

REPORT OF GENERAL MANAGER

NO. 05-253

DATE September 21, 2005

C.D. \_\_\_\_\_

BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSIONERS

SUBJECT: CABRILLO MARINE AQUARIUM – APPLICATION FOR ACCREDITATION  
FROM THE AMERICAN ZOO AND AQUARIUM ASSOCIATION

J. Combs \_\_\_\_\_  
H. Fujita \_\_\_\_\_  
S. Huntley \_\_\_\_\_  
B. Jensen \_\_\_\_\_

J. Kolb \_\_\_\_\_  
F. Mok \_\_\_\_\_  
\* K. Regan AKR  
M. Shull \_\_\_\_\_

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
General Manager

Approved \_\_\_\_\_

Disapproved \_\_\_\_\_

Withdrawn \_\_\_\_\_

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That the Board authorize the President of the Recreation and Parks Commission to sign the signature line on page 20 of Cabrillo Marine Aquarium’s application for accreditation by the American Zoo and Aquarium Association (AZA). A completed signature page will certify that Cabrillo Marine Aquarium will abide by the American Zoo and Aquarium Association’s Code of Professional Ethics on file in the Board office. These signatures also confirm that the governing authority has formally considered and approved the submission of this application and has authorized and directed the institution’s staff to carry out the procedures for applying for accreditation.

**SUMMARY:**

Cabrillo Marine Aquarium (CMA) must apply for professional accreditation from the AZA by September 1, 2005 to become accredited for the next five years, following expiration of its current accreditation in March 2006. The AZA Executive Office address is located at 8403 Colesville Road, Suite 710, Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

AZA is a professional organization dedicated to the advancement of zoos and aquariums through conservation, education, scientific studies, and recreation. It represents virtually every professionally operated zoological park, aquarium, and oceanarium on the North American continent, as well as many of their employees. Only accredited institutions can be Institutional Members, and aquarium employees will be eligible for AZA Professional Fellow status only if the aquarium is accredited.

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The accreditation process includes submission of a lengthy written self-evaluation based on an AZA questionnaire. This has been completed by Aquarium staff to meet the September 1, 2005 deadline. The signatures of the director (Marine Aquarium Director) and the principal officer of the governing authority (President, Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners) are required before accreditation will be granted. The AZA Accreditation Coordinator will accept the signature page (Attachment 1) after the questionnaire deadline.

The recommended signatory action by the Board President is an AZA administrative requirement that is essential for CMA's application for accreditation to be deemed complete. It would also enable AZA to begin to evaluate whether CMA meets all professional standards to be granted accreditation for another five years. This action is not a project as defined by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), therefore CEQA does not apply.

### FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT:

If the Aquarium receives interim approval from AZA based on the application, an on-site peer review of the Aquarium will follow. The application process will require a \$1,200 non-refundable filing fee and \$1,000 to defray a portion of the Visiting Committee expenses, which is not due until the application has been received and an invoice sent to CMA. The Aquarium will use Municipal Recreation Program (MRP) funds from Department 88 fund 301, MRP account # 830-1702 to cover these expenses.

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 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: Dr. Paul Chaffee Zoos and Aquariums Grant Program, which was provided only to accredited California zoos and aquariums.

Prepared by Susanne Lawrenz-Miller, Aquarium Director