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General Aquarium Information:
562/590-3100 or www.aquariumofpacific.org

AQUARIUM OF THE PACIFIC

WHAT:

The Aquarium of the Pacific celebrates our planet's largest and most diverse body of water, the Pacific Ocean. A non-profit organization, the Aquarium of the Pacific is dedicated to education and conservation of our ocean environment. The Aquarium of the Pacific has redefined the modern aquarium. It's a community gathering place where diverse cultures and the arts are celebrated and a place where important environmental topics are explored by scientists, policy-makers, and stakeholders in search for sustainable solutions. The Aquarium of the Pacific was the first in its industry to register its greenhouse gases and is a leader in green practices, including its commitment to grow without increasing its carbon footprint. Since 2002 annual the Aquarium's attendance has increased by nearly 26 percent with no increase in the organization's carbon footprint. The Aquarium leads numerous conservation efforts, including those pertaining to urban ocean issues.

WHERE:

The Aquarium is located on an over six-acre site on Rainbow Harbor in Long Beach, Calif.—across the water from the Long Beach Convention Center, Shoreline Village, and the Queen Mary Hotel and Attraction.

Address: 100 Aquarium Way, Long Beach, CA 90802

SIZE:

Three football fields could fit into the Aquarium's expansive, three-story 353,685 square feet facility, which features 50 exhibits and Behind-the-Scenes Tour areas. More than 11,000 ocean animals, representing over 500 species, reside in the Aquarium. Exhibits range in size and capacity from about 5,000 to 350,000 gallons.

GRAND OPENING:

June 20, 1998

TOTAL INVESTMENT TO BUILD: \$117 million

OPERATING BUDGET: \$28.589 million

RANK: 4th most attended aquarium in the country

AQUARIUM EXPERIENCE:

The journey through the Pacific Rim unfolds as visitors are guided through the Pacific Ocean's three major regions: Southern California/Baja, Northern Pacific, and the Tropical Pacific. The exhibits introduce the inhabitants and seascapes of the Pacific, while also focusing on specific conservation messages associated with each region. As visitors enter the Aquarium's vast *Great Hall of the Pacific*, a full-scale model of a blue whale, the largest animal in the world, floats high above their heads. Visitors are given a preview of what awaits in the Aquarium's main galleries, including an up-close look at Southern California/Baja with the nearly three-story tall *Blue Cavern Habitat*, home to leopard sharks,

-More-

Aquarium of the Pacific, Page 2

barracuda and other kelp fish. Throughout the day, Aquarium guests can enjoy the multimedia presentation *Whales: A Journey with Giants* (through May 16, 2012), *Penguins* (starting May 17, 2012), and *Arctic & Antarctic* film in the Aquarium's Great Hall of the Pacific.

Southern California & Baja:

Upon entering the first gallery, visitors explore familiar, temperate local waters. Seals and sea lions can be viewed in an up-close-and-personal indoor/outdoor setting. A kelp forest with California's state fish and many other fascinating animals are featured. This section includes the bilingual Gulf of California gallery featuring reef fish of Baja California, Mexico.

Northern Pacific:

The temperature and atmosphere undergo a drastic change as visitors enter the North Pacific and are introduced to the ice-cold waters of Alaska, Russia, and northern Japan. Puffins and other diving birds nest overhead and "fly" underwater, while the sea otters frolic in a nearby habitat. After leaving the mesmerizing sea jellies and a giant Pacific octopus, bright sea stars and giant Japanese spider crabs await visitors. An interactive three-player sea otter conservation game is included in this gallery.

Tropical Pacific:

Leaving the frigid world of the North Pacific, Aquarium explorers burst into the sun-splashed paradise of Micronesia. From coral lagoons to deep reefs, the islands of the Palau archipelago are among the earth's most beautiful spots. Visitors are introduced to a coral lagoon with colorful fish as well as to sea horses, sea snakes, and mysterious sea dragons. In the Aquarium's largest exhibit, the *Tropical Reef Habitat*, sharks and colorful sea life swirl around visitors in a tunnel and through various viewing windows.

Ocean Science Center:

Visitors can travel across the globe in an immersive multimedia experience to see how climate change and maritime trade and ports impact our lives through the new *Ocean Science Center*. The centerpiece of this gallery is a six-foot global display that combines new technology from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), which enables the Aquarium to show recent environmental occurrences, including tsunamis, tornadoes, earthquakes, and more.

Molina Animal Care Center:

The Molina Animal Care Center features an interactive exhibit, daily animal care shows, and the chance to see veterinary procedures.

Special Exhibits:

The Aquarium of the Pacific features a changing Special Exhibits Gallery that currently features the ***Arctic & Antarctic: Our Polar Regions in Peril*** exhibition. In this gallery visitors can see polar animals, safely touch sea jellies, and learn how climate change is affecting the Arctic and Antarctic.

Lorikeet Forest:

Lorikeet Forest is a walkthrough aviary filled with dozens of Australian lorikeets. Visitors can purchase a cup of nectar to feed these friendly birds that will land on your hand, arm, or even your head to get a sip of the nectar. |

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Shark Lagoon:

Shark Lagoon is an educational adventure that features a main exhibit showcasing large sharks and two touch pools where visitors can reach in and touch more than 150 smaller sharks. Interactive displays, the Shark Shack gift store, and Bamboo Bistro are also part of Shark Lagoon.

AND MUCH MORE:

- Aquarium educators host a variety of classes, daily presentations, Behind-the-Scenes Tours, and more for school and youth groups, families, adults, and children.
- The Aquarium's indoor/outdoor restaurant, Café Scuba, offers a variety of entrees, including sustainable seafood, and views across the bay to the Queen Mary and the downtown Long Beach waterfront.
- Hundreds of marine-related gifts, games, educational toys, souvenirs, and surprises are available at the Aquarium's main gift store, *Pacific Collections*.

HOURS:

The Aquarium is open 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., every day of the year, except December 25 and the weekend of the Grand Prix of Long Beach in April 13-15, 2012. Open until 9:00 p.m. on select summer and holidays days.

ADMISSION:

General adult admission \$24.95 (12+), senior (62+) \$21.95, child (3-11) \$13.95, and free for children under age 3 and Aquarium members

Annual Aquarium memberships are available. For information, please call 562/437-FISH or visit www.aquariumofpacific.org.

**DESIGN
AND ARCHITECTURE:**

Inspired by the towering waves of the Pacific, the Aquarium's architecture mirrors the fluid and dynamic temper of the ocean.

- Developer: Kajima International, developers of the world's most critically acclaimed and technologically advanced aquariums.
- Architects: Los Angeles office of Hellmuth, Obata & Kassabaum and Esherick Homsey Dodge and Davis of San Francisco. EHDD designed many other award-winning marine exhibitions across the world.
- Contractors: Construction was a joint venture of Turner Construction Company and Kajima International.

CONSERVATION:

Activities of the Aquarium of the Pacific employees and volunteers extend far beyond exhibits. The diverse environmental science and conservation ventures include:

- Bringing together leading experts and stakeholders to address pressing environmental issues through forums;
- Conservation programs for endangered marine animals and habitats, including blue whale field research;
- Housing of unreleasable marine mammals and birds from local care centers and marine parks;

-More-

- Continuing efforts on ocean literacy, climate change education, sustainable seafood, recycling and water conservation, habitat destruction, and more;
- and local beach, street, and underwater cleanups and habitat restoration efforts.

THE BOARD:

A volunteer board of directors that includes leaders of the civic, marine sciences, corporate, and educational communities governs the Aquarium.

AQUARIUM EXECUTIVES:

David Bader, director of education
Anthony Brown, CFO
Theresa Duncan, director of development
Cecile Fisher, V.P. of marketing and communications
Perry Hampton, V.P. of animal husbandry
Barbara Long, V.P. of government relations & strategic planning
Kathie Nirschl, V.P. of human resources
Marilyn Padilla, director of public relations
John Rouse, V.P. of operations
Tina Sarty, controller
Jerry Schubel, president & CEO
Jeff Spofford, director of retail operations
Nancy Weintraub, V.P. of development

VOLUNTEERS:

More than 1,300 Aquarium volunteers dedicate about 150,000 hours annually in almost every department, ensuring quality care for the Aquarium's thousands of animals and excellent service for the approximately 1.5 million people who visit the Aquarium annually.

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