

D06E021E
Maryland Zoo Elephant Facility
Board of Public Works

Maryland Zoo in Baltimore Elephant Facilities Project
(Baltimore City)

PAYGO GF	\$500,000	Recommendation: Approve
Nonbudgeted	\$710,000	

Program Description: This project is intended to create an elephant breeding facility on the grounds of the Maryland Zoo in Baltimore. Specifically, the project will remodel the existing elephant barn and expand the elephant yard.

Comments: The proposed \$500,000 PAYGO general fund allowance is intended to help the Maryland Zoo in Baltimore fund the planning cost for improvements to the zoo's elephant facilities project. The Maryland Zoo will contribute \$710,000 of its own resources to complete the funding necessary to award a design contract. As indicated in the 2006 *Capital Improvement Program (CIP)*, the total project cost is preliminarily estimated at \$11 million. An additional State contribution of \$5 million in general obligation (GO) bond funds is planned for fiscal 2008 which would bring the total State commitment to the project to \$5.5 million. The State's proposed commitment, therefore, is intended to be a 50/50 match with the remaining \$5.5 million being provided by the Maryland Zoo through private fundraising.

Fund Data

**Prior Program Activity – All Fund Sources
Uses
(\$ in Millions)**

Uses	<i>Prior Approp.</i>	<i>2007 Request</i>	<i>Future Estimate</i>	<i>Estimated Totals</i>
Planning	\$0.000	\$1.210	\$0.000	\$1.210
Construction	0.000	0.000	9.790	9.790
Total	\$0.000	\$1.210	\$9.790	\$11.000

Sources	<i>Prior Approp.</i>	<i>2007 Request</i>	<i>Future Estimate</i>	<i>Estimated Totals</i>
GO Bonds	\$0.000	\$0.000	\$5.000	\$5.000
General Funds	0.000	0.500	0.000	0.500
Nonbudgeted Funds	0.000	0.710	4.790	5.500
Total	\$0.000	\$1.210	\$9.790	\$11.000

**Authorization Request
(\$ in Millions)**

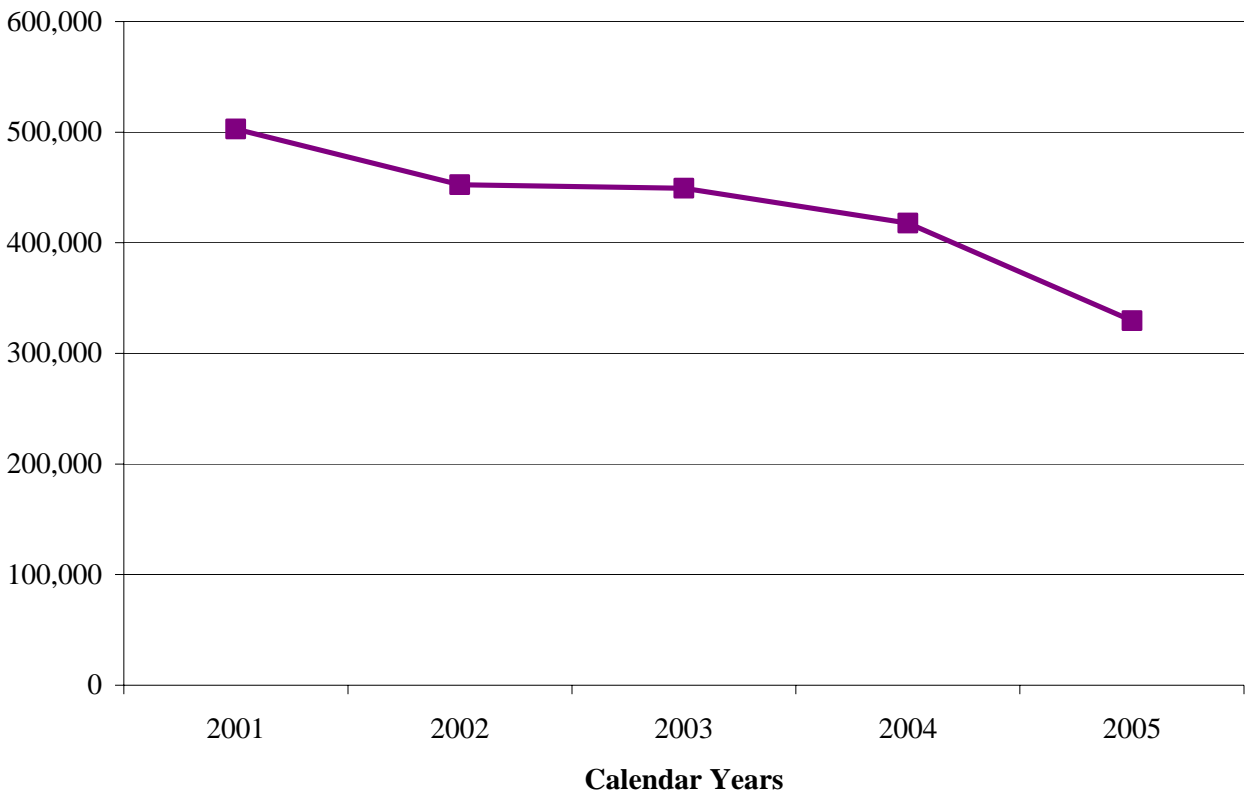
<i>Description</i>	<i>2006 Approp.</i>	<i>2007 Request</i>	<i>2008 Estimate</i>	<i>2009 Estimate</i>	<i>2010 Estimate</i>	<i>2011 Estimate</i>
GO Bonds	\$0.000	\$0.000	\$5.000	\$0.000	\$0.000	\$0.000
PAYGO GF	0.000	0.500	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Nonbudgeted Funds	0.000	0.710	4.790	0.000	0.000	0.000
Total	0.000	\$1.210	\$9.790	\$0.000	\$0.000	\$0.000

Issues

1. Will an Elephant Breeding Facility Improve Declining Attendance

As shown in **Exhibit 1**, attendance at the Maryland Zoo in Baltimore has declined in each year from 2001 through 2005. According to the zoo, attendance is likely to continue to decline without the addition of new and interesting exhibits. The proposed expansion and renovation of the current elephant facilities is intended to address the zoo's declining attendance by providing visitors with what would be one of only a handful of zoos in North America that contain an elephant breeding facility.

Exhibit 1
Maryland Zoo at Baltimore Attendance
2001 – 2005



According to the American Zoo and Aquarium Association (AZA) new elephant facilities standards have been developed that require a zoo to choose between being a holding facility housing between three to five elephant cows or a breeding facility housing both cows and bulls. The Maryland Zoo had decided to pursue designation as a breeding facility. The proposed project, to be completed in

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two phases with phase I expanding the elephant yard and phase II providing for the construction of a new elephant barn, would allow the zoo to become a first class breeding facility. The zoo currently has the facilities to house just one bull. However, in order to meet AZAs standards for a breeding facility, a zoo must have the facilities to house at least two bulls and a total of five elephants. **DLS recommends that a representative from the Maryland Zoo discuss declining attendance and how the proposed elephant facilities expansion might improve the zoo's appeal.**

Recommended Actions

1. Concur with Governor's allowance.