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NEWS RELEASE

MAYOR BOB FILNER APPLAUDS “SEAL CAM’S” INTERNATIONAL APPEAL

(San Diego) – Mayor Bob Filner is proud to announce the seals at the La Jolla Children’s Pool are gaining international popularity thanks to the “seal cam” that was set up on a lifeguard tower so they could be viewed 24 hours a day on the internet.

In the two short weeks since the camera has gone up, more than 13,000 people have visited the website from all over the world, with only 16% of the viewers from San Diego.

“The seals are proving they are amazing ambassadors for our city! Imagine if all the people around the world who viewed the seals online came to San Diego to view them in person? What a great boost for tourism! I am also excited because it is an incredible educational tool and I would love to hear to feedback from viewers,” said Mayor Filner.

The camera was funded and installed by the Western Alliance for Nature, a non-profit dedicated to preserving bio-diversity through wildlife conservation and education.

“We are honored to be able to provide an up close view of these amazing creatures to not just San Diegans, but people all over the world. The latest numbers show there is incredible interest in the treasures nature provides and we hope that provides a way to study and watch these animals and will not only tell us more about them, but ensure they are respected,” said Sara Wan of Western Alliance for Nature.

The seals can be viewed 24/7 over the internet at www.sandiego.gov/mayor and www.wanconservancy.org, where the Mayor has a special message for people all over the world who log in. The countries with the most viewers in descending order are as follows: United States, China, Canada, United Kingdom, France, Spain, Germany, Ukraine, Japan, Mexico, Australia, Czech Republic, Singapore, Russian Federation, Italy, Sweden, Switzerland, Ireland, Brazil, Poland, Austria, Israel, Finland, Denmark, United Arab Emirates, Belgium, New Zealand, Croatia, Panama, Hungary, India, Norway, Lithuania, Hong Kong, Thailand, Virgin Islands (U.S.), Qatar, South Africa, Cayman Islands, Algeria, South Korea, Philippines, Yemen, Romania, Iran, Saudi Arabia, Maldives, Ecuador, Bermuda, Cote d’Ivoire, Turkey, Belize, Senegal, Lebanon, Argentina, Malaysia, Greece, Indonesia.

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