



**NATIONAL ZOOLOGICAL PARK
REPLACEMENT GREENHOUSE**

3001 Connecticut Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C.

Submitted by the Smithsonian Institution

Delegated Action of the Executive Director

February 26, 2009

Pursuant to delegations of authority adopted by the Commission on October 3, 1996 and 40 U.S.C. § 8722(b)(1) and (d), I approve the preliminary and final site and building plans for construction of a replacement greenhouse for the National Zoo, as shown on NCPC Map File No. 72.00(05.00)42717.

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The Smithsonian Institution (SI) has submitted preliminary and final site and building plans for a new greenhouse that will replace the current greenhouse at the National Zoo. The existing structure must be removed to implement the 2008 National Zoo master plan.

The new location is identified in the plans as the National Zoo Property Yard, at the Research Hill precinct of the master plan, and is removed from the public use areas of the zoo. The new greenhouse is a 4,350 square-foot structure built as a prefabricated unit with polycarbonate transparent walls and roof. The height of the structure is 22 feet, with a peaked and vented roof ridge. A modular five-foot high reinforced earth retaining wall, at the building's base, will also be constructed to level the site of the facility.

The project has been coordinated with the National Park Service regarding views to Rock Creek Park and its trails and parkway. Landscaped screening of the new greenhouse is included in the plans that have been reviewed by the Rock Creek Park Superintendent's staff for concurrence with the design.

The new greenhouse project is fully described in the National Zoo master plan and the related Environmental Assessment (EA). The EA resulted in a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) by the Commission in October 2008. The SI received Commission approval of the National Zoo master plan in November 2008. This project conforms in all respects to the Zoo master plan and the FONSI, and the FONSI mitigation requirements are maintained by this project.

The project is being designed to meet LEED® Silver standards. The site and excavation plans include stormwater management for the project and the project adheres to District of Columbia required temporary surface water management measures.

SI formally initiated National Historic Preservation Act, Section 106 consultation for this project in late October 2008. Initial suggestions by review agencies and the public have been incorporated in the developed final design, and further consultation with the District of Columbia State Historic Preservation Officer (DC-SHPO) resulted in a determination of no adverse effect signed by the DC-SHPO on January 16, 2009.

No increase or change of staffing for the facility is proposed in the operation of the replacement greenhouse.

Marcel C. Acosta
Executive Director