

## EXHIBIT 3: Letters of Support



# CITY OF LONG BEACH

Department of Parks, Recreation and Marine

2760 Studebaker Road, Long Beach, CA 90815-1697

(562) 570-3100 • FAX (562) 570-3109

June 28, 2005

Mr. Sam Schuchat  
Executive Director  
California State Coastal Conservancy  
1330 Broadway, 11th floor  
Oakland, Ca 94612-2530

Dear Mr. Schuchat;

The Long Beach Department of Parks, Recreation, and Marine is very pleased to write this letter of support for the Aquarium of the Pacific's efforts to receive funding for an exhibit on our watershed. This exhibit will be located on Pier Point Landing, a public facility that is part of the City of Long Beach's park system, and will become an asset of the city when the project is complete. The Aquarium is creating several innovative education programs for the public to learn about watersheds, water conservation, and water resources management. The Department of Parks, Recreation, and Marine is an active partner in many of these efforts.

The exhibit on Pier Point Landing is part of the Aquarium's \$2.1 million watershed education capital project. The first exhibit, a mural depicting the native animals and plants still found in our watersheds is located on the public plaza in front of the Aquarium and opened earlier this year. The exhibit at Pier Point Landing will be located in the same waterfront City park. The Aquarium has also completed plans for a larger interactive watershed exhibit, environmental education classroom, and native plant garden. The Aquarium is receiving funding from the Rivers and Mountains Conservancy, the Southern California Water Replenishment District, the Metropolitan Water District, and the County of Los Angeles.

Support from the Coastal Conservancy will enable the Aquarium to fulfill their funding requirements. I am designated as the monitor of the total project in the Aquarium's grant with the RMC so I can assure you that Coastal Conservancy funds will be used for the exhibit at Pier Point Landing.

City of Long Beach Parks, Recreation and Marine Department, and Aquarium of the Pacific are striving to meet that same goal, sharing a common understanding of the need to increase "green" spaces and of educating our children. We hope that the Coastal Conservancy will join us in supporting this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Phil T. Hester".

Phil T. Hester  
Director, Parks, Recreation and Marine Bureau

PTH:rb

**EXHIBIT 3: Letters of Support**



**Terry Tamminen**  
*Secretary for  
Environmental  
Protection*

**State Water Resources Control Board**

**Executive Office**

1001 I Street • Sacramento, California 95814 • (916) 341-5615  
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 100 • Sacramento, California • 95812-0100  
Fax (916) 341-5621 • <http://www.swrcb.ca.gov>



**Arnold Schwarzenegger**  
*Governor*

To Whom It May Concern:

As a member of the State of California Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board), I am delighted to write this letter expressing support for the Aquarium of the Pacific.

One of the main goals of the State Board's Education and Outreach program is to reach out and educate the general public about water quality issues and water pollution prevention. The Board believes it is vital to educate all Californians on the importance of water quality and their role in their watershed so that they will understand their responsibility to protect California's rivers, lakes, streams and coastal waters.

The Aquarium's Watershed Exhibit will tell the evolving story of the life of the rivers and the health of the watersheds. It will engage Aquarium visitors and educate them about the role they play in their watershed, from storm drain pollution and non-point source runoff, to recent efforts to daylight creeks.

The Aquarium of the Pacific has an exceptionally strong track record of engaging and educating visitors about conservation issues surrounding the Pacific Ocean through high quality exhibits and education programs for all ages. Based on this track record, I believe the Watershed Exhibit at the Aquarium will serve as a center for community engagement on watershed health for visitors of all ages and from all backgrounds. The exhibit will help visitors understand their relationship to their watershed and the importance of maintaining and restoring watershed health; goals the Aquarium shares with the State Water Board.

Sincerely,

Richard Katz  
Board Member

*California Environmental Protection Agency*



## EXHIBIT 3: Letters of Support



City Hall: (562) 570-6310  
Field Office: (562) 570-8756  
FAX: (562) 570-6186  
TDD: (562) 570-6629

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Mountains Conservancy

To Whom It May Concern:

It is with great pleasure I write this letter expressing my support for the Aquarium of the Pacific's Watershed Exhibit.

The Aquarium of the Pacific is located in Long Beach, California at the mouth of the Los Angeles River and serves visitors from Southern California. With support from the Rivers and Mountains Conservancy, the Aquarium is building a major watershed exhibit and environmental education classroom. I have the pleasure of being involved with this project at the Aquarium in two capacities—as a City of Long Beach City councilmember and as the chair of the Rivers and Mountains Conservancy. The Watershed Exhibit will be an interactive and engaging exhibit that will tell the evolving story of the history and health of the San Gabriel and Los Angeles Rivers and their watersheds—watersheds that ultimately drain into San Pedro Bay in the Pacific Ocean.

The exhibit will show the Aquarium's 1.25 million annual visitors how they connect to their watershed and how their watershed impacts their lives. By interacting with the exhibit, visitors will make a direct connection between trash and urban runoff and the health of the watershed and the coastal ocean. The Rivers and Mountains Conservancy is providing \$1.5 million for the exciting project. The plans are complete, and the Aquarium is currently in the permitting process. Additional funds are required to expand upon the exhibits so that they set the standard for watershed education and outreach. (The Aquarium's newest exhibit, *Whales: Voices in the Sea*, just received a prestigious award from the American Association of Museums.)

Community engagement through free choice learning institutions such as the Aquarium is vital to the future health of California's, and the nation's, environment. I give my highest recommendation and support for the Aquarium's program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Frank A. Colonna".

Civic Center Plaza, 14<sup>th</sup> Floor, 333 West Ocean Boulevard, Long Beach, CA 90802  
Field Office, 340 Nieto Avenue, Long Beach, CA 90814  
E-Mail Address: colonna@cclong-beach.ca.us