

## **Communication from Public**

**Name:**

**Date Submitted:** 06/27/2023 08:22 AM

**Council File No:** 21-0828

**Comments for Public Posting:** I do not agree either the proposed changes

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Joseph Seiler

**Date Submitted:** 06/27/2023 08:36 AM

**Council File No:** 21-0828

**Comments for Public Posting:** The zoo's current plans should be rejected. Griffith Park is one of the largest municipal wilderness spaces in the United States. In the middle of Los Angeles, it's a much-needed break from city life. We should be building more parks and greenspaces elsewhere in the city -- not fundamentally removing raw nature. LA has no shortage of event spaces, man-made recreational centers, and manicured greenery. There are ways, like an updated version of Alternate 1.5 that models the zoo's California Area development along the lines of what was proposed in Alternative 1, that can meet the zoo's needs of improving animal habitats and updating its facilities without irreversibly removing actual nature for wild animals, hikers, and explorers.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Doreen Pierson

**Date Submitted:** 06/26/2023 08:59 PM

**Council File No:** 21-0828

**Comments for Public Posting:** We do not want this zoo expansion at the cost of eliminating public wild lands. This would be an environmental disaster. Vote no!!!!

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Em

**Date Submitted:** 06/27/2023 12:16 AM

**Council File No:** 21-0828

**Comments for Public Posting:** As an La native I do NOT agree with the La zoo building anything. Leave Griffith park as it is!

## Communication from Public

**Name:** V Loconte

**Date Submitted:** 06/27/2023 02:03 AM

**Council File No:** 21-0828

**Comments for Public Posting:** Please reconsider the planned expansion of the LA zoo. The claims that the area is already a disturbed area are misleading. We should be fighting to hold on to this open space. There are plenty of parking lots and golf courses they could use instead.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** ohana ikuma

**Date Submitted:** 06/27/2023 05:47 AM

**Council File No:** 21-0828

**Comments for Public Posting:** developing that land to insert non native plants and animals endangers the native wildlife, doing this would be unproductive and idiotic please reconsider.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Brianda

**Date Submitted:** 06/27/2023 06:20 AM

**Council File No:** 21-0828

**Comments for Public Posting:** As an LA zoo member, I am very opposed to their expansion plan into Griffith park. It is ridiculous. The zoo had so much dormant unused space as it is. Do they need to update sure, could they do it with the space they already have of course. If that means having less animals, or having smaller animals, that should be the plan. Having large animals is not necessary and certainly not necessary if that means taking up natural space. The zoo should focus on enhancing it's plants and already unused space rather than trying to expand to much other zoos or theme parks.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Ellen Hageman

**Date Submitted:** 06/27/2023 06:25 AM

**Council File No:** 21-0828

**Comments for Public Posting:** I oppose proposed expansion of the zoo. It's large enough as it is.



## Communication from Public

**Name:** Heidi Mackay

**Date Submitted:** 06/27/2023 06:40 AM

**Council File No:** 21-0828

**Comments for Public Posting:** I agree with the following statement: "The proposed project purports to add educational value to the public about nature, while ironically destroying the surrounding natural area and replacing it with artificial structures. The Zoo could achieve much stronger educational impacts by conserving the natural land and exposing the public to the importance and beauty of our local existing wildlands." -Tony Tucci

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Sabrina

**Date Submitted:** 06/27/2023 06:40 AM

**Council File No:** 21-0828

**Comments for Public Posting:** This project is unnecessary costly and destructive to the natural habitat . This is not what Mr. Griffiths intended when setting up this park for the public to enjoy. We do not need more zoo, we need more public spaces where Angelenos can enjoy the beauty of California at no cost as Mr Griffiths intended the park to be.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Ariella Lehrer

**Date Submitted:** 06/27/2023 06:43 AM

**Council File No:** 21-0828

**Comments for Public Posting:** I am a 50 year resident of Los Feliz and live one block from Griffith Park. I have four children and nine grandchildren who live in the surrounding neighborhoods. As a family we have used and enjoyed the magnificent gift of Griffith Park our entire lives, with hiking, biking, pony rides, golf, carousel, Travel Town, Observatory and more. I speak for my entire family, all 19 of us, when I say that we LOVE the idea of expanding and improving the LA Zoo, according to the plan you are voting on today. As is true for everything else in our lives, our public facilities need to be protected and nurtured but also reimagined for future generations, and there is no question but that our zoo has fallen behind other comparable city zoos in providing a rewarding customer experience. In my opinion, it was a mistake to allow naysaying voices to prevent other improvements to Griffith Park, and I remained silent then but not now. The Observatory was not allowed to create a real restaurant on the site, the Autry Museum wasn't allowed to expand, the pony rides were forced to close, and now the zoo may be forbidden to use the land it owns to improve public services. I sincerely hope the city council votes to allow improvements to the zoo to move forward.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Andres

**Date Submitted:** 06/27/2023 06:57 AM

**Council File No:** 21-0828

**Comments for Public Posting:** "It must be made a place of rest and relaxation for the masses, a resort for the rank and file, for the plain people. I consider it my obligation to make Los Angeles a happy, cleaner, and finer city. I wish to pay my debt of duty in this way to the community in which I have prospered." -Griffith J. Griffith Don't destroy the park with this unwanted and unnecessary project.

## Communication from Public

**Name:**

**Date Submitted:** 06/27/2023 07:23 AM

**Council File No:** 21-0828

**Comments for Public Posting:** I am very much opposed to Excavation of condor canyon and proposed new California visitor center on top of ridge line

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Kiersten Cluster  
**Date Submitted:** 06/27/2023 07:24 AM  
**Council File No:** 21-0828

**Comments for Public Posting:** I am a citizen of Los Angeles CD 5 and I am writing in OPPOSITION to the Los Angeles Zoo's proposed expansion plan. This development would destroy some of the last remaining local wildlife habitat in Los Angeles and have devastating impacts on the wild plant and animal life who call Los Angeles home. Please, put human entertainment and economic interests aside and protect the wild land and life of our city. By NOT approving this plan, you will protect and preserve native habitat and also support climate resilience for future generations of Angelos both human and more than human. Thank you.

## Communication from Public

**Name:**

**Date Submitted:** 06/27/2023 07:47 AM

**Council File No:** 21-0828

**Comments for Public Posting:** I strongly urge the Committee to REJECT the expansion of the zoo into the undeveloped precious land of Griffith park. It is enjoyed every day by a plethora of wild life and locals who use it as a refuge from our already car choked streets. Please do not give in to big money interests and please protect native plants, condors, and the best green public space in the city.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Micheal Hanel

**Date Submitted:** 06/27/2023 07:56 AM

**Council File No:** 21-0828

**Comments for Public Posting:** I live in Los Feliz and the Los Feliz Improvement Association (LFIA) wants me to share all reasons why the zoo should not be allowed to expand using pre-written talking points that oppose it. Candidly, I have a different opinion and am IN FAVOR and SUPPORT THE DEVELOPMENT of an expanded and greater Los Angeles Zoo. With that said, while I understand that there are differing viewpoints on this matter, I believe it is important to consider a balanced perspective. Here are the talking points I was asked to use to oppose the zoo's expansion, but I have a different perspective on each of them: ~Excavation of Condor Canyon: Opponents argue that excavating a 60-foot deep Condor Canyon through a significant geological feature is destructive and expensive, and they fear it will radically change Griffith Park aesthetically and ecologically. While I recognize these concerns, it is crucial to understand that the zoo's expansion aims to create improved habitats for the animals and provide a better experience for visitors. By engaging environmental experts and adopting responsible excavation practices, we can minimize the environmental impact and ensure the preservation of the park's beauty and ecological integrity. ~Placement of the California Visitor Center: Some express concerns about the placement of the new event space, the California Visitor Center, on top of a ridgeline, arguing that it will destroy the natural park topography. While this is a valid concern, we should consider the potential benefits that a well-designed visitor center can bring. By carefully considering the location and integrating the center into the surrounding landscape, it is possible to create a structure that respects the natural topography and offers educational opportunities for visitors. Griffith Park Observatory as well as the Hollywood Sign are examples of structures that work seamlessly in the park and the natural surroundings and can be seen from much of the Los Angeles basin and in fact are considered hallmark's of the Park's topography -- are we going to get rid of them? ~Development of Native Habitat: Opponents argue that the 16 acres of native habitat within the expansion area should not be developed due to the presence of rare and sensitive plants and wildlife. Additionally, they highlight the existence of 26 City Protected Trees/Shrubs. While I appreciate the importance of preserving native habitats, it is essential to note that the zoo can



work closely with environmental experts to minimize the impact on these areas. By implementing thorough environmental assessments and adopting mitigation measures, we can ensure the protection of these species and their habitats while still allowing for the zoo's responsible growth. It is crucial to approach the enlargement of the Los Angeles Zoo with an open mind and consider multiple perspectives. By addressing concerns regarding excavation, placement, and native habitat development, we can find common ground and develop a plan that prioritizes conservation, education, and community engagement. Let us encourage constructive dialogue between the zoo management, environmental organizations, and concerned community members. Together, we can strive for a well-balanced approach that safeguards the park's beauty, respects the ecological integrity, and supports the important conservation efforts of the Los Angeles Zoo. Sincerely, Michael Hanel

## Communication from Public

**Name:** David

**Date Submitted:** 06/27/2023 08:04 AM

**Council File No:** 21-0828

**Comments for Public Posting:** The destruction of 16 acres of precious natural chaparral habitat and the excavation of a 60 foot deep Condor Canyon to further expand and develop the LA Zoo does nothing for the residents of the area and will negatively impact the natural beauty, ecology and wildlife of Griffith Park. I do not support the expansion of the LA Zoo which perpetuates the outdated concept of confining and displaying animals for human entertainment with in my opinion, very little real awareness education taking place. Secondly, the expansion diverts resources away from more effective conservation efforts. While zoos claim to have educational and conservation purposes, the focus on expansion often prioritizes attracting visitors over genuine conservation initiatives. The substantial financial investments required for expanding the zoo infrastructures could be better utilized to support in-situ conservation efforts, such as habitat protection, and species reintroduction programs. These endeavors have a more direct impact on preserving biodiversity and promoting the long-term survival of endangered species, as they address the root causes of animal decline rather than simply showcasing them in captivity. Overall, zoo expansion perpetuates an outdated model that prioritizes human entertainment over animal welfare and conservation efforts. It is crucial to reconsider our approach to wildlife conservation and shift towards more ethical and sustainable practices that prioritize the well-being and preservation of animals in their natural environments.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Elinor Nissley

**Date Submitted:** 06/27/2023 08:09 AM

**Council File No:** 21-0828

**Comments for Public Posting:** I would like to comment on the zoo expansion plans, and in particular the proposed visitors center. I use this portion of the park every weekend (I use the trail that circumnavigates the ridge above the zoo, for running, hiking & birdwatching). In a city with too few parks, Griffith park is a rare treasure of undeveloped land. Once the land is developed, particularly with buildings, it is irreversible, and it feels like an encroachment on what makes Griffith Park so special—chipping away at a precious resource. The building in particular, positioned on a ridge, is super upsetting. There are models for zoos that integrate with the landscape—I think of the Living Desert museum in the Palm Springs area, which remains a great place to birdwatch local birds—so I'm not fundamentally against an expansion, particularly if it is done sensitively to the environment & the existing ecosystem, but the visitors center is an unnecessary overreach & demonstrates a lack of sensitivity to a local treasure.