

**Memorandum****To:** Honorable Mayor and City Council

October 13, 2015

From: Robert Garcia, Mayor *RG*
Suja Lowenthal, Second District *SL***Subject:** Aquarium of the Pacific**RECOMMENDATION:**

Request a presentation from representatives of the Aquarium of the Pacific on recent and upcoming events, its financial performance and future plans to "conserve and build Natural Capital (Nature and Nature's services) by building Social Capital (the interactions between and among peoples)".

BACKGROUND

The Aquarium of the Pacific's mission is to instill a sense of wonder, respect, and stewardship for the Pacific Ocean, its inhabitants, and ecosystems. Founded in June 1998, the Aquarium of the Pacific is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization.

According to its website, the Aquarium of the Pacific is the fourth most-attended aquarium in the nation. It displays over 11,000 animals in more than 50 exhibits that represent the diversity of the Pacific Ocean. Each year more than 1.5 million people visit the Aquarium. Beyond its world-class animal exhibits, the Aquarium offers educational programs for people of all ages from hands-on activities to lectures by leading scientists. Through these programs and a variety of multimedia experiences, the Aquarium provides opportunities to delve deeper into ocean science and learn more about our planet. The Aquarium of the Pacific has redefined the modern aquarium. It is a community gathering place where diverse cultures and the arts are celebrated and a place where important topics facing our planet and our ocean are explored by scientists, policymakers and stakeholders in the search for sustainable solutions.

The Aquarium of the Pacific was the first among museums, zoos, and aquariums in the nation to register its greenhouse gases and is a leader in green practices, including its LEED platinum Watershed classroom. In 2009 the Aquarium was awarded the Super Nova Star Award by the Alliance to Save Energy for being the nation's most energy-efficient business with revenues under \$50 million.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact.