

APPROVED
FEB 04 2021

BOARD OF RECREATION
AND PARK COMMISSIONERS

BOARD REPORT

NO. 21-017

DATE February 04, 2021

C.D. 15

BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSIONERS

SUBJECT: DONATION OF WIFI SERVICES AND HARDWARE AT CABRILLO MARINE
AQUARIUM (CMA) BY THE FRIENDS OF THE CMA

AP Diaz	_____	* M. Rudnick	<u>MR</u>
H. Fujita	_____	C. Santo Domingo	_____
V. Israel	_____	N. Williams	_____

M. Shue
General Manager

Approved X Disapproved _____ Withdrawn _____

RECOMMENDATIONS

Accept a donation from the Friends of the Cabrillo Marine Aquarium (FCMA) in the amount of Eighty Thousand, Eight Hundred Sixteen Dollars (\$80,816.00) for the purchase, construction, and installation of necessary equipment in order to bring public access wireless internet to Cabrillo Marine Aquarium (CMA), and direct that appropriate recognition be given to FCMA.

SUMMARY

FCMA has generously donated Eighty Thousand, Eight Hundred and Sixteen Dollars (\$80,816.00), to CMA located at 3720 Stephen M White Drive, San Pedro, California, 90731. The donation was made through a grant awarded to FCMA by the Los Angeles Regional COVID-19 Recovery Fund in order to fund technological needs for the institution whose operations were impacted as a direct result of the COVID -19 pandemic. The donated funds will be used to purchase and install the necessary equipment to bring wireless internet connection throughout the entire CMA campus. This donation illustrates FCMA's role as an instrumental partner with CMA in funding and furthering CMA's programs.

Since its closure to the public, CMA has worked hard to continue its mission to educate and inspire respect and conservation of Southern California marine life. The COVID -19 pandemic did not deter CMA's efforts. Although CMA was unable to hold live classes and tours, CMA quickly developed virtual classes and started some tours for the benefit of thousands of school children and the public, but was hindered by the lack of wireless internet which resulted in some live classes freezing or losing internet connection altogether. The addition of a wireless internet connection will allow CMA to significantly expand its virtual programming and allow the aquarium to broadcast classes from anywhere in its facility.

The lack of a wireless internet connection at CMA has traditionally been a hindrance to many aquarium exhibit and program objectives. In addition to an expansion of virtual classes and

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tours, this technology will allow CMA staff to update how exhibits are presented by using modern technology, so that content can be displayed in multiple languages; it will allow CMA staff to develop a self-guided tour that guests can use on their mobile devices; it will increase CMA staff safety and operational needs by providing connectivity in an area that otherwise has no wireless or cellular connection; and it will be an incredibly useful amenity to guests who visit CMA. In addition, CMA staff will be able to track animal care using the most up to date technology and address other tasks that are part of the daily animal assessment.

FISCAL IMPACT

Acceptance of the donation will have no fiscal impact on The Department of Recreation and Parks' General Fund.

STRATEGIC PLAN INITIATIVES AND GOALS

Approval of this Board Report advances RAP's Strategic Plan by supporting:

Goal No. 4: Active Engage Communities

Outcome No. 4: Enhanced visibility and awareness of RAP parks, programs, and projects

Key Metric: Number of youth participants and the public in virtual ocean and science education

Target: Develop virtual education that will reach thousands of individuals

Result: Wireless internet connection at CMA will increase the number of classes delivered and participants served to deliver education on marine biology and environmental issues affecting our local oceans.

This Report was prepared by Crislyn McKerron, Executive Director, Cabrillo Marine Aquarium.