



PRESS RELEASE

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Senator Tony Strickland Responds to the Grand Opening of the *Condor Country* Exhibit at the Santa Barbara Zoo

Highly Endangered Birds Part Of Condor Recovery Program

Sacramento, CA - State Senator Tony Strickland released the following statement regarding the arrival of four California Condors at the Santa Barbara Zoo and the grand opening of the long awaited *Condor County* exhibit in the new *California Trails* complex.

“Today, as we celebrate Earth Day, we mark the successful end of a decade long effort on behalf of the Santa Barbara Zoo staff and the California Condor Recovery Team to bring four condors to the Santa Barbara Zoo. The arrival of the condors also makes this day about beginnings. It marks the beginning of hope for the survival of the endangered population of California Condors.

I would like to recognize the Santa Barbara Zoo staff and Recovery Team for their endless dedication and perseverance with the creation of the *California Trails* exhibit. It’s amazing that in 1982 there were only 22 California condors left in the world. Now, because of the dedication of so many people and organizations like the California Condor Recovery Team, there are 321 California condors with more than half released into the wild.

It is important to protect California’s wildlife and to celebrate the natural resources of this great state. I commend the Santa Barbara Zoo staff not only their efforts with the California Condors but for the numerous other conservation efforts that focus on threatened and endangered species in California.

I look forward to coming here with my own children so that they can benefit from all the hard work that went into today.”

Tony Strickland represents California Senate District 19, which includes portions of Los Angeles, Ventura, and Santa Barbara counties.

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