



Hb Beach Cities Health District Public Comment

From Laura [REDACTED]

Date Tue 7/22/2025 2:58 PM

To City Clerk <cityclerk@hermosabeach.gov>; City Council <citycouncil@hermosabeach.gov>

Hello Myra,

I've tried to attach the following public comment to the Beach Cities Health District Update on the agenda item but was unable to do so. So please include it as a supplemental item.

Thank you.

Laura Pena

Dear Mayor, Council Members, and Staff

I support the Beach Cities Health District (BCHD)'s vision of the Healthy Living Campus by expanding wellness, housing, and community services throughout the South Bay, but respectfully request that our City ensure we are fairly represented and proportionally served in this next phase. Our residents want to be part of this shared future and deserve meaningful access, investment, and representation.

Our City makes up a meaningful portion of the BCHD service area's population, and yet most major facilities including the Center for Health & Fitness (CHF), youth wellness center (Allcove), and the future Healthy Living Campus are located in Redondo Beach. Additionally, many BCHD services are used by residents from outside the district, raising questions about proportionality. We should have the following metrics available:

- Utilization data by city: (Allcove Dashboard - Update demographic information by city to include Hermosa and Manhattan Beach); More than 700 visits by young people in Hb.
- Investment breakdowns by geography
- Revenue contribution and access policies for out-of-district users

As BCHD explores hybrid housing models such as senior care, co-housing, or PACE, residents of Hermosa, Redondo, and Manhattan Beach must have transparent guidelines. For example,

- Clear eligibility and outreach standards
- Transparent reporting on who benefits from housing created on public land

Additional Recommendations

1. Expand Hermosa-Based Programs

- Senior wellness, caregiver support, and youth mental health workshops should be hosted in Hermosa. Ex: Dementia Caregiver Support Groups are hosted in Manhattan Beach and Redondo Beach but not Hermosa Beach. Provide hybrid models and/or offer meetings in a Hermosa Beach location.

2. Establish Formal Representation

- Publish an updated roster showing balanced city participation on committees.

3. Exploring a Beach Cities Public Health Department

- The COVID-19 pandemic highlighted how cities with local public health departments such as Long Beach and Pasadena were able to respond more quickly and independently to emerging health, business, and quality-of-life challenges. In contrast, our South Bay cities had to rely on countywide decisions that were often too broad or too slow to meet our specific needs. I respectfully recommend that our City, in partnership with BCHD and its neighboring cities, investigate the feasibility of launching a pilot Public Health Department for the three Beach Cities. This pilot could initially focus on non-regulatory services such as health education, preparedness, epidemiology, and data-sharing with the option to expand over time if proven effective and cost-efficient.

The Healthy Living Campus is more than a development project, it is an opportunity to advance health equity, intergenerational vitality, and localized public health leadership. Our City must be a full and visible partner in that future.

I appreciate your thoughtful consideration.

Laura Pena