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Media Alert/Photo Opportunity

AQUARIUM OF THE PACIFIC TO EXPAND WITH OPENING OF NEW “GREEN” BUILDING AND EXHIBITS

Media are invited to get a sneak peak at the new watershed environmental exhibition, classroom, and native landscaping garden on Thursday, November 12, 2008 at 10 a.m.

Aquarium of the Pacific will be 1st aquarium in the U.S. to open a carbon-neutral building

WHAT: The Aquarium of the Pacific will be expanding its visitor space with a new “green” area, which will provide vital information for guests of all ages to help California deal with its impending water crisis. The media is invited to the press preview on Wednesday, November 12, 2008 to get a sneak peak at the new *Our Watersheds: Pathway to the Pacific* area, which opens to the public on November 15, 2008. The new space includes an interactive environmental exhibition, classroom with a “green roof”, and native landscaping garden. The Aquarium of the Pacific will become the first aquarium in the nation to have a carbon-neutral building. The Aquarium’s new classroom is also expected to be the first in Long Beach to receive the highest “green” building rating: Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) platinum-certification.

A shaded outdoor area will feature five displays on local watersheds, including a three-dimensional model of the Los Angeles and San Gabriel watersheds with various interactive features such as the option to create rain and see what happens once rain lands on our mountains and streets. Hands-on exhibits will demonstrate the practical and environmentally friendly ways in which we can live more sustainably with nature and its resources. The exhibits will define a watershed, illustrate the local watersheds, and explore concepts of water supply and use. Surrounding the classroom and outdoor exhibits, native landscaping will represent the flora found in the Los Angeles and San Gabriel Watersheds and illustrate how native gardens can significantly reduce water use.

WHEN: **Wednesday, November 12, 2008 at 10 a.m. Press Preview**
Saturday, November 15, 2008 at 12 p.m. Public Opening

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

WHO: **Experts on watersheds, green building, and native landscaping available for interviews**
Jerry Schubel, Aquarium of the Pacific, president & CEO
Barbara Long, Aquarium of the Pacific, VP of strategic planning & special projects
Belinda Faustinos, Rivers and Mountains Conservancy (RMC), executive director
Tania Gybels, Environmental Concept, owner (native landscaping / featured on Oprah & HGTV)
Hernando Miranda, Soltierra, principal and green building expert

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

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SPONSORS: **Principal funding provided by** San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers & Mountains Conservancy. **Major funding provided by** An Anonymous Foundation. **Additional funding provided by:** American Chemistry Council Plastics Division; California Coastal Conservancy; Institute of Museum and Library Sciences; Long Beach Water Department; Supervisor Don Knabe, County of Los Angeles, 4th District; the Metropolitan Water District; and the Water Replenishment District of Southern California.

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. Home to over 12,500 animals, the Aquarium features a variety of programs both on and off-site to engage the public in ocean conservation and environmental education, including Aquarium on Wheels outreach programs for low-income inner city schools and cleanups efforts to help wildlife. The Aquarium of the Pacific is one of the top aquariums in the nation and was the first in the aquarium/museum industry to become a Climate Action Leader in 2007. This year the Aquarium of the Pacific is the first museum to register all of its green house gases with the Climate Action Registry. The Aquarium is open daily from 9 a.m.-6 p.m. (closed Dec. 25, 2008 and in April for the Grand Prix).

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