


Memorandum

Date: March 10, 2021
To: Presidio Visitors
Cc: NEPA-NHPA Administrative File
From: Jean S. Fraser, Chief Executive Officer 
Re: Written Determination: Establishment of Closure of Portion of Area B to Visitors for Public Health and Safety – Spire Post and Cable Fence

Using my authority as Chief Executive Officer of the Presidio Trust, under Presidio Trust Board Resolution 04-15, *Authority of Executive Director to Establish Public Use Limits and Closures*, on **March 8, 2021, I am restricting visitor access to the area immediately surrounding the base of the Spire sculpture to protect public health and safety.**

On June 23, 2020, a fire of indeterminate origin burned the sculpture from bottom to top causing damage and changing its appearance significantly. In response, the Trust hired a structural engineer and a specialized forensics engineering consultant to conduct a structural assessment of the sculpture's overall integrity. In addition, the Trust prepared a tree risk assessment to determine the likelihood of structural failure of the Spire. Both assessments concluded that "there is not an immediate concern for structural failure of the Spire" and "if some repair or damage mitigation measures were made the risk would be decreased."

Based on these assessments, Presidio staff recommended that the Trust undertake certain actions to address the damage caused by the fire and protect the integrity of the Spire, including removing loose pieces of bark and wood that currently remain and bolting trees that were noted as under capacity to adjacent trees with a higher structural capacity so they help support one another.

A low post and cable fence in the area of the trees surrounding the Spire (estimated 25- to 40-foot radius) will be installed to restrict the public from accessing the immediate zone at the base of the sculpture. This action will protect the integrity of the Spire and the safety of visitors, and will deter persons from climbing inside the now more open configuration at the base. The post and cable fence is a minimal intervention, of a vocabulary consistent with other similar demarcations in the park, and will not adversely impact resources of the area. No less restrictive measures will suffice. The public will be notified of the closure by appropriate means, including posted signage and the fencing.