

Contact: Angie Hyde  
The Living Planet Aquarium  
801-712-3966  
Angie.h@thelivingplanet.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **BUILDING AN AQUARIUM IN THE DESERT STATE OF UTAH**

### *Step 1: Assemble the Aquarium*

Sandy, UT (April 24, 2013) – The Loveland Living Planet Aquarium is making good progress building the 136,000-square-foot, \$24 million expansion at 12033 S. Lone Peak Parkway in Draper, reporting that construction is on track for a December opening.

Since the groundbreaking ceremony last October, the foundation work, 3/4 of the underground plumbing, and half of the concrete for the first of two floors have been completed for the new Loveland Living Planet Aquarium in Draper.

Half of the concrete tilt walls have been poured and will be erected by May 20<sup>th</sup>, and steel erection will begin shortly thereafter. Second floor construction will occur the first week in June, allowing the interior exhibits build-out to begin in late June.

“This is a very complicated project and the cold, wet winter weather has been quite a challenge,” said John Ragan, Owner Representative for the Aquarium. “We will only have about 6 months to complete some heavily themed exhibits. Our plan is to work together with the designers, Draper City, contractors and subcontractors to build out the interior consecutively, with multiple general contractors all working together with Tom Stuart Construction,” said Ragan.

Each General Contractor will have 30 to 90 days to complete their area depending on the complexity of the exhibit. The aquarium team will coordinate all efforts and be assigned a few areas to complete themselves. “The Loveland Living Planet Aquarium is a notable project for all the contractors involved, and it is helping them employ numerous skilled and unskilled workers that otherwise might not be employed,” said Ragan.

- more -



The location of the 40x80 foot shark tank, the 60x20 foot penguin exhibit and 30x18 foot Amazon giants tank are now visible, making the dream of a world-class aquarium in Utah a reality. The shark tank will house up to 50 species and 2,000 animals; 24 sharks, 12 rays and 3 sea turtles. It will hold 300,000 gallons of salt water and features a 40-foot walk-through tunnel.

The penguin habitat will be 4 times larger than the current penguin habitat at the Sandy Aquarium and will initially include 11 Gentoo penguins with the potential to house up to 30 birds of 3 different species in the years after the aquarium opens. The Amazon giants habitat will be 7 times larger and house 15 species of freshwater animals from the rivers of the Amazon.

Other features of the Loveland Living Planet Aquarium will include expanded educational programs, interactive exhibits, 3 touch pools and Utah's first 4D theater. The expansion will take visitors from the Utah deserts and mountains, to rain forest habitats, to the planet's vast oceans.

Take a virtual tour of the Loveland Living Planet Aquarium [now](#).

The Sandy location will be open until September 8, 2013 to allow for transition into the new Aquarium.

Aquarium expansion at a glance:

- Official Name: Loveland Living Planet Aquarium
- Site Location: 12033 S. Lone Peak Parkway, Draper, UT
- Size: 136,000 square feet, 44-62 exhibits, 500,000 gallons of water
- Cost: \$24 million – Funded by donors, grants, corporate sponsors and financing
- Groundbreaking: October 24, 2012
- Opening: December 2013\*

*\*Dates subject to change due to weather and unforeseen circumstances*

#### About The Living Planet Aquarium

The mission of The Living Planet Aquarium is to inspire people to explore, discover and learn about Earth's diverse ecosystems. Admission is \$9.95 per adult, \$7.95 per child, ages 3-17, and free for children ages 2 and under. The Aquarium, located at 725 E 10600 S in Sandy, Utah, is a non-profit organization. Open every day except Thanksgiving and Christmas, the Aquarium is accessible to people with disabilities. For more information, call (801) 355-fish (3474) or visit [thelivingplanet.com](http://thelivingplanet.com).

###