Ocean Institute in Dana Point Reopens on Weekends, With $12,500 Grant from SoCalGas

LOS ANGELES – Oct. 15, 2020 – Ocean Institute in Orange County today announced it has reopened to the public, thanks to a $12,500 grant from Southern California Gas Co. (SoCalGas). The grant allows the center to bring back essential staff necessary for safe reopening on weekends through 2020. The Ocean Institute serves as an education center, offering programs in marine science and history for visitors.

“We are so very thankful to SoCalGas for supporting our efforts to fulfill our mission through our public programs,” said Wendy Marshall, President and CEO of Ocean Institute. “We have been closed for nearly seven months and our talented staff is delighted to welcome back visitors.”

“Organizations like the Ocean Institute provide many educational benefits to children and families and help kids to learn and discover their interests in areas like marine science and maritime history, said Jill Tracy, member of the Ocean Institute’s Board of Directors and assistant general counsel at SoCalGas. “SoCalGas is thrilled to be able to support the reopening of the Ocean Institute and provide a safe and educational place for kids and families to enjoy on weekends.”

The Ocean Institute, founded in 1977, is a community-based 501(c)(3) organization that educates 100,000 children, teachers, parents, and visitors annually through over 60 marine science and maritime history programs. Located on 2.4 acres in the Dana Point Harbor; adjacent to a Marine Conservation Area, the facility is an ocean education center that offers in-depth Marine Science and Maritime History programs.

The Institute includes state-of-the-art teaching labs, the Maddie James Seaside Learning Center, a historic tall ship, and an oceanographic research vessel. Immersion-based field trips range from one-hour science labs to multi-day programs at sea. All programs are designed to maximize immersion, spark curiosity, and inspire a deep commitment to learning.

SoCalGas is a longtime supporter of the Ocean Institute having been a corporate partner for over 16 years. In 2019, SoCalGas donated more than $7.6 million to community organizations, local non-profits and other groups. SoCalGas employees contributed more than $750,000 through payroll deductions and
performed over 24,000 logged volunteer hours for various community groups throughout its service territory. Please see SoCalGas's 2019 Community Giving Summary for more information.

Since March, SoCalGas has donated more than $2 million to nonprofit organizations to support the region's workforce, feed the hungry, provide bill assistance to customers, and more as part of its COVID-19 recovery efforts. For more information on SoCalGas's response to the COVID-19 pandemic, please visit www.socalgas.com/coronavirus.

About Ocean Institute
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About SoCalGas
Headquartered in Los Angeles, SoCalGas® is the largest gas distribution utility in the United States. SoCalGas delivers affordable, reliable, clean and increasingly renewable gas service to 21.8 million customers across 24,000 square miles of Central and Southern California, where more than 90 percent of residents use natural gas for heating, hot water, cooking, drying clothes or other uses. Gas delivered through the company's pipelines also plays a key role in providing electricity to Californians—about 45 percent of electric power generated in the state comes from gas-fired power plants.

SoCalGas' vision is to be the cleanest gas utility in North America, delivering affordable and increasingly renewable energy to its customers. In support of that vision, SoCalGas is committed to replacing 20 percent of its traditional natural gas supply with renewable gas by 2030. Renewable natural gas is made from waste created by dairy farms, landfills and wastewater treatment plants. SoCalGas is also committed to investing in its gas delivery infrastructure while keeping bills affordable for our customers. From 2014 through 2018, the company invested nearly $6.5 billion to upgrade and modernize its pipeline system to enhance safety and reliability. SoCalGas is a subsidiary of Sempra Energy (NYSE: SRE), an energy services holding company based in San Diego. For more information visit socalgas.com/newsroom or connect with SoCalGas on Twitter (@SoCalGas), Instagram (@SoCalGas) and Facebook.