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NEWS RELEASE

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Back Bay Science Center Community Open House Planned for Saturday, May 31

NEWPORT BEACH, Ca. – Community members of all ages are invited to an open house celebration on Saturday, May 31 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. to mark the opening of the new Back Bay Science Center (BBSC). The BBSC is located at 600 Shellmaker Road, Newport Beach. The event will include: pontoon rides up the Upper Bay, outreach booths, nature walks, fishing for kids (ages 5-15), and tours of the new teaching lab.

“The Back Bay Science Center is another example of our city’s commitment to protecting our natural resources and improving water quality in the bay and ocean,” Newport Beach Mayor Edward Selich said. “Having a state-of-the-art facility such as this provides a home for important testing and educational programs and allows for a high-quality monitoring of our coastal waters.”

The BBSC – a partnership between the City of Newport Beach, the County of Orange, the California Department of Fish and Game, and the University of California, Irvine – has operated out of temporary buildings since opening in the early 1980s. The new, permanent facility is comprised of four buildings that total approximately 12,400 square feet. Located within a state ecological reserve, a protected area set aside for fish and wildlife, it includes a state-of-the-art water quality testing laboratory and educational facility. The new facility will offer coordinated programs targeting 7th-12th grade students, and offer research opportunities to college level students. Occasionally, there are opportunities where the public can get involved as well, such as the monthly Marine Life Inventories.

In addition to the funding provided by the four partners mentioned above, generous contributors to the \$8 million center include: The Irvine Company, Miocean Foundation, State Coastal Conservancy, Pacific Life and the Newport Bay Naturalists and Friends.

The mission of the BBSC is to provide a hands-on facility where students and the public can study and enjoy the estuarine ecology of Newport Bay including marine ecology of the ocean, and promote natural resource conservation and stewardship throughout the watershed. More than 10,000 students and visitors participate in the center’s tours and programs each year.

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