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**FRESNO CHAFFEE ZOO ANNOUNCES MAJOR DONATION FOR PAVING PROJECT**

**Fresno, CA – October 9, 2018** Fresno Chaffee Zoo announced today that it has received a \$232,000 cash donation from David McDonald for the specific purpose of paving several high visibility visitor walkways. On a recent visit to the zoo, Mr. McDonald noticed that visitor walkways in the new African Adventure and in the Sea Lion Cove exhibit were constructed with decomposed granite. This seemed to be causing difficulties for visitors with strollers and wheelchairs; and for visitors with certain types of shoes. After discussions with zoo management, it was determined that paving these walkways with an attractive stamped concrete pattern would be a significant and welcome improvement. As there was no designated funding available for this project, Mr. McDonald offered to make this generous donation.

The new paving project also includes currently unpaved visitor walkways in the bird aviary and near the Administration Building. Construction is scheduled to begin almost immediately, with planned completion before winter. Mr. McDonald stated, "I am very pleased to see this happen. All zoo visitors will notice and appreciate this significant improvement". Fresno Chaffee Zoo CEO, Scott Barton, added, "We are most grateful for this terrific donation. All zoo visitors will enjoy these new walkways. Mr. McDonald's continuing support for Fresno Chaffee Zoo is greatly appreciated."

David McDonald was the Chairman of the original Measure "Z" campaign in 2004. With the passage of Measure "Z", Fresno Chaffee Zoo came from near closure to now becoming one of the premier zoos in the entire nation with nearly a million annual visitors. Mr. McDonald was also an advisor and major contributor to the second successful Measure "Z" campaign in 2014. He is the former CEO of Pelco which was headquartered in Clovis. Mr. McDonald is now retired and owns McDonald Aviation, LLC, a worldwide aircraft charter business.

*Fresno Chaffee Zoo inspires wonder of our natural world, provides an engaging learning environment, and creates a passion for conservation. The Zoo is accredited by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA).*