

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Evan Shamoon

**Date Submitted:** 06/26/2023 10:13 PM

**Council File No:** 21-0828

**Comments for Public Posting:** Hello, I am writing in regarding the LA Zoo's Revised Vision Plan to be considered by LA City Council's Neighborhood and Community Enrichment Committee. 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. Thank you. Evan

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Gretchen Gesell  
**Date Submitted:** 06/26/2023 10:51 PM  
**Council File No:** 21-0828

**Comments for Public Posting:** I am writing to oppose the expansion of the zoo into the open space where our native plants and wildlife live. It seems counterintuitive to bulldoze wild habitat to build fake habitat enclosures. Our whole city is having conversations about planting native plants in our yards and restoring habitat. Many city agencies are in the conversation and a lot of time, money and effort is being put forth to educate Angelenos. Our city will look like hypocrites if this zoo expansion is allowed to destroy native plant habitat. Also, zoos are old news. Speaking as a parent and educator, we have learned the value of open space for our wildlife. We don't want to go to the zoo and see animals in cages. It makes us sad. We would rather go on hikes in open spaces and see the habitat and wildlife thriving. Please do not allow the zoo to build on this precious land that belongs to nature. Thank you.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Charlotte Innes

**Date Submitted:** 06/26/2023 10:53 PM

**Council File No:** 21-0828

**Comments for Public Posting:** I would like to register my opposition to the LA Zoo's expansion, which would eat up acres of Griffith Park and, with the construction of two very large structures, allow for the destruction of a ridgeline. As a citizen of Los Angeles and as someone who cares about shrinking habitats for wild animals, such as mountain lions and deer, and the loss of plants and parkland in the city, I protest loudly. We should be saving and nurturing what little land we have left, not killing it off.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Sara J

**Date Submitted:** 06/26/2023 10:58 PM

**Council File No:** 21-0828

**Comments for Public Posting:** As a citizen of Los Angeles for over 20 years who sees the destruction and degradation of wildlife and natural habitats all over the state of California and beyond, for frivolous, unethical, and unnecessary projects, I am strongly opposed to the LA Zoo expansion project, for a great many reasons. If the planners of this project care anything for native plant and animal species and they would stop immediately and work to preserve these precious habitats that are constantly under threat by greedy developers and the like. I do not support my tax dollars going towards any project that destroys this precious land and am willing to put my body on the line to stop this. It honestly blows my mind that as the climate catastrophe worsens, and natural habitats are polluted and destroyed, there are still small minded people that believe it is ok to gobble up more land. Stop this now. Animals are protected by being left alone. Children and animal loving people should avoid the animal prisons we call zoos and work with those that ethically support our native lands by conserving them and protecting them from harmful projects such as this. Thank you for hearing my concern, now please do the right thing for our suffering earth mother and stop this project.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Stella Balesh

**Date Submitted:** 06/26/2023 10:59 PM

**Council File No:** 21-0828

**Comments for Public Posting:** Expansion of Zoo area to include Condor Canyon must be stopped. Griffith Park must remain as intact as possible for continuation of natural habitat of plants and animals. Thank you.  
Los Feliz resident

## Communication from Public

**Name:** melissa arias

**Date Submitted:** 06/26/2023 11:22 PM

**Council File No:** 21-0828

**Comments for Public Posting:** the vitality of our local wildlife be a top priority for our city. protecting it should come first instead of building on land that can negatively affect animals and native plants.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Robin Erdman

**Date Submitted:** 06/26/2023 09:55 PM

**Council File No:** 21-0828

**Comments for Public Posting:** It is truly a sad day for the Los Angeles Zoo, which is normally an organization that I wholeheartedly support, has chosen to value profit and visitor numbers over conservation. It is insane to ruin the natural habitat of Griffith Park's native wildlife, including many protected species of plants, in order to create a tourist trap highlighting, ironically, native wildlife. This plan has little to no benefit for the animals at the zoo, and will permanently ruin the entire landscape of Griffith Park. This city is already deficient in green space. What little is left needs to remain undeveloped in order to preserve our unique California native species and allow future generations to enjoy Griffith Park as was intended.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Shelby Schumitzky  
**Date Submitted:** 06/26/2023 11:38 PM  
**Council File No:** 21-0828  
**Comments for Public Posting:** Do not move forward with the Revised plan for the LA Zoo. It will destroy the entire ecosystem of native plants and animals that live there.

## Communication from Public

**Name:**

**Date Submitted:** 06/26/2023 11:39 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:** Thelma Mericle  
**Date Submitted:** 06/26/2023 02:57 PM  
**Council File No:** 21-0828  
**Comments for Public Posting:** Please oppose the Zoo Plan Alternative 1.5 and go back to the Zoo Plan Alternative 1. Thank you.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Valerie Vanaman

**Date Submitted:** 06/26/2023 03:02 PM

**Council File No:** 21-0828

**Comments for Public Posting:** The City spend hours and hours of time trying to develop a master plan for Griffith Park only to have it become nothing more than a Vision Plan. But even in that Vision Plan, what was recognized and honored was the fact that Griffith Park is, at is heart, an urban wilderness that must be protected as an urban wilderness. The Zoo Plan being considered makes a mockery of that entire concept. Placing a new event space in the Park flies in the face of all the Park can and should be and what it was meant to me. It is a first step of the slippery slope of doing away with the Park and its Urban Wilderness identity. A California Visitor Center on top of a ridgeline will destroy the natural Park topography. It must be eliminated and, if not eliminated, it must be reconsidered. Why is the Zoo being given so much power and why are you considering walking away from what makes Griffith Park Griffith Park? If this is permitted to go through, you will have forever changed -- and not for the better -- Griffith Park. You do not need this event space and certainly Griffith Park does not need this space. At a time of climate change -- when every piece of green matters - do not further add to that destruction by eliminating rare and sensitive plants and wildlife that now thrive in Griffith Park.  
Valerie Vanaman

## Communication from Public

**Name:**

**Date Submitted:** 06/26/2023 03:07 PM

**Council File No:** 21-0828

**Comments for Public Posting:** If conservation of animal habitat is important, then please do not disturb the natural habitat anymore. Any Zoo upgrades can happen in the existing space and extending zoo perimeter would be moving in a direction that is against conservation.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Citizens for Los Angeles Wildlife  
**Date Submitted:** 06/26/2023 03:21 PM  
**Council File No:** 21-0828  
**Comments for Public Posting:** Please accept the attached letter in opposition to the Zoo's proposed expansion into the California Planning Area.



CITIZENS FOR  
LOS ANGELES  
WILDLIFE

PO Box 50003 Studio City, CA 91614  
(818) 821-6000 info@clawonline.org www.clawonline.org

June 26, 2023

Chair Eunisses Hernandez and the  
Neighborhood & Community Enrichment Committee  
200 N. Spring Street, Room 340  
Los Angeles, CA 90012  
Via: cityclerk@lacity.org

**Re: Opposition to LA Zoo's Expansion into the California Planning Area**

Honorable Chair Hernandez and Neighborhood & Community Enrichment Committee Members:

Citizens for Los Angeles Wildlife (CLAW) is a non-profit environmental organization concerned with the wellbeing of wildlife and wildlife habitat for the City of Los Angeles and beyond. A citizenry of more than 5,000 individuals support our organization's multiple calls for practices and policy to benefit biodiversity in LA City, County, California and the globe. In line with our mission to protect the wildlife and ecology of Los Angeles, CLAW opposes all past and present project alternatives that expand the LA Zoo into the undeveloped native habitat of the California Planning Area.

The Santa Monica Mountains are a critical habitat area within the broader biodiversity hotspot of California's Floristic Province. Griffith Park and the LA Zoo have meaningful impacts on this ecosystem, and thus any large scale changes should be given a high amount of scrutiny. The LA Zoo's proposed Condor Canyon and visitor center in the California Planning Area would destroy a natural ridgeline, and have a negative impact on both the sensitive chaparral plant species found there and the surrounding wildlife. CLAW opposes any project that severs this ridgeline and locates any facilities on that ridgeline.

While Griffith Park contains areas that are already disturbed and could be utilized with smaller resulting impacts, the proposed Zoo expansion adds a 18,000 square foot structure and exports more than 36,000 cubic yards of earth in an undeveloped natural area. The resulting biological impacts would be unavoidable under this proposal. A growing number of studies are showing that even a light amount of human recreation in an area can negatively impact local wildlife. Foraging routes for browsing herbivores can be disturbed by increased human presence. Furthermore, human recreation can lead to an increase in non-native species. If only light human recreation can have such impacts, it is clear that activity as intensive as the proposed project will have long-lasting impacts on the surrounding ecosystem. This Griffith Park ecosystem is the exact location where just last year, LA's

famed P-22, a mountain lion protected under California's Endangered Species Act, was euthanized due to complications from the sprawling development and activity that has already occurred in this habitat area.

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.

While it is noteworthy that the Focused Recirculated Environmental Impact Report's Project Alternative 1.5 is in many ways superior to many of the Zoo's previous project alternatives (except No Project), CLAW urges a deep consideration to the harmful effects this Zoo expansion would have on the surrounding ecosystem, and we ask decision-makers to reject any proposal that would sever the pristine ridge of the California Planning Area in two.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tony Tucci". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent flourish at the end.

Tony Tucci, Chair

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Margaret Kazanteno

**Date Submitted:** 06/26/2023 03:33 PM

**Council File No:** 21-0828

**Comments for Public Posting:** If the Zoo wants to expand it could build upwards on the grounds they already have and leave Griffith Park untouched. It is the only piece of nature that we have left amidst all the surrounding freeways. It is a historic and ecological gem that needs to be protected especially in a climate crisis that we are enduring. It is ignorant and inconsiderate to even pursue any of the plans that the LA Zoo has, especially as nature lovers!! I agree with everything that is added below. 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:** Amy Gustincic

**Date Submitted:** 06/26/2023 03:35 PM

**Council File No:** 21-0828

**Comments for Public Posting:** The LA Zoo is situated within a large urban wilderness park. The Zoo should respect and protect Griffith Park, not contribute to its destruction. 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 California Visitor Center on top of a ridgeline will destroy the natural Park topography and should be reconsidered or eliminated.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** M Mulhern

**Date Submitted:** 06/26/2023 04:02 PM

**Council File No:** 21-0828

**Comments for Public Posting:** I'm writing today about the LA Zoo's expansion plan. Griffith Park is a jewel of nature in our dense urban habitat, and any largescale development will negatively impact the natural environment and wildlife, something the LA Zoo purports to care about. 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:** JULIA RUBIN PARNELL

**Date Submitted:** 06/26/2023 04:21 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 Dailey

**Date Submitted:** 06/26/2023 04:26 PM

**Council File No:** 21-0828

**Comments for Public Posting:** A new event space on a ridge line is undesirable. Griffith Park is an asset precisely because it is undeveloped. People are longing for open spaces, not trafficked, accessible only by dirt trail. Condor Canyon is one of the few quiet areas on a weekend. Adding more cars and buildings to the park, especially to a ridgeline, is in poor taste and overlooks the greatest value of the park: that is, its undeveloped and wild nature. What then for the ever decreasing habitat for wildlife? Taking out trees clearly goes against all ecological concern: we need to preserve native trees and the habitat, given our climate crises. More development will mean more pollution, more cars, and a devalued public space. Having been born in this area, the development is already booming in residential areas: save the park for what it does best, allows us a hint of wilderness in an increasingly dense space.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Erin  
**Date Submitted:** 06/26/2023 04:34 PM  
**Council File No:** 21-0828  
**Comments for Public Posting:** I do not agree with the zoo's expansion plans.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Marc Weiss

**Date Submitted:** 06/26/2023 04:40 PM

**Council File No:** 21-0828

**Comments for Public Posting:** The LA Zoo should strive to expand in ways that are consistent with the surrounding area of Griffith Park it inhabits. Overall, I think that the zoo expansion should focus on expanding in areas that are ugly and underdeveloped- like the parking lot. Put parking underground and use the former above ground parking for your needs. Placement of the California visitor center on ANY ridgeline should be avoided at all costs. The beauty of the zoo is that it blends into the surroundings. We shouldn't be building more "stuff on hills".

## Communication from Public

**Name:**

**Date Submitted:** 06/26/2023 04:40 PM

**Council File No:** 21-0828

**Comments for Public Posting:** Please don't destroy nature to build a zoo. You are ruining the ecosystem for the animals that already live there in order to make money. There is so little nature left in Los Angeles, please leave this one alone by scaling back your plans

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Carstens, Black & Minter / Friends of Griffith Park  
**Date Submitted:** 06/26/2023 04:41 PM  
**Council File No:** 21-0828  
**Comments for Public Posting:** Good afternoon, Honorable Councilmembers. Attached to this form, please find comments from Carstens, Black & Minter, LLP, submitted on behalf of Friends of Griffith Park.



**Main Office Phone:**  
310-798-2400  
**Direct Dial:**  
310-798-2412

**Carstens, Black & Minter LLP**  
2200 Pacific Coast Highway, Suite 318  
Hermosa Beach, CA 90254  
[www.cbcearthlaw.com](http://www.cbcearthlaw.com)

**Michelle N. Black**  
Email Address:  
[mnb@cbcearthlaw.com](mailto:mnb@cbcearthlaw.com)

June 26, 2023

Via email [LACouncilComment.com](mailto:LACouncilComment.com), [Norman.Mundy@lacity.org](mailto:Norman.Mundy@lacity.org)

Neighborhood and Community Enrichment Committee  
Los Angeles City Council  
Room 340, City hall

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

**Re: Item 21-0828, Alternative 1.5 Revised Final EIR for Los Angeles Zoo Vision Plan**

Honorable Councilmembers,

We submit these comments concerning the Los Angeles Zoo Vision Plan (“Project”) on behalf of Friends of Griffith Park, a nonprofit organization that has advocated for enlightened stewardship of Griffith Park for 12 years. Friends of Griffith Park and its volunteers work to protect and restore the Park’s resources, educate the public about its wonders, and ensure that Griffith Park remains the natural escape from urban pressures that Colonel Griffith envisioned when he donated the Park to the people 115 years ago. In its current form, Alternative 1.5 threatens the Park’s natural habitats and ecosystems.

Friends of Griffith Park appreciates some of the changes to the proposed Project in Alternative 1.5, in particular the elimination of the development of the six-acre oak woodland in favor of restoration, the repositioning of the California Visitor Center, and the removal of the aerial tram and parking structure, and the commitment to not blasting during construction. However, FOGP remains concerned that the environmental impacts of Alternative 1.5 have not been fully disclosed, analyzed, and

mitigated as required under the California Environmental Quality Act (“CEQA”).

CEQA was enacted to ensure informed environmental decision making and government accountability. An “EIR is intended to furnish both the road map and the environmental price tag for a project, so that the decision maker and the public both know, before the journey begins, just where the journey will lead, and how much they-and the environment-will have to give up in order to take that journey.” (*Natural Resources Defense Council v. City of Los Angeles* (2002) 103 Cal.App.4th 268, 271.)

In lieu of repeating the hundreds of comments submitted to the City during this administrative process for the Vision Plan that carefully document deficiencies of the EIR’s analysis of biological resources, we join them. Instead, we respectfully request that the Council consider the following few points:

**I. The EIR Fails to Disclose Significant Impacts on Biological Resources.**

The Los Angeles Zoo’s status as a top family destination owes, in part, to its setting in Griffith Park, the crown jewel of the City’s park system. The park contains thousands of acres of County-designated Significant Ecological Area and serves as a crucial wildlife linkage between the Santa Monica and Verdugo Mountains. Accordingly, the was required to analyze the biological impacts of the Project’s significant grading, vegetation removal, and other construction work, in addition to the impacts of permanently altering the landscape and introducing human activities to portions of the Park.

Unfortunately, as documented by numerous commenters, the Project’s biological resources discussion failed to disclose, analyze, and mitigate many of the Project’s potentially significant environmental impacts. First, conclusions about the biological resource-related impacts of the California Visitor Center and Condor Canyon-area developments assume that the habitats and vegetation communities in those areas are degraded. However, as depicted in the attached recent aerial image, this is not the case. The area to be denuded of vegetation for the development is lush. This year’s heavy rainfall means that it may host rare plant species that have been dormant for years, as seen all over Southern California this year. The City’s claims that

impacts to this “degraded” area would be less than significant lack substantial evidence.

Commenters further noted the absence of protocol level surveys for certain sensitive animal species likely to be found, or known to be found in the park, including San Diego desert woodrat (*Neotoma lepida intermedia*), Southern California Legless Lizard (*Anniella stebbinsi*), Blainville's Horned Lizard (*Phrynosoma blainvillii*), San Diegan Tiger Whiptail (*Aspidoscelis tigris stejnegeri*), and many others. The EIR’s failure to gather the information needed to analyze these potential impacts, pointed out by biologists and naturalists who frequent the park, precludes the informed decision making required by CEQA. Moreover, without accurate information about these species and their presence or absence in the Project area, during the appropriate survey windows, the EIR’s conclusions that those species will not be impacted lack substantial evidence.

In contrast to much of urban Los Angeles, Griffith Park is known for its bat population. As discussed by Dr. Travis Longcore and Los Angeles Audubon, the EIR finds that the Project’s introduction of light sources and human activities into natural areas will not have significant impacts on bat species. The EIR’s rationale is that humans currently use portions of Griffith Park, but bats remain. However, as pointed out by Dr. Longcore, the analysis improperly treats all bat species the same. While it is correct that some bat species can thrive in proximity to humans, others cannot. The EIR’s failure to distinguish between different bat species with different needs and behavior prevents informed decision making. This is particularly important as bats fend off habitat encroachment and disease threats nationwide.

## **II. The Biological Resources Mitigation and Monitoring Plan (BRMMP) is Impermissibly Deferred.**

The EIR finds that the Project’s impacts to native vegetation communities, habitat, and special-status species will be mitigated in reliance on MM BIO-1, which does nothing more than commit the City to making a plan. MM BIO-1 provides, in part:

**MM BIO-1** Biological Resources Mitigation and Monitoring Program. The Zoo shall prepare and implement a Biological Resources Mitigation and

Monitoring Plan (BRMMP) to mitigate loss of native vegetation communities, habitat, and special-status species from each Project phase. The BRMMP shall be prepared after completion of 30 percent design plans for each phase and shall specify timing and implementation of required biological resource restoration, enhancement, or creation measures. The BRMMP shall be prepared by a City-approved biologist as part of planning, engineering, and site design for each Project phase under the direction of and approval by the City Bureau of Engineering and Zoo planning staff. The BRMMP shall be prepared in consultation with appropriate City departments and resource agencies such as the Los Angeles Fire Department, Recreation and Parks Department, and the CDFW. The BRMMP shall be updated prior to final designs and development plans for each phase. The Zoo shall be responsible for ensuring all BRMMP requirements are reflected in Project design/architectural, engineering, and grading plans. All plans for each Project phase shall be reviewed by the City to ensure compliance with the BRMMP.

Additional language is included that discusses how future surveys will be conducted after the 30 percent design plans. MM BIO-1 is classic deferred mitigation, and it violates CEQA. (*Endangered Habitats League v County of Orange* (2005) 131 Cal. App. 4th 777, 793-94; Guidelines Section 15126.4(a)(1)(B).)

As laid out in MM BIO-1, the BRMMP will not be formulated before Project approval. In fact, the surveys that inform the BRMMP will not even be conducted until the Project reaches the 30 percent design level. Thus, the BRMMP will be developed entirely out of the public view. But “the development of mitigation measures, as envisioned by CEQA, is not meant to be a bilateral negotiation between a project proponent and the lead agency after project approval; but rather, an open process that also involves other interested agencies and the public.” (*Communities for a Better Environment v. Richmond* (2010) 184 Cal.App.4th 70, 92-96.)

The deferral of the BRMMP also prevents the EIR from properly evaluating the efficacy of the BRMMP and any impacts that will result from the BRMMP. (*San Joaquin Raptor Rescue Center v. County of Merced* (2007) 149 Cal.App.4th 645; CEQA Guidelines § 15126.4.) When mitigation is deferred, the public and decisionmakers are deprived of the opportunity to evaluate its effectiveness or desirability prior to project approval. (*Id.* at 92 [EIR inadequate when mitigation depends “upon management plans that have not yet been formulated, and have not been subject to analysis and review within the EIR.”].)

The EIR cannot provide substantial evidence supporting the efficacy of mitigation that has not yet been designed.

### **III. The EIR’s Mitigation for Rare Plant Species, Such as the Nevin’s Barberry, Will Not Ensure Their Survival.**

The Nevin’s barberry is endemic to Southern California and known from a mere 30 occurrences. Thus, the Griffith Park population of Nevin’s barberry is critical. The EIR’s mitigation for impacts to the rare and endemic Nevin’s barberry will be ineffective, at best. MM BIO-1 begins with a promising statement, that “onsite native vegetation communities and special-status plant species shall be protected and preserved in place, and design plans shall be amended to avoid disturbance or loss of these biological resources.” Unfortunately, this statement is qualified with language that renders it meaningless, “[t]o the maximum extent feasible.” One would imagine that any plant located in a spot planned for development would not be “feasibly” preserved in place.

The MM BIO-1 language specific to the Nevin’s barberry contains the same flaw, “if present, special-status plant species, such as Nevin’s barberry, shall be avoided *to the extent feasible* through use of high visibility exclusion fencing and signage to protect vegetation and root systems from disturbance or compaction, consistent with the BRMMP.” Thus, again, if the Zoo should deem the retention of this rare species “infeasible” based on undisclosed criteria, Nevin’s barberry found onsite will not be retained at all. This is hardly mitigation that would reduce impacts to a sensitive species below a threshold of significance.

However, even if retained, the mitigation does not ensure that this important population of Nevin’s barberry is protected. While individuals

must be fenced off, nothing in the mitigation protects the plants from changes to surrounding topography, soil compaction, and hydrological modification that would result in the death of existing individuals and the failure to recruit future Nevin's barberry individuals. Nevin's barberry prefers sandy, gravelly soils, canyon bottoms, and washes, which will be reconfigured to support the Project. The USDA describes threats to this rare and endemic species as such:

Urban development is the primary threat to Nevin's barberry... ***The use of heavy equipment for land grading and road expansion can alter soil composition and structure, destroy and remove vegetation, increase soil erosion, and alter hydrologic patterns, decreasing the quality and availability of Nevin's barberry habitat.*** Shortened fire return intervals and increases in fire severity may result from urban development and spread of nonnative invasive plants (e.g., Spanish broom, *Spartium junceum* and annual grass species) [9]; these changes can kill newly established Nevin's barberry plants

(See, <https://www.fs.usda.gov/database/feis/plants/shrub/mahnev/all.html> .)

The mitigation says nothing about the seedbank, which is particularly important for a plant with low reproduction. If areas beyond the roots are compacted and/or covered by asphalt, rhizome spreading cannot occur.

The mitigation provides that “Lost special-status plant species shall be replaced consistent with the BRMMP,” which requires replacement with only a 2:1 mitigation ratio. A 2:1 ratio is very low, especially given that all experts strongly prefer retention in-place over replacement due to the high failure rates of endemic species replacement projects. The California Department of Fish and Wildlife typically instructs agencies not to rely on replacement for this reason. Yet, the mitigation does not even require 2:1 replacement because that, too, is qualified with “as feasible given space limitation within the Zoo.” While the mitigation does provide for 3:1 replacement if replacement must occur offsite, that, too, is not a high enough ratio to ensure successful retention of the species.

If the Project will develop areas where Nevin's barberry is found, the Project will have significant and unmitigable impacts on biological resources that have not been adequately disclosed or analyzed.

#### **IV. The Feasibility and Environmental Impacts of Tunnelling to Avoid a “Condor Canyon” Must be Analyzed.**

The June 8, 2023 Zoo Report states that “the Zoo is committed to exploring the viability of a tunnel connection option first and will not employ any blasting in construction, so the outcome may not be a “canyon.” (Zoo Report p. 5, June 8, 2023.) Friends of Griffith Park supports the Zoo’s efforts not to cut a new canyon into the ridgeline and the Park. However, the key word here is “may.” Nothing in the Revised Final EIR or the Mitigation Monitoring Report requires or even mentions a tunnel.

Further, the Revised Final EIR contains no analysis of the feasibility of a tunnel. The City should not approve the Project until it knows whether a tunnel is feasible. The purpose of CEQA is to put a Project’s environmental price tag on display *before* the City votes on approval. If the City does not even yet know whether a tunnel is feasible, Councilmembers cannot know if they are voting for a tunnel to increase Zoo circulation or for the drastic cutting of a new ridgeline into the mountains. The importance of this cannot be understated.

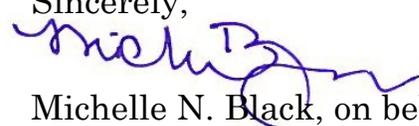
Finally, given that the word “tunnel” does not appear the Final Revised EIR, it is clear that the City has not yet disclosed, analyzed, or mitigated the impacts of the proposed tunnel alternative, as required by CEQA. While Friends of Griffith Park much prefers a tunnel to the blasting of an entirely new canyon, it cannot support an alternative that the City has not committed to, has not yet been determined to be feasible, and has not been analyzed in the EIR.

#### **Conclusion**

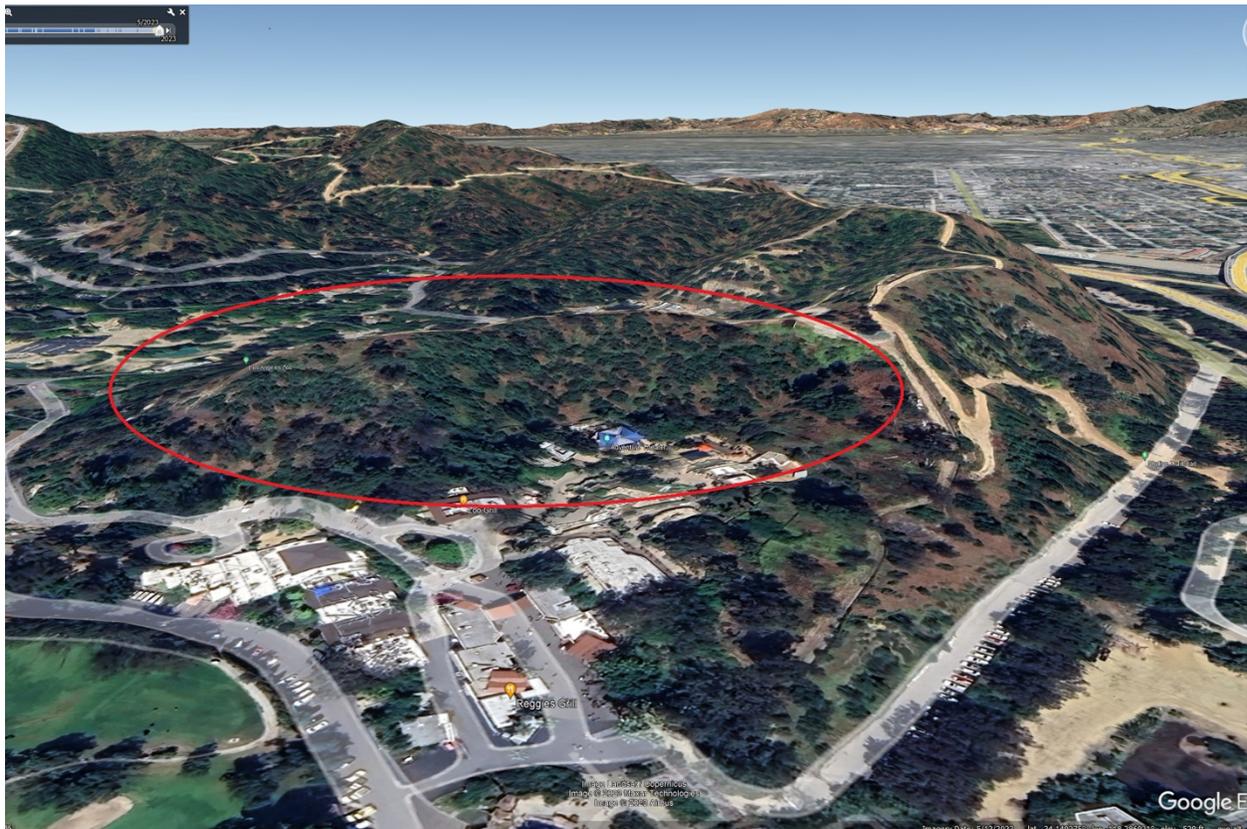
Thank you for your consideration of these comments. Friends of Griffith Park encourages the City to further revise Alternative 1.5 to not excavate the California Planning Area ridgeline, not add any structure on top of the ridgeline, and to reduce the level of development on the identified 13.6 acres of undeveloped open space, as proposed. If the City chooses to go forward with Alternative 1.5, it must first revise the EIR to disclose the Project’s significant impacts on biological resources, including on rare plants, adopt alternatives or mitigation measures that avoid these significant

impacts, and evaluate the feasibility and environmental impact of tunnelling to avoid creating a Condor “Canyon”.

We also hereby join in the comments submitted by Los Angeles Audubon, the Sierra Club Angeles Chapter, Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, California Native Plant Society, Citizens for Los Angeles Wildlife, Loyola Marymount University Center for Urban Resilience and others.

Sincerely,  
  
Michelle N. Black, on behalf of  
Friends of Griffith Park

Attachment: Aerial View of Project Site, Google Earth



## Communication from Public

**Name:** Marisol

**Date Submitted:** 06/26/2023 08:38 PM

**Council File No:** 21-0828

**Comments for Public Posting:** Leave Griffith Park alone! Why to destroy already fragmented habitat for animals and vegetation. Preservation of this beautiful park for future generations is demanded. City Council member Tom Labonge always work hard to protect this park. Please don't destroy GP. P22 Legacy

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Bianca

**Date Submitted:** 06/26/2023 08:49 PM

**Council File No:** 21-0828

**Comments for Public Posting:** PLEASE, I beg of you. On behalf of Friends of Griffith Park, a frequent hiker with deep sentimental ties with those trails, please don't do the zoo expansion. Renovate if you must but with all that is good on this earth, don't do the expansion.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Michelle

**Date Submitted:** 06/26/2023 08:58 PM

**Council File No:** 21-0828

**Comments for Public Posting:** I oppose the proposed expansion of the LA Zoo. It would be of far greater benefit to the public and wild animals to preserve the underlying land for our native wildlife. This could be done in a way to provide great educational value to the public while conserving the homes of our wildlife who are under threat from climate change and habitat loss/fragmentation.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Amy R  
**Date Submitted:** 06/26/2023 09:06 PM  
**Council File No:** 21-0828  
**Comments for Public Posting:** Please do not diminish natural land for our wildlife. This is a short sided plan.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Frank Vermeulen

**Date Submitted:** 06/26/2023 09:29 PM

**Council File No:** 21-0828

**Comments for Public Posting:** With all due respect, a visitor center on that spot should be eliminated because that and the "condor canyon" in fact all 16 acres of developing is desecrating the idea that the man who donated this land had. Keep Griffith Park natural. At least keep the development to a bare minimum. The animals, environment and people will all be better for it. Thank you for your consideration, Franklin Vermeulen

## Communication from Public

**Name:**

**Date Submitted:** 06/26/2023 09:44 PM

**Council File No:** 21-0828

**Comments for Public Posting:** Please don't expand the zoo at the expense of destroying limited natural lands that remain in Southern California and this planet.

## Communication from Public

**Name:**

**Date Submitted:** 06/26/2023 09:44 PM

**Council File No:** 21-0828

**Comments for Public Posting:** I am a resident of the City of Los Angeles. I oppose the L.A. Zoo's Revised Vision Plan. I do not support any alteration of the undeveloped land in the California Planning Area. There should be no disturbance of the land. The habitat of native wildlife species should be protected.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** jay and marilyn marks

**Date Submitted:** 06/26/2023 09:47 PM

**Council File No:** 21-0828

**Comments for Public Posting:** We are writing to oppose the plans for LA Zoo's Revised Vision Plan, Alternative 1.5. As regular, frequent users of Griffith Park, we realize that the plan will do nothing to benefit us, the community that uses Griffith Park, and will destroy a large portion of the park, reducing the natural flora, fauna, and topography. This park was meant to provide an undeveloped, native environment in the middle of a huge city. Exceptions already have been made for community sports, e.g., golf, tennis, etc. , the Zoo, Autry museum, Greek theater and observatory, all of which benefit the community. The Plan also will not benefit the city financially. In fact, it will utilize financial support that should be used elsewhere in the park. We strongly recommend that this Plan be voted down. The Park was not meant to be a public event space.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Max Rosenkrantz

**Date Submitted:** 06/25/2023 03:14 PM

**Council File No:** 21-0828

**Comments for Public Posting:** Stop destroying our wildlife and woodlands! Come up with a better solution. I support the Environmentally Superior Alternative 1 in the Zoo Vision Plan, which preserves 23 acres of native woodlands.

## Communication from Public

**Name:**

**Date Submitted:** 06/25/2023 03:35 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:** Gina Masequesmay

**Date Submitted:** 06/26/2023 08:37 AM

**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:** Monica Wynveldt

**Date Submitted:** 06/26/2023 08:42 AM

**Council File No:** 21-0828

**Comments for Public Posting:** Hello, I am a local resident and I oppose this current LA Zoo expansion proposal for the following reasons: A) 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. B) 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. C) 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. Thank you, Monica Wynveldt

## Communication from Public

**Name:**

**Date Submitted:** 06/26/2023 08:57 AM

**Council File No:** 21-0828

**Comments for Public Posting:** I am against the LA Zoo expanding into the undeveloped native habitat of the California Planning Area. This will cause unneeded destruction and harm. 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:** Marian Dodge  
**Date Submitted:** 06/26/2023 09:07 AM  
**Council File No:** 21-0828  
**Comments for Public Posting:** LA Zoo Vision Plan - Support if amended to eliminate Condor Canyon and California Visitor Center.

P.O. Box 27404  
Los Angeles, CA 90027  
[www.hillsidefederation.org](http://www.hillsidefederation.org)



PRESIDENT  
Charley Mims  
CHAIR  
Marian Dodge  
VICE PRESIDENTS  
Mark Stratton  
Jamie Hall  
SECRETARY  
Robin Greenberg  
TREASURER  
Don Andres

Neighborhoods and Community Enrichment Committee

via email

June 25, 2023

Argyle Civic Assn.  
Beachwood Canyon NA  
Bel-Air Assn.  
Bel-Air Hills Assn.  
Bel Air Knolls Property Owners  
Bel Air Skycrest Property Owners  
Benedict Canyon Association  
Brentwood Hills Homeowners  
Brentwood Residents Coalition  
Cahuenga Pass Property Owners  
Canyon Back Alliance  
Crests Neighborhood Assn.  
Dixie Canyon Assn.  
Doheny-Sunset Plaza NA  
Franklin/Hollywood West Res.  
Franklin Hills Residents Assn.  
Friends of Walnut Canyon  
Highlands Owners Assn.  
Hollywood Dell Civic Assn.  
Hollywood Heights Assn.  
Hollywoodland HOA  
Holmby Hills Homeowners Assn.  
Kagel Canyon Civic Assn.  
Lake Hollywood HOA  
Laurel Canyon Assn.  
LFIA (Los Feliz)  
Mountaingate  
Mt. Olympus Property Owners  
Mt. Washington Homeowners All.  
Nichols Canyon NA  
Oak Forest Canyon HOA  
Oaks Homeowners Assn.  
Outpost Estates HOA  
Pacific Palisades Res. Assn.  
Residents of Beverly Glen  
Save Coldwater Canyon!  
Save Our Canyon  
Shadow Hills POA  
Sherman Oaks HOA  
Silver Lake Heritage Trust  
Studio City Residents Assn.  
Sunset Hills HOA  
Sunshine Hills Residents Assn.  
Tarzana POA  
Upper Mandeville Canyon Assn.  
Upper Nichols Canyon NA  
Whitley Heights Civic Assn.

**Re: LA Zoo Vision Plan FREIR CF 21-082**

Honorable Councilmembers Hernandez, Lee, and Hutt:

The Hillside Federation, founded in 1952 and representing 47 resident and homeowner associations spanning the Santa Monica Mountains, reviewed the Los Angeles Zoo's Vision Plan FREIR of Alternative 1.5 released in May 2023 at its June 20, 2023 meeting. While Alternative 1.5 is a vast improvement over the initial Vision Plan, the Federation still opposes Condor Canyon and the California Visitor Center.

The Federation is pleased that the Zoo has:

- eliminated the removal of 201 protected trees in the Africa Area
- eliminated the aerial tram to the Africa Area
- eliminated the multi-story parking structure
- eliminated the vineyard in the California Area
- created a Peak Visitation Management Program

While we were glad to see the above changes, we still cannot support the Vision Plan Alternative 1.5 in its current form. We are particularly disappointed that one of the most destructive concepts of the entire plan, Condor Canyon, was not eliminated. Excavating or blasting a 60-foot deep gouge in the hill literally takes a huge bite out of the natural hillside. This gaping hole will have both aesthetic and environmental impacts as the gouge will be readily visible from both the I-5 and the 134, as well as to residents in Atwater Village and Glendale.

The Zoo claims that the construction of Condor Canyon is necessary to provide ADA access to the California Area. This claim is easily disproved by the simple fact that there is already a Zoo Safari Shuttle available for that purpose. ADA access is merely an excuse dredged up by the consultant to justify an entirely unnecessary feature whose exorbitant cost will have to be paid for by taxpayers and donors.

To add insult to injury, the construction of the canyon will have a major traffic impact, requiring dump trucks to make approximately 6,000 trips to haul out the anticipated 74,000 cubic yards of rock and dirt. And another 6,000 truck trips to return empty to pick up another load. Along with the traffic impacts, there will be air pollution generated by exhaust from the trucks and further pollution generated by all the dirt that will be raised. A triple whammy!

The Zoo now claims that the proposed climbing wall will offer children an experience similar to what a biologist would have climbing up to check on a condor nest. But there are other far less impactful and far more economical ways to provide that climbing experience without destroying the natural terrain. The Department of Recreation and Parks owns several tip-up climbing walls that they trailer to various parks which would fill the bill nicely.

The Hillside Federation also objects strongly to the destruction of real California native habitat in order to create a simulated California *experience* in the form of the California Visitor Center. We are grateful that the Zoo is committing to using native plants, but does the Zoo really think it can do better than Mother Nature? Construction of the Visitor Center will destroy 16 acres of native habitat, and its location on a prominent ridgeline will forever destroy the topography of Griffith Park. And for what? What is the point of this wanton and completely unnecessary destruction of California's true native habitat and how is it relevant to the Zoo's mission?

According to its mission statement, everything the Zoo does, "from the daily care of animals to educating and inspiring communities to leading species-saving efforts in far-off lands...has a single unifying goal: to help create a better future for wildlife." A noble goal indeed and one that we can support. But that goal seems to be forgotten here, and, in fact, very little space will actually be used for animal care.

Bottom line, the Federation is deeply dismayed to find that both Condor Corridor and the California Visitor Center are still in the revised and recirculated plan. And as if that weren't bad enough, Alternative 1.5 proposes adding *yet another event rental space*, the Entry Garden and Park, that did not exist in the original Vision Plan!

The Zoo's mission statement says nothing about providing event rental space or becoming another amusement park. Let's keep the Zoo a zoo. The Zoo can achieve its main goals under Alternative 1.5 without the development of the California Area and Condor Corridor. There is plenty of room within its existing developed footprint to upgrade animal welfare and care and to build all the proposed sustainability features. It can be a world-class zoo, dedicated, as zoos of the future must be, to research, to education and to the conservation of endangered animals from around the globe—and, of equal importance, the ones that we are so fortunate to have right here in our beautiful Santa Monica Mountains back yard. It can, in short, be a zoo and not an amusement park, a truly *great* zoo that makes appropriate use of its very special location. And it can accomplish all of these goals for a much smaller price tag than the \$650 million for the first three phases of its Vision Plan.

The Hillside Federation therefore recommends that the Los Angeles Zoo adopt a modified Alternative 1.5, without the development of the California Area or Condor Corridor, as its Vision Plan.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Charley Mims". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Charley Mims

cc: CM Nithya Raman

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Sierra Club Angeles Chapter  
**Date Submitted:** 06/26/2023 09:21 AM  
**Council File No:** 21-0828  
**Comments for Public Posting:** The Sierra Club Angeles Chapter strongly opposes the excavation of Condor Canyon and the destruction of 12+ acres of chaparral habitat in the California Planning Area. Attached, please find the petition we circulated asking for alternative 1. Sincerely, David Eisenberg, Chair, Verdugo Hills Group,, Sierra Club Angeles Chapter Emmy Goldknopf, Chair, Griffith Park Section, Sierra Club Angeles Chapter Barbara Hensleigh, Chair, Central Group, Sierra Club Angeles Chapter



# SIERRA CLUB

## ANGELES CHAPTER

### Petition to Choose the Environmentally Superior Alternative 1 for the LA Zoo Vision Plan

The proposal for the zoo to become more like an amusement park — destroying acres of vegetation and mature native trees that are home to many bobcats, coyotes, bats, hawks and owls in the process — is wrong.

- Don't destroy 23 acres of native habitat, including 227 City-protected trees.
- The full project is counter to City priorities, including the Biodiversity Report and the LA Sustainability Plan.
- The LA Zoo will still benefit from zoo animal care improvements and many visitor amenities if Alternative 1 is implemented.

Full Name	Zip	Personal message
Diego Tamayo	91765	
Barbara Hensleigh	90027	Please leave as much open space and native plants as possible. We don't need grape vines instead of native plants. We need habitat for the animals not on the zoo.
Carol Clements	37221	
Brian Boyce	91208	
Hank Schlinger	91201	As Glendale residents who regularly attend the Zoo and who also appreciate the natural beauty of Griffith Park we urge the Zoom to reconsider this plan and to consider "the environmentally superior" alternative.
Amie Serio	91506	Do not destroy Griffith Park. Period.
Julie Hoppe	91505	
Gloria Kevorkian	91208	
Callie Miller	91501	
Susan Collins	91206	The LA Zoo is a local treasure but so are the undeveloped areas of Griffith Park. We need urban zones that include large undeveloped acreage. We need those trees and plants and habitats for wildlife of all types -- mammals birds insects reptiles.... Developing more of the park simply to provide entertainment that attracts people is a poor use of a precious and rare resource. I love Griffith park. Please don't ruin it.
Elizabeth Chang	90401	This is awful! We need to save the trees and native wildlands. Bulldozing trees and ruining environmental habitat is not the right direction for LA to go.
Rosanne Freed	91505	The 23 acres contain 227 protected trees listed under L.A. City's Protected Tree Ordinance. These trees are home to every species of hawk and owl in L.A. County as well as to other species of special concern such as the Southern California legless lizard.
Jamie Angell	90041	
Ashley Rounsaville	93003	Zoos are immoral to begin with. Let's not destroy nature to further the interests of greedy capitalists that want to exploit animals for profit.
Martha Ronk	90041	It is crucial to save native woodlands especially in Los Angeles but everywhere we can. I don't see the need for so large an expansion of the Zoo although we love the Zoo.
Richard Friese	91206	We hike here 6-8 X per year. DO NOT change anything ....

Full Name	Zip	Personal message
Ernie Demis	91208	I'm amazed any Los Angeles City County or State official would sign off on such a destructive plan
Monica Campagna	91201	Hello LA City Council I live just across the LA River from the LA Zoo and have a very strong appreciation for the native CA nature that is a part of the ZOO experience the size of the zoo being manageable and respectful of the surrounding park and I greatly value the natural flora and fauna of Griffith Park. I spent many years exploring the zoo when my child was smaller and it was the perfect size for an all day adventure. I support the environmentally superior alternative 1 being proposed - and do not believe our city needs a zoo with a vineyard rock climbing wall drilled to bedrock or a two story parking garage in Griffith Park amongst other proposed amenities. This project seems to be seeking a Disneyland type experience geared towards tourists. What about us locals? The park and surrounding area will be massively overtaxed by that much vehicle traffic and the idea of cutting down natural habitat to plant a vineyard etc. makes my head spin. Please go with Alternative 1.
Diana Tanda	91205	Griffith Park should be left alone!!! Los Angeles does not need another tourist destination. There are plenty of places for people to climb and dine all over Los Angeles we don't need to destroy habitat to create what is not necessary. Please don't destroy the home to so many animals and beautiful life giving trees!
Karl Steudel	91350	I Love the Zoo. But I think the expansion might be too much of a compromise especially since the park's 23 acres is part of a unique haven in Los Angeles.
Sandra Chrstopher	91505	
Carrie Schiers	91207	
Norma Hunt-Allen	90065	Do not destroy our urban wilderness and native chapparel lands. We do not have enough open space in Los Angeles as it is. We need to save the environment by maintaining the trees. It's not right to cut down native trees and destroy habitat. We do not need any more amusement venues in Griffith Park.
Annbernice Kalec	91506	
Kathy Munro	91202	I jog and hike in this park almost every day and every day I marvel at the majesty and beauty that is Griffith Park. I cannot believe this insidious money grabbing idea is even a consideration?! Really!?
Jacob Lang	90041	
Mary Hetherington	90065	I find it ironic that at the Glasgow climate change summit these last weeks nations are agreeing to stop deforestation and here is this Zoo plan to cut down local native forests. Especially coming from an entity that should be about preservation certainly of animals in particular endangered but also the local flora and fauna. Please vote against this plan.
Robert Kretz	91506	While the Zoo wants to expand services for tourists tourists by definition attend once and then leave! Citizens of Los Angeles use the zoo and the park repeatedly so the needs of Los Angeles Citizens should take priority for all public spaces. The proposed zoo changes would fundamentally change the Angeleno's experience of what is now a touch of the wild and peace and into a tourist attraction that jars the senses and cheapens the Park.
Sylvia Halasz	94043	I love Griffith Park.
Susan Figueroa	91505	

Full Name	Zip	Personal message
Yael Pardess	90065	For heavens sake can this money be used to other more pressing targets such as homelessness and housing and street maintenance??? Why destroy a natural habitat if it is not to give animals more natural habitat? I oppose this expansion strongly
Robin Rogosin	91203	This is my neighborhood. I go on native plant walks in this area. That these natural treasures (trees shrubs wildlife) would be taken away is unimaginable.
Dana Brand	91501	As a member of LA Zoo I believe that their priority should be the conservation and well-being of the native habitat surrounding the zoo just as much as it is a priority to ensure the well-being of the captive animals in their care. While a zoo is certainly a place for humans to be near wildlife and learn more about the world we live in I don't believe it is even appropriate to try turn a zoo into an entertainment center for humans. Especially not to the detriment of the wild habitat around it. Native plants and animals are scarce in Los Angeles. It would be a shame if an institution dedicated to conservation and educating people about the need to respect nature was responsible for destroying such a significant portion of what nature is left in this city.
GINNEH LEWIS	91506	I live in this area and the surrounding habitat around Griffith Park is already overdeveloped the coyotes mountain lions and other creatures already struggling for space.
Selina Herman	91505	My family and I have been a zoo member since moving to LA in 2017. It's more important to me that we preserve the native California land than to expand to LA zoo. It's against the goals of LA zoo as a conservation organization and I strongly oppose converting any native landscape for entertainment.
Louise Paziak	91506	
Donielle Lemone	91206	I spend lots of time at Griffith Park I also enjoy taking my kid to the zoo. There has to be a way to give the zoo what they need without destroying so much nature and habitat
Joseph Braus	91501	
Gina Roth	91030	We need places that are not overbuilt and provide access to nature and quiet. We don't need a noisy development so people can ruin nature to make money. GPark is a gem among our very urban environment.
Jan Leath	91205	
Jean Sinclair	30014	We do not need more "TOYS" for Angelinos ! We need that acreage to remain natural. This is what Science Keeps telling us!!!! NO to this project!!
Raymond Kowal	90041	
Karen Gerst	91505	I hike in the park regularly. I've seen deer and coyotes and find tranquility and peace beneath the many trees. Please don't let the zoo take valuable parkland away from L.A. residents. We need Griffith Park as a refuge from the craziness of urban life. The zoo is clearly trying to build itself up to compete with San Diego's zoo and attract more tourists. But there are already plenty of attractions for tourists here. Turning the zoo into another Disneyland or Universal Studios to get tourist dollars at the expense of local Angelinos is outrageous. I'm all for the zoo improving its habitats for zoo animals but not for creating gimmicky amusements and adding yet another restaurant when L.A. has so many. This land grab by the zoo is especially concerning given that we are facing rising temperatures fires and drought conditions. It's critical that we protect what little native habitat we have.
Morgan goodwin	91204	
Iris Edinger	91367	

<b>Full Name</b>	<b>Zip</b>	<b>Personal message</b>
MELANIE MCARTOR	90065	Retaining wild lands of native plants and habitats is critical for our community of people and animals and for the preservation of our environment. These things are not replaceable and must be preserved for future generations.
Adam hutsell	91505	The zoo draws far less visitors than the park itself when the nature is gone it cannot return
Rick Hyman	91505	Griffith Park is one of the few natural areas left in Los Angeles. As a nearby resident I often use facilities in the park including golf biking hiking. I believe the natural areas proposed to be bulldozed should be preserved as is or with very little disturbance to the larger permanent wooded areas. I think a modern zoological project like the LA Zoo should have a better appreciation for the ecologically negative statement that would be made by clear cutting any of the remaining natural areas adjacent to the current zoo footprint to create "theme park-like amenities." The LA Zoo will never be nor should it strive to be anything like Disneyland Universal Studios or any other similar venue. LA Zoo should concentrate on being a great zoo full stop. My support for the Zoo's expansion will only come with a plan that works by incorporating as much of the existing landscape as possible. It should be almost invisible when viewed from a distance.
Diane Trautman	91350	
Lori Pond	90041	Please spare one of our few remaining open spaces for the enjoyment of generations to come unlike some theme park-like amenities which will grow old in no time.
Sean Serio	91506	We need more green space. We don't need a bigger zoo!
Elizabeth Swain	90041	
Chris Eaton	90041	LA Zoo needs to follow their tradition of educating people about the needs of animals and the threats which they are under. Habitat loss is probably the greatest threat to most species now in danger. Taking away the natural animal habitat of your wild neighbors for financial reasons sets a very sad example. We Angelenos need to have a place to commune with the other species of our world and the zoo helps us do that quite well for a price. Griffith Park provides us with the very essential opportunity to commune with nature and our local fauna and this is available to all who come! Our taxes already pay for it and you should not take that away from anyone. Your improved profits were not Mr. Griffith intended when he donated the land for this great Municipal Park!
Hannah Maximova	91202	
Annette Kargodorian		
Rochelle Evans	93561	we need to protect open spaces . the traffic in the park is insane as it is we do not need a amusement park in a green oasis in the middle of a increasing urban environment
Marirose Occhiogrosso	91505	We cannot contribute to global warming by erecting amusement areas in native lands. This is 1) not amusing 2) not necessary 3) poor planning for all of our futures.
Guillermo Salinas	92821	
Suzanne Lane	91355	
Tiffany Buan	91206	I'd like to have my future kids and their future kids to experience the beauty of nature and the animals that live in it. There will be nothing left if we keep disrupting nature and those that live in it. Please don't allow this.

<b>Full Name</b>	<b>Zip</b>	<b>Personal message</b>
Joanne Hedge	91201	This proposed amusement-park type expansion of the historic Zoo only steps from our Glendale's Rancho neighborhood with views of Griffith Park and trails and open space enjoyed for its rugged & chaparral landscape should not accommodate such a conversion that runs counter to habitat conservation tree preservation in a warming climate-challenged region reduction in vehicle traffic on already overused park roads and adjacent freeways & residential streets and violates the original Griffith family mission for Griffith Park's purpose and character!
Joanna Hess	91208	
W. G.	91209	To destroy so much native habitat is beyond criminal behavior. You would be breaking your own law that protects native trees ignoring federally endangered plant designations and causing countless animal deaths. Do not obliterate so much of the precious little open wild space there is remaining. If you approve this "amusement park" plan you are obviously working with developers for your own financial gain.
Regalado Geoff	91503	
Alastair Stokes	90042	
Pam Clark	91203	Land should be preserved for wildlife and for future generations to enjoy not built with amusement park rides. Please keep this land as nature built it and do not destroy it for future revenues. Thank you. Pam Clark
Garen Yegparian	91502	
Jennifer Goss	91202	The zoo is a zoo not an amusement park. Destroying wild habitat is not a good trade-off for creating a "tourist destination" around the zoo.
Denise VanZago	91506	Griffith Park is an iconic city refuge "for people as well as fauna and flora. There is no need for the consumerism propelling this extremely harmful project.
Alicia Gifford	91501	Don't replace the irreplaceable with a lot of man-made BS that focuses on crowds and money. Our trees are the real treasure here. We don't need more cars and commerce in this area (where I've lived for decades). Don't pave paradise. Don't put up a parking lot.
Birgitta Martinez	90041	
Martha Ramos	91206	We need more trees not less. We have enough amusement parks. We need more nature to destroy it would be a disaster.
Page Gomez	91206	I love both Griffith Park and the LA Zoo but I do not want the LA zoo to change anything about the beautiful park that surrounds it.
Susan Stone	91208	
Rosalina Hendricks	91326	The eco system is extremely important to wild life and human existence. Please please do not disrupt nature for man kind's sake.
V And B Jones	90510	Nature is needed not theme-parks.
Karen Fond	91505	In the midst of climate change you want to cut down trees destroy underbrush eliminate wildlife habitat all for a tourist attraction for 2 weeks of Olympic visitors? NOPE!!
Mona Field	90041	I grew up here in LA going to the zoo. I often hike in the Griffith Park area near the carousel in the Auld zoo. Please please do not turn our park into some kind of Disneyland. It is so inappropriate.
Deborah King	91204	Please don't destroy yet another piece of native woodlands that have been providing homes for birds natural wild mammals insects etc. for millennium. find another place like a parking lot to create your amusement park. We the citizens of Los Angeles need a bit of wilderness in our city. The Zoo should be financially supported by the City and the docents who give so generously of their time along with the hard working staff

Full Name	Zip	Personal message
		should be treasured. Stop spending money we don't have on a BAD IDEA Choose Alternative 1
Juliane Crump	91505	Making the zoo financially sustainable need not make it environmentally unsustainable. I have been going to the LA Zoo for over 40 years and we don't need another amusement park. We need a place where nature-starved LA kids can get in touch with their ecosystem and the creatures we share this Earth with. We are at a critical moment in our species' development. We make smart decisions together or we die.
Cheryl Frick	90245	Every acre of Griffith Park is a gem to our community. please do not destroy any of it!
Jeanne Watnick	91208	
Bert & Nancy Kawahara	90275	
Mary Martinez	91340	With the realities of climate change charging towards our immediate reality it is more important than ever that we preserve our natural spaces lands and habitats for entire eco-systems and species. Any additional impacts that we make locally will prove devastating for our futures. Please save our wildlife plants and the limited space that we have in Griffith park now. We do not need a New York style Central Park. We need to put the greater good of the environment first.
Lena Ng	90278	This matters to me because we are already losing a lot of green space that our environment needs. Look at whst has already occurred due to climate change.
Maryfrances Gill	91201	The native plants are invaluable to our world. We must protect it in every way possible. I have asthma. I know that killing the native plants and animals kills us as well. Save them. Save us.
Jimmy Nghe	90041	I live near Griffith Park and visit there frequently. It is one of the most beautiful and natural places in the city. Please do not destroy it by making it into an amusement park. I support the Environmentally Superior Alternative 1 for the LA Zoo Vision Plan.
Bridget McCarthy	90065	Please do not further develop our beautiful Griffith Park and surrounding areas. We go there almost weekly to enjoy the outdoors and walk our dog. We don't care one bit about rock climbing or a vineyard. To get ready for 2028 and impress tourists use available funds to house the homeless and clean up the trash and squalor around this city. Schedule special events at the Zoo Autry Greek Theatre and Observatory. We already have plenty of incredible tourist spots in this city. Finally we need all our trees to fight global warming and keep our air clean!
karen barnett	90039	Surrounding communities will also benefit from less expansion as in Alternative 1. The Zoo's vision plan does little to address the lack of access to the Zoo which is located in the middle of Griffith Park. Increased attendance without mitigating traffic to and within the park is a public safety issue for all Griffith Park and Zoo visitors especially those on foot or bike.
Linda Scher-Padilla	90065	Keep as much as possible natural.
David Scher	93001	We must leave some green in this fair metropolis of ours for future generations and the environmental impact of displacing what wildlife we still have... let's use our hearts and keep those acres green! Best David Scher
Crystal Del Gatto	90065	
Cynthia Lowery	90065	We do not another theme park! The zoo's focus needs to remain on the health and welfare of the animals.
Brian Campbell	91206	I believe that Griffith Park is the best part of Los Angeles. It should be protected!

<b>Full Name</b>	<b>Zip</b>	<b>Personal message</b>
Lisa Morris	91214	I've always remarked how I actually prefer LA Zoo over the more famous San Diego Zoo. Why? All the gardens foliage and trails. So to do anything that would take out native woodlands sure doesn't make sense and is very worrisome at the thought. Please work with it and don't remove it.
Wanda Penner	91507	animals first including those in the walls and those outside the walls.
Steve Colton	91206	What is NOT needed is another amusement type funzone for LA residents. I'm a lifelong LA'er 76 and counting and father of three. What is needed is riparian wilderness and a greater appreciation of that. Please consider alternatives that respect rather than destroy.
J. D. Lombardi	91606	
Ann Jeanette Becker	90065	This matters because less development is better for the animals and us people!
David Gish	91784	It is vitally important that what little is left of natural environment in Los Angeles not be destroyed by development. We do not want another theme park! What a disgusting idea!
Scott Peer	91205	Don't bulldoze Griffith Park!
Carrie Cahill	90275	
emelyn d	90042	
Leah Garland	90049	
Rebecca Allen	91505	We love the LA Zoo but priority must be given to the trees!
Karen Lau	91506	Griffith Park is the ONLY public green space in LA CITY. Though my family and I enjoy the zoo I'd much rather see more greenspaces in LA and preserve and conserve what we already have which is scarce enough as it is. Open the golf courses to make them truly public parks and spaces.
David Barrington	90065	The most beautiful zoos in the world are ones that go out of the way to incorporate and build around the local natural habitat. It seems like a bad start and hypocritical to destroy the home of animals to build cages to house different animals while pretending to care about the planet.
Alene Gardner	90250	
Jeff Borkin	91505	
Karen Hansen	91504	Please preserve the natural state of the park! There's so little left for our children and their children.
Yifan Z	91504	On LA zoo website it says "As a conservation organization our goal is to shape a better future for wildlife humans and our shared world." Removing trees turn wild life's natural home to amusement park is against this goal! We need trees to provide oxygen. We need wild life stay in their natural habitat to maintain biodiversity.
Thea Wang	91208	I grew up in LA and I have been attending the Los Angeles Zoo my whole life. It is a very important place for me. Probably because of my experiences at the LA zoo visiting and at zoo camp etc I have developed a overwhelming love of wildlife and nature. So much so that I became a biologist. It is because of this I urge the zoo and the city of Los Angeles to choose Alternative 1. This is because destroying so much native habitat and Griffith park is not the way to attract more people to the zoo. It is the antithesis to conservation and promoting saving species from extinction. There are tons of amusement parks in and around LA. The zoo should be a place that values wildlife and natural habitats and encourages conservation of local LA species! The zoo will never be able to compete with amusement parks/ pure tourist traps etc. but i can

Full Name	Zip	Personal message
		create a unique and special place for people to come and value nature. Please choose the environmentally superior alternative. 1.
Jamie Lawrence	91401	The LA ZOO won't release Billy the elephant over 30 years who is sick and in confinement despite pleas from around the globe for years. This is not an organization who cares for wildlife conservation or wild places and they should not be involved in doing anything with Griffith Park.
Mark Aurigemma	90065	
William Lavoie	90277	
Donna Pioli	91510	
Mary Steffens	90026	At a time when established trees and bushes and their dependent wildlife are in danger everywhere from the scourge of "development" this is a very bad idea.
Kara Ford-Martinez	91042	I want my son to grow up in a city that has environmentally sound and respectful values as we try so hard to teach him an appreciation and respect for nature. We love the zoo and Griffith Park. Destroying 227 trees and native habitat... are you nuts????!!
Nam Pho-Berg	91505	
Louise Post	90065	The natural habitat of local animals has already been reduced immeasurably due to urban sprawl. The trees of Griffith Park are jewels on our precious and limited rural landscape amidst our sprawling concrete city. Please adopt these measures to preserve and protect what is a sacred home to our animals and a sacred space to all of us. Please! Do not destroy the trees in favor of tourist attractions. Thank you for seriously considering this very serious matter.
Harmony Gates	92865	Maintain trees and forest
Erin Mahan	91101	
Liz Borkin	91505	Preserve the green space and trees on Griffith Park! They are more valuable than the zoo!
Sherri Mahan	95123	There is already too little open space in Los Angeles. We need to protect what we have.
Sandra Odor	91506	We need more open spaces not more amusement parks. A zoo should be just that.
Gina Scarnati	90041	I believe this should be a no-brainer. L.A.'s air pollution and heat are health hazards. The last thing we should be doing is cutting down established woodlands. Please support Alternative 1.
Liliana Munoz	91505	
Sheila Steinberg	95722	Do what's right for our lands and animals not what's good for greed and destruction.
Francine Yang	90291	
Cristina Langley	91020	
Guillermo Gomez	91206	
Jenna Blaustein	90065	Please help preserve our green spaces in los Angeles.
Carol Henning	90004	My sister works as a docent at L.A. Zoo. She is appalled by the Zoo's prioritizing money-making amusement-park attractions over public education and animal welfare. So am I. Protecting habitat is more important than trying to recreate Disneyland. The Zoo's Vision Plan is a slap in the face of the 30x30 campaign. Does exploitation always have to trump preservation?
Dennis Bosch	90501	Please no theme parks in Griffith Park. Mr. Griffith would roll over in his grave if a theme park is installed. Southern California has enough theme parks.
Cyndi Otteson	90041	As a lifelong Angeleno and visitor to Griffith Park I'd like to see it kept undisturbed to protect and preserve as much wildlife and bio diversity as possible. The draw is the

Full Name	Zip	Personal message
		experience of nature. Simply because it's not generating revenue does not mean it isn't value. Griffith Park like Central Park is for NYC is a point of pride for our city. To really appreciate these special animals who live in the park the public should be able to see them in person and learn about them. The L.A. Zoo doesn't need to become another Disneyland. Our animals their stories and our efforts to conserve these species and many more should come first. We should support programs that preserve biodiversity and conserve natural habitat. It is distressing to note that only 35 percent of redevelopment in the new plan is devoted to caring for animals.
Peter Larsen	91342	I have always liked walking in that area and just enjoying the woody atmosphere and the sounds of wildlife being secret. Such places easy to get to and relatively "unspoiled " are becoming more rare in Los Angeles.
Emma Castro	90065	
Bonnie Strand	91202	I live within 5 minutes of Griffith Park. I hike there almost every week. The park is an island of natural areas surrounded by the City of Los Angeles Burbank Glendale etc. and major freeways. Please don't remove any more eucalyptus trees and other trees and shrubbery from this beautiful place. Choose Alternative 1 for the LA Zoo Vision Plan.
Kelli Spangenthal	92692	
Jason Wise	90026	
Conor Soraghan	92107	I do NOT believe this - you're a Zoo for heck's sake y'know protect and preserve!! Do NOT destroy native woodland PROTECT it!!!
Laura Joseph	91107	It would be so sad to destroy this beautiful area when we have so few left near the city.
Diane Zaepfel	91106	
Susan Flaming	91105	The L.A. Zoo wants to expand its footprint at a cost of \$650 million in Griffith Park. Unfortunately much of its Vision Plan has less to do with its first-rate docent training program its educational outreach to the public its species survival breeding program and more to do with making money and as a world-class destination for the tourists expected to mob Los Angeles for the 2028 Summer Olympics. Even though the Zoo's Vision Plan praises its "naturally beautiful site" (Griffith Park) it is planning to destroy 23 acres of native woodlands which the Vision Plan refers to as "underutilized and underdeveloped." The native woodlands to be put to more lucrative use are home to 120 coast live oaks 60 toyons 22 California black walnut trees and stands of federally and state-listed endangered shrubs. The 23 acres contain 227 protected trees listed under L.A. City's Protected Tree Ordinance. These woodlands also support several thousand daytime hikers's good health every week!
Hilliard Penfold	91042	
George Rossman	91105	
Katherine Pease	90404	Open space and native habitat is so rare in LA - we must protect what remains and not be short-sighted in planning for a Los Angeles that is biodiverse and embraces resiliency for all.
Sheryl Sacchitelli	91506	No!!!! Los Angeles has enough zoo. It has enough entertainment. It has enough retail tourists and lodging. Los Angeles does NOT have enough trees. Enough Sanctuary space. Enough clean air. Ditch this plan. Throw it out now. I'm not a crazy environmentalist. I'm a business person and I'm a mother and I'm someone who cares very much about the future of L.A. and the world. This is not the right move. Thank you for reading and doing the right thing.

<b>Full Name</b>	<b>Zip</b>	<b>Personal message</b>
Kiersten Cluster	90025	
Deborah Brown	90025	Our woodlands are homes to creatures who cannot relocate well how can a zoo which is committed to the health and safety of animals destroy habitat? It also hinders our biodiversity
Sarah Starr	90026	We need our zoo to exist now to save animals and preserve the natural environment in which they live. It makes zero sense to cut down the trees and ruin wilderness space for the amusement of a few tourists. People already have plenty of space. If the zoo needs more they can take the parking lot and make people come by bus or put in a train station. Exotic animals are not the only ones who need wilderness space. World Class now means saving the planet one small space at a time. Please leave well enough alone. Let's celebrate what they didn't do.
Eileen Burton	91107	It is unconscionable to me that the same zoo organization which contributed so strongly to important projects such as helping to save California Condors would now be destroying natural habitat on a very flimsy premise. Los Angeles has plenty of developed land. What we do not have is an overabundance of natural undeveloped park land. Please consider Alternative 1 for the LA Zoo Vision Plan.
Kathy Cullen	95465	
Robin Newquist	91105	
Jennifer Lim	91101	Destroying acres of natural habitat and beautiful hiking trails that the public currently enjoy for free in the middle of the city will only increase traffic congestion destroy the natural beauty and biodiversity of Griffith Park. The LA Zoo Vision Plan which places commercial exploitation of Griffith Park's natural beauty for the sake of collecting tourist revenue with a poor imitation of Disneyland or the San Diego Zoo Safari is misguided and will not benefit the residents and workforce of Los Angeles County. Right now Griffith Park presents the ideal opportunity for hosting guided youth projects events for local families mental health support for our laborers and workforce and numerous other public benefit education and health programs. Given the high rate of youth suicides and the transmission risks imposed by COVID19 on indoor events we should preserve Griffith Park as a valuable resource and venue for free public enjoyment and natural heritage.
Leah Gieson	95602	
Jeffrey Bey	90068	The compression of our urban space and its increase in density is relentless and the thought of eliminating 23 acres of woodlands to create retail adjuncts to a penitentiary for animals is ridiculous and harmful to our native fauna and flora. There are already plenty of options for tourists please don't scar the little bit of native woodlands left for them and the locals.
Andrea Silberman	91423	
Mathieu Bonin	90011	
Mia Porter	90039	I live near Griffith Park and our family has taken countless hikes over the years. We also used to visit the LA Zoo when they were younger. While I appreciate the zoo I do not believe it is a good idea to cut 23 acres of forestry down to make the zoo a more enticing tourist attraction. We are facing a looming dire climate crisis. It is already here - and it becomes more evident with each passing year. We need to protect our trees which absorb CO2 and help counter fossil fuel gas emissions. In addition we need to be responsible co-inhabitants of other species that call Griffith Park home. Please do NOT approve expanding the zoo and cutting down existing trees. We only have one planet and we must protect it for future generations.

<b>Full Name</b>	<b>Zip</b>	<b>Personal message</b>
Richard Pass	91506	This particular wildland is unique in the midst of a growing expanding city. It should be left alone. The LA zoo must find another way to develop its expansion. Perhaps expansion of the zoo isn't that necessary after all?
Supun Edirisinghe	90746	
Nancy Pina	91205	We don't need another amusement park and more traffic congestion.
Jill Waters	91011	
Kristen Fewel	92886	Destroying trees and woodlands is not environmentally responsible. Please support the environment over business.
Brenda Rodriguez	91345	
Joel Piedt	91016	
Daniel Fresquez	91502	Have you hiked in Griffith park? Did you know that you CAN HIKE in the park?? It's FANTASTIC! And so close to our urban centers! This natural wild space is a CROWN JEWEL in our city. I urge you to CHOOSE THE ENVIRONMENTALLY SUPERIOR ALTERNATIVE
Bill Briceno	90029	
Delphine Trowbridge	90027	Griffith Park is unique with wild animals birds bats and native plants. Every time new venues are added the uniqueness is diminished until eventually it will be another Universal Studios or Central Park. We need to preserve and protect our wonderful park.
Jennifer Lim	91101	The plan to transform the LA Zoo into a hyped up amusement park will not serve the community values of youth education or public health. The destruction of a unique natural heritage for a commercialized venue with dubious educational or cultural value is worrisome. Six Flags and similar amusement parks are not known to improve mental health or teach life or leadership skills to young people. Mindless entertainment will not help them secure a first-class Education. Why destroy our priceless beautiful park and natural habitat of native species in order to raise the ticket price of the LA Zoo from \$20 to \$68? It is not worth it by the price we pay in increased pollution and traffic congestion. There are better ways to raise money such as by building a Griffith Park Lodge that offers overnight hospitality packages with the equestrian center and golf course for executives and the public with the potential of becoming a premier venue for weddings and other special occasions.
Rae Huang	90025	
Susan Johnson	90266	Griffith Park is a refuge for wildlife and LA county residents. We need to preserve what little remaining open areas we have. While it's understandable that the LA Zoo needs to raise revenue they need to do so in a way that respects the Griffith Park environment. Please choose Alternative 1 for the environmentally superior alternative and not destroy 23 acres of native woodlands in Griffith Park.
Elise Kalfayan	91202	
Sidney Higgins	90039	
Cass Montgomery	90026	The destruction of native habitat and woodlands in the name of caged animals cement and an amusement park is outrageous. Surely the LA Zoo should be about animals. Stop this before it begins.
Deborah Gal	91504	I hike the Griffith Park Trails. For years I trained students to prepare for the Los Angeles Marathon (through Students Run LA) by hiking and running in the park. This is a park for the people of LA and open to be enjoyed as its natural self by others. To destroy acres of the park in order to make some sort of zoo theme park is NOT acceptable. We need this natural park not only for the people in LA and surrounding areas and

Full Name	Zip	Personal message
		our guests to enjoy nature and get away from the rapid pace of our city but also for the oxygen and pollution fighting abilities nature helps to curb. I believe that our LA zoo must be supported but not at the destruction on our beautiful unique park. Our animals in the zoo do not require a climbing wall for people! Maybe individuals at the zoo should research other changes that would benefit not only the animals but also the natural gifts Griffith Park offers. . We are already seeing the destruction of our hills by developers! Please save our beautiful park!
Theodore Arechiga	90650	The loss of habitat has far-reaching impacts on the planet's ability to sustain life. Take the drive to Yosemite and climb rocks there- it's a way better experience.
Tara Wolper	91501	
Adele Bey	91040	
Patricia Wong	92887	Human hubris is a very dangerous thing for the big picture of a healthy ecosystem. Please take the gentler alternative.
Carla Maxinoski	92691	Choose nature over profit!
Raye Murphy	90732	
Sylvia De Baca	91773	
Richard Valencia	91105	
Susanne Cumming	90292	
Brianna Martinez	92883	
Rose Ann Howard	90630	Native trees and other native species both plant and animal need protection within Griffith park.
Jason Cunningham	91604	
David Vigus	92677	
Susan Hathaway	90660	
Cheyenne Sanden	91505	
Nora Shore	91604	Please don't destroy the beautiful vegetation surrounding the zoo. Instead incorporate it into your expansion plans and help save our environment!
Theresa Lopez	90601	Earth and our environment are precious and deserve to be protected. We cannot sacrifice our flora and fauna to highlight the plight of other animals equally worthy. We are shooting our foot to spite our face.
Stacy Cornelius	92651	
Caryn DiMarco	91401	Our state and its wild places are already under increasing threat from climate change. That we would consider destroying them further rather than doing what we can to preserve them is unthinkable. Please side with the planet over the LA Zoo's desire for more profits.
Petrea Sandel	91104	Please stop this reckless project which threatens necessary native habitat during a time of drought and climate change! Nothing could be more backward-thinking than expanding the LA Zoo in this way.
Sandra Tinajero	91744	Your killing our oxygen!!
Julia Smith	90605	You cannot destroy not only our hawk and owl species homes but over 220 of our native trees. We are trying to preserve these important tree species and need to continue our plans with the 30x30 campaign. This proposal from the L.A. Zoo is not only insulting but also monopolistic . This truly is a slap to the face to

Full Name	Zip	Personal message
		environmentalists that are trying to save our world. You are the problem. Do not destroy 23 acres of land we really need for a caged animal mad house.
Gwen Rinehart	90064	
Daniel Acosta	90605	Nature is what we need in the world. More concrete is less oxygen.
Zach Dietrich	91505	
Sheryl Parsons	92606	
Barbara Bellano	91107	
Lusineh Nasrollahi	91344	I have volunteers and worked at the LA Zoo. I have also run at Griffith Park for almost 20 years. The zoo has enough land to do what a zoo can do in these days for the public. If they need more space for the animals then maybe they should find an alternative. The land was donated by Mr. Griffith to all of us so that we can go and enjoy nature. It is unethical to take that land and add to the zoo. The zoo is already very large much larger than many other zoos I have visited. Consider the Santa Barbara Zoo for example people like it much better than the LA Zoo. And that's not because it's bigger. It's not about the size. The zoo can do a lot to improve their facility and the visitors' experience without expanding. The zoo has LOTS of room for improvement. Many of the exhibits are very dry unnatural: one often leaves feeling uncomfortable (friends have expressed the same reaction). Please leave the open space be and have the zoo improve its existing space.
Antonia Graeber	90274	Griffith Park is an important natural habitat within Los Angeles. Protect it and choose the best environmental expansion plan to preserve this important resource for many species and the people of greater Los Angeles.
Heather White	90275	
Ellen Levy	91001	I absolutely do not want an amusement park facility going up adjacent to the L. A. Zoo. Alternative 1 is appropriate for the further development of the zoo. As a grandmother I would take my grandchild to a zoo that fosters love of the earth itself as well as the animals who live on it. I would never take him to an amusement park that sits on dead ground.
R Maggie Luquin	92646	Preserve the woodlands. Going bigger is not going to attract more people to the zoo!!!
Michelle Gomez	90027	We should be protecting the wildlife and their natural habitats. Not tearing down their homes and creating a false ecosystem that could eventually lead a species into extinction. Messing with the current ecosystem can lead to negative impacts for our city's livelihood. What affects the native trees and animals of the area will eventually trickle down and affect the rest of us. We should be caring for all living things and supporting their well being not tearing down their homes causing them to relocate because of lack of food or shelter.
Mark Reback	98607	
Nayiri Hovsepian	90068	
Wade Gasque	90403	We don't need another amusement park style expansion into our already dwindling public park spaces. We need to protect these trees and all the wildlife that depend on them.
Meredith McMahan	92651	
Alexander Koops	91702	
Patricia Carlson	90034	

Full Name	Zip	Personal message
Alejandra Martinez	90032	Dear Mayor I'm sure you already know Griffith Park provides important habitat to native wildlife and recreational opportunities for Angelenos and visitors. Expanding the zoo would contribute to devastating loss of life (both plant and animal) and would send the message that California prioritizes profit over the environment. This would have long lasting and irreversible effects on Griffith Park the wildlife and the community. As a native of Los Angeles I vehemently oppose the expansion of the zoo and any destruction of this sacred natural space. We need more green spaces in the city not less. Again I do not support the permanent destruction of this crucial natural habitat to increase profits.
Kathleen Yasuda & A Cioni	90066	It is absolutely crazy to destroy more of our own native land and habitat to expand a zoo!!! It is exactly the wrong example to leave current and future generations!!!
Kathleen Fernandez	92887	
Roger Hollander	91356	
Laura Payne	90031	
Michael Bourke	91302	
Carolyn Harris	91101	In this time of climate change we need to keep all the trees that we can. Please do not destroy any trees at the Zoo. We do not need commercialism at the Zoo. We need all the trees we have and many more in the coming years.â€œ
Carolyn Harris	91101	In this time of climate change we need to keep all the trees that we can. Please do not destroy any trees at the Zoo. We do not need commercialism at the Zoo. We need all the trees we have and many more in the coming years.â€œ
Ana Menjivar	90404	
Susie Tortell	90405	Firstly you shouldn't be keeping wild animals in cages. If you are a rescue organization then that should be made clear. But using up the last of LA's rare native woodlands so that you can put more animals in cages is outrageous. Be on the right side of history and end your part in the culture of domination.
Diana Sanchez	91042	Stop destroying animals habitat
Taylor Woodworth	91505	
Lauren Pliska	92677	
V And B Jones	90510	Native habitat is precious and scarce near downtown L.A. It needs to be protected and preserved as public open space.
Kristen hernandez	91344	This message matters to me because I am a community organizer of a nonprofit and we love and care for for Griffith park! I am an environmentalist and mother of all nature! THIS CANT HAPPEN we don't want this. Keep the environment safe and free from destruction. We don't need another amusement park.
Maurice Edwards	91423	
Gary W. Dolgin	90402	Have been a GLAZA member for many years and while I applaud the Zoo's efforts to improve the care and welfare for its velvet-imprisoned guests I can't abide any destruction of native habitat. There are hometown critters who rely on it and denying them living space ain't progress.
Janice Peregrina	90805	Please don't be hypocrites and protect the natural living things around the zoo! You have the power to keep financially minded businesses in check!
Katharine Warner	91040	
Rob Seltzer	90265	
Krystal Saucedo	90041	

<b>Full Name</b>	<b>Zip</b>	<b>Personal message</b>
Penelope Ward	90290	
Patricia Morton	90039	The Zoo's plans to become like Disneyland should be stopped! Preserve our native habitat!
Michele Smith	90277	
David Garfinkle	91356	
Kelsey Juddo	90028	Please focus on taking care of and improving the already existing zoo. We already have such precious limited open spaces in Los Angeles. It would be harmful to take anymore of it away.
Dominick Falzone	90005	I am a voter in the city of Los Angeles and a member of the Greater Los Angeles Zoo Association ("GLAZA"). I oppose the L.A. Zoo Vision Plan which would destroy wild areas in the vicinity of the zoo. I support Alternative 1 for the LA Zoo Vision Plan. Griffith Park is home to numerous types of wild animals. Those animals include over 200 species of birds including both migratory birds and non-migratory birds. The L.A. Zoo Vision Plan would destroy animals' habitat which is counter to the zoo's core mission of protecting animals. Griffith Park has over 150 plant species including rare types of plants. The L.A. Zoo Vision plan would cause environmental harm by destroying some of these plants and trees. Los Angeles has insufficient park land and unnecessary development should be avoided in Griffith Park.
Alison Merkel	91377	Preserve nature! Why is this so difficult to understand?
Holly Isaacson	91601	
Paul Martin	33134	Los Angeles has so little parkland we cannot afford to lose any of it.
Supporter Unknown	90065	
Wesley Chuang	90024	The value of nature is beyond your comprehension. It cannot be converted to tourist dollars. We need everything nature can give to fight climate change and biodiversity loss and other forms of ecocide. Future generations of Angelenos from all backgrounds and species thanks you.
Stephen Carrillo	94706	
Charlotte Williams	90302	
Tamara Barnett-Herrin	90042	We need biodiversity and native ecosystems more than ever to combat climate change and promote awareness of the fragile ecology that we all share. As a proud adoptee of this great city I will do all I can to fight for the protection of our wild spaces and the rewilding of the concrete dead zones that if recuperated by nature are a vital part of our collective action to mitigate against global warming the attrition of native species and air pollution which is now reaching life threatening levels. No zoo expansion in Griffith park. A sustainable olympics which prioritizes rewilding our city rather than generating even higher carbon emissions pollutants and species extinction. The people and habitats of Los Angeles deserve a ecologically sound future that future is in immediate jeopardy if we don't protect our wild spaces.
Sofia Rodas	90041	Wildlands in Griffith park are havens for wildlife in our city! To protect animals ensure we don't further harm the environment that provides clean water clean air and a thriving natural resource for Los Angeles residents to enjoy. Please consider the catastrophe that would follow as increased heat island effect ravages our communities.
Laila Tamburini	91001	I am exhausted by capitalisms greedy fingers stealing precious land. Mayor Garcetti I attended your Green New Deal launch and so far am finding it to be a bunch of

Full Name	Zip	Personal message
		bologna. Please choose the Environmentally Superior Alternative 1 for the LA Zoo Vision Plan. We as a state as a country and as a species can not afford to clear out more land for frivolous endeavors. The LA Zoo does not need to have a rock climbing canyon that's absolutely ridiculous and antithetical to what a zoo is supposed to offer: animal protection and education about these beautiful species held in captivity.
Steve Kaye	90042	
Justin Michael	90027	
Cecile Garcia	90035	
Dorothy Wong	91001	Protect Restore not destroy this precious habitat. Consider a less invasive project that will enhance the natural landscapes as a nature park and not destroy. Eco-tourism access to nature should be the goals of the City. Mature trees and the nature habitat takes care of itself. Invest nature protect this vital woodlands for the future today.
Robert Stephens	90232	
CC Pearce	91607	Please don't destroy native flora for frivolous entertainment activities.
Garretson Lang	91803	Please do not take away any more of our open space! This park is precious to me and it would be devastating to the wildlife to have natural habitat removed and replaced by shopping experience and restaurants.
Coleen Sterritt	91001	Please please PLEASE do not take down more trees for a zoo to make money. WE need the urban forest as much as possible!! DON'T DO IT!!!
Royal Jenkins	91001	
Rox Radulescu	90039	
Casey Trela	90041	Please select Alternative 1 the "Environmentally Superior Alternative." We can't afford to lose more woodlands for a tourist attraction. We need to be taking drastic steps to protect the environment we have.
Juliana Felix	90027	
Katie Mcneill	91030	
Alejandra Zavalza	90041	
Haramari Zavalza	91205	
Keith Karman	90039	
Anthony Gonzalez	92821	
Michael Wilkie	91205	
Garrett Kemble	91205	Griffith Park is the gem of Los Angeles. Please protect this NATURAL habitat for animals to be admired by locals and tourists alike as they explore Griffith Park. Thank you!
Kathryn Lejeune	90042	Griffith Park is a shining gem in Los Angeles. How dare this even be considered. Protect our legacy.
David Greening	90026	
Josh Munoz	92223	As a native Californian the most valuable element of this state is its natural beauty. Los Angeles has given up many of her best features to the corporate hand and losing a chunk Griffith park would catalyze and perpetuate her deterioration. It's important to preserve this area not only for environmentalist matters but also to not compound the already chaotic traffic situation burdening Angelinos and their guests alike.
Dayna Bowers	91205	Keeping native plants and old growth is essential for fighting climate change.
Itai Shapira	90027	
Kathryn Lewis	90006	

<b>Full Name</b>	<b>Zip</b>	<b>Personal message</b>
Erin Cantelo	90020	Because we don't need more zoo. We need to preserve the natural space we have here for the wildlife that already inhabits it.
Cheryl Wysocki	91024	
Samantha Moulton	91506	I'm sure John J Griffith would be disappointed if he were alive to hear of this LA Zoo proposal. Griffith Park should remain true to its founders vision - it is a public park not a theme park.
josh laviolette	90065	
George Grace	90027	The habitat and wildlife destruction portions of this expansion plan are unacceptable. Building a climbing to mimic how condors are observed and a vineyard to illustrate California agricultural history are completely irrelevant to the Zoo's mission and patently ridiculous. Go with Alternative 1!
Michelle Vazquez	91605	Native woodlands are sacred and deserve to be respected and protected.
Bianca Vazquez	91605	This expansion is harmful to our native plants and animals. It's very obviously a cash grab for the zoo.
Catherine Jurca	91208	Los Angeles is blessed to have a wonderful zoo in a magnificent park. Griffith Park's importance to L A residents will only increase as state housing bills increase density throughout our county and private yards and recreation space become increasingly rare. We need open space not an amusement park. Please adopt the more environmentally sensitive alternative.
Jon McElroy	90042	Griffith Park is one of the few large natural habitats that remain within Los Angeles and it provides a necessary ecosystem for animal species. For residents it provides a window into a more natural space and to lose any of it would be detrimental to the experience of Angeleno's living in and around the park. For those of us to enjoy the space with our friends and family daily the desire for an expanded zoo is not paramount. The desire for natural space to be preserved is.
Greg Marquez	91001	
Jan Freed	90041	
Joan Aebi	91107	We need to preserve our limited natural lands I am sure an alternative solution can be found.
Charles Drum	90041	Let's save as many native trees as possible
Genette Foster	91106	It is utter madness for LA Zoo to destroy vital habitat in Griffith Park which belongs to the people of the LA region in order to construct a financially risky pseudo-Disney resort attraction.
Mb Kalis	91106	
Carla Trujillo	91320	Think less is more. Save the money for the animals.
Gary Green	91107	We need to preserve what little natural spaces we have left. Furthermore the Zoo should be seen as an educational resource teaching about animals and their habitat not as a recreational destination.
Anne Shapiro	90041	our natural habitat is more important than zoos. Let's get regional and support a regional zoo such as San Diego and not an LA zoom expansion. If we must have one support Alt 1
Ben White	91016	I can't see the value of destroying more of our outdoor native plants to complete this project. The smaller the footprint the better.
George Yenoki	91016	
Ed Fisher	91106	
Marlene Vadell	91030	

Full Name	Zip	Personal message
Cheryl Dickard	90068	Griffith Park is a jewel and it's wild native sense needs to be preserved.
Jo-Ann Savoia	91104	
David Eder	91105	Griffith Park is a special place for all Angelenos and residents of the region. Please do not disturb the 22 acres that would be ravaged by this ridiculous proposal to commercialize the park. It is better left alone and the vast expense be used for more pressing issues facing Los Angeles. I know this as a former 30 years of service civil servant of the City of Los Angeles. Thank you.
Esperanza Garcia	91775	Why destroy native lands??? I support alternative to preserve 23 acres of native lands.
Melissa Richardson	90028	Please do not allow this expansion.
Sandra Duarte	91011	
Leonardo Araque	91011	Thank you for protecting our natural environment there is only so much left. It is time to set a precedent and choose life over money.
Paula Araque Duarte	91011	The preservation of endemic species is an incredibly impactful way in which we get to protect the ecological gem that should be the pride of Southern California. Amidst the ever-changing landscape of the city of Los Angeles Griffith Park has been a constant in my life that I can turn to to recharge and indulge in reveries inspired by the nature that abounds in the park. Allowing for anything but Alternative 1 would set a precedent to continue developing Griffith Park at the expense of the endemic flora and fauna that encourages Angelenos like me to slow down and contemplate the hidden natural beauty and diversity that LA has to offer. If the true concern is to make this city even more appealing to tourists than it already is in anticipation of the Olympics why not start by highlighting the natural beauty the city has to offer such as Griffith Park and the LA River? Former and future hosts have or are planning to do so such as Vancouver and Paris. Why not LA?
Kaily Yarmolovich	90505	
Gigi Perreau	91356	
Daniel Fresquez	91502	The hidden spaces inside this park are MAGICAL. Improve hiking paths. Don't ruin it with shops. Choose alternative 1!
Joan Kaplan	91001	
Margaret Bryant	90042	Please so many trees have already been lost because of the drought and wildfires I can't bear to think of losing any more.
Duncan Sinclair	91104	
Maria Encarnacion	90065	
Nicole Baratta	90065	
Marie Martin	93030	
Alessandra Molina	90041	
David Levine	91208	
Jared Evans	90277	A Single oak tree can support 5 000 different types of animals. And the zoo feels like they need to take away more than 100? Oak trees also help sequester carbon and help with the conservation of water. They will lose business from me
Kelly Baker	91502	Because destroying our planet is immoral and self-sabotaging. Any human intuitively knows this. This isn't rocket science it's straight up GREED and it's disgusting. I support Alternative 1.

Full Name	Zip	Personal message
Yvonne Rodriguez	91768	We need to save our green areas for everyone's use and to help preserve the environment necessary to maintain our wildlife. No more commercialization of public lands. No more Watership Down..!!!
Gayle Grech	91326	
KAREN MORGAINE	91423	The proposed Zoo expansion is clearly just a money grab and would create increased greenhouse gas emissions destroy biodiversity and crucial protected areas and would be a huge step in the wrong direction given our current climate emergency. It seems extremely hypocritical to position our city as one that is concerned about climate and then to make a move such as this--not a good look. We need to be investing in public transportation reducing carbon particularly through a shift in our transportation systems and increasing our green spaces not destroying them and building parking structures and amusement parks. This is a proposal marketed as "for the animals" and "for the community" and that is simply marketing rhetoric. Please do the right thing for the future of LA for biodiversity and for the children.
Jessica Navedo	90277	
katherine applegate	90039	
Juliane Crump	91505	We don't need another amusement park. We need every last established native tree. I love the LA Zoo but this is a mess.
Jennifer Walker	91740	
Stephanie Roman	91606	I would rather have nature to explore and trees to clean the air than a money make venture.
Joslyn Siminski	32827	Destroying natural habitats is not a good plan in today's climate crisis. Please reconsider.
Heather Parker	91214	
Karen Thordarson	90275	
Jazmine Golden	91214	
Hildy Meyers	92648	
Jane Velez-Mitchell	90292	This is outrageous! We are suffering from habitat loss and we want to create a disneyland in Griffith Park? We already have Disneyland. This is just a corrupt plan! Follow the \$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$. Listen to the people of LA Shut down the LA ZOO. Zoos are a 19th century concept. Enough!
Emmy Goldknopf	90026	
Nancy Ruben	90025	
Larissa Shen	91740	I live in the LA area. There isn't a lot of nature left that is worth seeing. Getting rid of these woodlands just makes the situation worse.
Ann Cantrell	90808	Leave the trees for birds and other wildlife.
Rich Quintana	91301	
Bill Briceno	90029	
Daniel Nadsady	93311	As a native of LA and part time home owner in LA I appreciate open space in LA. Expand into that massive parking lot adjacent to the Zoo!
Yolanda King	91204	We need to preserve the trees and birds in Los Angeles. We have enough amusement parks in Southern California. Keep nature!
Ryan T Malone		
Katherine Lopez	90026	

Full Name	Zip	Personal message
Anne Edgar	90027	We live near Griffith Park and regularly run and bike by the zoo. Let's make sustainable choices for our beloved park.
Traci Esslinger	91001	Griffith Park is an extremely important wild area in a city increasingly overwhelmed by development. Please keep this remaining "wild" area protected for wildlife and vegetation as well as for the enjoyment of the city's residents.
Alessandro Solca	90027	
Stevie Sugano	90027	It is Shameful. The Park was donate to Nature & the Tax Paying citizens so Stop the Invading Destruction.
Brian Kokoszka	90027	The zoo doesn't need more space to expand. It needs a serious re design of what it already has. Soooo much empty and misused space already. Its such a confusing zoo I have been there 30 times and still don't know my way around the horrible maze that place is. I've been a zoo member for three years now and this zoo does not need to expand into the beautiful Griffith park.
Sean Heim	91001	
Karen Yates	90042	There must be a way to convince the LA Zoo 'to reconsider expansion on lands destroying native wildlife plants and trees who are just as endangered as the lives of animals they strive to support. Please choose the environmentally superior Alternative 1.
Lois Becker	90049	The Santa Monica Mountains are one of the largest most pristine and ecologically complex protected Mediterranean ecosystems in the world with over 1 000 plant species and some 500 bird reptile amphibian and mammal species including mountain lions. At the eastern end of the range is Griffith Park home to both the LA Zoo and to world-famous mountain lion P22. If the Zoo Project's overly commercial Alt 2 is allowed to go forward it will be a tragedy for our city because of the irreparable damage it will inevitably do to the fragile urban wilderness of Griffith Park and the Santa Monicas. The best "zoo project" isn't some phony theme park but a project dedicated to honoring and preserving the precious native habitat that is Griffith Park while elevating the Zoo itself to a world class institution dedicated to saving the endangered species of the world. This would make for a uniquely meaningful dual experience that would truly set our city apart. Alt 1 is the way to go!
Mary Robinson	90046	DO NOT DESTROY acres pf vegetation and mature native trees that are crucial to our urban forest and home to wildlife. Not only is this wrong...it is insane!!!!!! Use Alternative 1.
Alan Kishbaugh	90046	All well and good to increase the care and welfare of the zoo's animal population but not at the expense of existing natural habitat---at least 23 acres of undisturbed terrain. Nor should any protected trees be removed in the proposed remodel of the zoo. This is why I support Alternative 1. We are park poor in Los Angeles and Griffith Park is the largest municipal park in the country. Don't nibble at it edges but instead step up and protect and preserve the legacy that Col. Griffith deeded over to the citizens of Los Angeles.
Joanna Connor	90046	We should be protecting every inch of our native woodlands particularly as we are expecting another terrible fire season which will probably destroy hundreds if not thousands of acres of trees in this state. Why would you even consider this project when there is clearly an environmentally superior alternative. Where is common sense?
Adele Slaughter	91604	"The destruction of a natural habitat to displace/eradicate an ecosystem seems surreal as an excuse to then create a superficial habitat for animals." Expanded

Full Name	Zip	Personal message
		construction is simply more uprooting of irreplaceably unique nature thousands of years in the making with immeasurable value for human and ecological health for a quick buck. Alternative 1 checks all the boxes of a Zoo update without destroying a natural habitat. Please use support the Green NEW Deal Initiative. It makes good common sense.
Mark Reback	98607	
Parul Sharma	94555	
Juan Marin Martinez	92354	This matters because I have children and I hope they'll be able to appreciate the wildlife I was able to experience when I hiked along with the zoo. I'd like to say in the future hey did you know this small forest was almost destroyed but it wasn't . Being able to tell future generations how we preserved our wildlife will never get old. Thank you
Melina Paris	90275	
Christi Nash	95521	I speak as an environmental educator. Due to the history of the city of Los Angeles destroying the natural environment (paving the LA river etc.) it is unethical and hypocritical for a zoo which claims to protect or preserve wildlife to further reduce county forest lands which in turn serves native Southern California wildlife as well as people. I am a resident of the state of California and was a resident of Los Angeles county for nearly a decade. Griffith Park is dear to my heart and I know that the LA Zoo is encapsulated within the park and nearby parameters. It is a violation of environmental ethics for the zoo to obliterate native habitat to serve commercial purposes. Build up instead of out or find a secondary locale at one of the many flat and already deforested locations in LA county. I am honestly outraged that this is happening so close to protected lands which harbor local wildlife and also provide a nature reprieve for the residents of an industrialized city.
Susan Trivisonno	95135	I grew up in LA and care about it's environment.
Amy Koch	91202	Griffith Park is our Central Park. Why would you pave over a chunk of it just to make more profit? There's no where else in the city where this could happen?
Alyssa Reponen	90039	Unspoiled native habitat is such a rarity in Los Angeles that we must preserve it. The zoo does not need a climbing wall and other disney-like amenities. Alternative 1 lets you improve the zoo and retain the most natural open space around it.
Ari Somayaji	95051	LA can't afford to lose more trees. Southern California already has the worst air quality in the country. Trees absorb pollutants that harm our health Southern Californian's deserve better air. and trees also help fight the growing climate crisis. Please choose the environmentally superior alternative and protect Our health and our climate.
N Leveille	95482	There is no good reason to destroy these woodlands unnecessarily.
Karylle Dizon	90019	
Geoff Moore	92562	
Mary DeWitt	91208	
Emily Golding	91010	If you destroy the woodlands you're annihilating Los Angeles's natural landscape and biodiversity. There are babes in those woods.
Kiersten Cluster	90025	I urge you to protect and preserve native habitat for the wild ones who live in and migrate through our city. Please don't destroy wild space for human entertainment and profit as proposed in the Los Angeles zoo expansion plan. Thank you.

Full Name	Zip	Personal message
Adele Slaughter	91604	Please protect our native woodlands which increase biodiversity in our city. We cannot afford to lose this habitat. We don't need a "theme" park we need a functioning zoo.
Sandra Chrstopher	91505	
Patricia Carlson	90034	
Amie Serio	91506	
Susie Tortell	90405	Why in the heck would you allow the bulldozing of NATIVE HABITAT so you could build FAKE CAGED habitat??? That's disgusting and it needs to stop NOW!!
charles meehan	91604	the 1.5 measure is a good start but doesn't go far enough. we need the native vegetation more than we need the amusement park features. replace the tram and climbing wall and the Africa land with the native vegetation chip meehan
jensen hallstrom	92833	The ecologically culturally and ethically responsible move is to protect and appreciate our local biodiversity. Do not allow the displacement of native ecosystems for this development.
Nicole Baratta	90065	It is time to put the environment first. It is irresponsible and wrong to build roads and infrastructure in this vital habitat.
Linda Javier	91505	The focus needs to remain on the animals their habitat food and their welfare. I would be saddened to see the Zoo turn into a physical activity center (i.e. climbing wall) and destroy dozens of much needed and treasured trees. My support goes to this Alternative No. 1 for the Zoo's possible development. Let's keep it "development" for the benefit of the animals not "development" for more "go-see-do" activities and destruction of the hillside. Thank you.
Colleen Casey	91505	less roods made with Concrete No more fence.
Jennifer Lim	91101	No to the LA Zoo expansion! Griffith Park's pristine skyline and natural habitat will suffer irreversible damage from the LA Zoo expansion. The addition of one more amusement park to this central venue will not help us reverse the trend of mass incarceration and rising crime in our city. The ugly cages and tunnels left at its former site and its prison-like entrance is a forewarning of park resources being squandered without benefiting our youth's education and future. The LA Zoo uses its 133 acres to house 270 species and 1400 animals. The Berlin Zoological Garden used only 86.5 acres to house 1373 species and 20 219 animals being the most popular zoo in Europe with 3.5 million annual visitors. San Diego Zoo in Balboa Park used 100 acres to house 650 species and 3500 animals. South Coast Botanic Garden was planted on a former landfill with creative displays and educational events year-round. Their optimal use of natural resources is associated with their education system.
Adam Huss	90008	
Marissa Llanes	91767	
Magdalena Fritch	90032	
Martin Perlmutter	91506	Those wild lands need and deserve protection. The zoo needs and deserves elimination.
Karen Gerst	91505	I hike in the area proposed by the Zoo. I love the trees and quiet the connections with nature - crows deer coyotes. Angelenos need a wilderness to reboot in and this part of Griffith Park gives us an escape. I am outraged that the Zoo wants to appropriate these lands for some gimmicky tourist attractions. Doesn't L.A. have enough already? There is no justification other than greed for bulldozing native habitat when climate change water issues and extreme heat are affecting L.A.'s livability. Meanwhile the

Full Name	Zip	Personal message
		pony rides so beloved by children are eliminated because of a few animal activists. If the Zoo needs to bring in more money maybe they could operate a new pony ride attraction and ensure the ponies are treated as well as its animals in cages -- because why is keeping animals in cages more humane than having ponies give children rides? Come on. Let's get real.
Kiana Chandruang	92127	
Ari Somayaji	95051	Please help protect Griffith park! We don't need more tourist attractions LA already has plenty of that. But what people need is wilderness where they can exercise decompress and enjoy nature. Not to mention that Southern California already has some of the worst air quality in the USA so the last thing we need is to have people destroying wilderness. Please help protect Griffith Park. Ari age 10.
Sophia Meyer	90732	
John Candela	94121	At a cost of \$650 million the L.A. Zoo wants to expand its footprint in Griffith Park. Much of its "Vision Plan" has less to do with redesign of its animal habitats educational outreach to the public and species survival and more to do with enhancing its revenue stream and burnishing its image as a world-class destination for tourists expected to mob Los Angeles for the 2028 Summer Olympics.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Ronnie Perry

**Date Submitted:** 06/26/2023 09:26 AM

**Council File No:** 21-0828

**Comments for Public Posting:** I am very opposed to excavation of a 60-foot deep Condor Canyon through significant geological feature is destructive and expensive and will radically change Griffith Park forever, aesthetically and ecologically. I am opposed to 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 is devastating and should not be allowed. Man needs to STOP destroying natural habitat and if they cannot stop this no place is safe.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Tracy Davidge

**Date Submitted:** 06/26/2023 09:31 AM

**Council File No:** 21-0828

**Comments for Public Posting:** Please stop the expansion of the LA Zoo! 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 let the land stay as natural as possible instead of turning it into a viewing portal for what's really not meant to be in Griffith Park. Let our native animal and plant species flourish!

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Natalie Hall  
**Date Submitted:** 06/26/2023 09:42 AM  
**Council File No:** 21-0828  
**Comments for Public Posting:** hoorah for the Zoo!

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Mindee Jorgensen

**Date Submitted:** 06/26/2023 09:54 AM

**Council File No:** 21-0828

**Comments for Public Posting:** I am highly against the zoo's expansion plans into condor canyon. I love Griffith Park and am there multiple times a week, hiking and enjoying the natural habitat. One of my favorite hikes takes me along the canyon, and it is a beautiful area filled with protected trees, and home to many wild animals. The zoo expanding toward the Ridgeline would ruin the natural beauty and views in the surrounding area. Griffith Park is supposed to be a place for everyone to enjoy. Not everyone can afford to go to the zoo, and thus this expansion is alienating people who can't afford the get into the zoo from enjoying this natural area as it was intended. Why displace beautiful and natural plants and animals for this expansion? They have no voice and they have no say. No human would agree to the city deciding to build a new zoo on top of where their homes are, and force them to move against their will. This is like knocking out a few city blocks without asking the residents, and with knowing the residents have no where to go. Forcing them to compete for food and shelter in a new neighborhood, throwing off the natural balance of that ecosystem, putting stress on the inhabitants of the area the displaced residents have to flee to. This is exactly what this expansion is doing. It is obvious the people making the push for zoo expansion are not doing it for any reason other than financial gain, going against what Griffith Park stands for. It is not out of a care for animals, otherwise they would not be threatening the lives and homes of the inhabitants of Condor Canyon. People with so much disregard for wildlife and nature have no business working for a zoo. I am 100% against this. I ask those who are voting on this do so with consideration for the inhabitants of Los Angeles, both human and wild, and not the interests of big business and financial gains. Keep Griffith Park as it was intended- a natural place for everyone to enjoy as is, regardless of income. A place of equality and natural beauty. Thank you.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Arpine Tevanyan

**Date Submitted:** 06/26/2023 10:03 AM

**Council File No:** 21-0828

**Comments for Public Posting:** Hello City Clerk Council, I would like to express my strong disagreement with turning Condor Canyon Griffith Park area into a parking lot. The advised plan for a lot will strongly reduce the native inhabitants occupancy at the park and what makes the area so natural and beautiful for all public visitors. There is enough parking and Griffith Park is a sacred place foR all to go to, away from the hustle and bustle of the city and relax in nature, by adding more lots and buildings, it takes away from the serenity and will tarnish the wildlife population. PLEASE CONSIDER THIS FOR ALL CITIZENS/VISITORS OF THIS AREA AND DO NOT TURN THIS BEAUTIFUL LAND INTO A LOT.  
Thank you, Arpine Tevanyan (323) 422-3770

## Communication from Public

**Name:** zoe chodosh

**Date Submitted:** 06/26/2023 10:12 AM

**Council File No:** 21-0828

**Comments for Public Posting:** I'm writing to express my concern about the LA Zoo's revised vision plan, alternative 1.5. As a born and raised angelino, many of my core memories through childhood and adulthood have taken place at griffith park. This, coupled with my love and concern for our native ecosystem, compels me to strongly condemn the plan to raze 13+ acres of park to expand the zoo. One of the most beautiful and enriching parts about los angeles is our vast array of non-human neighbors who live peacefully in our hills and valleys. Destroying the homes of these precious critters to provide an un-needed space for human entertainment is deeply cruel and will undoubtedly alter the ecosystem of our precious city forever. It is our job as angelinos and humans to fiercely defend the rights of these plants and animals who don't have the voice to fight for themselves. 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 on top of a ridgeline will destroy the natural park topography--which tourists and angelinos alike travel here specifically to enjoy--and should be 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 as it also contains 26 city protected trees and shrubs. One of the best parts of living in california is the state's care and protection of our natural places. This plan actively goes against the core ethos of california to build a facility that no one asked for that will barely benefit the city and permanently disturb its inhabitants. Please do what's right and reconsider this plan of destruction and certain death to so many innocent creatures. In a time when our precious earth is being destroyed at an increasingly rapid pace, let us radically reject this decimation by standing up for our world and doing what's right in the face of relentless corporate greed.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Melissa Pwrrot

**Date Submitted:** 06/26/2023 10:28 AM

**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:** David Marsh

**Date Submitted:** 06/26/2023 10:40 AM

**Council File No:** 21-0828

**Comments for Public Posting:** It would be terrible to interrupt / destroy an intact chaparral habitat that contains 26 City Protected Trees/Shrubs, not to mention sensitive wildlife who live there.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Mario Montes

**Date Submitted:** 06/26/2023 10:51 AM

**Council File No:** 21-0828

**Comments for Public Posting:** Hello, 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. This expansion should not be approved. Thank you.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Richard Schenkman  
**Date Submitted:** 06/26/2023 10:57 AM  
**Council File No:** 21-0828

**Comments for Public Posting:** I am a current GLAZA member, and a long, long time supporter of the LA Zoo. Having said that, I'm writing today to object as strenuously as possible to the LA Zoo's Revised Vision Plan, Alternative 1.5. I'm all for expanding the animal's habitats, and the Zoo's research facilities, but what the Zoo does NOT need is a new Visitor's Center, or the other entertainment-oriented facilities that are proposed. For example, 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 an absolutely unneeded new event space – the California Visitor Center – on top of a ridgeline will destroy the natural Park topography and should be reconsidered or eliminated. Griffith Park, which contains the city's last wild spaces, is already over-developed, and any new development must be very carefully considered. 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. The 23 acres the Zoo plans to destroy are home to a swath of native plant species and "every species of hawk and owl in LA County", further endangering the biodiversity that makes Southern California one of the 36 "Biodiversity Hotspots" in the world, according to the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund. This classification is administered under two strict criteria: the region must "contain at least 1500 species of vascular plants found nowhere else on Earth" and must "have lost 70 percent of its primary native vegetation." I stand with the Friends of Griffith Park and Vergudo Hills Group, who have proposed an alternative, Environmentally Superior Alternative 1, to eliminate the development of Condor Canyon, the Africa Center, the California Center, and the aerial tram. Further, I would be in favor of building a three-story parking structure in the Zoo's parking lot, thus making up to half the acreage of the current parking lot available for alternative development for some of the Zoo's current goals. But the bottom line is, in order to realize the Zoo's plans, "23 acres of native woodlands must be destroyed", a habitat that "contains 120 coast live oaks, 60 toyons, 22 California black walnut trees and stands of federal and state-listed endangered shrubs." Further, the

Verdugo Hills Group emphasizes that the 23 acres planned to be destroyed “host 227 trees listed under L.A. City's Protected Tree Ordinance.” This stands in stark contrast to federal and state approval of the 30 x 30 campaign, a plan to protect 30 percent of American wildlands and waters by 2030. Approval of the zoo's “Vision Plan” would serve as little more than a slap in the face to these environmental promises.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Lois Becker

**Date Submitted:** 06/26/2023 11:26 AM

**Council File No:** 21-0828

**Comments for Public Posting:** Attached please find a letter from BASPOA opposing the Zoo Vision Plan FREIR Alt 1.5. Thank you. Lois Becker, BASPOA Community Liaison



Neighborhoods and Community Enrichment Committee  
L.A. City Council  
200 N. Spring St, Rm 450  
L.A., CA 90012  
*via electronic submission*

June 26, 2023

Re: LA Zoo Vision Plan ***Focused Recirculated Environmental Impact Report***,  
CF 21-0828 - **OPPOSED**

To the Honorable Committee Chairperson Eunisses Hernandez  
and Honorable Committee Members Heather Hutt and John Lee:

I write to you today on behalf of Bel Air Skycrest Property Owners' Association (BASPOA) to share our community's ongoing concern about the latest iteration of the Los Angeles Zoo's Vision Plan Alternative 1.5. As denizens of the Santa Monica Mountains we are sensitive to the environmental integrity of the area and especially to the long-term survival prospects of our already at-risk native wildlife. While we appreciate some of the changes that have been proposed in this version (elimination of the aerial tram, the vineyard, and the multi-story parking structure, as well as preservation of a 6-acre oak-walnut woodland), there are still a number of highly problematic aspects that if implemented will pose a very real threat to biodiversity in these mountains.

We expect more from our zoo.

People come from all across Los Angeles and all around the globe to experience the scenic, recreational, health, scientific research, and other benefits afforded by the Santa Monica Mountains. From an environmental perspective this 50-mile long range encompasses one of the largest, most complex Mediterranean ecosystems on the planet, with over 1,000 plant species creating habitat for approximately 500 mammal, bird, amphibian and reptile species. Griffith Park itself is famous as one of the "largest municipal parks with urban wilderness areas" in the country.

The L.A. Zoo is blessed to be located on such an amazing site. But with this blessing comes a tremendous responsibility – to preserve our dwindling natural resources and protect – and, wherever possible nourish and reinvigorate – the habitat our native wildlife relies on for its very survival.

The proposed creation of a 60-foot deep artificial “canyon” (Condor Corridor) would sacrifice a natural habitat area of real environmental – and educational – value in favor of a fantasy park feature with more flash, less substance, and far greater negative impacts overall. Most importantly, it would destroy essential habitat on which our native wildlife depend for their lives.

Although a long-awaited Ridgeline Protective Ordinance for the Santa Monica Mountains is yet to be passed, the Zoo’s continued insistence on placing the California Visitor Center event space *on top of a prominent ridge* is in clear violation of the environmental spirit which should be guiding this entire project. Rather than taking advantage of the political delays and loopholes that inevitably play to the interests of real estate developers over the urgent needs of the environment, the L.A. Zoo should be out ahead of the pack, setting a positive precedent that voluntarily prioritizes the natural character and healthy biodiversity of our mountains over their exploitation, tempting as it may be to build out that amazing “view site” while they still can.

And writing off a 16-acre native habitat area simply because it is currently defined as somewhat “disrupted” is not a valid justification for completely destroying it! This is not the work of a vision plan – rather, it is a *failure of vision and of stewardship*. This habitat could, and should, be nurtured back to health. Nature is remarkably resilient when allowed the opportunity to be so.

Too many aspects of Alternative 1.5 undermine already endangered native habitat and with it the City’s hopes for future preservation. Although Alternative 1.5 represents a step forward, it will still lead to inevitable loss of native wildlife – ironic, coming from an institution whose mission is supposedly to preserve wildlife.

Development in wildland-urban interface areas is always going to be a complex and difficult balancing act. But get this right and Los Angeles will have a great zoo, unlike any other in the world; and the Santa Monica Mountains ecosystem will be able to survive (and thrive) at the same time. Get it wrong and this extraordinary landscape, that has been imprinted on the consciousness of generations of global citizens, will disappear into the mists of memory, a mythic

wilderness in the midst of a great urban center – a place where film stars and mountain lions once lived side-by-side.

The L.A. Zoo Vision Plan must be held to the very highest standards. Our native habitat and wildlife are not expendable and they are not endlessly renewable. Far from it. Please demand a vision plan that places the proposed new zoo in the context of the needs and preservation of our mountains and our wildlife.

Thank you.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lois Becker". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name and title.

Lois Becker  
BASPOA Community Liaison

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Casey Maddren

**Date Submitted:** 06/26/2023 11:28 AM

**Council File No:** 21-0828

**Comments for Public Posting:** While I feel that the LA Zoo's Revised Vision Plan, Alternative 1.5, shows some progress toward a more responsible plan, there are still aspects that concern me greatly. The proposed excavation of Condor Canyon will further reduce wildlife habitat. This area contains rare and sensitive plants which should be protected, not destroyed. The California Visitor Center is an unnecessary intrusion into the park's landscape. It should be eliminated from the plan. Why are we sacrificing open space, plant life and habitat to construct additional amenities that are not necessary? LA is already covered in concrete and asphalt. The best thing we can do is leave existing open space and habitat undisturbed. The greatest service we can perform for future generations is to preserve what remains of LA,'s natural environment.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Terry Saucier

**Date Submitted:** 06/26/2023 11:39 AM

**Council File No:** 21-0828

**Comments for Public Posting:** I am writing in opposition to LA Zoo's 1.5 Vision Plan and to ask the City and Zoo to return to Alternative 1, which is also supported by the NCSA, other neighborhood councils and environmental organizations. Alternative 1.5 will destroy 13 plus acres of habitat. As some have already mentioned, the 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 for another location within the existing Zoo footprint or eliminated. Despite the Zoo's insistence that much of the 16 acres of native habitat is disturbed already (which is due to the Park's lack of concern for this space and misuse), 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. In fact, the Zoo would most benefit the local wildlife and visitors by rehabilitating this space with native plants to protect native species. You don't protect wildlife and encourage the public to appreciate natural areas by destroying natural habitat.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Terri G. Yates

**Date Submitted:** 06/26/2023 11:57 AM

**Council File No:** 21-0828

**Comments for Public Posting:** No!!! We already have a visitor center. we don't need another one. Leave this one piece of nature alone please! 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:** Laura Napoli

**Date Submitted:** 06/26/2023 12:00 PM

**Council File No:** 21-0828

**Comments for Public Posting:** I love Griffith Park, hike there often, and I do not want to parts of it to be destroyed and/or changed. I am highly concerned that the L.A. Zoo's Alt. 1.5 FEIR is going to do that for these reasons: 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 accept this as the final plan, it will ruin one of our great outdoor spaces in this City. Cordially, Laura Napoli Concerned Resident

## Communication from Public

**Name:** MICHAEL R. PERRY

**Date Submitted:** 06/26/2023 12:05 PM

**Council File No:** 21-0828

**Comments for Public Posting:** Griffith Park's natural wilderness is a gift to future generations that must be preserved. Alternative 1.5 proposes to destroy thirteen acres of habitat with heavy equipment, in order to dump a visitor center atop a currently pristine ridge and to trench a sixty-foot artificial canyon, a grotesque man-made simulacrum of the priceless nature that's being offered up for sacrifice. The highest and best use for those thirteen acres are to leave them as is: one of the last scraps of relatively undisturbed land in Los Angeles. Resting spots for migratory birds around the world are under siege by developers, and we are only beginning to discover some of the unexpected, often very small bits of land that can mean the difference between life and death for some species, as documented in Scott Weidensaul's 2022 Los Angeles Times Book Prize finalist "A World on the Wing." When a for-profit corporation or the Chinese government bulldozes precious habitat helter skelter, we can only despair and try to stop them with force or legal impediments. But this is our own Los Angeles Zoo, an institution that should understand the fragility of wildlife and the importance of conserving what little nature remains, and we hereby appeal to their shared moral and ecological interest in saving those thirteen acres as is. Please amend this plan to spare the land in Griffith Park from further abuse. Michael R Perry  
Resident, Council District 4

## Communication from Public

**Name:** K. Sullivan

**Date Submitted:** 06/26/2023 12:43 PM

**Council File No:** 21-0828

**Comments for Public Posting:** The latest Zoo EIR has made changes that create a better plan, especially dropping the tram idea, the huge parking garage, and keeping many trees and endangered plants. What is the worst part of the proposal is the excavation of the ridge line to construct an 18,000 foot Visitor Center atop the ridge. In addition there will be the destruction of Condor Canyon where a climbing wall is proposed. The argument by the Zoo that a climbing wall will help young people understand what rangers do when studying condors is ludicrous. The taking out of massive amounts of land for such an entertainment center will deface the park forever. The original Alternative 1.0 should be replace Alternative 1.5 regarding the California Plan. Alternative 1.0 conserves 21.6 acres, doesn't dig a 60-foot deep trench, and doesn't decimate a ridge line. Please reconsider keeping the natural ridge line and Condor Canyon in its present state. K. Sullivan

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Melina  
**Date Submitted:** 06/26/2023 12:48 PM  
**Council File No:** 21-0828  
**Comments for Public Posting:** Please don't move forward with this, it benefits no one.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Ida

**Date Submitted:** 06/26/2023 12:49 PM

**Council File No:** 21-0828

**Comments for Public Posting:** Please protect Griffith 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. 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:** Mark Penn

**Date Submitted:** 06/26/2023 01:00 PM

**Council File No:** 21-0828

**Comments for Public Posting:** Further, unnecessary expansion of the l.a. zoo calls for destruction of the ridge overlooking the zoo's already current sprawl. This disruption of the habitat is pushed through by this entity all in the name of putting up yet another, superfluous visitor center. Using the lame excuse that the natural environment of Griffith Park is already disturbed, the zoo intends to plow through with this blight all in the interest of whom? It is certainly that of the public. Once properly informed of this rapacious scheme to open the gates to yet more traffic and ongoing loss of native habitat the weight of the masses will promptly squash this greedy exercise in excess.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Mary Haberle

**Date Submitted:** 06/26/2023 01:04 PM

**Council File No:** 21-0828

**Comments for Public Posting:** Don't build Condor Canyon or the California Visitor Center.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Donna Morris

**Date Submitted:** 06/26/2023 01:12 PM

**Council File No:** 21-0828

**Comments for Public Posting:** Griffith Park is an ecological haven in a concrete jungle and is the only green space of its kind. Allow this last bastion of nature in LA to exist without destroying it with "improvements." Excavating through significant geological places as with Condor Canyon is destructive and will change the park's ecology forever. Griffith has an intact chaparral habitat that should not be developed. While much of the 16 acres of native habitat has unfortunately already been disturbed, it contains rare and sensitive plants and wildlife, as well as 26 City Protected Trees and Shrubs. Do your job, protect it. People visit the park for the nature, and they value the wildlife protection the park provides, so it's really backwards logic to destroy the natural topography by constructing buildings like a visitor center on the ridgeline. You're destroying what visitors value so you can attract more visitors? Destroy more wildlife habitat so people can come learn about why habitat is invaluable and be inspired to protect it next time somewhere else?! How about we just refuse to destroy it in the first place, now.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Jan Sasabe

**Date Submitted:** 06/26/2023 01:24 PM

**Council File No:** 21-0828

**Comments for Public Posting:** LA Zoo's Revised Vision Plan, Alternative 1.5 - Council File 21-0828 I am extremely concerned about the proposed expansion of the zoo into the wild, natural and beautiful canyons and ridges of Griffith Park. Hiking in the rugged hills and sparsely developed areas is one of the most popular forms of recreation in Griffith Park. I have been hiking in Griffith Park for over 25 years, and hike there now almost every day. I regularly hike the Skyline, Condor, and other trails in the area. I cherish the magnificent scenery, the flora, and fauna, especially the hawks, coyotes, snakes, and mule deer that I observe on my walks. This area should remain in its wild and wonderful natural state. -  
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. It's an intact chaparral habitat that should not be developed since it also contains 26 City Protected Trees/Shrubs. Please consider the intrusions and damages that these expansions would cause on the Condor Canyon area and **DO NOT APPROVE THESE PROPOSALS.**

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Mike Lyons

**Date Submitted:** 06/26/2023 01:48 PM

**Council File No:** 21-0828

**Comments for Public Posting:** Re: LA Zoo's Revised Vision Plan, Alternative 1.5 I think this revised plan is a great improvement of the original plan, but I still request that the Zoo not be allowed to further develop Condor Canyon or build the visitor center. The most valuable asset of the park is its urban wilderness. It's invaluable and irreplaceable. I support all the other improvements, but please don't make any more development intrusions into the wilderness of the park. Thank you. Mike Lyons

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Alan Salazar

**Date Submitted:** 06/26/2023 01:52 PM

**Council File No:** 21-0828

**Comments for Public Posting:** I am a tribal member of the Fernandeno Tataviam Band of Mission Indians and I am on their Elders council. There are several issues I am concerned with about the LAZoo's proposed development. One, I am not aware of tribal consultation with the local tribes. The zoo is on Tongva Gabrieleno land. My tribe has many tribal members with Tongva ancestry, so we should also be involved. Two, open space in this area is extremely important. It is needed for the local wildlife to survive. By removing acres of native vegetation in an urban setting that will have a big negative effect on the animals that are struggling to survive. This is just a bad idea. I think they should be enlarging the living areas of the animals in the cages at the zoo. Give them more untouched land to live on, not more buildings surrounding them. There are lots of run down buildings within a few miles of this location that should be removed, then build your visitor center there. Three the removal of native plants to build a large structure is a bad idea. We need more trees and less concrete. Thank you, Alan Salazar

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Mary Proteau

**Date Submitted:** 06/26/2023 04:48 PM

**Council File No:** 21-0828

**Comments for Public Posting:** Re: LA Zoo - Final Environmental Impact Report I join the undeterred wall of opposition comprised of individuals, community groups and organizations to LA Zoo's latest efforts to expand its presence in Griffith Park While the Zoo's pullback from the original plan relinquished that plan's more egregious items----the result of the overwhelming hue and cry against it—other iterations, including this latest have, disturbingly, fallen short. Couched under the guise of Improving the environments (lives) of the animals in its care and its educational contributions, it is not necessary to read between the lines to grasp the unhappy consequences of the plan's latest incarnation. In spite of ongoing criticism, Alternative 1.5 remains essentially unchanged from the previous version. Still included are a California area devoted primarily to visitor services, and a Condor Canyon/Corridor that would cut into a ridge of natural habitat in the park, destroying 13-plus acres of vital woodland—to say nothing of the disturbance to Zoo and Park animals and visitors—caused by its construction. And--I can't resist it--what would the condors say? Further, creating additional event space would intrude upon animal enclosure space, and subject the animals to noise and light pollution at times that disrupt their regular cycles—the maintenance of which is essential to their well-being. While some events would be held in daytime hours, the majority would be held in the evening, which draw larger crowds—and more dollars. But. At. What. Cost.? Importantly, the plan also neglects the disruption and negative effects it would have on the Park's wildlife—much of which even now struggles against the noise and light pollution of other of its attractions. LA Zoo should step back and think about what will be lost, forever, in the name of more and bigger, louder and brighter. It is to be appreciated that, in good faith, the Zoo's primary goal is the safety and health of the animals in its care. This necessitates a patient and thoughtful grasp of the larger picture. But how easily that goal can slip from mind when the dubious shiny objects of “improvement” are in the offing. More creative and benign options are to be found...it just takes the looking—and the caring. Especially in these times, when all life on Earth reminds us of its fragility, we cannot allow ourselves to be lulled into thinking that incrementally forfeiting pieces of the treasure that is Griffith Park is harmless, or even

good. We must weigh the benefits and the perils—immediate and long-term—of every action of every piece of this great gift. Before it is too late to undo those poorly conceived, it must be recognized that what is required is the sure and steady hand of honest stewardship. The LA Zoo deserves a better plan. Griffith Park deserves a better plan.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Jeffrey Schwarz

**Date Submitted:** 06/26/2023 04:53 PM

**Council File No:** 21-0828

**Comments for Public Posting:** My comments below: 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:** marianne king

**Date Submitted:** 06/26/2023 04:58 PM

**Council File No:** 21-0828

**Comments for Public Posting:** I support Alternative 1 because it involves the least amount of destruction with respect to grading, tree and shrub removal, and maintains existing wildlife habitat and connectivity. At a time when this city is finally starting to pay attention in trying to protect existing wildlife habitat and wildlife corridors, why should we support the removal of sensitive habitat areas as well as more tree removals? I believe the expansion of zoo enclosures can and should be done without excessive long term construction and stress on the existing animals. I do not support the expansion of more zoo exhibits, meaning adding more zoo animals for the public viewing pleasure and for financial gain. I would like to see the zoo focus more on conservation and wildlife care. Please support Alternative 1. We need to better and this is not rocket science, with a collective will, we can improve/upgrade the LA Zoo without such disregard and destruction of wildlife habitat. Forget World Class if it results in such destruction and harm to wildlife. That's hypocrisy, speak with forked tongue, whatever you want to call it- it's not right. "Project implementation would create a SIGNIFICANT IMPACT DUE TO the Alternative 1.5 removal of substantial numbers of trees during construction, reducing the City's urban forest canopy. Please revisit TDM with Alternative 1.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Rosalind Helfand

**Date Submitted:** 06/26/2023 05:01 PM

**Council File No:** 21-0828

**Comments for Public Posting:** Greetings, I am writing to express my deep concern over and opposition to the L.A. Zoo's Revised Vision Plan, Alternative 1.5 -- and I opposed the destruction of 13+ acres of habitat. Specifically, the Excavation of the 60-foot deep Condor Canyon through a significant geological feature is destructive and expensive and will radically change Griffith Park forever, aesthetically and ecologically. Also, 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. And 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. Thank you. Yours, Rosalind

## Communication from Public

**Name:**

**Date Submitted:** 06/26/2023 05:12 PM

**Council File No:** 21-0828

**Comments for Public Posting:** Against LA Zoo expansion further into the native habitat of Griffith Park. Please keep it as a protected wildlife corridor and the largest urban park in North America. We have many amusement park alternatives and don't need to take land away to expand the zoo.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** James Hickey

**Date Submitted:** 06/26/2023 05:13 PM

**Council File No:** 21-0828

**Comments for Public Posting:** Disrupting the rare and unique plants and wildlife that, despite LA Zoo's claims, do actually reside across these 16+ acres (including a number of city protected trees and shrubs) simply to make money is abhorrent. It is 2023 and we should all be striving to do more for our flora and fauna, but at the very least let's not not excavate and annihilate the living creatures local Griffith Park and the surrounding areas. Nobody in their right mind is asking for a bigger zoo or a new event space. Listen to what the people want, and better yet listen to the planet. Protect Griffith Park.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** GABRIELA JUAREZ

**Date Submitted:** 06/26/2023 05:36 PM

**Council File No:** 21-0828

**Comments for Public Posting:** -The new project scope and renovations should include all EV charging upgrades for the entire parking area at the LA Zoo. The number of vehicles that sit there while people visit the grounds should be used to charge vehicles and help with the electrification of the City and city facilities including the zoo. -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:** Tierney Brannigan

**Date Submitted:** 06/26/2023 05:41 PM

**Council File No:** 21-0828

**Comments for Public Posting:** NO on the renewed LA Zoo expansion plan. We must preserve biodiversity. We must protect our native plants and animals. The Zoo, of all orgs, should understand this!

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Terra

**Date Submitted:** 06/26/2023 05:56 PM

**Council File No:** 21-0828

**Comments for Public Posting:** Dear L.A. City Council -- I am very concerned about the Los Angeles Zoo's plans to change the surrounding landscape. As a longtime resident of Burbank and because I treasure Griffith Park, I reject these changes proposed by the L.A. Zoo: - Excavation of 60-foot deep Condor Canyon through a significant geological feature. This 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. This 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 includes 26 City Protected Trees/Shrubs. Past generations allowed the destruction of geological features and native habitat in the Park, but that doesn't have to be the path forward. The Zoo already has done enough to the area and should be winding down its ecological footprint in favor of the animals and other critters it supposedly protects. Please do not approve these Zoo proposals, as they would be a stain on Los Angeles' history that cannot be removed or fixed. Thank you, Terra

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Karla Mejia

**Date Submitted:** 06/26/2023 05:56 PM

**Council File No:** 21-0828

**Comments for Public Posting:** Please protect Griffith Park. At the present moment, low income and folk of color do not have enough access to green spaces. Griffith Park as it is, give children & elders a space to experience wildlife, to be amongst trees, and to witness still how we can co-exist with nature. Ecologically, the excavation of the 60 foot deep Condor Canyon with impact negatively ecologically. We have quite a few native habitats that need protecting as well. With the recent passing of P22, we need to ensure that we keep as much of Griffith Park in tact as possible for future mountain lions to thrive. Thank you!!

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Ronald F. Brusha

**Date Submitted:** 06/26/2023 05:56 PM

**Council File No:** 21-0828

**Comments for Public Posting:** The proposed California Visitor Center: The Zoo's assertion that the 16 acres acres involved is already "disturbed" native habitat (known to also include 26 city-protected trees and shrubs) is no logical justification to permanently disturb it by completely destroying it. This deceptive and misleading rationale by the Zoo is deplorable. The California Visitor Center proposal is a shameless and flagrantly obvious attempt by the Zoo to be something it should not, and does not need, to be, i.e., a combination Zoo and amusement zone. The Zoo should preserve and protect adjacent native lands with the same devotion it purports to protect animals under its care.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Mrs. Margaret Joyce Johnstone

**Date Submitted:** 06/26/2023 06:01 PM

**Council File No:** 21-0828

**Comments for Public Posting:** My husband and I are both members of our wonderful Los Angeles Zoo. The Zoo is large enough. It is not possible to see all of the exhibits in one day as it is, fewer exhibits would still show the diversity of our planet. I am strongly opposed to giving up any of the Griffith Park land, be it for a California Visitor Center, enlarging the Zoo or handing over land to any other entity that is in the park. This land is needed for wild-life. We people of Los Angeles have bragging rights for having a large urban park with wild-life thriving therein - ask any visitor. Let us keep Griffith Park as it is today.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Anna Josenhans  
**Date Submitted:** 06/26/2023 06:10 PM  
**Council File No:** 21-0828  
**Comments for Public Posting:** Presently, the LA Zoo plans to develop an event space, aka, the "California Visitor Center" and to situate it on top of an unbroken ridgeline which will degrade Griffith Park's unspoiled, rugged topography and create a visual blight. As a huge urban park, Griffith Park is unique in its vast areas of undeveloped land. This land that supports diverse wildlife including, up until recently, a mountain lion! We need to preserve these tracts of land and eliminate the development of a visitor's center. Thank you for considering my opinions.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Kate

**Date Submitted:** 06/26/2023 06:13 PM

**Council File No:** 21-0828

**Comments for Public Posting:** I strongly oppose the LA Zoo's Revised Vision Plan Alt. 1.5, as it proposes to destroy Condor Canyon, the natural park topography of the ridge line, and the rare and sensitive plants and wildlife so many of us care to preserve. The Zoo is a guest in the Griffith Park ecosystem, and should behave accordingly. Griffith Park is precious and must be preserved and undisturbed. I encourage the Zoo to reformulate their proposal with their neighboring plants, animals and landscape in mind. Thank you.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Jess P  
**Date Submitted:** 06/26/2023 06:18 PM  
**Council File No:** 21-0828  
**Comments for Public Posting:** Please protect the animals ??

## Communication from Public

**Name:**

**Date Submitted:** 06/26/2023 06:29 PM

**Council File No:** 21-0828

**Comments for Public Posting:** This is unnecessary and destructive to the local habitat. This should not be approved.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Kathleen G

**Date Submitted:** 06/26/2023 06:32 PM

**Council File No:** 21-0828

**Comments for Public Posting:** Griffith Park is our last piece of wild LA. Please leave it alone.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Stella Oganessian

**Date Submitted:** 06/26/2023 06:40 PM

**Council File No:** 21-0828

**Comments for Public Posting:** The purpose of the proposed project is 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. While Zoos are absolutely educational about plants and animals throughout the world, they could do better in teaching about native ecosystems. It's not just rainforests and savannahs that require protection; it's our native habitats, too.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Elena Tillman

**Date Submitted:** 06/26/2023 06:42 PM

**Council File No:** 21-0828

**Comments for Public Posting:** A growing number of studies are showing that even a light amount of human recreation in an area can negatively impact local wildlife. Foraging routes for browsing herbivores can be disturbed by increased human presence. Furthermore, human recreation can lead to an increase in non-native species. If only light human recreation can have such impacts, it is clear that activity as intensive as the proposed project will have long-lasting impacts on the surrounding ecosystem. I OPPOSE the vision plan for these reasons.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** JH

**Date Submitted:** 06/26/2023 06:42 PM

**Council File No:** 21-0828

**Comments for Public Posting:** Please support the natural landscape and native species of Griffith Park and do not approve LA Zoo Vision Plan 1.5. I support Friends of Griffith and the work that they have done in researching the importance of preserving Griffith Park (see below). 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:** Laurel Randolph

**Date Submitted:** 06/26/2023 06:48 PM

**Council File No:** 21-0828

**Comments for Public Posting:** I would like to express my dissent concerning the expansion of the zoo in Griffith Park. Los Angeles is incredibly low on free and open green space, and we should preserve every bit that we have. The one around the zoo is habitat for local species, both plants and animals. Please do not move ahead with the zoo's planned expansion, and preserve Griffith Park as a community green space.

## Communication from Public

**Name:**

**Date Submitted:** 06/26/2023 06:50 PM

**Council File No:** 21-0828

**Comments for Public Posting:** My family and I are opposed to these plans. Even the smallest amount of human recreational traffic can cause devastation hurting native plants and animal species. The proposed project will have long-lasting impacts on the surrounding ecosystem.

## Communication from Public

**Name:**

**Date Submitted:** 06/26/2023 06:55 PM

**Council File No:** 21-0828

**Comments for Public Posting:** I oppose the expansion plans for the LA Zoo. 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 walk in Griffith Park on a daily basis and enjoy the precious, undeveloped public space.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** John Callas

**Date Submitted:** 06/26/2023 07:10 PM

**Council File No:** 21-0828

**Comments for Public Posting:** I request that any changes at the LA Zoo not impact or destroy any existing natural landscape.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Laura Shumate

**Date Submitted:** 06/26/2023 07:19 PM

**Council File No:** 21-0828

**Comments for Public Posting:** Excavation and destruction of geography is not a community enrichment project but rather and more directly, it is an unnecessary endeavor, antithetical to the actual mission of the L.A. Zoo, “[to] support programs that preserve biodiversity and conserve natural habitat.” The current L.A. Zoo vision plan will displace wildlife and permanently alter the topography and wellbeing of the habitats of animals the organization is entrusted to protect. As the Zoo has boldly shared the philosophy that so much of the acreage has already been altered, this position is lazy and hurtful and encourages the questioning to review what is the motivation behind such destruction? Who is demanding this? The area contains rare and sensitive plants and wildlife. The amazing and wondrous chaparral habitat should not be developed, as it also contains 26 city protected trees and shrubs. All of this effort is a violent man-made interest that could be stopped, rethought and redesigned to include protection and stewardship of the lands and animals the Zoo is designated to protect. And imagine that. Imagine that story. That rather than building showy, destructive and intrusive new buildings and false vistas, the L.A. Zoo created new experiences and halls, full of education and pride, aligned with its responsibility, and that allows visitors to celebrate and honor our natural world. Imagine that story and the support such work would receive from the community, individuals, organizations, neighbors, and the world. Be that example and be true the mission of the L.A. Zoo.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Carol Brusha

**Date Submitted:** 06/26/2023 07:23 PM

**Council File No:** 21-0828

**Comments for Public Posting:** The Los Angeles Zoo lies within Griffith Park and it should not come up with plans that would permanently destroy and change the Park forever. The Zoo needs to respect Griffith Park. It should be considered a tenant and not a landowner. I want to thank the Zoo for partially listening to the community on some unsatisfactory and unacceptable aspects of its Vision Plan (such as removing over 6 acres of oak-walnut woodland from the plans and not building a parking structure). However, I object to its plan to expand into 13 plus acres within the California Planning Area that would destroy undeveloped native habitat in order to excavate a 60-ft. deep Condor Canyon and building the “California Visitor Center” on top of a ridgeline that will eliminate the natural topography of Griffith Park. The Zoo should not destroy what is natural in Griffith Park.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Heidi Buech

**Date Submitted:** 06/26/2023 07:28 PM

**Council File No:** 21-0828

**Comments for Public Posting:** Re: Opposition to LA Zoo's Expansion into the California Planning Area TO: Honorable Chair Hernandez and Neighborhood & Community Enrichment Committee Members: I strongly agree with CLAW's stance, and I oppose all past and present project alternatives that expand the LA Zoo into the undeveloped native habitat of the California Planning Area. The Santa Monica Mountains are a critical habitat area within the broader biodiversity hotspot of California's Floristic Province. Griffith Park and the LA Zoo have meaningful impacts on this ecosystem, and thus any large scale changes should be given a high amount of scrutiny. The LA Zoo's proposed Condor Canyon and visitor center in the California Planning Area would destroy a natural ridgeline, and have a negative impact on both the sensitive chaparral plant species found there and the surrounding wildlife. I oppose any project that severs this ridgeline and locates any facilities on that ridgeline. While Griffith Park contains areas that are already disturbed and could be utilized with smaller resulting impacts, the proposed Zoo expansion adds a 18,000 square foot structure and exports more than 36,000 cubic yards of earth in an undeveloped natural area. The resulting biological impacts would be unavoidable under this proposal. A growing number of studies are showing that even a light amount of human recreation in an area can negatively impact local wildlife. Foraging routes for browsing herbivores can be disturbed by increased human presence. Furthermore, human recreation can lead to an increase in non-native species. If only light human recreation can have such impacts, it is clear that activity as intensive as the proposed project will have long-lasting impacts on the surrounding ecosystem. This Griffith Park ecosystem is the exact location where just last year, LA's famed P-22, a mountain lion protected under California's Endangered Species Act, was euthanized due to complications from the sprawling development and activity that has already occurred in this habitat area. 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. While it is noteworthy that the Focused Recirculated

Environmental Impact Report's Project Alternative 1.5 is in many ways superior to many of the Zoo's previous project alternatives (except No Project), I STRONGLY URGE a deep consideration to the harmful effects this Zoo expansion would have on the surrounding ecosystem. I politely decision-makers to reject any proposal that would sever the pristine ridge of the California Planning Area in two. Thank you for your time and attention to this matter. Sincerely, Heidi Buech

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Imanelijah Zeinali

**Date Submitted:** 06/26/2023 07:30 PM

**Council File No:** 21-0828

**Comments for Public Posting:** My name is Iman Elijah Zeinali, and as someone who has worked for multiple animal conservation organizations. I know that the Los Angeles zoo has addressed multiple ways how they will utilize the space they own. They have addressed the environmental issues, and they're commitment to being sustainable and environmentally friendly. They are entitled to make their property better for the la citizens; the animals under their care, and a better work environment that contributes to conservation. They are not going out of their jurisdiction. I trust that the committees involved will do right by all parties. I believe the Los Angeles zoo should move forward with their 1.5 vision plan and I fully support it.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Christine W DiTillio

**Date Submitted:** 06/26/2023 07:32 PM

**Council File No:** 21-0828

**Comments for Public Posting:** "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."

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Sierra Club Angeles Chapter

**Date Submitted:** 06/26/2023 07:37 PM

**Council File No:** 21-0828

**Comments for Public Posting:** The Sierra Club Angeles Chapter appreciates the improvements that Alternative 1.5 makes over the original plan. However, we still strongly oppose several aspects of Alternative 1.5 and call upon the committee not to approve it in its current form. In particular, we strongly oppose the excavation of Condor Canyon and the destruction of 13+ acres of chaparral habitat in the California Planning Area. We also oppose the construction of a visitor center on top of the ridge. Please see the attached document as our official comment.



# SIERRA CLUB

## ANGELES CHAPTER

June 25, 2023

**To: Neighborhoods and Community Enrichment Committee**

Councilmember Eunisses Hernandez, Chair [Councilmember.Hernandez@lacity.org](mailto:Councilmember.Hernandez@lacity.org)

Xanthe Scheps – Leg Deputy [xanthe.scheps@lacity.org](mailto:xanthe.scheps@lacity.org)

Councilmember John Lee [Councilmember.Lee@lacity.org](mailto:Councilmember.Lee@lacity.org)

Councilmember Heather Hutt [heather.hutt@lacity.org](mailto:heather.hutt@lacity.org)

Eric Villanueva - Legislative Assistant - [eric.villanueva@lacity.org](mailto:eric.villanueva@lacity.org)

1149 S. Broadway, Suite 600, Mail Stop 939

Los Angeles, CA 90015

**RE:** Los Angeles Zoo Vision Plan Revised Final EIR, Council File 21-0828.

While we appreciate the improvements that the revised Alternative 1.5 makes over the original plan, we still strongly oppose several aspects of Alternative 1.5 and call upon the committee not to approve it in its present form.

**In particular, we strongly oppose the excavation of Condor Canyon and the destruction of 13+ acres of chaparral habitat in the California Planning Area. We also oppose the construction of a visitor center on top of the ridge.**

We appreciate that Alternative 1.5 makes some improvements over the original plan: the conservation of oak woodland in the Africa Planning Area and the omission of a parking structure, aerial tram, and vineyard. We also appreciate the increased emphasis on native plants, which support local insects and birds and are better able to adapt to local conditions such as heat and drought. Finally, we appreciate the transportation improvements that have been added to the Revised Final EIR.

We continue to oppose a number of aspects of Alternative 1.5. Several of our concerns focus on the California Planning Area:

**1. Destruction of Native Habitat.** We oppose the proposed destruction of 13+ acres of native chaparral habitat, which include endangered plants such as the Nevin's barberry and animals such as the San Diegan tiger whiptail lizard. The 13+ acres are also part of the larger ecosystem of the park, which includes birds such as owls and animals such as coyotes and foxes.

Destroying this habitat would make a mockery of the Zoo's otherwise praiseworthy commitment to conservation. It would also stand in contradiction to the 30 x 30 campaign, in which the goal is to conserve 30% of land and water by 2030; that campaign has been endorsed by Governor Newsom and President Biden as well as by the Sierra Club. Every little bit of wilderness can help.

The conservation of wild space is especially important in an urban area such as Los Angeles. Despite Griffith Park's size, the city as a whole is park-poor.

As far as we can tell, rather than being devoted to Zoo animals, most of the 13+ acres would be devoted to visitor attractions or transportation corridors.

**2. Condor Canyon.** While we greatly appreciate the Zoo's efforts toward condor conservation, "Condor Canyon" is not needed for or related to that. This attraction would permanently mar Griffith Park, changing its very geology.

- The proposed canyon would cut through the rock and dirt that underlie the ridges in that part of the park. Such geologic and visual changes, once made, cannot be undone.
- Rock climbing – the rationale given for rock-climbing in "Condor Canyon" in the original plan (to show visitors what condor scientists do) is not convincing. Clearly this is an attempt to create an attraction that the planners think would draw visitors and raise money for the Zoo and the City. Such an attraction isn't worth taking up space, destroying a ridge, and destroying local habitat as would be done in the proposed "Condor Canyon." If the Zoo really wants to add a climbing wall, it isn't necessary to destroy a ridge to install one – there are many free-standing climbing walls, including a mobile one already owned by Rec and Parks.
- "Condor Canyon/Corridor" is also proposed as part of circulation around the Zoo. People currently move around the Zoo without destroying a ridgeline in Griffith Park. While we understand that there are concerns about circulation at the Zoo, we trust that Zoo planners can come up with a circulation plan that does not involve destroying part of Griffith Park but instead lies lightly on the land.
- According to the LA Times, Zoo officials have recently suggested replacing the canyon with a tunnel. That would still affect park geology and involve blasting; it would be best to come up with a different circulation plan. While the tunnel would be preferable to a canyon, it would still be a permanent change to the ridge.

**3. Building a "California Visitor Center" on top of the ridge.** Alternative 1.5 also calls for building a large visitor center on top of the same prominent ridge. This would further mar the skyline of the park. In keeping with Griffith Park's own Vision Plan (and with the Wildlife Ordinance that is about to go to the full Council and that may ultimately include the park), we ask that any such structure be situated further down the ridge.

We hope that the Zoo does not intend to recreate all of California in the proposed California Planning Area. We believe that the Zoo can include California animals in naturalistic settings **while also** respecting the actual California wilderness that surrounds the Zoo. In that way, the Zoo could support conservation and champion the 30 x 30 goal in deed as well as in word.

We are also concerned about the proposed event spaces in Alternative 1.5.

**4. Event spaces** – Alternative 1.5 includes a large event space just within the entrance to the Zoo. It appears that, in addition to being an entry area, this space is partly intended for private events.

We are concerned that the Zoo, perhaps to raise money for itself and the City, will be turned into a space to be frequently booked for private events. If such events are held at night, that would produce light and noise pollution that negatively affects species in the park.

The Africa and California Visitors' Centers may also be used for events in the Zoo. In addition to affecting native species in the park, the noise and light associated with private events **may affect the Zoo's own animals.**

An increase in special events would also increase traffic in the park. Traffic is already a general issue in the park; the Zoo area is especially jammed on summer weekends. These problems go beyond a lack of parking – there are limits to the carrying capacity of the roads surrounding the Zoo. In addition, Recreation and Parks is currently working on traffic-calming measures that will **reduce** the number of lanes in roads within the park even more while improving safety for cyclists and pedestrians. While we realize that other parts of the Revised Final EIR attempt to address traffic issues, increasing the numbers of visitors and special events (especially nighttime special events for which vehicular traffic would predominate) would be counterproductive.

**In summary**, while we appreciate the positive changes in Alternative 1.5 and especially appreciate that it conserves existing hillsides in the Africa area, we regard conserving wilderness hillsides and chaparral habitat in the Griffith Park as part of the Zoo's expected and essential commitment to conservation and wilderness, not as some special, exceptional feature.

- Along these lines, we ask that you refrain from “developing” the California Planning Area, but instead, as in Alternative 1, leave it in its natural state. We especially ask that you refrain from permanently scarring the park by blasting/digging Condor Canyon into it and from marring the skyline by placing a large visitor center atop a prominent ridge.
- We ask that you also refrain from designing more spaces in the Zoo for special events and that you seek to reduce rather than increase such events.

Our requested changes would benefit Los Angeles, Griffith Park, and the animals that live within and outside the Zoo. The changes would fit with the Zoo's and the City's commitment to conservation and the environment.

Sincerely,

Morgan Goodwin, Senior Chapter Director, Sierra Club Angeles Chapter  
Barbara Hensleigh, Chair, Central Group, Sierra Club Angeles Chapter  
David Eisenberg, Chair, Verdugo Hills Group, Sierra Club Angeles Chapter  
Emmy Goldknopf, Chair, Griffith Park Section, Sierra Club Angeles Chapter

## Communication from Public

**Name:**

**Date Submitted:** 06/26/2023 07:43 PM

**Council File No:** 21-0828

**Comments for Public Posting:** Dear Sir and Madam, I am opposed to the proposed LA Zoo expansion as I find the destruction of native flora very disturbing and unnecessary. The LA Zoo, with exhibits that co-exist with the native wildlife and flora of Griffith, is an absolute jewel and any “improvements” will most likely destroy what the Zoo purports to love.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Los Feliz native & constituent

**Date Submitted:** 06/26/2023 07:43 PM

**Council File No:** 21-0828

**Comments for Public Posting:** GLAZA & the L.A. Zoo are getting too ambitious & at what cost?! They want to carve up the natural landscape of Griffith Park. This is a really bad idea. I wish to make a comment to help protect nature & speak for hundreds of other Angelenos who do not know how to make a comment. I am concerned about: The excavation of a 60-foot deep "Condor Canyon" It would be destructive, expensive and would radically change Griffith Park forever, both aesthetically and ecologically. I am also concerned about the placement of the new event space, the "California Visitor Center" – on top of a ridge line that will destroy the natural Griffith Park topography This plan should be reconsidered or eliminated. And also - 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 a chaparral that is an intact habitat and should NOT be developed since it also contains 26 City Protected trees & shrubs. I was born & raised in Los Feliz. Thank you for your consideration . . .

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Shirley Perl

**Date Submitted:** 06/26/2023 07:48 PM

**Council File No:** 21-0828

**Comments for Public Posting:** To Whom It May Concern, As a native born Los Angeles resident who has spent most of my life, past and present in Griffith Park at every opportunity, I am appalled by the recommendations to alter the natural landscape and destroyed many of the protected trees, bushes,, and wildlife! The city is already being overdeveloped and Griffith Park is the only haven of nature left . It needs to be left alone and enjoyed as it presently is for all, humans, vegetation, and wildlife. I hope you have the common sense to keep it as it is without any developments, big or small. Regards, S. Perl,

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Marcie Maute

**Date Submitted:** 06/26/2023 07:52 PM

**Council File No:** 21-0828

**Comments for Public Posting:** We MUST protect Griffith Park in its entirety. It is one of the cities largest asserts and a place i frequent almost every day. The Zoo expansion will be detrimental to Griffith Park and the protection of its land. I say NO to the zoo expansion

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Anneliese Boies  
**Date Submitted:** 06/26/2023 08:01 PM  
**Council File No:** 21-0828

**Comments for Public Posting:** The proposed plan to expand the LA Zoo an extra 16 acres is absolutely destructive and should not be allowed to happen. The argument that that area is already disturbed is absolutely untrue. I hike the trails beyond Rattlesnake Trail towards the back of the zoo nearly every day and aside from the trails cut out of the side of the hills, that's the only extent of anything that could be considered "disturbed land" that I can tell. I enjoy the wildlife- birds, rabbits, lizards, coyotes, skunks, and raccoons- I even saw P-22 near that area several years ago. I also enjoy all the CA protected shrubs and trees on the hillsides. I cannot see any benefit to adding a stage/gathering area on the top of a ridge line either. That would ruin the sight lines of the actual park. I want to see parkland, not buildings and parking lots when I look up into Griffith Park. It's my opinion that the LA Zoo should be using the money they are proposing for this expansion to update and create better habitats for the animals they already have. Some of those habitats are nothing better than inhumane small cages.