

Construction soon on ocean lab at UC

■ MARINE LAB

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researchers working in related fields.

It also will house a collaborative study on the West Coast's tidal environment, which Carr will help lead. That project, the Partnership for Interdisciplinary Studies of Coastal Oceans, is being done in conjunction with UC-Santa Barbara, Stanford University and Oregon State University.

The new research center is part of an overhaul of the university's Long Marine lab facilities on Santa Cruz's coastal bluff that has been in the works since the early 1990s. It will ultimately include 110,000 square feet of new research space costing \$40 million, Griggs said.

The first of those projects, the \$5.6 million, 18,000-square-foot Oiled Wildlife Veterinary Care and Research Center, opened two years ago. That center was the first in the nation dedicated to the care and study of sea otters and other marine life injured by oil spills. It is run by the state Department of Fish and Game in conjunction with the university.

Discovery center in works

Work is nearing completion on the \$6.3 million, 18,000-square-foot Seymour Marine Discovery Center. When it opens early next year, it will serve as the educational outreach arm of the marine lab, replacing a small bookstore and aquarium that had been housed in a double-wide trailer.

"The whole mission is to interpret the research that the Institute of Marine Sciences carries out — to take what the scientists do and make that understandable to the public," Griggs said.

Also under construction is a 55,000-square-foot laboratory for the National Marine Fisheries Service branch currently stationed in Marin County. Due to open next fall, it will serve as a base for the federal agency's research and management of such species as salmon and rockfish.

In addition, construction is expected in the near future on a \$400,000 oiled seabird care center to be built alongside the new oiled wildlife facility.

And planning is expected to begin

The center will join new state and federal research facilities near the lab.

soon for other research facilities to be built on the 60-acre Terrace Point meadow adjacent to the labs, which the university purchased this summer.

Cooperation envisioned

Having government agencies such as the fisheries service working alongside university scientists has become a hallmark of world-class research centers, Griggs said. UC-San Diego's Scripps Institution of Oceanography and the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute in Massachusetts, both world-renowned, also have fisheries service labs on site.

"I think it's the direction of the future," Griggs said. "Historically, there was a lot more competition between institutions and agencies over who does what. Everybody's figuring out there are things we can do better together than individually."

It is too early to say what other projects might be in store at Long Marine Lab now that the university has the adjacent acreage at Terrace Point, Griggs said.

Development at Terrace Point, where a builder once proposed hundreds of homes, has been highly controversial in Santa Cruz.

Even the new Ocean Health Center drew some heat from city officials who, while supportive of the idea, said it was too big. The Coastal Commission chided university brass for not working more closely with the city on the project.

But Griggs said that being situated on the shore of the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary, there is tremendous opportunity for the already-respected lab.

Monterey Bay area is home to a host of other respected marine science institutions, including the Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute, Moss Landing Marine Laboratories and Stanford's Hopkins Marine Station.

"I think that there's a lot of potential there that we're just beginning to realize," Griggs said.

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