



News From

Maggie Brooks

Monroe County Executive

For Immediate Release

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BROOKS, ZOO OFFICIALS INTRODUCE NEW FEMALE SEA LIONS TO COMMUNITY

County to hold naming contest for newest additions

County Executive Maggie Brooks today joined officials from the Seneca Park Zoo to introduce a pair of female California sea lions to Monroe County's growing animal population at the Seneca Park Zoo.

"We are delighted to give these two sea lions a home forever and wholeheartedly welcome them into this premiere exhibit," said **Brooks**. *"The Rocky Coasts Exhibit has long been a favorite destination within the Zoo and we know the addition of these two female California sea lions will truly add to the continuous activity and excitement."*

The pair came to the Zoo from the Marine Mammal Care Center at Fort MacArthur in San Pedro, Calif. Both sea lions were found stranded on beaches in Los Angeles County in December of 2009. An abscess on one of the female's right front flippers left her without the ability to flex it, while the other female lost the function of her left eye.

"Due to the permanent injuries they suffered before they were rescued, both sea lions are unable to be released into the wild," said **Larry Sorel, County Zoo Director**. *"We were thrilled to be able to give these magnificent mammals a home at Seneca Park Zoo."*

The Zoo is already home to two male sea lions, Flounder and Puff, who will turn 20 and five years old, respectively in June. The California sea lion is a protected species in its native range and from estimations, the females will both turn two in June.

Furthermore, to give the community a chance to properly welcome our sea lions to Monroe County, the Zoo is hosting a naming contest.

"We are extremely fortunate to have a loyal and engaged community that is eager to partake in a naming contest," said **Rachel Baker August, Executive Director for the Seneca Park Zoo Society**. *"We are confident all who are interested will do their research and submit extraordinary names."*

Names can be submitted to sealions@senecazoo.org. More details on the naming contest can be found at www.senecaparkzoo.org as well as the Zoo's Facebook page.

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