



THE NATIONAL ELEPHANT CENTER

C/O BREVARD ZOO
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November 16, 2011

Mr. John Tracogna
Chief Executive Officer
Toronto Zoo
361A Old Finch Ave
Toronto, ON, M1B 5K7

Dear John,

As Chair of The National Elephant Center (TNEC), I thought it might be helpful for you to have a current update on our progress. As I mentioned in the article I submitted in the October 2011 issue of the AZA Connect Magazine we have a long-term lease on 225 acres of old citrus grove property near the city of Fellsmere, in south central Florida about 20 minutes from Vero Beach. We also have the option to lease more land in the future.

Permits – All the critical development permits have been approved by the City of Fellsmere and the St. John's Water Management district. Our partners in Fellsmere have been absolutely fantastic and fully support TNEC.

Construction – We have submitted complete drawings to two local construction companies for bids for Phase One of TNEC. The estimates are due back on November 18. Once we have these estimates we will go out to bid for a General contractor.

Budget – We currently have about \$3 million in cash and pledges for construction and operating funds. We expect Phase One to cost about \$2 million. We intend to raise additional funds through donations and conducting AZA elephant training programs.

Phase One and Capacity – Will include one large barn that can hold up to nine adult elephants and several adjacent paddocks that connect to large 4-5 acres pastures with water and shade. We will not be open to the public but will schedule tours in advance for school groups and other interested parties.

Ground Breaking – We expect to break ground in February/March of 2012 and be ready to receive our first elephants by September 2012. This schedule could be expedited slightly if needed.

Staff Expertise – Our COO and chief elephant person is Jeff Bolling who is one of the most experienced and respected elephant trainers in North America. We intend to hire three more highly trained and experienced elephant keepers before we complete construction. All our veterinary care will be provided pro bono by the veterinarians at Disney's Animal Kingdom. They are some of the best elephant vets in the world.

AZA Accreditation – We will of course apply for AZA accreditation and adhere to all the current AZA policies and protocols for elephant care and conservation.

I hope this is helpful. Please contact me directly if you have any questions.

Best regards,

Rick Barongi
TNEC Chairman of the Board