



LUXURY BOUTIQUE HOTELS
INSPIRED RESTAURANTS

I am writing in support of the Harrison Greenberg Foundation's proposal to expand the Roundhouse Marine Studies Lab and Aquarium into the restaurant space located at end of the Manhattan Beach Pier. As the owner of Rock'N Fish, we operated Rock'N Oyster in the small concession space in the early 2000's. I can offer the City Council an informed opinion that there is minimal value and community service to Manhattan Beach residents and visitors of a restaurant at this location. Although the aquarium had many visitors during the course of the day, few of these people patronized the concession stand due to the small menu made possible by the many space limitations and functional restrictions of being located at the end of a 928 feet long pier. Manhattan Beach had, and has, some of the best restaurant options in Southern California located near a beach or pier. Other than purchasing coffee, beverages, and simple snacks, residents and visitors would explore the aquarium or tour the pier and then make other dining plans at the nearby restaurants. Even fishing enthusiasts gave minimal support to the concession stand by opting to bring their own food, drinks, and supplies.

Rock'N Oyster never made a profit. I'm also aware that the preceding and succeeding operators didn't generate enough income to justify the effort. The facility is non-functional: There are no hoods, storage, or food prep space. Fresh food had to be prepared off-premise and carted down the pier for delivery throughout the day. Furthermore, it was impossible to retain workers because of loneliness and boredom. The concession stand wasn't particularly kind on the environment: There was much food waste due to unpredictable business, no grease trap installed, and floor drains that frequently clogged and backed up. Debris - such as napkins, paper plates, plastic utensils, foodstuff - blew into the ocean when it got windy and created a constant challenge to mitigate.

An expanded and improved educational and research aquarium would much better serve the community, residents, visitors, and students from all over by providing first hand knowledge about, and inspiring an appreciation of marine life, the oceans and the environment. A high-quality aquarium facility would attract more visitors to Manhattan Beach and encourage locals and others to be more aware and concerned about the beach ecosystems and the impact that humans have on them. MB residents will be proud of a first-class marine facility that contributes to marine science and promotes public awareness of environmental issues.

Sincerely,

Michael Zislis
Owner

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Michael Zislis', is written over the typed name and title.

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