

Upper Newport Bay Nature Preserve Marine Life Documentary
Project Summary

The Newport Bay Naturalists and Friends are proposed to produce an approx. 15-minute documentary film featuring the marine life in and around Upper Newport Bay Nature Preserve. The film will educate about the bay and encourage responsible recreation and use of delicate natural resources. It will also increase the access of underserved communities by having available Spanish language narration as well as closed captioning for the hearing impaired.

Background Information:

Upper Newport Bay Nature Preserve (Preserve), in the City of Newport Beach, contains approximately 1,000 acres of open space and is one of the largest remaining natural coastal estuaries in Southern California. The park which overlooks the preserve includes critical upland and watershed habitat which feeds into the preserve. Ecologically speaking, the land and water are inseparably linked and organisms in both habitats depend on one another for survival. The preserve has been supported since 2000 by the Newport Bay Naturalists and Friends (Naturalists) nonprofit organization, and on June 17, 2008, the Board approved an agreement with the Naturalists to formalize that already existing partnership.

Shot in 6K resolution for The Peter and Mary Muth Interpretive Center and to be also used by the California Fish and Wildlife, Back Bay Science Center, this fun, educational video project will be designed for all ages. This aquatic film will support The Muth's educational mission with their 1,500 and 500-gallon aquarium exhibits and be displayed in their theater. By having Spanish Language narration available as well as closed captioning for the hearing impaired this film will increase attendance at the Muth center and create access opportunities for those who may not have them already.

The proposed film will begin in the kelp forest where sea lions and dolphins can be found frolicking and foraging. From there, the viewers will be taken on a journey through Newport Harbor to the shallows and mudflats of the back bay where they will encounter the incredible creatures and plants that manage to survive in the brackish mix of fresh and salt water found there.

Stand at the edge of a pier and look down, what do you see? Probably not very much unless you use a mask and go underwater. Drop an anchor within Newport Harbor and follow it down, what lives down there? Skim over the surface across from the Aquatic Center in a kayak and stop to look downward at the flowing eelgrass. What lives within the habitat of this aquatic plant? These questions and many more will be answered in a film designed for anyone who lives in or visits this important watershed, an aquatic nursery and a place to come and clear your head during exercise all rolled into one! No matter why you come to the bay, this film will inspire you to use the resource responsibly through a deep and meaningful educational journey through the underwater world.