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**DEPARTMENT OF PARKS
AND COMMUNITY SERVICES**

**CITY OF SACRAMENTO
CALIFORNIA**

1231 I STREET
SUITE 400
SACRAMENTO, CA
95814-2977

ROBERT P. THOMAS
DIRECTOR

G. ERLING LINGGI
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

WALTER S. UEDA
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

April 2, 1991

916-449-5200
FAX 916-449-8584

DIVISIONS:
GOLF
CROCKER ART MUSEUM
HISTORY AND SCIENCE
METROPOLITAN ARTS
SACRAMENTO ZOO
PARKS AND RECREATION
• NORTH
• SOUTH
• CITY-WIDE

Budget and Finance/Transportation and
Community Development Committee
Sacramento, California

Honorable Members in Session

SUBJECT: Zoo Ancillary Facility

SUMMARY

This report provides information on the status of a conceptual plan for the Sacramento Zoo's proposed Ancillary Facility - an off-site area for the conservation of endangered species. Further, this report requests that the City Council: (1) endorse the concept of a Zoo Ancillary Facility, as outlined in the attached Statement of Purpose (Exhibit I); (2) authorize staff to contact other zoos and explore the possibility of a cooperative facility; and (3) direct staff to report back in 90 days.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

On December 6, 1988, the City Council approved the Zoo-2002: Master Plan for the Sacramento Zoo and Surrounding Area and certified the associated Environmental Impact Report. In order for the Sacramento Zoo to realize its full potential as an education and conservation center, while simultaneously remaining a medium-sized Land Park facility, one of the adopted mitigation measures of Zoo-2002 was the identification of an ancillary facility necessary to support the existing Zoo in terms of education and the propagation of endangered species.

Within the zoo profession, it is currently believed that all species of mammals should be considered endangered, along with thousands of birds, reptiles, and amphibians. Fortunately as zoos become more knowledgeable in the health, behavior, and dietary needs of exotic animals, many populations of endangered species continue to successfully increase and even stabilize. Due to these successful efforts, zoos continually face the major problem of providing additional space for conservation purposes. The Sacramento Zoo and the Sacramento Zoological Society, in recognition of this critical need, have

developed a Statement of Purpose for the Ancillary Facility (Exhibit I). The ancillary facility would provide an unprecedented opportunity for behavioral research as well as a more natural environment for the breeding and reproduction of large groups of endangered animals. The Sacramento Zoo is actively involved with fifteen Species Survival Plans (SSP). Animals involved with SSP programs are critically endangered and if not assisted through conservation efforts, could become extinct within the next two decades. Zoo staff have identified nearly 40 SSP species which would be appropriate for the ancillary facility (Exhibit II). The ancillary facility would also include development and management of information center to provide knowledge and applied techniques for wildlife conservation as well as an educational center to instruct students as to the need to conserve the world's resources and natural habitats.

The first step in the process of development of the concept of an ancillary facility is to explore the possibility of making this facility a cooperative one. Within the United States, 13 zoos have developed off-site breeding facilities or conservation sites. The value of these sites is in the ability to focus on breeding critically endangered species in sizeable populations to significantly increase the numbers of a given species. Like the Sacramento Zoo, most zoos in this country are located within urban areas, where expansion is not an option. Consequently, land has become a valuable resource to the commitment of zoos to maintain stable, viable animal populations. Within the entire western region of the United States, the Sacramento Zoo would be one of three current conservation sites, with Woodland Park in Seattle, Washington and San Diego Wild Animal Park being the other two.

The value of such a site managed by the Sacramento Zoo, to other west coast zoos, is to offer them the opportunity to expand their endangered species breeding programs beyond their current sites. In this way, zoos are able to fully meet their commitment toward the breeding of endangered species and gain valuable knowledge from such institutions as the University of California at Davis, non-domestic facility and student research programs. One advantage of such a cooperative venture is that the Sacramento Zoo would gain financial support from each participating zoo as well as fully coordinate all research, breeding programs and training to the best advantage of all agencies involved.

FINANCIAL DATA

Any incidental expenses associated with contacting other zoos will be absorbed in the current fiscal year operating budget. No additional funds are requested.

POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

Pursuit of an off-site facility for conservation and breeding of endangered species is consistent with the Council approved Zoo 2002: Master Plan for the Sacramento Zoo and Surrounding Area.

MBE/WBE EFFORTS

No impact.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Budget and Finance/Transportation and Community Development Committee approve this report and forward it to the full City Council. Further, it is recommended that the City Council, by resolution: (1) endorse the Statement of Purpose for the Zoo Ancillary Facility; 2) authorize staff to contact other zoos and explore the possibility of a cooperative facility; and 3) direct staff to report back in 90 days with their findings and proposed steering committee, timeline, and process.

Respectfully submitted,



Maria Baker
Zoo Director



Robert P. Thomas, Director
Parks and Community Services

Recommendation Approved:



Jack Crist
Deputy City Manager

Contact Person: Maria Baker, Zoo Manager
449-5166

All Districts
April 2, 1991

K:Council/MBRZooSi

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RESOLUTION NO.

ADOPTED BY THE SACRAMENTO CITY COUNCIL

ON DATE OF _____

RESOLUTION APPROVING THE CONCEPT OF A ZOO ANCILLARY FACILITY AND AUTHORIZING STAFF TO CONTACT OTHER ZOOS AND DIRECTING STAFF TO REPORT BACK IN 90 DAYS

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SACRAMENTO:

1. That the Statement of Purpose for the Zoo Ancillary Facility is hereby endorsed; and
2. Staff is authorized to contact other zoos and explore the possibility of a cooperative facility; and
3. Staff is directed to report back in 90 days with findings, proposed steering committee, timeline, and process.

MAYOR

ATTEST:

CITY CLERK

FOR CITY CLERK USE ONLY

RESOLUTION NO.: _____

DATE ADOPTED: _____ 4

SACRAMENTO ZOO
ANCILLARY FACILITY
STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

The Sacramento Zoo is one of the nation's 144 accredited zoos. This accreditation is given by the American Association of Zoological Parks and Aquariums (AAZPA) and as such is eligible for state and federal grants, as well as the ability to exhibit any of the endangered species listed with the Council of International Treaties on Endangered Species (CITIES). As a member of AAZPA, the Sacramento Zoo is intricately involved with fifteen Species Survival Plans (SSP), one of which, the Thick-billed Parrot, the zoo was selected as the species coordinator for the United States. Animals involved with SSP programs are critically endangered and if not addressed by a conservation plan, could become extinct within the next two decades.

Today, it is believed that all species of mammals should be considered endangered, along with thousands of birds, reptiles and amphibians. In an effort to address the most critically endangered species and be prepared to handle the critically endangered species of the future, zoos are cooperating in an effort to manage entire species populations. Within the traditional boundaries of the nation's zoos, many species are thriving and their populations increasing. Through genetic research, it has been established that populations consisting of a minimum of 200 animals is necessary to insure a healthy gene pool and thus ensure the continued existence of a given species.

As zoos become more knowledgeable in the health, behavior and dietary needs of exotic animals, many populations continue to successfully increase and become stable. Due to these successes, the major problem of providing additional land for conservation of species continually arises. Today, thirteen zoos in the United States have established off-site breeding centers dedicated solely to the propagation of endangered species. These sites range from 30 to 10,000 acres. Additionally, these off-site facilities serve to protect and breed many species which do not breed well within a traditional zoo environment. Total seclusion is necessary for some species to be saved.

There has never been a more critical time to promote wildlife conservation. The Sacramento Zoo would be the third zoo in the Western United States to operate such a facility (Woodland Park Zoo in Seattle and the San Diego Zoo being the other two), and would coordinate several SSP programs. Working with several California zoos, as well as the University of California, Davis, World Wildlife Fund, Nature Conservancy and other conservation organizations, the Sacramento Zoo Ancillary Facility would develop and support a variety of programs related to research and training in wildlife conservation and management.

Originally, nature's plan was to allow the earth's creatures the opportunity to live a natural, free existence in an environment suited to their needs and a chance to reproduce. But the impact of the human species has interfered with the delicate balance of nature, destroying habitats at an alarming rate, which for thousands of years had been undisturbed. Unable to adapt to these environmental changes, more and more of our wildlife, both locally and around the world face certain extinction. The Zoo Ancillary Facility would be a conservation center providing a responsible approach to preserving what does remain of the world's wildlife.

March 15, 1990

POSSIBLE SPECIES FOR PROPOSED/FUTURE ANCILLARY OFF-SITE
BREEDING FACILITY FOR THE SACRAMENTO ZOO

The following is a beginning look at the species which could potentially be worked with at an off-site breeding facility. For this list to be further refined and considered, it will be necessary to define very clearly what the primary mission of this facility is and what are the objectives are for any species chosen and worked with.

The site chosen will heavily influence what types of animals can be most effectively (and easily) worked with.

The building of this facility will certainly entail a great deal of additional planning and thought; the points above were stressed in conversations with several people associated with the attached list of ancillary facilities.

SSP species

Continuing to work with the American Association of Zoological Parks and Aquariums, species survival plans will probably continue to be a good source of species to work with as these species have already met several important criteria to have been chosen as SSP species.

SSP species at this time that would be considered for the ancillary facility.

HOOFED STOCK

addax
*Arabian oryx
barasingha
*Grevy's zebra
okapi
scimitar horned oryx
gaur

CARNIVORES

*Asian lion
Asian small-clawed otter
*cheetah
*clouded leopard
red panda
red wolf
snow leopard
spectacled bear
*tiger

REPTILES

Chinese alligator
radiated tortoise

PRIMATES

black lemur
bonobos
chimpanzee
drill
golden lion tamarin
*gorilla
*orang-utan
*ruffed lemur

OTHER MAMMALS

chacoan peccaries
Asian elephant
white rhinoceros
black rhinoceros

BIRDS

Andean condor
*Bali mynah
Guam rail
hooded crane
*palm cockatoo
red-crowned crane
*thick-billed parrot
wattled crane
white-naped crane

*Species already being worked with at the Sacramento Zoo

OTHER SPECIES TO CONSIDER BECAUSE OF PAST INVOLVEMENT IN RELATED SPECIES
AND THEIR DEGREE OF ENDANGERMENT WOULD INCLUDE:

MAMMALS

ocelot
*margay
Temminck's golden cat
jaguar
howler monkey
cotton-top marmoset
Diana monkey
colobus species
bongo
Sonoran pronghorn
*dama gazelle
slender-horned gazelle

little spotted cat
*black-footed cat
tiger cat
*sloth bear
spider monkey
*golden-bellied mangabey
*Francois langur
gibbons (several more
threatened species)
sable antelope
roan antelope
Mhorr's gazelle
kouprey

BIRDS

razor-billed curassow
harpy eagle
*hyacinth macaw
*scarlet macaw
*great hornbill
various crane species

Amazon parrots (several species)
Philippine eagle
caninde macaw
military macaw
rhinoceros hornbill

(Quite a few other possibilities--particularly with bird species)

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