



Merced Zoological Society
PO Box 408, Merced, CA 95341
Telephone/Fax: (209) 725 – DEER

Jennifer Meissonnier
City of Merced Recreation Supervisor
678 West 18th Street
Merced, CA 95340

October 22, 2018

Dear Jennifer,

The Merced Zoological Society has been committed to the mission of providing daily volunteer support to the City of Merced for the Applegate Park Zoo. Our primary task and the main source of revenue is to collect the admission fees to the Zoo everyday it is open to the public. A secondary source of support is to use any surplus of our revenue sources, less operational expenses, for various projects that are not funded by the City.

Recent projects include purchase of a water heater and installation of the infrastructure for a donated washer and dryer on site, educational placards attached to the animal exhibits, repainting the interior of the public bathrooms, painting the wooden benches at the Zoo entrance and interior, providing pop up shades in front of the goat habitat as well as metal benches throughout the zoo and this year replacement of the goat barn.

Last FY the actual payroll costs of providing a person to collect the admission fees on Friday, Saturday and Sunday was \$ 12,198. The total cost, including insurance for the paid individual and the Monday through Thursday unpaid volunteers and accounting adds another \$ 2,651. Adding the estimated unrealized costs provided by the volunteers, brings the total benefit to the City in collecting the admission fees to \$ 31,830 for the year. Last year's total admissions were about \$ 68,000.

The average loss of the Society's past five year income amounts reported on our Federal 990 tax return is \$ 5,300 per year. Our cash flow for the FY that ended June 30, 2018 shows expenses exceeding revenues by \$ 5,316. Some of the expense is in gift shop inventory that has not been sold as yet, so until the tax return is completed, the amount may be overstated somewhat. Generally we try not to over purchase inventory as long as gift shop sales remain steady.

Considering the fact that our cash reserves continue to decline as we pay additional amounts to the City above the admission fees we collect and the costs associated with collecting the fees, our continued future operation is in jeopardy.

Sincerely,

Veronica Mathis, President of the Merced Zoological society