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World Premieres

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Above: At the Natural History Museum Nature Garden in Los Angeles a two-and-a-half-foot waterfall cascades over a stone ledge into the 54,000-gallon pond. The grotto-like setting offers some protection for the turtle inhabitants from predators and the heat. The pond is from 18 inches deep to 4.5 feet deep. An in-pond biological filter and nutrient removal mechanical filter maintain clear water. A UV disinfection system is used in lieu of chemical treatments because of the turtles and minnow-like Arroyo chubs.

Natural History Museum Nature Garden

PACE Advanced Water Engineering provided engineering design services as part of the Mia Lehrer+Associates team for

two water features within the new Nature Garden at the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles. This 3.5-acre site represents the natural streams, lakes and the concrete channel urban rivers and drainage corridors of L.A. County. The museum is just north of the L.A. Memorial Coliseum. Exposition Park

and the California Science Center are adjacent to the museum on the east side.

The 4,500-sq. ft. pond and stone block shoreline create a natural appearance. Flat boulders and a two-and-a-half-foot waterfall form a grotto. The pond holds 54,000 gallons and has a depth from 18 inches up to 4.5 feet. A UV system sanitizes biological nutrients and maintains clear water, obviating the chemical treatments that would otherwise harm the turtle inhabitants.

The pond transitions to a formal concrete canal feature connected by a dry gulch, simulating the L.A. River. The canal leads

to a 175-square foot fountain play area with polished granite jetties for seating. The water originates from a trough at the top of the slab and flows a quarter inch deep over a flat LithoCrete surface.

Below: The pond transitions to a 175-sq. ft. wet pad area with three polished granite jetties. Children and adults can cool their feet in the quarter-inch deep water. About 4,000 gallons of water flow over the architectural concrete surface. Controllers automatically deliver the appropriate levels of pool chemicals, a UV system disinfects the water and sand filtration keeps the water clean.

