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AQUARIUM OF THE PACIFIC TO UNVEIL ITS FIRST PENGUIN EXHIBIT, FILMS, AND EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMING ON MAY 17, 2012

The new June Keyes Penguin Habitat features rescued Magellanic Penguins

Over 75 percent of penguins are endangered or threatened, and the Aquarium hopes to inspire visitors to take action

May 16, 2012, Long Beach, CA—They have existed on the planet for more than 50 million years. Today environmental issues are threatening their future survival. The new June Keyes Penguin Habitat will open to the public on May 17, 2012. Visitors to the Aquarium of the Pacific will be able to get up-close with these animals and learn what they can do to help them. The new permanent exhibit is home to the first penguins in the Aquarium's collection and will include a crawl-in space where visitors can feel as if they are in the exhibit with the animals.

The new habitat will feature Magellanic Penguins, educational exhibit panels, and interactive touch screens where visitors can learn more about penguins and issues that are affecting their survival. Some of the birds in the Aquarium's new habitat were rescued near Rio, Brazil and deemed non-releasable to the wild because of health issues. Scientists speculate that these birds ended up stranded north of their normal range in search of food due to issues such as climate change and overfishing. "Perhaps never before have penguins experienced such rapid environmental changes. The fate of penguins is tied to ours," said Dr. Jerry R. Schubel, Aquarium of the Pacific president. "We can help them by choosing sustainable seafood, decreasing carbon emissions, reducing pollution, and protecting areas where these penguins breed and forage," said Schubel.

The Aquarium of the Pacific's Magellanic Penguins are native to the temperate, rocky beaches of the southern tip of South America. Their new habitat at the Aquarium will feature a rocky area and beach that resembles their natural habitat, a pool for swimming, and plants similar to those found in their native environment. Visitors will be able to view the penguins both above and below the water. The exhibit will also include nesting areas resembling the burrows that Magellanic Penguins use for laying eggs and rearing their chicks in the wild. The June Keyes Penguin Habitat is located outdoors on the second floor near the Aquarium's ray pool.

Honda is helping power the Aquarium's Magellanic Penguin exhibit. By providing its "thin film" CIGS solar panels, Honda is helping the Aquarium reduce the energy needed from the grid for this exhibit. This 10.5-kilowatt system provides a reliable supply of clean energy and is the first public demonstration of Honda's solar panels in the United States. American Honda is a founding sponsor of the Aquarium of the Pacific.

Visitors to the Aquarium this summer will also be able to learn more about penguins through new educational programming. Two short films about penguins, a children's program, and a penguin guest speaker series are all part of the new happenings. There will even be a penguin encounter starting on June 2 where visitors can set a date to go behind the scenes for the chance to feed a penguin while learning about these birds. The new Penguin Animal Encounter will be available by advance reservation only and costs \$90 per person ages 10+.

The nonprofit Aquarium of the Pacific is dedicated to ocean conservation education and is the fourth most visited aquarium in the nation. The Aquarium is located at 100 Aquarium Way in Long Beach, California. For more information, call 562-590-3100 or visit www.aquariumofpacific.org.

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