

Communication from Public

Name: Morgan Goodwin - Sierra Club

Date Submitted: 08/01/2023 01:37 PM

Council File No: 21-0828

Comments for Public Posting: Dear Councilmember Raman and City Council, Thank you for helping to scale back and improve the plans for the Zoo to expand in its footprint within Griffith Park. We appreciate the scaling back of the Africa area and the removal of aerial trams, a vineyard, and a large parking structure from the plans. We also appreciate your involvement in placing limits on vehicular traffic and the improvement of transit options. Nevertheless, even ahead of tomorrow's scheduled Council vote, we still have serious concerns about parts of Alternative 1.5 pertaining to the "California Planning Area" and about the more recent limited commitments mentioned by the Zoo/BOE. Our Central Group chair Barbarah Hensleigh has tried unsuccessfully to get a meeting with you, so we're emailing you. 1. The Zoo has said it will "Try[ing] a tunnel design first to create accessible pathways and avoid the need for a Condor "canyon." Digging a canyon into the ridge would hurt park habitat and the ridge itself. We ask that the Zoo be required to investigate the tunnel option within a stated period of time and get back to the Council. There is no "try." If a tunnel cannot be built, the Zoo should not dig a canyon, but instead should work around the ridge. 2. The Zoo has said it will "Mak[e] the California visitor center smaller in scale and less obtrusive on the hillside and ridgeline and not in the style of a Yosemite lodge." We ask that the Zoo commit to keep the California Visitor Center below a certain stated size and to making sure it does not extend above the ridgeline. 3. We ask that an Ecological Advisory Council be created to provide oversight over and feedback about the Zoo expansion plan. The Council would be apprised of the Zoo's plans as they develop and would meet quarterly. It would include the City and Rec & Parks ecologists; someone from the Biodiversity Expert Council; and people from organizations such as the Friends of Griffith Park, the California Native Plant Society, and the Sierra Club. The current plans only call for an ecologist to be consulted when 30% of the planned expansion has been built. By that point, much habitat might have been destroyed. An Ecological Advisory Council can provide expert feedback during the project that may lead to better-informed choices. Thank you, Morgan Goodwin, Senior Director, Sierra Club Angeles Chapter

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 08/01/2023 05:19 PM

Council File No: 21-0828

Comments for Public Posting: No to the proposed Condor Canyon and Visitors Center in the Zoo's new 1.5 plan. Let's get real, folks. You need to stay true to animal care and conservation, not entertainment venues and other nonsense.