

March 17, 2026

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Chair, Assembly Committee on Natural Resources
1021 O Street, Room 3230
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable John Laird
Chair, Senate Budget Committee
State Capitol, Room 502
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Jesse Gabriel
Chair, Assembly Budget Committee
State Capitol, Room 8230
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: \$15 Million Proposition 4 Budget Request-Marine Mammal Care Center Los Angeles

On behalf of Marine Mammal Care Center Los Angeles, we are writing to express our strong support for including a one-time \$15 million investment from Proposition 4 in the 2026–27 State Budget to support the expansion and modernization of Marine Mammal Care Center Los Angeles (MMCC) facility. This funding would contribute to a \$30 million project to strengthen marine mammal response and rehabilitation infrastructure in Los Angeles County.

MMCC is authorized by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to provide year-round rescue, rehabilitation, and release of stranded marine mammals along the Los Angeles County coastline. Since 1992, the organization has treated more than 10,000 sick and injured marine mammals affected by threats such as entanglement, malnourishment, infectious disease, and increasingly frequent climate-driven harmful algal blooms.

Los Angeles County experiences one of the highest concentrations of marine mammal strandings in the United States, and recent mass stranding events linked to domoic acid outbreaks highlight the growing need for expanded response capacity. MMCC's current rehabilitation facility, constructed in 1989, was designed for a much smaller operational environment and now limits the organization's ability to respond effectively during large-scale marine wildlife emergencies.

This one-time Proposition 4 investment would strengthen California's capacity to respond to marine wildlife emergencies while protecting coastal ecosystems and public safety. The project aligns directly with the goals of Proposition 4 by supporting coastal resilience, marine wildlife protection, and California's response to climate-driven environmental impacts.

For these reasons, we respectfully urge inclusion of this request in the 2026–27 State Budget. Thank you for your consideration and for your continued leadership in protecting California's coastal resources.



Jim Light, Mayor
415 Diamond Street
Redondo Beach CA 90277

Tel: 310.697.3653

Redondo.org

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at James.Light@redondo.org.

Sincerely,

Jim Light