L.A. Zoo Vision Plan

Focused Recirculated
Environmental Impact Report
Agenda

- CEQA Process to Date, Meeting Purpose
- Overview of Project Alternative 1.5
- Highlights of the Focused Recirculated EIR
- How to Provide Comments
- Public Comment Period
- Meeting Wrap-Up
How to Participate

- Meeting is being recorded and transcribed
- Public comment period at the end of a brief presentation
- Accessibility:
  - American Sign Language
  - Spanish language
  - Live captions
CEQA Process to Date

- NOP Comment Period/Scoping Meetings
  Winter/Spring 2019
- Draft EIR Released
  Winter 2020
- Response to Comments & Final EIR Published
  Summer 2021
- Focused Recirculated EIR
  Summer 2022
LOS ANGELES ZOO VISION PLAN | 2022

DRAFT ALTERNATIVE 1.5:
The California Focused Conservation Alternative

Creating a just and sustainable world where people and wildlife thrive, together
Vision Plan

Objectives

- Animal Welfare and Care
- Increase and Modernize Zoo Exhibit Space
- Conservation
- Learning and Education
- Immersive Visitor Experience
- World Class Destination
- Visitor-serving Amenities
- Efficient Circulation System
- Accessibility
- Multi-modal Access
- Visual Appearance
- Capital Improvements
- Environmental Sustainability
- Operational Excellence
Key Differences between Alternative 1.5 and the Project

- Retain and restore 6 acres of hillside native habitats in Africa area
- Eliminate multi-level parking structure and 2-acre public park in Zoo’s northern parking lot
- Eliminate Zoo aerial tram
- Replace vineyard landscape features in California area with native vegetation
- Implement design guidelines to prioritize native and drought-tolerant plant species in landscapes to support Griffith Park ecosystem
- Implement Peak Visitation Management Program (PVMP) to manage the Zoo’s surface parking lot, including a mandatory ticket reservation system during peak visitation
Comprehensive redesign and redevelopment of the Zoo

New and expanded exhibit space and improvements to circulation and visitor services

Increase attendance to 3 million visitors per year by 2040—1.2 million annual visitor increase

Modernization of outdated, inefficient facilities

Improve Zoo sustainability

L.A. Zoo Vision Plan Focused Recirculated EIR

Project Alternative 1.5
PHASE 1
California area
PHASE 2
Asia area
PHASE 3
Africa area
Highlights of Focused Recirculated EIR

- Section 1.0 - Introduction - updates CEQA process
- Section 4.0 Alternatives Chapter - includes analysis of Project Alternative 1.5
- Appendix O - Project Alternative 1.5 Project Description, 2022 Vision Plan - Alternative 1.5
- Appendix P - Parking Analysis for Project Alternative 1.5
- Appendix Q - Animal Welfare Area Assessment
Project Alternative 1.5

Comprehensive redesign and redevelopment of the Zoo
- New and expanded exhibit space and improvements to circulation and visitor services
- Increase attendance to 3 million visitors per year by 2040
  - A 1.2 million annual visitor increase
- Modernization of outdated, inefficient facilities
- Improve Zoo sustainability
Alternatives Analysis

- No Project Alternative
  - Considers a scenario in which the Project is not approved and existing conditions persist

- Alternative 1 - Reduced Project
  - Zoo redevelopment would avoid undeveloped hillsides with biological resources; no Condor Canyon, no internal Zoo circulation improvements, no (or reduced) parking structure
  - Would continue to have significant transportation impacts
  - Does not meet the project objectives

- Alternative 2 - Multi-Modal Transportation Alternative
  - All components of the Project and TDM program are implemented with additional TDM to reduce VMT further
  - Would continue to have significant transportation impacts
  - Would meet the project objectives
Alternatives Analysis-
Project Alternative 1.5

- Project Alternative 1.5 has been identified as the Environmentally Superior Alternative due to its reduction in impacts related to:
  - aesthetics, air quality, biological resources, energy, urban forestry resources, greenhouse gas emissions, noise, transportation, and utilities
- VMT substantially reduced through MM TRANS-2 and Peak Visitor Management Program (PVMP)
- Transportation impacts would be significant and unavoidable, similar to the Project and all alternatives
- Alternative 1.5 would also achieve more of the Project objectives when compared to Alternatives 1 and 2.
The Focused Recirculated EIR is Available for Review

- The City has published the Focused Recirculated EIR for public review and comment
  - Comment Period from July 14 to August 29, 2022
- All comments will be considered in the revised Final EIR
- The Focused Recirculated EIR can be viewed at:
  
  https://eng.lacity.org/los-angeles-zoo-vision-plan

- More Project information is available at:
  https://lazoo.org/visionplan
How to provide comments

Email - Send comments to: Norman.Mundy@lacity.org
Subject: L.A. Zoo Vision Plan EIR Comments; including contact info with mailing address

Virtual Public Meeting
Monday, August 15, 2022

Mail - Send comments to:
Norman Mundy, Environmental Supervisor II
Los Angeles Bureau of Engineering, Environmental Management Group
1149 S. Broadway, Suite 600, Mail Stop 939
Los Angeles, CA 90015

Comments are due August 29, 2022 by 5:00 p.m.
Public Comment Period

- Duration of each public comment will be limited to 2 minutes
- Please raise your hand if you’d like to make a public comment
- Please introduce yourself with your full name and identify if you are with any organizations before making your comment.
Public Comment Period

- 2 minutes for each commenter
- Please focus your comments on Project Alternative 1.5 and the analysis contained in the Focused Recirculated EIR

Thank you!
Next Steps

► When the comment periods closes on August 29, the team will review the comments received and provide responses in a Revised Final EIR

► CEQA process updates and the Revised Final EIR will be posted here this Fall:

https://eng.lacity.org/los-angeles-zoo-vision-plan

► City Council consideration and approval