

Sacramento Zoo reaches new heights with planned giraffe habitat

The tallest residents at the Sacramento Zoo will soon have a new giraffe habitat at the park where guests can explore seven continents in 14 acres.

On February 11, Sacramento Zoo officials joined with city representatives and a local Girl Scout troop to turn the first scoop of dirt on the \$1.75 million habitat.

Val, Skye and Goody, the Zoo's three reticulated giraffes, needed a new home as they are currently housed in a barn nearly 50 years old, and zookeepers are challenged with keeping the barn warm in the winter. Also, this exhibit is not suitable to house male giraffes or to support the birth of a giraffe. The new exhibit features an elevated walkway so visitors will be at eye level with the giraffes. Also, the exhibit will include an exam stall with a restraint device, outdoor holding areas, several warm giraffe stalls and separate holding areas in case of a giraffe birth.



SSA Senior Vice President and COO Tim Brantley, Sacramento Zoo Director Mary Healy and SSA President Kevin McNicholas stand in front of the Zoo's giraffe barn, which will soon be replaced with a new facility.

The new barn will be built next to the current giraffe exhibit in an area that once housed a hippo. The exhibit will open in early 2010.



SSA President Kevin McNicholas joins Sacramento city and zoo dignitaries as well as local Scout representatives in "breaking ground" for a new giraffe exhibit at the Zoo.

both. The contribution from Kevin and Tim on behalf of Service Systems Associates gave us the much needed momentum to move this project from a dream to reality."

Open since 1927, the Sacramento Zoo is home to over 140 native, rare and endangered species and is one of over 200 accredited institutions of the Association of Zoos and Aquariums.

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Service Systems Associates manages retail and food service concessions at museums, botanic gardens, zoos and aquariums in the United States, including the San Francisco, Los Angeles and Denver Zoos, Pittsburgh Zoo and PPG Aquarium and Monterey Bay Aquarium. They are a national leader in visitor service operations for cultural attractions, serving over 16 million guests annually. Service Systems Associates is celebrating 20 years of service in 2009.

The cost of the giraffe exhibit is \$1.75 million and the Zoo has already raised over \$1.5 million toward the project. Service Systems Associates was a significant contributor to the *Tall Wonders* fundraising campaign.

SSA Senior Vice President and COO Tim Brantley said the partnership between SSA and the Zoo is important as both share the vision of providing excellent guest services in a family friendly destination. "We were pleased to contribute to this new exhibit that allows zoo guests to interact on a personal level with the tallest wonders of the Africa plains," he said.

Sacramento Zoo Director Mary Healy added, "A project of this size requires many friends and supporters. In Kevin McNicholas and Tim Brantley, the Sacramento Zoo is fortunate to have