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Summary Form for Electronic Document Submittal

Form F

Lead agencies may include 15 hardcopies of this document when submitting electronic copies of Environmental Impact Reports, Negative Declarations, Mitigated Negative Declarations, or Notices of Preparation to the State Clearinghouse (SCH). The SCH also accepts other summaries, such as EIR Executive Summaries prepared pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15123. Please include one copy of the Notice of Completion Form (NOC) with your submission and attach the summary to each electronic copy of the document.

SCH #: 2019011053

Project Title: Los Angeles Zoo and Botanical Gardens Vision Plan Project

Lead Agency: City of Los Angeles, Department of Public Works, Bureau of Engineering

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Project Location: City of Los Angeles, Los Angeles County

City *County*

Project Description (Proposed actions, location, and/or consequences).

The proposed Project area lies in the northeastern portion of Griffith Park at the base of the eastern foothills of the Santa Monica Mountains. Following publication of the Final EIR in June 2021, the City continued to receive comments regarding the proposed Project's impacts related to biological resources, transportation, and aesthetics. In response to these comments, a new project alternative, Alternative 1.5, the California Focused Conservation Alternative, was created and has been analyzed in a Focused Recirculated EIR in accordance with CEQA Guidelines Section 15088.5. Similar to the proposed Project, Alternative 1.5 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 The proposed Project would include comprehensive redesign and redevelopment of the Zoo to replace outdated buildings and infrastructure and upgrade animal care and guest amenities throughout the 133-acre Zoo. The proposed Project is projected to increase annual visitation to approximately 2.5 million visitors per year. This projected growth in visitation and expansion of facilities within the Zoo property would have commensurate increases in employment.

Identify the project's significant or potentially significant effects and briefly describe any proposed mitigation measures that would reduce or avoid that effect.

The Final EIR was published in June 2021 and concluded that the proposed Project would result in less than significant impacts, with the incorporation of required mitigation, for the following resource areas: Aesthetics and Visual Resources; Air Quality; Biological Resources; Cultural and Tribal Cultural Resources; Energy; Urban Forestry; Geology and Soils; Greenhouse Gas Emissions; Hazards and Hazardous Materials; Hydrology and Water Quality; Land Use and Planning; Noise; Public Services; Recreation; Transportation; Utilities; and Wildfire. Mitigation is proposed that would ensure construction and operation of the Project would not result in significant adverse environmental impacts. Examples of such mitigation included in this Draft EIR include limitations on construction operations, use of Tier 4 off-road construction equipment, biological and cultural pre-construction surveys, construction monitoring, compensatory replacement of affected biological resources, geotechnical evaluations, Phase II Environmental Site Assessment of hazardous resources, implementation of stormwater BMPs, preparation of a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan, installation of temporary noise barriers, implementation of parking lot security improvements, a Transportation Demand Management Program, required use of recycled water supplies, wildfire fuel management, and preparation of an Evacuation and Fire Response Access Plan. However, given the nature of the Zoo and significant increases in projected visitation and vehicle miles traveled (VMT), transportation impacts would remain significant and unavoidable, along with impacts to aesthetics and visual resources as a result of implementation of improvements to the exterior areas of the Zoo which may obstruct views and visual character of this area of Griffith Park.

If applicable, describe any of the project's areas of controversy known to the Lead Agency, including issues raised by agencies and the public.

Based on comments received during the scoping public meetings and NOP/IS comment period, as well as comments on the June 2021 Final EIR, the following issues are known to be of concern and may be controversial. Each issue is further evaluated in the EIR:
• Transportation impacts to local roads;
• Parking adequacy;
• Improved multi-modal access;
• Loss of trees and vegetation;
• Impacts to sensitive species;
• Visual impacts of Zoo redevelopment on Griffith Park visitors, including hikers and equestrians on public trails;
• Animal welfare during construction and operation
• Discovery of cultural and/or tribal cultural resources during construction;
• Water use and conservation, including recycled water;
• Disabled access and stroller access to Zoo exhibit areas;
• Noise and light impacts to sensitive receptors, including Griffith Park;
• Air quality and GHG emissions from construction and operation;
• Recycling and disposal of construction/demolition waste; and
• Impacts of nighttime events.

Provide a list of the responsible or trustee agencies for the project.

The City is the Lead Agency, consistent with CEQA Guidelines Section 15065(b). The City Council will consider adoption of the Vision Plan concurrently with certification of the Final EIR. Implementation of the proposed Vision Plan would require the following actions by the City Council:
• Adoption of the Vision Plan;
• Certification of the Final EIR; and
• Consideration and approval of a Findings and a Statement of Overriding Considerations as necessary.

In addition, the following responsible agencies may be required to approve permits or consult with the City through the Project implementation process:
• Department of Toxic Substances Control
• California State Historic Preservation Office
• California Department of Transportation
• Regional Water Quality Control Board
• Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transit Authority
• Los Angeles County Fire Department
• City of Los Angeles Recreation and Parks Department
• City of Los Angeles Planning Department
• Los Angeles Sanitation
• City of Los Angeles Fire Department
• City of Los Angeles Department of Transportation
• City of Los Angeles Department of Building and Safety
• Los Angeles Zoo Board