



BACKGROUND

April 22, 2009

Press Contacts: Julia McHugh 805 569-3303 or juliapr@west.net
or Dean Noble 805 962-5339 or dnoble@sbzoo.org

THE WAVE NEW HILLTOP CAFE & EVENT SUPPORT FACILITY

The Santa Barbara Zoo took advantage of construction of *California Trails* to renovate the former barbecue area on the hilltop into a new cafe and event support facility called *The Wave*.

The menu at *The Wave* features a mix of informal Mexican-inspired dishes. Tacos and quesadillas are offered with a choice of grilled chicken, steak or shrimp and optional sides of sour cream and guacamole. Caesar and mixed green salads are served with a choice of grilled chicken, shrimp or salmon. Kids Meals are chicken and steak tacos plus cheese quesadillas. Fountain beverages and bottled water are available, plus dessert items such as ice cream sandwiches, frozen lemonade bars, and fresh fruit bars.

The new cafe's hilltop location boasts sweeping views of the Pacific Ocean and Santa Ynez mountains - easily one of the most picturesque panoramas to be found in any accredited zoo or aquarium restaurant.

The building also houses new restrooms, a bridal changing room and a catering kitchen to accommodate the Zoo's many special events plus more than eighty weddings and corporate events held at the Hilltop each year.

With the launch of the Wave facility, the Zoo also announced a new catering partnership: Zoo Catering Services by Rincon. Teaming up with a local company, Rincon Catering, the Zoo now caters all events at the Zoo – offering menus ranging from upscale plated dinners to delicious BBQ fare.

“We've hosted weddings and private events at the Zoo for decades,” comments Zoo Director Nancy McToldridge, “but we are thrilled to now be able to offer clients professional catering and all of the event support amenities that a bride and groom are looking for.”

The Wave is open daily 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

For information about private events at the Santa Barbara Zoo, contact the Zoo at (805) 962-5339.

#

On Earth Day, April 22, 2009, the Santa Barbara Zoo opened California Trails, a new exhibit complex showcasing threatened or endangered California natives including critically endangered California condors plus Channel Island foxes, bald eagles, desert tortoises, and local raptors, reptiles and

amphibians. With this exhibit, the Santa Barbara Zoo becomes one of only three zoos in the world to display California condors, a species which has rebounded from the brink of extinction. But there is still much work to be done to “save” all these species. For more information, visit www.sbzoo.org.

The Santa Barbara Zoo is open daily from 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.; general admission is \$11 for adults, \$9 for children 2-12 and seniors 60+, and children under 2 are free . Parking is \$4.

