



June 15, 2021

The Honorable City Council of the City of Los Angeles
c/o City Clerk
200 N. Spring Street
City Hall, Room 395
Los Angeles, CA 90012

SUBJECT: **LETTER OF SUPPORT – LOS ANGELES ZOO VISION PLAN
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT**

*"Creating
dynamic
experiences
to connect
people and
animals"*

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Mayor

Nithya Raman
Council Member
4th District

Zoo Commissioners

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President

Bernardo Silva
Vice President

Margot Armbruster

Christopher Hopkins

Daryl Smith

Richard Lichtenstein
ex officio member

Denise M. Verret
Chief Executive Officer
& Zoo Director

Dear Honorable City Council Members,

At its regularly scheduled meeting held on June 15, 2021, the Board of Zoo Commissioners (Board) was presented with the final Los Angeles Zoo Vision Plan (Vision Plan) Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for information purposes. The Board unanimously voted to send a letter of support to the City Council as it considers this report for approval and certification.

The Vision Plan will guide future development and modernization of the Zoo for the next 20 years and includes comprehensive redesign and redevelopment to replace outdated buildings and infrastructure and improve animal welfare and the visitor experience. The proposed Project includes near-term and long-term improvements through seven sequential phases of development and would achieve the following:

- Expanded and revitalized immersive exhibit space for improved animal welfare;
- New and redeveloped visitor-serving facilities for enhanced visitor experience;
- Circulation improvements for access roads, pedestrian walkways and paths, an enhanced entry way and plaza, and new parking facilities;
- Inclusion of environmentally sustainable design features; and
- Operational excellence of the Zoo.

This major project, which was completed over a more than two-year period, included extensive engagement and public feedback as part of the process. The completion of this Project is a significant milestone in the Zoo's effort to modernize and transform the Zoo. The Board of Zoo Commissioners wholly supports this extensive Project and respectfully requests that the City Council approve and certify the final Los Angeles Zoo Vision Plan Environmental Impact Report.

Thank you for your attention and consideration of this very important matter.

Sincerely,

KAREN B. WINNICK, President
Board of Zoo Commissioners

KBW:DMV/dmt

cc: Zoo Commission



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