



MARINE MAMMAL COMMISSION

20 April 2017

Ms. Jolie Harrison, Chief
Permits and Conservation Division
Office of Protected Resources
National Marine Fisheries Service
1315 East-West Highway
Silver Spring, MD 20910-3225

Re: Permit Application No. 21280
(Columbus Zoo)

Dear Ms. Harrison:

The Marine Mammal Commission (the Commission), in consultation with its Committee of Scientific Advisors on Marine Mammals, has reviewed the above-referenced permit application with regard to the goals, policies, and requirements of the Marine Mammal Protection Act (the MMPA). Columbus Zoo is requesting to import five male and two female captive-born California sea lions from Changfeng Ocean World in Shanghai, China, for the purpose of public display. The sea lions would be held for approximately one year at a facility in Myakka City, Florida, while a new facility is constructed in Columbus, Ohio. Both facilities (1) are open to the public on a regularly scheduled basis with access that is not limited or restricted other than by charging an admission fee, (2) offer an educational program based on professionally recognized standards, and (3) hold Exhibitor's License 31-C-0042, issued by the U.S. Department of Agriculture under the Animal Welfare Act. In addition, Columbus Zoo would abide by standards set forth by the International Air Transport Association for transport of the sea lions.

Therefore, the Commission believes that the proposed activities are consistent with the purposes and policies of the MMPA and recommends that the National Marine Fisheries Service issue the permit, as requested. Kindly contact me if you have any questions concerning the Commission's recommendation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Rebecca J. Lent".

Rebecca J. Lent, Ph.D.
Executive Director