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Evolution Hospitality

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Hyatt Corporation

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Ridgemont Hospitality

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Avis Budget Group, Inc.

Kurt Stocks
LEGOLAND California Resort

Scott Strobl
Universal Studios Hollywood

Benjamin Webster
Littler Mendelson P.C.

Scott White
Visit Greater Palm Springs

Elk Grove City Council
8401 Laguna Palms Way
Elk Grove, CA 95758

Dear City Council Members,

As you consider establishing a zoo in Elk Grove, I urge you to reflect on the benefits to the community in terms of attracting visitors.

Accredited zoos and aquariums are destination drivers – they motivate people to consider visiting. This is especially true with families, who contribute \$47 billion in spending every year in California. Zoos also have a halo effect on surrounding communities and businesses when they draw tourists from around the world, increasing hotel stays and restaurant spending.

Visit California is the state's nonprofit marketing organization, promoting travel to the Golden State through its global programming. California's zoos and aquariums attract more than 20 million visitors annually. Our research indicates that nearly 10% of all travelers come to California specifically for its zoos and aquariums.

California's tourism industry is an economic powerhouse that delivered \$150.4 billion in visitor spending last year, generating \$12.7 billion in state and local tax revenues and directly supporting 1.2 million California jobs. Establishing a zoo would help boost those numbers even further.

Sincerely,



Caroline Beteta
President & CEO
Visit California



May 8, 2024

City Council
City of Elk Grove
8401 Laguna Palms Way
Elk Grove, CA 95758

Dear City Council Members,

I'm writing to express my support for the establishment of a new zoo in Elk Grove. As the President and CEO of Visit Sacramento, I know firsthand the value that an attraction like this could bring to visitors, residents and the greater region.

The Sacramento area's status as a destination has been on the rise for some time, and we're poised to attract even more visitors in the coming years. As more people discover the Sacramento region through travel for festivals, sports events, conventions and leisure visits, it is essential that our greater region is ready to greet this next generation of tourists. It is critically important that we add strategic offerings to our tourism roster to ensure we have a variety of exciting options for visitors to explore; a new zoo is a perfect example of such an addition.

There is tremendous value in investing in our region as a destination, particularly for the family traveler. The new zoo would provide countless opportunities for exploration, education and fun for all visitors, but especially for children and those traveling with them.

I look forward to seeing the progress in this important project and am available to answer any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael R. Testa".

Mike Testa

President & CEO
Visit Sacramento



Quality Housing • Ethics • Professionalism



May 2, 2024

City Council
City of Elk Grove
8401 Laguna Palms Way
Elk Grove, CA 95758

RE: Sacramento Zoo move to Elk Grove

Dear City Council Members:

The California Apartment Association supports the move of the Sacramento Zoo to the new proposed location in Elk Grove. As a municipal and regional amenity, the prospect of a permanent home for the zoo in one of California’s fastest growing family-oriented communities should be heartening for all Sacramento area residents.

In addition to the obvious benefits of increased education in zoology, ecology and conservation, the development of the Zoo in Elk Grove will help further define Elk Grove as a regional tourism draw, spurring ancillary benefits to the local economy and character of Elk Grove.

Few communities in California can boast having a modern zoo that brings families together and helps to define the character and future of their city. Approval of the zoo project is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to stimulate economic growth and community pride while simultaneously limiting the impacts of growth that often make new development difficult.

The Elk Grove City Council should not pass up this opportunity to do something unique and positively self-defining. We urge the council to achieve a tremendous milestone for the city by approving the zoo project on May 8th.

Sincerely,

CALIFORNIA APARTMENT ASSOCIATION

By
Matt McDonald
Vice President, Local Public Affairs



April 25, 2024

City Council
City of Elk Grove
8401 Laguna Palms Way
Elk Grove, CA 95758

Dear City Council Members,

We, the Sacramento Association of REALTORS®, are writing to express our enthusiastic support for the establishment of a new zoo in Elk Grove. As individuals and representatives of various organizations and groups throughout the region, and beyond, we believe that a zoo would be a valuable addition to the entire Capital Region and would bring numerous benefits to our residents and visitors.

A zoo is not only a place for entertainment and recreation but also serves as an educational resource for children and adults alike. It provides an opportunity for individuals to learn about various animal species, their habitats, and the importance of environmentalism and conservation efforts. By highlighting endangered species and the importance of biodiversity, zoos inspire individuals to take action to protect our planet and its wildlife.

The City of Elk Grove has an opportunity to showcase its entrepreneurial spirit and be the first city in the United States to build a new zoo from the ground up in more than 30 years. As a family-oriented community with a top ranked school district, the new zoo will contribute to the overall development and vibrancy of Elk Grove, making it an even more desirable destination for residents.

Furthermore, a new, modern zoo will stimulate economic growth and tourism in our region. It would attract visitors from near and far, generating revenue for local businesses and creating job opportunities.

We urge the City Council to support the proposed new zoo and take whatever steps necessary to bring a zoo to Elk Grove. We are confident that the zoo will enrich the lives of our residents and contribute to the growth and prosperity of the City and of our region.

We look forward to a positive Council vote on May 8 and to a world-class new zoo and the many benefits it will bring.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jessica Coates". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Jessica Coates, RCE
Chief Executive Officer





GREATER SACRAMENTO
ECONOMIC COUNCIL

Greater Sacramento Economic Council
400 Capitol Mall, Suite 2520
Sacramento, CA 95814

May 8, 2024

City Council
City of Elk Grove
8401 Laguna Palms Way
Elk Grove, CA 95758

Dear City Council Members,

On behalf of the Greater Sacramento Economic Council, I am writing to express our enthusiastic support for the development of a new zoo in Elk Grove. As leaders in economic development, we believe that Elk Grove's new zoo will be an invaluable addition to the Greater Sacramento region, generating significant economic impacts while adding to the list of top-notch cultural, educational, and entertainment amenities our region offers. Perhaps most important, the zoo will provide an opportunity to teach successive generations about animal species, their habitats, and the importance of conservation.

Development of a world-class new zoo will generate not only short-term economic impact from its construction but will also deliver ongoing economic benefits for the local and regional economies estimated at 395 jobs, \$111 million in labor income, and \$249 million of total economic impact over five years.

With the new zoo, the City of Elk Grove has an opportunity to showcase its entrepreneurial spirit and innovative approach to government and economic development by being the first city in the United States to build a zoo in more than 30 years. The new zoo will contribute to the overall vibrancy of Elk Grove, making it an even more desirable destination for residents, companies, and employees.

For these reasons, we urge the City Council to approve the new zoo in Elk Grove on May 8.

Sincerely,

Barry Broome
President & CEO

75
YEARS

of EXCEPTIONAL
CARE AND
INNOVATION



Dear Council Members of the City of Elk Grove,

On behalf of the veterinary students and the Wildlife and Aquatic Animal Medicine (WAAM) Club at the UC Davis School of Veterinary Medicine, we are writing to express our enthusiastic support for constructing a new zoo in Elk Grove. As veterinary students interested in pursuing zoological, aquatic, and wildlife medicine, the opening of a new zoo would profoundly impact our education and ability to achieve our future goals. Beyond that, a new zoo could provide significant socioeconomic benefits to the city itself.

From the veterinary student perspective, having a new zoo in such close proximity to the veterinary school would provide invaluable hands-on learning opportunities for us as students. Working with the diverse range of species that can be found in zoos would provide us the opportunity to gain essential practical experience in animal care, diagnostics, and treatment. Additionally, a new zoo would enhance our educational experience by providing opportunities for networking within the zoo med community and the opportunity to conduct research—both integral aspects of our training to foster success in our future careers. In this way, the new zoo would serve as a research hub where students can engage in meaningful scientific endeavors and contribute to the advancement of veterinary medicine and wildlife conservation.

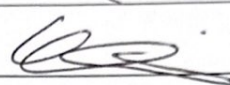
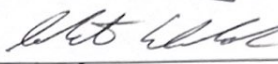
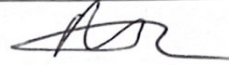
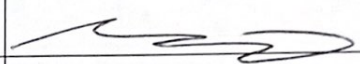
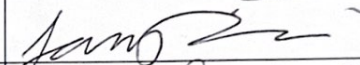

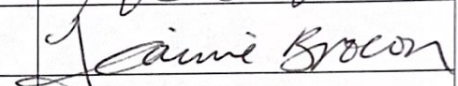
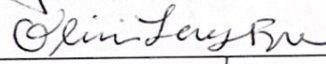
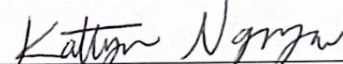
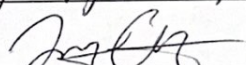
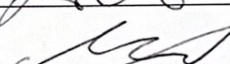
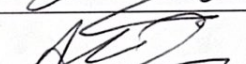

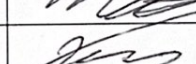
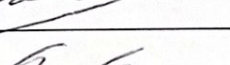
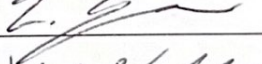
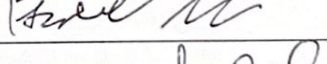
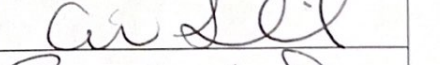


Furthermore, a new zoo would benefit the city of Elk Grove by promoting tourism, supporting local businesses, and enriching the community's cultural landscape. It would attract visitors from near and far, generating revenue for the city and creating job opportunities for residents. Additionally, it would provide families with a unique and educational recreational experience, fostering a deeper connection to nature and wildlife. In conclusion, we believe that constructing a new zoo in Elk Grove would be a win-win situation for both our education as veterinary students and the city. It would provide veterinary students with invaluable learning opportunities and contribute to the economic and cultural development of Elk Grove. We urge you to consider our perspective and support the construction of a new zoo for the benefit of current and future generations.

Thank you for your attention to this important letter.

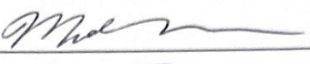
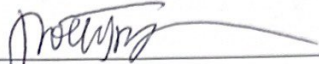
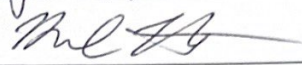
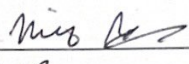
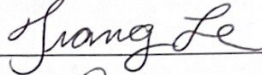
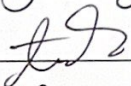
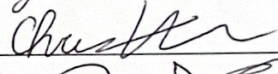
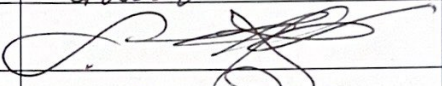
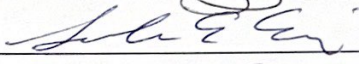

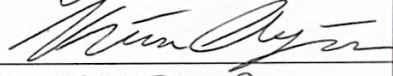

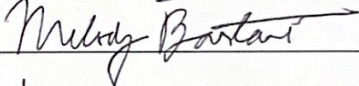
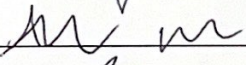

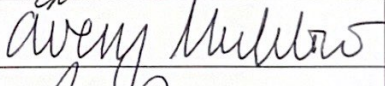


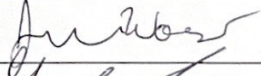
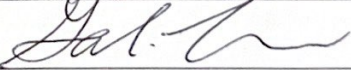
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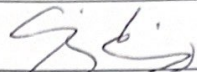
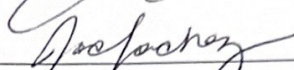


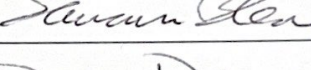
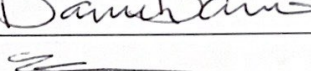

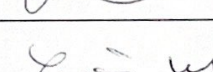
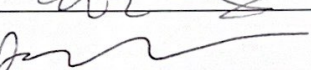
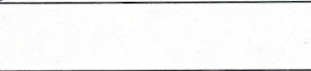
Sebastian Elsenbroek, Nathan Ma, and Madeleine Thompson

Presidents of the Wildlife and Aquatic Animal Medicine Club
University of California, Davis, School of Veterinary Medicine

Name (First and Last)	Class of	Signature
Calvin Price	2025	
Sebastian Elsenbroek	2025	
Nathan Ma	2025	
Madelein Thompson	2025	
Jamie Pincin	2025	
Nyah March	2025	
Jaimie Brown	2025	
Olivia Lang-Brown	2025	
Kathryn Nguyen	2027	
TONY CHANG	2027	
Maximus Lau	2027	
Alice Kim	2027	
Matthew Burke	2025	
Krist Zastouin	2025	
Evan Cosgrove	2025	
Isabel Vaishampayan	2025	
Camille Shih	2025	
Brooke Littman	2025	
Rebecca Philinger	2025	
Sarah Smith	2025	

Name (First and Last)	Class of	Signature
Abhiram Yellamilli	2025	Abhiram Yellamilli
Cassandra Parker	2025	Parker
Shannon Mathis	2025	Shannon Mathis
April Yoshikawa	2025	April Yoshikawa
Carli Fawcett	2025	Carli Fawcett
Hailie (Hairui) Hou	2027	Hailie Hou
Kathryn Thai	2027	Kathryn Thai
Timothy Reilly	2027	Timothy Reilly
James Jon	2027	James Jon
Su Hyun Yang	2025	Su Hyun Yang
Stephane Hideri	2025	Stephane Hideri
Ariel Feng	2025	Ariel Feng
Amalie Lueng Solli	2026	Amalie Lueng Solli
M. Ayuda	2025	M. Ayuda
Jane Hutchison	2025	Jane Hutchison
Nicole Grontales	2025	Nicole Grontales
Katelyn Morita	2025	Katelyn Morita
Amanda Ayers	2025	Amanda Ayers
Quentin Thowwast	2025	Quentin Thowwast
John-Gabriel Bernidez	2027	John-Gabriel Bernidez

Name (First and Last)	Class of	Signature
Mollie Brown	2026	
Noelle Tran	2026	
Rachel Hoots	2027	
Nicole Hart	2026	
Trang Le	2026	
Audrey Er	2026	
Chris Han	2026	
S. MIEKO TEMPLE	2025	
Sarah Eusebi	2026	
Grace Fu	2026	
Kimberly Aguirre	2027	
Chloe Stringfellow	2026	
Melody Bastani	2026	
Alyssa ma	2025	
Catie Morgan	2025	
Avery Kuhlou	2025	
Joanna Sanchez	2027	
Vivian Lin	2025	
Juliana Woods	2027	
Gabriella Torres	2027	

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Avinthikey	2023	
Jacqueline Sanchez	2025	
Shannon Cook	22 2025	
Madison Versailles	2027	
Savanna Blair	2025	
Danielle Damico	2025	
Brian Way	2025	
Tianjiao Li	2025	
Winnie Way	2025	
Jean Howell	2026	

April 30, 2024

Elk Grove City Council
8401 Laguna Palms Way
Elk Grove, CA 95758

Re: Letter of Support for the Sacramento Zoo Relocation to Elk Grove

To Members of the Elk Grove City Council:

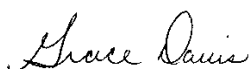
On behalf of Sutter Health, I am writing to ask for your swift approval of the Sacramento Zoo's relocation to Elk Grove during your upcoming vote on May 8. As one of the area's largest employers and Sacramento's longest headquartered health system, we strongly believe this project will have tremendous benefits that will improve the quality of life not only in Elk Grove but this entire region.

This project will be the first major US zoological park to be built from the ground-up in more than three decades – putting the Elk Grove community on the map by bringing a premiere attraction to our backyard. The zoo is sure to provide countless educational opportunities for our local youth and families, offering a safe, interactive space for outdoor recreation and connection with nature. As a health care provider, we know these factors can lead to better mental and physical health outcomes by improving mood, encouraging physical activity and reducing stress.

The new regional zoo will also be an economic driver throughout this region, attracting more than one million visitors annually, with about 20 percent expected to be "non-local" visitors. These visitors create a ripple effect, supporting local businesses and generating tax revenue that is essential to funding local improvements like parks, roads and public safety. In addition, the construction and operation of the 60-acre zoo will create new job opportunities further benefitting our community.

We are thrilled about the prospect of a new regional zoo in Elk Grove and hopeful that you will vote in favor of final approval. With a positive vote from Council, Sutter Health is interested in exploring how we might be able to further support the project through a future partnership.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Grace Davis".

Grace Davis
SVP, Chief External Affairs Officer
Sutter Health

April 4, 2024

Honorable Mayor, Council Members, and Planning Commission
City of Elk Grove
8401 Laguna Palms Way
Elk Grove, CA 95758

Re: Letter in Support of New Zoo

Dear Honorable Mayor, Council Members, and Planning Commission:

I am writing on behalf of Explore Elk Grove, the tourism marketing organization dedicated to promoting the dynamic and diverse attractions of our wonderful city. It is with great enthusiasm that we express our committed support for the establishment of a new zoo within the boundaries of Elk Grove.

As the tourism marketing organization, we understand the importance of creating unique and memorable experiences for residents and visitors alike. A zoo is not only an educational resource but also a place of wonder and fascination for people of all ages. By introducing a zoo to Elk Grove, we are not only enhancing the recreational offerings of our city but also fostering economic vitality, a sense of community pride and connection.

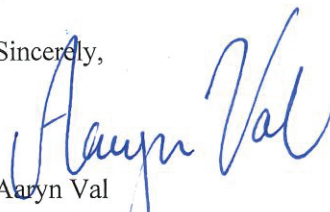
A new zoo in Elk Grove aligns with our mission to showcase the diverse array of attractions and experiences that our city has to offer. We believe that a zoo would not only enhance the quality of life for our community but also position Elk Grove as a premier destination for visitors seeking enriching and unforgettable experiences.

Economic benefits, educational opportunities, community engagement, and conservation efforts are just a few compelling reasons why the addition of a zoo would be a significant asset to Elk Grove.

We urge the City Council and Planning Commission to consider the proposal for a new zoo, and to work collaboratively with stakeholders to ensure its successful development. Together, we can create a vibrant and thriving community that embraces the beauty of nature and the wonder of wildlife.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. Should you require any further information or assistance, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,




Aaryn Val
Executive Director
Explore Elk Grove

 (916) 512-8211

 Info@ExploreElkGrove.com

 ExploreElkGrove.com

 9401 East Stockton Blvd
Suite 230
Elk Grove, CA 95624





BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO
700 H STREET, SUITE 2450 · SACRAMENTO, CA 95814

PAT HUME
SUPERVISOR, FIFTH DISTRICT
Telephone (916) 874-5465
FAX (916) 874-7593
E-MAIL: PatHume@sacounty.gov

April 26, 2024

The Honorable Bobbie Singh-Allen, Mayor and
Elk Grove City Council Members
City of Elk Grove
8401 Laguna Palms Way
Elk Grove, CA 95758

Subject: Support for the Elk Grove Zoo Project

Dear Mayor Singh-Allen and Council Members,

As the Sacramento County Supervisor for District 5, I am writing to express optimism for the City of Elk Grove's proposed New Zoo Project. Bringing a world-class zoo to the City of Elk Grove would be a transformative opportunity for not only the city but the greater Sacramento region to expand our understanding of wildlife conservation and inspire generations to come.

The vision for the New Zoo, conceived while I served on the Council, was born out of due diligence visiting other zoos to learn from best practices and new trends across the industry. The promise of imaginative discovery, wonder, and meaningful encounters with animals as well as complimentary civic uses both for existing and proposed events in southern Elk Grove was the driving factor that kept the New Zoo Project at the forefront of a long-term planning vision for the corridor.

Through a well-thought-out financing plan, that does not anticipate City subsidy after initial debt service, this state-of-the-art zoo would serve as a catalyst for greater recreational and civic amenities, economic growth, sustainability, and would create new opportunities to forge innovative public-private partnerships in support of greater conservation and environmental education. The Zoo Project would also be an economic driver for the Kammerer Road corridor and is anticipated to further encourage visitors from the region to the City of Elk Grove, generating revenue and stimulating local business growth.

As the Elk Grove City Council prepares for the critical vote on May 8, it is my sincere hope that at the conclusion of the presentations and your deliberations, this endeavor makes sense for the City and the residents to support, thereby creating a legacy for future generations to cherish.


Sincerely,

Pat Hume
Sacramento County Supervisor
District 5



**COSUMNES COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT
FIRE DEPARTMENT**

8820 Elk Grove Blvd. Elk Grove, CA 95624 

(916) 405-7100 

CosumnesCSD.gov/Fire 

April 15, 2024

City Council
City of Elk Grove
8401 Laguna Palms Way
Elk Grove, CA 95758

Dear City Council Members,

We, the undersigned community leaders, are writing to express our enthusiastic support for the establishment of a new zoo in Elk Grove. As individuals and representatives of various organizations and groups throughout the region, and beyond, we believe that a zoo would be a valuable addition to the entire Capital Region and would bring numerous benefits to our residents and visitors.

A zoo is not only a place for entertainment and recreation but also serves as an educational resource for children and adults alike. It provides an opportunity for individuals to learn about various animal species, their habitats, and the importance of environmentalism and conservation efforts. By highlighting endangered species and the importance of biodiversity, zoos inspire individuals to take action to protect our planet and its wildlife.

The City of Elk Grove has an opportunity to showcase its entrepreneurial spirit and be the first city in the United States to build a new zoo from the ground up in more than 30 years. As a family-oriented community with a top-ranked school district, the new zoo will contribute to the overall development and vibrancy of Elk Grove, making it an even more desirable destination for residents.

Furthermore, a new, modern zoo will stimulate economic growth and tourism in our region. It would attract visitors from near and far, generating revenue for local businesses and creating job opportunities.

We urge the City Council to support the proposed new zoo and take whatever steps necessary to bring a zoo to Elk Grove. We are confident that the zoo will enrich the lives of our residents and contribute to the growth and prosperity of the City and our region.

We look forward to a positive Council vote on May 8 and to a world-class new zoo and the many benefits it will bring.

Sincerely,

Felipe Rodríguez
Fire Chief, Cosumnes Fire Department



ROTARY CLUB of ELK GROVE

P.O. Box 138 • Elk Grove, California 95759



April 17, 2024

Mayor Bobbie Singh-Allen, Mayor
City Council Members
City of Elk Grove
8401 Laguna Palms Way
Elk Grove, CA 95758

Dear City Council Members:

On behalf of the Rotary Club of Elk Grove, I am writing to express our enthusiastic support for the establishment of a new zoo in Elk Grove. We believe that a zoo would be a valuable addition to the entire Capital Region and would bring numerous benefits to our residents and visitors. A zoo is not only a place for entertainment and recreation but also serves as an educational resource for children and adults alike.

The City of Elk Grove has an opportunity to showcase its entrepreneurial spirit and be the first city in the United States to build a new zoo from the ground up in more than 30 years. As a family-oriented community with a top-ranked school district, the new zoo will contribute to the overall development and vibrancy of Elk Grove, making it an even more desirable destination for residents. Furthermore, a new, modern zoo will stimulate economic growth and tourism in our region.

We urge the City Council to support the proposed zoo and take whatever steps necessary to bring a zoo to Elk Grove. We are confident that the zoo will enrich the lives of our residents and contribute to the growth and prosperity of the City and of our region.

The Rotary Club of Elk Grove looks forward to City Council voting to approve this project on May 8 and to a world-class new zoo and the many benefits it will bring.

Sincerely,

Nancy Lucia
Elk Grove Rotary Foundation President 23/24





HOLY SPIRIT

PARISH SCHOOL

April 29, 2024

The Honorable Bobbie Singh-Allen
Mayor of Elk Grove
8401 Laguna Palms Way
Elk Grove, CA 95758

Dear Mayor Singh-Allen,

I am writing to express my enthusiastic support for the relocation of the Sacramento Zoo to Elk Grove. As the Principal of Holy Spirit Parish School, located just behind the current zoo, I have had the privilege of witnessing firsthand the invaluable contributions the zoo has made to our community, especially in fostering educational experiences and providing enjoyable family recreation opportunities.

It's crucial to consider the impact if the zoo does not move or expand. The Sacramento Zoo is one of the country's smallest accredited zoos located within a major city. Its size severely limits its long-term viability and ability to provide appropriate care for many species in need of conservation, including many of the keynote species visitors expect and want to see in a zoo. Continuing to operate in its current location would force the zoo to become a niche facility with fewer varieties of smaller animals, resulting in a diminished guest experience and loss of key species such as giraffes, great apes, big cats, and others.

Moreover, animals would continue to move out to other, larger AZA-accredited zoos due to evolving animal welfare and habitat standards. While significant investment in the current location could enhance the guest experience and quality of animal care and exhibits, it would not be sufficient to bring back large species such as gorillas, tigers, hippos, and others that require large, complex habitats and social groups.

While it's understandable to feel a sense of loss at the prospect of bidding farewell to a great neighbor like the Sacramento Zoo, it's essential to recognize that the needs of the zoo outweigh this sentimentality. As our community evolves, so too must our institutions. The Sacramento Zoo's relocation signifies an important step towards its continued evolution and growth, ensuring that it can adapt to changing needs and provide even greater educational experiences and family opportunities in the future. By embracing this transition, we can support the zoo's

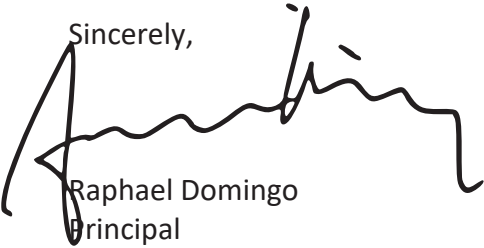
3920 West Land Park Drive, Sacramento, CA 95822
(916) 448-5663 Fax (916) 448-1465
www.hs-ps.com

mission to inspire conservation awareness, foster a love for wildlife, and cultivate unforgettable memories for generations to come.

Holy Spirit Parish School has enjoyed a longstanding and mutually beneficial relationship with the Sacramento Zoo. Their dedication to education and community engagement is exemplified through their support of our school. Not only have they generously provided free class field trips for our students, but they have also brought their mobile classroom to our campus to enhance our curriculum. Furthermore, the zoo has graciously hosted special events for our parishioners and school families, demonstrating their commitment to fostering strong ties within the community.

In conclusion, I wholeheartedly endorse the relocation of the Sacramento Zoo to Elk Grove and urge the council to vote in favor of advancing this transformative project. The positive impact it will have on our community, particularly in terms of education and recreation, cannot be overstated. Thank you for considering my perspective and your continued commitment to enhancing our greater community, including the relocation of the Sacramento Zoo.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Raphael Domingo', written over the printed name.

Raphael Domingo
Principal



May 8, 2024

City Council
City of Elk Grove
8401 Laguna Palms Way
Elk Grove, CA 95758

Dear City Council Members,

We, the undersigned community leaders, are writing to express our enthusiastic support for the establishment of a new zoo in Elk Grove. As individuals and representatives of various organizations and groups throughout the region, and beyond, we believe that a zoo would be a valuable addition to the entire Capital Region and would bring numerous benefits to our residents and visitors.

A zoo is not only a place for entertainment and recreation but also serves as an educational resource for children and adults alike. It provides an opportunity for individuals to learn about various animal species, their habitats, and the importance of environmentalism and conservation efforts. By highlighting endangered species and the importance of biodiversity, zoos inspire individuals to take action to protect our planet and its wildlife.

The City of Elk Grove has an opportunity to showcase its entrepreneurial spirit and be the first city in the United States to build a new zoo from the ground up in more than 30 years. As a family-oriented community with a top ranked school district, the new zoo will contribute to the overall development and vibrancy of Elk Grove, making it an even more desirable destination for residents.

Furthermore, a new, modern zoo will stimulate economic growth and tourism in our region. It would attract visitors from near and far, generating revenue for local businesses and creating job opportunities.

We urge the City Council to support the proposed new zoo and take whatever steps necessary to bring a zoo to Elk Grove. We are confident that the zoo will enrich the lives of our residents and contribute to the growth and prosperity of the City and of our region.

We look forward to a positive Council vote on May 8 and to a world-class new zoo and the many benefits it will bring.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Sarah Deukmejian'.

Sarah Deukmejian, President
ASC Profiles, LLC, Steelscape, LLC
NS BlueScope Coated Products North America



3930 West Land Park Drive
Sacramento, CA 95822-1123
PHONE 916 808 5888

May 8, 2024

City Council
City of Elk Grove
8401 Laguna Palms Way
Elk Grove, CA 95758

Dear City Council Members,

As President of the Board of Trustees of the Sacramento Zoological Society, I can tell you that the last couple of years have been an exciting journey exploring the proposed New Zoo in Elk Grove.

I believe so deeply in this project that I have personally made a significant financial pledge – the largest philanthropic gift I have ever made. I am also proud to share that our Trustees have all made personally meaningful gifts and pledges totaling more than a half a million dollars. Zoo docents, who volunteer countless hours each month, have also made very generous financial contributions.

This support represents a commitment to our mission, to the preservation of endangered species, to our high standards of animal care, and to the long-term viability of the zoo, ensuring that future generations can enjoy this valued regional amenity. The multi-year commitments from Trustees, docents, and members of our zoo family to a project before it is even approved also speak volumes about how important and supported this project truly is.

We know the zoo community, as well as the greater Sacramento region and beyond, await an opportunity to also be a part of this transformative project – through financial contributions, as members, and as visitors. In February 2024, the Sacramento Zoo sent out a survey to our mailing list. More than 1,000 participants completed the survey. A few highlights include:

- 99% feel the Zoo is a valuable asset to the Sacramento region and northern California.
- 90% understand the need for a New Zoo.
- 90% would consider renewing their Zoo membership (or becoming a new member) when the Zoo moves to Elk Grove.

Additionally, more than half of the participants indicated that they would support the New Zoo campaign with a personal campaign gift. We have also already met with numerous businesses, foundations, and others who have voiced an interest in sponsorship and in-kind support. From children and families to foundations and corporations, there is tremendous enthusiasm and support for this project.

As the City Council members who determine the future of this project, you have the unique opportunity to move the project forward and later be able to look back with great pride on what we were able to accomplish for the City of Elk Grove and for our region. Together, we can build the next great zoo!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Elizabeth B. Stallard'.

Elizabeth B. Stallard
Board President, Sacramento Zoological Society



May 8, 2024

City Council
City of Elk Grove
8401 Laguna Palms Way
Elk Grove, CA 95758

Dear City Council Members,

We, the undersigned community leaders, are writing to express our enthusiastic support for the establishment of a new zoo in Elk Grove. As individuals and representatives of various organizations and groups throughout the region, and beyond, we believe that a zoo would be a valuable addition to the entire Capital Region and would bring numerous benefits to our residents and visitors.

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Furthermore, a new, modern zoo will stimulate economic growth and tourism in our region. It would attract visitors from near and far, generating revenue for local businesses and creating job opportunities.

We urge the City Council to support the proposed new zoo and take whatever steps necessary to bring a zoo to Elk Grove. We are confident that the zoo will enrich the lives of our residents and contribute to the growth and prosperity of the City and of our region.

We look forward to a positive Council vote on May 8 and to a world-class new zoo and the many benefits it will bring.

Sincerely,

Regional Community Leaders

[See accompanying page for Community Leaders who have signed on as of 5/2/24]



VISION FOR A WILD TOMORROW

CREATING A WORLD OF DISCOVERY
COMMUNITY AND CONSERVATION

The Raley's Companies, Chelsea Minor, Vice President Community Impact & Public Affairs

Hallsten Corporation, Jeff Hallsten, President

Capitol Business Connection, Paul De La Torres, Founder/CEO and Dason Whitley, President

Kubota Tractor Corporation, Kyle Hagen, Director, Western Division

Sacramento Regional Transit District, Henry Li, General Manager/CEO

Elk Grove Education Association, James Sutter, President

Kaiser Permanente, Sacramento & South Sacramento, Jay Robinson, Senior Vice President & Area Manager

Laguna Sunrise Rotary Foundation, Karen Cendro, President (also past District Governor Rotary District 5180 and past President Rotary Club of Laguna Sunrise)

Visit California, Caroline Beteta, President & CEO

Visit Sacramento, Mike Testa, President and CEO

Explore Elk Grove, Aaryn Val, Executive Director

SMUD Museum of Science and Curiosity, Andrea Durham, Executive Director

International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 340 PAC, Mark Steelman, President

Cosumnes Fire Department, Felipe Rodriguez, Fire Chief

ASC Profiles, LLC, Steelscape, LLC, NS Bluescope Coated Products, North America, Sarah Deukmejian, President

Otto Construction, Allison Otto, President

Cosumnes River College, Dr. Edward Bush, President

Sacramento Association of Realtors, Jessica Coates, Chief Executive Officer

Elk Grove Rotary Foundation, Nancy Lucia, Foundation President

Extended Stay America Elk Grove, James Lynton, Regional Director Field Sales

Hampton Inn and Suites, Elk Grove, Ronny Mann

Rotary Club of Elk Grove, Cathy Guy, President

SEA Hut, Elk Grove, Mora Som, Owner

Mahon Ranch, Elk Grove, Thomas Mahon, Managing Partner

SACRAMENTO ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY

3930 West Land Park Drive
Sacramento, CA 95822-1123



VISION FOR A WILD TOMORROW

CREATING A WORLD OF DISCOVERY
COMMUNITY AND CONSERVATION

Holiday Inn & Suites, Elk Grove, Kaushal Singh

BeLocal Elk Grove Magazine, Allison Scovie, Publisher

Hilton Garden Inn, Elk Grove, Kimberly Albright, General Manager

A Seat at the Table Books, Elk Grove, Emily Autenrieth, Owner & Founder

Hobby Quest, Elk Grove, Glenda Russell, Owner

U. A. Local Union 447

5841 Newman Court
Sacramento, CA 95819
Tel (916) 457-6595
Fax (916) 454-6151



Richard D. Bertacchi

President

Todd A. Schiavo

*Financial Secretary &
Business Manager*

April 2, 2024

Dear Respected Members of the Elk Grove Planning Commission

My name is Todd Schiavo, and I am the Business Manager of Plumbers and Pipefitters Local 447 and the President of the Sacramento-Sierra Building and Construction Trades Council. I am reaching out to you today to speak in strong support of the Zoo project and urge your approval.

Elk Grove is a fast-growing city with great leadership that understands the long-term benefits of this project and further recognizes it as a vital component and catalyst to the city's continued growth. Approval of this project will result in the generation of millions upon millions of dollars in revenue for the city, as well as an abundance of benefits that this project will provide to the city, local businesses, residents, local youth, and future tourists. One important benefit would be robust job creation at the Zoo and surrounding local businesses. The construction of the Zoo alone will create prevailing wage construction career opportunities for youths and adult members of the community.

This unique investment opportunity will exponentially stimulate economic growth and create a regional attraction in the City of Elk Grove. The Zoo project is a natural step for the city of Elk Grove to take as the fastest-growing city in the region and should serve as an example of how to use community partnerships to become a destination in the region.

In closing, I again respectfully ask for your support and approval of this project and welcome you to forge ahead and be a part of the legacy investment in your city and its residents.

Respectfully,

Todd A. Schiavo
Business Manager &
Financial Secretary

Todd Schiavo
Business Manager/Financial Secretary
U.A. Local 447 Plumbers & Pipe Fitters
5841 Newman Court
Sacramento, Ca. 95819



SSBCTC

SACRAMENTO-SIERRA'S BUILDING & CONSTRUCTION TRADES COUNCIL

Representing over 25,000 union construction workers in Sacramento, Yolo, Placer, El Dorado, Amador, Nevada & Sierra Counties

April 3, 2024

Re: April 4 Planning Commission - Support for Agenda Item 5: The New Zoo at Elk Grove Project No.: SP0009

Dear Chair Singha and Planning Commissioners:

I'm writing on behalf of the Sacramento-Sierra Building and Construction Trades Council ("Council") in support of the City of Elk Grove ("City") Planning Commission ("Commission") Agenda Item 5 for the New Zoo at Elk Grove Project (Project No. SP0009) ("Project"). The Council urges the Commission to adopt a resolution recommending that the City Council certify the Environmental Impact Report for the Project and approve the entitlements required to construct the Project.

The Council represents more than 15,000 construction workers that live, work, and raise their families in the City of Elk Grove and the surrounding region and form the backbone of the region's skilled construction workforce. In addition, these unions participate in joint labor-management apprenticeship programs that include targeted outreach and community programs to recruit women and minority applicants, and to provide employment opportunities to veterans through the Helmets to Hardhats program.

The Council and its constituent unions have committed to ensuring that a local labor force is used to construct the Project, including providing priority dispatch to residents of Elk Grove, conducting career fairs to help Elk Grove residents enter the construction trades, and providing apprentice opportunities to Elk Grove residents.



A. Local Hire and Apprenticeship Commitments

The priority dispatch commitments by the unions include targets for hiring local workers which can give disadvantaged job seekers the opportunity to jump-start their careers and provide increased access to on-the-job training. Additionally, construction of the Project will result in the employment of apprentices from state-approved Joint Apprenticeship Training Programs. Each apprentice is a full-time worker who is receiving on-the-job training as an employee of a contractor on a jobsite. These programs create critical pathways for those pursuing careers in the skilled and trained construction industry and specifically aim to include women, and historically disadvantaged and minority communities, creating good-paying career opportunities for local residents, all while growing the highest skilled and trained workforce in the construction industry.

Finally, increasing the number of apprenticeship opportunities through construction of this Project enables pre-apprenticeship programs targeted to disadvantaged workers to place more workers into apprenticeships, and thus enables more women and disadvantaged workers to enter the pathway to a long-term, family-supporting career in construction.

B. Benefits to the Local Economy from Local Hire Commitments

The Council's local hire commitments will ensure that the millions of dollars spent on Project construction are put to work in the local economy—not shipped out of state, or even out of the region. Partnerships with local apprenticeship programs support middle class incomes that boost consumer spending—which creates additional jobs across all sectors of the economy.

According to the City's Economic Impact Analysis prepared for the Project, the total construction cost for the initial phase of the Project is \$302.3 million, including zoo facilities, soft costs and off-site infrastructure, of which, an estimated \$243.7 million of this construction spending could be captured locally.¹ Furthermore, according to the Economic Impacts Analysis, the multiplier effect of \$243.7 million in local construction spending could result in a total increase in economic activity of \$425 million during the construction period, of which an estimated 58% could be captured on-site or elsewhere in the city of Elk Grove.² The approximately 2,400 total jobs created by this construction project could result in \$170.9 million in labor income in the City and metro area during the construction

¹ City of Elk Grove, The Zoo In Elk Grove Economic and Revenue Impact Analysis ("Economic Impact Analysis") (March 2024) at p. 5. available at https://www.elkgrovecity.org/sites/default/files/city-files/Departments/strategic_planning/Zoo/Hearing_Materials/PC_Materials_2024-04-04/attach-4-elk-grove-zoo-econ-impact-2024-rev.pdf

² *Ibid.*

period.³ Through the unions' commitments to local hire, the dollars spent on this project will recirculate in the Elk Grove economy – creating even more jobs and economic value for the community.

Additionally, the operation of the Project will create good, middle-class jobs for City residents. Based on the Economic Impact Analysis prepared by the City, employment at the new facility is estimated at 140 to 144 people with an annual payroll of \$11 million to \$12 million and 75 to 80 third-party employees of food and retail concession operators with an annual payroll of \$3 million.⁴

C. Conclusion

Construction and operation of the Project will provide local career-pathway job opportunities and increased access to construction apprenticeships for under-represented groups and will create significant economic benefits for the City and its residents. The Sacramento-Sierra Building and Construction Trades Council respectfully requests that you adopt a resolution recommending City Council approval of the Project. Thank you for considering this letter.

Sincerely,



Kevin Ferreira
Executive Director
Sacramento Sierra's Building and
Construction Trade Council

³ *Ibid.*

⁴ *Id.* at p. 1.



April 3, 2024

Mayor Bobbie Singh-Allen and City Councilmen,

My name is John Rector and I am with Operating Engineers Local Union No. 3 AFL-CIO. We represent 40,000 members across our four state jurisdiction and we are strongly supporting The New Zoo at Elk Grove project be covered by a Building Trades Community Workforce and Training Agreement (CWTA). Our Union supports this project being covered by a CWTA because it means the project will utilize union hiring halls to hire Skilled and Trained workers, meaning the job will be done right the first time. It will also bring new career opportunities to our area, providing new career options for local residents. Those in the Skilled Construction Trades in this area often have to travel great distances to find work and are away from their families, sometimes for weeks at a time. A CWTA means this project will utilize a local workforce, meaning we can work where we live and keep our money local.

Along with serving the local community this CWTA will provide opportunities for people in our most under-served communities to build careers in the construction industry, changing their life path forever. CWTA's like this one prioritizes hiring local workers from economically disadvantaged areas, tribal members and other under-represented groups, making sure that these good jobs are being equitably distributed. If these workers already have the skills in their trade, they can enter as Journeymen and go right to work. If they are new to the industry, they can become apprentices and earn as they learn on the job, creating career paths for our youth and the generations that come after them.

Let's make sure the job happens and that it happens with a CWTA.

Respectfully,

John Rector

District Representative

Operating Engineers Local Union No. 3



April 4, 2024

Chair Suman Singha
Planning Commission
City of Elk Grove
8400 Laguna Palms Way
Elk Grove, CA 95875

Re: Item 5.1 – The New Zoo at Elk Grove Project

Dear Elk Grove Planning Commission Members,

I am writing to you as the Business Manager of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) Local 340, representing a dedicated workforce that is integral to the development and maintenance of infrastructure within our community. Our members are highly skilled professionals who contribute significantly to the growth and enhancement of our local environment, both through their labor and their engagement with community initiatives.

It has come to our attention that the City of Elk Grove is considering the approval of a significant and beneficial project – the construction of a new zoological park. After thorough review of the project's details and its anticipated impacts on our community, I am compelled to express our strong support for the New Zoo at Elk Grove Project (SP0009).

This project is not just a development; it is a vision for a more vibrant, educated, and economically thriving Elk Grove. The comprehensive planning and thoughtful consideration given to its potential impacts and benefits are commendable. The zoo is anticipated to significantly enhance our local economy by creating jobs, stimulating local business growth, and attracting visitors from outside the area, which in turn supports a wider range of economic activities.

The proposed zoo will serve as a pivotal educational resource, providing invaluable learning opportunities about wildlife conservation, biodiversity, and environmental stewardship. By fostering a deeper understanding and appreciation for the natural world, the zoo will enrich our community's cultural and educational landscape.

Furthermore, the project's commitment to sustainability and environmental sensitivity, as outlined in the staff report, aligns with the values and priorities of our members. The integration of green spaces, conservation programs, and innovative design reflects a forward-thinking approach to development that respects our planet and its inhabitants.

The IBEW Local 340 is particularly supportive of the project's potential to create high-quality, skilled labor jobs during the construction phase and beyond. The involvement of local workers in building this landmark project will not only ensure its success but also contribute to the economic well-being of those who call Elk Grove home.

In conclusion, we urge the Elk Grove Planning Commission to support and approve the New Zoo at Elk Grove Project. This project represents a unique opportunity to make a lasting positive impact on our community, its economy, and the environment. Let us embrace this chance to create a legacy that will be cherished by future generations.

Thank you for considering our support as you make this crucial decision.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "R. D. Ward".

Robert D. Ward
Business Manager
International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Local 340

Cc: Elk Grove Planning Commissioners, Mayor Bobbie Singh Allen, Planning Commission Staff

B.A.C. LOCAL No. 3, CALIFORNIA

Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers

AFL-CIO

9840 BUSSINESS PARK DR. STE. B

SACRAMENTO, CA 95827

PHONE: (510) 632-8781

www.bac3-ca.org



April 2, 2024

Planning Commission

8400 Laguna Palms Way

Elk Grove CA, 95875

Dear Planning Commission,

I am in favor of the New Sacramento Zoo to be built in Elk Grove. I am a Business Representative and a Vice Chairperson of BAC 3. We are the trowel trades union for the Sac Sierra Building Construction Trades Council. We specialize in block, brick, tile and marble trades to name a few. We would love the opportunity to build the Sacramento region a state-of-the-art zoo. The City of Elk Grove recently voted to use a CWTA on all new construction projects. If the planning commission approves the buildout of a new zoo, the CWTA would put many local hires to work during the construction of this project as well as all the new jobs created within operations of a new zoo.

I have two daughters that attend class in Elk Grove School District schools, we love our weekends and adventures that we have as a family. The new zoo would be an up-to-date, world-class zoo that would attract many out-of-towners and boost the local economy. The new zoo would be a lot more spacious than the smaller existing zoo. With the larger footprint, I'm sure there is room for more fieldtrips, summer camps, and countless other activities that the current zoo cannot accommodate.

In closing, I strongly support the Sacramento Zoo moving to Elk Grove. Both sides of my life support the move, my professional side with the new Construction and my family side that will have countless laughter and memories at the intersection of Kammerer Road and Lotz Parkway.

Respectfully,

Lenny Paredes

Field Representative/Vice Chairman

*Bricklayers ♦ Tile Layers and Tile Finishers ♦ Stone Masons ♦ Marble Masons ♦ Marble Finishers and Shopworkers
Marble/Metal Refinishers ♦ Marble Restoration Workers ♦ Pointers-Cleaners-Caulkers
Terrazzo Workers ♦ Terrazzo Finishers*

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

Darrell Steinberg
Mayor



CITY HALL
915 I STREET, Fifth Floor
SACRAMENTO, CA
95814-2672

PH 916-808-5300
FAX 916-264-7680
MayorSteinberg@cityofsacramento.org

CITY OF SACRAMENTO
CALIFORNIA

May 3, 2024

To the Elk Grove City Council:

The Sacramento Zoo is a regional treasure, and we as a region need to ensure that it has the room and facilities needed to serve visitors for the 21st Century and beyond. Sacramento has been the proud home of the zoo for more than nine decades, but the 14.7-acre zoo campus in Land Park is too small to meet the needs of important species, including giraffes, big cats and apes. The City of Sacramento has studied the issue extensively but has not identified a site that will accommodate an expanded zoo.

While I hate to see the zoo leave its home in the City of Sacramento, I recognize that moving it to Elk Grove could better secure the future of this regional treasure and increase its ability to care for animals and attract visitors from Sacramento and beyond. I celebrate that Mayor Bobbie Singh-Allen and the people of Elk Grove are working so hard to bring the zoo to their city and have identified 65 acres of land that can house it.

The zoo is a valuable part of Sacramento's cultural and recreational landscape, and an expanded zoo can play an even more important role in preserving endangered species. I encourage Elk Grove in this ambitious endeavor to build a modern zoo for our region.

Sincerely,

Sacramento Mayor Darrell Steinberg

Wilton Rancheria



9728 Kent Street, Elk Grove, CA 95624

April 25, 2024

City Council
City of Elk Grove
8401 Laguna Palms Way
Elk Grove, CA 95758

Dear City Council Members,

On behalf of the Wilton Rancheria Tribal Council, I am writing to express our enthusiastic support for the establishment of a new zoo in Elk Grove. As individuals and representatives of various organizations and groups throughout the region, and beyond, we believe that a zoo would be a valuable addition to the entire Capital Region and would bring numerous benefits to our residents and visitors.

A zoo is not only a place for entertainment and recreation but also serves as an educational resource for children and adults alike. It provides an opportunity for individuals to learn about various animal species, their habitats, and the importance of environmentalism and conservation efforts. By highlighting endangered species and the importance of biodiversity, zoos inspire individuals to take action to protect our planet and its wildlife.

The City of Elk Grove has an opportunity to showcase its entrepreneurial spirit and be the first city in the United States to build a new zoo from the ground up in more than 30 years. As a family-oriented community with a top ranked school district, the new zoo will contribute to the overall development and vibrancy of Elk Grove, making it an even more desirable destination for residents.

Furthermore, a new, modern zoo will stimulate economic growth and tourism in our region. It would attract visitors from near and far, generating revenue for local businesses and creating job opportunities.

We urge the City Council to support the proposed new zoo and take whatever steps necessary to bring a zoo to Elk Grove. We are confident that the zoo will enrich the lives of our residents and contribute to the growth and prosperity of the City and of our region.

We look forward to a positive Council vote on May 8 and to a world-class new zoo and the many benefits it will bring.

Sincerely,

Tonya Caldwell
Spokesperson
Wilton Rancheria Tribal Council