

CITY OF LONG BEACH

Department of Parks, Recreation and Marine

2760 N. Studebaker Road, Long Beach, CA 90815-1697

(562) 570-3100 • FAX (562) 570-3109

www.lbparks.org

October 5, 2004

HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

City of Long Beach

California

SUBJECT: Approval of Right of Entry Permit to the Aquarium of the Pacific for the Renovation of the Wave Fountain Located in the Aquarium Plaza (District 2)

DISCUSSION

Recently, the Aquarium of the Pacific (Aquarium), located in Shoreline Aquatic Park, received a grant from the Rivers and Mountains Conservancy to modify the City-owned Wave Fountain located in the Aquarium Plaza. The modification will both enhance the fountain's educational function and provide a fully functioning and safe attraction at the Aquarium. In order to modify the Wave Fountain, the Aquarium must access the City-owned fountain to make the enhancements. (Please see Exhibit A.)

When the Aquarium was originally constructed, an effort was made to create a separate feature at the Aquarium entrance from the Rainbow Harbor Esplanade that would act as both a signature for the Aquarium and as a point of interest to draw visitors along the Esplanade. The feature that was chosen was a fountain, with the construction of the fountain financed through a donation from the Long Beach Water Department.

The current design of the Wave Fountain is a nautilus-like shape when viewed from above. The shape is outlined in a low granite wall open at the bottom of the shell, which faces the Esplanade. Water rushes out of the interior of the shell in pulses like "waves" of varying heights, the "waves" crash against the inside of the granite outline, and then fall back into the shell. The outside of the granite shell is designed to carry the water that overtops the granite and direct it by gravity flow to the end of the granite shell to drain back into the fountain.

As part of the effort to increase the attraction of Rainbow Harbor and the Aquarium, the Aquarium requested and was awarded funding from the Rivers and Mountains Conservancy to renovate the fountain so that it would become an attractive educational exhibit explaining the natural processes of the watershed. The Wave Fountain will be reinterpreted so that the granite nautilus-like structure depicts the birth of the Los Angeles River and San Gabriel River flowing from the San Gabriel Mountains to the Pacific Ocean. (Please see Exhibit B.) The fountain will become a display of the rivers

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flowing to the ocean with the placement of granite to represent mountain peaks and boulders descending in size along the outside of the fountain. The rivers will be symbolically illustrated by a ribbon of blue tile on the outer side of the granite and will be accompanied by tile illustrations of native plants and animals located at appropriate elevations to the rivers' descent. Fossil-like impressions will also be located along the granite edge of the fountain to interest children with close-up, touchable images. Educational displays will be placed along the railing to explain the illustrated wildlife or explain natural processes like the water cycle and erosion.

The Parks and Recreation Commission reviewed the proposed improvements to the fountain on July 20, 2004, and recommended that the City Council approve the request.

This letter was reviewed by Donna F. Gwin, Senior Deputy City Attorney, and by Budget Management Officer David Wodynski on September 13, 2004.

TIMING CONSIDERATIONS

City Council action on this item is requested on October 5, 2004, to avoid significant delay, which may prevent the Aquarium from completing the project in a timely manner in accordance with a grant agreement.

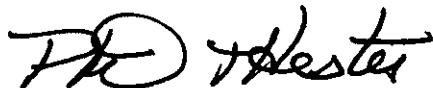
FISCAL CONSIDERATIONS

A Right of Entry Permit is required by the City to allow the Aquarium to access the City-owned fountain. The Aquarium will provide all materials and labor to enhance the exterior surface of the fountain, as well as all interpretive signage. In addition, the Aquarium is fully funding the proposed work with the aid of the grant from the Rivers and Mountains Conservancy.

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE CITY COUNCIL:

Authorize the City Manager to execute a Right of Entry Permit to the Aquarium of the Pacific granting temporary access to the Wave Fountain for renovation purposes for a period of five months.

Respectfully submitted,



PHIL T. HESTER
DIRECTOR OF PARKS, RECREATION AND MARINE

APPROVED:



GERALD R. MILLER
CITY MANAGER

PTH:DLE:GP:LH:DE
Attachments