

# Coastal Gallery Project

Cabrillo High School Aquarium



**August 29, 2023**

# CHS Aquarium Overview

- Started in 1986 w/ one student
- Now operated by 6 classes of ~200 students
- 6,000 ft<sup>2</sup> facility opened in 2002
  - Original exhibits 20+ years old



# Program Overview – Demographics

- 7,000+ visitors last school year
  - Historically **underserved** populations
    - **Hispanic/Latino:** Lompoc – 65.5%,  
Santa Maria – 76%
    - **Below poverty level:** Lompoc – 17.3%,  
Santa Maria – 14.5%
    - **Title 1** schools



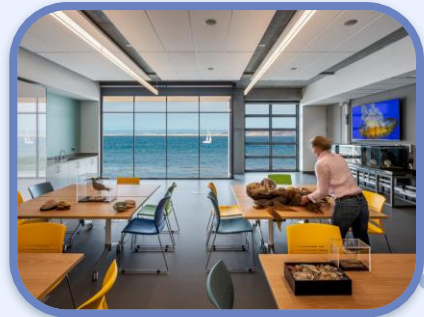
# Project Background <sup>4</sup>

- **Santa Ynez River Watershed**
- Disruptions over past century (bridges, barriers, dam)
  - Fed primarily by water treatment plant and runoff
- Wetlands are a **vital natural resource**
  - Improve water quality
  - Diverse natural habitat
  - Natural carbon sink
  - Protect coast from flooding and erosion
  - Recreation and education



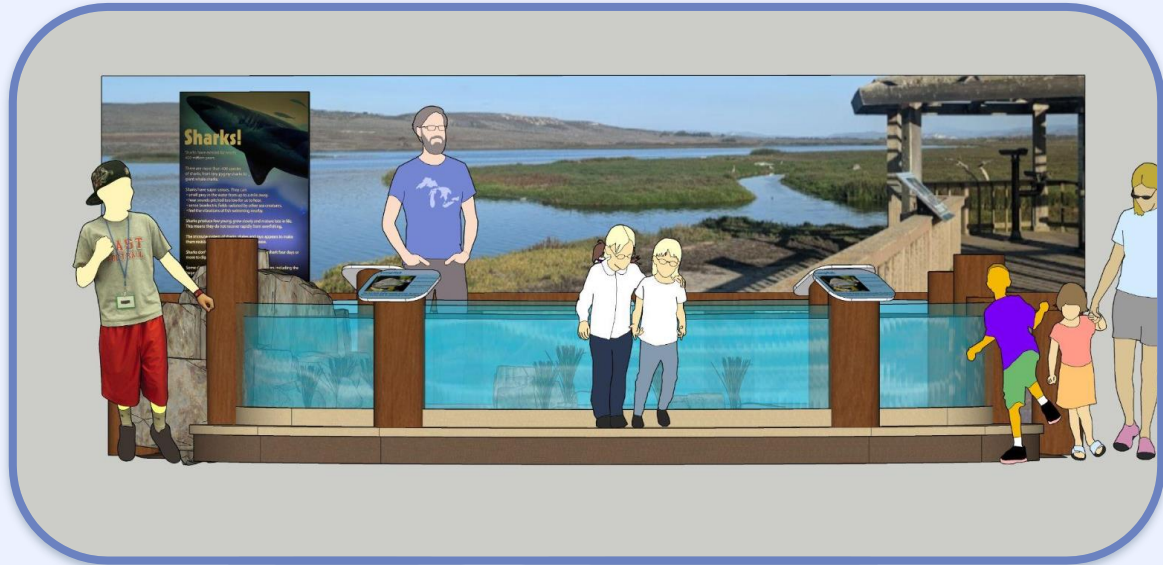
# Coastal Gallery Expansion Project

- **Phase 1 – Current CRMF Proposal**
  - **Cal Coastal Wetlands Exhibit**
- Phase 2 – Tropical Gallery Annex
- Phase 3 – Aquarium CTE Education Center



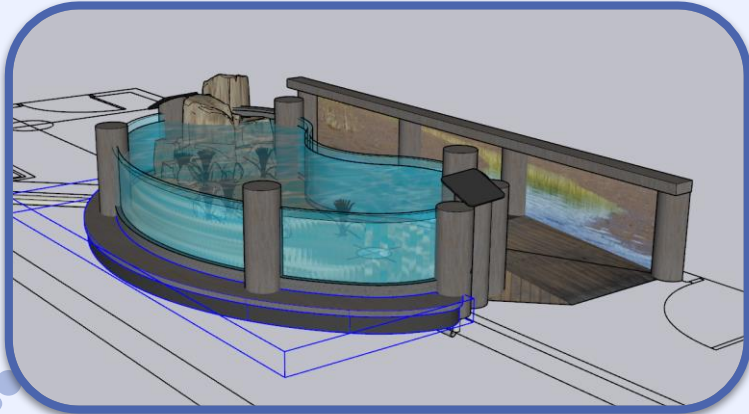
# Cal Coastal Wetlands Exhibit<sup>6</sup>

- Aquarium's largest exhibit ever
- Replaces four old tanks
- Simulates coastal boardwalk experience
- Allows safe interaction between guests & animals



# Educational Opportunities

- Supports educational efforts to preserve wetlands and watersheds
- Transports students to a coastal area normally too fragile and inaccessible



# Phase 1 Costs



- **Total - Approx \$600,000**
- \$425,000 - CA Natural Resources Agency
- \$10,000 - S.Y. Band of Chumash Indians
  - \$10,000 - Anonymous Donor
- \$55,000 - Patron Program and Reserves
  - **\$100,000 - CRMF Funds**



# Thank You!!

