



For Immediate Release

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Digital Images Available Upon Request

AQUARIUM OF THE PACIFIC DEBUTS OCEAN SCIENCE CENTER FEATURING NOAA's SCIENCE ON A SPHERE (SOS)[®] EXHIBIT

Take a journey across the world to explore the atmosphere, ocean, and continents, and learn the many ways societies depend on the World Ocean

WHAT: Imagine looking at Earth from space, learning how ports affect our lives, or seeing what impact sea level rise and coastal flooding will have on communities where you or your loved ones live or work. The Aquarium of the Pacific's new Ocean Science Center gallery will feature the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Science On a Sphere (SOS)[®], a six-foot diameter global display that combines new technology to take visitors on a journey across the world. With the ability to be programmed to tell different stories, the Science On a Sphere (SOS)[®] will give visitors the opportunity to learn about climate change and sea level rise as well as international trade and ports through two different presentations shown throughout the day. Presentations will be available in both English and Spanish.

Humans are now a powerful force driving changes in Earth's climate system. The ocean has absorbed 50 percent of carbon dioxide released from the burning of fossil fuels since the Industrial Revolution, impacting marine life and committing us to a warmer world with sea level rise and more powerful storms. More than half of the world's population lives within 50 miles of the coast. Through the sea level rise presentation, visitors will get to see how predicted rises in sea level and associated coastal flooding may affect these communities. They can also speak with Aquarium staff to learn what they can do to reduce impacts and to adapt. The primary objective of Science on a Sphere (SOS)[®] at the Aquarium is to illustrate our connections to the ocean through a dynamic and immersive visitor learning experience.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) developed the Science On a Sphere[®] technology, and the NOAA Office of Education provided funding for its installation at the Aquarium of the Pacific. The Aquarium's new Ocean Science Center and the SOS[®] programs also received funding from Port of Long Beach, Port of Los Angeles, and the Roddenberry Foundation.

WHEN: **Public Opening: May 28, 2011 / Press Preview: May 26, 2011 at 10 a.m.**

WHERE: **Aquarium of the Pacific, 100 Aquarium Way, Long Beach, CA 90802**

INFO: **562-590-3100 or www.aquariumofpacific.org**

PRESS RSVP: RSVP to Marilyn Padilla, Aquarium of the Pacific, 562-951-1684, mpadilla@lbaop.org

AQUARIUM: The Aquarium of the Pacific, a nonprofit institution, is dedicated to instilling a sense of wonder, respect, and stewardship for the Pacific Ocean, its inhabitants, and ecosystems. The Aquarium is open daily from 9 a.m.-6 p.m. (closed Dec. 25 and three days in April for the Grand Prix).

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