

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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WildCare Contact: Karen Wilson, WildCare Executive Director
karen@wildcarebayarea.org 415-453-1000 x15

WildCare Media Contact: Alison Hermance, Communications Manager
alison@wildcarebayarea.org 415-453-1000 x24

**WildCare Meets the Bently Foundation's \$2 Million
Challenge to Help Build New Facility**

(San Rafael, CA) - WildCare is pleased to announce that we have met the \$2 million challenge put forth by the Bently Foundation in April of this year to help us fund the organization's expansion to our future home at Silveira Ranch near McInnis Park.

Under the terms of the challenge, WildCare was required to raise at least \$2 million in new gifts and pledges for the capital campaign by December 31, 2015 in order to receive a \$1 million grant from the Bently Foundation.

The Bently Foundation's challenge grant brings the total amount WildCare has raised for our capital campaign to more than \$6 million, which is over 60% of our goal. Fundraising efforts are continuing to raise the remaining funds.

The challenge grant is the largest grant the San Francisco-based Bently Foundation has ever made, and, now that WildCare has met the conditions of the challenge, it will be the single largest gift WildCare has ever received!

"WildCare is thrilled to have achieved our goal of meeting the Bently Foundation's Challenge!" says Karen Wilson, Executive Director of WildCare. "Wildlife and environmental organizations receive the smallest portion of philanthropic dollars nationally, so we are thrilled that the Bently Foundation's grant-making focus includes wildlife and environmental causes. We were honored to be the first grantee of the Foundation when it launched in 2014, and we are overwhelmed with gratitude to the Bently Foundation for its incredible generosity."

Founded and supported by Bay Area entrepreneur Chris Bently, the Bently Foundation supports organizations and individuals in the areas of the environment, animal rights, and the arts.

WildCare Board President, Susanne Lyons says “This incredibly generous challenge grant from the Bently Foundation brings WildCare to critical mass on our capital campaign and will inspire additional gifts to ensure the success of this project. It will allow us to expand our critical programs in nature education and wildlife medical care and advocacy on behalf of wildlife. We are also grateful for the tremendous leadership we received from our capital campaign counsel, Mecca Billings Nelson of Billings Consulting Group as we worked to meet the Bently challenge.”

The new location and state-of-the-art facility will make WildCare’s urgent need for expansion possible. Most of the existing buildings on the new property will be renovated, and the new facility will include a significantly expanded wildlife hospital. Classrooms and exhibit space will provide better quality and designated classroom space for WildCare’s renowned Terwilliger Nature Education programs, which currently serve more than 40,000 schoolchildren, families and adults annually. Wildlife Ambassadors - WildCare’s non-releasable resident animals who provide unique “nose-to-beak” education for visitors, will enjoy larger and more naturalized enclosures.

The new facility will also allow for on-site medical care of larger animals, such as fawns, coyotes and raptors, and the overall visitor experience will be enhanced with additional meeting and exhibit space in a landscape of native northern California flora. Construction will begin next year and the new facility should be opened by the end of 2017.

With the generous partnership of the Bently Foundation, WildCare’s new facility will greatly improve the quality, reach, and impact of our services, making it a unique destination for learning how we can all live well with wildlife.

To learn more about WildCare or to donate to help make the new site a reality, please visit www.wildcarebayarea.org or call 415-453-1000 x15.

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