



Adam Lid &lt;adam.lid@lacity.org&gt;

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**OPPOSITION to Agenda Item #16-1357**

1 message

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**Megan Paticoff** <mpaticoff@gmail.com>  
To: adam.lid@lacity.org

Sun, Apr 16, 2017 at 11:16 AM

I am writing to express my extreme opposition to agenda item #16-1357 and to ask you to please vote against this bill.

The passage of this bill would be devastating to the students at Moorpark College's EATM (Exotic Animal Training Management) program as well as to the thousands of members of the public who visit the facility yearly. This program is one of the top programs in the nation, if not THE top program, for training students how to properly work with and care for exotic animals. Graduates from the program go on to be educators, presenters, zookeepers, conservationists, veterinarians, and vet techs, among other animal-related positions. Without the training offered at the EATM program, job opportunities for those people wanting to work with exotics would be greatly limited. Funds for the on-site zoo, America's Teaching Zoo are raised through animal sponsorships but mainly through programs put on by the students at the Zoo. Without the funds raised from those programs, the EATM program would cease to exist which would be a tragedy.

America's Teaching Zoo has strong community connections with over 15,000 children attending the zoo yearly enjoying educational programs. Numerous other facilities in our area provide similar educational programs every year both at their facility and by doing outreach. These programs are invaluable and need to continue. If this bill were to pass, it would end these important outreach programs and wildlife education organizations in our area.

I urge you to vote NO on Agenda Item #16-1357. Please include this letter into public record to be included in any hearing, studies, and or reports pertaining to this issue.

Thank you.

Megan Paticoff  
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Canoga Park