RELEASE EVENT – "PINK THE PELICAN": SEE DETAILS BELOW

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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"Pink the Pelican," Found in Long Beach with Mutilated Throat Pouch, to Be Released

After two surgeries and several weeks in care at International Bird Rescue's Los Angeles center, the adult Brown Pelican has made a remarkable recovery and is scheduled to be released Tuesday, June 3 in San Pedro, CA.

LOS ANGELES (May 29, 2014) — "Pink," an adult California Brown Pelican who made national headlines after being found with a near-severed throat pouch caused by an unknown assailant, has made a truly remarkable recovery at International Bird Rescue's (IBR) Los Angeles center and is scheduled for a June 3 release.

PINK THE PELICAN RELEASE EVENT INFORMATION:

WHEN: Tuesday, June 3 at 12:30 P.M.

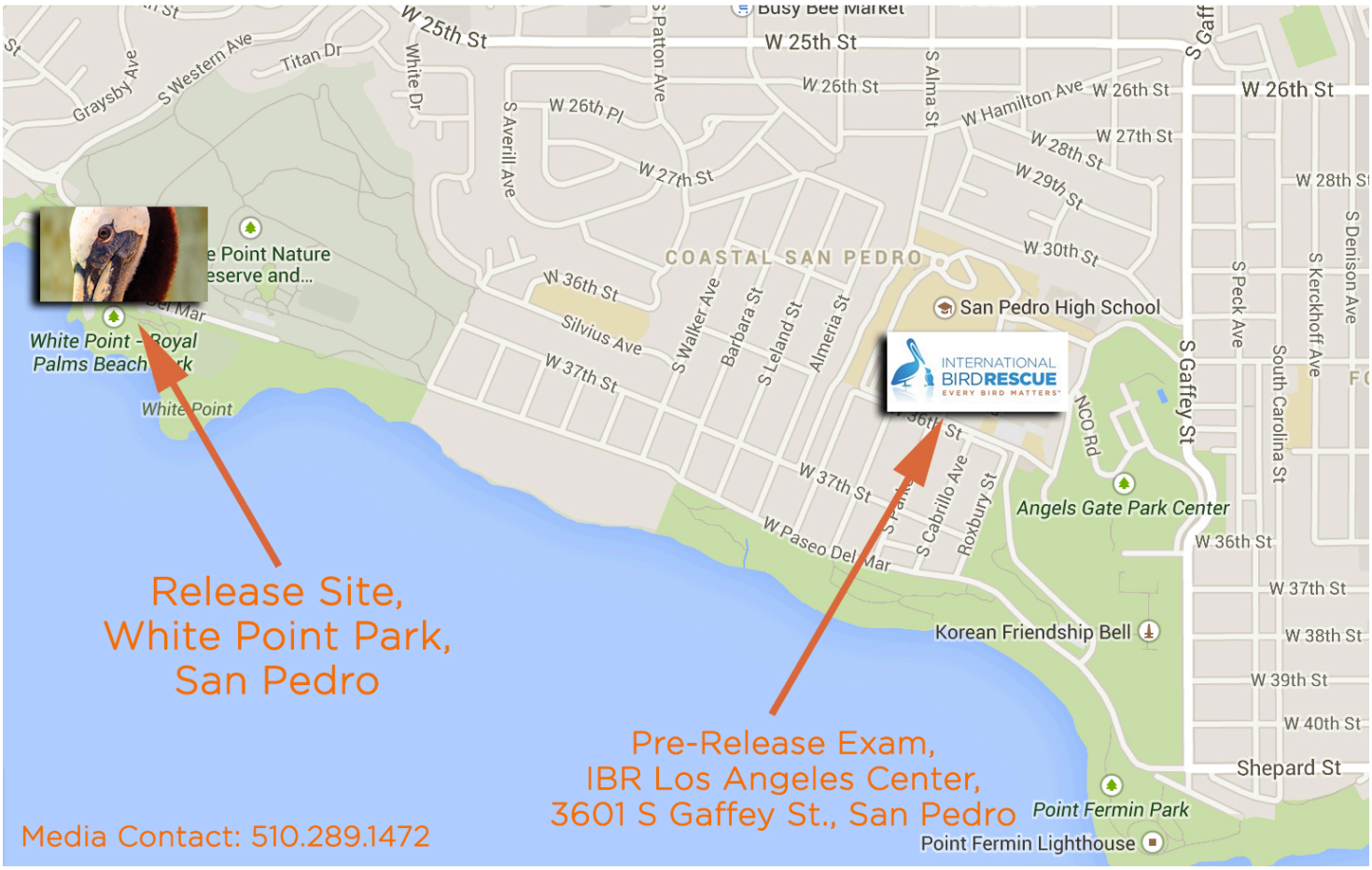
WHERE: White Point Park in San Pedro. Address: Kay Fiorentino Drive, San Pedro, CA 90731 (see map on next page). Camera crews are encouraged to arrive early to ensure suitable vantage point.

WHO: IBR representatives will be on hand to give interviews on Pink's treatment and recovery. L.A. City Councilman Joe Buscaino also is scheduled to be in attendance.

ADDITIONAL FILMING OPPORTUNITY PRIOR TO RELEASE: At 11:30 a.m. on Tuesday, June 3, Pink will undergo a final release evaluation by staff at IBR's L.A. center in Angels Gate Park, 3601 S. Gaffey St. in San Pedro (see map on next page). Media interested in photo/video may attend. No

flash photography allowed. Please arrive on time, as we cannot accommodate latecomers for release exam.

Pink the Pelican June 3 release site and IBR Los Angeles center map



Nicknamed for the color of the bird's temporary leg band worn while in care at IBR, Pink was found with a mutilated pouch over six weeks ago by Long Beach Animal Control officers. Unable to feed, the bird was extremely thin, anemic and could not fly when brought to IBR.

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"Despite the vicious attack against this pelican, Pink brought out the best in wildlife lovers all over the country, who supported and rallied behind the bird's care and recovery," said IBR executive director Jay Holcomb. "Though we still don't know who committed this criminal act, we're thrilled to release a strong and healthy Pink, one of hundreds of pelicans we care for every year."

Photos on Pink's progression — pre-surgery, surgery and post-surgery — can be found here via DropBox. Photo credit: International Bird Rescue

Over the past year, Pelican pouch slashings perpetrated by humans have been seen in California, Florida and North Carolina. Pink's pouch laceration required hundreds of stitches during two operations lasting a total of six hours.

"Over the course of treatment, I've seen Pink transform from weak and sad to feisty and voracious," said IBR staff veterinarian Dr. Rebecca Duerr, who has performed nearly 100 pelican pouch surgeries in her career. "Despite having the largest pouch laceration I've ever seen, he did great during post-operative care and has healed in record time."

IBR is extremely grateful for support from the Port of Long Beach for Pink, whose care was also aided by donations from bird lovers in Southern California and beyond. The Animal Legal Defense Fund assisted IBR with communicating this animal cruelty story to the public.

Pink's recovery was made possible by IBR animal care staff, who performed regular exams on the bird and provided extensive rehabilitative and supportive care.

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About us: *International Bird Rescue (IBR) has been helping seabirds and other aquatic birds around the world since 1971. Our team of specialists operates two year-round aquatic bird rehabilitation centers in California, which care for more than 5,000 birds every year. IBR is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization. Learn more at* ***birdrescue.org.***