



PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS

IN CALIFORNIA GOVERNMENT

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## **UNIQUE PROGRAM HELPS RESCUED ANIMALS, EDUCATES STUDENTS**

**FOLSOM, Calif.** – Rescued and disabled animals at the Folsom City Zoo Sanctuary and area students will soon mutually benefit from a unique educational program that pairs California state engineers and related professionals with school kids to build improvements to the zoo.

Innovate for Impact matches skilled volunteers from Professional Engineers in California Government (PECG) with students and teachers recruited by the Sacramento County Office of Education. The PECG members will mentor the students over several months to design and construct upgrades that help the animals and enhance the zoo

PECG members are meeting this morning with teachers from several middle and high schools to tour the zoo, see the animals, and determine what needs the program can fulfill this year.

“Our members enjoy volunteering their time,” said Matt Hanson, a Caltrans engineer who volunteers his time for the program. “We enjoy mentoring the kids and encouraging them to consider a design career, while also helping the zoo and the animals.”

Area students, under guidance of their teachers, will pick projects to upgrade the zoo’s facilities or enhance the living spaces of the rescued and disabled animals. On Dec. 2, 2016, state engineers from PECG and students will meet in Sacramento for Mentor Day. The kids will show drawings of their projects and ask questions before formally submitting their plans to the zoo later that month.

Students whose projects are accepted by the zoo will continue to refine their designs and build models under the guidance of a PECG mentor with the goal of installing their creations in April.

A state grant is paying for the educational resources, support and curriculum.

*For more information please contact Jon Ortiz at (916) 446-0400 or [jortiz@pecg.org](mailto:jortiz@pecg.org).*

*PECG represents 13,000 state-employed engineers and related professionals responsible for designing and inspecting California's infrastructure, improving air and water quality, and developing clean energy and green technology.*

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