

REPORT FROM

**OFFICE OF THE CITY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER**

Date: February 16, 2023

CAO File No. 0220-6058-0003

Council District: 4

To: Municipal Facilities Committee

From: CAO Staff, Office of the City Administrative Officer

Subject: **LOS ANGELES ZOO: ESTABLISHING REGULAR UPDATES ON THE FACILITY WORK PLAN FOR CAPITAL REPAIR AND INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS**

**SUMMARY**

Since its establishment in 1996, the Los Angeles Zoo has provided critical wildlife conservation, environmental stewardship and educational programming at its current facility situated on 133 acres that is located within Griffith Park. As one of its many distinctions, the L.A. Zoo is among only ten percent of the nation’s licensed wildlife exhibitors that are accredited by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA).

As part of the Zoo’s most recent accreditation review conducted in January 2023, AZA identified a series of concerns over the extent of deferred maintenance and unaddressed infrastructure and capital improvement needs that have not been resolved since the prior accreditation review in 2017. As acknowledged by AZA, the Zoo has received ongoing levels of investment through the City Budget to implement capital repairs and various infrastructure projects. However, extensive investments above current levels are needed to update some of the Zoo’s original 1960s infrastructure.

At this time, the Zoo’s capital and infrastructure needs are under consideration as part of the City’s annual budget process currently underway. The City’s efforts to secure a new parcel tax to fund Zoo infrastructure did not obtain the necessary voter support as part of a measure placed on the November 2022 ballot. Absent a new funding source to implement wide-scale improvements, the Zoo has identified \$23 million in funding needs for the upcoming year for its annual capital repair program (\$2.5 million) and infrastructure upgrades (\$20.5 million).

The program management team is recommending regular updates to the Municipal Facilities Committee on progress implementing the preliminary capital work plan reflected in Attachment 1, to be updated for any funding authorized through the 2023-24 City Budget or through the use of current-year operational savings or residual capital funds.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Municipal Facilities Committee:

1. Instruct the Los Angeles Zoo Department, with assistance from the Office of the City Administrative Officer (CAO), the Bureau of Engineering, and the General Services Department, to provide regular updates on the status of projects included as part of the preliminary capital work plan provided in report Attachment 1;
2. Instruct the Bureau of Engineering to utilize existing staffing resources within the Recreational and Cultural Facilities Program to support the implementation of the Los Angeles Zoo's capital work plan to the extent feasible, and identify any additional funding and staffing authorities that may be required to provide dedicated support for these activities as part of the 2023-24 City Budget deliberation process underway; and,
3. Instruct CAO staff to identify any funding capacity available to address critical capital repair and infrastructures needs at the Los Angeles Zoo, with priority given to issues impacting animal welfare and other safety concerns, and provide the necessary recommendations for Council and Mayor consideration, as part of the next Financial Status Report and/or Construction Projects Report.

## FISCAL IMPACT

There is no immediate impact on the General Fund associated with the report recommendations.

The consideration of funding to address the capital repair and infrastructure needs of the Los Angeles Zoo will occur through the annual City budget deliberation process that is currently underway, with the publication of the Mayor's Proposed Budget to occur no later than April 20<sup>th</sup> of each year, and final budget adoption to occur in June.

Any potential availability and use of residual funding capacity in the current year to address the Zoo's most critical capital repair and/or infrastructure needs will be reported on separately and subject to Council and Mayoral approval.

## DISCUSSION

The Los Angeles Zoo and Botanical Gardens (L.A. Zoo) was established at its current location in Griffith Park on November 28, 1966, with a facility that spans 133 acres. The Zoo attracts over 1.8 million visitors each year and serves as a vital resource for local environment stewardship, publicly accessible educational programming, and global conservation efforts.

The City of Los Angeles owns and operates the Zoo facility, with responsibility for the care and wellbeing of almost 2,000 mammals, birds, amphibians, and reptiles that comprise over 270 different species, including 58 species classified as endangered. In addition, the Zoo's botanical collection encompasses over 7,000 individual plants, representing over 800 different plant species.

The Zoo provides critical access to cultural and educational programming to local residents and throughout the region, with free or reduced admission to thousands of local school children. Other youth programming includes classroom instruction, summer camp, and community outreach programs.

The L.A. Zoo actively collaborates within its network of accredited zoos to save rare and endangered species, as well as makes advancements within its own campus to amplify conservation messaging locally. Over the last half century, the L.A. Zoo has made extensive achievements in these efforts that are highlighted in report Attachment 2.

The L.A. Zoo previously benefited from the passage of Proposition CC in November 1998, which provided \$47.6 million to address infrastructure needs. These funds were leveraged with over \$30 million in private funds raised by the Greater Los Angeles Zoo Association (GLAZA) to implement the 1992 Zoo Master Plan. The L.A. Zoo has also successfully leveraged grant opportunities, including Proposition K and Proposition A monies that have been awarded to fund Zoo infrastructure needs.

### Zoo Accreditation and Recent Findings

The L.A. Zoo is accredited by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA), which is a non-profit organization that represents 235 facilities within the United States and abroad, and is dedicated to the advancement of zoos and public aquariums in the areas of conservation, education, science, and recreation. The L.A. Zoo has the distinction of being among the ten percent of the nation's almost 2,000 licensed wildlife exhibitors that meet the rigid standards required to obtain AZA accreditation.

As an accredited member, the L.A. Zoo receives benefits of partner access and network resources that includes eligibility for restricted state and federal grants, participation in conservation and breeding programs with other accredited zoos, professional training, and the ability to maintain certain rare and exotic species as part of the Zoo's collection.

The Zoo completed its most recent accreditation review in January 2023, which usually occurs every five years. However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic the last accreditation review occurred six years ago. As part of the exit interview that was conducted, the AZA accreditation team has identified a series of concerns over the extent of deferred maintenance and unaddressed infrastructure needs at the L.A. Zoo.

The AZA accreditation team did acknowledge the City's ongoing investments to address capital repair and infrastructure needs at the LA Zoo. However, despite these investments, several of the concerns noted during the prior accreditation review in 2017 have not yet been resolved. The AZA accreditation team indicated there is a significant degree of deferred maintenance, along with the need to modernize older animal exhibits that are closed because they do not meet modern safety and welfare standards for both the animals and their caretakers.

The final outcome of the accreditation review will be determined at the AZA Accreditation Commission meeting scheduled for March 25, 2023. The L.A. Zoo is required to provide a formal response to all the noted items of concern by February 17, 2023, which is to include an overview of the action taken by the Municipal Facilities Committee in relation to this report.

One of the potential outcomes of the hearing may be to require regular updates to demonstrate progress towards resolving current deficiencies. To assist in these efforts, the program management team recommends establishing regular status updates to the Municipal Facilities Committee on the Zoo's capital work plan (Attachment 1), along with any new infrastructure projects subsequently authorized through the City's annual budget.

### Zoo Vision Plan and Proposed Parcel Tax

In 2016, the L.A. Zoo began the development and subsequently engaged the public to participate in the planning process for its "Vision Plan" that would guide the transformation of the present facility to engage future generations in wildlife education and conservation efforts. Fundamental drivers of the Vision Plan include improvements in animal welfare, ensuring a meaningful visitor experience and expanding the Zoo's capacity to support conservation efforts amidst unprecedented climate change and loss of biodiversity.

The implementation of the Vision Plan would address deferred maintenance and needed upgrades to original infrastructure that has not been replaced since the Zoo's establishment in the 1960s. Proposed elements of the Vision Plan include: new entryway for the facility; immersive, modern animal spaces, including multi-species habitats; new children's play area; enhanced visitor amenities to include rest options and more food choices; restoration of native plants; increased conservation programming space; and, energy efficient infrastructure upgrades to generate conservation and cost savings.

Securing the necessary capital investments to implement the Vision Plan is one of the most significant challenges, given the magnitude of the project that would include the Zoo's entire

133-acre facility. The City's efforts to secure initial funding for Phase I of the Vision Plan through a new parcel tax was unsuccessful, as voters did not approve (Proposition SP; C.F. 22-1100-S6).

### Current Repair and Infrastructure Needs Identified by the Zoo Department

The inability to obtain voter approval of the proposed parcel tax has required a major shift in the planned approach for addressing the investment needs for the Zoo's infrastructure. At this time, the Zoo is projecting up to \$2.5 million in capital repair needs for the upcoming year, along with an additional \$20.5 million in improvements needed to address infrastructure that is beyond its useful lifecycle.

It is assumed that the full \$2.5 million for the capital repair program could be substantially expended or committed in the upcoming year. However, due to the need to complete condition assessments, design activities and other predevelopment work, full expenditure of the \$20.5 million in projected infrastructure improvements would not be possible in the upcoming year. Based on current standards in use, the projected expenditure of the infrastructure funds would likely occur over three fiscal years, in a rough distribution of 20/40/40 percent, as follows: \$4.1 million (2023-24); \$8.2 million (2024-25); and, \$8.2 million (2025-26).

Other funding needs identified in support of the facility's upkeep and maintenance would require the commitment of additional funding through the City Budget process as part of the Zoo's operational budget to support the salary, benefits and materials costs associated with the Departments construction crews.

The Office of the City Administrative Officer (CAO) is currently working with the Zoo to identify any potential savings that can be used to address critical repair needs in the current year, using these potential savings within the Department's operational budget or residual capacity that may be available within capital funding sources. Any proposed use of current-year capacity would be reported through the Financial Status Report or the Construction Projects Report to obtain the necessary Council and Mayoral approvals.

The Zoo has also identified the need for ongoing support from the Bureau of Engineering (BOE) to perform assessment activities and implement portions of the Zoo's capital work plan (Attachment 1). However, BOE has indicated a need for increased staffing for its Recreational and Cultural Facilities Program to support its existing workload, which includes completion of the remaining mandates for the Proposition K ballot measure program that sunsets in 2026-27.

As reflected in the report recommendations, BOE would only have capacity to support implementation of the Zoo's capital work plan through existing staffing capacity. Any consideration to provide dedicated staffing for the Zoo's capital program would require additional funding and staffing authorities through the annual City Budget process. To the extent that this need is not already captured, BOE would need to provide a supplemental budget request for consideration as part of the 2023-24 budget deliberations for the upcoming year.

## City Investments in Zoo Infrastructure and Capital Work Plan

The Zoo receives funding through the annual City Budget process to address operations and maintenance expenses as part of its own operational budget, based on projected needs and the availability of other offsetting funds. City staff are responsible for animal care and welfare, facility maintenance, and construction management, engaging the public and administrative functions.

The City Budget also provides additional funding for annual capital repairs and infrastructure projects as part of the Capital Technology Improvement Expenditure Program (CTIEP) portion of the budget, utilizing City General Funds and debt financed through the Municipal Improvement Corporation of Los Angeles (MICLA).

The Zoo's capital repair and infrastructure projects are usually responsive to multiple CTIEP prioritization criteria, as defined in the City's adopted Capital Policies (C.F. 19-1353), and as summarized below:

### CTIEP Primary Prioritization Criteria

1. Eliminates or mitigates risk to health and safety;
2. Addresses legal mandate;
3. Promotes resiliency and sustainability;
4. Impacts City operations, asset conditions and reduction in overhead costs; and,
5. Supports City initiatives to promote social equity and community investments.

A preliminary capital work plan is provided in report Attachment 1, which reflects current funding authorized for the Zoo's annual capital repair program and various infrastructure projects, along with future funding needs identified by the Department.

In order to demonstrate progress in implementing the preliminary work plan, the program management team recommends establishing a regular status report to the Municipal Facilities Committee (MFC). Since additional assessments would be needed to identify the most critical repair and infrastructure needs and to update prior cost estimates that do not account for current inflationary factors, staff would report to MFC to obtain approval on the proposed prioritization of projects within the available funding capacity and to seek direction in responding to any challenges that may arise.

MWS/bch/eyl:05230144

### Attachments:

- 1 – L.A. Zoo Capital Work plan
- 2 – Overview of Zoo Milestones

Project Title	Current Phase	Secured Funding		Projected Cash Flow Needs for Future Funding				Total	Project Description
		Prior Year	Current Year	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27		
Annual Capital Repair Program - LA Zoo	Ongoing	\$ 250,000	\$ 500,000	\$ 2,500,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,250,000	<p>Annual program to address capital repairs at the Los Angeles Zoo facilities, as needed to maintain the appropriate health and safety standards for Zoo animals, personnel and members of the public that visit the facility.</p> <p>The priorities for this program are evaluated at the onset of each fiscal year based on deferred maintenance needs and emergent issues that arise during the year, with additional capacity provided through the leveraging of supplemental funding sources.</p> <p>Potential deferred maintenance needs that will be addressed in the upcoming year include replacement of Heating Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC) systems, water pressure regulators and cool pavement pilot in response to climate change.</p> <p>Other needs will be determined based on future facility assessments up to the level of funding authorized through the City Budget each year.</p>
Zoo Langur Bridge	Pre-Design/ Design	\$ -	\$ 388,382	TBD	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 388,382	<p>Repair or reconstruct the Langur Bridge located in a central, major path of travel that is currently closed to vehicular and pedestrian traffic.</p> <p>BOE is working with the Zoo to complete the structural evaluation in order to determine whether the current structure can be repaired, or whether a full demolition and reconstruction of the bridge will be required.</p> <p>The project was approved by the Municipal Facilities Committee at its meeting held on December 15, 2022, with residual capital funds recommended for transferred through the Fourth Construction Projects Report (Item GGG; C.F. 22-0847-S3), subject to Council and Mayor approval.</p>
Zoo Exhibit Shade Structure - Elephant and Giraffe Exhibits	Pre-Design/ Design	\$ 1,113,446	\$ 706,019	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,819,465	<p>Installation of five shade structures in response to global warming trends and need to provide appropriate shade to elephants and giraffes as an animal welfare measure to ensure the health and safety of the animals under the Department's care.</p> <p>Funding provided in the amount of \$870,549 in the 2021-22 5th CPR (Item MM; C.F. 21-1028-4) and \$242,897 for the shade structures as part of the 2020-21 Third CPR (Item III; C.F. 20-1021-S2).</p>

Project Title	Current Phase	Secured Funding		Projected Cash Flow Needs for Future Funding				Total	Project Description
		Prior Year	Current Year	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27		
Zoo/LADWP Solar Resiliency Partnership Project	Pre-Design/Design	\$ 600,300	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 600,300	Asphalt repair and repaving work of the Zoo north parking lot to address health and safety concerns due to the current parking lot conditions. This work is being done in conjunction with the Department of Water and Power Resilient Solar project, and will include: pulverizing the top surface of existing asphalt, applying a three-inch asphalt overlay over 290,000 square feet in two phases, and re-striping a total of 791 parking spaces.
Zoo contingency reserve for capital projects	N/A		\$ 400,000						A contingency reserve of \$400,000 has been recommended through the Fourth Construction Projects report that is pending Council and Mayoral consideration (C.F. 22-0847-S3). Subject to approval, these funds would be utilized to address potential inflationary factors or other cost overruns for active projects (e.g. giraffe and elephant shade structures, asphalt repair, etc).
<b>Subtotal - Active Projects:</b>		<b>\$ 1,963,746</b>	<b>\$ 1,994,401</b>	<b>\$ 2,500,000</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 6,058,147</b>	
<b>Future Infrastructure Needs Identified by the Zoo</b>									
Zoo Roof Repair Langur Exhibit	Pre-Design/Design			\$ 120,000					The Zoo's Langur Exhibit incorporates themed structures within the exhibit that are accessible by the animals. The design of the tiled roofing on these structures extends between both the interior and exterior of the exhibit as well through a complex weave of exhibit meshing that is elevated high above ground level. Portions of the roof are accessible by animals as climbing and resting spots. This exhibit was built in 2007 and the wear and tear on the roof has resulted in cracking and falling roof tiles that pose a danger to the animals and the staff that access the exhibit for cleaning and maintenance. Additionally, the loss of the roof tiles has created sharp edges and gaps of significant size that can potentially injure an animal and create potential for an escape.
Zoo Roof Replacement - Construction Building Shops	Pre-Design/Design			\$ 12,000					This project would replace a portion of the roof at the Zoo's construction building shops which house staff and machinery equipment that support all of the Zoo's construction and facility maintenance operations. The existing roofing is beyond repair and continual degrading poses a safety hazard to staff working in the facility.



Project Title	Current Phase	Secured Funding		Projected Cash Flow Needs for Future Funding				Total	Project Description
		Prior Year	Current Year	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27		
Zoo Heating System Renovation - Elephant Exhibit	Pre-Design/Design			\$ 50,000					This project would provide an upgraded and expanded heating system that would include radiant heating for the Elephant Exhibit barns to provide a more efficient system for ensuring that the barn facility can effectively maintain consistent heating levels without being impacted by the ambient temperature outdoors. This project is essential to maintaining the health and welfare of the animals in this exhibit and would provide for a secondary system to the existing floor heating that would supplement as well as back-up the existing system. The size and expanse of the exhibit requires a dual system to more efficiently and effectively maintain temperature levels throughout the expansive building.
Zoo Roof Replacement - Service Kitchen Building	Pre-Design/Design			\$ 12,000					This project would replace a portion the roof at the Zoo's service kitchen building. This building houses the service kitchen that supports the concessions operations throughout the Zoo. The existing roofing has deteriorated beyond repair and requires a complete replacement.
Zoo Infrastructure Repairs and Upgrades	Ongoing	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,100,000	\$ 8,200,000	\$ 8,200,000	\$ -	\$ 20,500,000	<p>The Zoo has projected \$20.5 million in upgrades to the original 1960s infrastructure, to include repairs to interior road and pathways, closed exhibits that no longer meet modern standards, and outdated building systems that posed health and safety concerns that can be replaced with energy efficient models to generate long-term operational savings.</p> <p>The specific list of projects would be subject to additional assessments being conducted and updated cost estimates to replace outdated projections that do not account for current inflationary factors. The final selection and oversight of funded projects would be reported to the Municipal Facilities Committee as part of regular updates to this preliminary capital work plan.</p> <p>Based on current construction standards, the projected funding level needed to support pre-development and design activities in the upcoming year is projected as \$4.1 million (or 20 percent of the total). The remaining constructions funds would likely be spent over two subsequent years, as reflected in the table to the right.</p>

Project Title	Current Phase	Secured Funding		Projected Cash Flow Needs for Future Funding				Total	Project Description
		Prior Year	Current Year	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27		
Animal Exhibit Shade Structure Various	Pre-Design/Design			\$ 400,000					This project would provide for new or additional shade structures at various exhibits including giraffes and elephants. Optimizing animal health and welfare is essential to the Zoo's operations and these shade structures would provide opportunities to enhance this effort. Changes and continual improvement in the management of animals in their exhibits rely on the ability to alter and enhance the structure of their habitat to provide optimal care and adjust to changing environmental needs. These shade structures are critical.
Reptile Building Rubberized Flooring	Pre-Design/Design			\$ 60,000					The existing carpeted flooring in the Zoo's reptile building has been in place since 2012. This exhibit is an indoor facility that is one of the most popular exhibit spaces in the Zoo and frequented by the majority of its 1.8 million annual visitors. The wear and tear on the carpet has been further exacerbated by a flooding of the facility in 2014 and again in 2018. While the water was extracted from the carpet following the flooding, the resulting impact and permanent damage to the carpet and subflooring poses potential health and safety risks which only replacement can resolve. The recommended replacement solution would include utilizing a rubberized flooring instead of carpeting that would allow for more effective maintenance and also provide the necessary sound absorbing surface in this building.
Zoowide Paving	Pre-Design/Design			\$ 150,000					This project would provide for approximately 75,000 square feet of asphalt repaving of various interior pathways and circulation roads throughout the Zoo that have fallen into disrepair resulting in potential risk of trip and fall incidents and liability to the City. Many pathways have potholes and are cracked and buckling. Their condition is exacerbated during rains which allow the water to seep into the holes and cracks and further degrade them. Many of the existing pathways are original paving from when the Zoo first opened in 1966 and are utilized continuously by the public as pedestrian pathways as well as by Zoo vehicles.
Broken Exhibit Glass Repair - Chimpanzee Exhibit	Pre-Design/Design			\$ 150,000					This project would provide for the replacement of approximately 150 square feet of ¾ inch thick specialized tempered glass for the Chimpanzee Exhibit. This glass is part of the front viewing area of the exhibit and damage to the window resulted from structural loads in the framing. As the window is an integral part of the structural frame of the exhibit area, the repair and replacement are extensive as well as critical to maintaining the structural integrity of the exhibit in addition to enhancing the aesthetics and guest viewing experience.

Project Title	Current Phase	Secured Funding		Projected Cash Flow Needs for Future Funding				Total	Project Description
		Prior Year	Current Year	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27		
Zoo Bird Show Bleachers and Shade Structure	Pre-Design/ Design	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,000,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,000,000	Funding for this projects to replace the existing bleachers and provide a new shade structure was previously provided in the 2018-19 CTIEP Budget.  However, due to the need to funded other critical capital infrasturcture needs funding for this project was repurposed in 2021-22 (refer to Zoo Exhibit Shade Structure - Elephant and Giraffe Exhibits project).
Zoo Vision Plan (Phase I)	Planning / Predevelopment	\$ -	\$ 2,000,000	\$ 25,000,000	\$ 25,000,000	\$ 80,000,000	\$ 80,000,000	\$ 212,000,000	Initial funding of \$2 million is authorized through the City's 2022-23 Adopted Budget, as a first installment for the Zoo's multi-year capital upgrade plan to enhance animal welfare, exhibit space, native plants and wildlife, and visitor experience.  The City was unsuccessful in obtaining the necessary voter support to establish a new parcel tax through the November 2022 General Election, which would have been used to fund Phase 1 of the Vision Plan.
<b>Subtotal - Future Needs:</b>		\$ -	\$ 2,000,000	\$ 31,860,000	\$ 33,200,000	\$ 88,200,000	\$ 80,000,000	\$ 234,500,000	
<b>Grand Totals:</b>		\$ 1,963,746	\$ 3,994,401	\$ 34,360,000	\$ 33,200,000	\$ 88,200,000	\$ 80,000,000	\$ 240,558,147	

**Los Angeles Zoo: Timeline of Major Milestones**

The following provides a chronological history of the L.A. Zoo highlighting major events, renovations, and other important changes.

**1966:** The Los Angeles Zoo opens at its current site in Griffith Park. It would be one of the first zoos to be designed based on zoogeographic principles creating sections of the Zoo known as Africa, Eurasia, North America, South America and Australia. Other exhibits included a Reptile House, Children's Zoo and Aviary. During its first year, the Zoo received 2.2 million visitors.

**1967:** The L.A. Zoo acquires a pair of Arabian Oryx. The Zoo was one of the first in North America to breed this species and reintroduce them into the wild. The Zoo would participate in this program until 2006.

**1972:** The Zoo becomes an accredited member of the AZA (then AAZPA).

**1981:** The Zoo becomes a partner in the California Condor Recovery Program and is instrumental in increasing the world's population of California condors from 22 to more than 300 through its hatching and rearing program.

Zoo Magnet School opens through a collaboration with the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD), and moves to an adjacent campus in 1983

**1982:** Six Victorian koalas arrive from the Melbourne Zoo and take up residence in the Ahmanson Koala House. The exhibit is the recipient of a Significant Achievement Award from the AAZPA.

**1984:** A pair of giant pandas were loaned to the Zoo by the People's Republic of China in conjunction with the 1984 Summer Olympics being held in Los Angeles. During the pandas three-month stay, more than 600,000 people came to see them.

**1989:** California Condor program receives the Bean conservation award.

**1990:** California Condor chick hatches, followed by over 160 chicks hatched at the L.A. Zoo, and recovery of the wild population to over 520 individuals.

**1995:** The Zoo's AZA accreditation is tabled due to aging infrastructure. Construction and maintenance issues are addressed and the Zoo's accreditation is restored within a year.

**1997:** The Los Angeles Zoo is separated from the Department of Recreation and Parks and designated as its own City department in an effort to streamline bureaucracy and elevate its position in the City governance structure.

**1998:** Chimpanzees of Mahale Mountains, a new chimpanzee exhibit opens, and is lauded by Jane Goodall as one of the finest zoo habitats. The exhibit features a once-

acre habitat for one of the largest troops of chimpanzees in the United States.

**2000:** The Red Ape Rain Forest, a multi-level habitat for orangutans opens.

**2001:** The Winnick Family Children's Zoo opens with a contact yard, cave experience, desert trail and an animal care center.

**2004:** A new Entrance Plaza and Children's Discovery Center opens.

**2005:** Sea Life Cliffs, the Zoo's first marine habitat to feature underwater viewing, opens to the public. The exhibit opens with California sea lions and is later switched to a group of harbor seals.

**2007:** The Campo Gorilla Reserve exhibit opens to the public. The exhibit houses two troops of gorillas in separate habitats.

**2008:** A pair of peninsular pronghorn (berrendo) are born, marking a milestone in the species' recovery, as a joint effort with the Mexican government.

**2010:** The new Elephants of Asia exhibit, the largest exhibit in the history of the Zoo opens. The habitat features 3.8 acres of roaming space for the elephants with a waterfall, two bathing pools, ample enrichment opportunities and varied topography.

**2011:** Release of captive-bred mountain yellow-legged frog tadpoles into protected habitat within the San Bernardino National Park, with 300 released to date.

**2012:** The Zoo introduced the Living Amphibians, Invertebrates, and Reptiles exhibit, also known as The LAIR, which encompasses over 60 species of amphibians, invertebrates, and reptiles and provides habitats for various unique and endangered species.

**2014:** The Zoo opened the Rainforest of the Americas project which provides a rainforest immersion experience for visitors with lush vegetation and exhibits featuring over 20 different animal species.

**2018:** The Zoo completed the L.A. Zoo Vision Plan: 2028 and Beyond to further elevate animal welfare and continue its path of progress to transform the Zoo into an environmentally sustainable, world-class destination and wildlife conservation center. The Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Vision Plan was initiated.

**2019:** The City names Denise Verret as the Chief Executive Officer and Zoo Director for the L.A. Zoo, the first African American woman to lead an AZA-accredited zoo.

**2019:** The Zoo hired its first ever Director of Conservation to further the development and implementation of strategies that protect endangered species and contribute to our understanding and preservation of wildlife while connecting people to animals.

## ATTACHMENT 2

**2020:** The Zoo and the world are struck by the COVID-19 pandemic. Over the course of the next year the Zoo was forced to close for a period of 237 days.

**2021:** The Zoo launched the first ever Conservation Strategic Plan focusing on six key areas of focus over the next five years including social and environmental justice, California conservation, illegal wildlife trade, conservation translocations, human-wildlife co-existence, and evidence-based conservation.

**2022:** The Zoo received the AZA Significant Achievement in Education Award for its Virtual Zoo Pals program for students from Title 1 schools that addresses the barriers created by virtual instruction through high-quality authentic animal observations, student-driven activities and discoveries, and curriculum that enhances students' emotional wellbeing.