

Public Comments

George Lucas proposed presidio museum: Susan and Niels Larsen, residents of san Francisco, strongly support this gift to the people of San Francisco. We have grandchildren living in and around san Francisco and we think this would be a great educational tool for them. We hope that the presidio trust will approve acceptance of this gift.

Thank you
Susan and Niels Larsen

I am writing to endorse and support the Lucas museum. Aside from his unbelievable collection of American art, George Lucas is offering his technology to generations of children. The museum can be a place for children to learn, create, and grow..... and to become their own innovators.

The museum can change the course of a child's life I hope that you will support this once in a lifetime opportunity that will benefit the citizens today and in the future.

Thank you
Chris Boskin

I am so grateful to you all for your hard work making the Presidio such a lasting cultural destination in the fair city of San Francisco.

I would be in full support of a Lucas Museum within the Presidio. I think it would offer much to people of all ages from all over the world.

Thanks for your consideration,
Rose Linke

Please approve one of the San Francisco Bay Area's most sophisticated member 's proposal for the sports basement area.

I strongly opposed the Fisher Proposal. In comparison , Lucas ' buildings have been absolutely gorgeous and seamless with the existing architecture. I shudder to remember the Shorestein condo complex proposal.

Listen to the people. The Bay Area loves and is proud of George Lucas. His art collection? I don't know. Michael De Young's collection originally included, a buffalo? I believe that is true. Let the Bay Area visionary not be deterred by 'decision by committee'.

Respectfully,
Beverly Anello

We just cannot afford to turn down this most generous offer from Mr. George Lucas...please do not deny this opportunity for so many children and adults alike.

Ms Tilson

I support the proposed Lucas Museum, which sounds like an exciting new addition to our proud city's first-class cultural attractions.

Good luck with the new project.

Sincerely,
Alice So

Please, please don't let George Lucas' incredible offer escape to Chicago! For so many, many reasons his magnificent collection needs to be here, in his home town. I know you have heard all of those reasons from others and I want to add my (passionate) voice to this group who knows how important to the cultural landscape of the city... and bay area, this world class museum will be.

Please continue to consider and... lets do it!

Sincerely,
Sid Ganis

I've looked at all the proposals from the all-important viewpoint of common sense.

Presidio Exchange: this proposal reads like what it is, a collection of politically correct buzzwords strung together. For instance it "curates" " cross-disciplinary" "co-created" "residences"? WT_ does that mean? And it will be free and accessible to all, yes until the grant disappears in year two. And it will study the current trend in museums. Ahh I see, it'll be a museum about museums, how self-indulgent of them, how convenient. We'll study ourselves! Who better to grant us public money than ourselves?

Bridge Sustainability Blah Blah Blah: Who are you kidding? This is just more of the same fuzzy thinking pie in the sky PC nonsense. Get a grip because here we go again. "A new global ethic" "acceptance of this ethic has not yet reached its tipping point". Said Orwell in 1984. "Invent and dream" and don't forget it's for "the children" "We need more places for our poets to talk to our scientists, our activists to our CEOs, our friends and neighbors to each other". Activist to CEO's? You mean the takers to the makers don't you. What a joke, a very sad joke.

I've also seen the plans for the delightful hideous glass cracker box they want to plop down within site of the Palace of Fine Arts and the Golden Gate Bridge. And dare we forget where the money is coming from for these two oh so precious projects. Nowhere that's where. No one who ever earned a paycheck would fund this nonsense. You'll get people who wear scarves tied in the Parisian style with earnest suffering faces in yoga clothes holding lattes.

Lucas Center:

Everyone in the world will want to go (except those in the final sentence of the previous paragraph) The building is beautiful (beauty being the operative element as in Palace of Fine Arts and Golden Gate Bridge are beautiful) GET IT?
It's paid for. Period.

So as you see, common sense prevails. Stop jerking our chain and approve Lucas or he'll go elsewhere. He's giving us a gift, be grateful.

Thank you
Gary Packard

I read the article today in SF gate regarding nancy's Pelosi's suggestion of Mr. Lucas' proposal for a cultural museum. I think of the three options, the museum is the worst idea.

The changes that you have accomplished in the last 13 years I have lived in the city have been nothing short of astounding. I applaud your continued work to return this beautiful location back to where it belongs. My husband and I were married at the golden gate club and I run in the park every weekend. This museum will change everything you have accomplished by taking the focus away from the environment and natural beauty not to mention the incredible impact this museum will have on traffic.

I implore you to ignore Nancy Pelosi's "urging" as the article puts it and to think about the goals you set for Crissy field so many years ago and away from the monetary concerns.

--

Emily M. Weissenberger

Has anyone considered the idea of putting surface parking at the west end of the site, like the PX proposes, and then putting at least half of the museum underground, in place of the garage?

This would greatly reduce the mass of the building and preserve the views.

Joel Cantor

I have followed the chain of events relating to the Mid-Crissy selection process and after reading the SF Chronicle article of Dec. 20, 2013, as well as others, wish to express my opinion.

I strongly believe that the "star attraction" is Crissy Field and the area around it. How can one compete with the Golden Gate Bridge, the bay and the whole geographical area. We do not need an architectural building which looks out of place to mar our visual appreciation of beauty nor will its contents necessarily draw people to it.

Please allow time for the dust to settle and make the best decision.

Not all politician and influential people know best.

Sincerely,
Joann Fong

Can you tell me why as long as there has been a Presidio Trust there have been so many large building projects proposed or built? Since when is the Presidio supposed to be open to new development?

First there was the gigantic office park near the Lombard Gate, all 700,000 square feet of commercial real estate development. More square feet than the Transamerica Tower. In a national park.

Next was the demand by Don Fisher he be allowed to build a very large glass and steel modern art museum in the middle of the Main Post, a proposal that included demolition of historic buildings. This idea was being pushed too hard by the Trust. If it had been built it would have ruined the Presidio.

Then there was a proposal for a hotel, also on the Main Post, accompanied by a bad idea that would turn the Presidio Theater into a multi-plex. Commercial real estate development again.

The rehabilitation of the old Public Health Hospital included new townhomes. Residential real estate development.

The Officers Club is being turned into a restaurant/event center. Commercial real estate redevelopment.

A few display items and a few chairs don't cut it.

Now we have the proposal to build on Crissy Field buildings that are neither necessary nor wanted. We don't need a Lucas Museum any more than we needed the Fisher Museum. The Lucas proposal is too big and is out of place on the Presidio, and the other two proposals, the PX and whatever the other one is, could easily be put into existing buildings such as the Crissy Field armory building or in Building 385.

Explain to me why we are getting all these building projects? The idea of turning the Presidio of San Francisco into a national park was to save it from development, so what are all of you doing? It isn't stewardship. It's wrong. The Presidio Trust is wrong.

I would bet I am of the same mind as most Presidio visitors. I'd like to see a history center, an Army Museum, a nature center - things that would make sense to be in the Presidio of San Francisco. I'd like to see no more building proposals ever. And I would like a guarantee from the Presidio Trust that none of the historic buildings will be removed ever.

Get rid of your senior staff. All of them. They stink. From the viewpoint of a national park visitor they give us nothing. Replace them with National Park Service employees. Give is a national park, not a redevelopment zone.

I am nothing but disappointed in how the Presidio Trust has managed this park.

James Hartman

A museum featuring George Lucas' collection would be unique in the world, housing items contemporary and a direct part of the unique historical and sociological and entrepreneurial business event witnessed in the later 20th century, literally revolutionizing all media consumed by all people in the world, not 40yrs later.

Star Wars may seem to have its hokey-side in terms of being a movie with 'geek' fan base, but the impact that the film series and Lucas' management of that juggernaut cannot be misjudged.

I urge you to support the Lucas/LFL initiative.
Tom Piedmont

I agree the former commissary site on the Presidio needs a star attraction, and the PX proposal fits the bill. It offers temporal exhibits about Presidio history and more, appropriate for a site that is in a tsunami inundation zone.

The PX is poised to wait and see how the new landscape develops.

Trusting the Presidio Trust to take all the time it needs, including as many delays, is the way to go.

George Lucas is not to be trusted. He misled everyone about what the Letterman Digital Arts Center was going to be. He should spend his money restoring important Presidio vistas by undeveloping what is essentially an unfilled office development, which unethically competes with privately owned buildings outside the Presidio.

He has a spouse and child in Chicago. He may leave a piece of his heart in SF, but he's already left a whole mess on the Presidio.

The Presidio as a National Park should not be in a position of competing with other San Francisco museums, such as the Exploratorium, with is a star attraction recently relocated to offer visitors a stellar experience.

Adding a Lucas monstrosity to the Presidio doesn't help, it hurts.

The Presidio, as the Presidio Trust and the PX proposal show they know, is more than a piece of real estate for museums and motels. It is a place of great history and great space. We need to respect that.

Sincerely,
Terry Keim

As a long time admirer, supporter, and constituent of yours, I was both saddened and dismayed at the words and thoughts attributed to you in the San Francisco Chronicle (1/7/2014) regarding the proposed project adjacent Crissy Field. There are significant areas of concern which I feel deserve your greater consideration. Among these are schedule, site, and design appropriateness.

- Why the rush to judgment for this project? Surely nothing can be done at this site until the Doyle Drive construction project, now well underway, can be completed.

- At that time the entire site and landscape will be completely altered and a new physical reality created. Any new project, in addition to its mission statement function, should take heed of that and be site specific.
- just as important, if not more so, is the actual physical design of this project itself. In addition to being complementary to its environment, any proposed building should be one of highest architectural and design standards. Sadly, the Lucas project specifically fails to do so by large measure; its design verges on *Kitsch*, and its proposed contents barely less so. Certainly, the Presidio and the City of San Francisco and the Nation deserve much better.

I urge you, and others involved, for forbearance and, taking into account the issues raised above, let proper time be allowed for a full and deliberate design process to unfold,. There is no need for a hurry that could result in something we all might ultimately regret.

Respectfully yours,
Ephraim G. Hirsch, FASCE, FSEAOC

I have lived in the Presidio for 13 years, 538B Simonds Loop, and prior to that in the surrounding neighborhoods since 1975. I agree with the Haas family and Nancy Bechtle, let's wait until the Doyle Drive project and the landscaping that goes with it is in place and then decide what to do, if anything, about this public space.

There really is no rush. If we loose out on George Lucas' ersatz monolith to himself, and his kitschy art collection, so be it. He already has one albatross here, do we need another? He could also put his "art collection" in the Palace of Fine Arts, and subsidize this historic building, which could probably use a benefactor.

Better to proceed with thoughtfulness and caution, than to jump the gun and end up with something that detracts from this very special place. As for Nancy Pelosi, Jerry Brown and Ed Lee's support of Lucas' proposal, could they perhaps be looking at deep pockets for their future campaign chests?

Sincerely,
Marcia E. Herman

I would urge that the Presidio Trust take NO action on the current proposals for the PX area.

I believe that nothing should be considered until all the current construction is finished. I do not believe that a good decision can be made until the dust settles. I think that it is better if it is discussed in the future when more information is available. The location is too important to make such a hasty recommendation, particularly since it has become a political issue instead of a park issue.

Therefore, I urge you to not proceed. I think it is not appropriate to make such an important, long-term, decision at this time.

Thank you.
Paul Watts

I urge you to dismiss the Lucas Museum proposal. While it is true that Star Wars is indigenous to the Bay Area - it is not utterly important to place such a museum (that is for the Lucas collection - not solely to Star Wars) in the Presidio. A museum such as this can be put anywhere. Lucas has that kind of money to do so. The collection can be admired no matter where the museum is. Such a historic piece of land is not integral to the enjoyment of the artwork.

I believe the more fitting option is to support the Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy's proposal. Every park that this organization is involved in is a testament to their mission to preserve and create spaces that are relevant for the people that visit them. I've read through the proposal they have put forth and I applaud their ambition to create a place for public programs that are Presidio-themed, participatory, and cross-disciplinary. This is such a unique parcel, it's critical we allow a structure and purpose (through programs) there that is reflective of the the location.

We should trust GGNPC to be that facilitator to create a space for the people as they always have. The Lucas Museum can be enjoyed elsewhere/anywhere.

Thank you for consideration on this important matter.
Jamie Clark

The merits of the three proposals for the Sports a Basement site notwithstanding, I believe this is the time for the Presidio Trust to pause before choosing any candidates.

The site is on the cusp of being significantly impacted by the Tunnel Top Parklands and the Youth Camp. These improvements along with others will bring about new traffic flow, an altered general ambiance, new public uses. Then - when the Trust has a truer sense of what the Sports Basement site demands - will be the time to decide on its highest and best use. Now is not the time in my opinion.

Thank you for your attention and thoughtful work,
Linda Aldrich

Please do not allow the construction of this museum. It's not appropriate for public property to become the repository of a building that is basically a showcase for one man's ego.

New construction is not what the Presidio needs. It's wonderful to have a small park within San Francisco. It needs to be returned to the state it was in 200 years ago, not developed with restaurants and museums. That's not development, that's just greed.

Sincerely
Ernest Montague

Sports Basement is a popular store and very good to the San Francisco community. The store offers rent-free space to non-profits and donates food and drink to fundraising events. Its merchandise is a

perfect fit with the activities at Crissy Field. It is profitable. Why is it necessary to replace Sports Basement with a fancy museum? I know many people who would like Sports Basement to stay. Please consider this option!

Sincerely,
Bonnie Baron

I have been a resident of San Francisco for over 27 years. Please don't approve a museum for the open space across from Crissy Field. The greatest beauty of San Francisco is its open, natural spaces, especially including the Presidio lands. There will always be an endless, constant and needless pressure to destroy those spaces with new buildings. Put the museum where it replaces ugly development with good development, and not where it destroys some of the few remaining natural places in this city.

Thank you,
David Lyon

I appreciate the time and effort that you have spent in analyzing the proposals that have been put forth for a new museum on the Presidio grounds. George Lucas and his expansive body of work in film making and production are part of San Francisco's history without doubt. Star Wars captured my imagination during my formative childhood years, and I believe that it had the same effects on many people around the world. The Lucas Arts Museum would spark the minds of many young San Franciscans and Bay Area residents in the years to come. It is a rarity nowadays that a new museum would be solely financed privately without tapping into the general funds. In effect, the museum would be a gift to the people. I hope that you will share my views on Mr. Lucas' project and that you will consider allowing the construction of his museum in the Presidio. Thank you.

Sincerely yours,
Kenny Mok, M.D.

December 2, 2013

Presidio Trust (attn: Commissary Project)
103 Montgomery Street,
P.O. Box 29052
San Francisco, CA 94129

THE PRESIDIO TRUST
EXECUTIVE OFFICE
RCVD DEC 5 '13 AM 11:47

To: Board of Trustees

I was disappointed that the Board was unable to reach a decision on the mid-Crissy field development. I am in favor of the Lucas Cultural Arts Museum. The Board states that “we have significant issues with the proposed building – its massing and height, and its architectural style – and believe it should be redesigned to be more compatible with the Presidio.”

I would urge the board to reconsider this stance. A great art collection deserves an iconic structure. The Palace of Fine Arts is beautiful because of its mass. The proposed design of the Lucas Cultural Arts Museum celebrates the architectural style of the Pan-Pacific Exposition. The great cities of the world house their museums in buildings with architecturally distinct styles which one could argue do not fit in with their neighborhoods.

The Parisians felt the Eiffel Tower would be an eyesore and there was intense controversy over the building of the Sacre Coeur in Montmartre. Bold statements are always controversial. The public treasures these structures today. I challenge the Board to be visionary and select a project that makes a bold statement for current and future generations to enjoy. The public enjoys iconic structures. Your desire for this museum to be more compatible with the Presidio hints of short-sightedness and elitism.

The Board has accomplished great things with the Presidio and I would hope the Board could take a step back and perhaps be more open-minded about the design of the building.

Sincerely,


Jan Jackovic

cc: Lucas Cultural Arts Museum



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Golden Gate National Recreation Area
Fort Mason Bldg. 201
San Francisco, California 94123

IN REPLY REFER TO:
L30 (GOGA-SUPT)

December 12, 2013

Members of the Board of Directors
Presidio Trust
Building 103, Presidio of San Francisco
San Francisco, California 94129

Dear Trust Board Members:

We are proud to partner with the Presidio Trust in management of the lands, stories, and themes that comprise the Presidio. We have been pleased that the Presidio Trust has looked to the National Park Service for advice on the future use of the Commissary site. Because this site is located in a uniquely central position – precisely at the connection point between the NPS-managed lands of Crissy Field, and the Trust-managed Main Post – our interest in the right choice for the Commissary is very strong.

We appreciate that the Trust Board has at least temporarily delayed reaching a decision on the future use of the Commissary site. However, we must again express our strong recommendation, echoed by many others, that the Trust defer any decision for several years to allow the site to develop in a more comprehensive, thoughtful, integrated, and planned manner.

As we conveyed in our September 23, 2013 letter, the national landmark designation of the Presidio – and especially this site – deserves a use that relates to the Presidio's mission and values and that fits seamlessly within the surrounding parklands. The proper stewardship of the Presidio merits taking a long view. The Presidio Trust should not rush a decision of this importance, especially if there is a lack of public consensus and if obvious controversy exists. With the many improvements already approved and planned, such as the new tunnel top parklands and the Presidio visitor center, there is wisdom in allowing these new uses to settle in before selecting a major new use and tenant for the Commissary site.

In our earlier letter we outlined what we believe are critical questions that should be addressed by the project proponents. The key questions related to programmatic and architectural fit. They were framed to insure that any future use of the site would enhance its national park values, become part of a carefully crafted continuity of programs that illuminate the Presidio's cultural and natural themes, and respect important design guidelines and standards.

We are aware that the Trust has raised serious issues regarding the architectural design and scale of the proposed Lucas Cultural Arts Museum. But architecture aside, we have serious concerns about the programmatic fit of the Lucas proposal – something that is of paramount importance to us.

From the information that has been presented to the public to date, we believe the program of the proposed Lucas Cultural Arts Museum has no genuine or substantive connection to the themes or programs of Crissy Field or the Main Post, or to other Presidio-connected themes that extend far beyond the boundaries of the post. While the programs of the proposed museum seem interesting, the museum's offerings could be located anywhere; therefore, the museum does not merit one of the most important sites in the entire Presidio. The Trust's own "Request for Proposal" spoke to the "Power of Place" as a primary theme: the Lucas proposal has no concrete reference to or interpretation of the Presidio.

As you know, we have been working hard – together – to provide a cohesive visitor experience from the future Heritage Center on the south end of the Main Post to Crissy Field and its array of recreational activities and the acclaimed youth and family programs of the Crissy Field Center. We feel that only a use that enhances the opportunity to build the thematic and programmatic connections that NPS and the Trust have been working closely together for years to achieve should be selected for the site.

We offer these additional comments out of a desire to make certain the decision of the Trust Board is clearly informed by the perspective of the Trust's primary partner at the Presidio, the National Park Service. To reiterate a point from our September letter, we commend the Trust for the openness of the very public process you have employed in reaching this very challenging decision. We request that you continue this openness throughout the rest of the process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Frank Dean". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Frank Dean
General Superintendent

NANCY PELOSI
12TH DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA
DEMOCRATIC LEADER

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December 18, 2013

Dear Presidio Trust Board Member:

Congratulations to the Presidio Trust on achieving the goal of self-sufficiency by 2013. It is a wonderful milestone in the history of the Presidio, and I hope you will take time to reflect positively on the magnitude of this achievement.

Also, as one who was privileged to be part of the Congressional leadership to create the Presidio Trust, I appreciate the serious consideration you are giving to the proposals submitted for reuse of the Commissary. It is apparent that your deliberations and the decisions you face are challenging, and your commitment to bringing a continued stellar presence to the Presidio is to be commended.

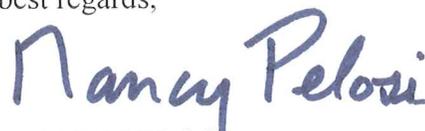
There are three worthy proposals before you. As you consider these proposals, I hope you will emphasize the need to draw a vibrant cross section of visitors to the Presidio, with particular attention to inner-city youth. Educational programming is essential for the Presidio to attract and excite young people, and to actualize a generational bridge that will engage the community now and also span the next generations. This has been a guiding principle for the Park from the time Congressman Phillip Burton created the GGNRA in 1972, when he specifically prohibited entrance fees so that underserved children and families would have access to the GGNRA. A strong proposal that would realize this goal is important to the future of the Presidio, particularly by increasing visitation and also by creating a star attraction to provide a distinct destination site for visitors.

Given the potential value of these concepts to the Presidio, I would strongly urge the Trust Board not to delay the decision-making process. In fairness to those who have invested considerable time, energy and other resources, a timely decision would be most appropriate. It will also allow the Presidio to receive more visitors sooner, as opposed to delaying coming attractions for people to enjoy.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my concern with regard to the timing and nature of your selection. I understand the weight of the decision that is upon you, and your interest in how it will impact the long-term standard of excellence for the Presidio. The three finalists deserve to have their answer in January, as you have outlined. It is my hope that the Trust could welcome all three participants to the Presidio.

As you well know the Presidio is always in my thoughts, and near and dear to my heart. Thank you for your excellent stewardship of this important national treasure.

best regards,



NANCY PELOSI
Democratic Leader



United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0504

<http://feinstein.senate.gov>

December 19, 2013

Mrs. Nancy Bechtle
The Presidio Trust
103 Montgomery Street
San Francisco, CA 94129

Dear Nancy:

It was wonderful to see you during my last trip home. As always, I enjoyed our conversation and your company.

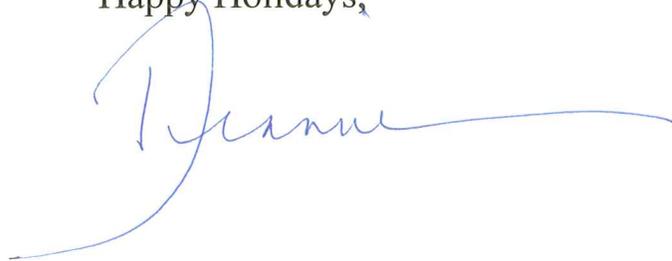
During our lunch together, you mentioned that should the Presidio Trust Board approve the Lucas Cultural Museum, the project will need to be approved by additional government agencies. I was surprised by this point as I understood the Presidio Trust to have exclusive authority over property within the Presidio – something I intended when I supported the original legislation creating the Presidio Trust.

After doing some legislative research on this point, I wanted to clarify my understanding of the law. Once a project is selected for Building 610 (the Commissary building), the Presidio Trust will begin the National Environmental Policy Act (“NEPA”) process and the consultation process under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. This Section 106 process requires the Presidio Trust to consult with the California State Historic Preservation Office, the National Park Service, and the Advisory Council for Historic Preservation. These three agencies will be able to offer recommendations, and the Presidio Trust will need to respond to these recommendations.

Importantly, however, these three agencies can only make recommendations; they do not have independent permitting authority over the project. They may make recommendations about changes they believe will avoid, mitigate or minimize adverse effects on historic resources, but the Presidio Trust is free to accept or reject their recommendations. If the Trust rejects the recommendations, it must explain its reasoning in writing in its final NEPA document. In short, the process requires the Presidio Trust to consult with these three agencies and properly respond to each of their recommendations in the final NEPA document.

I certainly encourage you to work with these three agencies and do all that you can to ensure their support. Yet, as I understand the law, the final decision rests with you and the Presidio Trust Board. Just call should you have questions or concerns.

Happy Holidays,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Dianne", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

DALE SMITH
2935 Otis Street
Berkeley California 94703
510-841-2115

The Presidio Trust
Commissary Project
103 Montgomery Street
P.O. Box 29052
San Francisco, CA 94129

January 8, 2014

Chair Bechtel and the Presidio Trust Board,

I am writing to express my reservations about the possibilities at the Exchange.

I do not feel a museum devoted to a film maker's collectibles is appropriate at the Presidio. "...a large portion of the charitable deductions now claimed by America's wealthy are for donations to culture palaces - operas, art museums, symphonies and theaters - where they spend their leisure time hobnobbing with other wealthy benefactors."¹ Mr. Lucas' comment that if his "offer" is not accepted he would take it to Chicago² seems to be more of a threat than a gift. Such unpleasant remarks are inappropriate and insulting. Let him take his toys to Chicago.

The Conservancy has an ambitious plan, but it is enormous and seems to overpower the area. It appears the Conservancy is moving into infotainment (primarily for Millennials). It emphasizes a "theme park" or campus approach and envisions itself as a destination and an economic boon to the city not a Park asset. I do not feel this is appropriate for a national park. Industrial Light and Magic and the Disney Family Museum are in a similar vein and really do not belong in the Presidio. However, the Trust needed paying tenants and these two provided much needed income. Now that is not so much the case and rushing to provide the Conservancy with another source of income that only benefits the Park tangentially is not what is needed.

The third entry is more like earlier tenants of the park, providing an exploration of environmental ideas, though it isn't clear they need space that size and only affords limited public access.

Clearly there is a need for more bathrooms and food options, as well as a true visitor's center. These are all lacking at the Presidio. There is no way to become oriented to what is available and gather materials to enhance the experience. These needs should be focused on first. For the interim food trucks could provide casual stopping points and not just at Crissy Field.

Although the Conservancy focuses on Millennials as an important cohort to engage, they are not a stable population and, in my experience with them in a restoration context, merely looking for entertainment that they can cite as charitable. As technology companies mature or are bought this group is likely to shrink and move.

I am also concerned about the landscaping. Although the Conservancy promises to use native plants, the PHS did that too, only to end up using non-natives; some of which spread easily instead, with the argument that they are historical. That could happen here.

The Conservancy plan gives short shrift to history. A PX is iconic of Army life. It might be restored and upgraded to be used as an interpretation of military life at the Presidio and elsewhere in the Bay Area.

DALE SMITH
2935 Otis Street
Berkeley California 94703
510-841-2115

There is no such interpretation currently in the Park, with the exception of the Buffalo Soldiers exhibit and the Presidio Army Museum at Fort Mason. But I also feel interpretation of the Army presence here and Forts Baker, Point, Mason, Winfield Scott, Miley, Funston, Cronkhite and Barry, plus all the batteries guarding the coast is needed, too. The Park Service has an enormous collection of artifacts that have no permanent display or room for interpretation.

I feel the Presidio is losing its focus on the history of the place in favor of an overwhelming focus on environmental issues and entertainment. I have spent almost thirty years encouraging and engaging in environmental restoration in the Golden Gate National Recreation Area and I truly appreciate its importance. But when one considers the extent of the fortifications and their purposes, a more complex and nuanced picture of life in San Francisco becomes apparent; one that is not interpreted and has interest for some segments of the population; not everyone wants an education in environmentalism. It is important to bring the history of the US and San Francisco to new residents and citizens. This can be done in a participatory manner at the Presidio.

The size of the proposed development and the impact it will have on the visitor is not fully developed and caution should be used. This will be here for a long time and it would be better to go slowly and carefully so the result is not jarring and out of scale. Plus it would be most unfortunate if most of those modular spaces ended up unused in the future. Updating the PX to serve as a jumping off point for visiting the Presidio, Fort Point and Fort Mason that encourages walking might make it work as a visitor center, although it is not centrally located. The PX could be used at its current size to satisfy some of the needs mentioned, but bathrooms and food stands or small dining areas need to be throughout the Presidio, not just in one.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment,



Dale Smith
Habitat Restoration Team
Golden Gate National Recreation Area

¹ Robert Reich, "Philanthropy of the rich is not always charitable", *San Francisco Chronicle*, December 22, 2013
² John King, "Crissy Field plans need overhaul", *San Francisco Chronicle*, December 4, 2013

January 9, 2014

1400 Geary Blvd., apt.2304
San Francisco, CA 94109-6574

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
House of Representatives
Washington, DC

Re: Presidio

Dear Ms. Pelosi:

I was sorry to read that you are pressing the Presidio Trust to make a decision on the ex-Commissary site facing Crissy Field. The area south of Crissy Field will change enormously once the highway and park construction is finished. We should wait to see what will fit best in that future environment.

Moreover, I believe George Lucas' art collection, special as it may be, would be better located somewhere else, even if that be outside San Francisco. This Presidio site needs something that adds to and fits into Crissy's wonderful natural setting, and I think the other alternatives being considered would do this much better.

Sincerely,



Lawrence Maxwell
Larmax@pacbell.net

✓ cc: Presidio Trust

THE PRESIDIO TRUST
EXECUTIVE OFFICE
RCVD JAN 13 '14 AM 11:32

216 Seville Way
San Mateo, CA 94402
12 January 2014

The Presidio Trust
103 Montgomery Street
P.O. Box 29052
San Francisco, CA 94129

Dear Presidio Trust,

I am writing in support of your wise decision to delay awarding the building site of Sports Basement until the Doyle Drive construction is completed.

We usually support Nancy Pelosi, but we believe she is wrong about forcing a decision on this. Your well-considered plan to wait is the right thing to do.

My parents are both buried at the National Cemetery. When I look down from the cemetery, I presently can see the Bay, Alcatraz, and the East Bay Hills. With a large structure looming up from below, the view will no longer be so pleasant.

The Presidio is not Disney World, and we don't need another 'land' to visit. You have done a wonderful job of preserving and enhancing what has been there for a long time. The Presidio is always filled with visitors enjoying the current site. Adding a 'world class' something may well create such congestion and crowding that the feeling of peace and nature will be gone.

Thank you again for your wonderful work. I hope you are able to keep things moving in the direction you have already established.

Sincerely,



Catherine Goldschmidt

THE PRESIDIO TRUST
EXECUTIVE OFFICE

RCVD JAN 15 '14 AMB:51



January 16, 2014

Members of the Presidio Trust Board of Directors
Presidio Trust
103 Montgomery Street, P.O. Box 29052
San Francisco, CA 94129

Dear Board Members of the Presidio Trust:

We are significant philanthropic investors in the mission of the Presidio as a national park. Over the years, we have been honored to support the Crissy Field restoration, the Presidio Trails and Overlooks campaign and a variety of programs bringing youth to the Presidio to learn about nature, history and their civic responsibility. It has been a privilege, and very fulfilling for us, to watch the Presidio provide joy and meaning to so many under your leadership, aided by the support of our philanthropic grants.

Now we are poised for an important chapter in the Presidio's continued transformation as a national park. The S.D. Bechtel, Jr. Foundation and the Pisces Foundation have once again been honored to make major gifts to this park-making era, supporting bold ambitions for the new "tunnel top" parklands, a revitalized campus for youth programs and a "park youth collaborative." We look forward with enthusiasm to helping achieve the remarkable vision you have set for the Presidio.

Our recent giving coincides with a major decision before the Presidio Trust board – determining the best future for the Mid-Crissy Field site occupied by the Sports Basement. This central location, with its world class views, is at the pivot point of philanthropic and community investment, both in the previous restoration of Crissy Field over a decade ago and the new philanthropic and community investments that will add immense value and public benefit at the expanded Crissy Field youth campus, the Visitor Center at the Main Post and the tunnel top parklands.

We respectfully request that your deliberations about the Mid-Crissy Field site focus on its integration in both purpose and design with the park enhancements being planned around it. This is such a transformational chapter for the Presidio with the opportunity for lasting and meaningful public benefit of international prominence. This will happen when this entire park zone is fully integrated and infused with the fundamental values of our parks as places of inspiration, joy, education and stewardship of the site's natural and cultural values – and the nature and culture that transcends the site.

Members of the Presidio Trust Board of Directors

January 16, 2014

Page 2

If time is needed to make the best decision, we encourage you to take that time. National parks are here for future generations and must stand the test of time. We have confidence in your commitment to do what is right for the Presidio and have the patience to wait until the vision, clear public endorsement and timing are right to achieve that goal.

We thank you once again for your exceptional leadership and stewardship of the Presidio. We are honored to be philanthropic partners in achieving the full vision and public meaning of this landmark place.

Sincerely,



Lauren B. Dachs
President and Executive Director
S. D. Bechtel, Jr. Foundation



Randi Fisher
Co-Founder and Trustee
Pisces Foundation

S. D. Bechtel, Jr. Foundation | Stephen Bechtel Fund
P.O. Box 193809 | San Francisco, CA 94119-3809
Phone 415.284.8675 | Fax 415.284.8571

Pisces Foundation
One Maritime Plaza, Suite 1545, San Francisco, CA 94111
Phone: 415-738-1212
www.piscesfoundation.org

THE PRESIDIO TRUST
EXECUTIVE OFFICE

RCVD JAN 17 '14 AM 11:37

From: Ron Conway
Date: January 16, 2014 at 11:09:16 AM PST
Subject: RE: Join me in supporting the Lucas Cultural Arts Museum in the Presidio in SF

To the Board of the Presidio Trust:

As you know, I have a passion for making and keeping San Francisco at the forefront of innovation.

Through sf.citi, the nonprofit organization I founded to help promote San Francisco as the country's 21st century capital of technology and forward thinking, I watch every day the work of countless artists, technicians and talented people that keep this city at the top of its game.

I believe that the Lucas Cultural Arts Museum is the perfect addition to San Francisco's cityscape: not only an attraction that will generate interest in and support for the Presidio (not to mention millions of dollars each year in revenue for the Presidio through land rents) but specifically as a beacon that says to the world that San Francisco is, and will remain, this country's capital of innovation.

Certainly, there is no greater innovator around than George Lucas. His films and his vision have transformed cinema. His businesses have transformed the tech sector, specifically digital technology. And, his passion for education has resulted in a world-class collection of art (still growing) that is second to none. San Francisco deserves this museum. It demands it.

I, along with those listed below, are supporting this museum not because of George Lucas, but rather because of the promise it represents. No one is more dedicated to keeping San Francisco the beacon of educational opportunity and talent than I am. The Lucas Cultural Arts Museum will be a bright light in the beacon.

We urge you and the Presidio Trust to enthusiastically accept this proposal. The details – as a city of doers – we can all work it out. Let's get to work.

Eric	Schmidt	Executive Chairman, Google
Sheryl	Sandberg	COO, Facebook
Reid	Hoffman	Co-Founder, LinkedIn, and Partner, Greylock Partners
Reed	Hastings	CEO, Netflix
Frank	Caufield	Co-Founder, Kleiner Perkins Caufield & Byers
Carole	Shorenstein Hays	Founder, SHN Theaters
Sean	Parker	Co-Founder, Napster, Former President, Facebook, and Founders Fund
Mark	Pincus	Co-Founder, Zynga
Ram	Shriram	Founding Board Member, Google
Jeremy	Stoppelman	Co-founder and CEO, Yelp
Jeff	Weiner	CEO, LinkedIn
Brian	Armstrong	Co-Founder & CEO, Coinbase
Tony & Cori	Bates	Former CEO, Skype
Idan	Beck	CEO, Incident
Zouhair	Belkoura	Founder & CEO, KeepSafe
Marc	Blakeman	AT&T California
Tyler	Bosmeny	CEO & Founder, Clever

Kimberly Bryant Founder & CEO, Black Girls Code
 Adora Cheung Co-Founder & CEO, Homejoy
 Tony Conrad Co-Founder, About.me
 Jack Conte CEO & Founder, Patreon
 Chris Cox VP of Product, Facebook
 Umur Cubukcu CEO & Co-Founder, Citus Data
 Shehzad Daredia Founder & CEO, KeepSafe
 Caleb Elston Co-Founder & CEO, Delighted
 Pete Flint Co-Founder & CEO, Trulia
 Kevin Freedman CEO, Quid
 Thomas Goetz CEO, Iodine
 Bob Goodson Co-Founder, Quid
 Dan Greenberg CEO & Founder, Sharethrough
 Heather Harde Former CEO, TechCrunch
 Jared Heyman Founder, CrowdMed
 Rosco Hill Co-Founder, Blend Labs
 Khaled Hussein CTO, Crowdtilt
 Tim Hyer CEO, Getable
 Karl Jacob CEO & Founder, Hang Time
 Ankit Jain CEO, Quetra
 Mark Kantor Co-Founder, Graffiti Labs
 Mike Kerns SVP Product, Yahoo!; Former Co-Founder and CEO of Citizen Sports
 Jay Komarneni Founder, Human Diagnosis Project
 Janet Lamkin California State President, Bank of America
 Florian Leibert CEO, Mesosphere
 Dan'l Lewin CorpVP for Strategic and Emerging Business Development, Microsoft
 Matt Mahan CEO, Causes.com
 Andrew Mason Co-Founder, Groupon
 Wes McKinney Co-Founder & CEO, DataPad
 Todd McKinnon CEO & Founder, Okta
 Burke Norton Chief Legal Officer, Salesforce.com
 Ron Palmeri Founder Layer, Inc. and MkII Ventures
 Dan Parham CEO & Co-Founder, Neighborland
 Joris Poort CEO, Rescale
 Tom Preston-Werner CEO, GitHub
 Theresa Preston-Werner Executive Director, Omakase Charity
 Hosain Rahman Founder & CEO, Jawbone
 Alexis Ringwald CEO & Co-Founder, LearnUp
 Steve Sarner VP Sales, Tagged.com
 sf.citi
 Nikita Shamgunov CTO, MemSQL
 Evan Sharp Co-Founder, Pinterest
 Spenser Skates Co-Founder, Amplitude
 Adam Smith Entrepreneur
 Jonathan Spier CEO, Plae
 Jarrett Streebin Co-Founder & CEO, EasyPost
 Nirav Tolia CEO & Co-Founder, Nextdoor
 David Wadhvani Head of Flash Business Unit, Adobe

Joseph Walla CEO & Founder, Hellofax
Carlos Whitt Co-Founder, Leo
Josh Wilson CEO & Founder, Tsumobi
Kevin Yeaman CEO, Dolby

ORIGINAL SIGNERS:

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Marissa Mayer CEO Yahoo
Marc Benioff Founder Salesforce.com
Paul Graham and Jessica Livingston Founders Y Combinator
John Lasseter Pixar
Joe and Jennifer Montana
Jack Dorsey Co Founder of Twitter and Square
Ron Conway, SV Angel
Tina Sharkey CEO, Sherpa Foundry
Steve Luczo CEO Seagate
Ben Silbermann Co Founder and CEO Pinterest
Richard Kovacevich retired Chairman and CEO Wells Fargo & Co.
Chris Cox VP Prouct FACEBOOK
John Donohoe CEO EBAY
Sandy Robertson Francisco Partners
Alison Pincus One Kings Lane
Biz Stone Co Founder Twitter, CEO Jelly
Brian Chesky Co Founder and CEO Airbnb
Drew Houston Co Founder and CEO Dropbox
Vinod Khosla Khosla Partners
Max Levchin Co-Founder Paypal
Michael and Xochi Birch Founders of the Battery SF
MC HAMMER
Chad Hurley Co Foudner YOU TUBE
Peter Fenton Benchmark Capital
Kevin and Julia Hartz Co-Founders Eventbrite
Zachary Bogue Founders Den and Data Collective
Jim Breyer Accel Partners
Aneel Bhusri Co-Founder Workday and Partner, Greylock Partners
David & Jacqueline Sacks Founder Yammer

[More names to be listed]

Jack McLaughlin
350 Turk Street, Apt. 601
San Francisco, CA 94102

THE PRESIDIO TRUST

EXECUTIVE OFFICE

ROAD JAN 22 14 PM 12:36

January 17, 2014

Ms. Nancy Bechtle, Chairwoman
Presidio Trust Board
103 Montgomery Street
San Francisco, CA 94129

Dear Ms. Bechtle:

Is there any possibility that the Board would consider reviewing a proposal for the Sports Basement site that doesn't include the cultural center? I realize that a decision was made some years ago to reserve the site for the center. However, in my opinion, what this part of the Presidio really needs is a landscape feature that will enhance its rustic, coastal ambience. I've enclosed a proposal that I believe will have a major positive effect on the appearance of the Crissy Field area.

I know that the Board has received a great many suggestions regarding the fate of the Sports Basement site. Perhaps my suggestion is one that the Board has not seen before. In any event, thank you for taking some of your valuable time to read my proposal.

Sincerely,

Jack McLaughlin

P.S. I'm now working on another version of the enclosed proposal. As soon as it's finished I'll send it to you.

Tidal Creeks in the Presidio

My proposal for the Sports Basement site involves expanding the existing marsh and converting a portion of Mason Street into a causeway. The new marsh features a pair of small tidal creeks. At low tide most of the water will leave the creeks, thus eliminating any potential problems with inadequate water circulation. The causeway is similar to ones commonly seen in the rural coastal regions of our state.

The new marsh will create more foraging areas for egrets, herons, and other bird species. It will also compliment the marsh extension that will soon be constructed just to the east of the Crissy Field Center.

Adding the new marsh to the Presidio will improve the overall design of Crissy Field. As it now stands, the western half of the marsh is boxed-in by Mason Street, the Promenade, and Crissy Field itself. The shape of the marsh is not very natural-looking; it has the appearance of something made by man. Converting a portion of Mason Street into a causeway will allow the marsh to escape its confined space and spread-out southward towards the bluffs.

What's more, the existing marsh is essentially a large lagoon with only a meager amount of marsh vegetation located along its shoreline. There's a lot of open water and not much marsh. What would make the marsh look more like a classic Bay Area saltwater marsh is the addition of a sizable expanse of marsh vegetation.

The new marsh will showcase the subtle colors and textures of the various plant species; the emphasis won't be on the water. Most of the time the appearance of the marsh will be that of a "dry" expanse of vegetation.

This proposal also includes a small forest of Monterey cypress and pines that will serve as an attractive backdrop for the new marsh.

In order to get the new marsh off to a good start, its tidal creeks are man-made. It might take one or two centuries for the creeks to form naturally, during which time the marsh would not have a properly functioning plumbing system. When the creeks are connected to the existing lagoon, the Presidio will have a complete marsh ecosystem; something that it currently lacks.

I believe a saltwater marsh is the most appropriate feature for the Sports Basement site because it will have a huge positive effect on the esthetics of the entire Crissy Field area. The marsh will open up sight-lines in a very dramatic way; that's because marsh level is a few feet below street level, and marsh plants don't grow tall.

The site is the ideal location for a new saltwater marsh. A part of the historic marsh lies directly under all the concrete and asphalt. Obviously, restoring the marsh will be impossible if the cultural center is built on the site.

Buildings and parking lots can be constructed in all sorts of locations. But that is not the case with saltwater marshes. The Sports Basement site is the last remaining place in the Presidio where it is possible to do a saltwater marsh restoration. Once this opportunity to expand Crissy Field's marsh is lost, it is lost forever.

Crissy Field's most valuable assets are its wide open vistas and its rustic, coastal ambience. These are the features that have made this special place world famous. So why not create something on the Sports Basement site that will greatly enhance these features?

This proposal will weave together Crissy Field's landscape elements into a natural-looking, unified whole. By contrast, the three other proposals will have just the opposite effect; they will reinforce the disconnection between the landscape elements. Moreover, the other proposals will contribute absolutely nothing to Crissy Field's rustic atmosphere.

I've enclosed a plan that shows how the new marsh will give the existing marsh a more natural-looking shape, and also unify the adjacent landscape elements.

The creeks' designs are based on some small tidal creeks that were once located on Mission Bay's shoreline. These little creeks were mapped by the U.S. Coast Survey in the 1850s, before Mission Bay and its marshlands were filled in. (Mission Bay had a total of five small tidal creeks on its shoreline - not including the much larger Mission Creek. All of the creeks were destroyed in the 19th century.)

When I designed the marsh I didn't have access to the blueprints for the new Parkway. So the southern boundary of the site depicted in the plan is based on the old, Doyle Drive alignment. Also, for the same reason, I have only a vague idea of where the tunnels are located.

What is not shown in the plan is the kind of habitat located on the shoreline of the marsh. A dune scrub habitat is the most logical choice because it's the same habitat that surrounds the lagoon. It would not make sense to have one kind of habitat north of Mason Street and a completely different habitat south of Mason Street.

The landscape architects who designed the modern Crissy Field went to great lengths to create a place with dramatic vistas and wide open spaces. Now the Board has the opportunity to put the finishing touches on their design by letting go of the Sports Basement site and giving it back to the egrets and the herons.



TUNNEL TOP PARKLANDS

THE EISELE LAW FIRM
354 Pine Street, Fourth Floor, San Francisco, CA 94104
Telephone: 415-489-2001; Fax 415-477-2420
Email: eisele@icehouse.net

January 18, 2014

Nancy Hellman Bechtle
Chair of The Presidio Trust Board
103 Montgomery Street
P.O. Box 29052
San Francisco, CA 94129

Dear Ms. Bechtle:

I would appreciate the opportunity to speak with you about the use of the Sports Basement building and adjacent area for an exceptional education free of state and local regulation. I would like to give you my best thoughts, including keeping young families in the City and engaging the children of very motivated parents. We seem to have many.

Thank you very much,



Robert G. Eisele

THE PRESIDIO TRUST
EXECUTIVE OFFICE
RCVD JAN 22 '14 PM 12:36

January 23, 2014

Members of the Board of Directors
The Presidio Trust
103 Montgomery Street
P.O. Box 29052
San Francisco, CA 94129

Dear Members of the Trust Board,

Over the years, we have been honored to contribute major gifts and grants to the mission of the Presidio, helping achieve the Trust's vision for this public place. We have been inspired by the community's engagement in creating this vision and the steadfast attention to making the Presidio a public place for all. This core value – comprehensive public ownership, access and enjoyment – has been the motivating force and the cornerstone of our gifts to Presidio projects and programs.

The future of the Mid-Crissy Field Site is a value-defining decision for the Trust. We respectfully suggest the Trust consider whether its decision continues to embrace and link to the fundamental values of the Presidio and our national parks. Does the decision represent a consensus of the Presidio Trust Board and the community? Does the decision stand the “test of time” in providing a place that honors the Presidio as a national park and has the programs and flexibility to be relevant to future generations?

The Presidio is a place of and for the people – from our community, from the Bay Area and from across our nation. We believe that the Mid-Crissy Field Site should connect deeply to the values of this public place and provide a direct and seamless connection to its resources, stories, programs and places. We believe that the programs for the site should represent an array of partnerships and collaborations with Bay Area and national institutions – a model consistent with the Trust's recognition of partnerships as fundamental to the Presidio. We believe that the Mid-Crissy Field Site should be accessible without an admission price and connected to the Presidio's existing programs for underserved youth linking them to the nature and culture inherent in the Presidio.

Through this lens, we respectfully bring three perspectives to the Presidio Trust.

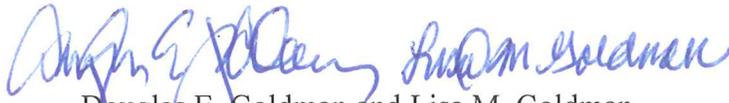
- *First, we do not believe that the Lucas Cultural Arts Museum proposal responds to and leverages the fundamental values of the Presidio or belongs within this national park:* Neither the latest architectural design proposed for the Lucas Cultural Arts Museum, nor its fundamental mission and purpose, adequately relates to the park’s mission and setting – or extends the public’s connection to the national park resources of the Presidio.
- *Second, we believe the Presidio Exchange (PX) directly connects to the “power of place” of the Presidio and its public purpose – and that the PX finds a fitting place in this national park:* We encourage you to select the proposal most directly tied to the Presidio’s mission and, in our view, most in keeping with its values – the Presidio Exchange. It is the only proposal whose mission, purpose and design are tied to the Presidio.
- *Third, we understand that delaying the decision on the ultimate use of the site may be the prudent course:* With many public improvements planned for this corridor and with intense public debate and discussion about the best use for the site, the Trust may benefit from additional time to consider the best use for the site.

Given time, the Presidio Trust and the community can see and assess the results of the major park-building represented by the new tunnel tops parklands, the expanded youth campus at the Crissy Field Center, the new Presidio Visitor Center and continued programming by the Trust, National Park Service and Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy. *Given time*, the Trust and community can review and reconfirm whether the Presidio truly needs a new and distinct “cultural institution” to achieve its mission. *Given time*, the Trust can ensure that the decision is greeted with broad public approval in keeping with the democratic mission of these parklands. *And given time*, the Trust can ensure that the decision fulfills the “test of time.”

We appreciate the time and effort that have been devoted to the process of seeking a cultural institution for the Mid-Crissy Site. We respect the Board’s steadfast efforts to achieve a transparent and open process. We believe in the PX and what it would bring to the Presidio – and stand ready to begin its implementation if selected. Simultaneously, we would respect and understand a decision to delay selecting a proposal now and would consider this decision a wise and reasonable outcome resulting from the public process, discussion and debate about the Mid-Crissy Field Site.

It has been our honor to play a role in the Presidio's conversion to a national park and we wish you the best with this critical decision about its future.

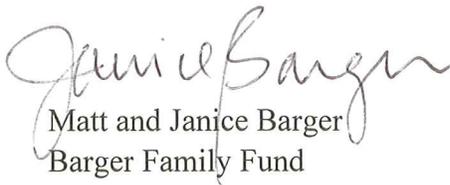
Sincerely,



Douglas E. Goldman and Lisa M. Goldman
President & Secretary, Board of Directors
Lisa and Douglas Goldman Fund



R. James Slaughter
Board of Directors
Horace W. Goldsmith Foundation



Matt and Janice Barger
Barger Family Fund



Julie and Will Parish
Parish Family Foundation



Susan Swig and Roselyne Chroman Swig
William Kent Society Donors

THE PRESIDIO TRUST

EXECUTIVE OFFICE

RCVD JAN 23 '14 PM2:33

LUCIA BOGATAY

3676 20th Street San Francisco, CA 94110 (415) 826-3395 FAX (415) 252-7649

23 January 2014

Ms. Nancy Hellman Bechtle
Chair, Presidio Trust Board of Directors
34 Graham Street
P. O. Box 29052
San Francisco, CA 94129-0052

Mr. Craig Middleton
Executive Director, The Presidio Trust
34 Graham Street
P. O. Box 29052
San Francisco, CA 94129

Subject: The Choice of Use for the Commissary Site on Crissy Field

Dear Ms Bechtle and Mr Middleton:

I have addressed the Trust Board at meetings on this subject, but two minutes never seems to be enough to make my thoughts clear. I would therefore like to convey my concerns in writing about the choice of a use for this important location.

I am an architect by training, and have practiced in San Francisco for the past 45 years. My expertise includes master planning for government, universities and hospitals, and designing projects for historic buildings.

I will summarize my analysis of this sensitive area as I would if I were your architect. I encourage the Trust to develop the site at Crissy Field to reinforce what is already important about the Presidio, and what is special about this particular site. The Trust should find a use which minimizes potential conflicts between the proposed use and the site and makes the most of the site's good features. Look for a use and a design that turns its problems into advantages. Following are lists of problems and opportunities of the site which help define design criteria for the Commissary site. Most of these are already embodied in the Design Guidelines your staff has prepared for the site.

A. Problems of the Site:

- 1) Proximity to the Crissy Field Marsh (high water table).
- 2) Proximity to the Bay, and low elevation which makes site vulnerable to rising sea levels.
- 3) Limited height required in order to maintain views from Main Post
- 3) Circulation through site needed to connect the Main Post to Crissy Field
- 4) Design needs to respond to the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Treatment of Historic Properties, and the Guidelines for Cultural Landscapes.
 - a) Additions should not imitate historic style but be differentiated while be compatible in massing and materials.
 - b) New construction should be compatible with existing context and have an industrial character.

- c) Due to the previous changes to the area, avoid projects which would contribute to the existing cumulative adverse effects
 - 5) Existing building is not a contributor to the NHLD
- B. Opportunities of the Site:
- 1) Visual gateway to the Main Post from the Bay and Marin.
 - 2) Important view of Bay from the Main Post.
 - 3) Existing structure which is not a contributor to the NHLD.
 - 4) Excellent access by vehicle.
 - 5) Visual, and physical, gateway to the most historic part of the NHLD.
- C. How the Various Proposals Respond to the Above Criteria
- 1) Lucas' Museum Proposal:
 - a. Proposed museum is too tall, uses an inappropriate design vocabulary (pseudo PPIE unrelated to the NHLD), and the local character which is natural and industrial.
 - b. Physically inappropriate use: The moist environment will require extensive environmental controls to preserve works on paper.
 - c. Valuable artifacts will be vulnerable to rising water levels.
 - d. Although it welcomes and entertains the public (for a fee), this use has no relevance to the interpretation of the history of the Presidio, and is in opposition to the setting, feeling and association as defined in the Secretary of the Interior's Standards.
 - 2) Sustainability Center Proposal
 - a. Not a public use, but located in a public place. More likely to be an enclave than a welcoming gateway.
 - b. Not related to the NHLD and its significance.
 - 3) The PX Proposal:
 - a. Use related to the NHLD and provides interpretation of the site.
 - b. Minimizes the obstruction of views.
 - c. Acts as welcoming gateway for public.
 - d. Minimizes mass and allows circulation.

I do not believe that the ideal use for the site has yet been determined. The choice of a use for the Commissary site should wait until the roadway and tunnel are completed. The design process should pause until the context is stabilized and fully understood. The area over the tunnel and its use as open space (or not) will be critical to the proposed Commissary site design as well. The two sites need to be developed together. **A fourth proposal, to use both sites as additions to open space would be the use least in conflict with my analysis and criteria.** Building anything new at the Commissary site is essentially building in a future flood plain, which should in best practices be avoided.

Very truly yours,



Lucia Bogatay, Architect

Cc: Diane Feinstein
Nancy Pelosi
Amy Meyer
Presidio Historical Association