

Communication from Public

Name: Christopher Runco

Date Submitted: 06/28/2023 02:04 PM

Council File No: 21-0828

Comments for Public Posting: BRIEF COMMENTS ON THE CURRENT ZOO PLAN, AS NOTED IN THE LATEST EIR. JUNE 27, 2023 I heartily support the written goals of the new Vision Plan. However, I have serious concerns with specific areas of the design which do not match these goals. (Please note: these comments are excerpts of more detailed concerns I sent in during the comment period in September 2022.) While the Vision Plan 1.5 has many excellent ideas for the future of the Zoo, the massive grading changes described for the Entry area and the proposed Condor Canyon area will cost tens of millions of dollars, demolish some worthwhile Zoo assets and disrupt operation of the Zoo for a considerable time, while accomplishing little or nothing in terms of added accessibility, which is the stated goal. Increased accessibility could be created in much more sensitive and cost-effective ways. The specific grading elements of the proposed design will likely take a huge portion of the funds allocated for future development. The money would be much better spent directly on the enhanced animal areas, upgrading the many deteriorating, obsolete animal enclosures and bringing in new species and exhibits. This should be main focus of the Zoo Vision Plan. Five Main Points: 1. The proposed re-grading of the Entry area is totally unnecessary and accomplishes nothing in the way of accessibility. There is already a beautifully designed, code-compliant entrance trail which all strollers and wheelchairs use today; it just needs better visibility. This existing 1:20 trail, with its shade and water features, is already the better entrance path, instead of the existing stairs. It needs to be highlighted, instead of hidden behind a trash can and charging station. Secondly, the 80-foot wide entry walk will be a nightmare in the summer, with no shade across acres of concrete. 2. The proposed Condor Canyon is financially, aesthetically and environmentally a total disaster. As designed, it is just a long, boring expanse of expensive, artificial rock with no educational or entertainment value. There is no space shown for any animal presentation or exhibit, or anywhere for the guests to stop. (The sole “demonstration” idea mentioned- a rock climb by a condor keeper- could be accomplished now, with very minimal cost, by purchasing an off-the-shelf climbing wall, as the Santa Barbara Zoo has already done.) What is even more appalling, the

“Canyon” would make no significant improvement to the Zoo’s accessibility. There is already a virtually code-compliant path to the Bird Theater, and the Vision Plan includes various ramps that improve the existing pathway. saving many millions of dollars compared to the highly-destructive “Canyon” project. The major accessibility issues are in walkways in other areas of the Zoo, especially on the southwest side. 3. The current plan also appears to completely demolish the long, smaller ridgeline between the parking lot and the current Children’s Zoo. It is not clear to what purpose the Plan incorporates this additional, expensive, major earth removal project. It will certainly make the Zoo environment poorer, less natural, and likely allow a lot of noise from the parking lot into the Zoo experience. The Grizzly Bear environment will literally be right next to the parking lot, with only trees in between. Why not use the existing ridge, as the beautiful, recently completed Rainforest Project did? 4. Moving the existing, excellent Play area to the front of the Zoo is a big mistake, which will lessen its value to families and children. I have three grandchildren; the current Play Park is perfectly situated in the middle of our Zoo excursions, right where the kids need a break. The Plan should improve the Play Area in its current location. 5. The new “California Visitor Center” on top of the ridge is shown at an enormous 18,000 square feet. What is the purpose of such a huge structure in that location?? It would be 2 and 1/2 times larger than the existing Tree Top Terrance. At this scale, it will ruin the natural look of the whole area. In short, as a long-time member and donor to the Zoo, I would like to see it continue to grow and improve, with new, exciting exhibits like the recently-upgraded Rainforest, the Elephant paddock, the Orangutang enclosure and the Reptile Lair. This is what the Vision Plan purports to be about, but the reality of Plan 1.5 is far from it. Our tax dollars should go, NOT to exorbitant, ill-planned and ineffective projects like this ridge-demolishing Condor Canyon project and Zoo Entry revision but rather to the other worthwhile goals of the Vision Plan. Thank you for your consideration.

Communication from Public

Name: Caroline Foley

Date Submitted: 06/28/2023 02:12 PM

Council File No: 21-0828

Comments for Public Posting: Destroying so much natural habitat seems counterintuitive to the conservation efforts the zoo promotes. There must be a better solution than this. Condor Canyon sounds absolutely destructive, and putting a visitor center on top of a ridge line seems unnecessary. The parking area around the zoo is quite large, and having a parking deck or underground parking so some of that space can be better utilized could be a potential solution. I am all for the zoo providing more space for its animal ambassadors but not at the expense of the rare and endangered flora and fauna that is so worth protecting.

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 06/27/2023 04:50 PM

Council File No: 21-0828

Comments for Public Posting: This message is in OPPOSITION to the LA Zoo Revised Vision Plan Alternative, 1.5 Specifically, the 16.1 acres of land targeted for construction and development will forever change the topography of the land, disrupting and displacing the beautiful native and rare trees, plants, and animals which the unique oasis of Griffith Park hosts lovingly and with integrity. Also, the addition of the un needed and massive visitor center atop the ridge line will not only affect the topography and the wildlife there forever, it is a costly endeavor that would also lend unnecessary noise to the area with people, music, and parties that would surely happen as the space would be utilized for rental space for parties and events. Griffith Park is already overdeveloped as is and any reconfiguration and construction would permanently ruin the very special nature of the beautiful preserve that Griffith Park extends naturally to locals and visitors alike, who have appreciated in abundance for decades without the need for more buildings. Lastly, the enormity of destruction that the 60 foot condor canyon would create would cause permanent scars of the ecology of the ridge line and to the park as a whole, while destroying more land and displacing the plants and animals already existing in that space. Please consider keeping the integrity of this natural habitat AS IS without further costly and destructive developments so Los Angeles residents, visitors to our area, and future generations to come can enjoy and appreciate the special nature of this natural ecosystem that hosts with such high regard for the delicate nature of preserving the plants and animals inhabiting the area today.

Communication from Public

Name: Rosa Escobosa

Date Submitted: 06/29/2023 06:53 AM

Council File No: 21-0828

Comments for Public Posting: Please reconsider these plans as they are not conducive to protecting this natural habitat!!!! We have unique species of animals and plants that would be threatened by these developments. the skyline view should NOT include a building, there are other places that are more realistic for a building that are NOT on top of this park.

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 06/29/2023 09:56 AM

Council File No: 21-0828

Comments for Public Posting: Please register my opposition to the LA Zoo development plans as they currently are written. Anything that encroaches further onto currently undeveloped park land is a violation of the city's obligation original agreement to keep the park "available to the poor."

Communication from Public

Name: Cristina Delgado

Date Submitted: 06/29/2023 10:10 AM

Council File No: 21-0828

Comments for Public Posting: Regarding LA Zoo's Revised Vision Plan: • Excavation of 60-foot deep Condor Canyon through a significant geological feature is destructive, expensive and will radically change Griffith Park forever, both aesthetically and ecologically. • Placement of the new event space – the California Visitor Center – on top of a ridgeline will destroy the natural Park topography and should be reconsidered or eliminated. • Despite the Zoo's insistence that much of the 16 acres of native habitat is disturbed already, this area contains rare and sensitive plants and wildlife. It's an intact chaparral habitat that should not be developed since it also contains 26 City Protected Trees/Shrubs. This plan must be reconsidered to minimize the impact of these changes.

Communication from Public

Name: Patrick
Date Submitted: 06/29/2023 04:53 PM
Council File No: 21-0828
Comments for Public Posting: No on Zoo expansion

Communication from Public

Name: Matt Ruscigno

Date Submitted: 06/29/2023 04:58 PM

Council File No: 21-0828

Comments for Public Posting: I'm writing in opposition to the LA Zoo's Revised Vision Plan, Alt. 1.5. This plan simply destroys too much of Griffith Park, which is arguably the most important green space in Los Angeles. More buildings, parking, and cars is the opposite of conservation, no? Especially today where zoo's are rightfully being challenged over the conditions that animals are kept in. Wouldn't it be best to focus on the wild animals of the park and protecting their space? This gigantic center does not fit in with what Griffith Park is about. And honestly, you could fit a great center in the corner of the giant parking lot that is way bigger than it needs to be!

Communication from Public

Name: Elizabeth Sturdevant

Date Submitted: 06/29/2023 09:15 PM

Council File No: 21-0828

Comments for Public Posting: I write to register my opposition to the proposed expansion and construction on undeveloped section of Griffith Park. Los Angeles has far too little green space as it is. Please leave this habitat as is, undisturbed.

Communication from Public

Name: Sonia Brenner

Date Submitted: 06/29/2023 10:52 PM

Council File No: 21-0828

Comments for Public Posting: I am an Angeleno, landscape designer, and educator, writing to express my serious concerns over the LA Zoo expansion plan. I am particularly concerned about the extremely high volume of excavation planned as well as the disruption and loss of habitat. Given the current crises of biodiversity and habitat loss in our region and worldwide, I urge you to reconsider this expansion, and instead protect our remaining native habitat. Thank you for your persistence and your service!

Communication from Public

Name: Ingrid from LA

Date Submitted: 06/29/2023 11:40 AM

Council File No: 21-0828

Comments for Public Posting: Before letting the zoo take more land, they should be required to do more with what they have currently. The parking could be consolidated into an above and subterranean garage and parking lot land repurposed. They could offer parking elsewhere and shuttles permanently or during construction. The option to take more land in a park surrounded by a city shouldn't be the solution just because it's easiest.

Communication from Public

Name: Sara S K Gramcko

Date Submitted: 06/29/2023 01:11 PM

Council File No: 21-0828

Comments for Public Posting: Destroying large amounts of the limited natural area that exists in L.A. to replace it with exhibits about nature is absolutely antithetical and should not be permitted by the council.