



City of Malibu

23815 Stuart Ranch Road • Malibu, California • 90265-4861
Phone (310) 456-2489 • Fax (310) 456-3356



CALIFORNIA
WILDLIFE
CENTER

California Wildlife Center

P.O. Box 2022 • Malibu, California • 90265
Phone (818) 222-2658 • Fax (818) 222-2685

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contacts: **Katie Lichtig, City Manager**
(310) 643-8448
klichtig@ci.malibu.ca.us

Beth Caskie, Executive Director
California Wildlife Center
(818) 222-2658
beth@californiawildlifecenter.org

\$100,000 PRESCOTT GRANT FROM NOAA AWARDED TO CITY OF MALIBU / CALIFORNIA WILDLIFE CENTER

*Funds will enhance California Wildlife Center's rescue and transport of
sick and injured marine mammals in Malibu*

Malibu, California (October 8, 2003) – The City of Malibu announced today that the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) has awarded a John H. Prescott Grant in the amount of \$100,000 to the City of Malibu and its subgrantee, California Wildlife Center (CWC). The grant funds will be used to continue the CWC's efforts to rescue marine mammals in Malibu.

“Malibu's native seals and sea lions contend with depleted fish stocks, domoic acid outbreaks, polluted coastlines and well-meaning but harmful human interaction,” said Beth Caskie, Executive Director of CWC. “The Prescott Grant will allow CWC to improve marine mammal rescue, as well as provide more information to Malibu beachgoers about pinnipeds.”

“We have had marvelous success with past rescues as a result of the partnership between the California Wildlife Center and Malibu,” declared Malibu Mayor Ken Kearsley. “With this grant money, we will be able to improve the rescue program by upgrading equipment and furthering our education outreach to the community and all those who enjoy California's oceans and are dedicated to protecting and preserving our sea-dwelling mammal population.”

In their fifth year of collaboration in wildlife rescue, CWC and Malibu applied for the grant monies jointly, citing Malibu's pressing need for funds to improve the welfare of marine mammals along our

coastline. With the Prescott funds, CWC will hire professional marine mammal responders to augment the volunteer team, purchase new equipment, improve response times, decrease the stress on the marine mammals inherent in rescue and transport, and provide an ongoing public education program that includes the natural history of marine mammals indigenous to Southern California.

“Malibu recognizes the need to be well prepared for the next El Niño, domoic acid episode or other toxic threat to marine mammals in Malibu, as well as day-to-day stranding events.” Mayor Kearsley added. “By providing a consistent expert response to distressed marine mammals along our coastline, the City of Malibu and CWC expect to save a greater number of marine mammals, improve their experience of rescue and transport and serve as a model of humane and informed coexistence with wildlife for other beachside communities.”

Additional funds for CWC’s wildlife rescue and rehabilitation efforts will be raised at the upcoming Wild Hearts Gala on November 13th honoring former Los Angeles Mayor Richard J. Riordan.

The City of Malibu was incorporated on March 28, 1991. Located in Northwest Los Angeles County, the City has 22 miles of coastline along the Pacific Ocean and a population of 12,575.

California Wildlife Center (CWC) is a non-profit organization dedicated to the rescue, rehabilitation and release of sick, injured and orphaned native wildlife. The Center fulfills this responsibility by providing expert medical care and by providing community outreach and education. For more information, please visit the CWC website at www.californiawildlifecenter.org.

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