

COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE

INTER-OFFICE COMMUNICATION

DATE: June 2, 2017

TO: Supervisor Theodore Lipscomb Sr., Chair, County Board of Supervisors

FROM: Charles Wikenhauser, Director, Milwaukee County Zoological Department

SUBJECT: Milwaukee County Zoo West Entrance Project Funding

REQUEST

The Zoo Director is requesting authorization for the Department of Administrative Services to transfer \$2,550,000 from the Appropriation for Contingencies to the appropriate capital improvement accounts to complete the West Entrance Project.

BACKGROUND

On May 18, 2017, the Finance and Audit Committee approved a fund transfer for \$3.3 million to recognize settlement funds from the State of Wisconsin Department of Transportation to complete the "Cost to Cure" list for the Zoo's West Parking Lot and Entrance.

At the May 25, 2017 Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors Committee meeting, two amendments were adopted that impacted File No. 17-374 Fund Transfer B1. The first amendment moved \$200,000 that was described in the fund transfer as "additional budget authority for interior visitor and gift shop building items and contingency" to the County's Contingency fund. The second amendment also transferred \$2,350,000 to the Contingency fund, which was to be used to complete the North American River Otter exhibit. Both amendments stated "The Zoo Director shall present a written report to the County Board providing more details on this initiative prior to considering a separate appropriation transfer to move these funds to the appropriate capital improvement accounts".

The Zoo is submitting this report to request that \$200,000 be transferred from the Contingency Fund back to the West Entrance project WZ15007 Cost to Cure Program – New Entry Complex and \$2,350,000 to WZ17301 Cost to Cure Program – Zoo Otter Exhibit. In the body of the fund transfer, the \$200,000 was described as additional budget authority for interior visitor and gift shop building items and contingency. This description did not properly reflect the accurate description of the funds. These funds are needed for the following: guest table and benches, garbage cans, bike racks, umbrellas, signage, data and communication equipment, security camera system for the West entrance, admission building and Otter exhibit, panic button system for the Admissions building, electrical animal containment system and new trees. The guest tables, benches and umbrellas are not reserved and will be available for all visitors that may choose to picnic in that area.

At the May 13, 2014 Parks, Energy and Environment Committee File No. 14-449 was approved that authorized the Zoo to use the award funds from the Wisconsin Department of Transportation

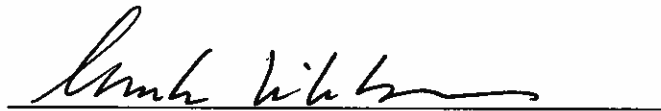
(WDOT) to implement the Remediation Plan to cure the effects of the WDOT Zoo Interchange Freeway Project. The resolution was also approved by the Finance and Audit Committee on May 15, 2014 with full County Board approval on May 22, 2014. The resolution stated, "1) If an Award is made, the Zoo may use the Award funds paid to the County to implement the Remediation Plan, to the extent of such funds paid and 2) If an additional Award is recovered on appeal, the Zoo may use such funds to complete the Remediation Plan, to the extent of such funds paid". The Remediation Plan or Cost to Cure plan was attached to the file and it included an entry area exhibit.

Attached is a list of contracts and their respective costs that were awarded following the County Board authorization in May, 2014. This includes the construction of the foundation and footings and utilities installation for the "new entrance exhibit" or other exhibit. The completion dates for some of the work are also listed. The requested funds for the exhibit will complete the exhibit including the holding building, exhibit area, and Life Support System.

The \$2.5 million transfer request is needed to complete the West Entrance, which replaces parking spaces that have been lost with the Zoo Interchange Project and provides the necessary amenities for guests similar to the experience they receive at the main entrance. Without the completed West Entrance, the Zoo will lose revenue and will not be able to provide enough parking for Zoo guests.

RECOMMENDATION

The Zoo respectfully requests authorization for the Department of Administrative Services and the Office of the Comptroller to process an administrative appropriation transfer to move \$2,550,000 from the Appropriation for Contingencies to the appropriate capital improvement accounts to complete the West Entrance Project.



Charles Wikenhauser, Director
Milwaukee County Zoological Department

Attachment (1)

pc: County Executive Chris Abele

Raisa Koltun, Chief of Staff, County Executive's Office

Kelly Bablitch, Chief of Staff, County Board

Sup. Peggy A. West, Chair, Finance and Audit Committee

Sup. Sheldon A. Wasserman, Vice-Chair, Finance and Audit comm.

Sup. Jason Haas, Chair, Parks, Energy & Environment Committee

Sup. Marcellia Nicholson, Vice-Chair, Parks, Energy & Environment Comm.

Janelle Jensen, Finance and Audit Committee Clerk

Allyson Smith, Parks, Energy and Environment Committee Clerk

Stephen Cady, Research and Policy Director, Comptroller's Office

Scott Manske, Comptroller, Office of the Comptroller

Jessica Janz-McKnight, Research & Policy Analyst, Office of the
Comptroller

Steven Kreklow, Dir of Perf, Strategy & Budget, DAS

Jeremy Lucas, DAS, Fiscal and Management Analyst

Vera Westphal, Deputy Zoo Director (Admin & Finance)