarding ADA compliance which would require no new exterior construction and no CC associated permitting with all due haste. In other words, as discussed at the last AAC meeting, The City/Waterfront should modify the existing internal floor plan of the facilities such that both bathrooms comply with ADA standards as soon as possible. The AAC presented this idea with respect to moving stall walls as well as a sink and installing bathroom safety grab bars, etc. at the prior meeting.

The suggested motion for the Waterfront Committee is to: Direct staff to draw up the necessary plans, work orders, bid requirements and arrange funding and award an able contractor to enhance the existing bathroom facilities at Leadbetter Beach such that the bathrooms are in compliance with ADA standards with all due haste.

From what I have seen in cities along the coast of California, the Coastal Commission is enthusiastic about ensuring visitors can enjoy the use of beaches and related facilities. Further, larger more complex plans should not delay compliance of ADA regulations. Apparently long-term projects require several approval from agencies outside of Santa Barbara as well as an order of magnitude (if not two) more complex project engineering and funding.

Please do proceed with internal upgrades to ensure the bathrooms at Leadbetter Beach are ADA compliant as soon as is practicable; this is something that can be physically completed in a few weeks if not days. The capex and labor associated with this effort are a rounding error in the waterfront budget.

Thank you,

Steve Worthington

From: [Terry Kleid](#)
To: [Nikolas J. Lopez](#)
Subject: Fwd: Leadbetter Community Petition
Date: Thursday, March 21, 2024 10:10:29 AM

You don't often get email from terry.kleid@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Nikolas,

Please add my name to the letter below. I am an active swimmer at Leadbetter and have also been active in the proposed changes to the bathhouse.

Thank you,

Terry Kleid
8056 845 0125

Dear Harbor Commission, Honorable Mayor Rowse and City Council Members,

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