

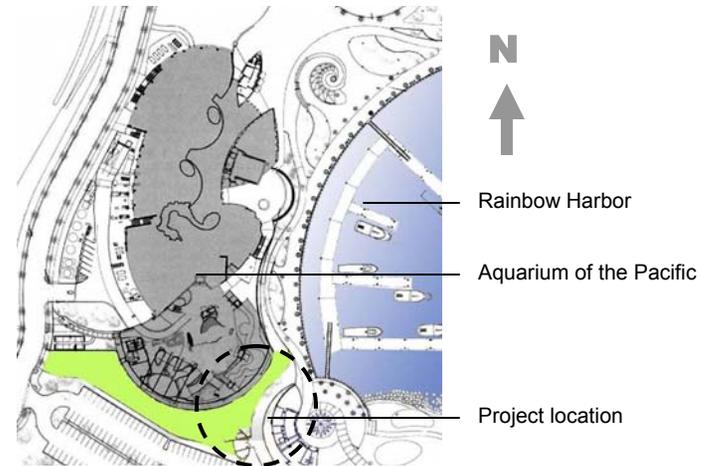
Watershed Exhibit Project

Introduction

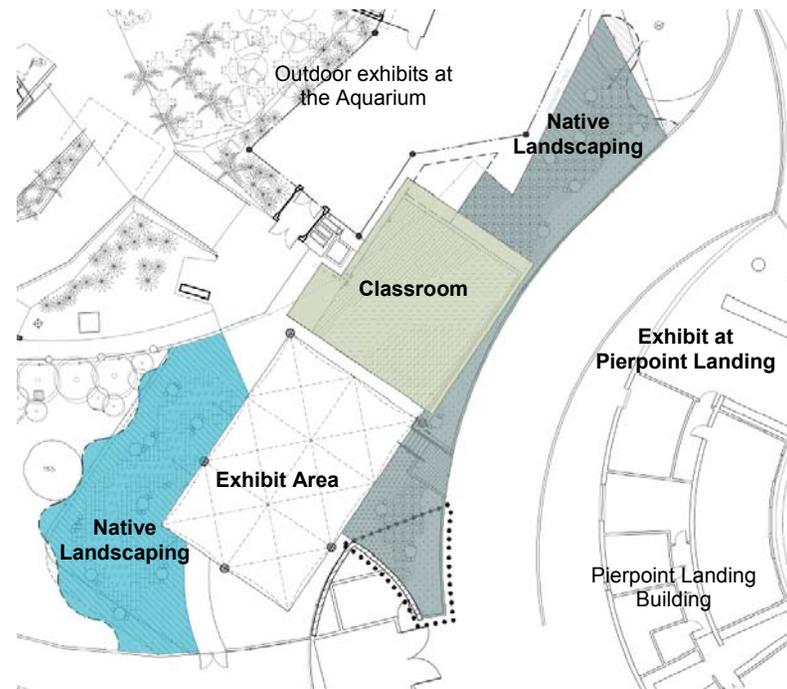
The watershed exhibit project tells the evolving story of the changing relationships of people within the San Pedro Bay drainage basin and their environment—terrestrial, riverine, and coastal ocean. The overall goal of the exhibit is to motivate visitors to improve the quality of life for the people and the environment by making the sustainable choices for the future of the watersheds.

The watershed exhibit will provide a new opportunity to inform the Aquarium’s 1.25 million annual visitors, including 189,000 school program participants, as well as the general public about the story of the City’s and region’s search for strategies to live in harmony with nature and in particular the natural environment of the Los Angeles and San Gabriel Watersheds. The major elements of this project consist of the following:

- Expanding the use of the City of Long Beach’s Pierpoint Landing, to house a free, **public exhibit** that compares and contrasts the watersheds of yore and today for all those who walk along the waterfront
- Dynamic and **interactive watershed exhibits** that will provide a perspective between the relationships of people and the environment, identify actions that could be taken to restore some of the natural qualities of our watersheds, and conserve resource usage
- A LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) platinum **environmental education classroom** to explore the stories of our watersheds in greater depth
- **Landscaping** with native plants of the coastal regions of our watersheds using reclaimed water and low-water irrigation techniques



Site plan



Plan of watershed exhibit project



Perspective of classroom and exhibit area

Exhibits

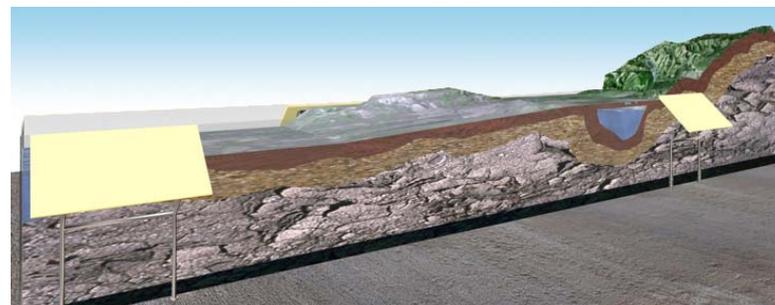
“Our Watershed Story” is an exhibit in the public space of Pierpoint Landing. The exhibit consists of a harmonica shaped display to show an illustrative map of the San Pedro Bay watersheds in its natural state, before human settlement, and then in its current heavily developed state. The two best viewing points are marked by two graphic display stations.



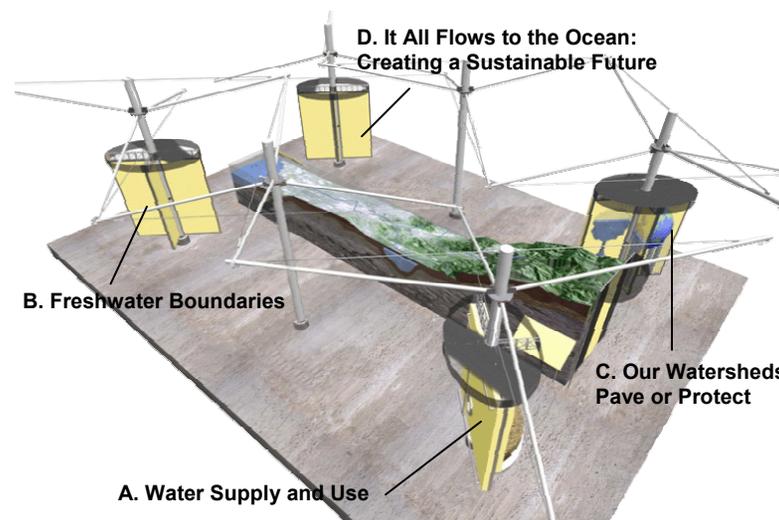
Exhibit at Pierpoint Landing

An additional five exhibits are featured at the Aquarium. The central feature of the watershed exhibits is a three-dimensional watershed

section model that represents a portion of the Los Angeles and San Gabriel watersheds from the headwaters to the ocean. The exhibit will show visitors the natural course of rainfall on the natural and unnatural landscapes of this region. Surrounding the model are four wet and dry exhibit stations supported by graphics, photographs, text, and low-tech and high-tech interactives to appeal to the variety of learning styles of the Aquarium visitors.



Watershed section model



Watershed exhibit stations

Classroom

The classroom, the first LEED platinum certified building of Long Beach, will employ sustainable design, construction, and operations by using renewable building materials, natural lighting and ventilation, solar energy and a native landscaped “green roof” containing native grasses, shrubs, and wildflowers. The green roof will work to reduce and delay stormwater quantity runoffs, enhance the thermal performance of the building, provide additional habitat for wildlife, and create a pleasing visual appearance for the roof. When not in use as a classroom, the room will be used as a meeting space for community groups, governmental agencies, environmental organizations, and private parties.



Native Landscaping

The watershed garden surrounds the classroom and exhibit area with a mosaic of native plants of the hydrological zones that occur along the coastal slopes and at the mouth of the San Gabriel and Los Angeles Rivers. These include the coastal scrub habitat and freshwater marsh/wetland habitat on the ground level and coastal bluff habitat for the green roof of the classroom. The plant palette consists of a myriad of distinct species including plants that were used for medicinal purposes particularly by Native Americans and plants that attract birds, bees, and butterflies. Irrigation for the garden shall occur from the use of reclaimed water, surface runoffs, and low-water irrigation techniques.



Plants of the watershed garden

The exhibit, classroom, adjacent water-wise native landscaping, and a public exhibit at the City of Long Beach’s Pier Point Landing provide unique programming opportunities and showcase actions that assure the Aquarium and the community a healthy future for our watersheds.

Project Budget

\$1.9 million

Funding Sources

- Rivers and Mountains Conservancy (RMC) – \$1.5 million secured
- Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) – application for \$135,000 submitted
- Water Replenishment District of Southern California (WRD) – discussions in process for \$100,000
- Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD) – application for \$75,000 submitted
- Discussions in process with other potential sources for \$90,000, for solar energy panels