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Convention Culture  
& Leisure Department

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CALIFORNIA

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**APPROVED**

**AUG 29 2000**

OFFICE OF THE  
CITY CLERK

August 8, 2000

City Council  
Sacramento, California

Honorable Members in Session

**SUBJECT:** Sacramento Zoo Vision Plan

**LOCATION AND COUNCIL DISTRICT:** William Land Park, District 4

**RECOMMENDATION:** This report is for informational purposes only at this time.

**CONTACT PERSON:** Mary Healy, Executive Director, 264-5886

**FOR COUNCIL MEETING OF:** August 29, 2000

**SUMMARY:**

The Sacramento Zoological Society is developing a new Vision Plan that addresses all the facilities and services on the 14-acre site within the existing fence line. The purpose of this progress report is to provide information on the process, progress and timeline for the Vision Plan.

**COMMITTEE/COMMISSION ACTION:**

This informational report was presented to the Parks & Recreation Citizen's Advisory Committee on August 3, 2000. No action was requested or taken.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

The Sacramento Zoo opened on June 2, 1927. The nonprofit Sacramento Zoological Society was started in 1956 by a group of zoo lovers who recognized the need for wildlife education in our community. Since then, the organization has expanded in both programming and services to benefit a larger and more diverse audience. The Society

assumed daily and financial management of the Zoo from the City of Sacramento in July 1997.

The City Council approved a Master Plan for the Zoo in 1988. Portions of the Plan were implemented such as:

- The fence line was moved to include the rock garden in the general park grounds;
- A weekend and holiday differential was added to the price of admission;
- Expanded Spring and Summer hours were implemented.

However, the animal exhibit plans are out of date and do not address current zoo professional management practices.

The process to date:

- Zoo architectural firm, Portico hired in September, 1999.
- New Zoo Director hired in December, 1999 set up meetings with staff during spring 2000 to meet with architects and develop draft of plan.
- Public Opinion survey mailed to over 10,000 households and put on zoo web site. Over 800 returned to date.
- Open Public Forum held July 24, 2000.
- Informational meetings held with representatives of Council District 4, the Mayor, the Citizen's Advisory Committee and the Land Park Community Association.
- Informational meeting scheduled with surrounding neighborhood represented by Land Park Community Association for August 16, 2000.
- Staff will return to Council on September 19, 2000 to request conceptual endorsement to the updating of the Vision Plan.

#### **FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS:**

The Vision Plan is sponsored by the Sacramento Zoological Society at no cost to the City of Sacramento.

#### **ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS:**

An EIR was completed in 1988 and will be revisited. The CEQA process will begin after September 19, 2000.

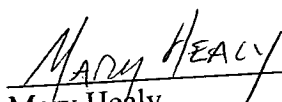
**POLICY CONSIDERATIONS:**

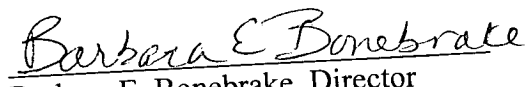
The development of a Vision Plan for the Sacramento Zoo as described herein is consistent with the City's policy to ensure the opportunity for public involvement in formulating policies and direction for regional amenities.

**ESBD CONSIDERATIONS:**


None. No purchases of services or supplies are being made.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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Mary Healy  
Executive Director  
Sacramento Zoo

  
Barbara E. Bonebrake, Director  
Department of Convention,  
Culture & Leisure

FOR COUNCIL INFORMATION ONLY

 for  
\_\_\_\_\_  
ROBERT P. THOMAS  
City Manager



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LAND PARK COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

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- LPCA was formed in the late 1980s when the zoo was being enlarged by 50%.
- We like having the zoo in the park and I would rather be here giving unqualified support of the proposed improvements.
- We try very hard to stay out of the zoo's business inside the fence line.
- We have been having friendly discussions about our concerns with Mary Healy.
- We want to preserve the park and neighborhood protections that are included in the Zoo 2002 master plan and in the 1988 Resolution adopting it.
  - a. We don't know what "conceptual endorsement of the updating of the Vision Plan" and revisiting an EIR mean, so they scare us.
  - b. The CEQA process comes before, not after Council action.
- The public outreach has not been broad enough and has been largely ineffective.
- The zoo is doing a good job spreading attendance to hold down the size of the weekend traffic and parking problems. The improvements will bring more people so new efforts need to be developed and included in the plan.
- The animal hospital construction is fine as long as it doesn't cause impacts outside the zoo like displacing existing employee and docent parking outside the fence line. There isn't room for them in the cul-de-sac shared with Holy Spirit School.
- A structure is planned under the heritage oaks. We object out of concern for the health of the trees and preserving the appearance of the Swanston statue backdrop. Zoo 2002 says area under the trees will only be used for picnics, with only tables being placed there.
- The Council voted in 1988 to acquire more zoo land outside the park, but not to move the zoo. The City's financial state has delayed the acquisition. Acquiring more land is an even better idea today, because of the current land rush.
- There are periodic noise violations because bands point their loud speakers toward the park and homes. A better configuration should be developed.
- The State told LPCA in 1986 or so it had good reasons for never proving stream train service to the zoo and wrote an EIR explaining them. Nothing has changed since then, but the quality of our air.