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**FRESNO CHAFFEE ZOO OPENS REMAINING EXHIBITS AND PLAY AREAS**

*Fresno, CA* – Officials at Fresno Chaffee Zoo announced updates to its operations effective Tuesday, June 15. With the State of California updating its COVID restrictions and eliminating the tiered system for industry-specific guidance, the Zoo is able to open areas that have remained closed since March 2020.

As of June 15, the Zoo will open Wilderness Falls water play area and Dino Dig play area. Keeper Chats and presentations will also resume throughout the Zoo.

“Keeper Chats and presentations at world-class exhibits like Sea Lion Cove are crucial to our mission of inspiring guests through engaging and educational experiences with animals. We look forward to these opportunities to connect people with animals and conservation.” said Jon Forrest Dohlin, Chief Executive Officer.

The Zoo is also updating its health and safety policies to align with state and federal regulations. In accordance with guidance, unvaccinated guests are asked to continue wearing a mask throughout their visit at the Zoo, except when eating in designated café or eating areas. Masks are not required for fully vaccinated guests. The Zoo will still be offering outdoor service at its multiple dining locations, including Kopje Lodge. With the safety of guests still in mind, additional hand washing and sanitizing stations will still be available throughout the Zoo.

The Zoo is eliminating its maximum capacity, but guests are encouraged to pre-purchase their tickets online. The Zoo offers timed tickets for pre-purchase on its website. Guests that arrive with timed tickets will receive priority entrance, making for shorter wait times for entry. Walk-up ticket sales will still be available and will not be subject to any capacity.

“We have found that timed ticketing and pre-purchased tickets help us provide a great guest experience throughout the day,” said Dohlin. “Understanding how many people will be visiting at any given time helps us manage lines and groups throughout the Zoo so every guest can make the most of their visit.”

*"Fresno Chaffee Zoo inspires wonder of our natural world, provides an engaging learning environment, and creates a passion for conservation."*

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