



Date: May 1, 2019

To: Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Patrick H. West, City Manager 

Subject: **Pacific Visions – Grand Opening Celebrations**

The new Pacific Visions wing of the Aquarium of the Pacific will officially open to the public on May 24th. Several events have been scheduled to celebrate the occasion, including two VIP events, one on Tuesday, May 21st, the other on Wednesday May 22nd. Both events will take place in the evening, and they will have identical programming. Recognizing the City Council meets on Tuesdays, you will be invited to attend the event on Wednesday, May 22nd. Written invitations will be provided by the Aquarium to each of you. You are also invited to attend the press event on Thursday, May 16th at 12:00 noon, and the official public grand opening celebration on Friday, May 24th at 8:30 a.m.

We are extremely excited to showcase this next new great addition to the Aquarium. Since the Aquarium opened in 1998, both the City and the Aquarium of the Pacific Corporation have worked together closely to provide an educational and safe environment for visitors. The Corporation has worked diligently to enhance the facility and attract visitors to the region. The total cost of the Pacific Visions project was \$53 million, funded mostly through private donations, with the City being the largest overall donor at \$15 million. In addition, the City Council assisted the Aquarium through providing a \$10.5 million loan from the Tidelands Fund, for up to ten years, to ensure to ensure sufficient cash flow while grants and fundraising efforts were completed.

We are hopeful you will all be able to come take a look at this impressive project!

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