

For Immediate Release

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ALL ABOARD !

Santa Ana, California, Apr. 17, 2006. The gasoline-powered **Zoofari Express** is going *electric!* An 1860's style steam train at the Santa Ana Zoo at Prentice Park, the Zoofari Express' new **ELECTRIC LOCOMOTIVE** has brought local philanthropists together. The Ludwick Foundation awarded a generous grant for the electric engine to get it all started. Then Mr. "Bud" Hurlbut, the manufacturer and Mr. William Sommerville, a Santa Ana Developer and long time Zoo supporter joined Friends of Santa Ana Zoo Board of Directors and members of the "Platinum 1036 Train Club" to contribute towards the purchase of the new train. The Press may photograph a "Check Presentation Ceremony" on Saturday, May 6 at 10:00 a.m. The attraction will be open to the public at 11:00 a.m.

The **Zoofari Express** has been prowling through Zoo grounds since the spring of 1999. While the train is in excellent condition after its 43-year run at Santa's Village (in Skyforest, CA) and 6-year run at the Santa Ana Zoo, it will now benefit from a **more environmentally-friendly electric locomotive**. The original train builder, Hurbult Amusement Company, agreed to undertake the conversion to an electric engine. Howard Hall, Friends of Santa Ana Zoo Board Member and Train Aficionado, comments, "no fumes, no noise to bother the animals. Everyone will love this new electric train!"

The train travels throughout the Crean Family Farm, our new Children's Zoo, and up into the northern part of the Zoo for a 6 ½ minute ride. The new electric locomotive will pull six cars: a tender, four passenger cars and a caboose.

The Santa Ana Zoo at Prentice Park is located at 1801 East Chestnut, between the 5 Freeway and First Street. The Zoo is open daily from 10 AM to 4 PM. Admission is \$6 for adults; \$3 for children 3 to 12 years of age and senior citizens; and FREE to children 2 and under, people with disabilities and Members of the Zoo. Elephant rides are available for \$5 and train rides for \$3. For further information, please contact Cathi Decker at (714) 953-8555 x11.

