

AltaSea Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)



- **What is AltaSea?**

AltaSea will be a leading, world-class urban marine research and innovation center at the LA Waterfront in San Pedro. This public-private partnership – an unprecedented collaboration among government, business, marine science and education – has been created to transform the historic 28-acre City Dock No. 1 site at the Port of Los Angeles into a nexus for research on ocean-related problems critical to Southern California, the nation and the world. The center will bring together researchers and scientists from major colleges and universities, government agencies and industries to study and develop innovative global solutions to benefit generations to come.

- **What are the key features of AltaSea?**

AltaSea includes 4,100 linear feet of waterfront dock and wharf space with direct harbor and ocean access, as well as multiple deep draft berths to accommodate large research vessels. It will feature more than 200,000 square feet of adaptable research and development space for co-location of marine scientists, researchers, educators and industry entrepreneurs. With circulating sea-water labs and a marine life support system throughout the facility, AltaSea will also house offices, classrooms, lecture halls, an interpretive center, support facilities, and potentially the world's largest seawater tank for studying tsunamis and rogue waves.

- **What type of research will be conducted there?**

Research will focus on studying the most critical problems facing urban oceans today – from climate change to rising sea levels, from food supply to freak weather patterns, to a host of other pressing issues. The Southern California Marine Institute (SCMI), which will be the project's Phase 1 anchor tenant, expects to study other pressing local problems at the Center as well, such as harmful algal blooms, restoration of the damaged reefs of the Palos Verdes Peninsula and San Pedro Bay, and the restoration of San Pedro Bay fisheries. SCMI is a strategic alliance of 11 major universities in Southern California that have marine science academic and research programs: eight California State University campuses, the University of Southern California, Occidental College, and the University of California at Los Angeles.

- **What is the projected cost of the project?**

Phase 1 of the public-private project is currently estimated at \$155 million. The entire 28-acre project is estimated at more than \$500 million.

- **How will AltaSea be funded?**

Funding commitments for Phase 1 of the project already tally \$57 million: \$32 million in site-related capital investments by the Port of Los Angeles, in addition to a \$25 million gift by the Annenberg Foundation to get the project underway. Phase 1 is currently estimated to cost \$155 million with a 2018 completion date. The remainder of Phase 1 funding will come from private philanthropic donations, grants, and other sources.

- **When will construction begin?**

Planning and design for wharf improvements has already begun. Permitting and design will take two years, with construction scheduled to begin on the wharf in summer 2015.

- **When will the project be completed?**

Phase 1 is anticipated to be completed within five years. The entire 28-acre campus is estimated to be completed in 15-20 years.

- **How many jobs will be created by this project?**

Phase 1 of the project will create an estimated 1,087 construction jobs, with Phase 2 providing an additional 4,161 construction jobs. For every \$1 million invested in research at AltaSea, an average of 9 direct jobs are estimated to be created.

- **Who will oversee the project?**

AltaSea is being set up as a non-profit 501 (c) (3), which will oversee the project's development. An AltaSea Advisory Cabinet was created earlier this year to help provide guidance on negotiating lease terms, recruit a President and Chief Executive Officer and set up a board of directors. Details of the non-profit will be formalized in the coming months. AltaSea is currently a project of the Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors, a nonprofit philanthropic services firm that advises on and manages more than \$280 million in annual giving.