

## **Center for Natural Lands Management Files Motion to Dissolve Preliminary Injunction Issued Against Them in Case with City of Dana Point**

*The environmental nonprofit asserts that the California Coastal Commission has notified City that preliminary injunction violates the Coastal Act and poses harm to endangered species.*

Dana Point, Calif. — The Center for Natural Lands Management (“CNLM”), a nonprofit dedicated to protecting and managing endangered species and habitats, filed a motion to dissolve the Preliminary Injunction issued against them by the City of Dana Point. The motion comes in response to a recent notice from the California Coastal Commission (“CCC”) to the City highlighting the commission’s concerns regarding the preservation of the federally endangered Pacific Pocket Mouse.

The Preliminary Injunction, issued on November 3, 2022, mandated that CNLM comply with specific, city-designated hours of operation for the Nature Trail and Overlook Areas at CNLM’s Dana Point Preserve. However, in a significant communication with direct relevance to the City of Dana Point’s lawsuit against CNLM, the Coastal Commission notified the City on December 14, 2023, that these mandated hours are not authorized under the Coastal Act and pose a direct threat to the Pacific Pocket Mouse population.

“This filing ensures that CNLM can effectively manage the Preserve, protect endangered species, and work with the City of Dana Point and the Coastal Commission on a reasonable compromise on public access,” said Shaye Diveley, CNLM’s attorney. “CNLM has a responsibility to manage public access to the Dana Point Preserve in a manner that safeguards endangered species and preserves fragile coastal habitats.”

The Coastal Commission’s December 2023 letter highlighted the detrimental impact, also noted by state and federal wildlife agencies, of the mandated hours on the Pacific Pocket Mouse population and emphasized the need for immediate action by the City to rectify the situation. Despite receiving the notice more than 90 days ago, the City has failed to respond to the Coastal Commission’s requirements, prompting CNLM to take action.

CNLM asserts that the Coastal Commission’s directive warrants a modification of the Preliminary Injunction to comply with the Local Coastal Program’s requirements for conservation efforts and protection of endangered species. The nonprofit had proposed updates that were approved by state and federal wildlife agencies to the Habitat Management and Monitoring Plan (HMMP) to ensure the long-term preservation of the Dana Point Preserve. According to the Coastal Commission letter, the City has improperly refused to consider these agency-supported changes to public access for the Nature Trail and Overlook Areas.

“We remain committed to working collaboratively with the City of Dana Point to implement measures, approved by the wildlife agencies, that preserve public access while protecting the preserve’s fragile ecosystem,” added CNLM General Counsel, Sarah Mueller. “It is imperative that we take proactive steps to mitigate threats to endangered species and uphold our responsibilities as stewards of the land for future generations.”

**About CNLM:** [The Center for Natural Lands Management](#) is a nonprofit dedicated to the conservation and management of natural lands to protect biodiversity and enhance ecosystem

Press Release  
March 26, 2024

resilience. For more than three decades, CNLM has managed and protected sensitive habitats throughout the West Coast. CNLM collaborates with government agencies, landowners, and local communities to achieve sustainable environmental outcomes.

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