

REPORT OF GENERAL MANAGER

APPROVED

NO. 10-241

DATE: September 1, 2010

SEP 01 2010

C.D. 15

BOARD OF RECREATION
AND PARK COMMISSIONERS

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SUBJECT: CABRILLO MARINE AQUARIUM – PERMISSION TO SUBMIT THE RENEWAL MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FOR ACCREDITATION FROM THE ASSOCIATION OF ZOOS AND AQUARIUMS

R. Adams
H. Fujita
S. Huntley
*V. Israel

F. Mok
K. Regan
M. Shull



General Manager

Approved _____

Disapproved _____

Withdrawn _____

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board:

1. Retroactively approve the Department's renewal application for accreditation of the Cabrillo Marine Aquarium by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums; and,
2. Retroactively authorize the Board President to sign the renewal application.

SUMMARY:

Cabrillo Marine Aquarium (CMA) has been accredited for the past ten years by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA). AZA is a professional organization dedicated to the advancement of zoos and aquariums through conservation, education, scientific studies, and recreation. There are over 2,000 zoos and aquariums that qualify to be accredited and CMA is one of only 212 in North America.

CMA's current accreditation will expire in March 2011. However, the deadline by which CMA must reapply for accreditation is September 1, 2010 the same day as the Board meeting. The application was previously submitted to avoid missing this deadline, and without retroactive approval, the application will be withdrawn. The accreditation process evaluates the Aquarium according to professional standards set by AZA. Accreditation bolsters public confidence in zoos and aquariums by certifying that the institution meets professional standards and increases our ability

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to receive grants. As an example, CMA received a grant of \$270,050 from the California Safe Neighborhood Parks, Clean Water, Clean Air and Coastal Protection Act of 2000 through the "Dr. Paul Chaffee Zoos and Aquariums Grant Program." CMA has also received a National "Award of Excellence" from AZA. That award included a \$25,000 grant for upgrades to the exhibit area. Both grants were only available to accredited AZA organizations.

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT:

The application process costs \$3,000. This includes all expenses for filing the application and for the Inspection Committee who visit CMA. The fees are not payable until the application has been received by the AZA's office and an invoice is sent to CMA. CMA will use Municipal Recreation Program Account 301-88-035M - Fund 830 to pay these expenses.

Report prepared by Mike Schaadt, Director, Cabrillo Marine Aquarium.