



April 3, 2008

The Honorable Paul Krekorian
California State Assembly
State Capitol Building
Sacramento, CA 95814

Position: **SUPPORT**

Location: Assembly Committee on Water,
Parks, & Wildlife

AB 2687 (Krekorian) Parks and nature education facilities

Dear Assembly Member Krekorian,

We are writing to voice our support for AB 2687, a bill that would require the Department of Parks and Recreation to develop guidelines for a competitive grant process that would begin implementation of the park and nature component of Proposition 84, approved by voters in 2006. This proposition, among other things, makes \$100 million in bond funds available for grants for nature education and research facilities and equipment to nonprofit organizations and public institutions, namely natural history museums, aquariums, and botanical gardens. These organizations play a vital role in educating the public about California's natural environment and performing research, and Proposition 84 has created a much-needed resource to help these members of the museum community fulfill this mission and serve their communities.

The California Association of Museums (CAM) is a non-profit service organization representing the interests of California's museums with approximately 200 institutional members in 51 of the state's 58 counties, from art and natural history museums to historical societies, children's museums, aquariums, and zoos. CAM assists California museums in fulfilling their missions as educational and research institutions that interpret and preserve their collections for public benefit. CAM provides a variety of programs that address issues pertinent to all museums and serves as an advocate for museum interests on a state and national level.

California museums are part of the state's infrastructure and are significant contributors to a valued quality of life, healthy tourism, K-12 education, and lifelong learning. The need for governmental support of museums is clear: funding from state and local government sources has been declining even though museums are serving more schoolchildren and offering more programs than ever before. California museums need public support in order to meet a growing demand for their services and safeguard the state's natural and cultural heritage. We must develop a plan for ensuring a better future for our infrastructure and our museums – one that will be embraced and supported by California's citizens.

Furthermore, the need for funding for museum capital projects is considerable. In 2006, one-third of California museums were planning to launch a capital campaign, open a new building, or undergo a major expansion or renovation in the next three years. The total estimated amount of the capital needs of

California Association of Museums
P.O. Box 1455 Santa Cruz, CA 95061
831/471-9970 www.calmuseums.org

Located at the Seymour Marine Discovery Center

Hon. Paul Krekorian
April 3, 2008
Page 2 of 2

California museums is \$4 billion, with individual museum campaign goals ranging from \$10 thousand to \$100 million, depending on the size of the museum and the project. The \$100 million from Proposition 84 will leverage donations from local sources, including foundations, corporations, and individuals and help natural history museums, aquariums, and botanical gardens successfully achieve their fundraising goals.

We look forward to working with you to strengthen the state's commitment to California's museums. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Celeste DeWald at (831) 471-9970 or call our legislative advocate, Ms. Kathryn Lynch, at (916) 443-0202.

Sincerely,



Phil Kohlmetz
Chair, CAM Legislative Committee
Executive Director, Western Railway Museum



Celeste DeWald
Executive Director, CAM

cc: John Moffatt, Deputy Legislative Secretary, Governor's Office
Diane Colborn, Consultant, Assembly Committee on Water, Parks, & Wildlife
Phil Nails, Consultant, Assembly Committee on Water, Parks, & Wildlife
Kathryn Lynch, Legislative Advocate