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IN KNOWLAND PARK



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Zoological Society**
A non-profit organization

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**RECEIVED
OFFICE OF PARKS
AND RECREATION**

OCT 21 2003

October 17, 2003

DIRECTOR'S UNIT

William Noland
Interim Director of Finance & Management Agency
Oakland City Hall
One Frank H. Ogawa Plaza
Oakland, CA 94612

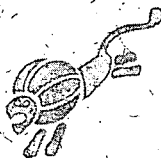
Dear Mr. Noland:

This letter regards the allocation of FEMA funds to the Oakland Zoo for repairs to the damage of the giraffe exhibit moat, which occurred due to the winter rains of El Nino in 1997-98. We received approval for federal funds to be applied to the repairs to the moat. After El Nino, we hired a structural engineer to complete drawings to repair the damage and then obtained estimates for the repair work.

We were delayed from implementing the repairs due to the timing of and urgency of other projects which were more pressing than these repairs. The delay occurred because we were in greater need of the construction of a new giraffe barn to house our existing giraffe collection, especially to protect them from subsequent winter rains. We were unable to do this major repair work of the exhibit at the same time that a barn was being constructed because we could not displace the giraffe from both the off-exhibit holding area (new barn construction) at the same time we did major construction repair of the moat (exhibit repair). We have now completed the work for a new giraffe barn which provides us with the ability to hold animals off exhibit. This now allows us to hold those animals off exhibit while we do major construction in the damaged moat itself.

Repair of the concrete surface in the exhibit moat has risen to our highest priority because we have sustained two serious giraffe injuries in the past six months. In both cases, the injured giraffe walked into the moat and slipped, causing one to lacerate the fetlock joint on the broken concrete and the second to fracture a small bone in the foot. We are extremely concerned that any further delay may lead to serious injury of yet another giraffe. As in all hoof stock, injuries to the feet and legs can in many cases result in the euthanasia of the animal.

I am therefore requesting the funds, which were approved by the state and federal agencies for disaster relief, so that we may begin construction on this El Nino repair as soon as possible. This work is of a vital nature for the Oakland Zoo and for the protection of the health of our animals. Please let me know what my next step should be to successfully complete this project.



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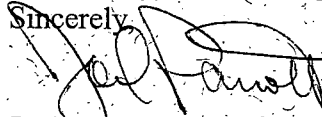


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I sincerely appreciate all of your support. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you need further information. Thank you, again.

Sincerely,



Joel J. Parrott, DVM
Executive Director

JJP:mas

Cc: Jim Ryugo, Interim Director – Parks and Recreation
Ace Tago, Principal Grants Coordinator