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CONDOR EXHIBIT & CALIFORNIA TRAILS DEDICATED ON EARTH DAY, WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22 AT 10:30 A.M. *\$7.5 Million Exhibit Opens to the Public at Noon*

WHAT: *California Trails*, the Santa Barbara Zoo's new \$7.5 million exhibit featuring California condors and other endangered or threatened species from the Golden State, will be dedicated and opened on Earth Day.

Members of the California Condor Recovery Team, local and state government dignitaries, Zoo staff, volunteers, and supporters will attend ceremonies at the hillside exhibit featuring four highly endangered California condors and offering sweeping views of a portion of their historic range – the Santa Ynez Mountains.

The opening of this exhibit has been highly anticipated, as the Zoo is now one of only three zoos in the world to display these endangered birds. The *California Trails* exhibit complex also features new or renovated exhibits for the small Channel Island fox, found only on the islands off the California Coast; desert tortoises, once commonplace, but now facing habitat destruction; bald eagles, who are making a comeback after pesticides ravaged their numbers; and local raptor, amphibians and reptiles.

WHEN/ Wednesday, April 22 (Earth Day), 10:30 a.m.

WHERE: Santa Barbara Zoo at *Condor Country* in the *California Trails* exhibit

SPEAKING: Jesse Grantham, Coordinator , California Condor Recovery Program, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service;
Rich Block Zoo CEO, who began the process for Zoo's condor exhibit ten years ago;
Alan Varsik, Zoo Assistant Director, who oversees animal programs at the Zoo;
Patricia Griffin, President of the Zoo's Board of Directors, who will cut a 50 foot long red ribbon spanning the California condor exhibit.

A Presentation of California State Senate Proclamation will be made by Cory Bantilan of State Senator Tony Strickland's Office.

ATTENDING: Representatives from the National Park Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Forest Service, Hopper Mountain National Wildlife Refuge Complex, Friends of the Island Fox, Friends of the California Condor Wild and Free, among others agencies and organizations. Mayors of Santa Barbara, Goleta and Ventura; members of the Santa Barbara Country Board of Supervisors, Santa Barbara City Council, Santa Barbara Historic Landmarks Commission, and Santa Barbara Park & Recreation Commission, among other dignitaries.

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