



News Release

Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services

For Immediate Release:

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Contact:

**Vanessa Rogier, (408) 277-3065
Cell 408-406-3618**

**A New Home for Danny the Dragon
*Yes! Danny the Dragon is Staying
Groundbreaking at Happy Hollow Park & Zoo***

San José, CA ---- Do you seed a “living roof” or let the birds do that? Can the maze have moving walls? Will Danny still be green? Not your average renovation questions, but questions that have been part of the design in the renovation of San José’s Happy Hollow Park & Zoo. After 46 years, Happy Hollow Park & Zoo is receiving a major renovation made possible by voters in 2000 with the approval of proposition P, the Parks Bond Act that would give Happy Hollow a \$52 million remodel.

On **Thursday, June 26th at 10:30 a.m.**, community members are invited to join Mayor Chuck Reed, Councilmember Madison Nguyen and other dignitaries, as the ground is broken for phase 2 of construction. “Happy Hollow Park and Zoo is a San José treasure,” said Mayor Chuck Reed. “I took my children to Happy Hollow when they were young. Thanks to the voters of San José, we are able to invest in making critical improvements so Happy Hollow can be enjoyed by children throughout the region for years to come.”

The renovation includes a new education center, animal care facility, retail shop, animal barn, new rides, new zoo exhibits, and an entry plaza. Also in keeping with Happy Hollow’s conservation mission and the City of San José’s mission to build greener, the design and construction of the “New” Happy Hollow Park & Zoo will implement many green building components and when completed will be applying for L.E.E.D. (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certification, not just for one building, but the entire facility. “I am so

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Groundbreaking at Happy Hollow Park & Zoo

happy that District 7 is home to Happy Hollow Park & Zoo, as it has provided the entire city with a safe and fun place to gather, play and learn. With the many upgrades that will take place in the coming months, I know the new and improved zoo will rejuvenate the community and bring neighbors and families together which will further enhance the quality of life for our residents. This is such an exciting project to be a part of, and Happy Hollow Corporation and City staff have done such an excellent job with making plans for Happy Hollow to become a major tourist attraction.” Councilmember Madison Nguyen

At the same time the construction is taking place, Happy Hollow’s non-profit partner, Happy Hollow Corporation, is helping to raise funds to bring unfunded components like a Family Roller Coaster, a new Maze and an Endangered Species Carousel to the new Happy Hollow. “Happy Hollow Corporation is thrilled to launch the \$10 million, *Everyone’s Park & Zoo Capital Campaign*,” reports Heather Lerner, Happy Hollow Corporation President. “As the ‘friends of ‘ group to Happy Hollow, we look forward to engaging citizens and local corporations in this campaign. Now is the time for everyone who has said to me, ‘I love Happy Hollow!’ to join our efforts to add all those exciting elements that are not paid for by Proposition P.”

Phase 1 of the construction on the “New” Happy Hollow began in February of this year yet the gates to Happy Hollow have stayed open during this phase with little interference in the guest experience. Phase 2 is now set to begin on July 9th, making Tuesday the 8th the last day of operations until the gates re-open in the Fall on 2009. Phase 2 includes new rides, play areas, party areas, puppet theater renovations, new pathways and infrastructure.

For more information on the remodel and temporary closure of Happy Hollow Park & Zoo, please call Vanessa Rogier 408-277-3065.

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