



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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STINGRAY BAY CLOSING DATE EXTENDED **Popular attraction will be returning for third season**

FRESNO, Ca. – Fresno Chaffee Zoo’s popular attraction “Stingray Bay: A Touching Experience” will remain at the Zoo longer than expected. Daily operation of Stingray Bay will end after Sunday, September 14 as originally scheduled, however the exhibit will now remain open on weekends through January 4, 2009. In addition, Stingray Bay will reopen for a third season in March 2009.

Stingray Bay made a big splash in 2007 when Zoo attendance increased by 28% and membership sales rose 31%. On March 15, 2008 Stingray Bay reopened with nurse and white-spotted bamboo sharks in addition to the southern and cownose rays. Horseshoe crabs were added to the 14,500 gallon pool in July. Attendance continues to increase and is currently up an additional 9% for the year. A recent visitor survey indicated Stingray Bay is the most popular Zoo attraction.

“It is obvious from our increase in attendance and the results of our visitor survey our community loves Stingray Bay. We seized the opportunity to keep these fascinating creatures and this awe inspiring hands-on experience for another season” stated Zoo Director Lewis Greene.

The animals will remain at Fresno Chaffee Zoo throughout the winter in their specially constructed pool that includes a life support system which maintains the water temperature at a balmy 80 degrees.

Admission to Stingray Bay is \$1.00 per person in addition to regular Zoo admission and free for Fresno Chaffee Zoo members and children under 2 years of age.

Fresno Chaffee Zoo is open every day of the year from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. General admission is \$7 for adults, \$3.50 for children 2-11 and seniors 62+, and children under 2 and Fresno Chaffee Zoo members are free. The mission of Fresno Chaffee Zoo is to provide a fun, unique and up-close experience that strengthens the bond between people and wildlife. The Zoo is accredited by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA).

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