

Desert Sun.

La Quinta's Coral Mountain will give residents a surf park. Here's how

By Tom Coulter

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The developers of Coral Mountain in La Quinta, whose plans for a surfing wave basin were rejected by the city council, are now teaming up with another surf park in the works about 10 miles east: Thermal Beach Club.

The La Quinta project, now known as Coral Mountain Desert Club, announced this week that it plans to offer its residents access to the private surf club in the eastern Coachella Valley as an exclusive club amenity.

The surf club planned in Thermal will only be available to residents of Coral Mountain and to those who own the luxury real estate planned within the beach club, according to Noah Hahn, a managing partner with Meriwether Companies, the longtime developer of Coral Mountain.



A rendering shows the golf clubhouse planned at Coral Mountain Desert Club in La Quinta. *Provided By Coral Mountain Desert Club*

Coral Mountain's own plans for a surf wave basin were rejected by the La Quinta City Council in [fall 2022](#), after many residents organized against the proposal while criticizing its water usage and overall fit within

the city. The meeting also drew many supporters of the project who said it would be a great attraction for young families.

The project's developers have since [pivoted](#) back to earlier visions for Coral Mountain, which will be on a nearly 400-acre site at the southwest corner of Avenue 58 and Madison Street. Plans call for hundreds of homes, an 18-hole golf course, a 10-acre recreational lake and up to 60,000 square feet of commercial space. The council also recently rejected an appeal of the project by a local resident, who said the city-approved plans did not adequately protect environmental and historical resources at Coral Mountain.

Hahn told The Desert Sun that his team had discussions last year with the developers of Thermal Beach Club about a potential collaboration that could bring more "ballast" to the project in Thermal. He noted the partnership emerged after Meriwether Companies saw initial success with a golf and surfing [development](#) in Cabo San Lucas, Mexico.

The Coachella Valley has seen a few surf parks emerge in recent years, with the Palm Springs Surf Club opening in 2024 and [DSRT Surf](#), a project planned at Desert Willow in Palm Desert, slated to open in summer 2026. However, Hahn noted that Thermal Beach Club, which gained approval from Riverside County supervisors [in 2020](#), would be the only private one in the valley.



The surf lagoon approved in Thermal will serve as an exclusive amenity for Coral Mountain Desert Club residents.
Provided By Coral Mountain Desert Club

When will Thermal Beach Club, Coral Mountain open?

While both projects are advancing, it will be at least a while before either of them is finished.

Hahn said he expects Coral Mountain Desert Club to break ground in summer 2026, while Thermal Beach Club could see construction begin in summer 2027. He added that developers have a rough target to open in the fourth quarter of 2028.

The project developers cleared a major hurdle recently with the La Quinta City Council's approval of a substation expansion along Avenue 58 that will [bring power](#) to Coral Mountain Desert Club and other projects in the area, with the city fronting millions to be repaid by developers over time. Hahn described the issue as a "bear" to get addressed.

"While the power is not there obviously today, all the wheels are in motions (and) the economic agreements have all been executed," Hahn said.



An aerial view of the Coral Mountain development site, off of Madison Street, between 58th Avenue and Avenue 60 and across from Andalusia, in La Quinta. The masterplan resort community would sit on a vacant 400 acres and is proposed to include a hotel, 600 homes, a 20-acre wave basin and other amenities. *Submitted By Meriwether Companies*

When Thermal Beach Club was approved by the Riverside County Board of Supervisors in 2020, a representative for Kohl Ranch, the broader master-planned community planned along Avenue 66,

committed to pay \$750,000 for local water infrastructure, while agreeing to develop affordable housing at the site or elsewhere. The promises came [amid opposition](#) from some residents of the area who said the project neglected the predominantly Latino, farmworker community of Thermal.

Hahn said the developers still plan to fulfill the obligations included under the county-approved plans. He added that the Coral Mountain developer, Meriwether, is now in a "full partnership" with Whitestar Development, the firm that first proposed Thermal Beach Club.

The developers also say the wave basin planned at Thermal Beach Club will be the largest pneumatic wave basin in the United States, matching the 48-chamber wave basin in Cabo San Lucas. Pneumatic wave basins use chambers that blow and ventilate pressurized air to create the waves, rather than with an underwater sled-like system used in some wave technologies.

Hahn said the developers' goal is to bring more young families to the desert with the new attraction.

"We think the combination of everything that we're offering is really going to appeal to that," Hahn said. "Obviously, there's Coachella, but that's a transitory customer. ... We really think it's going to change the dynamic of who the customer is and who's looking at the desert."

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A rendering shows a racquet sports complex planned for Coral Mountain Desert Club in La Quinta. *Provided By Coral Mountain Desert Club*