

# APPROVED

August 15 2021

## BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSIONERS

**BOARD REPORT**

**NO.** 24-178

**DATE** August 15, 2024

**C.D.** 15

### BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSIONERS

**SUBJECT:** CABRILLO MARINE AQUARIUM – LIFE SUPPORT SYSTEM RENOVATION (PRJ21119) PROJECT – CATEGORICAL EXEMPTION FROM THE PROVISIONS OF THE CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (CEQA) PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 19, SECTION 15302 [REPLACEMENT OR RECONSTRUCTION OF EXISTING STRUCTURES AND FACILITIES WHERE THE NEW STRUCTURE WILL BE LOCATED ON THE SAME SITE AS THE STRUCTURE REPLACED AND WILL HAVE SUBSTANTIALLY THE SAME PURPOSE AND CAPACITY] OF CALIFORNIA CEQA GUIDELINES AND ARTICLE III, SECTION 1, CLASS 2 OF CITY CEQA GUIDELINES

B. Aguirre	_____	M. Rudnick	_____
B. Jones	_____	for *C. Santo Domingo	<u>DF</u>
C. Stoneham	_____	N. Williams	_____

General Manager

Approved   X  

Disapproved \_\_\_\_\_

Withdrawn \_\_\_\_\_

### RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Approve the scope of work and the total budget of the Cabrillo Marine Aquarium – Life Support System Renovation (PRJ21119) Project (Project), as described in the Summary of this Report;
2. Approve the Project to be bid and constructed through the Department of Recreation and Parks (RAP) list of pre-qualified on-call contractors;
3. Approve the authorization of change orders as authorized under Board Report No. 06-136, for the construction contracts for this Project in the budget contingency amounts for such contracts as stated in this Report;
4. Determine that the proposed Project is categorically exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Article 19, Section 15302 [Replacement or reconstruction of existing structures and facilities where the new structure will be located on the same site as the structure replaced and will have substantially the same purpose and capacity] of California CEQA Guidelines and Article III, Section 1, Class 2 of City CEQA Guidelines and direct staff to file a Notice of Exemption (NOE) with the Los Angeles County Clerk and the California Office of Planning and Research;

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5. Authorize RAP's Chief Accounting Employee or designee to prepare a check to the Los Angeles County Clerk in the amount of \$75.00 for the purpose of filing an NOE; and,
6. Authorize RAP staff to make technical corrections as necessary to carry out the intent of this Report.

### SUMMARY

Cabrillo Marine Aquarium (Aquarium) is located at 3720 Stephen M White Drive in San Pedro along the LA Waterfront. The Aquarium provides education, recreation, and research to promote knowledge, appreciation, and conservation of marine life and the surrounding environment. The Aquarium's award-winning exhibits and programs have become an essential resource and key component of science education for South Bay, Long Beach, and the greater Los Angeles area schools. The Aquarium programs are fully subscribed each year and are designed to open the aquarium to students at more than 75 area schools. These unique opportunities are not available through regular school curriculum or elsewhere in the community at such a robust and professional level, particularly in disadvantaged and severely disadvantaged communities. In addition to the school programming, free entrance to the Aquarium makes this education accessible to the public regardless of socioeconomic constraints.

The Cabrillo Marine Aquarium Life Support System (CMA-LSS) serves four primary saltwater habitat zones within the Aquarium, including the Touch Tank Zone, Rocky Shores Zone, Sandy Beach Zone, and the Big Tank Zone (sharks, kelp tanks, etc.). The existing CMA-LSS was designed and became operable in 1981. The system needs frequent repair to ensure the animals in the Aquarium are provided with the best water quality conditions. Most of the existing CMA-LSS equipment will need to be replaced. The new LSS renovation will condition approximately 20,000 gallons of saltwater through various filtration and refrigeration components. This new system will provide optimal water quality using energy efficient pumps and refrigeration units, as well as UV sterilization to control disease and parasite risks; it will also require less daily maintenance, which will allow our staff to devote more time to the care and welfare of the animals in the Aquarium.

This new system will ensure the Aquarium's continued accreditation with the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA). The accreditation requires a rigorous process that prioritizes the well-being of animals, safety of guests, high-level education standards, and conservation impact. AZA accreditation enhances the Aquarium's credibility, demonstrating the Aquarium's dedication to providing the highest quality of life for the animals and service to the Aquarium's guests. AZA accreditation is also highly beneficial by (1) increasing the Aquarium's eligibility for funding and grants, (2) providing industry-specific professional development, and (3) playing a key role in recruitment and staff retention. In the United States, only approximately 10% of animal attractions meet the meticulous accreditation standards.

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PROJECT SCOPE

The scope of work of the proposed Project involves the replacement of (1) all existing life support system equipment, and (2) a shed structure to protect the equipment.

RAP estimates that the amount of funds needed for construction of the Project is approximately \$4,400,000.00.

PROJECT FUNDING

The 2021-22 Adopted Budget included \$75,000,000.00 in the Unappropriated Balance for RAP to make capital improvements at City parks and facilities (Council File No. 21-0935). In response, RAP developed a capital improvement plan to utilize the \$75,000,000.00 in funds to complete various park projects citywide. This Project is one of the park projects that RAP has identified for the use of these funds.

Additionally, the Port of Los Angeles has committed \$1,200,000.00 for the Project.

The total amount of funding available for the Project is \$3,260,000.00, which is the total budget inclusive of the budget contingency amount set forth below. See below the anticipated pre-qualified on-call contract(s) and budget contingency amount(s) that will be used for the Project:

<b>On-Call Contract</b>	<b>Contingency Amount</b>
Park Facility Construction	\$800,000.00

FUNDING SOURCE MATRIX

<b>Source</b>	<b>Fund/Dept/Acct</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Deferred Maintenance Funds	302/89/89727H	\$2,060,000.00	63%
Port of Los Angeles	TBD	\$1,200,000.00	37%
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$3,260,000.00</b>	<b>100%</b>

PROJECT CONSTRUCTION

It is unknown at this time if sufficient funding has been identified for the Project. However, RAP plans to proceed with the implementation of the Project with the available funding and will return to the Board, if necessary, to seek approval of any additional needed funding.

See below for anticipated Project schedule:

<b>Phase</b>	<b>Duration</b>
Predesign	N/A
Design	N/A
Bid and Award	August 2024
Construction	September 2024 – August 2025
Post Construction	September 2025 – December 2025

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### TREES AND SHADE

The proposed Project will have no impact on the existing trees and shade at Cabrillo Marine Aquarium.

### ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

The proposed Project consists of the replacement of existing equipment and structures where the new facilities will be located on the same site as the equipment and structures replaced and have substantially the same purpose and capacity.

According to the parcel profile report retrieved on July 16, 2024, this area does not reside in a methane or historic zone. It does reside in the liquefaction and coastal zones, but the proposed Project (1) will not increase the risk of liquefaction and (2) has been approved by the Port of Los Angeles (PoLA), which has jurisdiction over the area under the California Coastal Act. Therefore, there is no reasonable possibility that the proposed Project may impact on an environmental resource of hazardous or critical concern or have a significant effect due to unusual circumstances. No other known projects would involve cumulatively significant impacts, and no future projects would result from the proposed Project. As of July 16, 2024, the State Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) (Envirostor at [www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov](http://www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov)) and the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) (Geotracker at <https://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/>) have not listed the Project site and no other site within 1,000 feet of the Project area. According to the Caltrans Scenic Highway Map there is no scenic highway located within the vicinity of the proposed Project or within its site. The proposed Project is located in proximity of the American Trona Corporation Building (listed in the California Register of Historical Resources) and 500 Varas Square (a Government reserve listed in the National Register of Historic Places), but will not cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of any historical resource.

Based in this information, RAP staff recommends that the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners (Board) determines that the proposed Project is categorically exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Article 19, Section 15302 of California CEQA Guidelines as well as to Article III, Section 1, Class 2 of City CEQA Guidelines. Staff will file a Notice of Exemption with the Los Angeles County Clerk and the California Office of Planning and Research upon Board's approval.

### FISCAL IMPACT

The approval of this Project will have no fiscal impact on RAP's General Fund. The estimated costs for the design, development, and construction of the proposed park improvements are anticipated to be funded by Deferred Maintenance, or funding sources other than RAP's General Fund.

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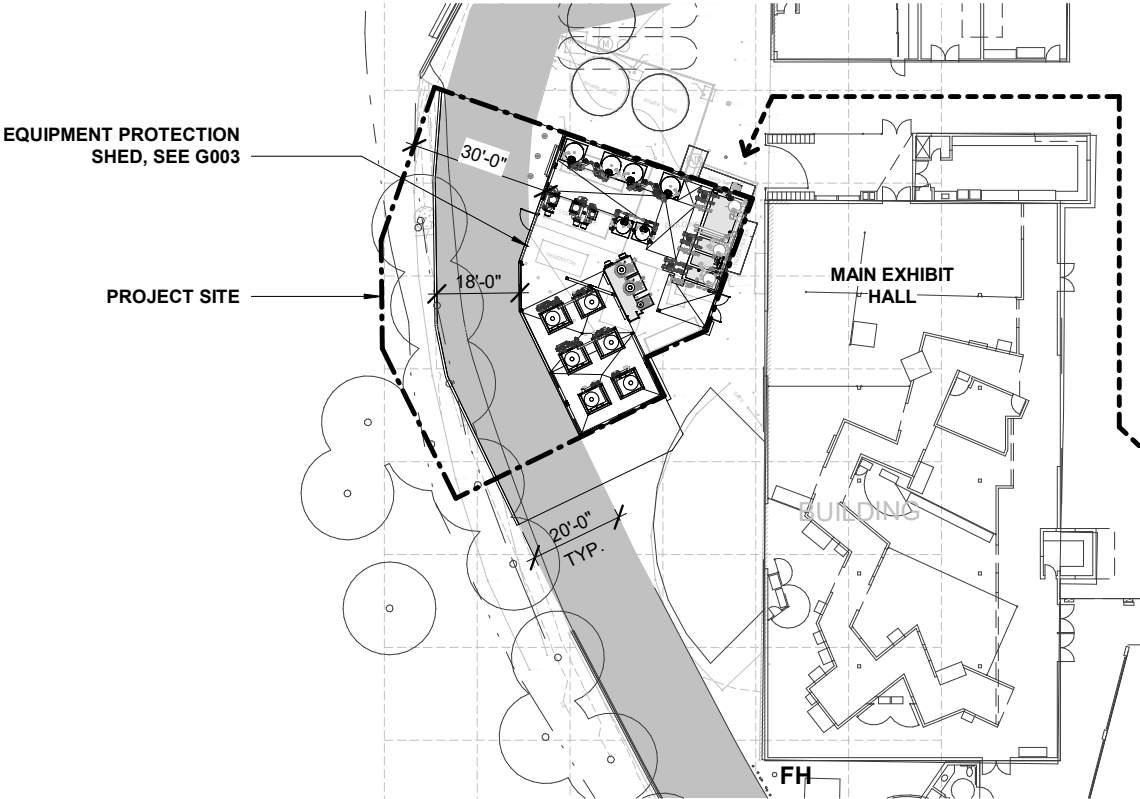
This Report was prepared by Jin Kim, Senior Civil Engineer, Planning, Maintenance and Construction Branch.

LIST OF ATTACHMENTS

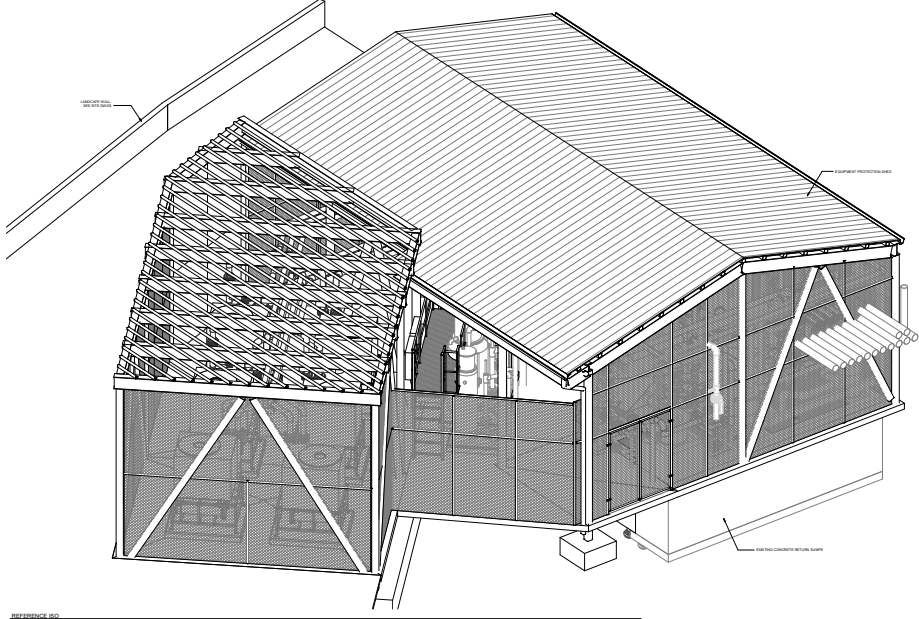
- 1) Attachment 1 – Site Plan and Rendering

# Project Site Location - Cabrillo Marine Aquarium Life Support System





**Enlarged Project Site Plan**



**Rendering - Equipment Shed**