



May 25, 2020

To:

Emil Dimitrov, *The Minister of Environment and Water*

Tonka Atanasova, *Chief of the Regional Inspection of Environment and Water - Burgas*

Dimitar Nikolov, *Mayor of Burgas*

Veselina Ilieva, *Chief Architect of the Burgas Municipality*

We respectfully submit this letter to bring your attention to the following matter. While many countries around the world are banning and putting a total end to the use of marine mammals in entertainment, it has come to our attention that plans to build a new dolphinarium in Burgas has been submitted. This is very concerning as dolphins do not cope well in captivity, and the welfare of dolphins in captivity is of great concern for the reasons outlined below.

Dolphins have evolved over millions of years, adapting perfectly to life in the ocean. They are intelligent, social and self-aware, exhibiting evidence of a highly developed emotional sense. Captivity devastates their quality of life in every way: loss of family bonds, minuscule habitats and bare environments, starvation, stress and related illnesses, noise and water pollution, loss of echolocation, and deprivation of mental stimulation. Captivity for entertainment serves no meaningful educational value; displaying unnatural behaviors in an unnatural environment serves no end other than to amuse a human audience at a great cost to the animals on display. In recent years public sentiment against marine mammal captivity has shifted drastically. With the release of films such as *The Cove* and *Blackfish*, the international community has come to learn the truths about the capture and captivity of these incredible animals and public opinion increasingly opposes such forms of abusive display masquerading as education and entertainment. As you may be aware, SeaWorld—arguably the world leader in this industry—has suffered a sharp and steady decline in profits as more and more people decry their business practices.

The public is no longer ignorant to the facts regarding wild captures, forced captive breeding, training through food deprivation, confinement in inadequate tanks, and the multitude of health issues that befall captive marine mammals. Increasingly, facilities holding such animals are facing scrutiny for the treatment and conditions of the animals in their care. Even new and modern facilities can expect to be under the world's microscope at every step, and the cost to construct these facilities up to modern standards will be significant, to say nothing of the ongoing expenses to provide adequate facilities, food, and medical care to any dolphins housed there.

Dolphins and whales have been shown by recent scientific research to be sensitive with likely more ranges of emotions than humans, with culture that is handed down through generations, and personal names. They deserve our respect and the right to remain in the wild, free from harassment and harm. There is no justification for a facility to keep dolphins in captivity for entertainment and a short-sighted economic gain; the cost to each of those animals, and our own sense of humanity, is too high.

Dedicated to the Welfare & Protection of Dolphins Worldwide Since Earth Day 1970
171 Pier Ave., #234, Santa Monica, CA 90405 P: 310-923-2185 F: 310-881-1256



The future of our world should be in eco-tourism. We should be teaching people of all ages to respect wildlife and the wild spaces they come from. Watching a captive dolphin perform forced behaviors due to food deprivation is not teaching respect. It is teaching dominance and disrespect. We urge you to reject the proposal for a new dolphinarium in Burgas.

If we may provide additional information regarding any of these matters, we invite you to contact us.

Thank you for your time,
Rachel Carbary

Dedicated to the Welfare & Protection of Dolphins Worldwide Since Earth Day 1970
171 Pier Ave., #234, Santa Monica, CA 90405 P: 310-923-2185 F: 310-881-1256

 facebook.com/ricobarrysdolphinproject/  [@Dolphin_Project](https://twitter.com/Dolphin_Project) Web: DolphinProject.com