

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

January 15, 2007

**ZOO SEEKS STINGRAY BAY VOLUNTEERS**

FRESNO, Ca. – Fresno Chaffee Zoo is seeking volunteers to assist with the upcoming exhibit “*Stingray Bay: A Touching Experience.*” Volunteers must be at least 18 years of age, give a minimum of four hours a week, and attend a training course scheduled for Saturday, February 24. Stingray Bay will open March 1 and run through Labor Day 2007.

Visitors to Stingray Bay will be encouraged to touch the rays as the animals swim in a specially constructed 11,000 gallon saltwater pool. Visitors can also feed the stingrays by placing their hand under water and allowing the rays to take the food while gliding over the top. Zoo staff and volunteers will be present at the exhibit to enhance the learning experience about these gentle creatures which are often curious about people. Stingray Bay will house more than a dozen rays such as cownose stingrays (*Rhinoptera bonasus*) and Southern stingrays (*Dasyatis americana*). These mild-tempered stingrays, whose barbs are clipped much like human fingernails, pose no threat to visitors.