



AGENDA MEMORANDUM
City Council Meeting of November 15, 2022

DATE: November 5, 2022
TO: Peter Zaroni, City Manager
FROM: Jennifer Vela, Chief Government Affairs, Marketing, and Communications Officer
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361-653-2655

Texas State Aquarium and Wildlife Rescue Center Spotlight

OUTSIDE PRESENTER(S):

<u>Name</u>	<u>Title/Position</u>	<u>Organization</u>
1. Jesse Gilbert	President & CEO	Texas State Aquarium

ISSUE:

The Texas State Aquarium, the Official Aquarium of the State of Texas, is far more than just an attraction in Corpus Christi; supporting our community, making an economic impact, and giving back have always been important. Its mission is to engage people with animals, inspire appreciation for our seas and support wildlife conservation. TSA, the largest Aquarium in Texas, cares for over 4,000 animals and has been named the #5 Aquarium in North America by USA Today.

We look to commemorate the grand opening festivities of the Aquarium's new Center for Wildlife Rescue in March 2023. The goal is to rehabilitate and, whenever possible, return the animals to their natural environment.

When guests visit the Texas State Aquarium, they don't just make memories; they help us make a difference.

BACKGROUND:

The Aquarium's new center for wildlife rescue will have state-of-the-art veterinary medical equipment, an interpretive center, and a multimedia theater to help share the Wildlife Rescue story. The Aquarium's goal is to increase capacity for wildlife rescue and response, facilitate learning for veterinary medical students and veterinary technologists, and foster a better understanding for the public regarding what each of us can do to help protect wildlife. Upon completion of the facility, the public will have unparalleled access to witness the treatment and rehabilitation of thousands of shorebirds, raptors (birds of prey), marine mammals, and sea turtles.

The 26-thousand-square-foot wildlife rescue center, to be located on the Aquarium's main campus immediately adjacent to the Aquarium, replaces the existing facilities located on Rincon Road. This is an extraordinary milestone for this institution.

LIST OF SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:

PowerPoint – (Texas State Aquarium Spotlight)