







PACIFICA OCEAN DISCOVERY CENTER

P.O. Box 269 Pacifica, CA 94044

Who we are

Pacifica Ocean Discovery Center is working to create an environmental education facility on Linda Mar State Beach. Our assemblage of marine educators, biologists and other ocean enthusiasts realize the great need in Pacifica for a structure and organization that will serve our community's children, tourists, and many beach lovers.

The mission of the Pacifica Ocean Discovery Center is four-fold:

-  To heighten public awareness of local marine animals, the habitats in which they live and issues that concern them.
-  To build a Center for Coastal Environmental Stewardship, using the latest in green technologies and recycled materials, which will serve our community, visitors to Pacifica, and local non-profits working to improve our environment.
-  To provide an outreach education program for local, and Bay Area schools so that students may learn about the beautiful San Mateo coast and the fascinating animals that live here.
-  To collaborate with and support local municipal and civic groups as a "coastal alliance" to promote marine education, conservation, pollution prevention, habitat restoration & preservation.

Pacifica is fortunate to have a great diversity of protected coastal spaces, giving our region a wonderful opportunity to restore and maintain the ecological integrity for our children. PODC will play a critical role in ensuring the long-term restoration of our local environments, through education, involvement and action.

Location...

The future Center for Coastal Environmental Stewardship will be perfectly situated at the mouth of San Pedro Creek Estuary. The existing Linda Mar Pump Station is a 3200 square foot concrete block structure, atop which our new educational center will be built. A single-story building would provide ample space to include a teaching classroom, library, office space for local stewardship non-profits, storage and reception area (see diagram). In addition we envision a porch wrapping around three sides of

the structure, providing inspirational viewing space for visitors to enjoy rollout educational displays and interpretive signage.

What Services Will it Provide?

The environmental education center will be open 7 days a week, serving a variety of needs for the community. Children from schools across the Bay Area will be able to visit during the week for special presentations and hands-on fieldwork in coastal, creek & estuary environments. Casual beach goers and tourists alike will be able to wander in during the weekends and learn about restoration efforts taking place around San Pedro Creek, offshore kelp forests, and other habitats of our dynamic coasts.

In addition, the environmental center will serve as a hub for all efforts to learn about and restore our fragile coastal habitats. The facility will serve as a literal and figurative umbrella for local environmental groups by providing facilities for joint project management. Collaboration is also necessary in order to encourage and organize public involvement in the myriad opportunities to restore, maintain, and study our fragile coastal ecosystems. Our programs, events and presentations will train citizens in species identification, surveying, ecology, and restoration.

How Much Will it Cost?

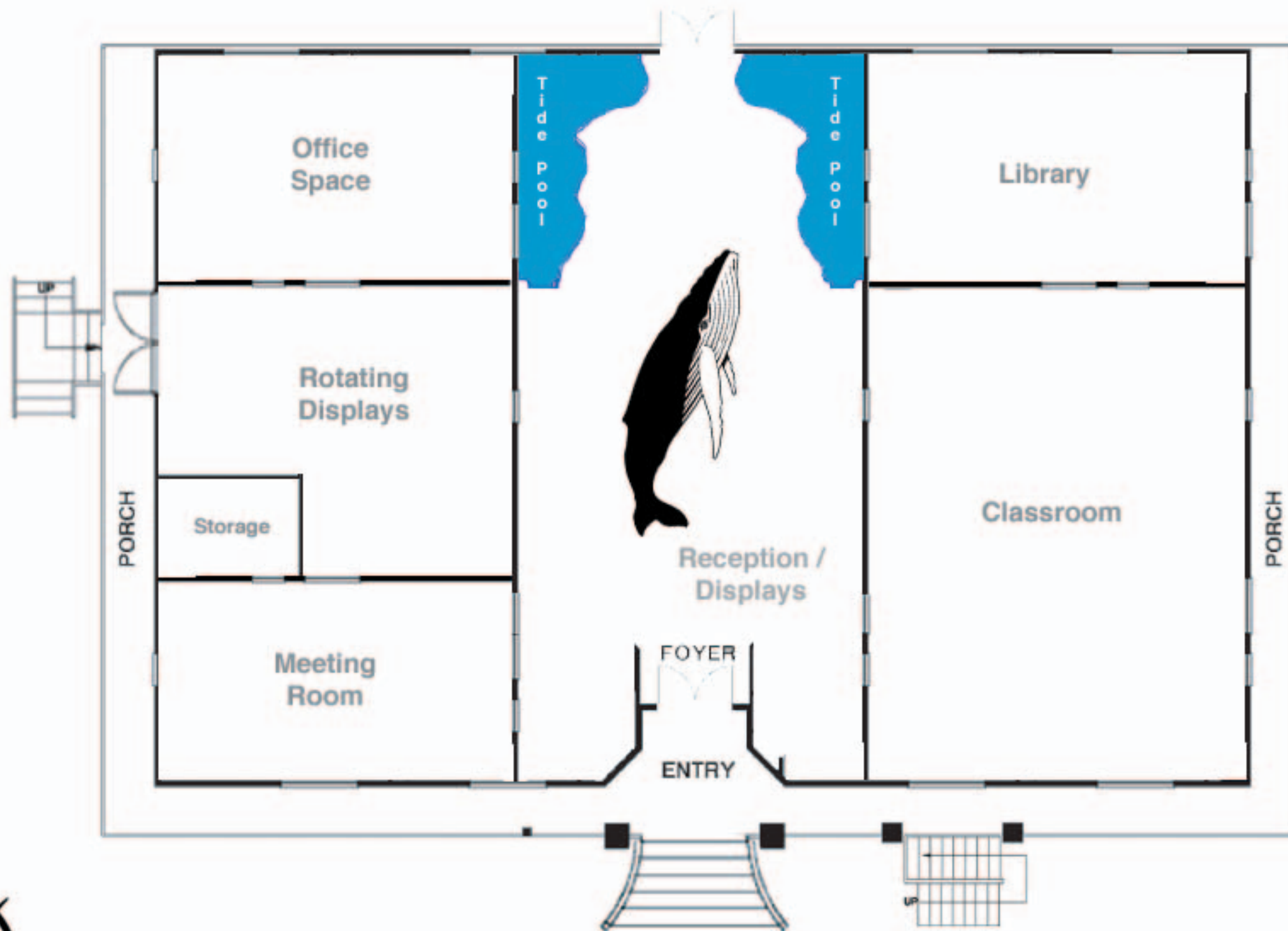
There will be significant costs associated with designing and constructing the facility, however we expect annual operating costs subsequent to construction to be quite low. Support is being sought from private foundations, individuals and government programs at the local to federal level. We hope to reach an agreement with the City of Pacifica regarding a long-term lease of the site.

Pacifica has a very significant potential to increase the number of eco-tourists. We believe the environmental education center that PODC is proposing will add dollars, ideas, and energy to our local economy.

When will it be completed?

Steps to renovate Linda Mar State Beach are proceeding rapidly. Our goal is to have the facility built and ready for public use close to when the beach restoration efforts are completed, by late 2005. Once the structure is done, we anticipate the PODC evolving into a new organization to run the facility. While individually we fully intend to remain involved in the running of the new facility, it is in the best interest if the stewardship non-profit community to create a new organization that has as it's specific mandate to operate the new center.





Center for Coastal Environmental Stewardship
Floor Plan Draft #1