

February 15, 2023

**Submitted via e-mail**

**Re: Sacramento Zoo Entrance Structures at 3930 West Land Park Drive**

Dear Honorable Mayor Darrell Steinberg and Sacramento City Council Members,

Sacramento Modern (SacMod) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization founded in 2010; we are dedicated to preserving modern art, architecture, and design in the Sacramento region. We are writing in support of the listing of the 1961 Sacramento Zoo Entrance structures in the Sacramento Register of Historic and Cultural Resources.

This landmarking effort began over eleven years ago as part of a City of Sacramento-led survey. As a result of the survey findings, SacMod facilitated a more intensive and focused historic evaluation of the hyperbolic paraboloid structures, resulting in a National Register Nomination.

SacMod stands with the Sacramento historic preservation community — the City of Sacramento's Preservation Directors over the years; architectural historians from Mead & Hunt, Inc.; the City of Sacramento Preservation Commission, and Preservation Sacramento — as well as with District 7 neighbors who wish to see the Zoo Entrance structures preserved.

***The Zoo Entrance structures are a much-loved place among constituents — who overwhelmingly wish to see them preserved.***

On November 17, 2022, when the Preservation Commission's unanimous vote to recommend the Zoo Entrance structures be designated as a landmark, the response from the Land Park & South Land Park Facebook group was resoundingly positive (see attached; names redacted for privacy).

In 2019, the South Land Park Neighborhood Association (SLPNA) conducted a survey of residents regarding the proposed Zoo relocation and published their findings (see attached).

Per SPLNA, 89.47% of respondents said **YES** when asked: "If SLPNA were to publicly support relocation, would you ask that they condition their support for relocation on a commitment by the City of Sacramento and affected stakeholders to take all reasonable steps to preserve the historic zoo properties and ensure a park feature of comparable quality and attractiveness replaces the zoo within two to three years *should* the zoo relocate?" Note additional specific comments regarding the Zoo Entrance structures from SLPNA's survey.

A 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to promoting, preserving and protecting modern art, architecture and design in the Sacramento region.

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It is also important to note that Preservation staff contacted the owner of the Zoo Entrance structures: the City of Sacramento Youth Parks and Community Enrichment. Staff also contacted the City of Sacramento Facilities Management. *Neither department opposed this landmark nomination.*

***The Zoo Entrance structures have been deemed eligible for being listed as a historic resource in two separate reports.***

In April 2011, the City of Sacramento Department of Youth Parks Community Enrichment retained Mead & Hunt, Inc. and PGAdesign to complete an evaluation of William Land Park (see the [Cultural Landscape Survey and Evaluation of William Land Park](#) — report embedded in link). Regarding the Zoo Entrance structures: “Designed by the local architectural firm of Rickey and Brooks, this series of three interconnected buildings are an important, rare, and intact example of Mid-Century Modernism in Sacramento.”

In their follow-up [National Register nomination](#) (report included in embedded link) Mead & Hunt, Inc. reiterated the structures’ eligibility:

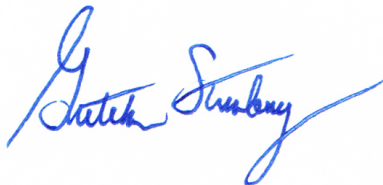
The Entrance is a bold and rare example of the Googie style, and its design is expressive of the most prolific phase of master architecture firm Rickey & Brooks. It retains its character-defining features of hyperbolic paraboloid roofline, pyramidal brick piers, and an expanse of glass-plate windows. The Entrance possesses significance locally under National Register *Criterion C: Architecture*. The character-defining features of the Entrance are intact and visible and it retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. The period of significance coincides with the construction date of 1961.

**Landmarking the Zoo Entrance structures would allow opportunity for preservation funding.**

As our colleagues at Preservation Sacramento have noted: “Preservation incentives ranging from Historic Building Code alternatives to simplify rehab to State and Federal historic rehabilitation tax credits become available” if the Zoo Entrance structures are listed. The original architectural plans for the structures have been rediscovered as an aid to such efforts, and there are examples of other hyperbolic paraboloid structures [undergoing similar renovation](#) (link to example in Culver City embedded).

We urge you to landmark the Zoo Entrance. Please enjoy [our slideshow of historic photos of the Zoo Entrance structures](#) (link to slideshow embedded).

Respectfully submitted,



Gretchen Steinberg, President, SacMod

At last night's Preservation Commission meeting, we voted to recommend the Zoo's entrance structures be designated a landmark on Sac. Register of Historic & Cultural Resources 🎉🦒

Here are some cool photos of the construction, the opening in 1961, and the entrance today.



Figure 3. Postcard image of Sacramento Zoo Entrance after completion, c.1961



and 255 others

27 comments

 Love

 Comment

 Send

All comments ▼

Source: 11.17.2022 FB Group - Land Park & South Land Park



May 16, 2019

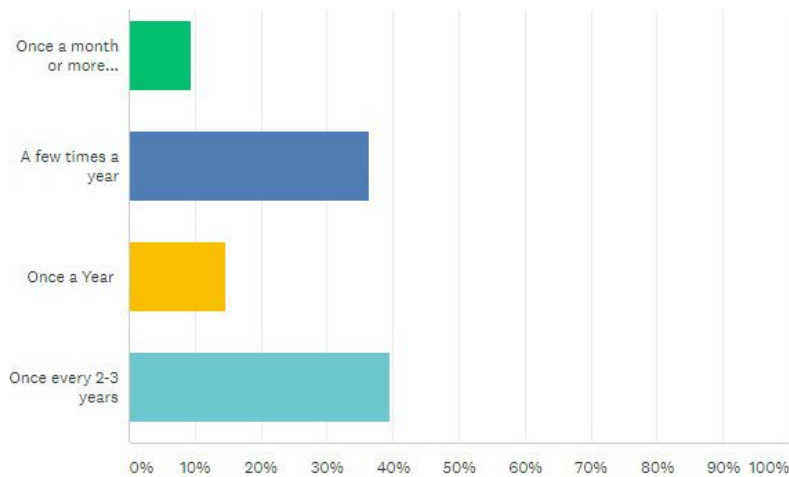
**Re: Sacramento Zoological Society Survey Results**

The South Land Park Neighborhood Association (SLPNA) conducted and received many responses to its May 2019 *Sacramento Zoological Society* survey, to assess the sentiment of South Land Park area neighbors regarding the proposal to relocate the Sacramento Zoo by the Sacramento Zoological Society. Executive Team Members from the Sacramento Zoological Society visited SLPNA’s May 2019 Board Meeting and asked for an official response to their proposal prior to an upcoming City Council Item.

According to the survey, **70% of respondents** are in favor for the South Land Park Neighborhood Association to publicly support the relocation efforts of the Sacramento Zoo by the Sacramento Zoological Society, caveated by approximately **90% of respondents** that stakeholders take all reasonable steps to preserve the historic zoo properties and ensure a park feature of comparable quality and attractiveness within two to three years *should* the zoo relocate. The Appendix section contains the expanded answers for Questions 2, 7, and 8.

The following are percentage results for each survey question:

Question 1.  
How frequently do you visit the Sacramento Zoo?

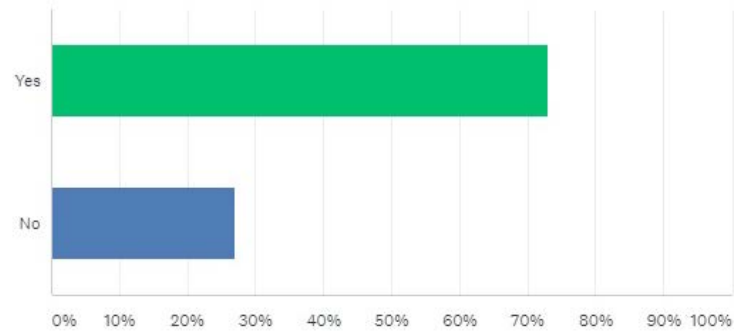


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Once a month or more frequently	9.38%
A few times a year	36.46%
Once a Year	14.58%
Once every 2-3 years	39.58%
TOTAL	



### Question 3.

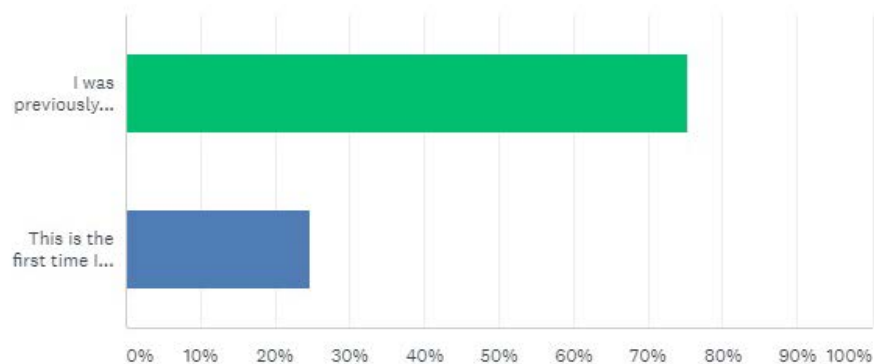
With the understanding that a zoo relocation would mean an increase in zoo size and variety of animals on display, would you support the relocation of the Sacramento Zoo?



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
▼ Yes	72.92%
▼ No	27.08%
TOTAL	

### Question 4.

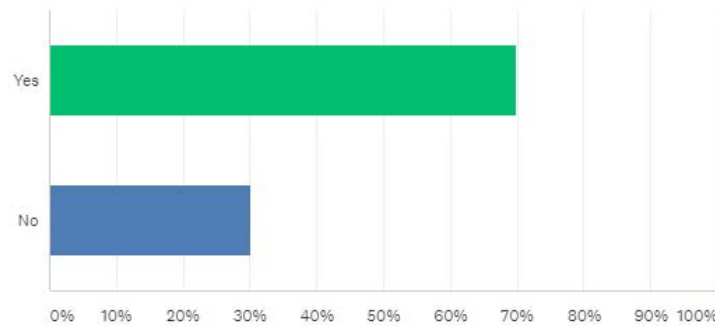
Are you aware that the Sacramento Zoo is seeking a new location in Sacramento because it may lose its national accreditation?



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
▼ I was previously aware of these issues facing the Zoo	75.27%
▼ This is the first time I am hearing of these issues	24.73%
TOTAL	

### Question 5

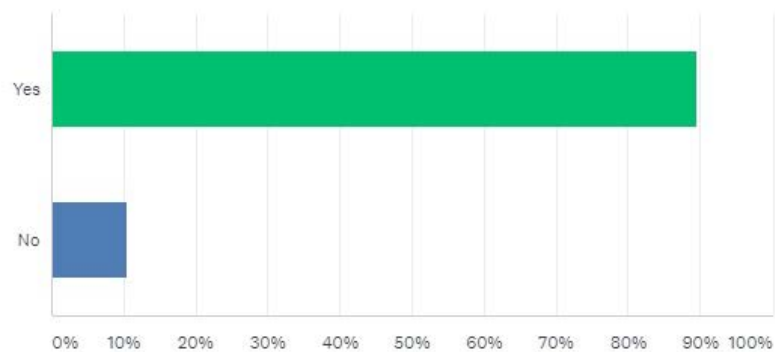
Do you believe SLPNA should publicly support the relocation efforts of the Sacramento Zoo?



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
▼ Yes	69.79%
▼ No	30.21%
TOTAL	

### Question 6

If SLPNA were to publicly support relocation, would you ask that they condition their support for relocation on a commitment by the City of Sacramento and affected stakeholders to take all reasonable steps to preserve the historic zoo properties and ensure a park feature of comparable quality and attractiveness replaces the zoo within two to three years *should* the zoo relocate?



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
▼ Yes	89.47%
▼ No	10.53%
TOTAL	

## APPENDIX

### Question 2

When did you last visit the Sacramento Zoo?

37% visited within the last 3 Months

23% last visited over 6 Months Ago

8% last visited over 12 Months Ago

11% last visited over 18 Months Ago

22% last visited over 24 Months Ago

### Question 7

What street do you live on within the South Land Park area?

Presented as Received

Holstein Way, Longridge Way, Tuggle Way, Fordham Way, Annrud Way, 47th Avenue, 14th Street, South Land Park Drive, Ridgeway Drive, 34th Avenue, 35th Avenue, S Land Park Dr, South Land Park Drive, South land park drive, 41st Avenue, Euclid Ave, London, South Land Park, Danjac Circle, and grew up on Constance Lane, Piedmont dr., South Land Park, 43rd Ave, Holstein Way, 13th street, Moss Drive, 13th Street, Chetwood Way, Longridge Way, 58th Avenue, Cabana Way, Capri, South Land Park Drive, S Land Park Dr, Cabana Way, South Land Park Drive, 47th Ave., Rosa Del Rio Way, 40th Avenue, Lonsdale, DelRio, Euclid Ave, Campbell Lane, Park Village, South Land Park Drive, Oregon Drive, Warren Ave, 13 th Street, 14th Street, Riverside, alma vista way, 40th Ave, South land park Dr, Appollo way, Crestwood Way, 13th Street, Willowbrae Way, Sherwood ave, Freeport Blvd, Brownwyk., Miranda Ct, Marion Ct., Park village, Park Village Street, South Land Park Drive, Buena Terra way, 13th Street, Campbell Lane, Park Village St., Tuggle, Freeport, Marion Court, 13th Street, Longridge Way, Oakridge Way, Capri, Monte Vista, Arvilla Drive, 35th Ave., Ridgeway Drive, 14th street, 14th Street, 40th Ave, McLaren ave, Lucio Lane @ SLP Drive, Park Village St, Oakridge Way, south land park drive, S Land Park, Pleasant dr, Nevis Court, south land park Drive, 13th, and Oakridge Way.

### Question 8

What other comments do you have on the zoo relocation proposal?

Presented as Received

Possibly a petting zoo or small animal zoo on the current site. To retain some presence of zoo animals in the park?

Sacramento deserves a The best zoo possible. If that means it should move or expand at its current location, so be it.

I do not support a new larger zoo. I believe the time for zoos has past. If we are to keep a zoo, keep smaller animals and comply with the regulations for that type of facility.

I think it is great that SLPNA now weighs in on issues that impact more that just the community within our immediate boundaries, with wisdom to know what happens here affects the greater Sacramento region. If SLPNA continues to broadens its outreach that



way, as a member I would like to know that other community issues will receive equal attention and representation. It has been hard to see surveys about a zoo and an AirBnB issue outside our boundaries, when a request for a survey for community input regarding longstanding access to school playgrounds during non-school hours was declined. I have mixed feelings about SLPNA supporting zoo moving, not knowing the "where to" part, or the guidelines dictating what issues SLPNA chooses to pursue or decline.

I think it is important to support the zoo relocation, however it would be sad to lose the park space. It needs to be preserved as a safe outdoor area for families versus built up into housing.

To me, it makes more sense to downsize the zoo population to create the space need; and, for resources to be used on upgrading to best practices in the zoo's current location, which is easily accessible to local schools, as well as to older people

My family has been going here for four generations and we would be very disappointed if it was relocated.

Scale down the current zoo for the smaller animals, like a petting zoo so that willam land park retains its character, along w/ fairy tale town. Build a large zoo to accommodate the zoo's wishes at the old arco arena.

If they are going to do it, they need to do it right.

I think we should keep a small scale zoo in the current location and expand the zoo in another location.

I support expansion in the current location.

Sad to see them move away, of course. I also do enjoy seeing the large size animals, however. We need to do what is best for the zoo animals and also for the city and region of Sacramento.

I'd like to see new animals but do appreciate and love the very updated and charming feel of our local family friendly zoo. I would be very sad to see it go.

Most important issue is what will take its place once the Zoo has moved. Do not want an abandoned, decaying building left standing empty.

Why not do a few animal species at the existing space and do it well, rather than moving and expanding?

It's a good idea and would benefit not only current animals but the entire population of Sacramento

OK, In the city limits.

We understand their dilemma but taking away the zoo is taking away part of the charm of land park.

I feel very strongly that a zoo relocation must be paired with a well funded plan for the alternative use of the zoo property. I would love to see the city and residents partners with

landscape architects and others to explore the potential for making this a very special public space that is every bit as worthy of visiting as the zoo.

To expand upon my responses, I lean towards supporting the relocation but of course am interested to hear where the new zoo might end up, and am even more concerned with what might replace the existing zoo. It would need to be something that fits with the vibe of the Land Park neighborhood. Perhaps a Rec Center, similar to what they have in West Sac. I think the SLPNA should hold off taking a public stance until we know a bit more.

I'm in full support of finding a new location to enable construction of a fully-accredited zoo that will give all animals the care and environment they need to thrive. However, my biggest concern is what will become of the existing site. I'm hopeful it would never be sold to a developer or used for commercial or even residential, but rather be used for something comparable to the zoo (e.g., a learning center, a small animal rehab facility, etc.). Anything other than that would be a travesty and would greatly change the look and feel of the park in a negative way.

I would like to see the zoo stay within the park. The golf course would be an excellent location. The course has struggled to be viable, the city owns the land, and the zoo would fulfill the charter of the original grant for the park

It will be a loss for the community to lose the zoo, but better overall for Sacramento. A suitable reuse of the property should be planned alongside a proposal to move.

My biggest concern is that the current zoo property does not get turned into a housing development nor left abandoned or blighted for years. I'm very concerned about what will replace the current zoo and that it be something comparable that will not change the park ambiance or significantly increase traffic. I would only support the zoo relocation if there is a commitment from the city along these lines.

We have already seen that the current Land Park Golf Course is underutilized and losing money. Why not consider using a portion of the golf course to expand the zoo, either by completely relocating or building a bridge to connect over Land Park Drive. What isn't needed for the park could become parking, which is sorely needed, and additional green space or additional park facilities.

Thank you for including SLPNA members in this conversation

The zoo property should be developed into housing And not a homeless shelter.

Imperative to condition the relocation on replacing it with a comparable like attraction or museum

It's necessary for them to make the change.

To save the Zoo, we must move the Zoo. The current Zoo is so small that it seems cruel to animals, and a general embarrassment to the City. Zoos should be sources of civic pride, not civic embarrassment. It makes no sense to base a decision to move the Zoo to be dependent upon what may replace it. That will come in due course. The Zoo property by law must remain parkland, so there are no real worries about what may take its place (eg, a parking lot or a commercial business could not be options) and yet this restriction was not explained in the email.

The hyper entrance structures need to be preserved! :-) And we need something nice there in the Zoo's place. Maybe a historic neon boneyard like Las Vegas has.

Been visiting since early childhood.....leave it alone!

I want them to exhaust all other options. Like moving the little league fields to the Sutterville Road side and expanding the Zoo south to the BB diamonds with a trolley and bridge to take guests down the Swanston statue area and across, around, or over the Lily Pond. That new part of the zoo could have a second entrance but with the same ticket as the current entrance.

Probably a good idea. Insufficient parking and space for displays. Needs to move where there are more families with children .

SLPNA should not condition its support for zoo relocation on the replacement use of the site because those are really 2 different projects, outside the control of each other. SLPNA should consider the replacement use, but not condition its support of zoo relocation on it.

Can William Land Park area be used, such as the golf course area or a section of the park itself. we have several golf courses in the area this one is expendable.

Parking lot shuttles.

Model animal enclosures after those at San Diego zoo

Rather than trying to build a world-class zoo elsewhere , why not imagine and create the best small zoo possible to fit into the current footprint? Admittedly, this would mean that certain species of animals could not be displayed, but a high-quality, smaller zoo, perhaps featuring animals indigenous to our region, could be created.

I rarely go because I always found it depressing. The animals deserve more space. Even when they made the so called improvement for the giraffes, it was a let down. Go look at the Fort Wayne zoo in Indiana, the Zebras and giraffes have grass, water and lots of room to roam. I would like to see all the animals have more space with a more natural environment.

I believe the zoo should relocate to the old arco arena site. The facilities for the animals should be large and beautiful.

We moved to our neighborhood specifically because of its proximity to the zoo and Fairytale Town. If the zoo relocated, the neighborhood would have considerably less appeal for us. We assume the same would be true for others as well. We respect the concerns that the zoo has and certainly would not want to oppose efforts to address them, even if that meant relocating the zoo. At the same time, however, perhaps out of self-interest, we would not be overly enthusiastic about affirmatively supporting or otherwise facilitating the relocation.

Mutiple options should be considered before making site selection. Hope City does not choose North Natomas.

I am concerned what will happen to the current zoo site on L P Drive.



I am all for the moving of the zoo for the benefit of the city of Sacramento and the welfare of the animals.

The Zoological Society threatens to move every time it gets a new executive director. The zoo administration is just not satisfied with being a small animal zoo - - they want to have large animals in their collection of caged animals. There is something charming about a small zoo with small animals . Ever notice how few crying children you see at the Sacramento Zoo? The zoo is not too overwhelming for small children. They can walk the entire zoo and see all the animals. Compare this with the San Diego Zoo or the National Zoo in DC - big zoos and lots of overwhelmed and crying kids. Please tell the Sac Zoological Society to stop whining about how small the footprint is at William Land Park and raise some money and move. I would love to see a Children's Museum take the current zoo's spot in William Land Park. It would be a great fit with Fairy Tale Town and Funderland.

Redefining the concept of the role of a zoo should be taken into consideration. It sounds like we are still operating in the 1950s, wanting large, impressive critters without regard to incompatible climate zones. Highlighting local species and their preservation sounds to me like a better focus. The valley is losing species to "growth". Example: what has happened to the burrowing owls, or the meadowlarks? We all need to be educated about our precious surroundings Please work within the existing framework of the zoo property and refocus for a fragile planet. Thanks, Judy

I visit the San Diego Zoo and Safari Park more often than the Sacramento Zoo (which I live less than a mile from) because our zoo is too small, cramped, and uninteresting. I would visit relocated and expanded zoo, happily. However, I don't want to see the vacated zoo property developed as commercial or residential. I think the space should remain part of William Land Park.

More variety of charismatic megafauna at the zoo would increase the view of Sacramento as a destination.

Wondering what the options are for the vacated property, other than described above.

My response to the proposal is entirely contingent upon what would replace the zoo should it relocate. Keeping the area a green, park-like space would garner my support. In contrast, a commercial use or development for housing or other industrial uses would degrade the area and the quality of life for area residents. Even the humans require a livable habitat!

Keep the original Zoo entrance structures.

Should the zoo relocate, I would want it to be in a place that is easy to access. The biggest perk for us is being able to walk there and I don't know that we would visit very often if it involved a drive longer than ten minutes. I am hoping that thoughtful consideration will be spent on how the current zoo grounds would be used after the zoo's closure to best serve the neighboring community. I personally would love to see a recreation center similar to the one in West Sac with a large pool, gym, tennis courts, etc. This part of the city desperately could use one.

It's exciting to know that if they do relocate it's for good cause and will also bring more animal species here to educate the people.

Too small a space in current location

keep it where it is and fix it. It does not need to be bigger

Overall support the idea.

Why can't they increase the size of the zoo where they are. Take over the property across the street where the baseball fields are. This is an attraction we don't want to lose from our neighborhood.

Let the Zoo go. There are other appropriate uses for the current footprint. As for the animals, it saddens me that we continue to warehouse them in such regional institutions as the Sacto Zoo under the misguided moniker of "conservation", but if they really must/will continue to have a zoo, at least maybe they can offer these creatures more room to roam/move around in. Some of the most unhappy animals I've ever seen I've seen at the Sacramento Zoo.

It is imperative that whatever might replace the Zoo is sensitive to the natural habitat already in place. I find the botanical aspects of the Zoo just as enchanting as the animals. My ideas: A botanical garden which includes aviaries; a small-animal zoo; a demonstration/educational garden that includes plant species adaptable to Sacramento's residential gardens and climate. I think that a replacement use for the zoo property should fit in with William Land Park's aesthetic as well as appeal to families and our senior population. Keep it simple and accessible.

I have cancelled my membership to the Zoo because of this move - I do NOT support it at all

I would like to see th Land Park golf course site be used for expansion of the zoo. It would be closer to the donated goal of a space for children.

Be a terrible shame if they closed the zoo and moved it to the hinterlands. If that cannot be prevented, a community center something like the Iva shepard garden would be nice. I don't think it has to be family entertainment, per se. Some adult focus could be good, too, like garden clubs, et al.

I have wanted the zoo to expand at it's current location.

In the 21st century, zoos should not exist where animals are locked in cages. Only zoo/reproduction facilities for endangered species should be permitted and not as an attraction, but a reasearch facility. We now have HD TV, Cinemax, and fine photography that can make the zoo experience real in the natural habitat of the animals. CLOSE ALL ZOOS AND LET SACRAMENTO BE THE FIRST AND SET A NATIONAL EXAMPLE. I also wish to comment on the last disappointing time I went to the Sacramento Zoo. More vendors selling junk toys to kids than beautiful animals! The parents paid to get in and then are pestered by their kids to buy, buy, buy.

Can the existing zoo property be maintained as an attraction that addresses a specific function of an eventually larger zoo somewhere else. For example, could it be used for

either animals of a particular habitat/climate or specialize on breeding/farming/education, etc. or some function that would support the "other" zoo location.

Generally speaking, I do not like zoos. I support AZA accreditation for zoos, and I also believe in species preservation and sanctuaries. But perhaps Sacramento should not have a zoo at all.

I think the zoo is great experience for old and young, however, the animal population and parking at the current current seem to be degrading rather than improving, a new site that could accommodate different rare species would be a valuable assets as well as better access to parking.