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Hog Wild

■ **Red river hogs born at the Zoo, the first successful birth of this species in the City.**

ZOO — Five red river hogs have made the Zoo one proud papa!

Five piglets, one male and four females, were born April 26. They are the first of this species to be born in Los Angeles, the Zoo says.

The L.A. Zoo first obtained red river hogs in 1990, and this is the first successful birth of this species at the Zoo. The red river hog is often described as the prettiest of the "wild swine," with red hair, a black and white facemask and a white mane reaching from neck to tail.

Zoo Curator of Mammals Jeff Holland manages the studbook for red river hogs in North America. His responsibilities include making breeding and husbandry recommendations for the 24 zoos that manage this species. Holland said, "While the red river hog is not a rare species, the birth of this litter of pigs is significant as both parents are wild-caught, which means their genes were previously unrepresented in U.S. zoos."

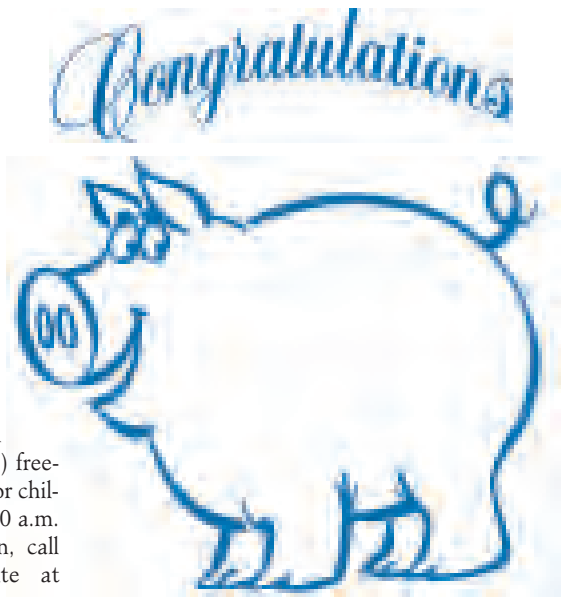
The piglets' parents have an interesting story of their own. Both parents were wild-caught from Guinea, Africa. In many parts of Africa, red river hogs are pests, eating the villagers' crops near the forests. The hog's population increase is due to the elimination of many of their natural predators, including the leopard, so the hogs become pests. Villagers often shoot these animals to defend their crops. Both of these parent hogs came to the Los Angeles Zoo after visiting too many farmers' plantations.

"This is a great example of how zoos work with local people to address challenges with wildlife,"

Zoo Director John Lewis said. "We are happy to give them another option."

The entire red river hog family is on display in the Africa section of the Zoo, near the ostrich.

The Los Angeles Zoo and Botanical Gardens is in Griffith Park at the junction of the Ventura (134) and Golden State (5) freeways. Admission is \$10 for adults and \$5 for children ages 2 to 12. The Zoo is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily. For general information, call (323) 644-4200 or visit the Website at www.lazoo.org.



A red river hog and the five little piglets.

Critical Sewer Goes On Line

■ **Eagle Rock Interceptor Sewer (ERIS) completed ahead of schedule.**

PUBLIC WORKS — Public Works diverted sewage into the new Eagle Rock Interceptor Sewer (ERIS) May 22, fulfilling the City's commitment to meet all requirements of a Cease and Desist Order (CDO) issued by the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board in 1998. Board of Public Works President



Part of the Public Works team that brought the Eagle Rock Interceptor online ahead of schedule.

Cynthia Ruiz said, "The City of Los Angeles celebrates the early completion of the ERIS project and the CDO. By placing ERIS into service, I am happy to report that we have designed, built, and placed into operation over 20 miles of new major sewers in less than eight years."

City Engineer Gary Moore reported that, overall, eight new sewers were built under the provisions of the CDO, each one completed on time or ahead of schedule. The costs to construct the eight CDO projects have come in far under-budget as well, according to the City Engineer. "The budgeted construction costs for the eight Cease and Desist Order sewer projects added up to \$515 million. The actual costs will be around \$460 million, approximately \$55 million under budget," Moore said.

Three new sewers placed in operation since 2004 formed the core of the City's CDO wastewater infrastructure improvements program. The East Central Interceptor Sewer (ECIS) was completed in 2004 in South Los Angeles. ECIS and the Northeast Interceptor Sewer (NEIS), completed in 2005, added 19 miles of tunneled sewers that are between 8-feet and 11-feet in diameter. ERIS is the final sewer of the City's eight-year push to meet the CDO.

Construction of all of these projects was a col-

laborative effort of the Bureaus of Engineering, Contract Administration and Sanitation. The newest pipeline adds capacity for the Eagle Rock area and will prevent sewage spills, which had occurred in years previous as a result of high flows through sewers too small to serve the area.

Board of Public Works Commissioner Valerie Shaw said that bad weather posed significant challenges for the sewer construction schedule and the Eagle Rock community. "Our contractor began working on the Eagle Rock sewer in October 2003, but heavy rains in 2004 and 2005 forced work to shut down for weeks at a time. We appreciate the people in Eagle Rock who were very understanding of the rain delays. We congratulate the ERIS team for completing this project ahead of schedule," Shaw said.

The CDO wastewater improvements program was overseen by the five-commissioner Board of Public Works that manages Public Works, the City's third largest municipal division. The department oversees the construction, renovation, and operation of public projects such as sewers, municipal buildings, streets and sidewalks, bridges, wastewater treatment plants, and provides essential public services like recycling, solid waste management, street lighting and management of the urban forest.

Rod Gets a Nod

■ **Rod Sakai wins Community Partner Award.**

CDD — Congratulations are in order for Rod Sakai, an Environmental Specialist with CDD. The Los Angeles Neighborhood Initiative (LANI) honored him with the Outstanding Community Partner Award. Rod, who specializes in historic preservation, was recognized for his work on numerous LANI projects, the most recent being the Leimert Park and West Adams Façade and Signage Improvement Projects.

In recognizing Rod, LANI officials noted his gracious and skilled response to community and private organizations.

At CDD, Rod oversees and guides historically significant properties through a rigorous process for Environmental Historic Review. The Environmental Section at CDD has won a number of local, state, and federal awards for historic preservation for projects, including the Lincoln Park Boathouse, Fire Station #44 in Cypress Park, the Ziegler House in Highland Park, and



LANI Executive Director Joyce Perkins (left) gives the Outstanding Community Partner Award to Rod Sakai, CDD.

the South Seas House in the West Adams District. More recently the Ralph Bunche House, located in Central Los Angeles, won a Los Angeles Conservancy Award.

The Los Angeles Neighborhood Initiative is a community-driven program dedicated to jump-starting neighborhood revitalization, business district revitalization, urban greening and more.



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