WHAT IS THE L.A. ZOO VISION PLAN?
The proposed Los Angeles (L.A.) Zoo Vision Plan is a long-term planning document that would guide future Zoo development and operations over the next 20 years. The proposed Vision Plan would result in comprehensive redesign and redevelopment of the Zoo’s existing 133-acre site to replace outdated buildings and infrastructure and upgrade guest amenities. The proposed Vision Plan was informed by public input, analysis of existing development and physical characteristics, facility assessments, and social and economic factors. Please visit visionplan.lazoo.org to learn more.

WHAT IS CEQA?
The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) is a statute adopted in 1970 that requires state and local agencies to consider the environmental consequences of decisions that involve changes to the environment. The purposes of CEQA are to:

- Provide information about the environmental effects of projects.
- Identify ways that environmental impacts can be avoided or reduced.
- Prevent significant environmental impacts through mitigation measures or alternatives.
- Disclose the reasons why a project may be approved despite significant environmental impacts where the agency determines the project benefits override the environmental impacts.

The proposed Vision Plan is considered a project under CEQA. Therefore, the City of Los Angeles Bureau of Engineering is preparing an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) to analyze the potential for impacts resulting from implementation of the proposed Vision Plan.

WHAT IS AN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT (EIR)?
An EIR is an informational document designed to inform the public and decision-makers about potential environmental impacts of a project. Environmental impacts are one of the factors considered by the decision-makers when deciding whether or not to approve a project. In an EIR, significant environmental impacts are disclosed, mitigations to avoid or reduce significant impacts are identified, and project alternatives are developed to reduce or avoid adverse environmental effects.

The L.A. Zoo Vision Plan EIR will be a full scope document that will analyze all required CEQA issue areas. In particular, the EIR will analyze the potential environmental impacts that may occur as a result of the implementation of Vision Plan, including associated construction activities, visitation growth, and increases in employment. The EIR will also address cumulative effects, growth-inducing impacts, and other issues required by CEQA.

WHAT IS A NOTICE OF PREPARATION (NOP)?
A Notice of Preparation (NOP) provides notification to interested parties that a public agency has decided to prepare an EIR for a project and to solicit comments about the scope and content of the information to be included in the EIR.
WHAT IS EIR SCOPING AND WHY DO YOU NEED MY INPUT?

Scoping is a period where input is accepted to further define environmental issues, feasible alternatives, and potential mitigation measures that may warrant in-depth analysis in the CEQA environmental review process. In addition, scoping meetings provide an opportunity for interested parties to learn about the project and comment on the scope and content of the EIR in-person. Scoping meetings focus on environmental issues related to the project. They are not a forum for discussing the merits of a project. All comments received during scoping will be considered in preparing the Draft EIR analyses. This community input is important to ensure the EIR addresses known environmental concerns.

WHAT IS THE SCOPING PERIOD FOR THE L.A. ZOO VISION PLAN EIR?

During a 45-day scoping period from January 24, 2019 to March 11, 2019, the City is accepting comments on the scope of the L.A. Zoo Vision Plan EIR, including ideas or concerns about environmental impacts and potential alternatives to the project. Scoping meetings will be held on Thursday, February 7, 2019 and Saturday, February 9, 2019. Please visit visionplan.lazoo.org for information about these meetings and how to participate.

HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED IN SCOPING FOR THE L.A. ZOO VISION PLAN EIR?

Comments on the EIR scope may be provided in writing to the City. Additionally, two (2) public scoping meetings will be held during the scoping period to solicit comments from interested parties on the content of the EIR (see above). Please visit visionplan.lazoo.org for information about how to provide comments and attend the scoping meetings.

I CAN’T COME TO THE SCOPING MEETINGS. HOW CAN I BE HEARD?

If you cannot attend one of the scoping meetings, written public comments regarding the scope of environmental review may also be submitted for the project. See above and visit visionplan.lazoo.org for more information.

DO I HAVE TO BE A RESIDENT OF THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES TO PARTICIPATE?

Not at all, all members of the public are welcome to participate!

CAN I BRING MY CHILDREN TO THE SCOPING MEETINGS?

Yes, children are welcome to attend public scoping meetings, but will require parental supervision.

WILL THERE BE AN INTERPRETER AT THE SCOPING MEETINGS?

Yes, a Spanish translator will be present at the scoping meetings on February 7, 2019 and February 9, 2019.

WILL TRANSCRIPTS OF THE MEETINGS BE AVAILABLE?

Yes, a court reporter will be present to transcribe the scoping meetings proceedings on February 7, 2019 and February 9, 2019.

WHEN WILL THE EIR BE COMPLETE AND HOW SOON COULD CONSTRUCTION START?

Following the close of the scoping period, the City will prepare a Draft EIR for public review. The Draft EIR is expected to be available in fall 2019. The City will accept comments on the Draft EIR and prepare a proposed Final EIR. The Final EIR is expected to be completed in the winter of late 2019 and decision-maker hearings on the project are anticipated to occur in early 2020. Following certification of the EIR, construction of some of the near-term components will be subject to financing.