



# CITY OF SACRAMENTO

## DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

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CROCKER ART MUSEUM DIVISION  
GOLF DIVISION  
METROPOLITAN ARTS DIVISION  
MUSEUM AND HISTORY DIVISION  
RECREATION DIVISION  
PARKS DIVISION  
ZOO DIVISION

July 16, 1985

Budget and Finance Committee  
Sacramento, California

Honorable Members in Session:

SUBJECT: Zoo Attendant at the Sacramento Zoo - Report Back

### SUMMARY

This report provides information requested by the Committee at their June 18, 1985, meeting on the cost and benefits of having an additional Zoo Attendant at the Sacramento Zoo.

### BACKGROUND INFORMATION

In 1980-81 the animal staff was composed of a Zoo Supervisor, a Zoo Attendant II, eleven Zoo Attendant I's, and a Herpetologist. In the last four years, one Attendant and one Herpetologist were deleted. Workload was reduced by reducing the number of species maintained; transferring work to the Zoo's Administrative Assistant, Zoo Superintendent, and Fairytale Town staff; and by making adjustments in the number of educational and promotional events that require Zoo Attendant participation.

The Sacramento Zoo's animal collection is divided into six sections, each of which needs one Zoo Attendant each day, seven days a week, 365 days a year. Between January 1, 1985, and June 15, 1985 (166 days), we had 42 days (25.3%) where less than six Zoo Attendant I employees were available for work. Twenty-five of these forty-two days were covered by the Zoo Attendant II. A total of 17 (10.2%) days occurred during that period where Zoo Attendant I employees had to "double up."

The approved FY 1985-86 animal care staff is a Zoologist, a Zoo Supervisor, a Zoo Attendant II, and ten Zoo Attendant I's.

During the June 18, 1985, Budget and Finance Committee meeting, staff was asked to list the advantages of having the equivalent of one additional Zoo Attendant for a total of eleven FTE's. This additional 1.0 FTE Zoo Attendant position would be filled by two or more part-time Zoo Attendants who would be utilized to augment the Zoo staff during the busiest periods such as holidays and special events days, school vacations, and in particular the spring and summer months. The staff feels that this increase would accomplish the following:

1. Days with fewer than six Zoo Attendant I employees would be less than 10%. There would be the necessary six Zoo Attendant I employees during 90% of the days per year. During the remaining 10% of the days, the Zoo Attendant I shortage would be supplemented by Zoo Attendant II's at least 9% of the time. Additional staff would provide the Zoo with maximum flexibility as they could be scheduled during peak times such as holidays, weekends, and during the summer months.
2. The breeding programs could be increased and enhanced. Baby birds require an incubation period involving indoor care followed by supervised care in a special controlled outdoor environment to protect them from larger birds. The needs of new born reptiles are similar. Due to the current staffing shortage, provision of this care is not possible. Consequently, the Zoo routinely disposes of all non-rare bird and reptile eggs. Additional staffing would allow for the breeding of these species thereby increasing both the Zoo's population and attractions.
3. Attendants are presently unable to perform more than basic cleaning and feeding functions. The equivalent of an additional Attendant would enable staff to assume increased roles such as conducting animal care demonstrations, providing information to Zoo visitors, participating in docent training, and enforcing the no public feeding program.

#### FINANCIAL DATA

An additional Zoo Attendant will add \$26,871 to the Zoo Division Budget.

#### FY 1985-86

Revenue	\$ 672,500	\$ 672,500
Budget.	\$1,035,124	\$1,061,995
Percent		
Self-Sufficient	65%	63%

The recently approved fee increase will generate \$111,000 during FY 1985-86 and \$222,000 each fiscal year thereafter. This will offset the proposed increased Zoo services.

July 16, 1985

RECOMMENDATION

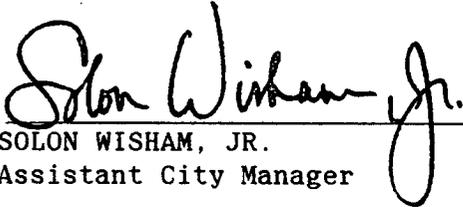
This report recommends that a 1.0 FTE Zoo Attendant position be added to the FY 1985-86 operating budget and that the Budget and Finance Committee refer this report to the full City Council for action.

Respectfully submitted,



ROBERT P. THOMAS, Director  
Parks and Community Services

RECOMMENDATION APPROVED:



SOLON WISHAM, JR.  
Assistant City Manager

July 23, 1985  
District No. 4