

Communication from Public

Name: Dr. Clyde Thomas/Tom Williams
Date Submitted: 06/25/2023 01:29 PM
Council File No: 21-0828
Comments for Public Posting: Send the current draft Final EIR back to BoE and require a thorough review and assessment of the Do Nothing and Preserve Native Habitats Alternatives and rejection of current Development Alternative. Elsewise expect litigation for the City and promoters.

Communication from Public

Name: Adrienne Meadow

Date Submitted: 06/25/2023 03:27 PM

Council File No: 21-0828

Comments for Public Posting: I'm asking that the City of Los Angeles leave the "Condor Canyon" intact and that no further alterations or destruction/construction occur at this site. Griffith Park should remain a haven of nature in the middle of our urban existence.
Kindly, Adrienne Meadow

Communication from Public

Name: Shilpi Roy

Date Submitted: 06/25/2023 03:29 PM

Council File No: 21-0828

Comments for Public Posting: Excavation of 60-foot deep Condor Canyon through a significant geological feature is destructive and expensive and will radically change Griffith Park forever, 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.

Communication from Public

Name: Lelia

Date Submitted: 06/25/2023 03:32 PM

Council File No: 21-0828

Comments for Public Posting: Excavation of 60-foot deep Condor Canyon through a significant geological feature is destructive and expensive and will radically change Griffith Park forever, 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.

Communication from Public

Name: Betty Q

Date Submitted: 06/25/2023 03:33 PM

Council File No: 21-0828

Comments for Public Posting: Stop pillaging nature. This will be the equivalent of chopping a tree down to build a birdhouse! We absolutely do not need a visitor center especially when we can't even staff other better known centers of this sort. People flock to this destination - create an app that can do the trick! It's cheaper, so we can spend the money on enhancing the park. VOTE HELL NO!!!

Communication from Public

Name: Judith

Date Submitted: 06/25/2023 03:37 PM

Council File No: 21-0828

Comments for Public Posting: VOTE NO 1. Excavation of 60-foot deep Condor Canyon through a significant geological feature is destructive and expensive and will radically change Griffith Park forever, aesthetically and ecologically. WE CANNOT UNDO THIS! 2. Placement of the new event space – the California Visitor Center – on top of a ridge line will destroy the natural Park topography and should be reconsidered or eliminated. THE EQUIVALENT OF CHOPPING A TREE DOWN TO BUILD A BIRDHOUSE! 3. 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. PROTECTED MEANS JUST THAT!

Communication from Public

Name: Allison Schallert

Date Submitted: 06/25/2023 03:40 PM

Council File No: 21-0828

Comments for Public Posting: Please don't expand the Zoo anymore!! We need free park space!! Don't do any excavation of 60-foot deep Condor Canyon through a significant geological feature is destructive and expensive and will radically change Griffith Park forever, aesthetically and ecologically. The 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. Please protect our green spaces and green spaces for our animals. Thanks so much Allison Schallert

Communication from Public

Name: Jon Neustadter

Date Submitted: 06/25/2023 03:41 PM

Council File No: 21-0828

Comments for Public Posting: I write in opposition to the Los Angeles Zoo's latest Alternative 1.5. First, the extremely deep "Condor Canyon" through a significant geological feature is destructive, extremely costly, and will ruin significant parts of Griffith Park (environmentally as well as marring a treasured portion of one of the best urban parks in the United States). Also, the massive "California Visitor Center" is unnecessary, too large, and will be on a ridgeline that will destroy the uninhibited natural beauty of a major part of Griffith Park. The entire concept must be eliminated. Some insist that much of the 16 acres of native habitat (that will be destroyed by the "Condor Canyon" and the "California Visitor Center") is already disturbed. However, this area contains rare and sensitive plants and wildlife, and, also, contains an intact chaparral habitat that should not be developed. Further, even if some parts of the area are already not perfectly intact natural areas (which is not the case), it does not follow that the entire area is subject to natural ruin. I hope "Alternative 1.5" will be dramatically reconsidered. It is far from urgent that this Zoo project move forward anytime soon along the destructive lines of the most current alternative laid out above.

Communication from Public

Name: John Paladin

Date Submitted: 06/25/2023 03:45 PM

Council File No: 21-0828

Comments for Public Posting: Please do not disturb the undeveloped native habitat of the California Planning Area. There is too much development in this area and not enough remaining undisturbed wild area. The ridgeline is a highly visible topographical feature which should not be disturbed. Excavation of 60-foot deep Condor Canyon through a significant geological feature is destructive and expensive and will radically change Griffith Park forever, aesthetically and ecologically. It should not be allowed. It is not OK to keep paving over natural areas. The natural areas should be preserved and not disturbed. The development area contains rare and sensitive plants and wildlife which should not be disturbed. It's an intact chaparral habitat that should not be developed since it also contains 26 City Protected Trees/Shrubs. Placement of the new event space – the California Visitor Center – on top of a ridgeline will destroy the natural Park topography and should be eliminated. The community needs more undisturbed wild areas within Griffith Park. The Zoo's FEIR expansion should not be allowed.

Communication from Public

Name: Marian Dodge
Date Submitted: 06/25/2023 03:49 PM
Council File No: 21-0828
Comments for Public Posting: Oppose

Marian Dodge
Los Angeles, CA 90027

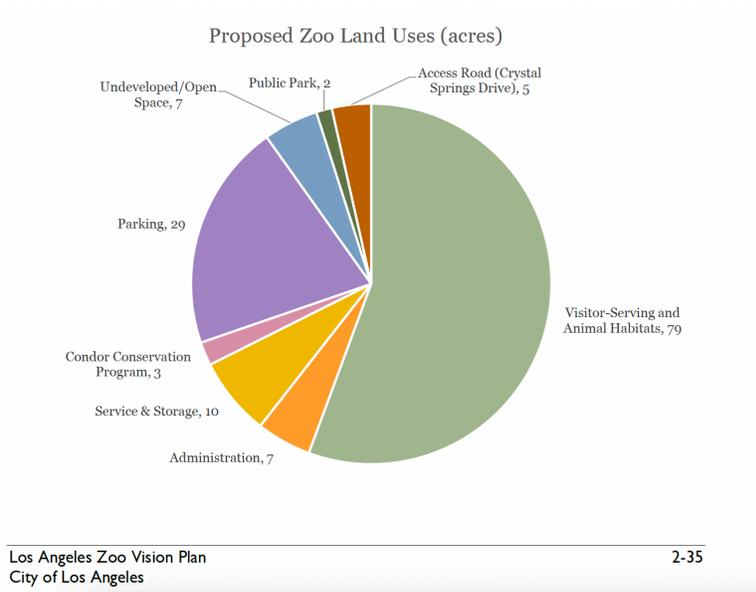
Neighborhoods and Community Enhancement Committee
June 25, 2023

CF 21-082 LA Zoo Vision FREIR

Dear Councilmembers:

I have been following the Zoo Vision Plan since 2019. While the Zoo has made several good changes to their plan, one thing has remained consistent – the Zoo’s continued use of deceptive statements.

The Zoo describes its proposed land use in a pie chart.



By lumping Visitor Services and Animal habitat together, they make it impossible to tell what percentage is for visitors and what percentage is for animals. Repeated requests to correct the pie chart have been ignored.

Although the Zoo is located entirely within Griffith Park, the Zoo failed to communicate with the Department of Recreation and Parks (RAP). When we asked Griffith Superintendent what she thought of the Zoo's Vision Plan, she replied, "What plan?" RAP has been working diligently with a traffic consultant to make the roads in Griffith Park safer. At a community meeting on the Park's proposed traffic improvements, I had to explain the Zoo's proposed traffic realignment to the consultant because RAP knew nothing about it.

The Zoo took Friends of Griffith Park on a tour to show off their new plan. They took us to the top of the ridge in the California Area and pointed to a pile of fresh mulch and some boards and pipes. "See," they declared, "It's already disturbed. It's not pristine." That ploy might fool some; however it had rained the day before the tour. If that pile of mulch had been there the day before, much of it would have been washed down the slope. The mulch had clearly been dumped there that morning. By extrapolation one can surmise that the pipes and wood were also placed there that morning.

The Zoo gave the Community Forestry Advisory Committee a lovely tour of the zoo. But they forgot to tell the committee that they were going to destroy a prominent ridgeline. The committee was horrified when they saw what the Zoo's plans called for.

"Oh what a tangled web we weave
When first we practice to deceive."
Sir Walter Scott

If the only way the Zoo can sell its Vision Plan is by trickery, then it should be rejected.

Sincerely,

Marian Dodge

Communication from Public

Name: Marian Dodge
Date Submitted: 06/25/2023 03:55 PM
Council File No: 21-0828
Comments for Public Posting: Support Alt. 1.5 if amended to eliminate Condor Canyon, Calif. Visitor Center, & new entry ramp.

Neighborhoods and Community Enhancement Committee
June 25, 2023

CF 21-082 LA Zoo Vision FREIR

Dear Councilmembers:

The LA Zoo's proposed Vision Plan is a fiscal disaster.

The Zoo's goal is to increase the number of visitors. But what percentage of the increase will come from daytime visitors actually viewing the animals and what percentage will come from guests attending a party at one of the Zoo's event venues? The Zoo says they hosted 183 private events in 2019. (p. 1456) How many of those were events where a group was allowed to come into the Zoo early and how many were nighttime events? They don't say. They plan to increase events to 210 per year by 2034, an increase of only 27 private events. Spending \$650 million during the first three phases to get such a small increase seems like an extravagant waste of money. Especially when the Zoo's mission is to care for animals, not to be an event rental site.

Speaking of waste of money, the Zoo proposes to regrade the entry to a 5% slope to meet ADA requirements. Why? They already have a beautifully landscaped ADA ramp adjacent to the steps. What will they get for the millions of dollars it will cost to regrade the ramp? Nothing.

The Zoo's plan proposes to dig a 60-ft.-deep Condor Canyon – imagine how expensive that will be! – ostensibly to provide ADA access. Why? The Zoo already has access via the road and the Zoo Safari shuttle. There is no need to destroy the native habitat by digging a trench.

The Zoo would be better off leaving its undeveloped open space undeveloped. They have plenty of room in their current developed footprint to upgrade zoo exhibits. And they already know how to do it. Their recently upgraded exhibits for the chimpanzees, orangutans, and elephants are beautifully done. Those exhibits should serve as models to upgrade other animal exhibits, not the bulldozer plans presented in Alternative 1.5.

The Zoo and the City will save a lot of money by not building Condor Canyon, the California Visitor Center or the new ADA entry ramp.

Best regards,

Marian Dodge

Communication from Public

Name: Jill Abatemarco

Date Submitted: 06/25/2023 03:58 PM

Council File No: 21-0828

Comments for Public Posting: The fact alone that this area includes 26 city protected trees and shrubs is enough to stop further development of Griffith Park. Enough of encroachment in this city park, the part that is free for all to explore.

Excavation of 60-foot deep Condor Canyon through a significant geological feature is destructive and expensive and will radically change Griffith Park forever, 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.

Communication from Public

Name: Karen Vice

Date Submitted: 06/25/2023 03:58 PM

Council File No: 21-0828

Comments for Public Posting: As a resident of Los Angeles since 1979, I totally agree with the Friends of Griffith Park views regarding the LA Zoo Revised Vision Plan, Alternative 1.5. PLEASE keep Griffith Park's native habitat! I agree with the following: Excavation of 60-foot deep Condor Canyon through a significant geological feature is destructive and expensive and will radically change Griffith Park forever, 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. I Love LA and Griffith Park, Karen Vice

Communication from Public

Name: Jennifer

Date Submitted: 06/25/2023 03:59 PM

Council File No: 21-0828

Comments for Public Posting: It is deeply concerning that a department that's supposed to be about animal advocacy and conservation is so willing to destroy natural native habitat for profit. Griffith Park is already a small park relative to the average size of territory the native animals normally require. Rather than expand, the Zoo should focus on revamping their current exhibits to be more mentally stimulating for the animals onsite.

Communication from Public

Name: Elizabeth Rowin

Date Submitted: 06/25/2023 03:59 PM

Council File No: 21-0828

Comments for Public Posting: As a resident of Los Feliz and a frequent hiker in Griffith Park, I strongly disagree with the LA Zoo's proposed expansion. Excavation of 60-foot deep Condor Canyon through a significant geological feature is destructive and expensive and will radically change Griffith Park forever, 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 moved elsewhere 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.

Communication from Public

Name: Sarah Willson

Date Submitted: 06/25/2023 04:06 PM

Council File No: 21-0828

Comments for Public Posting: I oppose excavating Condor Canyon to build a new visitor center. The wonderful thing about Griffith Park is the native habitat, plants and wildlife. Disrupting 16 acres of land and natural topography is not worth building a new event space. The beauty and ecology of the park should come first. Griffith Park is a uniquely wild space in Los Angeles, and we should keep it that way as much as we reasonably can. Thank you.

Communication from Public

Name: Justin

Date Submitted: 06/25/2023 04:07 PM

Council File No: 21-0828

Comments for Public Posting: Please do Not allow the zoo to build more into Griffith park. Griffith park is a treasure and a limited resource for nature for Los Angeles. It must be protected above all other interests.

Communication from Public

Name: Julia Stuart-Yilmaz

Date Submitted: 06/25/2023 04:19 PM

Council File No: 21-0828

Comments for Public Posting: Excavation of 60-foot deep Condor Canyon through a significant geological feature is destructive and expensive and will radically change Griffith Park forever, 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.

Communication from Public

Name: Michael Krose

Date Submitted: 06/25/2023 04:27 PM

Council File No: 21-0828

Comments for Public Posting: Excavation of the Condor Canyon, an irreplaceable geological feature, is destructive and expensive and will radically change Griffith Park forever, aesthetically and ecologically. It is unnecessary, and is not an improvement, but rather destructive to the natural habitat to the park. Placement of the new event space – the California Visitor Center – on top of a ridgeline will further destroy the natural Park topography and should be reconsidered AND absolutely eliminated. Despite the Zoo's insistence that much of the 16 acres of native habitat is disturbed already, is only acknowledgement that harm has already been done, and cannot be increased since this area contains irreplaceable 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. Its development would detract, and not enhance the Los Angeles Zoo. I urge you to remove these detrimental portions of Alternative 1.5. Thank you.

Communication from Public

Name: Gregg Sherkin

Date Submitted: 06/25/2023 04:28 PM

Council File No: 21-0828

Comments for Public Posting: I am a LA City homeowner and resident and opposed to the LA Zoo expansion and Alternative 1.5. We can't afford to lose more habitat an cut "Condor Canyon/Corridor" into a ridge of natural habitat in the park. Please don't move ahead with this. Thank you.
Gregg Sherkin

Communication from Public

Name: AndyB

Date Submitted: 06/25/2023 04:37 PM

Council File No: 21-0828

Comments for Public Posting: Please no more development of the park - the zoo is in terrible shape as it is compared to nearby SD and SB Zoos. If there is public money to invest put it in to renovating what exists and not expanding the footprint

Communication from Public

Name: Julie
Date Submitted: 06/25/2023 04:38 PM
Council File No: 21-0828

Comments for Public Posting: Griffith Park is a treasure. We are lucky to have such extraordinary nature in our city. To destroy that nature for a zoo expansion, specifically an event space, is unthinkable. I strongly urge you to put an end to the plan to kill off native and natural habitat and replace it with unnecessary development. Excavation of 60-foot deep Condor Canyon through a significant geological feature is destructive and expensive and will radically change Griffith Park forever, 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.

Communication from Public

Name: Nancy Beverly

Date Submitted: 06/25/2023 04:40 PM

Council File No: 21-0828

Comments for Public Posting: I've been hiking at Griffith Park for over 25 years (primarily with the Sierra Club). Making the 60-foot deep Condor Canyon will radically change Griffith Park aesthetically and ecologically. Putting the California Visitor Center on top of a ridgeline will destroy the natural topography and should be reconsidered or eliminated. This area contains rare and sensitive plants and wildlife. It's chaparral habitat that contains 26 City Protected Trees/Shrubs. Griffith Park is a PARK not an touristy destination so the city can make more money. It's a place to enjoy nature.

Communication from Public

Name: Alisha Seaton

Date Submitted: 06/25/2023 04:40 PM

Council File No: 21-0828

Comments for Public Posting: I'm writing to oppose the LA zoo's plan that will eradicate native habitat in Griffith Park. 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. The LA zoo should reflect its mission of conservation and education, this expansion just looks like pandering to tourists. This is \$ better spent elsewhere. Thank you,
Alisha Seaton Former LA zoo member over multiple years

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 06/25/2023 04:45 PM

Council File No: 21-0828

Comments for Public Posting: As I do enjoy our L. A. Zoo. I feel that we are encroaching on the natural area in the park and loosing important habitat. Haven't we forced the wildlife in this area almost to extinction. We must learn to live with the wildlife and be the care takers of what little that is left. Just my thoughts. It is not as if we don't have Rapid Transit.

Communication from Public

Name: Alice G Goldman

Date Submitted: 06/25/2023 04:50 PM

Council File No: 21-0828

Comments for Public Posting: I take serious issue with the LA Zoo's FEIR expansion for the following reasons: To Excavate a 60-foot deep Condor Canyon would be significantly destructive to Griffith Park and would result in significant negative changes to my beloved Griffith Park. To build a California Visitor Center – on top of a ridgeline will destroy the natural Park topography. It would seem a less destructive location can be found. The 16 acres of native habitat the Zoo wants to destroy contains rare and sensitive plants and wildlife that need to preserved not destroyed There is precious little open outdoor space in Los Angeles. Griffith Park is a special Los Angeles treasure. I urge to do all you can to preserve it. thank you

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 06/25/2023 05:06 PM

Council File No: 21-0828

Comments for Public Posting: I love Griffith Park, and am happy to see that the Zoo's revised plan includes some concessions that will enhance the public's enjoyment of the Park. However, there remain several issues of concern: 1. The excavation of 60-foot deep Condor Canyon through a significant geological feature is destructive and expensive and will radically change Griffith Park forever, and for the worse. 2. The placement of a new event space (the California Visitor Center) on top of a ridgeline will destroy the natural Park topography, and should be reconsidered or eliminated. 3. The 16 areas of native chaparral habitat subject to development contain rare and sensitive plants and wildlife. It's an intact environment and home that should not be developed since it also contains 26 City Protected Trees/Shrubs. Thank you for considering my comments.

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 06/25/2023 05:13 PM

Council File No: 21-0828

Comments for Public Posting: Dear LA City Council Neighborhoods and Community Enrichment Committee, In the revised Zoo Masterplan, Alt. 1.5, the Zoo conceded development of 6.1 acres of precious oak-walnut woodland and construction of a parking structure. There is much in Alt 1.5 that still requires revisions: 1. The Zoo should eliminate expansion onto 13+ acres within the undeveloped native habitat of the California Planning Area. Plans for this ^1 acres entail excavation of “Condor Canyon,” and construction of an 18,000 sq. ft. California Visitor Center topping the ridgeline – a highly visible topographical feature. Excavation of 60-foot deep Condor Canyon through a significant geological feature is destructive and expensive and will radically change Griffith Park forever, aesthetically and ecologically. 2. 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.

Communication from Public

Name: Los Feliz Improvement Association
Date Submitted: 06/25/2023 05:15 PM
Council File No: 21-0828
Comments for Public Posting: Please see attached letter from the LFIA.



advocacy and action
for Los Feliz

2023-2024

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*Past President

June 25, 2023

Neighborhoods and Community Enrichment Committee
Via email

RE: **LA Zoo Vision Plan Revised Final EIR
CF 21-0828**

Dear Honorable Councilmembers Hernandez, Lee and Hutt:

Los Feliz Improvement Association (LFIA), representing thousands of residents in Los Feliz and around Griffith Park, has studied the FREIR for the Los Angeles Zoo Vision Plan which was released in May 2023. While Alternative 1.5 is an improvement on the initial Vision for the Zoo, it still falls short of the mark. The mission of a zoo is to provide a safe and comfortable environment for the viewing of its captive animals. This plan is a veiled attempt to transform the LA Zoo into an entertainment venue. LFIA cannot support such a change in the Zoo's mission. Nor can LFIA support the environmental impacts of either Condor Canyon or the California Visitor Center.

LFIA appreciates that numerous egregious elements of the Zoo Vision have been removed in Alternative 1.5. Preserving the beautiful oak woodland in the Africa Area is greatly appreciated and also keeps the Zoo from violating the City's Protected Tree Ordinance.

Eliminating the aerial tram will save the Zoo millions of dollars in construction costs. Eliminating the proposed multi-story parking structure gives us hope that the Zoo may be joining other park planners in using contemporary best-management practices of reducing the number of automobiles in parks. The creation of a Peak Visitation Management Program (PVMP) is a hopeful sign. It worked successfully to reduce the number of visitors during the pandemic. The robust Transportation Demand Management (TDM) with annual reporting will track event traffic as well as daytime Zoo visitors.

Eliminating the vineyard proposed for the steep slope of the California Area and replacing it with native plants is a step in the right direction. Every city department is urging Angelenos to plant native plants because they are adapted to California's Mediterranean climate and require less water.

However, we still have serious concerns about several environmental features of Alternate 1.5.

It is unfathomable that Alternative 1.5 which includes Condor Canyon could be considered the Environmentally Superior Alternative. Where are the scientific studies to support such a claim? Alternative 1 has no Condor Canyon/Corridor. It is obvious to all that excavating 74,000 cubic yards of dirt and rock and hauling it out in 6,000 trips of dump trucks (12,000 trips if you count when they come back for another load) will have



advocacy and action
for Los Feliz

Page 2, LA Zoo Vision Plan Revised Final EIR, CF 21-0828

a huge impact. The particulate matter released into the air will be enormous. What impact will that have on Zoo animals, staff and visitors? The FREIR's declaration that

Alternative 1.5 is the Environmentally Superior Alternative when it is patently obvious it is not makes us suspicious of the accuracy of all of your analyses.

LFIA was very disappointed to see that Condor Canyon was still included in Alternate 1.5. Changing its name to Condor Corridor did not in any way reduce its destruction of native habitat. Digging a 60-foot-deep trench, whether by blasting or by excavation, to go through a hill is impactful and entirely unnecessary. Your own illustrations state that ADA guests can either take the corridor or the shuttle. Since they already have access, there is no need to build another. The FREIR mentioned the possibility of tunneling to create a pathway. Both excavating and tunneling would be prohibitively expensive – especially since it is entirely unnecessarily. The Condor Canyon concept should be abandoned.

The proposed California Visitor Center is to be constructed on the top of a ridgeline. It is one of the most visible ridgelines in Griffith Park as it is visible from both I-5 and SR 134 as well as from Atwater Village and Glendale. All of the Santa Monica Mountains, including that ridge, are included in the recently passed federal Rim of the Valley initiative.

The City of Los Angeles PLUM Committee, recognizing the importance of preserving habitat and connectivity, just approved a new Wildlife Ordinance which includes protecting ridgelines. The very first goal of the Wildlife Ordinance is "Minimize land disturbance." The development of the California Visitor Center on the top of a ridge and the excavation of Condor Canyon would both be in violation of the new ordinance. The FREIR mentions the possibility of siting the visitor center below the ridgeline. Since Alt. 1.5 added an Entry Garden and Park, do they really need another event space? We think not.

While the California Area does not include large numbers of protected oak trees, it does contain valuable chaparral. This is the same chaparral that makes up the vast majority of Griffith Park habitat. Its value as habitat should not be underestimated. Indeed it is this chaparral that supports most of Griffith Park's birds and animals.

The Zoo is proposing 750,000 new visitors/year. What are the real measures to mitigate the impacts of those automobile trips on the park and adjacent neighborhoods? The Peak Visitation Management Program may offer some control on high use days. The Parkline Shuttle is currently not functioning due to a driver staffing shortage.

Great care must be taken in the re-routing of Crystal Springs Drive around the Zoo's south parking lot to assure that it does not impact the Zoo Magnet School. It must also preserve the tree-lined trail that makes a loop around the golf course. This is an especially valuable hiking trail as it is one of the few trails in Griffith Park that is fairly



advocacy and action
for Los Feliz

Page 3, Focused Recirculated Zoo Vision Plan, CF 21-082

level and suitable for baby strollers and for people with mobility issues. The tree-lined route provides welcome shade on hot days and must be preserved.

The Zoo was highly criticized for its lack of community outreach in 2019. Only a few organizations were contacted by the Zoo; many interested organizations only found out about the Zoo's Vision Plan from friends in other organizations. The same can be said for the release of the FREIR on July 14, 2022. Although LFIA submitted a comment letter in 2021, we were not notified of the release of the new FREIR for Alternative 1.5. Several other groups were similarly not notified. This is a serious failure on the part of the Zoo. Since the Scoping Period for the Zoo's Vision Plan in January, 2019, LFIA has been trying to find out what is proposed to happen to the Griffith Observatory Satellite located in the middle of the Zoo's south parking lot. It did not appear on drawings of the proposed Vision Plan. It was never mentioned in the text. To date, it has not appeared anywhere. The Zoo does not seem to recognize its existence. What will happen to the Griffith Observatory Satellite facility?

LFIA's greatest concern is that the Zoo seems to be changing its focus from animal care and conservation to an entertainment venue and event rental space. The Zoo is located entirely in Griffith Park which is zoned Open Space. The emphasis and reallocation of space in the proposed Zoo Vision Plan towards entertainment is not allowed on land zoned for Open Space. Therefore, LFIA was dismayed to learn that instead of reducing the number of entertainment venues as requested in numerous public comments, Alternative 1.5 proposes adding a new venue called innocently Entry Garden and Park. This new venue, located near the now eliminated parking structure, is the size of a football field. Gates to the facility would be designed so that event guests could have access to the Zoo itself, or not, depending on the plans for the event. This additional event space is moving in the wrong direction.

The recommendation to expand visitor-serving facilities, particularly event rental space, allowing the LA Zoo to become a 200+ night per year entertainment venue should not be pursued. The urban wilderness designation of Griffith Park makes it an inappropriate setting for such activity with the resulting noise and light pollution, particularly for the nocturnal wildlife that lives adjacent to the zoo. The noise and light pollution generated by the event areas would also be harmful to the Zoo's own animals, species that the Zoo is charged with protecting.

Tangentially, we have reservations about digital signage anywhere in Griffith Park, for the same reasons.

Alternative 1.5 has many commendable features. LFIA could support Alternative 1.5 if it eliminated the construction of the environmentally destructive Condor Canyon and the



advocacy and action
for Los Feliz

Page 4, Focused Recirculated Zoo Vision Plan, CF 21-082

California Visitor Center. The Zoo is located entirely in America's largest urban wilderness, and LFIA will vigorously oppose any attempt to transform the Zoo into an entertainment venue within Griffith Park.

Sincerely,

Sincerely,
The Board of Directors of LFIA

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Debra Matlock". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Debra" and last name "Matlock" clearly distinguishable.

Debra Matlock
President

Communication from Public

Name: Erika Thormahlen

Date Submitted: 06/25/2023 05:17 PM

Council File No: 21-0828

Comments for Public Posting: Excavation of 60-foot deep Condor Canyon through a significant geological feature is destructive and expensive and will radically change Griffith Park forever, 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.

Communication from Public

Name: Patricia Turner

Date Submitted: 06/25/2023 05:24 PM

Council File No: 21-0828

Comments for Public Posting: I have lived adjacent in Glendale to Griffith Park for over 30 years and I am totally opposed to all of this additional environmental onslaught when the park is still fine and following in its founder's wishes. I oppose —Excavation of 60-foot deep Condor Canyon through a significant geological feature is destructive and expensive and will radically change Griffith Park forever, aesthetically and ecologically. I oppose -++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. I oppose —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. I am a member of Friends of Griffith Park and loved to consistently visit. These changes are just plain not necessary! Thank you. Pat Turner
Glendale, CA 91201

Communication from Public

Name: Azalia West

Date Submitted: 06/25/2023 05:27 PM

Council File No: 21-0828

Comments for Public Posting: I'm against the expansion of the LA zoo for many reasons, and in particular that it would disturb the wildlife that is already in place there. There are also rare and beautiful plants in this region that should not be destroyed. I think it would be against mother nature to build a big entertainment complex in a beautiful and quiet place in the city. Thank you very much.

Communication from Public

Name: Mat

Date Submitted: 06/25/2023 05:37 PM

Council File No: 21-0828

Comments for Public Posting: Excavation of 60-foot deep Condor Canyon through a significant geological feature is destructive and expensive and will radically change Griffith Park forever, 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. Please do not pass this highly destructive project.

Communication from Public

Name: Lisa Baca, Los Angeles Equestrian Coalition

Date Submitted: 06/25/2023 05:38 PM

Council File No: 21-0828

Comments for Public Posting: As an equestrian, Griffith Park is an open natural space that was gifted to the City for everyone to access. The zoo is over stepping their footprint in the park. Excavation of 60-foot deep Condor Canyon through a significant geological feature is destructive and expensive and will radically change Griffith Park forever, 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. PLEASE ELIMINATE THIS!!! 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. TWO WRONGS DO NOT MAKE IT RIGHT please save native habitat! It's an intact chaparral habitat that should not be developed since it also contains 26 City Protected Trees/Shrubs. If Councilman Tom LaBonge were still alive this would not be happening in Griffith Park! Thank you!

Communication from Public

Name: Danielle Rayne

Date Submitted: 06/25/2023 05:50 PM

Council File No: 21-0828

Comments for Public Posting: Excavation of 60-foot deep Condor Canyon through a significant geological feature is destructive, as well as expensive, and will radically change Griffith Park forever, aesthetically and ecologically. Once we take this acreage from the native wildlife that depends on this area of Condor Canyon to develop it for human entertainment and profit, it will never revert to natural habitat and will be lost for future generations. 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. More thoughtful consideration of the Zoo's current footprint needs to be taken. Making it bigger is not necessary to make it better. Despite the Zoo's insistence that much of the 16 acres of native habitat is disturbed already (which is appalling reasoning for any organization based on the pretense of preserving the natural world for the next generations), 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. I don't know when we'll stop thinking that natural habitat exists for the entertainment and profit of organizations like the LA Zoo, but I certainly hope some (hopefully the majority) members of the council will be mindful of the many instances where wildlife habitat was lost to development and nature paid the price.

Communication from Public

Name: Mario Milch

Date Submitted: 06/25/2023 06:13 PM

Council File No: 21-0828

Comments for Public Posting: While the LA Zoo's Revised Vision Plan, Alternative 1.5 is a definite improvement, there are many aspects of the plan that are destructive. Excavation of 60-foot deep Condor Canyon through significant geological feature is destructive and expensive and will radically change Griffith Park forever, 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. Col. Griffith deeded the property to the city with the idea of sharing with all its citizens (and visitors) while preserving the wild nature as much as possible. Alternative 1.5 does not meet those requirements Thank your, Mario Milch, MD

Communication from Public

Name: Elisabeth Sedano

Date Submitted: 06/25/2023 06:25 PM

Council File No: 21-0828

Comments for Public Posting: Excavation of 60-foot deep Condor Canyon through a significant geological feature is destructive and expensive and will radically change Griffith Park forever, 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.

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 06/25/2023 08:41 PM

Council File No: 21-0828

Comments for Public Posting: We need to preserve wild habitat as the city has already developed so much & plants & wildlife is impacted already. I agree with these points: Excavation of 60-foot deep Condor Canyon through a significant geological feature is destructive and expensive and will radically change Griffith Park forever, 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. This area contains rare and sensitive plants and wildlife & shouldn't be further disturbed. It's an intact chaparral habitat that should not be developed since it also contains 26 City Protected Trees/Shrubs. Thank you for the opportunity for input!

Communication from Public

Name: R Tad Brown

Date Submitted: 06/25/2023 08:52 PM

Council File No: 21-0828

Comments for Public Posting: This project really is upsetting to me. I believe there are protected trees, plants and animals that will be affected. This is not what Mr. Griffith had in mind. The zoo as is, please. This project is out of control. I'm a 5th generation Angeleno of American Indian heritage. The park land here, though in a large city, is sacred to many and should not be trounced upon with such disrespect. Thank you for listening.

Communication from Public

Name: Megan Shuham

Date Submitted: 06/25/2023 08:58 PM

Council File No: 21-0828

Comments for Public Posting: Please do not approve L.A. Zoo's Alt. 1.5 FEIR. Excavation of 60-foot deep Condor Canyon through a significant geological feature is destructive and expensive and will radically change Griffith Park forever, 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.

Communication from Public

Name: Lesley Meyer

Date Submitted: 06/25/2023 09:22 PM

Council File No: 21-0828

Comments for Public Posting: To whom it may concern, I have lived in Los Angeles since 2001. I love Griffith Park and have hiked its beautiful trails 100's of times. Excavation of 60-foot deep Condor Canyon through a significant geological feature is destructive and will radically change Griffith Park forever, 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. There has to be a better alternative. Thanks you for your time,
Lesley Meyer

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 06/25/2023 09:24 PM

Council File No: 21-0828

Comments for Public Posting: Griffith Park is THE JEWEL of our city and should not be messed with. I don't agree with the Zoo expansion, any destructive excavation of land or wildlife/native plant habitat. Why does this park keep coming under development attack? Please, PROTECT and CHERISH the one and ONLY Griffith Park. Thank you.

Communication from Public

Name: Neighbor

Date Submitted: 06/25/2023 09:37 PM

Council File No: 21-0828

Comments for Public Posting: Excavation of 60-foot deep Condor Canyon through a significant geological feature is destructive and expensive and will radically change Griffith Park forever, 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.

Communication from Public

Name: Kira Durbin

Date Submitted: 06/25/2023 09:52 PM

Council File No: 21-0828

Comments for Public Posting: Because of my disability I am unable to attend in person. But I am very much AGAINST any expansion of the zoo. No one should be building anything In the hills. And zoos are gross. Look at the videos of the animals suffering. Billy the elephant needs to be sent to a sanctuary immediately. In a perfect world I would see ALL of the animas sent to sanctuaries where they will be treated humanely. Please vote NO on any zoo expansion. Kira Durbin
Resident of CD4

Communication from Public

Name: Evelyn Martinez

Date Submitted: 06/25/2023 10:02 PM

Council File No: 21-0828

Comments for Public Posting: The new California center should be reconsider or eliminated.

Communication from Public

Name: Lee Chemel

Date Submitted: 06/25/2023 10:41 PM

Council File No: 21-0828

Comments for Public Posting: I am a native of Los Angeles, born in 1943. I have treasured this park all of my life as generations of my family have enjoyed its every aspect. The quality of this extraordinary repository of native flora and fauna is rare and will not survive the kind of development that is being considered by the zoo. Excavation of 60-foot deep Condor Canyon through a significant geological feature is destructive and will radically change Griffith Park forever, aesthetically and ecologically. 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.

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 06/25/2023 10:50 PM

Council File No: 21-0828

Comments for Public Posting: Excavation of 60-foot deep Condor Canyon through a significant geological feature is destructive and expensive and will radically change Griffith Park forever, 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. Please preserve Griffith Park. It is the lungs of our community. The Zoo can be improved without it's area being increased.

Communication from Public

Name: Penny Susan Rose

Date Submitted: 06/25/2023 10:56 PM

Council File No: 21-0828

Comments for Public Posting: We are concerned about the large prominent space in Condor Canyon suggested for excavation, this represents an unnecessary aesthetic and ecological plan - not in sync with the ethos of Griffith Park, as the man who donated the acreage made plain: "It must be made a place of recreation and rest for the masses, a resort for the rank and file, for the plain people. I consider it my obligation to make Los Angeles a happier, cleaner, and finer city. I wish to pay my debt of duty in this way to the community in which I have prospered." An Excavation of Condor Canyon, cutting through through a significant geological feature is unnecessarily destructive and expensive and will radically change Griffith Park forever, aesthetically and ecologically. Why would you choose to make a visitors center/event space a focal point on top of a ridgeline; this is a park - even Zoo structures should be designed to nestle within the park not sit on high and lord over it. The notion that habitat had already been disturbed and sop added disturbance should not be an issue is nonsense. The importance of Native Habitat had been a long time coming. It was joyful when the neighborhood gathered to remember P-22 the cougar and the local Native population came to speak for the animal as their friend and brother... He lived in the intact chaparral among still surviving sensitive and rare creatures and plants. Tripling the traffic, the number of zoo visitors and the resultant new employment opportunities should only be exciting if the surrounding populace and properties are protected from despoilation. PROTECT THE NATURAL WORLD and the neighbors of this great park... Thank you.