

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

December 14, 2007

## **STINGRAYS TO RETURN IN 2008** ***Sharks will be added attraction***

FRESNO, Calif. – An ocean of learning and fun will return to Fresno Chaffee Zoo when “Stingray Bay: A Touching Experience” reopens by popular demand. Stingray Bay will provide visitors an opportunity to reach into a 14,500 gallon saltwater pool to feel the smooth skin of stingrays and come closer than ever to sharks.

In addition to cownose rays (*Rhinoptera bonasus*) and Southern stingrays (*Dasyatis americana*), Stingray Bay will also include two species of small docile sharks, white spotted bamboo sharks (*Chiloscyllium plagiosum*) and nurse sharks (*Ginglymostoma cirratum*).

This dramatic and interactive experience fosters an appreciation for these misunderstood animals and a desire to protect them and their aquatic habitats. Zoo educational interpreters will once again be present to enhance the learning experience about these gentle creatures. They will also facilitate special feeding opportunities (food will be available for purchase).

Stingray Bay made a big splash in 2007. More than 165,000 people experienced the underwater world of rays. Zoo attendance was up 26% and membership sales rose 31%. Stingray Bay is expected to reopen March 15, 2008 and the adventure will continue throughout the summer. Catch the wave and don't miss these amazing rays and sharks in 2008!

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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