

**BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS
MEMBERS**

GREG GOOD
PRESIDENT

AURA GARCIA
VICE PRESIDENT

DR. MICHAEL R. DAVIS
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

JESSICA M. CALOZA
COMMISSIONER

M. TERESA VILLEGAS
COMMISSIONER

DR. FERNANDO CAMPOS
EXECUTIVE OFFICER

CITY OF LOS ANGELES

CALIFORNIA



ERIC GARCETTI
MAYOR

**DEPARTMENT OF
PUBLIC WORKS**

**BUREAU OF
ENGINEERING**

GARY LEE MOORE, PE, ENV SP
CITY ENGINEER

1149 S. BROADWAY, SUITE 700
LOS ANGELES, CA 90015-2213

<http://eng.lacity.org>

December 17, 2020

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY

TO: Responsible Agencies, Trustee Agencies, Stakeholders, and Interested Parties

FROM: City of Los Angeles
Department of Public Works, Bureau of Engineering
Environmental Management Group
1149 South Broadway, Los Angeles, CA 90015

SUBJECT: Notice of Availability of the Draft Environmental Impact Report for the proposed Los Angeles Zoo Vision Plan; State Clearinghouse Number (SCH#) 2019011053

The City of Los Angeles (City) Bureau of Engineering (BOE) has prepared a Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the proposed Los Angeles Zoo Vision Plan (Project) consistent with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). BOE is the Lead Agency under CEQA. As the Lead Agency, BOE has prepared an EIR in accordance with current City of Los Angeles Guidelines for Implementation of CEQA of 1970, Article I, and Section 15085 of CEQA Guidelines. The EIR addresses the proposed Project's potential environmental impacts for the following resource areas:

- Aesthetics and Visual Resources
- Biological Resources
- Energy
- Geology & Soils
- Hazards & Hazardous Materials
- Land Use & Planning
- Public Services
- Transportation
- Wildfire
- Air Quality
- Cultural and Tribal Resources
- Urban Forestry Resources
- Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- Hydrology & Water Quality
- Noise
- Recreation
- Utilities
- Cumulative Impacts

Using the information obtained through the environmental scoping period, the City prepared the Draft EIR and analyzed the environmental impacts of the proposed Project and alternatives. The City welcomes comments related to the content of the environmental information presented and invites you to attend a virtual public meeting to learn more about the proposed Project and participate in the environmental review process, as noticed herein.

PROJECT LOCATION AND SETTING: The proposed Project site lies in the northeastern portion of Griffith Park at the base of the eastern foothills of the Santa Monica Mountains (Figure 1). Griffith Park is bordered by the cities of Burbank and Glendale to the northwest and northeast, respectively, as well as communities within

As a covered entity under Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act, the City of Los Angeles does not discriminate on the basis of disability and upon request will provide reasonable accommodation to ensure equal access to its programs, services and activities.

AN EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER



the City, including Los Feliz, Hollywood Hills, and Cahuenga Park to the southwest. The Project site encompasses the entire existing 133-acre Zoo, located at 5333 Zoo Drive, Los Angeles, CA 90027. The Zoo is roughly bound by the Golden State Freeway or Interstate 5 (I-5) to the east and the Ventura Freeway or California State Route 134 (SR-134) to the north. The Los Angeles River also borders the north and east boundaries of Griffith Park before continuing south and eventually flowing into the Pacific Ocean at Long Beach. Regional vehicular access to the Zoo is provided via I-5, located approximately 0.2 miles east of the Zoo entrance, as well as SR-134, which is located approximately 0.35 miles north of the northern boundary of the Zoo. Local access to the Zoo entrance within Griffith Park is provided by Zoo Drive from the north and west and via Western Heritage Way and Crystal Springs Drive from the south.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The proposed Project would guide future development and modernization of the Zoo for the next 20 years. The proposed Project would include comprehensive redesign and redevelopment of the Zoo to replace outdated buildings and infrastructure and upgrade animal care and guest amenities throughout the 133-acre Zoo (Figure 2). Improvements would include new and revitalized immersive exhibit space and animal habitats, new visitor-serving buildings, expanded and modernized administrative and maintenance service facilities, circulation improvements for access roads, pedestrian walkways and paths, an enhanced entry way and plaza, and new parking facilities. The proposed Project is projected to increase annual visitation by approximately 1.2 million visitors per year. This projected growth in visitation and expansion of facilities within the Zoo property would have commensurate increases in employment. Please see Section 2.0, *Project Description* of the EIR for a detailed description of the proposed Project.

The Draft EIR is available for review on BOE's website at: <https://eng.lacity.org/los-angeles-zoo-vision-plan>

The City will consider all comments, written and verbal, in preparation of the Final EIR.

PUBLIC REVIEW PERIOD: The Draft EIR will be circulated for a sixty (60) day public review period, beginning on **December 17, 2020** and ending on **February 15, 2021**.

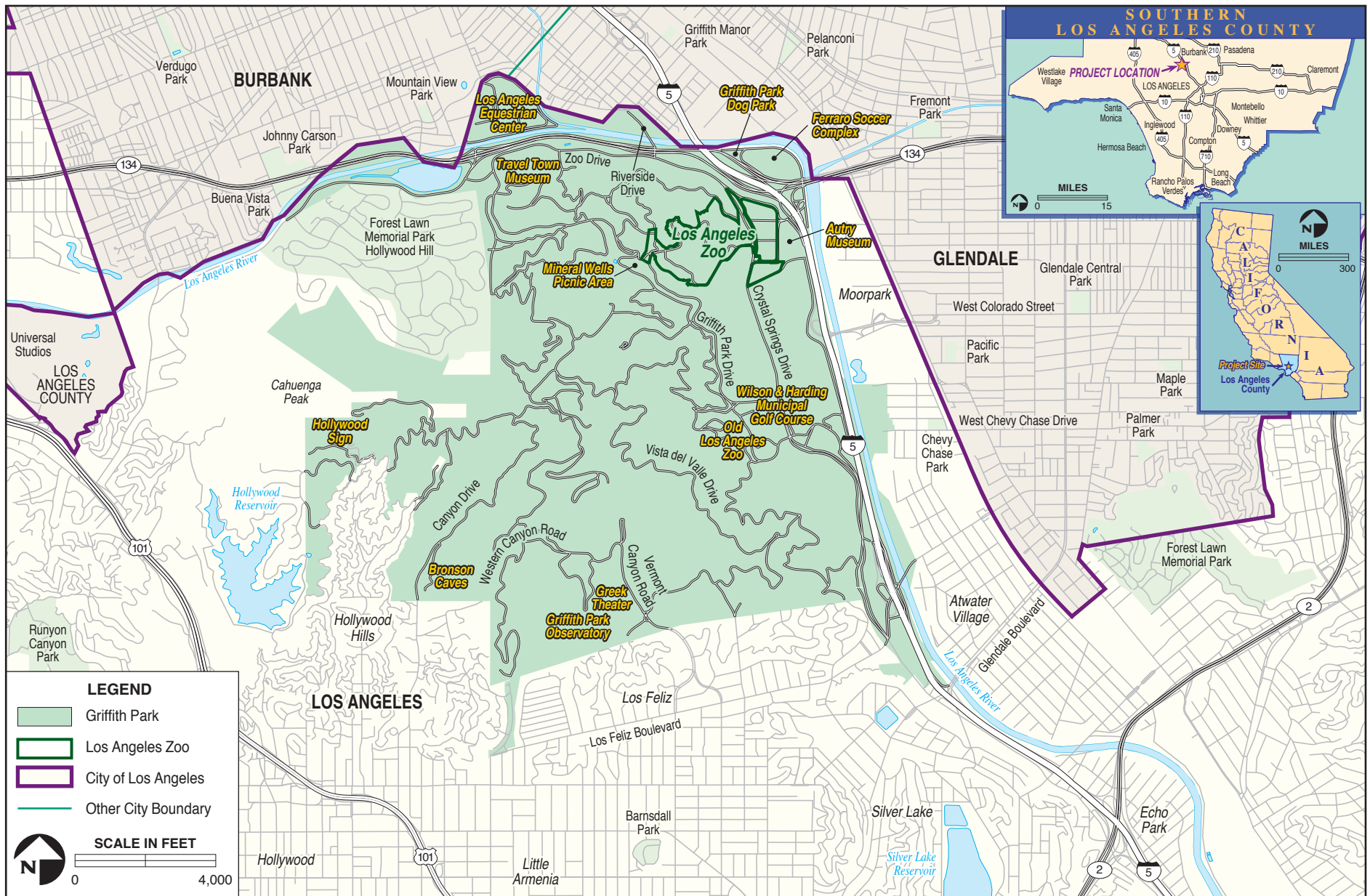
All comments must be submitted in writing no later than **5:00 p.m. on February 15, 2021** by mailing or emailing (please include "**LA Zoo Vision Plan EIR Comments**" in the subject line) to:

Norman Mundy, Environmental Supervisor II
Los Angeles Bureau of Engineering, Environmental Management Group
1149 S. Broadway, Suite 600, Mail Stop 939
Los Angeles, CA 90015
Norman.Mundy@lacity.org

VIRTUAL PUBLIC MEETING: Due to the ongoing public health crisis associated with the COVID-19 pandemic, a virtual public meeting will be held during the public review period to present the Draft EIR and hear verbal comments on the content of the EIR. This meeting will be held at the following date and time:

Wednesday, January 13, 5:30 pm
Virtual Hearing via Microsoft Teams
To join on your computer or mobile app, [click here](#)
Or call in (audio only)
Phone: +1 (213) 282-5170
Toll Free: (866) 670-1764
Conference ID: 794 373 847#

To provide verbal comments at the virtual public meeting, please register no later than Tuesday, January 12th, 2021 by emailing Norman Mundy at Norman.Mundy@lacity.org (please include "**LA Zoo Public Meeting Verbal Comment Registration**" in the subject line).



wood.

Los Angeles Zoo and Botanical Gardens
Regional Setting

FIGURE
1



wood.

Los Angeles Zoo
Proposed Zoo Planning Areas and Conceptual Design

FIGURE
2