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Contact: Margita Thompson
Bill Maile
916-445-4571

Gov. Schwarzenegger Celebrates the Groundbreaking of the California Science Center's World of Ecology Exhibit

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger today, joined by former Governors George Deukmejian and Gray Davis, presided over the groundbreaking ceremony for a major expansion of the California Science Center that will include a new interactive exhibit for students and visitors. The World of Ecology exhibit will fuse the live-habitat concept of zoos, aquariums and botanical gardens with a focus on hands on exhibits that include laboratories and field stations.

"I applaud the California Science Center's commitment to educating our children and families about this fascinating subject. The World of Ecology exhibit is going to be something extraordinary and different," said Governor Schwarzenegger. "This Center will take the best features of zoos, museums, science centers, aquariums, botanical gardens and bring them together to create something entirely new."

In the exhibit, living plants and animals will be used to explain key principles of ecology as guests explore each of the gallery's eight exhibit "Zones." Within the Forest Zone, for example, an 188,000 gallon salt water tank teeming with the life of a Kelp Forest will illustrate the important balance of biodiversity. The exhibit will feature over 300 species of animals and plants, and will also include a discovery room for preschool and early school age children.

In addition to Governors Deukmejian and Davis, Governor Schwarzenegger was joined by Senator Kevin Murray, Assemblymember Mark Ridley-Thomas, State and Consumer Services Secretary Rosario Marin, members of the Science Center's State Board of Directors and Trustees of the California Science Center Foundation. Governor Deukmejian is the Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Foundation. Also joining the Governor was Jeffrey Rudolph, President and CEO of the California Science Center.

The California Science Center is a public-private partnership between the State of California and the non-profit California Science Center Foundation. It is located in Exposition Park, in Los Angeles.

The World of Ecology exhibit is part of the California Science Center's expansion of Phase II, which will more than double the size of the Science Center's exhibit and education program space, increasing its attendance capacity from 1.4 million to 2 million visitors annually. Phase II will add 170,000 square feet to the Science Center. The State of California has committed \$31 million to this project, while the remaining \$165 million to complete the project is being raised through private donations to the Foundation.

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