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**The Marine Mammal Center's 11th Annual Gala Offers a Sneak Preview of its
Multi-Million Dollar Rebuild Project**

(Sausalito, Calif. – October 11, 2007) **The Marine Mammal Center's 11th Annual Gala celebration** will take place on Wednesday, October 17, ⁱⁿ historic **San Francisco City Hall**. This year's theme, *Coming Soon*, will treat guests to a preview of the Center's new Sausalito facilities, currently under construction. The public re-opening of The Marine Mammal Center is scheduled for spring 2009.

“We're very excited about the transformation we are undergoing,” said **Martha Whetstone, The Marine Mammal Center's Executive Director**. “Watching the new facilities take shape right before our eyes is a joy that could not have happened without the generosity of our donors. We feel confident that that we will raise the final funds to complete the project and will soon welcome the public to a spectacular new facility dedicated to the most advanced care and study of marine mammals and education about ocean health.”

The Gala evening will begin with an elegant cocktail reception in the Rotunda at 6:00 p.m. with live music by acclaimed jazz guitarist **Jeff Massanari**, and a presentation about the Center's work and preview of the rebuild progress. After the reception, guest will be treated to a magnificent four-course dinner catered by **McCall Associates** and accompanied by premium wines from **Heitz Cellars** and **Gallo Family Vineyards**. The Center will also host a live auction for some extraordinary prizes including luxurious vacations and once-in-a-lifetime thrills like attending a Giants game with Willie Mays in his private suite at AT&T Park. You can even go **Hollywood** with a private set-tour for two of the hit ABC show *Ugly Betty* and a two-night stay at the Mondrian hotel in Los Angeles. For those wanting a more tropical-like experience, a weeklong **North Captiva Island Getaway in Florida** or a **7-day voyage for two to Baja, CA** may be just the items to bid on.

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Tickets for 11th Annual Gala can be purchased for \$250 by calling (415) 289-7335. Proceeds will benefit The Marine Mammal Center.

About The Marine Mammal Center:

Headquartered in the Golden Gate National Recreation Area in Sausalito, California, The Marine Mammal Center is a nonprofit veterinary hospital, research and educational center dedicated to the rescue and rehabilitation of ill and injured marine mammals - primarily elephant seals, harbor seals and California sea lions - and to the study of their health. Patients that become healthy again are released back to the ocean. Since 1975, the Center has rescued and treated thousands upon thousands of marine mammals and has accumulated a body of knowledge about marine mammal and ocean health from its patients. By educating the public about marine mammals, the Center hopes to foster ocean stewardship and conservation. The Marine Mammal Center is supported almost entirely by private funds. For more information, visit www.marinemammalcenter.org

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