

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Albert Lau

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**Comments for Public Posting:** I just reviewed the LA Zoo Vision Plan Alternative 1.5 and in favor of the proposed changes. I think it is great that the Plan is increasing the space for the animals, increase the area and density of green space, and dramatically increase the use of solar panels to be carbon neutral all the while using the Zoo's existing footprint. I was born and raised in Los Angeles and have spent many weekends at the Zoo as my daughter was growing up. Initially we would drive down to the San Diego Zoo since it seemed more modern and animal-friendly. Once the Zoo started to spend money in upgrading the Zoo, we started coming to the Zoo more frequently. We will forever have the wonderful memories of going to the Zoo, walking up to the Lion/Giraffe area for a leisurely picnic lunch under the shade of trees in the nearby pavilion, visit the monkeys, walk back down the entrance and grabbing kettle corn for a snack, and then having my daughter take a nap as we drive home. This was our weekend routine for years while giving the opportunity to teach my daughter a respect for nature, for animals, empathy, and our responsibilities for the wellbeing of animals. As an animal lover, I've always have had mixed feelings about zoos. However, and unfortunately, given the current state of the world in terms of deforestation, climate change, pollution of our world rivers, etc., zoos are now one of the few refuges for conservation, rehabilitation, and a safe environment to keep species from extinction.