

NOTICE OF PREPARATION Intent to Adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration

LOS ANGELES, COUNTY CLERK

AUG 10 2006

ORIGINAL FILED

To: Office of the County Clerk
Environmental Filings
12400 East Imperial Highway, #1101
Norwalk, CA 90650

From: Community & Environmental Planning Division
Department of Planning and Building
333 West Ocean Boulevard, 5th Floor
Long Beach, CA 90802

In conformance with Section 15082 of the State CEQA Guidelines, please post this notice for a period of 30 days. Enclosed is the required fee of \$25 for processing.

Notice is hereby given that the Long Beach City Planning Commission, Lead Agency for purposes of CEQA, proposes to adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration for the project listed below:

1. **Project Location:** 100 Aquarium Way, Long Beach, CA 90802
2. **Project Title:** Aquarium of the Pacific Facility Enhancement Project
3. **Project Description:** The Aquarium of the Pacific proposes (1) to construct 5,300 square feet of LEED Platinum-certified indoor facilities and 13,800 square feet of outdoor, fabric-shaded exhibit area at the rear of its existing campus ("proposed South Lease Area") and (2) to relocate its current aviary exhibit to the same parcel. The Aquarium Facility Enhancement Project involves an adjustment to the current leasehold boundaries and the potential conversion of a portion of Shoreline Park to non-outdoor recreation uses. The proposed leasehold adjustment will not change the total square footage of the Aquarium campus or Shoreline Park. No demolition is required. Construction of the program's four project components will be phased.

Project Component	Outdoor Space (SF)	Indoor Space (SF)	Total Area (SF)	Construction Target
Watershed Classroom & Exhibit (1 Story)	1,800	1,300	3,100 (all on adjusted leasehold)	2007 (Phase I)
Husbandry & Veterinary Care Center (1 Story)	6,000 (4,000 on adjusted leasehold)	2,000 (approx. 1,500 on adjusted leasehold)	8,000 (5,500 on adjusted leasehold)	2008 (Phase II)
Port Exhibit (2 Story)	2,000	Approx 2,000, two stories. (1,000 SF footprint)	4,000 (all on adjusted leasehold)	2009 (Phase III)
Aviary (1 Story)	4,000		4,000 (all on adjusted leasehold)	2015 (Phase IV)

Building pad elevations will conform to the flood control ordinance. All structures will be designed in accordance with the current uniform Building Code and the seismic design parameters of the Structural Engineers Association of California. The City of Long Beach Plan Check will insure that the physical plant does not impact fire and police services and that utilities are relocated as appropriate. Potential impacts on view corridors and visual character will be addressed in accordance with the mitigation measures specified in the Queensway Bay Master Plan Environmental Impact Report. Mitigation monitoring for short-term construction impacts is addressed in Exhibit 5 of the Initial Study Site Investigation Report.

4. Review period during which the Lead Agency will receive comments on the proposed Negative Declaration:

Starting Date: August 11, 2006 **Ending Date:** September 11, 2006

5. Public Meeting of the Planning Commission for ND-14-06:

Date: October 5, 2006 (Tentative)

Time: 1:30 p.m.

Location: City Council Chambers
Long Beach City Hall
333 West Ocean Boulevard, Plaza Level
Long Beach, California 90802

6. Copies of the report and all referenced documents are available for review by contacting the undersigned or on the web at www.longbeach.gov/plan/pb/epd/
7. The site is not on any list as enumerated under Section 65965.5 of the California Government Code.
8. The Initial Study may find significant adverse impacts to occur to the following resource area:

Leasehold Adjustment: Loss of Public Outdoor Recreational Use on Proposed South Lease Area

Short-term Construction Impacts: Air Quality, NPDES, Noise, Public Safety

For additional information, contact:

Angela Reynolds, Planning Officer, or
Craig Chalfant, Planner
City of Long Beach
City Hall
333 West Ocean Boulevard, 5th Floor
Long Beach, CA 90802

Tel: (562) 570-6357

Fax: (562) 570-6068

*AQUARIUM OF THE PACIFIC
FACILITY ENHANCEMENT PROJECT*

INITIAL STUDY

ND 14-06

Prepared by:

City of Long Beach
Department of Planning and Building
Community and Environmental Planning
333 West Ocean Boulevard
Long Beach, California 90802

and

Targhee, Inc.
110 Pine Avenue, Suite 925
Long Beach, California 90802

August 4, 2006

INITIAL STUDY

1. **Project Title:**
Aquarium of the Pacific Facility Enhancement Project
2. **Lead agency name and address:**
Long Beach Planning Commission
333 West Ocean Boulevard
Long Beach, CA 90802
3. **Contact person and telephone number:**
Angela Reynolds (562/570-6357) or Craig Chalfant (562/570-6368)
333 West Ocean Boulevard, 5th Floor
Long Beach, CA 90802
4. **Project location:**
100 Aquarium Way
Long Beach, CA 90802
5. **Project sponsor's name and address:**
Attn: F. Qader
Aquarium of the Pacific
320 Golden Shore, Suite 150
Long Beach, California 90802
6. **General Plan:**
LAND USE DISTRICT #7: Mixed Use
7. **Zoning:**
DOWNTOWN SHORELINE PLANNED DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT (PD-6)
The project site is located in Subarea 6 of PD-6. The intent for Subarea 6 is "to be developed into an active, visitor-serving urban waterfront" including the following uses: Downtown Harbor, Retail and Entertainment, Park and Aquarium. Subarea 6 consists of both Shoreline Village and Shoreline Park. The Park area of not less than 23 acres includes park, roadways, parking areas, pedestrian walkways and the Aquarium, which is allowed a footprint of up to a gross interior space of 150,000 square feet. (Current Aquarium facility footprint is approximately 125,000 square feet, Coastal Permit No. 5-95-055.)
8. **Description of project:**
The Aquarium of the Pacific proposes (1) to construct 5,300 square feet of LEED Platinum-certified indoor facilities and 13,800 square feet of outdoor, fabric-shaded exhibit area at the rear of its existing campus ("proposed South Lease Area") and (2) to relocate its current aviary exhibit to the same parcel. The Aquarium Facility Enhancement Project involves an adjustment to the current leasehold boundaries and the potential conversion of a portion of Shoreline Park to non-outdoor recreation uses. The proposed leasehold adjustment will not change the total square footage of the Aquarium campus or Shoreline

Park. No demolition is required. Construction of the program's four project components will be phased.

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Classroom and Watershed Exhibit. The watershed exhibit highlights the impact of human intervention on watershed environments. The watershed exhibit will showcase coastal zone plants. In addition, the Aquarium will construct a permanent public exhibit at the nearby PierPoint Landing in Shoreline Park.

Animal Husbandry Center and Veterinary Care Center. This includes the construction of additional necropsy and animal holding areas. The new facility is planned for breeding and propagation programs which will serve to protect and preserve marine and terrestrial species.

Port Exhibit. The plans are for an exhibit of interactive areas providing guests with perspective into the activities involved in working at the ports. There will be a live exhibit portraying the marine life that exists in ships' ballasts and in the waters of the Ports of Long Beach and Los Angeles.

Aviary. The proposed 4,000 square-foot Aviary will replace the existing aviary facility.

Building pad elevations will conform to the flood control ordinance. All structures will be designed in accordance with the current uniform Building Code and the seismic design parameters of the Structural Engineers Association of California. The City of Long Beach Plan Check will insure that the physical plant does not impact fire and police services and that utilities are relocated as appropriate. Potential impacts on view corridors and visual character will be addressed in accordance with the mitigation measures specified in the Queensway Bay Master Plan Environmental Impact Report. Mitigation monitoring for short-term construction impacts are addressed in Exhibit 5.

Initial Study

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Aquarium of the Pacific Facility Enhancement Project
2. **Lead agency name and address:**
Long Beach Planning Commission
333 West Ocean Boulevard
Long Beach, CA 90802
3. **Contact person and telephone number:**
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9. Surrounding land uses and setting:

The Aquarium of the Pacific (Aquarium) is located at 100 Aquarium Way, Long Beach, California 90802 (Exhibit 1). It is situated south of the Pike development (recreation and commercial area). The Aquarium has a north-south orientation. It is bounded on its north side by Aquarium Way and the Pike; on its west side by Aquarium Way and the Queensway Bay Bridge; on its south side by landscaping, a parking lot used by PierPoint Landing and Shoreline Park patrons; and to its east by landscaping, pedestrian walkways and Rainbow Harbor.

The Aquarium, as currently configured, is located on a five-acre site which consists of a main building that houses live animal exhibits, ticketing, guest services facilities, a theater, classrooms, animal food preparation area, a kitchen, a dive locker and offices for staff. Support structures, including a veterinary building, quarantine tanks, filtration and life support systems and equipment, and loading docks are located on the Aquarium's west side within fenced and gated areas.

10. Other public agencies whose approval is required:

- City Council (on appeal only)
- California Coastal Commission (Amendment to Coastal Permit No. 5-95-055)
- California Department of Parks and Recreation
- National Park Service [Partial conversion of a Land and Water Conservation Fund Section 6(f)(3) protected area]

ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED:

The short-term environmental factors checked below would be potentially affected by this project involving at least one indirect impact during construction that is a "Potentially Significant Impact" as indicated by the attached Environmental Site Investigation Report.

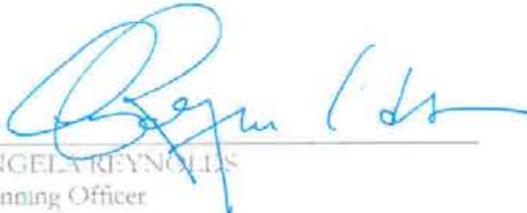
Aesthetics	Agriculture Resources	√ Air Quality
Biological Resources	Cultural Resources	Geology/Soils
Hazards & Hazardous Materials	Hydrology/Water Quality	Land Use/Planning
Mineral Resources	√ National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES)	√ Noise
Population/Housing	√ Public Services	√ Recreation
Transportation	Utilities/Service Systems	Mandatory Findings of Significance

DETERMINATION:

On the basis of this initial evaluation:

I find that the proposed project **COULD NOT** have a significant effect on the Environment, and a **NEGATIVE DECLARATION WILL BE PREPARED**.

- I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect in this case because revisions in the project have been made by or agreed to by the project proponent. A **MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION** will be prepared.
- I find that the proposed project **MAY** have a significant effect on the environment, and an **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT** is required.
- I find that the proposed project **MAY** have a "potentially significant impact" or "potentially significant unless mitigated" impact on the environment, but at least one effect (1) has been adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards and (2) has been addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis as described on attached sheets. An **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT** is required, but it must analyze only the effects that remain to be addressed.
- I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, because all potentially significant effects (a) have been analyzed adequately in an earlier EIR pursuant to applicable standards and (b) have been avoided or mitigated pursuant to the earlier EIR, including revisions or mitigation measures that are imposed upon the proposed project, nothing further is required. However, due to the age of that earlier EIR, a **MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION** will be prepared.


ANGELA REYNOLDS
Planning Officer

8/10/06
DATE

ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
I. AESTHETICS – Would the project:				
a) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
 II. AGRICULTURE RESOURCES – In determining whether impacts to agricultural resources are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to the California Agricultural Land Evaluation and Site Assessment Model (1997) prepared by the California Dept. of Conservation as an optional model to use in assessing impacts on agriculture and farmland. Would the project:				
a) Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Involve other changes in the existing environment that, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland to non-agricultural use?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
 III. AIR QUALITY – Where available, the significance criteria established by the applicable air quality management or air pollution control district may be relied upon to make the following determinations. Would the project:				
a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
b) Violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard (including releasing emissions which exceed quantitative thresholds for ozone precursors)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e) Create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

IV. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES – Would the project:

a) Have a substantial adverse impact, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

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f) Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
V. CULTURAL RESOURCES – Would the project:				
a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in Section §15064.5?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to Section §15064.5?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
VI. GEOLOGY AND SOILS – Would the project:				
a) Expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:				
i) Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault? Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
ii) Strong seismic ground shaking?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including Liquefaction?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
iv) Landslides?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

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d) Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial risks to life or property?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e) Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative waste water disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of wastewater?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
VII. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS – Would the project:				
a) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Be located on a site, which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f) For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
g) Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
h) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires, including where wildlands are adjacent to urbanized areas or where residences are intermixed with wildlands?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

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VIII. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY – Would the project:				
a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Substantially deplete groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that there would be a net deficit in aquifer volume or a lowering of the local groundwater table level (e.g., the production rate of pre-existing nearby wells would drop to a level which would not support existing land uses or planned uses for which permits have been granted)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, in a manner which would result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river or substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or off-site?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e) Create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f) Otherwise degrade water quality?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
g) Place housing within a 100-year flood hazard area as mapped on a federal Flood Hazard Boundary or Flood Insurance Rate Map or other flood hazard delineation map?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
h) Place within a 100-year flood hazard area structures which would impede or redirect flood flows?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
i) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving flooding, including flooding as a result of the failure of a levee or dam?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
j) Inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

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IX. LAND USE AND PLANNING – Would the project:				
a) Physically divide an established community?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation of an agency with jurisdiction over the project (including, but not limited to the general plan, specific plan, local coastal program, or zoning ordinance) adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Conflict with any applicable habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
X. MINERAL RESOURCES – Would the project:				
a) Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Result in the loss of availability of a locally-important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan or other land use plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
XI. NATIONAL POLLUTION DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM – Would the project:				
a) Result in a significant loss of pervious surface?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Create a significant discharge of pollutants into the storm drain or water way?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Violate any best management practices of the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System permit?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
XII. NOISE – Would the project result in:				
a) Exposure of persons to or generation of noise levels in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Exposure of persons to or generation of excessive groundborne vibration or ground-borne noise levels?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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c) A substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) A substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f) For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

XIII. POPULATION AND HOUSING – Would the project:

a) Induce substantial population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Displace substantial numbers of existing housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Displace substantial numbers of people, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

XIV. PUBLIC SERVICES – Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for any of the public services:

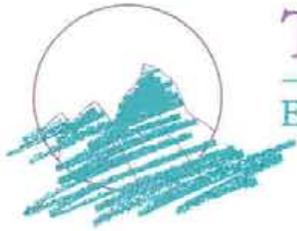
a) Fire protection?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Police protection?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Schools?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Parks?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e) Other public facilities?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
XV. RECREATION –				
a) Would the project increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Does the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
XVI. TRANSPORTATION/TRAFFIC – Would the project:				
a) Cause an increase in traffic which is substantial in relation to the existing traffic load and capacity of the street system (i.e., result in a substantial increase in either the number of vehicle trips, the volume to capacity ratio on roads, or congestion at intersections)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Exceed, either individually or cumulatively, a level of service standard established by the county congestion management agency for designated roads or highways?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Result in a change in air traffic patterns, including either an increase in traffic levels or a change in location that results in substantial safety risks?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Substantially increase hazards to a design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e) Result in inadequate emergency access?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f) Result in inadequate parking capacity?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
g) Conflict with adopted policies supporting alternative transportation (e.g., bus turnouts, bicycle racks)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
XVII. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS – Would the project:				
a) Exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
b) Require or result in the construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Require or result in the construction of new storm water drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project from existing entitlement and resources, or are new or expanded entitlement needed?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e) Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider which serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f) Be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
g) Comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

XVIII. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE –

a) Does the project have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? ("Cumulatively considerable" means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>



TARGHEE, INC.
ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTING

**INITIAL STUDY: ENVIRONMENTAL SITE INVESTIGATION REPORT
AQUARIUM OF THE PACIFIC FACILITY ENHANCEMENT PROJECT
100 AQUARIUM WAY
LONG BEACH, CALIFORNIA 90802**

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION FOR A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

SUBMITTED TO

**ANGELA REYNOLDS, PLANNING OFFICER
CITY OF LONG BEACH
333 W. OCEAN BOULEVARD, FIFTH FLOOR
LONG BEACH, CALIFORNIA 90802**

AUGUST 4, 2006

SUMMARY

The City of Long Beach has requested that an Environmental Site Investigation Report be prepared for expansion of the Aquarium of the Pacific ("Aquarium") facilities as described in a Campus Master Plan dated January 2005 ("Aquarium Facility Enhancement Project"). This report of findings is designed to provide the information necessary for identifying and mitigating potential environmental impacts. This report has been written to serve as a resource document for the City of Long Beach, the Aquarium, natural resource agencies and the surrounding community. The environmental site investigation conducted in support of the Initial Study complies with the statutory requirements established under the California Environmental Quality Act.

The Aquarium is situated on tidelands conveyed to the City of Long Beach under the Act of May 1, 1911, Chapter 678, Page 1304. The proposed would add 5,300 square feet of indoor space and 13,800 square feet of outdoor exhibit space to the existing Aquarium facility, which has a footprint of approximately 128,000 square feet. No demolition is required. Short-term project-related construction impacts on air quality, NPDES and noise are also less than significant with mitigation measures incorporated. These mitigation measures will be monitored by the City of Long Beach (Exhibit 5).

In addition to the environmental site investigation, information contained in the Queensway Bay Master Plan Environmental Impact Report dated December 19, 1994 certified by the Long Beach Planning Commission on March 2, 1995 (State Clearing House Number 94081033) was reviewed and evaluated. Land use and parking mitigation measures required for both the initial and expansion phases of Aquarium construction were implemented in accordance with the mitigation measures identified in the Queensway Bay Master Plan Environmental Impact Report. Incorporation of mitigation measures identified in the Queensway Bay Master Plan Environmental Impact Report has reduced all potential environmental impacts to less than significant and all construction-related environmental impacts to less than significant with mitigation incorporated.

The proposed South Lease Area needed for the Aquarium Facility Enhancement Project is an isolated, 0.45-acre parcel located at the rear of the Aquarium. This land is held in trust by the City of Long Beach on behalf of the State of California. The current North Lease Area includes a fountain, a public gathering area and a Los Angeles River Watershed Exhibit constructed by the Aquarium. This parcel is also held in trust by the City of Long Beach on behalf of the State of California. It would be re-incorporated into Shoreline Park in exchange for the release of the South Lease Area from Shoreline Park boundaries. The proposed leasehold adjustment would maintain the recreational use of the north parcel and modify the use of the proposed south lease area (currently a landscaped area) to cultural and educational facilities.

The Aquarium Facility Enhancement Project and its components have no negative environmental impacts. Project components will enhance the public's enjoyment of Shoreline Park and its linkages to other Queensway Bay entertainment and open space recreational elements.

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INITIAL STUDY: ENVIRONMENTAL SITE INVESTIGATION REPORT

The Aquarium of the Pacific Facility Enhancement Project
100 Aquarium Way
Long Beach, California 90802

I. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Aquarium of the Pacific ("Aquarium") campus is situated on tidelands located within Shoreline Park on an out-parcel leased from the City of Long Beach Department of Parks, Recreation and Marine. A Site Location Map is attached as Exhibit 1. Shoreline Park, excluding the Aquarium leasehold, is under National Park Service Land and Water Conservation Fund Section 6(f)(3) protection (Project Number 06-09926, 1981, Exhibit 1). The Aquarium is operated by a non-profit organization [(501)(c)(3) Corporation].

Several state departments and commissions may have statutory authority in this matter. The Aquarium Facility Enhancement Project action by the California Coastal Commission (Coastal Permit No. 5-95-055). The California Department of Parks and Recreation is responsible for issuing and managing Land and Water Conservation Fund agreements on behalf of the National Park Service with grantees in California.

The purpose of an Environmental Assessment Report submitted to the National Park Service was to determine if the proposed Shoreline Park Boundary Establishment Map adjustment resulting from an administrative change to the Aquarium leasehold boundaries qualifies for (1) an expedited map certification process, (2) a categorical exclusion, or (3) a finding of no significant impact under the National Environmental Policy Act. Targhee, Inc. ("Targhee") also conducted an independent recreational use investigation for the proposed South and current North Lease Areas. Field notes and photographs supporting Targhee's findings are included in the Environmental Assessment Report prepared in support of the Initial Study.

Targhee's environmental site investigation indicates that there will be no negative impacts to the surrounding community or commercial facilities; health care and social services; solid waste and wastewater handling facilities; storm water runoff, water supply demands, public safety (Police/Fire), open space, natural resources, emergency medical services or transportation services.

II. PROJECT LOCATION AND CURRENT USE

The Aquarium is located at 100 Aquarium Way, Long Beach, California 90802. The Aquarium is situated south of the Pike development (recreation and commercial area). The Aquarium has a north-south orientation. It is bounded on its north side by Aquarium Way and the Pike; on its west side by Aquarium Way and the Queensway Bay Bridge; on its south side by landscaping, the proposed South

Lease Area that is currently under Land and Water Conservation Fund Section 6(3)(f) protection, a parking lot used by PierPoint Landing and Shoreline Park patrons; and to its east by landscaping, pedestrian walkways and Rainbow Harbor. The Site Investigation Report prepared in support of the Initial Study contains field notes and photographs of the current and proposed leasehold parcels taken during weekdays, weekends and on the Fourth of July.

The Aquarium as currently configured is located on a five-acre site which consists of a main building that houses live animal exhibits, ticketing, guest services facilities, a theater, classrooms, animal food preparation area, a kitchen, a dive locker and offices for staff. Support structures, including a veterinary building, quarantine tanks, filtration and life support systems and equipment, and loading docks are located on the Aquarium's west side within fenced and gated areas.

The proposed South Lease Area needed for construction is an isolated, 0.45-acre parcel located at the rear of the Aquarium. This land is held in trust by the City of Long Beach on behalf of the State of California. The current North Lease Area includes a fountain, a public gathering space and a Los Angeles River Watershed Exhibit constructed by the Aquarium. The North Lease Area is also held in trust by the City of Long Beach on behalf of the State of California. The proposed Shoreline Park Boundary Establishment Map adjustment requiring National Park Service certification would maintain the recreational use of the current North Lease Area and modify the use of the proposed South Lease area (currently a landscaped area) to cultural and educational facilities.



Proposed South Lease Area View Corridor (Looking West from Rear of PierPoint Landing Facility and Shoreline Park)



Current North Lease Area View Corridor (Looking West from Shoreline Park Esplanade and Boardwalk)

III. AQUARIUM FACILITY ENHANCEMENT PROJECT

The proposed Aquarium Facility Enhancement Project involves construction of educational and animal care facilities on an adjusted Aquarium leasehold. A Conceptual Plan for the proposed project components is attached as Exhibit 3.

Project Component	Outdoor Space (SF)	Indoor Space (SF)	Total Area (SF)	Construction Target
Classroom & Watershed Exhibit (1 Story)	1,800	1,300	3,100 (all on adjusted leasehold)	2007 (Phase I)
Husbandry & Veterinary Care Center (1 Story)	6,000 (4,000 on adjusted leasehold)	2,000 (approx. 1,500 on adjusted leasehold)	8,000 (5,500 on adjusted leasehold)	2008 (Phase II)
Port Exhibit (2 Story)	2,000	Approx 2,000, two story. (1,000 SF footprint)	4,000 (all on adjusted leasehold)	2009 (Phase III)
Aviary (1 Story)	4,000		4,000 (all on adjusted leasehold)	2015 (Phase IV)

The Aquarium's stated and published mission is to "instill a sense of wonder, respect, and stewardship for the Pacific Ocean, its inhabitants, and ecosystems." Construction of the facilities envisioned for the Aquarium Facility Enhancement Project continues the Aquarium's mission goal by expanding services to the local community and the thousands of adults and children who visit the Aquarium on a daily basis. The Aquarium has and will provide cultural and educational opportunities and experiences through use of its energy and water efficient environmental classroom and proposed exhibits.

A description of the proposed projects is summarized below ("Project Components").

Project Components

These facilities are planned contingent upon funding and National Park Service certification of the proposed adjustment to the Shoreline Park Boundary Establishment Map.

Watershed Exhibit. The watershed exhibit highlights the impact of human intervention on watershed environments. The watershed exhibit will showcase coastal zone plants. Construction of a public exhibit that will be displayed permanently at the nearby PierPoint Landing in Shoreline Park is included in the first Phase of the Aquarium Facility Enhancement Project.

Animal Husbandry Center and Veterinary Care Center. This project component includes the construction of additional necropsy and animal holding areas. The new facility is planned for breeding and propagation programs which will serve to protect and preserve marine and terrestrial species.

Port Exhibit. The plans are for an exhibit of interactive areas providing guests with perspective into the activities involved in working at the ports. There will be a live exhibit portraying the marine life that exists in ships' ballasts and in the waters of the Ports of Long Beach and Los Angeles.

Aviary. The proposed 4,000 square-foot Aviary will replace the existing aviary facility.

IV. ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS

Exhibit 4 is a table describing the Thresholds of Significance for potential environmental impacts taken from the Queensway Bay Master Plan Environmental Impact Report. Exhibit 5 is a Mitigation Monitoring Plan for construction of the proposed Classroom and Watershed Exhibit and subsequent Project Components. The legal descriptions of the proposed South Lease and current North Lease Areas, which are the parcel under consideration for a leasehold adjustment, are presented in Exhibit 6.

A. Land Development

The National Park Service must certify adjustments to the Shoreline Park Boundary Establishment Map resulting from the proposed leased land exchange.

The Queensway Bay Master Plan Environmental Impact Report states that land use mitigation resulting from a reduction in the original boundaries for Shoreline Park exceeded the one-for-one basis established in the Queensway Bay Master Plan Environmental Impact Report. Land use mitigation required for the Aquarium Facility Enhancement Project has already been implemented.

Construction mitigation measures as described in the Queensway Bay Master Plan Environmental Impact Report may be necessary in these resource areas: Soil Suitability, Hazards and Nuisances Including Site Safety and Energy Consumption. A discussion follows. All short term construction impacts are less than significant with mitigation incorporated (Exhibit 5).

Conformance with Comprehensive Plans and Zoning. Aquarium Facility Enhancement Project and its component falls within the scope of land use discussed in the December 1994 Queensway Bay Master Plan Environmental Impact Report prepared by the Community and Environmental Planning Division of the Long Beach Department of Planning and Building (SCH 94081033). The Aquarium was included in the Queensway Bay Master Plan.

The Queensway Bay Master Plan EIR indicates that the Aquarium development program is regulated by the Shoreline Planned Development Ordinance (PD-6) and the Queensway Bay Planned Development Ordinance. Implementation of the Queensway Bay Master Plan required amendments to the Long Beach General Plan and to the Local Coastal Plan and its implementing ordinances. Amendments were made to planning and zoning ordinances to accommodate initial Aquarium construction and future expansion.

Compatibility and Urban Impact. The proposed Aquarium Facility Enhancement Project is compatible with surrounding land use and will not have any direct or indirect urban impacts.

Slope. The proposed Facility Enhancement Project will not impact slope.

Erosion. The Facility Enhancement Project will not create erosion impacts.

Soil Suitability. The proposed Facility Enhancement Project is a static event and will not impact surface or subsurface soils; however, the construction contemplated for the proposed South Lease Area will require permitting from the City of Long Beach. Soil suitability for this project component will be determined by soils testing by a qualified engineer prior to construction per Uniform Building Code and City of Long Beach construction regulations.

The proposed Aquarium Facility Enhancement Project will not impact the underlying soil in a manner that will create unstable soil or increase the likelihood of instability in the soil column beneath the Aquarium or on adjacent properties.

Hazards and Nuisances Including Site Safety. The proposed Aquarium Facility Enhancement Project will not create hazards or nuisances. As mitigation during construction, visitors to the Aquarium, Shoreline Park and PierPoint Landing will be excluded from the construction zone. Construction impacts will be less than significant with mitigation incorporated.

Energy Consumption. The proposed Aquarium Facility Enhancement Project (LEED Platinum-certified structures) as a stand-alone transaction will not require significant use or expenditure of energy resources except during construction. Energy needs to support the project include electricity, natural gas and water. The extent that these sources of energy will be utilized can only be determined during the final design stages of construction. Impacts will not exceed thresholds of significance.

B. Noise:

Mitigation measures as described in the Queensway Bay Master Plan Environmental Impact Report may be necessary during the construction phase of the proposed facilities. The contractor will comply with the Long Beach Noise Ordinance (Section 8.80.010). Construction noise impacts will be less than significant with mitigation incorporated.

During construction, ambient noise levels will increase due to equipment used in construction. Workers at the site may be required to wear personal protection. Visitors to the Aquarium during construction will not be allowed in the construction area. Hearing protection will not be required for Aquarium visitors. Noise levels in the Aquarium from construction will not exceed 70 dB(A).

The current highway noise at this location is less than 70 dB(A) at any given point in time. A high volume of traffic is non-existent because of the location of the Aquarium and road design (two-lane streets) around the Aquarium. Mitigation during construction can be accomplished with equipment selection and hours of operation as described in Exhibit 5.

C. Air Quality:

Mitigation measures will not be necessary. The proposed facilities in and of themselves will not exceed air quality standards. Construction air quality impacts will be less than significant with mitigation incorporated (Exhibit 5).

Affects of Ambient Air Quality on Project and Contribution to Community Pollution Levels.

The Aquarium campus is located in the South Coast Air Quality Management District. According to a recent article in the *Long Beach Press Telegram*, the major sources of air pollution in the vicinity of the Aquarium are the Ports of Long Beach and Los Angeles and the associated air pollution from trains, trucks and freighter traffic. An article written by Dr. Suzanne Paulson of UCLA described air pollution in general, its components and its causes which included passenger vehicles and diesel engines.

The Aquarium Facility Enhancement Project will not add to existing air pollution levels. Vehicular traffic bringing visitors to the Aquarium and Shoreline Park area is not expected to significantly increase as a result of the facility enhancements, which were anticipated and mitigated as prescribed in the Queensway Bay Master Plan Environmental Impact Report. Construction of the proposed facilities at the Aquarium will not exceed any air quality thresholds of significance.

D. Aesthetics, Environmental Design and Historic Values Urban Impact

Mitigation measures will not be necessary. Thresholds of significance identified in the Queensway Bay Master Plan Environmental Impact report will not be exceeded. View corridor impacts during construction will be less than significant with mitigation incorporated.

Visual Quality--Coherence, Diversity, Compatible Use and Scale. Visual impacts, if any, will be addressed by the mitigation measures identified in the Queensway Bay Master Plan Environmental Impact Report. The proposed construction is designed to be cohesive and compatible with the existing Aquarium structure and with current recreational use of the surrounding area. The Aquarium intends to preserve the existing coral trees. Native plants will be used. Landscaped area will be reduced, but not eliminated.

Historic, Cultural and Archaeological Resources. The Aquarium campus is not associated with any historical resources as defined in Section 15064.5 of Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations. The areas affected by the Aquarium Enhancement Program are not listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

No reported archaeological resources are located within the Shoreline Park Area. There are no nearby archaeological sites or sites within the area of potential environmental influence.

There are no reported unique paleontological resources or unique geologic features associated with Shoreline Park or with adjacent properties.

There are no known human remains on the subject site.

Because of the extremely low probability of discovery of archaeological and paleontological resources at the site (any resources or remains would likely have been discovered during initial build-out of the area), this impact is likely to be insignificant. However, for mitigation purposes, should any archaeological or paleontological resources be uncovered during construction activities, construction will be diverted from this area, and a qualified archaeologist shall be engaged by the contractor to determine the significance of the find, establish protocol with the Aquarium on how to protect the find, determine the presence of additional resources and provide site monitoring, if necessary.

Should human remains be encountered during construction, State Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5 states that no further disturbance shall occur until the County Coroner has made a determination of the origin and disposition of the materials. If the remains are prehistoric, the Coroner will notify the appropriate agency or commission (Native American Heritage Commission).

The December 1994 Queensway Bay Master Plan (Volume I, page 6.15-6) listed seven nearby structures that have been identified as historically significant. The Master Plan stated that no impacts to these structures were anticipated by development of the Queensway Bay Project (of which the Aquarium is part).

E. Socioeconomic

Mitigation measures will not be necessary. Thresholds of significance will not be exceeded.

Demographic. The proposed facilities will not present short or long term affects on the demographics of the area.

Existing housing in the area will not be impacted by the Aquarium Facility Enhancement Project. There will be no off-site housing impacts due to this project. It is likely that local contractors will be used for construction, therefore, the local population will not increase and worker housing will not be required.

Displacement. No populations will be displaced as a result of the proposed Aquarium Facility Enhancement Project. The proposed Project Components are not dependent upon, nor do they impact any community in terms of race, national origin or income.

Employment and Income Patterns. Initially, the Aquarium Facility Enhancement Project will not impact employment. The new facilities and exhibits may provide a limited number of new jobs, but would be considered an insignificant impact to the overall employment pattern. Areal income patterns will not be disrupted or changed due to the leasehold adjustment or the construction of the new facilities on the proposed South Lease Area.

F. Community Facilities and Services

Mitigation measures will not be necessary. Thresholds of significance will not be exceeded.

Educational Facilities. The proposed Project Components will ultimately increase natural resource educational facilities in the area.

G. Commercial Facilities and Services

Construction mitigation measures as described in the Queensway Bay Master Plan Environmental Impact Report may be necessary as discussed below in the subsection entitled Public Safety. Construction impacts on public safety will be less than significant with mitigation incorporated.

Health Care. The proposed Facility Enhancement Project will not involve or impact public or private health care issues or concerns.

Social Services. The proposed Facility Enhancement Project will not involve or impact social services or social service organizations.

Solid Waste. Thresholds of significance will not be exceeded. The proposed Facility Enhancement Project will not create solid waste or require solid waste disposal services. The phased expansion of the Aquarium will not create solid waste in quantities deemed excessive nor will special handling or control be required, except for waste generated as a result of animal surgery, treatment and necropsy. These wastes will be handled in accordance with the Aquarium's current policies and permits.

Wastewater. Thresholds of significance will not be exceeded. The Facility Enhancement Project will not create significant amounts of wastewater. The proposed future use of the south leasehold parcel (i.e., exhibits and animal care facilities) will generate a small amount of sanitary wastewater which will be addressed under the Aquarium's current permitting for such waste disposal. There will be no requirement or need for the construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities.

Storm Water. The proposed Facility Enhancement Project will not impact storm water runoff patterns. The storm water management mitigation efforts will include on-site storm water retention and treatment. Use of pervious paving systems will be implemented. This approach allows storm water to be used for recharging the water table. No runoff from paved areas will be diverted into storm drains (Email from F. Qader, Aquarium of the Pacific, June 27, 2006). Only a limited quantity of storm water draining from the roof will go directly into a storm drain. The storm drains in the area discharge directly to the ocean without treatment.

Water Supply. The proposed Facility Enhancement Project will not impact water supply.

Public Safety. The proposed Facility Enhancement Project will not impact public safety with respect to the following services: police, fire or emergency medical. Public safety services are provided by the City of Long Beach.

Public safety will continue to be the responsibility of the Aquarium and its contractors during construction activities to assure that the public does not have access to the construction site, construction materials or equipment.

Open Space and Recreation. Thresholds of significance will not be exceeded. The findings of a recreational use investigation conducted in support of the Initial Study indicate that the proposed leasehold adjustment will not negatively impact open space or recreational facilities in Shoreline Aquatic Park or Rainbow Harbor.

The proposed Shoreline Park Boundary Establishment Map adjustment is subject to National Park Service certification. Upon execution, the administrative leasehold adjustment will maintain the recreational use of the current North Lease Area and modify the use of the use of the proposed South Lease Area (currently a landscaped area) to animal care, cultural and educational facilities.

The proposed leasehold adjustment appears to be in conformance with National Park Service policies governing partial conversions of a Land and Water Conservation Fund Section 6(f)(3) protected area. An Environmental Assessment Report has been prepared and submitted to the National Park Service to assist in decision-making in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act, 40 C.F.R. Section 1500, *et seq.*

Transportation. The proposed Aquarium Facility Enhancement Project and its phased components will not impact road use, traffic patterns or parking beyond those anticipated during preparation of the Queensway Bay Master Plan Environmental Impact Report. Construction activities will not require the alteration of the roads around the Aquarium. Visitor access to the new facilities will be via the Aquarium entrance on the north side of the building. Construction may temporarily alter traffic use at the very southern end of Aquarium Way throughout the building process. This issue will be addressed during the permitting phase by the City of Long Beach.

Currently, the access area to the Aquarium's north side (entrance) is via a roundabout located on Aquarium Way. This is a two-lane highway that comes from Shoreline Drive. Aquarium Way heads slightly south before turning west, where the roundabout is encountered. Following the roundabout to the west and again going south, Aquarium Way continues as a two-lane street that accesses the Shoreline Park/PierPoint Landing parking lot. There is no public vehicle access on the south or east sides of the Aquarium.

Alternative modes of transportation will not be required.

H. Natural Resources

Mitigation measures will not be necessary. Thresholds of significance will not be exceeded.

Water Resources. There will be a sink outside the proposed classroom for children to wash their hands. The grey water from this sink will be routed to the green roof (Email, Barbara Long, Aquarium of the Pacific, July 6, 2006). The new native landscaping will have initial water use requirements; however, one year post-installation, the native plants will rely on natural water resources (i.e., rainwater).

Surface Water. There are no surface water bodies on the Aquarium campus. Because the parcels are adjacent to the Pacific Ocean, saltwater-intruded groundwater would be near surface. At groundwater well sites located within one mile north and east of the Aquarium, groundwater was measured at between 12 and 30 feet below ground surface (in 1988). At a site located at 990 Queens Highway, within one mile south of the Aquarium, groundwater was measured between 14 and 16 feet (in 1997).

The mouth of the Los Angeles River is to the east (not adjacent). There will be no impacts to the Los Angeles River from the leasehold adjustment or proposed construction and project components.

Floodplains. The 1998 FEMA flood map for the area indicates that the Aquarium is in an area designated "AE" with elevation of 7. This designation indicates that the Aquarium is in a Special Flood Hazard area (100-year flood). Building pad elevations will conform to the City of Long Beach flood control ordinance

Wetlands. The proposed Facility Enhancement Project is not in an area of a designated wetland.

Coastal Zone. The proposed Facility Enhancement Project is in the coastal plain of Los Angeles County. However, the Shoreline Park Boundary Establishment Map adjustment and subsequent construction on the proposed South Lease Area will not impact coastal use or designation.

Unique Natural Features and Agricultural Lands. The project site is not located on or near Prime Farmland or Unique Farmland pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the State of California, Division of Land Resource Protection. The 2002 Map of Important Farmland in California in Appendix I designates the subject area as urban/built-up land.

The site is not part of or near a listed scenic vista, scenic highway or scenic resources according to the State of California's Scenic Highway Program list of officially designated State Scenic Highways or the California Scenic Highway System list of eligible and officially designated routes.

Vegetation and Wildlife. There are no sensitive natural communities or riparian habitat on or near the Aquarium campus. Project impacts are less than significant. Thresholds of significance will not be exceeded.

There are no native resident populations, migratory fish, nursery sites or corridors that are present on or near the subject site. The EDR NEPA Check report referenced supports Targhee's conclusions that mitigation measures are not necessary with respect to natural resources.

V. CONCLUSION

Based on the foregoing analysis of the subject property, the Aquarium Facility Enhancement Project does not result in violations of any applicable environmental statutes or authorities. Thresholds of significance will not be exceeded during construction with mitigation measures incorporated or during operation of the proposed facilities. The Facility Enhancement Project will not have any negative environmental impacts. The project will benefit the site and the community by improving cultural and educational opportunities once the proposed facilities are constructed.

The Queensway Bay Master Plan Environmental Impact Report states that land use mitigation resulting from a reduction in the original boundaries for Shoreline Park exceeded the one-for-one basis established in the Queensway Bay Master Plan Environmental Impact Report. Land use mitigation required for the Aquarium Facility Enhancement Project has already been implemented. A proposed leasehold adjustment maintains the total square footage of the Aquarium campus. Implementation of the Aquarium Campus Master Plan does not conflict with current zoning.

The environmental issue to be resolved by the National Park Service is whether or not the proposed leasehold adjustment conflicts with adopted recreation policy as embodied in the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act. Based upon Targhee's analysis of the subject areas, the proposed leasehold adjustment does not result in violation of National Park Service policies (Exhibit 2). This action will not have any negative environmental impacts.

VI. INFORMATION SOURCES CONSULTED

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