

Your Community Impact Statement has been successfully submitted to City Council and Committees.

If you have questions and/or concerns, please contact the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment at NCsupport@lacity.org.

This is an automated response, please do not reply to this email.

Contact Information

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The Board approved this CIS by a vote of: Yea(8) Nay(0) Abstain(0) Ineligible(0) Recusal(8)

Date of NC Board Action: 08/01/2022

Type of NC Board Action: For

Impact Information

Date: 08/05/2022

Update to a Previous Input: No

Directed To: City Council and Committees

Council File Number: 21-0828

Agenda Date:

Item Number:

Summary: The Pico Union Neighborhood Council (PUNC) is in support of Alternative 1.5 as described in the L.A. Zoo Vision Plan's Focused Recirculated Environmental Impact Report (EIR).



PICO UNION
NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL



August 5, 2022

Dear Honorable Members of the Los Angeles City Council:

**Subject: Community Impact Statement for Council File Number 21-0828
LA Zoo Vision Plan Focused Recirculated EIR Alternative 1.5**

The Pico Union Neighborhood Council (PUNC) at its Regular General Board meeting on August 1, 2022, Agenda item 5(f), voted 8 yes, 0 no, 0 abstaining, in support for Alternative 1.5 as described in the L.A. Zoo Vision Plan's Focused Recirculated Environmental Impact Report (EIR). Alternative 1.5 is also known as the California Focused Conservation Alternative and is the Environmentally Superior Alternative.

As the world faces its sixth mass extinction of species, the simultaneous conservation of local and global species has never been more important for both biodiversity and human livelihoods, and the Zoo is at the forefront of this work.

Alternative 1.5 is the best use of the Zoo's 133 acres, providing the space and infrastructure to ensure the best care and welfare of the animals, engage significantly more people in conservation, create more equitable access to nature, and develop better habitat for native wildlife.

Many of the Zoo's facilities are more than 50 years old and need to be upgraded to improve animal welfare and care, ensure visitor accessibility for all Angelenos, and meet increasing sustainability needs in the face of climate change.

Alternative 1.5 will build the California Area first, which will allow the public to experience native wildlife species, such as the federally-protected California Condor, in person for the first time.

In addition to providing a more than 160% increase in spaces for animals in larger, contiguous environments, Alternative 1.5 will result in the planting of more native trees and shrubs and will preserve and restore 6 acres of native oak woodland, which advances prevailing biodiversity and habitat connectivity goals.

New public hilltop access in the California Area will give many Angelenos a first-time, unforgettable perspective of how the Zoo's critical conservation work fits into our natural environment - from its home in Griffith Park to the Verdugo and San Gabriel Mountains.



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Finally, by removing the parking structure and implementing the Peak Visitor Management Program, Alternative 1.5 will reduce the number of visits made to the Zoo by car.

For all these reasons, PUNC recommends that you approve Alternative 1.5, the California Focused Conservation Alternative.

Sincerely,

Aurora Corona
Secretary
Pico Union Neighborhood Council