

**Exhibit 2 Conceptual Displays**



**Color Rendering of Visitor Center**

## Exhibit 2 Conceptual Displays





## Exhibit 2 Conceptual Displays

# Essential Eelgrass

**While not technically a grass, this flowering land plant forms meadows in the bay that are a vital part of estuary food webs. The importance of this essential plant goes well beyond the borders of Morro Bay.**

**A Variety of Habitats**  
Eelgrass meadows are full of life, attracting our estuary birds in particular, whose nests are built among the leaves. Other animals in the meadows, crabs, clams, and snails provide a variety of habitats for our estuaries. Marine worms, snails, kelp, mussels, birds, and fish.



**A Marine Food Factory**  
An eelgrass stem, broken and long laid on the floor leaves, breaking down into tiny pieces. These particles of plant material, called detritus, provide vital nutrients for the estuary and ocean. Eelgrass is a vital food source for many invertebrates, insects, amphipods, worms, and other plants. The large number of invertebrates present makes eelgrass beds rich feeding areas for fish and marine birds.



**A Water Purifier**  
Eelgrass improves the water clarity and water quality of the bay. Eelgrass roots work to hold mud and fine sediment in place on the floor of the bay. Eelgrass reduces the impact of waves and currents, creating a calmer space in the midst of

**Implications: The dense foliage of the beds functions as a filter that demonstrates the bay's water.**



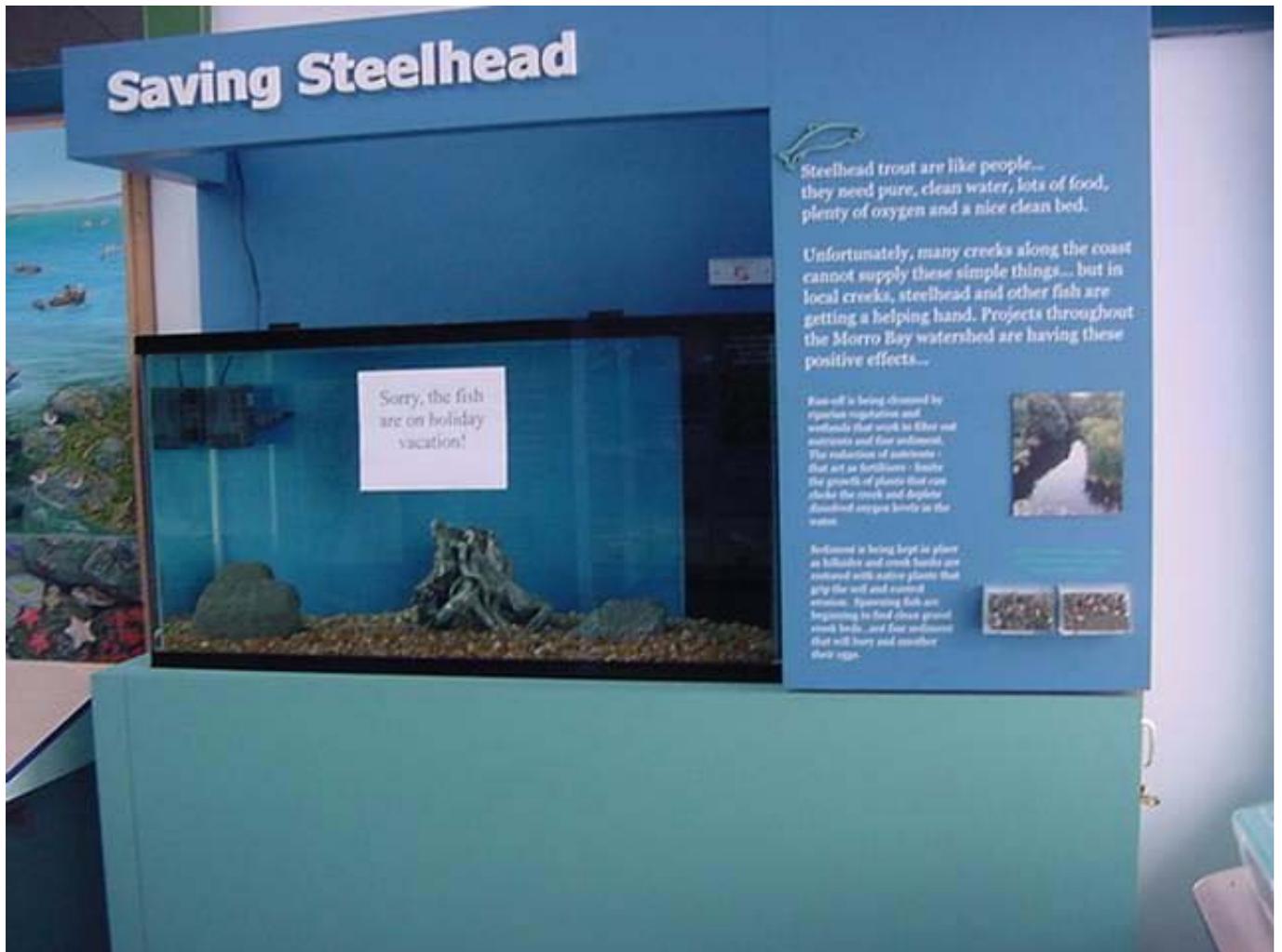
**Very Eelgrass!**  
How is eelgrass like...

**A crab?**

**A bar of soap?**

**Your favorite dinner?**

## Exhibit 2 Conceptual Displays



## Exhibit 2 Conceptual Displays



## Exhibit 2 Conceptual Displays

