

BEFORE THE METRO COUNCIL

FOR THE PURPOSE OF SUBMITTING TO)	RESOLUTION NO. 94-2044
THE VOTERS A GENERAL OBLIGATION)	
BOND INDEBTEDNESS IN THE AMOUNT)	Introduced by Rena Cusma,
OF \$27.2 MILLION FOR THE OREGON)	Executive Officer
TERRITORY! EXHIBIT AND NEW)	
ENTRANCE AT THE METRO WASHINGTON)	
PARK ZOO)	

WHEREAS, Metro Washington Park Zoo's long range plan, adopted by the Metro Council in 1992, provides for gradual improvement of the Zoo over 25 years including a new entry, enhanced exhibits and programs which include a greater emphasis on the Northwest Region; and

WHEREAS, A new entry, once the westside light rail project is completed, will facilitate entrance into the Zoo for both transit and automobile users; and

WHEREAS, The Metro Council has appropriated \$1.02 million in the FY 1994-95 budget to further refine the preliminary design of a new entrance and Oregon Territory! exhibit; and

WHEREAS, Metro has engaged the involvement of the community in this project, including citizen groups and technical advisors; and

WHEREAS, The project is regarded as one of significance;

Now therefore, BE IT RESOLVED:

1. That the Metro Council hereby submits to the qualified voters of the District the question of issuing a General Obligation bonds in the maximum principal amount of \$27.2

million for an Oregon Territory! exhibit and new entrance as generally described in Exhibit "B."

The bonds shall mature over a period of not more than 30 years.

2. That the measure shall be placed on the ballot for a Special election to be held on the 16th day of May 1995 or the earliest legally available election date thereafter.

3. That the District shall cause this Resolution and the Ballot Title attached as Exhibit "A" to be submitted to the Elections Officer, the Tax Supervising and Conservation Commission, and the Secretary of State in a timely manner as required by law.

4. That the Executive Officer, pursuant to Oregon Law and Metro Code Chapter 9.02, shall transmit this measure, ballot title, and explanatory statement and arguments for or against, if any, to the County Elections Officer for inclusion in any county voters' pamphlets published for the election on this measure.

ADOPTED by the Metro Council this ____ day of _____, 1994.

Not Adopted
Judy Wyers, Presiding Officer

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EXHIBIT "A"

- "Caption: Bonds for Zoo native wildlife exhibit and new Zoo entrance."
- "Question: Shall Metro issue 27.2 million dollars of general obligation bonds to build new native wildlife exhibit and new Zoo entrance? If the bonds are approved they will be payable from taxes on property or property ownership that are not subject to the limits of Section 11(b), Article XI of the Oregon Constitution."
- "Explanation: Builds Oregon Territory! exhibit. Features cougars, wolverines, mountain goats. Includes native deer, eagles, black bears. Also beavers, salmon, sea otters, sea lions, seals, diving sea birds. Tree house has bats and birds. Tide pool has sea stars. Other native animals, petting zoo.
- Build new entrance near new light rail station. Gives better access to parking lot.
- Bonds mature in not more than thirty years. Bond cost estimate is up to 4.4 cents per thousand dollars of assessed value. Grants and gifts help pay costs."

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EXHIBIT "B"

METRO WASHINGTON PARK ZOO CONSTRUCTION BOND MEASURE

The purpose of this measure is to obtain voter approval for the issuance of general obligation bonds in the amount of \$27.2 million to finance a new native wildlife exhibit called the Oregon Territory! exhibit and new entrance at the Metro Washington Park Zoo.

The new exhibit and entry are part of the Zoo's long-range plan. The plan, written in 1992, calls for gradual improvement of the Zoo over a 25-year period. Besides calling for physical changes, including construction of new exhibits and a new entry, the plan identifies other ways to make the Zoo one of the best in the country. Many local experts in fields ranging from wildlife biology and education to tourism and finance assisted with the plan. The Oregon Territory! project fulfills one focus in the long-range plan which is to put an emphasis on what we have in our region, and to help citizens know and understand more about our natural environment so they can make decisions on complex issues.

New Exhibit

Initial plans for the Oregon Territory! exhibit include the following features:

- The trail begins in an alpine area with mountain goats, marmots, and other animals of the high mountain slopes.
- A tree house looks out into aviaries with bats and a variety of forest birds.
- The trail continues through the hollow trunk of a giant fallen log, spanning a ravine. Inside the log are mountain beavers, salamanders, and several kinds of insects.
- Just past the log are cougars, wolverines, and fishers living in their natural forest environment.

- An underground fungal forest leads to a display of river otters (with underwater viewing) and a wetland with marsh plants, fish, and birds such as the Great Blue Heron.
- A clearing in the forest is home to American black bears.
- At the edge of the forest, a family farm provides opportunities to pet farm animals, opossum, and other friendly creatures. Near the farm, a herd of elk graze in a spacious meadow. This concludes the Forest Loop.
- The Water Zone begins with a wet and densely planted rock face like those seen in the Columbia Gorge. A bald eagle is perched against this backdrop.
- A stream meanders, leading to underwater views of a school of salmon.
- Beaver activity is evident in the stream. There is a dam and a walk-through to see the beavers in their underground lodge.
- A herd of Columbia white-tailed deer graze on the grassy hill across from the beaver lodge.
- The short river ends at the ocean. In a large tide pool, sea stars, sea anemone, and other creatures endure the pounding action of simulated waves.
- A colony of murres, cormorants, puffin, and other diving birds can be viewed, both perched on the rocks and diving in the water.
- A herd of sea lions and harbor seals sunbathe on rocky cliffs.
- A colony of frolicking sea otters swim in a kelp forest. Visitors have both above and underwater views.

When funds become available, each element will be further refined and enhanced. Some of the elements described above may be replaced or altered.

New Entry

The entry includes a new education complex with classrooms, a library, an auditorium, and discovery center; a more spacious entry plaza with water features and plantings; and a new restaurant and gift shop (which will help generate revenue to support the Zoo).

The new entry will be centrally located in the parking lot, only 200 feet from a new light rail station. The entrance and station are scheduled to be completed by fall of 1997. Relocation of the entrance will yield three benefits: 1) Zoo property can be used more effectively on a long-term basis; 2) the convenience of the light rail station at the Zoo's entrance will encourage people to use an environmentally sound transportation alternative; and 3) visitors who arrive by car will have a much shorter walk to the Zoo entrance.

Community Involvement in the Project

The Zoo recognized the importance of involving outside experts as well as Zoo visitors in the focus and messages of the new exhibit and entry. Participation included the following federal, state, and private partners: 1,000 Friends, Bonneville Power Administration, Bureau of Land Management, Defenders of Wildlife, Nature Conservancy, Oregon Department of Agriculture, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Oregon Department of Forestry, Oregon Department of Water Resources, Oregon Forest Resource Institute, Oregon Trout, Pacific Northwest Research Station - United States Department of Agriculture, Portland Audubon Society, United States Fish and Wildlife Service, United States Forest Service, and a Citizen Advisory Committee composed of members of the community, Friends of the Zoo, and Zoo volunteers.

Costs and Funding for the Project

The project will cost approximately \$35.6 million. The Zoo is asking taxpayers to fund \$27.2 million of this through a general obligation bond. The remainder will be raised through corporate, foundation, and individual support and public funding sources from state and federal governments.

Other allowable expenditures from the bond issue include project costs, bond issuing costs, and reimbursable bond preparation expenses relating to the design, planning, and construction of the Oregon Territory! exhibit and new entrance. The preference is to issue bonds which mature in 20 years; however, to maintain the flexibility to respond to the market existing at the time bonds are issued, the maturity period may be up to 30 years. The basis for the final determination of the bond maturity period will be a determination of what are the lowest costs to the taxpayers, taking into account the cost of interest and principle repayment.

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