

For Immediate Release

September 14, 2009

Contact:

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

***San José – We Have a Date!
Happy Hollow Park & Zoo to Open Saturday, March 20, 2010***

San José, CA – “When are you opening?” the question that has been asked every day since the gates closed last year for the Happy Hollow Park & Zoo renovation project. It’s official – Happy Hollow Park & Zoo will “Open for New Memories” on **March 20, 2010**. And it will open as the first LEED certified Zoo and Amusement Park in the country.

The Project: Happy Hollow Park & Zoo closed its gates after 46 years on July 9, 2008, for a \$70 million green renovation. The scope of the project includes the renovation of the 12 acres of existing ride areas and Zoo, as well as adding 4 additional acres to the facility. Renovations include several new animal exhibits, Veterinary and Commissary buildings, Education Center, Guest Services and Gift Shop, Restaurant, new parking lot and pedestrian bridge, and updates the facility to meet all ADA requirements.

New: **Education Center** - Learning L.O.D.G.E. (Learn, Observe, Discover, Go Explore!) The greenest of all the new buildings and built out of hay bales – the Learning L.O.D.G.E. will be the center of educational activity for the new facility.

Doc’s Critter Care – the new animal hospital featuring indoor and outdoor quarantine, surgery and radiology facilities.

Giggle Grove – the new rides area featuring the Kiddie Swings, Kids Steam Ride (kid powered ride), Frog Hopper, and returning ride favorites, the Granny Bugs and the Mini Putts.

Family Rides - Keep-Around-Carousel features endangered species characters, Pacific Fruit Express Family Roller Coaster, and an “Extreme Make-Over” of the beloved Danny the Dragon Ride.

“Double H” Ranch Exhibit - includes expansive animal contact area with an additional play areas for children. The area features the Animal Barn, which will offer close contact with domestic species and feature interpretive panels and graphics along with new exhibits of animals typically found in a barn.

- MORE -

Lemur Woods Exhibit – featuring endangered lemurs with a parallel play area for children to hop, jump and move like a lemur!

Redwood Lookout play area is perfect for multiple age groups with an area for toddlers, a sitting area for parents and then a larger play structure for older children. Built to model a Ranger lookout station, the giant play structure is nestled in the redwoods with slides, swings, ropes and climbing areas.

Entry Plaza will be the home to the whimsical public art created by internationally known artist Tom Otterness.

The Familiar: The Happy Hollow that many folks grew up with will still be with us. The familiar sights of the Crooked House, the lower Zoo, the Mini Put-Putt cars and the Granny Bug Rides will still be here. Oh - and of course the Danny the Dragon ride will be part of the new Happy Hollow experience, he'll just be "greener".

Being Green: Happy Hollow Park & Zoo is building to become a LEED (Leaders in Energy and Environmental Design) Certified facility. According to U.S. Green Building Council, Happy Hollow Park & Zoo will be the first LEED certified Zoo and Amusement project in the United States. Green components include:

- Seven green (growing) roofs with native plant species to provide habitat for wildlife
- Radiant flooring for cooling and heating of buildings – no HVAC in buildings, with the exception of the restaurant and part of the medical building.
- Hay Bale Construction in Education Center
- Recycled water used for non-potable functions throughout facility
- Porous asphalt paving
- Sustainable storm water management – designed to keep all rainfall on site
- Clerestory windows in all buildings for lighting and heating & cooling
- Sustainable materials throughout the project
- Recycled base rock throughout the project
- Recycled glass in the entry plaza
- Low VOC paints
- The use of FSC certified wood framing and recycled plastic lumber

Press tours and more information are available by calling Vanessa Rogier (408)-277-3065. Photos are available upon request.

###