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BEFORE
THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

THE PRESIDIO TRUST

Meeting of the
B O A R D O F D I R E C T O R S

Golden Gate Club
Presidio of San Francisco
California
Wednesday, July 9, 1997
9 a.m.

REPORTER: Frances Lorraine

BEFORE THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

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THE PRESIDIO TRUST

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MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Golden Gate Club

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Presidio of San Francisco

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California

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The meeting was convened, pursuant to

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Notice, at 9:00a.m. John Garamendi Deputy Secretary of

12

the Interior, presiding.

13

DIRECTORS PRESENT:

14

TOBY ROSENBLATT, Chair

15

EDWARD BLAKELY, Vice Chair

16

DONALD G. FISHER

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JOHN GARAMENDI

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AMY MEYER

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MARY G. MURPHY

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WILLIAM K. REILLY

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ALSO PRESENT:

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FOR THE GOLDEN GATE NATIONAL RECREATION AREA:

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BRIAN OINEILL, General Superintendent
B. J. GRIFFIN, Presidio General Manager

U.S. DISTRICT COURT FOR NORTHERN CALIFORNIA:
HON. THELTON HENDERSON, Chief Judge

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P R O C E E D I N G S

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9: 20 AM

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PRESIDIO MANAGER GRIFFIN: Good morning,
everyone. I am B. J. Griffin, I am the General Manager
at the Presidio and I want to welcome each and every one
of you here today.

A few housekeeping items before we get
started. Aaron Brace and Greg Hiatos are here to provide

9 sign-language interpretation. Is there anyone here today
10 who would like to have that service?

11 (No response.)

12 PRESIDIO MANAGER GRIFFIN: All right, we
13 will ask again in about half an hour. And if not, we
14 will dismiss them.

15 If you missed them, the agenda items, the
16 sign-up sheets and the mailing list items are all on the
17 table just outside the door. So if you want to get on
18 the mailing list, make sure that you do so.

19 Welcome to the Presidio. Perhaps I am
20 preaching to the choir this morning if I talk a little
21 bit about this wonderful place. But I don't think anyone
22 here today is a stranger to the Presidio and what it
23 offers as a national park.

24 What is so special about the place and
25 gives it national park stature, however, is the people

7

1 across this nation that were instrumental in getting it
2 protected and set aside as a national park.

3 It recognizes the importance of our
4 national heritage. In fact, you don't need to look
5 beyond the opening lines of the legislation to understand
6 the importance of the Presidio, not only to this
7 community, but to this nation.

8 The Trust law has these words expressed by
9 the people of this nation through the United States
10 Congress in talking about the Presidio:

11 "Incomparable." "One of America's great
12 natural and historic sites." "Cultural and historic
13 integrity." "Must be preserved for public use." "Must
14 be managed so that it is protected from development and
15 use which would destroy the scenic beauty, historic and
16 natural character and cultural and recreational
17 resources." Finally, "The Presidio will remain in the
18 National Park System as part of the Golden Gate National
19 Recreation Area."

20 Those words are clear. And we in the
21 National Park Service laud all of you in the community
22 who have participated in preserving this land for the
23 common good.

24 To the new Board, welcome. we are glad you
25 are here. The task ahead is a challenging one and you

8
1 have a limited time in which to accomplish much. It is
2 not an easy job that you are about to accept, but we
3 appreciate your doing it.

4 What a marvelous opportunity to make a
5 lasting gift to this nation. And thank you for accepting
6 the challenge from the President of the United States.
7 The National Park Service looks forward to forging a new
8 kind of partnership with the Presidio Trust. And
9 together we will succeed in preserving this incomparable
10 national park.

11 Thank you. And it is my pleasure right now
12 to introduce Brian O'Neill, Superintendent of the Golden

13 Gate National Recreation Area. Brian?

14 (Applause.)

15 SUPERINTENDENT OINEILL: Thank you, B. J.

16 To our team of committed folks in the audience and to the
17 new members of the Trust, we extend our most heartfelt
18 welcome.

19 Before I introduce our distinguished Deputy
20 Secretary of the Interior, I would like to just take a
21 few brief moments to really discuss where we have come
22 from here. It has been eight and a half years -- it is
23 hard to believe.

24 I personally remember the call I got when
25 the announcement of the closure was to occur and how much

9

1 of a shock it was to many that the Presidio was closing.
2 And how naive the community was of the genius of Phil
3 Burton and the provision that he included in the law that
4 assured that the Presidio would continue to be managed
5 for park purposes if the military had determined it to be
6 excess to its needs.

7 Eight and a half years of intense,
8 exhilarating, frustrating, sometimes contentious work
9 that we have all been through to get to the point that we
10 are at today.

11 It really wouldn't be right for me to go
12 any further without paying a special tribute to the late
13 Congressman Phil Burton who had the remarkable foresight
14 and the legislative skill to include the Presidio within

15 the boundaries of GGNRA.

16 How proud Phil would be if he was here
17 today to know how our delegation, our two Senators, our
18 Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi, fought such a courageous
19 battle to be able to allow us to be here to celebrate the
20 next phase in the Presidio's future. All of us give
21 terrific gratitude to Senator Feinstein, Senator Boxer
22 and Representative Pelosi for their incredible work to
23 get us to this point.

24 I also want to give special thanks to
25 several other entities who have been there through every
10
1 chapter of this effort. First I want to -- and it is a
2 shame that Ed and Peggy Wayburn aren't here today. It
3 was really Ed's vision that led to the effort and got
4 Phil involved to begin with in the crusade to establish
5 GGNRA, which has become now America's largest urban
6 national park.

7 And I want to give a special tribute to Ed
8 Wayburn for his lifetime of work on behalf of national
9 parks, and certainly on behalf of GGNRA. I would like to
10 also acknowledge his very able sidekick, the mother of
11 GGNRA, Amy Meyer, in her absolute dedicated crusade on
12 behalf of this park now for 25 years, as we celebrate our
13 anniversary this year.

14 I want to give special thanks to our
15 Advisory Commission, certainly I think probably the best
16 advisory commission that supports any national park in

17 its system today, and to Rich Bartke and the other
18 eighteen dedicated members of the Advisory Commission who
19 have heard the testimony and time and time again gave
20 sage advice to the Park Service as we developed the
21 vision for the future of the Presidio.

22 I want to thank the Golden Gate National
23 Parks Association for their extraordinary non-profit and
24 support of the park, and the genius that Greg Moore and
25 his staff brings to the work every day, and the steady

11

1 hand that Toby Rosenblatt has provided as the Chair. And
2 the talent that has come together to be able to allow us
3 to be able to extend the resources of the Federal
4 Government in being able to realize the full potential of
5 the Presidio and other areas within GGNRA.

6 The Golden Gate National Recreation Area
7 really takes special pride in the park's strong record of
8 community participation and support. This has been
9 particularly true on the Presidio. Community
10 participation has helped move us from a broad vision for
11 the place through the transition from the Army to the
12 National Park Service, and now to the new partnership
13 with the Presidio Trust.

14 I want to save the last accolades for the
15 people who have been in the trenches day in and day out
16 on this. And that is the staff of the National Park
17 Service. You simply would never full appreciate the
18 demands, the stress, the pressures that our staff has

19 been under. There has hardly been anyone on our staff
20 that has had a full restful night during this period -
21 or have had a full weekend that they could say was their
22 own with their families.

23 So whether it is the law enforcement police
24 officer or ranger that is providing law enforcement
25 support, the fireman who is staffing the fire department,
12
1 the volunteer who is helping manage the native plant
2 nursery or any one of our staff, you all have been
3 terrific.

4 And I think all of us in the Park Service
5 can stand up proud and tall after eight and a half years
6 of intense effort and be proud to be here to say to the
7 Trust, we are changing our partnership and we are in good
8 stead. And we are anxious to bring your talent to the
9 partnership that lies ahead.

10 So everyone in the park, God bless you.
11 You have been terrific. It has been a demanding time,
12 but we are proud of where we are.

13 Last -

14 (Applause.)

15 SUPFRINTENDENT OINEILL: Very lastly, I
16 want to thank the community. You are here in force
17 today. It is even nice that we are able to set up an
18 additional room to be able to accommodate you. For it is
19 your interest, your caring about this place that has been
20 able to elevate its visibility on the national level. We

21 have walked our talk in this community. And you have
22 been part of the success that has occurred.

23 And now, it is with great pleasure that I
24 introduce John Garamendi, Deputy Secretary of the
25 Interior, and new Trust Board Member.

13

1 Thank you very much.

2 (Applause.)

3 DEPUTY SECRETARY GARAMENDI: Brian, let me
4 express my deep gratitude to you and the work that you
5 have done here these years as the Superintendent of the
6 GGNRA. It is an extraordinary piece of work and you have
7 built a beautiful park together with the staff.

8 And I want to compliment them. I see many
9 of them in the upper balcony and around the room. They
10 have done a wonderful job and we are most appreciative at
11 the Department of the Interior and the President. And I
12 believe The City is also.

13 B. J. Griffin, thank you very much for
14 taking this task down here. I suspect most in the
15 audience know that San Francisco is blessed with the two
16 brightest stars in the NPS, the National Park System, to
17 manage and assist us in working through the challenges of
18 this magnificent national park.

19 I also want to be certain that we express
20 the appropriate appreciation to the representatives that
21 you have elected and sent to Congress. Congresswoman
22 Nancy Pelosi has been an extraordinary champion for the

23 park. It is her dedication and her hard work that led to
24 the legislation that allows all of us to be here at the
25 head table, and sets up a unique and innovative way in
14

1 which an urban and complex national park is going to be
2 managed.

3 Certainly Senator Boxer and Senator
4 Feinstein were there with Congresswoman Pelosi as she
5 processed that legislation. And they, too, share in this
6 moment. And I want to be sure that we all recognize the
7 contribution and the leadership that they have provided.

8 President Clinton, when signing the bill,
9 knew that he had a couple of things to do. One was to
10 sign the bill and set in motion this whole process, which
11 was the easy part. The second part, and the much more
12 difficult, was to choose the trustees.

13 I think there has been an extraordinarily
14 good choice made in these trustees. I have had the
15 pleasure of working with them now through two meetings,
16 as we tried to familiarize ourselves with the very
17 complex issues. And it is an extraordinary group with a
18 deep experience of San Francisco, with the issues of the
19 Presidio, the area of California, and also extraordinary
20 personal experience in the key elements necessary to make
21 this Trust and this Park function.

22 So, to President Clinton, a big thank you
23 for giving me such wonderful colleagues to work with. My
24 task here is to represent the administration and the

25 Department of the Interior and the National Park Service
15

1 on the Trust Board. It will be a wonderful challenge and
2 one that I look forward to.

3 The Department of the Interior and the
4 National Park System are dedicated and absolutely
5 committed to making this park work, the new way of
6 handling this park, the Trust, and the complexities and
7 the issues before it. It is going to take different ways
8 of thinking. We will have to do new ideas and new
9 processes that have not been done before.

10 But we are committed to the process. And
11 we know that it can work. Certainly, the information
12 that has been developed over the last several years would
13 indicate that it is possible. And we will lend all of
14 our support and all that we need to do to assist this
15 Trust in carrying out its functions.

16 And those are unique functions. The
17 heritage of this particular site is unequalled in America.
18 It dates back to some of the earliest of European
19 activities. And even before that, Native American
20 activities. To maintain that heritage will be a
21 challenge that this Trust must undertake.

22 At the same time, it has to maintain the
23 esthetics of the site and also the purpose and esthetics
24 of all of our national parks. And an additional
25 challenge was laid on us by Congress. And that is to be

16

1 financial self-sufficient.

2 The management of those challenges will
3 stress this Board and the community and the National Park
4 System. But It will be managed, and managed very well,
5 because of the qualities of the Trustees that have been
6 chosen.

7 I have a couple of tasks to do as this
8 transition takes place, and as we move to a new day. I
9 am sort of the presiding officer for the next couple of
10 minutes until the Trust, first, is sworn in and then
11 decides who its presiding officer or its chairperson will
12 be.

13 And so, as we make this transition, I just
14 want to make a final remark, that it is an extraordinary
15 day, a day of change. And it is going to be the start of
16 a very good relationship between the Trust, the National
17 Park System and Service, as well as the community of San
18 Francisco and the larger community of America, and all of
19 those people from around the world that have come to see
20 this extraordinary place.

21 Having said that, it is time for me now to
22 move this thing forward by introducing the gentleman who
23 will be swearing in the Trustees. Judge Thelton
24 Henderson is the Chief Judge of the U.S. District Court
25 for Northern California. And he has honored us by his
17
1 presence.

2 Judge Henderson, if you will take command

3 as though this were your courtroom and lead us forward?

4 Thank you.

5 (Applause.)

6 JUDGE HENDERSON: Thank you. Let me first
7 say what a true honor it is for me to be asked to be a
8 part of this auspicious occasion.

9 When I was asked to come here several days
10 ago, I asked a few questions. One was, what kind of an
11 event will it be and how many people will be there. And
12 I was told somewhere between twenty and 200. We have
13 greatly exceeded that and what a marvelous turnout, as is
14 appropriate for this occasion.

15 Today, we come to a truly historic moment
16 in the 221-year-history of the Presidio. Many people
17 have been stewards of this beautiful and unique land.
18 Native-Americans, Spaniards, Mexicans, the United States
19 Army and most recently, the National Park Service.
20 Today, we introduce a distinguished new set of stewards,
21 the Presidio Trust.

22 The Presidio Trust is established pursuant
23 to Public Law 104-333, which was enacted and signed into
24 law by the President of the United States on November 12,
25 1996. The Presidio Trust is a government corporation
18
1 wholly owned by the Federal Government.

2 The law stipulates that the Presidio Trust
3 will be governed by a Board of Directors consisting of
4 seven members. Six of these members are to be appointed

5 by the President of the United States. The seventh is
6 the Secretary of the Interior or his designee. In this
7 case, the Deputy Secretary of the Interior.

8 I would now like to introduce to you each
9 member of the Board of Directors, after which I will
10 swear them in, which is my great honor, as Directors of
11 the Presidio Trust.

12 Alphabetically, Edward Blakely is the Dean
13 of the School of Urban and Regional Planning at the
14 University of Southern California. Perhaps his most
15 distinctive -- and this isn't in my notes -- perhaps his
16 greatest distinction as we talked in the back room there
17 is that we grew up for a while in the same neighborhood,
18 in South-Central Los Angeles.

19 He has a long history of involvement in Bay
20 Area planning, both as the Chair of the Department of
21 City and Regional Planning at the University of
22 California at Berkeley, and as a member of the Presidio
23 Council, in which he helped formulate the development
24 concept for the park. Dr. Blakely received the 1990 San
25 Francisco Foundation Award for improving community life

19
1 in the San Francisco Bay Area.

2 Dr. Blakely received his B.A. from the
3 University of California at Riverside, his M.A. from the
4 University of California at Berkeley and his E.D.D. from
5 the University of California at Los Angeles.

6 VOICE: Might they stand for just a moment

7 as you introduce them?

8 JUDGE HENDERSON: I am sorry?

9 VOICE: Might these people stand as you
10 introduce them? We can't see from here.

11 JUDGE HENDERSON: Oh, all right, I am
12 sorry. Thank you very much.

13 (Applause.)

14 JUDGE HENDERSON: Next is Donald G. Fisher.

15 (Applause.)

16 JUDGE HENDERSON: Mr. Fisher is from San
17 Francisco. He is the Founder and Chairman of The Gap,
18 Inc. He also served for many years as a partner with
19 Fisher Property Investment Company, concentrating on
20 general contracting, real estate and management.

21 He is a current member of the University of
22 California Haas School of Business and Stanford
23 University's Graduate School of Business, as well as a
24 Trustee of Princeton University. He also serves on the
25 Charles Schwab Corporation and AirTouch Communications.

20

1 Mr. Fisher received his B.S. from the
2 University of California. Thank you.

3 (Applause.)

4 JUDGE HENDERSON: And thank you so much for
5 correcting that oversight. I wouldn't have done that. I
6 wouldn't have had them stand, and they should.

7 John Garamendi is the Deputy Secretary of
8 the Interior and was selected to serve as the Department

9 of the Interior's representative on this distinguished
10 Board. Mr. Garamendi is a native Californian and served
11 in the California State Senate and Assembly with great
12 distinction, and as State Insurance Commissioner.

13 While Deputy Secretary, he has worked to
14 build bridges between the Federal Government and the
15 private sector to further the goals of conservation.

16 (Applause.)

17 JUDGE HENDERSON: Amy Meyer of San
18 Francisco is the former Chair of People for the Presidio,
19 formed in 1993 to work on the legislation creating the
20 Presidio Trust. She has served as Co-Chair of the People
21 for a Golden Gate National Recreation Area since 1971,
22 and was appointed Vice Chair of the Golden Gate National
23 Recreation Area Advisory Commission by the Secretary of
24 the Interior In 1974. This is a position she still
25 holds.

21

1 She served on the San Francisco Recreation
2 and Park Commission from 1976 to 1988. Ms. Meyer is a
3 graduate of Oberlin College and holds an M.F.A. from the
4 California College of Arts and Crafts.

5 (Applause.)

6 JUDGE HENDERSON: Mary G. Murphy is also of
7 San Francisco. She is an expert in commercial real
8 estate law with the firm of Farella, Braun & Martel in
9 San Francisco. She was also Vice President of the Board
10 of Permit Appeals for the City and County of San

11 Francisco.

12 Ms. Murphy is a member and former Co-Chair
13 of Neighborhood Associations for Presidio Planning, an
14 umbrella organization of nine San Francisco neighborhood
15 associations surrounding the Presidio. As chairperson,
16 she testified before Congress regarding the legislation
17 to create the Presidio Trust.

18 Ms. Murphy graduated cum laude from Yale
19 University, was a Rhodes Scholar and received an Honours
20 B.A. from Oxford University. She received her J.D. cum
21 laude from Harvard University.

22 (Applause.)

23 JUDGE HENDERSON: I should also mention
24 that she gets up at 5 every morning and jogs an unseemly
25 distance before going to work.

22

1 (Laughter.)

2 JUDGE HENDERSON: William K. Reilly, also
3 of San Francisco, is the former Administrator of the
4 Environmental Protection Agency. He is currently serving
5 as a Visiting Professor at Stanford University's
6 Institute for International Studies.

7 Mr. Reilly is associated with the Texas
8 Pacific Group which invests in environmental companies
9 and technologies in the United States, Latin America and
10 Asia. He serves on the boards of Yale University,
11 National Geographic Society, World Wildlife Fund and the
12 Dupont Company.

13 Mr. Reilly is a graduate of Yale
14 University. He received his J.D. from Harvard and his
15 M.A. in urban planning from Columbia University. He also
16 served as a Captain in the United States Army for eleven
17 years.

18 (Appause.)

19 JUDGE HENDERSON: Toby Rosenblatt is also
20 of San Francisco. He is President -

21 (Appause.)

22 JUDGE HENDERSON: He is the President of
23 the Glen Ellen Company of San Francisco, and he is Vice
24 President of Founders Investments, Ltd., of Salt Lake
25 City, both private companies in the business of financial
23 consulting and investments.

2 He has been Chair of the Board of Trustees
3 of the Golden Gate National Parks Association since 1991.
4 The Association is a non-profit member-supported
5 organization which provides financial and volunteer
6 support to the Golden Gate National Recreation Area.

7 Mr. Rosenblatt served as President of the
8 San Francisco City Planning Commission from 1977 to 1988.
9 He holds a B.A. from Yale and an M.B.A. from Stanford
10 University.

11 (Appause.)

12 JUDGE HENDERSON: Well-deserved applause
13 for a truly distinguished Board. And now it is my great
14 pleasure, if you would all stand and raise your right

15 hand, to administer the oath to you.

16 (Whereupon, the Board of Directors of the
17 Presidio Trust were duly sworn:)

18 JUDGE HENDERSON: Repeat after me, I -- and
19 then state your name -- do solemnly swear that I will
20 support and defend the constitution of the United States
21 against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will
22 bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that I take
23 this obligation freely without any mental reservation or
24 purpose of evasion and that I will well and faithfully
25 discharge the duties of the office on which I am about to
24
1 enter, so help me God.

2 (A chorus of I dos.)

3 JUDGE HENDERSON: You are now sworn in.

4 (Applause.)

5 JUDGE HENDERSON: Thank you.

6 DEPUTY SECRETARY GARAMENDI: Thank you very
7 much, Judge Henderson. We are honored by your presence
8 and by your remarks.

9 Before we begin the official meeting, I
10 would like to welcome a few individuals who I have
11 noticed in the audience. Barbara Kaufman, President of
12 the Board of Supervisors here in San Francisco.

13 (Applause.)

14 DEPUTY SECRETARY GARAMENDI: I believe
15 there are several or a couple of representatives from the
16 Mayor's office, and we welcome you also. And I noticed

17 that Colonel Thompson is here from the United States
18 Army, which is an appropriate thing since I believe we
19 are still in the Presidio and the Army still has some
20 interest here.

21 So thank you very much for joining us.
22 Thank you all.

23 (Applause.)

24 DEPUTY SECRETARY GARAMENDI: There are also
25 representatives in the audience from Senators Boxer and
25

1 Feinstein and Congresswoman Pelosi's office. And perhaps
2 other Congressional offices. I would like to welcome you
3 also and acknowledge you. We appreciate your attendance
4 and look forward to working with all of you.

5 It now comes to me to complete this
6 transition from the National Park System to the Trust
7 that now formally exists. And I would like to do that by
8 handing over -- we must first have an election, excuse
9 me.

10 I think it is time for us to elect a
11 chairperson for the Trust. And I would ask the Trustees
12 if there is a nomination from any of the Trust Members?

13 DR. BLAKELY: I would like to nominate Toby
14 Rosenblatt.

15 DEPUTY SECRETARY GARAMENDI: Toby
16 Rosenblatt has been nominated -

17 MR. REILLY: I second the nomination.

18 DEPUTY SECRETARY GARAMENDI: -- and

19 seconded. With that nomination -- let me just make a
20 comment before we continue on.

21 San Francisco is noted for its political
22 activism. It is also noted for its civility. And we
23 have a very good opportunity to establish a pattern here
24 of civility. And I would appreciate it if all the
25 members of the audience would assist us in establishing
26

1 that civility -

2 (Prolonged applause.)

3 DEPUTY SECRETARY GARAMENDI: Because as we
4 proceed, there will be more than enough opportunities for
5 the public to be heard in whatever you may want to say to
6 the Trust. And we would appreciate the remarks at that
7 time.

8 Now, we have a nomination. We have a
9 second. I would like to propose to the Board that we
10 have an election. All those in support of the motion to
11 nominate and to elect Toby Rosenblatt as Chair of the
12 Trust Board say aye?

13 (A chorus of ayes.)

14 DEPUTY SECRETARY GARAMENDI: Those opposed?

15 (No response.)

16 DEPUTY SECRETARY GARAMENDI: There being no
17 opposition and unanimous support, congratulations, Toby.
18 we are-delighted --

19 (Applause.)

20 DEPUTY SECRETARY GARAMENDI: When I sat

21 down at my seat, I found this gavel or club here. And I
22 pass it to you, Toby. Congratulations!

23 CHAIRMAN ROSENBLATT: Thank you. Thank
24 you, John. And thank you to the members of the Board for
25 the confidence you are expressing in asking me to chair
27
1 this distinguished group of people.

2 Let me just pause for a piece of business.
3 Could we ask the signing individuals, if you would just
4 step forward for a minute? I would like to ask again
5 whether there is anybody here who would like the services
6 of this signing translation to continue throughout the
7 meeting?

8 There is one individual there. Oh, two.
9 All right, perhaps over at this end? All right, thank
10 you.

11 I also want to thank John very much for
12 your willingness over this transition period to be the
13 convener of this group as we have been through this
14 period of being briefed by the National Park Service. We
15 appreciate that a lot. Thank you.

16 I would just like to say a few words to the
17 Members of the Board and all of you that are here. The
18 task that we are embarking upon is indeed both compelling
19 and daunting. We are picking up a responsibility that
20 began here formally when it was designated as the
21 Presidio 221 years ago, and indeed a responsibility for
22 stewardship that began with other people of other

23 backgrounds and diverse backgrounds even long before
24 that.

25 It is a stewardship responsibility for this
28

1 very unique place with the resources to be preserved and
2 new opportunities to be created. It is the beginning of
3 a new era for the Presidio that looks to another
4 milestone and has a very specific time frame of fifteen
5 years.

6 In the context of the Presidio history,
7 that is short. In the context of San Francisco that is
8 short, too. If I could just strike a few examples as
9 memories for you, Just to put us in context.

10 If you think of how long it has taken in
11 the Bay Area to get things underway like the Yerba Buena
12 Gardens or the Embarcadero waterfront or Hamilton Field
13 or, indeed, Crissy Field right here and the renovation
14 that will happen there -- and that planning even started
15 ten years ago -- fifteen years is really short.

16 If you think about how long it took all of
17 us to put together the Presidio Trust legislation and
18 have this place saved as a national park, that was four
19 years.

20 Even so immediate an issue as how long it
21 took for us to become officially directors of the Trust
22 from the day the bill was signed to today, it is already
23 eight months. Time slips by very quickly.

24 So we as a Board need to be very focused

25 and very urgent in our task. To be dramatic about it, we
29
1 have 131,400 hours left to get our job done. And that is
2 ticking away, minute by minute.

3 We are inheriting a rich tradition of use
4 as preservation. And for that we want to, again as has
5 been done but cannot be done too often, express
6 appreciation to the U.S. Army, Colonel Thompson and your
7 associates, and to the National Park Service, to Regional
8 Director John Reynolds who is here, and Brian O'Neill and
9 B. J. Griffin and to your predecessor Bob Chandler, and
10 to all of your staff.

11 We thank you for the stewardship that you
12 have brought to the area. And we look forward very much
13 to the close cooperation that we know we will have with
14 you, as the Trust and the Park Service move together
15 forward in continuing this grand adventure.

16 We are embarking upon the implementation as
17 a Board of a set of plans, ideas and mandates in the law
18 which themselves are the result of an extensive,
19 already-in-place public review and consensus that was
20 undertaken since 1989 by the National Park Service, and
21 then by Congress.

22 As we undertake our planning in fulfilling
23 these mandates, we need always to remember that our task
24 stems out of a drive to save this place as a national
25 park.

30

1 We need to remember the very real threats
2 of those in Congress who wanted this place to be sold for
3 private development, those who were appalled at the cost
4 of operating this place in the context of the National
5 Park System and the national budgetary context.

6 Now we are given fifteen years to prove
7 self-sufficiency is possible. Otherwise, indeed, the law
8 as it is written requires that the Presidio be placed on
9 the block for that sale.

10 So our agenda is already set, as
11 articulated in the GMPA for the preservation of the
12 natural and historic resources here, and to be balanced
13 with the mandates of the Presidio Trust law. And balance
14 is the key word. Every constituency who cares about the
15 Presidio in any respect or another will always need to
16 reread this law and the GMPA and remember the need for
17 balance.

18 We have been created as a board to run a
19 national corporation chartered by and owned by the
20 Federal Government, and accountable to Congress and the
21 President.

22 We are brought to this task and provided by
23 Congress with special authorities. But those authorities
24 are created not to engender new initiatives, but to carry
25 forward the already-in-place public consensus about the

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1 preservation and uses of this national park. And to
2 carry them forward as a federal corporation with

3 authorities to enhance the efficient operations of that
4 corporation.

5 In that respect, we are not comparable to a
6 city planning commission or a board of supervisors or
7 even a congressional committee. Our requirements are
8 already in place. And our processes are the conduct,
9 with the benefit of continuing public input, of an
10 effective business in the stewardship of this public
11 asset.

12 That is what we are about. There are many,
13 many questions that everybody will have about where we go
14 from here. And the Board Members have had the benefit of
15 some informal briefing sessions which have been provided
16 by the National Park Service. And, again, for that we
17 are appreciative.

18 There are many questions that can be
19 addressed. And we and the National Park Service have
20 tried to anticipate some of them. You will find out in
21 the hall there a memorandum which is a series of
22 questions and answers which we hope will be helpful to
23 you in understanding what we know so far, out of the
24 history that the National Park Service has brought to
25 this place and the authorities that we have.

32

1 We will have some other business remarks to
2 deal with as we move along. At this point, I would like
3 to ask the board to consider taking action on the
4 nomination and election of a vice chairman as an officer

5 of this board?

6 MS. MEYER: Mr. Chairman, I would like to
7 nominate Ed Blakely as vice chairman.

8 MS. MURPHY: Second.

9 CHAIRMAN ROSENBLATT: I has been moved and
10 seconded that Ed Blakely be elected as vice chairman of
11 this board. All those in favor of that motion?

12 (A chorus of ayes.)

13 CHAIRMAN ROSENBLATT: Opposed?

14 (No response.)

15 CHAIRMAN ROSENBLATT: The motion is adopted
16 unanimously. Thank you.

17 DR. BLAKELY: Thank you for electing me as
18 vice chair of this board. The vice chair's
19 responsibilities are to act in the absence of the chair.
20 And I hope you are not absent very often.

21 Many of you know I have been involved in
22 this process since the formation of the Presidio Council.
23 So I have been involved from the military conversion to
24 the development of the national park.

25 It has been a privilege to be involved in
33
1 this process. Clearly we are blessed -- Just looking
2 outside today -- with an extraordinary asset, spectacular
3 views, an opportunity to work with a diverse community on
4 the things it wants most.

5 The Presidio is not just San Francisco's.
6 It is the nation's and the world's. Most of the world

7 has been here at one time or another. And we have an
8 opportunity to create a world asset here, and we will
9 take advantage of it.

10 We are fortunate to have unparalleled,
11 unmatched opportunities here to establish something that
12 is sustainable in three ways, economically, socially and
13 physically. We will take that as our charge and work at
14 it very hard.

15 We must make this an economically feasible
16 project. We have to do that for your interests, for our
17 interests and for the interests of generations to come.
18 Success will benefit the entire community.

19 We will create Jobs here, we will create
20 economic opportunities here, but we will also create
21 cultural resources and preserve them. For the history of
22 this place is part of what its future is all about.

23 The tapestry of cultures that are
24 represented in this room and around this community will
25 be represented on the Presidio. It will include all

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1 races, all incomes groups, sexes, religions,
2 nationalities and the like, so that this is truly a
3 representative place.

4 We hope the spirit of cooperation,
5 community and trust will be the bywords under which we
6 operate. You will be part of this process. It will
7 ensure that you are. This is a great day and a great
8 opportunity for all of us.

9 CHAIRMAN ROSENBLATT: Thank you very much.

10 (Applause.)

11 CHAIRMAN ROSENBLATT: At this point in the
12 business of the board, it would be appropriate for us to
13 have action with respect to the adoption of bylaws for
14 the operation of this corporation.

15 And I would like to ask our Board Member,
16 Mary Murphy, if she would please do that for us.

17 MS. MURPHY: I notice that I get stuck with
18 all the very exciting parts of the agenda like bylaws,
19 which most people don't -- it must be something about
20 being a lawyer.

21 The bylaws that you see before you
22 think there are some available for people to review if
23 they are interested -- are very standard bylaws for any
24 corporate entity. We are a wholly-owned government
25 corporation. And all corporations have bylaws.

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1 Our article of incorporation is the Act
2 creating us by Congress. And these are our bylaws.
3 These are the absolute prerequisites for corporate
4 existence. And these are very standard.

5 These are extremely similar to those of the
6 Pennsylvania Avenue Development Corporation, which is
7 another wholly-owned government corporation, and serves
8 as a very good model for us in this matter. It is not
9 exciting reading. If you are an insomniac, I would
10 recommend them to you in the evening.

11 But a couple of things that people might
12 find of interest to the public are that, in addition to
13 setting out the basic structure of the board and
14 provisions for how meetings are conducted, providing for
15 the chair and the vice chair positions, setting out
16 authorities of the board and what constitutes a quorum -
17 which is four members, as provided by our enabling
18 legislation -- it also provides for noticing procedures.

19 And you might be interested to note that
20 public meetings will be announced in advance in
21 newspapers of general circulation and published in the
22 Federal Register at least fifteen days prior to any
23 meeting being taken.

24 It provides that the Board can create
25 committees which will help it to function more
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1 efficiently, so that not all seven members need to be
2 present to address particular issues. That committees
3 can work on different issues that present themselves for
4 the Board together as a group.

5 And it also provides that, if we are to
6 adopt or promulgate rules and regulations, we may do so.
7 And that the notice of the adoption of those rules and
8 regulations shall also be published in the Federal
9 Register. Which is, for those lawyers in the crowd who
10 are into this sort of thing, obviously consistent with
11 the Administrative Procedure Act.

12 That's it. That's the basic ground rules.

13 CHAIRMAN ROSENBLATT: All right. Could I
14 have a motion from the Board to adopt the bylaws, please?

15 MR. FISHER: So moved.

16 MR. REILLY: Second.

17 CHAIRMAN ROSENBLATT: All those in favor?

18 (A chorus of ayes.)

19 CHAIRMAN ROSENBLATT: opposed?

20 (No response.)

21 CHAIRMAN ROSENBLATT: The motion is adopted
22 unanimously and the bylaws are now part of the Trust
23 activity.

24 A couple of notes with respect to very
25 preliminary thoughts on how we are going to operate some
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1 of our business. Through the accommodation of the
2 National Park Service, GGNRA, Presidio office here, the
3 Trust has already in place its first employee, a
4 gentleman named Craig Middleton.

5 Craig is serving as what I would call our
6 Chief Generalist. He is providing support for the Board.
7 He is taking care of all of the transition issues with
8 the National Park Service. And he is and will be our
9 Director of Government Affairs in charge of our liaison
10 with other government entities.

11 We have embarked upon the process of
12 seeking an Interim Executive Director. Again, through
13 the assistance of the Presidio NPS office, we have
14 retained the services of an executive recruiting firm by

15 the name of Chartwell Partners.

16 They have created, with us, a position
17 description for that. And for those of you who might be
18 interested in seeing the content of that description,
19 there are also copies of that in the outer hall. As you
20 leave, you are welcome to pick up a copy.

21 If you have individuals that you believe
22 are fitting those criteria and that you believe should be
23 considered in this process, we would encourage you please
24 to send a note, a resume, to Craig Middleton at the
25 Presidio Trust office. And there are materials out there

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1 which indicate the new address of the Presidio Trust
2 office as well.

3 Other senior management will be hired after
4 the Interim Executive Director has been retained. And
5 that individual will be responsible for creating the
6 whole staff in consultation with the Board.

7 The transition from the National Park
8 Service to the Presidio Trust will really occur in two
9 respects. The operational functions here and the
10 physical properties.

11 And let me say as an aside that whenever we
12 are talking about the Presidio that is within the
13 jurisdiction of the Trust, we are talking about that
14 portion of the map which accompanied the Presidio Trust
15 legislation, Public Law 104-333, that designates all of
16 the Presidio with the exception of Crissy Field and the

17 coastal area.

18 Those areas remain permanently within the
19 Jurisdiction of the National Park Service. So
20 henceforth, when we refer to the Presidio within the
21 Presidio Trust legislation, it does not include those
22 edges.

23 The law sets out the process for the
24 transfers to take place. And this is to be complete by
25 the end of the first year. During the coming 12 months
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1 and through the 198 fiscal year, as appropriate, we will
2 be taking on some functions Presidio-wide, while taking
3 Jurisdiction for properties only as our planning for them
4 can evolve.

5 As an example, based on what we know to
6 date, we anticipate asking the National Park Service to
7 continue either directly or through contract with the
8 Trust to be responsible for all of the day-to-day
9 maintenance operations.

10 Similarly, the Park Police, Fire Department
11 and other public safety personnel will be asked to
12 continue responsibility for their functions. Also, the
13 resource management, interpretation and some of the
14 administration functions will likely continue through the
15 National Park Service directly, or by contract with the
16 Trust.

17 As for properties, for example, housing
18 units that are currently leased to the Department of

19 Defense or the Wherry housing units are most likely to be
20 left in the Jurisdiction of the National Park Service,
21 while other housing that meets evolving opportunities
22 such as availability for Park Partners and Presidio
23 tenants could be moved to the Trust jurisdiction for
24 longer-term rental and leasing arrangements.

25 All of that will evolve over the next year
40
1 as we do the comprehensive plan that is required for
2 submission to Congress at the end of the first year of
3 our activity.

4 Somewhere in my head out there that clock
5 that is running fifteen years has got a parallel clock
6 that is running the hours by for the first year
7 requirement. And that starts officially today.

8 The conduct of the business by the Trust
9 will be an evolving process as the staff is hired and as
10 the plan required at the end of that first year is
11 developed. So we don't have yet all of the answers by
12 far as to Just how this will be done.

13 There are a number of rules and regulations
14 that will be applied by the Trust to its business. The
15 first of these was, or is, the set of bylaws which we
16 just adopted.

17 In addition, there will be others such as
18 procedures for NEPA, Freedom of Information Act, the
19 National Park Service park regulations and rules, the
20 ethics standards and similar standard kinds of government

21 regulations that may apply to the Trust.

22 Many of these are routine within the
23 federal agencies. And the Trust will have the option of
24 either adopting these standard formats or, in other cases
25 as defined by our enabling legislation, will need some
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1 refining to meet the Trust's particular operational
2 requirements.

3 We anticipate in a few minutes creating
4 Board committees. And we will ask the appropriate
5 committee to include opportunities for public review,
6 such as through the Federal Register, and public comment
7 periods for those rules that might have broad public
8 interest prior to their final adoption by this Trust
9 Board.

10 And that will be within the decision of the
11 appropriate Board committee as to how we will proceed
12 with that for those that may be non-standard kinds of
13 rules.

14 At this Juncture, as allowed in the bylaws
15 we have just adopted, I would like to make a
16 recommendation to the Board members with respect to
17 adopting or allowing us to create some Board committees
18 in order to conduct our business more efficiently.

19 Each committee will undertake the detailed
20 review of issues and policies in consultation with the
21 Trust senior management, and then make reports and
22 recommendations to the full Board for consideration and

23 possible actions.

24 In that regard, I would like to recommend
25 to the Board that initially we establish three Board

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1 committees. First, a real estate and housing. Second, a
2 finance and budget. Third, an operations and management.

3 The real estate and housing committee will
4 have responsibility for oversight of the leasing and
5 other agreements, and for construction and renovation
6 programs, property management, environmental remediation,
7 et cetera, for the real estate and the housing.

8 The finance and budget committee will have
9 responsibility for oversight of the Trust finances
10 including budgets, appropriations, borrowing functions
11 and long-term financial planning. It will also oversee
12 the accounting and audit functions.

13 The operations and management committee
14 will be responsible for-oversight of the Trust's own
15 business functions, such as its rules and regulations and
16 its relationships other than finance to other government
17 agencies.

18 I would propose to you that oversight of
19 the issues of transition, which are largely one-time in
20 nature, will be the responsibility of the Chair and, as
21 appropriate, of the Board as a whole. Similarly, broad
22 issues of strategic planning and the plans and reports
23 required of the Trust will remain as the responsibility
24 of the whole Board.

25 If that is agreeable to the Board Members,
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1 I would ask you for a motion to create those three
2 committees.

3 DR. BLAKELY: I would like to move to
4 create the committees.

5 MR. REILLY: Second.

6 CHAIRMAN ROSENBLATT: It has been moved and
7 seconded. All those in favor?

8 (A chorus of ayes.)

9 CHAIRMAN ROSENBLATT: opposed?

10 (No response.)

11 CHAIRMAN ROSENBLATT: That motion is
12 adopted.

13 I would like to ask the following
14 individuals if they would please be willing to accept
15 assignment to the committees as follows:

16 For the real estate and housing committee,
17 Don Fisher would chair that committee. Mary Murphy and
18 Ed Blakely would also serve.

19 For the finance and budget committee, Mary
20 Murphy would chair that and John Garamendi and Bill
21 Reilly would serve on that.

22 For the operations and management
23 committee, Amy Meyer would chair that, with Bill Reilly
24 and John Garamendi also serving.

25 The Board chair and eventually the

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1 executive director would serve ex officio on each of
2 those committees.

3 And that doesn't require a vote. It simply
4 requires a lack of objection about responsibilities I am
5 just asking you to take on. And hearing no objection, we
6 will take that as assent from everybody. Thank you.

7 At this stage, those of you who have Just
8 been asked to chair committee, if you wish, it would be a
9 very good time if you wanted to make any remarks about
10 the work of the Trust or the arenas in which your
11 committee might specifically function.

12 MR. FISHER: Well, thank you, Toby. 1
13 appreciate the opportunity to serve as the chair of the
14 committee on real estate and housing.

15 The key objective of the committee's work
16 will be to establish a comprehensive leasing and housing
17 program that will protect the resources of this
18 magnificent Presidio by creating a revenue stream to fund
19 park operations, maintenance and programs.

20 Clearly, we don't have a lot of time.
21 Fifteen years is a brief period in which to make the
22 Presidio operation self-financing. In order to be
23 successful, we must create a compelling vision of the
24 Presidio that builds on its national park character, its
25 historic flavor and scenic beauty, all of the attributes
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1 that make the Presidio so important to all of us today.

2 As chair of the real estate and housing

3 committee, I would like also to recognize the
4 organizations and families who are currently residing
5 here in the Presidio. I look forward to working with you
6 as we move along. And I understand that the Presidio
7 Tenants Council may be represented here this morning.
8 Welcome to all of you.

9 One of the most pressing issues that we
10 will face as we begin our leasing program is to ensure an
11 expeditious and thorough cleanup of hazardous materials
12 here at the Presidio.

13 Congress has provided the Trust with
14 significant flexibility in managing this major piece of
15 property. It is essential that cleanup actions not
16 hamper our flexibility by, in effect, restricting the
17 universe of our uses that are possible here. We intend
18 therefore to work closely with the Army, the National
19 Park Service and the community to achieve adequate
20 cleanup.

21 As a first step, we have asked the Army to
22 grant a 45-day extension to the public comment period for
23 its main installation feasibility study to allow the
24 trust adequate time to analyze the Army's proposed
25 cleanup alternatives. We are looking forward to
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1 receiving their response.

2 In closing, I look forward to serving on
3 this Board and to working with all of you to achieve a
4 great result in this incomparable national park.

5 CHAIRMAN ROSENBLATT: Thank you, Donald.

6 Mary, did you -

7 (Applause.)

8 MS. MURPHY: Thank you. I want to say how
9 wonderful it is to see so many people and friends here
10 today whom we have all gotten to know so well over the
11 last few years, who have worked so hard to make this
12 place what it is and hopefully what it will be in the
13 future.

14 I look forward to working on establishing a
15 financing and budgetary program for the Presidio that
16 will set us on our congressionally-mandated course of
17 achieving financial self-sufficiency in fifteen years.

18 Ultimately, financial self-sufficiency can
19 be good for the Presidio by relieving us of the
20 uncertainty that surrounds the federal budgeting process,
21 especially in the current era of financial belt
22 tightening.

23 A self-supporting financial structure will
24 eliminate a significant amount of vulnerability for the
25 Presidio. However, in order to be successful, we must

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1 not be forced to accept reduced funding levels until
2 there are sufficient revenues to replace federal funds.
3 In this, we ask for the cooperation of both Congress and
4 the Administration.

5 We have an opportunity here to use limited
6 amounts of federal dollars to leverage other sources of

7 funding. Using the authorities provided to the Trust in
8 the law, a strong financial program can bring substantial
9 benefits to the park, more funding for infrastructure and
10 resource protection, enhanced public programs and
11 adequate levels of security.

12 I want to add at this point my appreciation
13 and that of the whole Board to the National Park Service,
14 the U.S. Park Police and the Presidio Fire Department for
15 their wonderful job in maintaining crucial services here
16 at the Presidio despite their budgetary constraints.

17 As a Presidio neighbor, I know that the
18 neighborhood and the people of San Francisco share this
19 sense of gratitude for the work that the Park Service,
20 the Park Police and the Fire Department have done to keep
21 the Presidio so well maintained and safe during this
22 period of their tenure.

23 in closing, I would like to underscore
24 Don's point about the importance of an expedited, timely
25 and thorough environmental cleanup here at the park.

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1 Thankfully, we are relatively fortunate that the
2 hazardous materials found here at the Presidio are not
3 unmanageable.

4 It is essential for public health, as well
5 as for financial viability, that the toxics that are here
6 get cleaned up as soon as possible. To that end, the
7 Trust has hired an excellent environmental consulting
8 firm, Euler Kalinowski (sounds like) Inc., EKI, to review

9 the Army's remediation investigation and feasibility
10 study.

11 Like Don, I hope and I trust that the Army
12 will agree to our request for a 45-day extension of the
13 comment period for the feasibility study in order to
14 provide the Trust adequate time to respond thoroughly to
15 the main post installation feasibility study that is
16 currently out. We look forward to working with the Army
17 and the Park Service on this issue.

18 I just wanted to add a comment that
19 somebody made to me recently. I was talking to a man who
20 is a veteran who was wounded in Vietnam In 1967. And he
21 was brought to Letterman Army Medical Center to recover,
22 before the large Letterman was built.

23 So he was in the old Letterman which is now
24 the site of the Thoreau Center Partners. And when he
25 recovered well enough, he told me that they put a paint
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1 brush in his hand and they had him paint the ramp going
2 from one building to the other.

3 When Thoreau Center opened, he was invited
4 to the opening. And he said when he walked in and he saw
5 that ramp that he had painted, he felt as if the building
6 was speaking to him. This was his segue before they sent
7 him back to Vietnam for another tour of duty.

8 What he said spoke to how meaningful this
9 place is to our veterans. And I know that the Army will
10 be as committed as the rest of us to the cleanup of this

11 place. Because to be a national park, the true national
12 park it can be, it has to be a home for everyone. For
13 the children we hear in the audience today, and for the
14 veterans for whom this place is a very meaningful
15 signpost in their lives.

16 The cleanup of the Presidio is critical to
17 making this the wonderful national park it can be, and
18 critical to enabling us to achieve the financial
19 viability to protect this park. And I know the Army will
20 be as committed to this process as we are. And we look
21 forward to working with them on that.

22 Thank you.

23 (Applause.)

24 CHAIRMAN ROSENBLATT: Amy, would you be
25 willing to say a few words?

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1 MS. MEYER: Thank you. I would like to
2 share with you something of the spirit with which I will
3 approach the operations and management committee for the
4 Presidio Trust. And to do this, I have to go back in
5 history a bit.

6 In 1970, the National Park Service brought
7 forth the idea of parks to the people, where the people
8 are. And the intention was to make it possible for
9 people from all walks of life to experience and enjoy the
10 splendor and heritage of our national parks. our
11 national parks were not just to be for the people who
12 could afford to drive to Yosemite or Yellowstone.

13 Gateway National Recreation Area in New
14 York and New Jersey, Lowell National Historic Site in
15 Massachusetts, Chattahoochee in Georgia, Indiana Dunes,
16 Santa Monica Mountains and more were born in that era.

17 Of these parks, the largest and most
18 visited and the most successful is the Golden Gate
19 National Recreation Area, in part because the people of
20 the Bay Area have valued and worked hard to protect our
21 incredible landscape. This park will celebrate its 25th
22 anniversary this year.

23 The other reason why we have the Golden
24 Gate National Recreation Area -- it is really reasons.
25 And Brian O'Neill said this very beautifully at the

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1 beginning. But I feel a necessity to underline it.

2 our late great Congressman Philip Burton
3 carried this legislation in Congress and knew how
4 important it is for all of our people to know and love
5 their natural, historic and scenic heritage. And to have
6 outstanding recreational and educational opportunities.

7 In working on this legislation, the People
8 for a Golden Gate National Recreation Area, of which I am
9 co-chair -- a large number of people worked on this, but
10 our chairman Edgar Wayburn, who is today up in Alaska
11 working, as he has for years, on saving the Alaska
12 national parks worked so hard to protect and preserve
13 this land.

14 Because of Congressman Philip Burton, the

15 senators of that time, Senator Cranston and Senator
16 Tunney, and because of a group of people who cared very
17 much, the headlands of the Golden Gate are preserved for
18 public-use in perpetuity.

19 And the Presidio, two percent of the Golden
20 Gate National Recreation Area's 75,000 acres, is saved
21 for public use and enjoyment and is not being sold off
22 like the other 85 military posts that were voted for
23 closure in 1989.

24 The people of the Bay Area, and especially
25 of San Francisco, owe a large part of this success -- and
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1 looking over this audience today, I see people I have
2 worked with over a 25-year period -- to the active
3 support of the park and the volunteering of time and
4 effort at every level over these 25 years which have
5 helped to make our national park next door the success
6 that it is.

7 The Golden Gate National Recreation Area is
8 our national park. The Presidio is a community within
9 the San Francisco community. And whether under the Army
10 or the National Park Service, has always been of national
11 importance. This Board will have to report to the
12 President, the Congress and the American people on its
13 ability to transform this post into a park of the
14 National Park System.

15 For more than 23 years, the Golden Gate
16 National Recreation Area Advisory Commission has heard

17 public testimony concerning policies affecting this park
18 and has been responsive to public concerns.

19 I am very pleased to see sitting in the
20 first row the chairman of our commission Rich Bartke.
21 Rich, would you raise your hand, please? Thank you.

22 (Applause.)

23 MS. MEYER: For more than eight years, the
24 commission has heard the public on matters affecting the
25 Presidio. The commission will continue to play a major

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1 role in hearing public comment. This Board needs and
2 wants your continued interest, concern and support.

3 We will shortly adopt a resolution
4 concerning public comment on our activities.

5 Thank you.

6 (Applause,)

7 CHAIRMAN ROSENBLATT: Amy, thank you. I
8 wanted to back for just a minute to something that Don
9 Fisher said with respect to the housing in the Presidio.

10 I want to reemphasize the fact that the
11 Board Members are very cognizant of the fact that there
12 are a number of people who are currently living in the
13 Presidio, both members of our armed forces and
14 individuals who work for the National Park Service and
15 for a number of the other tenants, those we call Park
16 Partners.

17 We, as a Board, are very appreciative of
18 the fact that those people are living here and that they

19 care very much about the environment that they live in.
20 And they have the obvious concerns that one would have
21 with the transition about the National Park Service to
22 the Presidio Trust with respect to what happens to them.

23 I want to assure them, and everyone else
24 who is interested in the housing issues for the Presidio
25 that nothing abrupt is going to happen. There will be

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1 the orderly development of a set of housing policies for
2 the Presidio that take into consideration the issue that
3 I have raised before.

4 That is, it takes into consideration the
5 balance of the issues that affect the National Park, the
6 GHPA and the Presidio Trust legislation. And that we
7 would anticipate that there will indeed always be a
8 cross-section of housing in terms of those who are living
9 here in the Presidio.

10 And so we are very cognizant of the
11 desirability that was laid out in the GMPA for the
12 relationship between housing and Jobs in the Presidio and
13 what that does as an environmental benefit.

14 So during the coming year, clearly housing
15 will be a very high priority and an early priority for
16 the planning that the Trust Board and its staff will be
17 doing. And it will be done in the context of the
18 comprehensive kind of planning that is required by the
19 Act to be completed and submitted to Congress by the end
20 of the first year.

21 DEPUTY SECRETARY GARAMENDI: Toby, if I
22 might just add a couple of comments?

23 CHAIRMAN ROSENBLATT: Yes, John.

24 DEPUTY SECRETARY GARAMENDI: The housing
25 stock here on the Presidio is an enormous asset that must
55
1 be properly managed for the financial benefit and also
2 for the historic heritage of the park. It is a very
3 complex issue. And at the moment, the Board has no
4 specific plans on how to go about dealing with that and
5 we have discussed some of the best ways.

6 But in the context of the overall planning
7 for the Trust assets, the real estate assets here, it
8 would seem to me wise that we incorporate in that a
9 specific sub-element of the housing.

10 And that we look to those issues in a
11 comprehensive way, taking into account all of the various
12 buildings that exist and their potential use in light of
13 the legislation and the General Management Plan for the
14 park, as well as the needs for the housing and employment
15 relationships here on the park.

16 I think this is something we can undertake
17 and will be undertaken, and would urge that we do so.

18 CHAIRMAN ROSENBLATT: Thank you, John.

19 I would like to ask Bill Reilly if he would
20 be willing to add to that? I would appreciate it.

21 MR. REILLY: Thank you, Toby.

22 Let me first note with gratitude and

23 admiration President Clinton's decision to select a
24 notably non-political, non-partisan Board for the
25 Presidio Trust.

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1 Congresswoman Pelosi's skill and
2 effectiveness at marshaling through the legislation to
3 enactment, and Senator Feinstein's and Senator Boxer's
4 advocacy of this legislation was conducted in that
5 fashion. And so, too, has been his action on
6 appointments.

7 I am a career conservationist. I am not,
8 contrary to Judge Henderson's introduction, a veteran of
9 eleven years in the Army. I had two years in the Army.
10 But what I did have was fifteen years as president of the
11 Conservation Foundation and four years as president of
12 World Wildlife Fund before becoming EPA administrator.
13 In that capacity, I oversaw a good deal of research and
14 advocacy regarding national parks, and international
15 parks, even.

16 Our nation's idea of itself has always been
17 reflected in our selection and protection of specific
18 sites and distinguished places. Each generation has
19 added a new dimension to the park's inventory and legacy,
20 the Civil War battlefields, national seashores,
21 recreation areas, urban parks, as Amy Meyer said. They
22 have all reflected the priorities and the emphases and
23 the concerns of people at their time.

24 The Presidio represents a wholly unique mix

25 of natural distinction within an urban cultural setting
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1 with a very rich history. I toured this place when I was
2 EPA administrator and, given my background in the parks,
3 Found it peculiar that I was seeing a new park
4 established including an area that technically qualified
5 as a Super Fund site.

6 (Laughter.)

7 MR. REILLY: It is unusual. It is not
8 precedented. Well, you know, it is probably not
9 precedented to create a park with over 800 buildings.
10 And yet, future national parks are not likely to be
11 empty. They are likely to have a history. They are
12 likely to have a past. Even to show some scars of a hard
13 life.

14 The challenge to the National Park Service
15 and to the Presidio Trust will be to forge a set of new
16 institutions and new legal and financial mechanisms for a
17 whole different set of challenges.

18 I am reminded that some years ago I was
19 visited by a group from Latin America which World
20 Wildlife Fund was supporting who were establishing a
21 National park system in their country.

22 They had just come from the Grand Tetons
23 where they were shocked to see commercial grazing
24 conducted in a prominent place in the Grand Tetons. That
25 was contrary to the idea of the national parks which they

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1 had gotten from us, an idea in that respect at least I
2 thought we had not lived up to.

3 And yet, we have this peculiar challenge to
4 generate sufficient revenues to relieve the federal
5 treasury of the burdens of this resource. Now that is
6 really new. It is something the public is going to have
7 to accommodate to. It is something that we -- that I
8 find novel and am going to have to accommodate to as
9 well. I think it will require a lot of ingenuity and
10 very careful acknowledgement of the different set of
11 responsibilities we now undertake.

12 In America's path toward self-realization
13 created in the evolution of our parks, Yellowstone really
14 started this country, and then the world, on the path of
15 parks' creation and protection. There are a lot of parks
16 in the world, and I know many of them. But there is no
17 park that has the mix of cultural, historic and stunning
18 natural distinction as the Presidio.

19 It will be our task to do something that
20 hasn't been done before in San Francisco, in the United
21 States or anywhere in the world. And that is, to give
22 meaningful recognition to all the educational, the
23 recreational and the environmental protection, the
24 ecological protection values in this place.

25 To do so, is a new departure toward

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1 blending commercial and conservation values in a whole

2 new relationship that works successfully for both, and to
3 do it in a way that really protects and preserves this
4 uniquely beautiful national and even international
5 treasure.

6 Thank you.

7 (Applause.)

8 CHAIRMAN ROSENBLATT: we have in the
9 enabling legislation a section which calls for a liaison
10 with the Golden Gate National Recreation Area Advisory
11 Commission for the purposes of assisting the
12 opportunities for public input to our activity.

13 Amy, I would appreciate it if you would
14 address that question. We have a draft resolution for
15 consideration. And if you could run through that for the
16 group?

17 MS. MEYER: Surely.

18 CHAIRMAN ROSENBLATT: That would be
19 appreciated.

20 MS. MEYER: I am going to read the
21 resolution but kind of tighten it up:

22 "WHEREAS, the public law that established
23 the Presidio Trust reaffirmed that the Presidio is
24 entirely a part of the Golden Gate National
25 Recreation Area and called for it to be managed by
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1 this innovative public/private partnership, and
2 directed us further to establish procedures for
3 providing public information and opportunities for

4 public comment, and recognizes that there is strong
5 public interest in the Presidio and would like
6 public input on certain key issues for decision
7 making processes,

8 "THEREFORE be it resolved that this Board of
9 Directors of the Presidio Trust encourages members
10 of the general public to make their views known to
11 the Trust and will provide opportunities for public
12 comment in the following manner:

13 "1. Write or call the Presidio Trust -- an
14 address can be found on the papers outside, and
15 there is also a telephone number -- and we shall
16 seek to respond to your inquiries or comments in a
17 timely way.

18 "2. There will be public meetings of the
19 Presidio Trust Board of Directors. We will convene
20 at least two public meetings each year. Such
21 meetings shall include opportunities for public
22 expression. In accordance with the Presidio
23 Trust's bylaws, public meetings will be announced
24 in advance, in particular in newspapers of general
25 circulation, and fifteen days prior to a meeting.

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1 "3: In addition, our committees may convene
2 meetings for the purpose of providing for public
3 discussion of issues falling under their
4 jurisdiction.

5 "4: Finally, public comment through the

6 Golden Gate National Recreation Area Advisory
7 Commission. From time to time the Board of
8 Directors will invite the Golden Gate National
9 Recreation Area Advisory Commission to provide
10 opportunities for public comment on key Presidio
11 land use issues where there is significant public
12 interest.

13 "Such invitation shall be extended to the
14 Chairman of the Commission by the Chairman of the
15 Board, acting at the behest of the Board of
16 Directors, and shall coincide to the extent
17 possible with the Commission's regular schedule of
18 public meetings."

19 CHAIRMAN ROSENBLATT: Would you like to
20 make a motion?

21 MS. MEYER: I would like to make a motion
22 that we adopt the Opportunities for Public Comment
23 Resolution.

24 MR. REILLY: Second.

25 CHAIRMAN ROSENBLATT: All those in favor?

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1 (A chorus of ayes.)

2 CHAIRMAN ROSENBLATT: Opposed?

3 (No response.)

4 CHAIRMAN ROSENBLATT: The matter is adopted
5 unanimously.

6 That concludes the organizing portion of
7 the business of this board meeting. And now it is

8 appropriate, as is called for in the published agenda,
9 for a period of public comment.

10 There are a couple of things I would like
11 to ask you to consider. As you know, people were asked
12 to sign up in advance. We now realize that the number of
13 people who have signed up in advance who wish to speak,
14 if we even limited this to a brief period of two minutes,
15 would extend us well into the afternoon.

16 Unfortunately, we would lose our quorum.
17 As you know, the notice anticipated a meeting that would
18 go from 9 to 11. We had no idea, frankly, that we would
19 be welcomed with this large a crowd.

20 The Board would like the opportunity to
21 receive public comment. First, I would like to take a
22 very short break. We would like to ask you who
23 anticipate speaking if you could convene among yourselves
24 and attempt to appoint one person who would speak on
25 behalf of your issue and/or organization.

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1 If we can do that, then possibly we can,
2 with a two-minute time limit per speaker, be able to have
3 all of the issues brought to the attention of the Board.

4 Two other things I would like to mention.
5 As you just heard, we have a relationship with the Golden
6 Gate National Recreation Advisory Commission. That
7 Commission has its next regular meeting tonight at 7:30
8 at Fort Mason in its regular room. I would encourage
9 you, given our time constraints, to also take advantage

10 of that opportunity.

11 In addition, I would like you to please
12 bear in mind that in terms of public comment here, this
13 is an opportunity for us to hear your views. But please
14 do not anticipate that we will be in a position to
15 respond or have any dialogue. There just isn't time for
16 us to do that.

17 All right. If you would be good enough,
18 let us take a very short recess, five minutes at most,
19 and reconvene for public comment.

20 (A brief recess was taken.)

21 CHAIRMAN ROSENBLATT: Ladies and gentlemen,
22 if I could ask you to resume your seats, we will get
23 started again.

24 For those of you who are familiar with the
25 processes and procedures of the GGNRA Advisory

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1 Commission, you will recognize this. What we are going
2 to ask you to do, again, is to limit your statements to
3 two minutes.

4 The secretary here, Michael Feinstein, will
5 indicate a warning to you when there are thirty seconds
6 left. And when the two minutes is up you will hear a
7 gong, and we will ask you please to be seated so that we
8 can move on and hear everybody else.

9 The other thing I would ask you to do is,
10 if the issues that you had thought about raising with us
11 might have been answered in the first section of this

12 meeting, maybe Just refer to the issues rather than going
13 into a long discussion about them. That might save us
14 all a little time as well.

15 I am going to call from the list I have
16 three names at a time so that two of you can be ready to
17 come forward and speak quickly, and we can move this
18 along.

19 And the first name I have on this list is
20 Bill McDonnell. Please, go ahead.

21 STATEMENT OF BILL McDONNELL

22 NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATIONS FOR PRESIDIO PLANNING

23 MR. McDONNELL: Thank you. Good morning,
24 my name is Bill McDonnell and I am a co-chair of
25 Neighborhood Associations for Presidio Planning, also
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1 known as NAPP.

2 NAPP is an umbrella organization consisting
3 of the neighborhood associations of San Francisco which
4 surround the Presidio. From east to west, we encompass
5 the neighborhoods of the Marina, Cow Hollow, Pacific
6 Heights, Presidio Heights, Presidio Terrace, Lincoln
7 Park, the Richmond and Sea Cliff.

8 On behalf of NAPP, I congratulate each of
9 you on your appointment to the Trust. Most of our
10 members supported the creation of the Trust. I want to
11 take special note of the appointment of Mary Murphy, a
12 former co-chair of NAPP. Mary's dedication and ability
13 served us well and I am certain will serve the Trust

14 well.

15 My brief remarks will focus on three
16 issues. First, public participation in your decision
17 making process. Second, open meeting procedures for the
18 Board and, third, conflicts of interest.

19 In the interest of keeping my remarks
20 short, as the Chairman urged, the first two topics I was
21 going to speak on have already been addressed by the
22 bylaws and some of the other things that have already
23 been said. And in summary, we urge an open process where
24 the public can participate.

25 Finally, with respect to the conflicts of

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1 interest issue, it is important to NAPP and the public
2 that the Board Members disclose financial conflicts of
3 interest to foreclose all appearance of impropriety.

4 At the time the Trust considers conflict of
5 interest rules, NAPP suggests that the Trust consider,
6 among other things, the San Francisco rules for
7 commissioners and senior public employees relating to the
8 disclosure of certain investments and income.

9 In conclusion, NAPP looks forward to
10 working with all of you and your staff in a constructive
11 relationship to create a model urban national park.

12 Thank you very much.

13 CHAIRMAN ROSENBLATT: Thank you, Bill.

14 The next speaker on the list is Gordon
15 Chappa-11, follow----2 by Bud Ash and then Carolyn Scarr.

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STATEMENT OF GORDON CHAPPELL

AN INDIVIDUAL

MR. CHAPPELL: Thank you. You are going to hear from a lot of people today who have various axes to grind. My concern is a pretty basic one. And while I have been somewhat reassured by the various comments that you have made today, nevertheless I am concerned that the Presidio Trust legislation does not sufficiently address historic preservation as a purpose of the Presidio's Trusts activities.

And noting the biographies of the various members of the Trust, I don't see anybody on the Board who has a background or experience in historic preservation.

The basic values of the Presidio as I see it are its magnificent scenery and its historic resources. It consisted of barren sand dunes until about 1880 when the Army did the landscaping. But the trees and shrubs and the grasses at the Presidio are primarily exotic species that were brought in by the Army and are not normally considered to be natural resources.

So it is the historic values that are important here. The Presidio is a national historic landmark. It is not and probably never will be a national natural landmark because it simply doesn't have enough natural qualities, despite a few endangered species.

18 The important resources are the historic
19 buildings, structures, archaeological sites, objects such
20 as the old Spanish cannon, and the historic or cultural
21 landscape. In achieving your balance, it is important to
22 preserve the historic character of the buildings, both
23 inside and out, and of the landscape around them.

24 An example of what not to do is what the
25 State of Washington did at Fort Warden State Park on the

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1 Olympic Peninsula where in an officers' row they painted
2 each of the quarters a different pastel color. Seemingly
3 innocuous, perhaps, but it entirely destroyed the uniform
4 character of that officers' row. And it entirely
5 destroyed the historic value of it in so doing.

6 I urge you to follow the Park Service's
7 General Management Plan Amendment. There are some parts
8 of that that I was not happy with. But overall, it is a
9 pretty good document and I would urge you to follow that.

10 I also urge you to follow the Secretary's
11 standards for historic preservation.

12 CHAIRMAN ROSENBLATT: Thank you for -

13 MR. CHAPPELL: Rather than building new
14 buildings, I would urge you to adapt perhaps the
15 nonhistoric buildings which still stand.

16 MR. REILLY: Gordon, thank you.

17 MR. CHAPPELL: I have spent 22 years
18 studying the Presidio

19 CHAIRMAN ROSENBLATT: Thank you.

20 MR. CHAPPELL: -- and I have a great deal
21 of knowledge of its history and hope it will be
22 preserved.

23 CHAIRMAN ROSENBLATT: Thank you. Bud Ash?

24 (Applause.)

25 CHAIRMAN ROSENBLATT: Carolyn Scarr, and
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1 then Rachel Ellis.

2 STATEMENT OF BUD ASH

3 FRIENDS OF THE PRESIDIO ASSOCIATION

4 MR. ASH: Good afternoon. My name is Bud
5 Ash. I am retired from the United States Army and have
6 been stationed at one time here at the Presidio.

7 The point that I would like to bring up is
8 a little extension of the conflict of interest remark
9 earlier introduced. Now, understand that the individuals
10 I am going to name by name, I mention them not as a
11 putdown or a spoiler, but only because we are more
12 familiar with them by virtue of them being in the public
13 eye more than some of the rest of you on the
14 directorship. That is Ms. Meyer and Mr. Rosenblatt.

15 Now, we of the -- well, I'd better say
16 further than I'm vice president of the Friends of the
17 Presidio Association. And we have been vehemently
18 opposed to -- when this came to pass as today when the
19 directorship election took place -- that is, these two
20 individuals I mentioned were placed on the directorship
21 that they must vacate their positions in the present

22 group that they are associated with.

23 Such as Ms. Meyer, the GGNRA Advisory
24 Commission, which is a funnel for information into the
25 NPS. And the GGNPA on the part of Mr. Rosenblatt, which

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1 is the financial funding conduit into the NPS.

2 That would seem to us, after we looked it
3 over very carefully, that somewhere down the line that
4 being the director of the Trust and also members of those
5 two groups would be a definite conflict of interest. And
6 they should vacate the two groups mentioned.

7 Thank you.

8 CHAIRMAN ROSENBLATT: The next speaker,
9 please?

10 MS. SCARR: My name is Carolyn Scarr. I
11 exchange my time with Sister Bernie Galvin.

12 CHAIRMAN ROSENBLATT: Thank you.

13 Rachel Ellis? Oh, sorry, you wanted to do
14 that right now? Sorry, I didn't understand that. Please
15 go ahead.

16 STATEMENT OF SISTER BERNIE GALVIN

17 RELIGIOUS WITNESS

18 SISTER GALVIN: Honorable Members of the
19 Presidio Trust, my name is Sister Bernie Galvin. As
20 Director of Religious Witness with Homeless People, I am
21 here today representing literally thousands of leaders
22 and members of San Francisco and the Bay Area who have
23 formally endorsed the campaign of Religious Witness to

24 preserve the remaining 466 Wherry housing units for use
25 by poor and homeless people.

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1 In addition to practically all the various
2 faith traditions, those endorsements include
3 environmentalists, labor unions, housing organizations,
4 civil rights organizations and advocates, homeless
5 advocates, service providers and homeless people
6 themselves -- 250 organizations in all. And over 3,000
7 individuals.

8 This committee is hearing today the
9 testimony of many of these organizations, representatives
10 and individuals. We come here today, all of us, outraged
11 that the unconscionable plan to demolish \$80 million
12 worth of good housing in our beloved city is still even
13 being considered by the National Park Service and
14 presumably by this Board.

15 The outcry of this community over the past
16 sixteen months has essentially been ignored by the
17 National Park Service as they continue to spew to the
18 community all the reasons why Wherry housing cannot be
19 used by poor people, all of which we have steadfastly
20 refused to accept.

21 We have been told that those Wherry housing
22 units were in such deplorable condition that the only
23 logical solution would be to demolish them. And it would
24 take a staggering \$47 million to bring them up to code.
25 Two independent studies have proved the falsity of this

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1 claim.

2 We have been told that it is too late to
3 save Wherry housing. That the General Management Plan
4 calling for the demolition is set in cement. The United
5 States Constitution itself has been amended numerous
6 times.

7 Please don't tell us anymore that the
8 General Management Plan cannot be amended. You can make
9 it a simple matter. It is simply a matter of political
10 will and courage.

11 We have been told over and over that the
12 National Park Service is not in the business of providing
13 housing for the general public. And all along there is
14 this plan to put the officers' housing on the open market
15 for wealthy people who can afford up to \$4,000 -- even
16 \$6,000 -- a month in rent.

17 Such hypocrisy. Such blatant
18 discrimination against poor people. If policy permits
19 you to rent to the rich, then it permits you to rent to
20 the poor.

21 And, finally, since December of 196, we
22 have been told by the National Park Service that they can
23 do nothing about Presidio housing. That everything was
24 on hold until the Trust Members take over. That the
25 decision about housing would be in their hands.

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1 Well, the Trust is here. And we are here.

2 We implore this body to make an honest assessment of the
3 Wherry housing. To amend the General Management Plan to
4 permit the use of the Wherry housing by poor people.

5 To agree to lease the Wherry housing to the
6 City of San Francisco, according to Mayor Willie Brown's
7 plan, with which Religious Witness is in complete
8 agreement.

9 To abandon the hypocrisy and the
10 inflexibility that has characterized the response of the
11 National Park Service to the concerns of this community
12 regarding Wherry housing.

13 And, finally, to immediately and completely
14 abandon any idea of relocation of the Wherry housing
15 units. This plan is nothing but a shirking of one's
16 moral and civic responsibility and constitutes a blatant
17 discrimination against poor people, and a flagrant
18 violation of the Fair Housing Act.

19 Ladies and gentlemen of the Presidio, the
20 interfaith community and our allies are united in our
21 determination to make Wherry housing available to poor
22 people in its present location.

23 We urge you to honor your oath to make this
24 magnificent Presidio park a place for all people. By
25 making Presidio housing available to the poor as well as
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1 to the rich, you will truly enhance the splendor and the
2 beauty of this precious national treasure.

3 Thank you.

4 (Prolonged applause.)

5 CHAIRMAN ROSENBLATT: Thank you. Thank
6 you, please. Could we have -- thank you.

7 There are a number of speakers signed up on
8 the list I still have, which was before we asked you to
9 reorganize this process, all of whom indicated they
10 wanted to address the same subject.

11 Given our time constraints, it would be
12 very much appreciated, if that is still the subject you
13 would like to talk about, if you could simply come
14 forward and say that you subscribe to the same remarks
15 that were just made by the previous speaker. That would
16 be very much appreciated.

17 All right, the next speaker is Rachel
18 Ellis.

19 STATEMENT OF RACHEL ELLIS

20 AN INDIVIDUAL

21 MS. ELLIS: Good morning, my name is Rachel
22 Ellis. And I live in San Francisco. I have the
23 misfortune to follow a splendid speaker.

24 But I am here because I feel privileged to
25 witness your assumption of office. Because the creation
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1 of the Presidio as a national park and the Trust to
2 manage it represent the combination of years of dedicated
3 efforts by many people.

4 And I am now able to say thank you, not
5 only for myself, but for many others throughout the

6 nation to those of you who are now Trust Members for your
7 long and special efforts to conserve our country.

8 It is a happenstance that I am a follower
9 of the speaker. But I also wanted to speak on the matter
10 of converting Wherry housing. I have to ask you, who is
11 going to vote against motherhood, the flag or the
12 homeless? Certainly not the majority of the San
13 Francisco board of Supervisors.

14 A few weeks ago before a closely-contested
15 city election, although press reports leaders of the
16 protest as seeking the Wherry housing for the homeless,
17 the resolution passed by the board makes no reference to
18 homeless but for low-income residents.

19 Is this an opening for ultimately claiming
20 all but certain historic buildings at the Presidio to be
21 used for housing development? I have to ask that
22 question. Can anyone imagine that after fifteen years
23 families occupying the Wherry housing would be evicted?

24 Are we seeing the beginning of a site-by
25 site struggle to make and keep the park a national park?

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1 Is everything going to be seen as appropriate for
2 meeting San Francisco's housing problems? Are we going
3 to have to meet every time this comes up?

4 These are troubling developments and
5 fulfill the prediction of those in Congress who opposed
6 funding, charging that it was no more than an attempt to
7 get the National Treasury to pay to enhance San

8 Francisco.

9 If the offer of the National Park Service
10 to move Wherry housing to a location outside the park is
11 rejected by the City of San Francisco, there are other
12 nearby towns that should be given an opportunity to
13 accept.

14 I think we have to keep the plan that has
15 been adopted.

16 CHAIRMAN ROSENBLATT: Ms. Ellis, could -

17 MS. ELLIS: San Franciscans who have
18 struggled throughout the years to create a Presidio
19 National Park now rely on you to carry out your mandate
20 to preserve and restore the Presidio as a national park,
21 and to resist all efforts to convert its buildings into
22 public housing.

23 CHAIRMAN ROSENBLATT: Thank you.

24 MS. ELLIS: I hope to hear from you how
25 those of us who care about the park can help in the

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1 fulfillment of our mutual dreams.

2 Thank you.

3 CHAIRMAN ROSENBLATT: Thank you.

4 (Applause.)

5 CHAIRMAN ROSENBLATT: The next speaker is
6 Milan Wight.

7 VOICE: Is that Marcia Smith-White?

8 CHAIRMAN ROSENBLATT: That comes next,
9 right after this.

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STATEMENT OF MILAN WIGHT

RV CAMPERS

MR. WIGHT: Members of the Trust, I am Milan Wight, Concord, California.

I would like to encourage the Presidio Trust to amend the General Management Plan to provide for RV camping. They will be good partners. I would like to point out some of the rationale for this recommendation.

First, the Presidio of San Francisco National Park should provide camping facilities, just like any other national park in the United States of America.

Second, adequate space is available in the 1,480 acres for a 13-acre RV and tent campground - family campground.

Third, there are 8-1/2 million RVers throughout the United States that represent people who are interested in our National Park System, and specifically the Presidio of San Francisco programs, events and displays.

Fourth, the national parks are in the people business, not just with concern for natural resources, historical preservation and infrastructure needs. RVers are real people, not vehicles.

Number five, properly designed and operated camping facilities can provide nearly \$1 million a year of the \$25 million necessary to make the Presidio of San

12 Francisco self-sustaining within fifteen years.

13 Sixth, the precedent for camping was set by
14 the Ohlone Indians and Juan Batista de Anza, who utilized
15 this area for camping long before it became a Presidio.

16 Seventh, Rob Hill should be used for a
17 walk-in tent campground by families and youth groups. RV
18 parking sites can be used for parking during Presidio
19 special events. Just reserve them.

20 All RV drivers and their vehicles are
21 licensed and have a right to use public roads. RV
22 drivers have a good driving safety record. Proposed
23 camping time limits and daily camping fees provide for
24 fair access and use of camping facilities by a segment of
25 the traveling public that otherwise would not visit the
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1 Presidio of San Francisco area.

2 RVers take pride In their vehicles and
3 respect their campsites. Caravans of Rvers would be
4 encouraged to visit the Presidio. I represent the Wally
5 Brian Caravan Club International, Good Sam and the
6 California Motorcoach Association with approximately a
7 million members.

8 CHAIRMAN ROSENBLATT: Thank you for your
9 remarks.

10 MR. WIGHT: Anyway, participants of your
11 workshops and seminars might opt to bring their own
12 vehicles, instead of being in other crowded housing.

13 My father came here about a hundred years

14 ago as part of Company H Nebraska volunteers on his way
15 to the Spanish-American War. So I have an interest in
16 the Presidio.

17 Good luck in your work.

18 CHAIRMAN ROSENBLATT: Thank you. Marcia
19 Smith-White?

20 (Applause.)

21 CHAIRMAN ROSENBLATT: And then Margaret -
22 it's hard for me to read. The address is Mill Valley.

23 Go ahead, please.

24

25

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1 STATEMENT OF MARCIA SMITH-WHITE

2 RESIDENTIAL MAYORS PROGRAM COORDINATOR

3 MS. SMITH-WHITE: Welcome and aloha. One
4 of the nicer things about being in the military is that
5 we get to travel around the country. We just came here
6 from Hawaii where aloha means a welcome and an embracing.

7 Also one of the words we learned was
8 "ohana." And it means family. Which means sometimes
9 problems that will work out. And it means cooperation
10 and listening to each other.

11 So again, I welcome you to the Presidio.
12 Ohana. My name is Marcia Smith-White. And I am the
13 Coordinator of the Residential Mayors Program. We have
14 over 24 mayors who work with the 350 families who live
15 here.

16 When I was looking for an appropriate gift
17 to welcome you here, I couldn't help but think of
18 something that the park and the community, the mayors,
19 have all done together.

20 We have a community garden here that has
21 been designated historically correct. There had been a
22 garden there before. And we have a wonderful bounty that
23 I would like to share with you.

24 Just last night we pulled these scallions
25 and beets.

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1 (A basket was presented to the Board.)

2 MS. SMITH-WHITE: We have potatoes and
3 tomatoes -

4 (Applause.)

5 CHAIRMAN ROSENBLATT: That is wonderful
6 Thank you.

7 MS. SMITH-WHITE: On behalf of the Presidio
8 Alliance who helps us a lot with our concepts of
9 sustainability, you must know the baskets are not
10 recyclable but they are reusable.

11 The mayors have been waiting a long time to
12 deliver this letter of welcome and appreciation and know
13 that we are with you every step of the way. And anything
14 we can do to help you out in your effort, we will be glad
15 to do it. Because we all are so honored to be in this
16 magnificent place.

17 Thank you.

18 (Applause.)

19 CHAIRMANROSENBLATT: That is a wonderful
20 gift. Thank you very much.

21 STATEMENT OF MARGARET ZEGART

22 AN INDIVIDUAL

23 MS. ZEGART: I am Margaret Zegart, a
24 resident of Mill Valley, Marin County. And for 25 years
25 I have been interested and active in different aspects of
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1 the GGNRA, and I am particularly enthusiastic about the
2 Presidio.

3 And I urge you to accept the Management
4 Plan. Over 350-plus organizations and representatives of
5 the City of San Francisco worked this out. And it was
6 done very carefully. And the final amendment plan is
7 something that works to provide the historic, cultural,
8 educational and world peace uses. And the goals of this
9 plan should be followed.

10 Wherry housing, not meeting city codes nor
11 earthquake standards, was estimated in the report of
12 March 15th by Ms. Rosen to the mayor to be probably not
13 the \$10,000 per unit for restoration, but nearer \$20,000
14 per unit to rehabilitate.

15 And rather than supply the major housing
16 units, only 400 units would be retained because there
17 would be landscaping. The people who would be using
18 these would not be the homeless nor the low-cost.

19 Because HUD, with the HR-2 Congress action

20 just recently, and quite logically supported by the
21 Senate I understand in their legislation corresponding,
22 would require that 65 percent of people in public housing
23 would now be over the median income. So that means
24 probably a little over \$40,000. This is not low-income
25 housing and it is not for the homeless.

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1 And the emotional appeal of solving this
2 problem has given many, many supports to retaining
3 Wherry. But Wherry housing, following Brian O'Neill's
4 suggestion, should be moved. If it isn't moved, then
5 unfortunately it should be demolished because there are
6 endangered species.

7 This is a prime site, a prime visual and
8 esthetic site. It is a site that should have trails
9 accessible to the visually and handicapped-impaired,
10 resting stops and recreational areas for the aged, like
11 myself, and for children like my grandchildren, and for
12 families from all over the world, not just for the
13 residents of San Francisco.

14 Thank you.

15 CHAIRMAN ROSENBLATT: Thank you. The next
16 speaker -

17 (Applause.)

18 CHAIRMAN ROSENBLATT: -- is Carl Anthony,
19 followed by Michael Alexander.

20 STATEMENT OF CARL ANTHONY

21 PRESIDENT OF EARTH ISLAND

22 MR. ANTHONY: Members of the Park Service,
23 Members of the Presidio Trust, my name is Carl Anthony.
24 And I would like to begin by congratulating you on
25 bringing to culmination this phase of the work and
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1 planning for the Presidio.

2 I am President of Earth Island Institute,
3 which is an international environmental organization, and
4 director of the Urban Habitat Program, which is an
5 environmental justice organization.

6 Our organization was founded by David
7 Brower who was very active in the early stages of the
8 development of the Presidio as an advocate of ecological
9 restoration being a major theme. And we continue to
10 support that goal and that objective.

11 Earth Island Institute established the
12 urban habitat program precisely because we saw that we
13 must find a way to bring together the issues of
14 ecological restoration and protection and the issues of
15 social justice.

16 My primary purpose today is to present to
17 you a document with nineteen recommendations of ways that
18 we can achieve sustainability and community development
19 at the national park. And you have these recommendations
20 before you.

21 These recommendations cover issues of
22 housing, land use, open space and transportation -- and I
23 do want to underscore transportation because that is a

24 really key issue at the Presidio -- building capacity for
25 park partners, community resource development employment
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1 and economic opportunity for communities of color and
2 public involvement, and community outreach.

3 I want to close my remarks by recalling a
4 time when we started at the Presidio Council an
5 organization called "The Community Consultative
6 Initiative." At that time there was a great deal of fear
7 that if we addressed the Native American issues, that it
8 would in fact disrupt the process.

9 Today, you will hear the progress that has
10 been made on that. We have another opportunity today, to
11 take what seems to be a controversial issue and turn it
12 into a gem, something that we all can be proud of.

13 I urge the Trust to take this issue of the
14 question of the homeless and make it an opportunity to
15 show that this will be a park for all the people, and not
16 just those who are privileged.

17 Thank you very much.

18 (Applause.)

19 CHAIRMAN ROSENBLATT: Thank you.

20 STATEMENT OF MICHAEL ALEXANDER

21 SIERRA CLUB'S PRESIDIO TASK FORCE CHAIR

22 MR. ALEXANDER: Good morning. My name is
23 Michael Alexander. I chair the Sierra Club's Presidio
24 task force. And on behalf of the 60,000 members of the
25 Sierra Club in the Bay Area and the 600,000 throughout

1 the nation, I want to welcome you to your awesome task.

2 Your job is to create a sustainable
3 national park for this generation of Americans, and for
4 our children and our children's children and their
5 children's children.

6 When this was an Army Post, as best as we
7 can tell the Army spent somewhere between \$70 million and
8 \$90 million a year just in the maintenance and operation
9 of this place. They had 5,000 people living and working
10 here, all in one organization, all with a single purpose.

11 Today, you start with \$25 million, not the
12 \$70-90 million, a year. You have to repopulate the
13 Presidio. And you will do it with tenants who are
14 diverse and who have diverse purposes.

15 In doing so, I would like to ask you to
16 consider the opportunity to create a community here where
17 people can live and work without the need to spend two
18 hours or more a day commuting between home and work. We
19 think that the opportunity to combine housing and
20 institutional space here is a very important one for your
21 leasing program.

22 We heard you loud and clear on the need for
23 complete toxic cleanup. We hope the Army did too. And
24 we support your recommendation for a 45-day extension of
25 the comment period of the Army's feasibility study. it

1 is a four-inch thick document on which organizations in

2 the middle of summer who meet once a month have to
3 comment within 30 days.

4 We commend to you a relationship with the
5 GGNPA, the park's association, the most effective and
6 successful organization of its type in the nation which
7 has funded millions of dollars for this park's education,
8 natural restoration and recreation.

9 As John Garamendi said, this process is
10 complex. It is challenging. It is possible. We agree
11 it is possible. We will work with you to make it
12 successful.

13 Thank you.

14 CHAIRMAN ROSENBLATT: Thank you.

15 (Applause.)

16 CHAIRMAN ROSENBLATT: Those of you who are
17 standing there looking like you are waiting to speak,
18 because so many of the subjects have already been covered
19 that are listed in the signup sheet and our time is
20 limited, could I get a show of hands of how many people
21 still wish to address the Board who want to speak on
22 topics that have not already been addressed?

23 Well, you know, we can go through the
24 formalities of this. But I did ask you if you wouldn't
25 mind just subscribing to previous remarks in order to

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1 save the time and allow those who hadn't been heard on
2 other subjects to be heard. And that would be
3 appreciated.

4 One more time, all those whose subject has
5 not been addressed who still wish to address -- all
6 right. Given that there are not very many and our time
7 is very limited, I am going to not use the signup list.
8 But simply allow you as you are standing there -- or ask
9 you as you are standing there, to please step forward,
10 tell us who you are and your subject. And please remain
11 within the -

12 Why don't we just hold the line as it
13 existed there? Just out of courtesy to those people who
14 are already in line. Go ahead, please.

15 STATEMENT OF GLORIA ROOT

16 S.F. PLANNING AND URBAN RESEARCH

17 MS. ROOT: Good morning, I am Gloria Root.
18 And my remarks will be very short.

19 I was asked to come and welcome you on
20 behalf of SPUR, San Francisco Planning and Urban
21 Research, which is a public-interest group known to most
22 of you, and has been involved in city issues -- San
23 Francisco issues for about thirty years.

24 And we have been involved in the Presidio
25 planning process since the very beginning in 1988. And,
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1 of course, we look forward to continuing to work with you
2 to implement and help with the evolution of the Presidio
3 plan.

4 You, of course, are entrusted with that
5 task. And we feel that when this Board was named, we

6 were very confident that the right people with the right
7 values were put in place to carry forward the Presidio
8 plan.

9 You are people who understand the cultural
10 history, if you will, of the planning process that took
11 place for the Presidio. So we are confident that you
12 will be true to that plan.

13 We are also very fortunate in that we are
14 now in a very strong economy and a very strong real
15 estate, market. And this gives you the luxury of sticking
16 with the Presidio plan's principles to preserve the park
17 in a manner that is ecologically sound and sustainable.

18 Toby Rosenblatt, long ago you said, "Don't
19 freeze-dry the Presidio." I think that is a very, very
20 apt way to look at this wonderful opportunity and
21 facility. It does have to grow, it does have to change.

22 But we would urge you to go forward and do
23 that with good planning principles with respect to
24 transportation, historic preservation and selecting uses
25 that are really worthy of this very, very incredible

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1 place.

2 This isn't an economy in which one simply
3 needs to fill up the Presidio. We think there are some
4 great opportunities. And we urge you to look for the
5 best possible tenancies commensurate with the value of
6 this place.

7 Thank you.

8 CHAIRMAN ROSENBLATT: Thank you. Next
9 speaker, please?

10 STATEMENT OF ANNE HERERRE

11 AN INDIVIDUAL

12 MS. HERERRE: My name is Anne Hererre and I
13 am here with the homeless. And I wanted to talk about
14 the homeless situation here in San Francisco -- I am from
15 Colorado. And the thing that -- I have been here for the
16 last fifteen years.

17 What I have seen is the mentally
18 handicapped have been treated very, very poorly. And in
19 the terms of -- what I am saying is that the medication
20 hasn't been taken properly on a daily basis. It is a
21 nightmare to go on Market Street at times.

22 I wake up sometimes and I go, I can't
23 believe this is happening here in San Francisco with all
24 these rich people. But it is a shame to see all you
25 people that don't have concern for this, and you continue

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1 to ignore the situation.

2 And it is abusive also. And I'm hoping
3 that sometime that I will poke a hole somewhere. I had
4 four first cousins that served in the Vietnam war, in the
5 Korean. Also there is one fact that one of them brought
6 a woman back, she was a Journalist and he married her.
7 There's two children there. And they're already adults,
8 young adults.

9 And for them to wake up and see the

10 mentally handicapped or the homeless, the staggering
11 homeless out there, it's a nightmare. And I'm tired of
12 you people not doing nothing about it.

13 CHAIRMAN ROSENBLATT: Next speaker, please?

14 (Applause.)

15 STATEMENT OF ENA AGUIRRE

16 AN INDIVIDUAL

17 MS. AGUIRRE: Thank you, Members of the
18 Trust, for allowing me to speak. My name is Ena Aguirre.
19 I live here in San Francisco. I have lived here since
20 1945. I am retired school teacher.

21 I am concerned on a number of issues.
22 Number one -- and this is nothing personal, okay? But I
23 am concerned that there are no Latinos who are members of
24 the Trust. So to me this Trust does not represent the
25 Bay Area. This Trust does not represent California.

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1 And it certainly does not represent a lot
2 of us who do believe in diversity and who do believe in
3 involvement. And I am hoping that if and when there is a
4 vacancy on the Trust that Latinos or Latinas will be
5 appointed.

6 The next point, I am very much interested
7 in remediation and cleanup of this environment. And I
8 would therefore like to see if it's possible to attend
9 the meetings -- the committee meetings that will be
10 chaired by Mr. Fisher. So that some of us can
11 participate and at least give some suggestions and ideas.

12 And then the last thing that I would like
13 to talk about is that I would like to see the Trust allow
14 the maximum participation for those of us who are
15 interested in helping.

16 Thank you.

17 CHAIRMAN ROSENBLATT: Thank you.

18 (Applause.)

19 CHAIRMAN ROSENBLATT: The next speaker,
20 please?

21 STATEMENT OF JOSEPH MYERS

22 NATIONAL INDIAN JUSTICE CENTER

23 MR. MYERS: Good morning. My name is
24 Joseph Myers. I am the Executive Director of the
25 National Indian Justice Center. And I am also the
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1 chairperson of the California Indian Museum and Cultural
2 Center.

3 And we are Park Partners. We have as a
4 purpose of the California Indian Museum to showcase the
5 cultures of California Indians, the past, present and the
6 future. We want to educate the general public about the
7 California Indian cultures.

8 And we also want to motivate young people
9 to live together in peace. Because the history between
10 the Indian people in this state and the European
11 occupation and, eventually, the statehood of California
12 has been one of great violence. And we are looking
13 toward an opportunity here to bring together cultures and

14 to appreciate each other's presence.

15 The story of California Indians needs to be
16 told. And it needs to be told in a sophisticated world
17 class institution. I think we can provide that here in
18 the Presidio.

19 There is a legacy here in the Presidio.
20 The very first builders of the original Presidio were
21 local Ohlone Indians. And they didn't do it voluntarily,
22 of course. They did it in captivity.

23 And there is a bit of irony to what we are
24 proposing here. We would like to create our museum and
25 cultural center in one of the barracks on the main post,

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1 which years ago was a staging area for the cavalry who
2 went out and hunted down Indians in Northern California.

3 So we want to come back in a different
4 light and a different presence. And we are not asking
5 for anything. We bring to this project funds that we
6 have already raised for retrofit and renovation. We have
7 raised \$2 million and we would like to begin the project
8 and make it work.

9 Thank you for your time.

10 CHAIRMAN ROSENBLATT: Next speaker please?

11 (Applause.)

12 STATEMENT OF JIM WAGNER

13 AN INDIVIDUAL

14 MR. WAGNER: Good morning. My name is Jim
15 Wagner and I am a graduate student from San Francisco

16 State University's school of social work.

17 For the past few years, I have been working
18 in the-streets of San Francisco with San Francisco's most
19 needy population, the homeless. I need not reiterate
20 what Sister Bernie has already said to you in support of
21 Wherry housing. I am sure you are very aware of the need
22 for Wherry housing.

23 What I am here for is to give you my
24 personal invitation to you, Mr. Fisher, Ms. Murphy, Mr.
25 Reilly, Mr. Rosenblatt, Mr. Blakely, Mr. Garamendi and

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1 Ms. Meyer. I am offering you my personal invitation to
2 come to the streets of San Francisco with me.

3 Come into the Tenderloin, into the shelters
4 and meet and introduce yourself to the human factor, the
5 individuals, the families, the children that are this
6 very day denied a home. And we have 466 units of housing
7 sitting vacant right here in this beautiful national
8 park.

9 Where better than right here in San
10 Francisco to merge a beautiful national park with a
11 wonderful humanitarian social service-oriented community,
12 where we could show the rest of the world what we here in
13 San Francisco can do for our community, our most needy.

14 if any one of you would like to take me up
15 on this office, I sincerely offer this to you. You can
16 contact me through Religious Witness. I am sure you have
17 her number.

18 Thank you.

19 CHAIRMAN ROSENBLATT: Next speaker, please.

20 (Applause.)

21 STATEMENT OF CAROLYN SCARR

22 AN INDIVIDUAL

23 MS. SCARR: My name is Carolyn Scarr. And
24 I am what I look like. I am a middle-aged housewife from
25 the East Bay.

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1 Before that though, I was a mathematics
2 student and for ten years a computer programmer and
3 numbers interest me very much. And maps. And so I
4 contacted the Presidio office and they very kindly gave
5 me a lot of information, including this map which gives
6 us some perspective.

7 This little area here (indicating), just
8 this little area, is the Wherry housing complex. This is
9 the golf course (indicating). The golf course, according
10 to these documents, is 160 acres. According to people I
11 tracked down by phone, Wherry housing is between 30 and
12 40 acres.

13 Meanwhile, you have got all of this area,
14 much of which is other buildings, which are mostly not
15 going to be torn down. I am not for tearing down
16 buildings. As an urban park, this is not going to be
17 leveled or cleared and turned into a wilderness area.

18 I love wilderness areas. I have hiked in
19 heaps of wilderness areas. I am all for them. But since

20 this is not what we are having, let's look at this in
21 proportion and, as you have said, in balance.

22 And in balance, we can't have 30 acres out
23 of almost 1500 acres for low-income housing? And as far
24 as the question of what Congress has done to the meaning
25 of low-income housing, that is going to have to be an
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1 ongoing struggle. But that doesn't make the need any
2 less.

3 So thank you.

4 (Applause.)

5 CHAIRMAN ROSENBLATT: Next speaker, please?

6 STATEMENT OF WILLIAM JONES

7 AN INDIVIDUAL

8 MR. JONES: Good morning, Superintendents
9 and Board Members. My name is William Jones. I work
10 here for the National Park Service in the maintenance and
11 operations division.

12 I am glad to here that you are planning to
13 maintain the force as it is right now. Hopefully, you
14 won't resort to contracting out a lot of the work out
15 here. We have a very skilled and able-bodied work force.
16 And we feel that we have a stake in what's going on here
17 at the Presidio. And we feel that we should be a part of
18 what goes on here in the future.

19 Mr. Garamendi, I am glad to have this
20 opportunity to thank you for the insurance rebate. I did
21 get my money.

22 (Laughter.)

23 MR. JONES: And I appreciate your efforts
24 with regards to that. I have some other concerns about
25 the principles of EEO. And I hope that you maintain the

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1 principles of EEO in your hiring and in the work force,
2 in equality, diversity, credibility and accountability in
3 the hiring purpose.

4 Thank you.

5 (Applause.)

6 CHAIRMAN ROSENBLATT: Next speaker, please.

7 STATEMENT OF JACQUELINE DE CESSNA

8 AN INDIVIDUAL

9 MS. DE CESARI: The Presidio Trust, my name
10 is Jackie De Cesari. I am a Marina resident and owner on
11 Chestnut Street.

12 I would like to tell you about Mr. O'Neill.
13 I have had a chance to have some situations with him, and
14 he has been so good. His secretary, Lori, she has called
15 back, she has done everything -- I mean, this guy here
16 should get applause. He is wonderful.

17 My reason -

18 (Applause.)

19 MS. DE CESARI: -- for being here is for
20 the guys that work here in the Presidio. They have no
21 place to eat. They are not allowed to leave the area.
22 And my thing is, I want to open up a bakery -- not
23 baking.

24 I want to feature bakeries of San
25 Francisco. From the Mission, from Chinatown, from South
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1 of Market, from Eddy Street -- we have some of the most
2 wonderful food here in San Francisco that I would like to
3 showcase.

4 And the building I would like to address is
5 the old M.P. building. It's right across the street from
6 Letterman, which used to be years ago a sand pit that
7 they used to play baseball at. Which in case you didn't
8 know, the Presidios became the San Francisco Seals which
9 now are the Giants.

10 I know a lot of history about San Francisco
11 and the area. And what I want to address is that we
12 have so many beautiful things in San Francisco and
13 California, and I want to showcase them.

14 And I would also like to hire welfare moms
15 to help me out. Because I am a mom, five children. My
16 children go to San Francisco schools. I want to showcase
17 the San Francisco school system. I am tired of the news
18 media constantly downplaying our beautiful school system.

19 We have wonderful children. And that's
20 what I'd like to do. And one last thing, we have four
21 perfectly good churches here in the Presidio that are
22 closed. Please, first thing, get them open. I don't
23 care to who. Get em open. We need them.

24 Thank you.

25 (Applause.)

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1 CHAIRMAN ROSENBLATT: Thank you.

2 STATEMENT OF EDUARDO COHEN

3 AN INDIVIDUAL

4 MR. COHEN: Hello, my name is Eduardo
5 Cohen. And I initially got involved -- we heard that the
6 Park Service was adverting LAIR, the Letterman Army
7 Institute for Research, a horrible building where the
8 Army shot animals with different caliber bullets, broke
9 the legs of animals, tortured animals in terrible
10 experiments, which we felt ended when the Army closed it
11 down.

12 We were dismayed to find out that the Park
13 Service was advertising that horrible animal research
14 building as a facility that could be used to generate
15 revenue for the park.

16 We hope that the Trust will realize that
17 the lethal experimentation on animals is an inappropriate
18 and grotesque use of an national park facility, and would
19 be a blight on the Presidio and a blight on the park
20 system.

21 It'd set a dangerous precedent by which any
22 activity, no matter how grotesque or incongruous with
23 public perception of a park could be justified solely
24 based on the potential to generate revenue.

25 The next point I would like to make is

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1 that, getting further involved with this, we found out

2 that some of the people behind the Presidio Trust
3 legislation may possibly have other interests than simply
4 the public good or preservation of the park.

5 I found out that Nancy Pelosi's husband
6 Paul Pelosi has made millions of dollars through Pelosi
7 Leasing Services. He leases property to corporations.
8 She wrote the legislation and was instrumental in getting
9 it pushed through the house.

10 Diane Feinstein, who was instrumental in
11 getting this legislation pushed through the Senate, her
12 husband Richard Bloom is one of the most powerful and
13 richest real estate developers and financiers in the
14 State of California.

15 I would like to hear from the Trust some
16 attempt to assure us that neither Nancy Pelosi nor her
17 spouse, Diane Feinstein or her spouse will be allowed to
18 personally profit -- to make one dime from the passage of
19 this legislation.

20 And that Mary Murphy, who was a partner in
21 a corporate law firm -- that neither Mary Murphy nor her
22 corporate law firm will be allowed to profit as a result
23 of the Presidio Trust legislation.

24 That this Presidio Trust will not be a
25 mechanism by which rich and powerful people in the Bay

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1 Area simply become more rich and more powerful, while
2 mansions are rented out to the rich and the demolition of
3 Wherry housing keeps the poor people and the low-income

4 people in this community outside the gates.

5 Thank you.

6 (Applause.)

7 CHAIRMAN ROSENBLATT: We have a logistics
8 problem. We are going to lose a quorum a little bit
9 after noon. I count approximately 12 or 13 people
10 remaining in line there.

11 What I would like to do is ask you to
12 please restrict your comments now to one minute, and then
13 we will be able to get everybody who is still here before
14 us. Please remember that this is not the only
15 opportunity for you to get your ideas and issues to us.

16 You have an opportunity to write to the
17 Trust. You have an opportunity to be heard, beginning
18 even tonight before the GGNRA Advisory Commission. And
19 so out of courtesy to the remaining people there, I would
20 appreciate your exercising that discretion on your
21 remarks.

22 Go ahead, please.

23 STATEMENT OF JOAN GIRARDOT

24 COALITION FOR SAN FRANCISCO NEIGHBORHOODS PRESIDENT

25 MS. GIRARDOT: Good morning. My name is

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1 Joan Girardot. I am president of the Coalition for San
2 Francisco Neighborhoods, representing over 35
3 neighborhood associations city-wide.

4 I am here with a message from the
5 coalition. Your opportunities for public comment are

6 insufficient. Our message is a resolution, a resolution
7 authored by the Marina Civic Improvement and Property
8 Owners Association, your immediate neighbor on the
9 eastern boundary of the Presidio, and was passed
10 unanimously by the Coalition for San Francisco
11 Neighborhoods at its January meeting:

12 "Be it resolved that the Coalition for San
13 Francisco Neighborhoods strongly urges the Presidio
14 Trust to adopt, voluntarily, a policy of open
15 public meetings adhering strictly to the State of
16 California Brown Act and the City of San Francisco
17 Sunshine Ordinance, and to hold all its meetings in
18 San Francisco."

19 The Presidio in its entirety lies within
20 the boundaries of the City of San Francisco. It is a
21 tenant of government in San Francisco, indeed of
22 democracy that government exists to serve the public.

23 And in order to serve the public, it must
24 reach its decisions in full view of the public. And its
25 deliberations must be open to the public's review,

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1 reaching these decisions in the public's view and not
2 handing decisions to the public after they have been
3 made.

4 (Applause.)

5 MS. GIRARDOT: The Coalition notes that you
6 have already held three meetings and excluded the public.
7 That the very time and day of this meeting at 9 a.m. on a

8 working day excludes the general public.

9 (Applause.)

10 MS. GIRARDOT: The Coalition notes that the
11 four San Francisco members of this Trust took it upon
12 themselves to fly to Washington, D. C., to lobby Congress
13 for passage of the legislation which created this body
14 with its meager requirement for only two public meetings
15 per year, knowing full well that the public wanted all
16 Trust meetings open to the public.

17 The Coalition further notes, with
18 consternation, that you have already signed a partnering
19 agreement with the National Park Service, the Army and
20 regulators, but the public has no knowledge of this
21 agreement.

22 What should citizens deduce from these
23 early indications?

24 In conclusion, you Trustees have such broad
25 authorities under the legislation which created this

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1 Trust. The authority to hand out 99-year leases on
2 choice Presidio properties without mandatory competitive
3 bidding.

4 The authority to demolish and erect
5 possibly millions of square feet of new construction.
6 The authority to possibly obligate the federal taxpayer
7 for millions of dollars in guarantees for private tenant
8 loans. Unprecedented power and control over public lands
9 in the hands of seven private citizens.

10 That for you to opt not to conduct all your
11 business in public will engender the worst sort of
12 mistrust of your motivations and your action, and in the
13 long run will hinder your success here at the Presidio.

14 This is public land built, improved and
15 maintained for over 200 years with monies from the public
16 treasury. The public has no veto power over your
17 decisions. There is no board of appeals here.

18 The very least you can do in the public
19 interest is to allow the public to be privy to your
20 decisions as they are being made, and to subject your
21 contemplated actions to public review.

22 This means all your meetings open to the
23 public.

24 (Applause.)

25 CHAIRMAN ROSENBLATT: Next speaker, please?

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1 (Applause.)

2 CHAIRMAN ROSENBLATT: Next speaker, please.

3 STATEMENT OF JOANNE LINDEKE

4 WEST PRESIDIO NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

5 MS. LINDEKE: Good morning. My name is

6 Joanne Lindeke with the West Presidio Neighborhood

7 Association.

8 Our neighborhood is adjacent to Baker Beach

9 and for years we have seen people who take mass transit

10 walk through our neighborhood to get to the beach. It is

11 on the Pacific Coast bike trail, and we have seen many

12 bicyclists go through. Unfortunately, it was also the
13 scene of a clean water project, and we saw many of our
14 neighbors' houses sink into a big pit in December of
15 1995.

16 There is a great deal of mitigation money
17 that is Involved, both with the Richmond Transport
18 project, the clean water project, and with this sinkhole.
19 And we were hoping that some of this money could be used
20 to provide better public access to Baker Beach.

21 We had very simple requests. ADA
22 compliance sidewalks, bicycle lanes that connect the
23 city's bicycle lanes and provide access to Baker Beach.
24 Traffic safety at the intersection where traffic comes
25 out of Baker Beach.

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1 It has taken a year and a half even to find
2 out what might happen to this money. And it appears that
3 none of this money will be spent on projects that will
4 improve access to this area. And that access is used by
5 a great many San Franciscans.

6 We are very disappointed by this. And we
7 hope that you will make improving this area a priority.
8 The projects involved are very inexpensive. They have
9 short time frames. And they help many, many people, not
10 only in this area, but the many tourists that we have
11 that want to come and enjoy the natural wonders.

12 Thank you.

13 CHAIRMAN ROSENBLATT: Next speaker, please?

14 (Applause.)

15 STATEMENT OF YOUN CHEY

16 INTERCULTURAL INSTITUTE OF CALIFORNIA

17 MS. CHEY: Distinguished Members of Trust,
18 and Mr. O'Neill and Ms. Griffin, I am very very
19 encouraged and very impressed by your remarks and your
20 vision to create a global village.

21 We are right at the crossroads to get into
22 a new century. And I represent Intercultural
23 of California and Korean Center in San Francisco.

24 We are the future tenant, with your
25 support, of Building 37. As you are very well aware, we

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1 submitted a proposal two years ago, been selected and we
2 have negotiated number of meetings and a great deal of
3 effort and time.

4 And we were about to move in, except there
5 was a 30-day kickout notice. And we couldn't do much
6 with that clause. And therefore, I would appreciate if
7 you could honor all the process and all the times that we
8 have spent and recommended by the former Presidio staff.

9 By the way, they have been wonderful. Mr.
10 Bob Series (sounds like) and Mr. Bob Chandler, the
11 previous general manager, they have really spent great
12 time. And we appreciated them.

13 So I would appreciate if you could honor
14 their recommendation. And we look forward to working
15 with you to create something very extraordinary. And I

16 hope the process will be efficient and your priorities
17 will be known, so that we can work with you.

18 I look forward to talking with you further.

19 Thank you very much.

20 CHAIRMAN ROSENBLATT: Thank you.

21 (Applause.)

22 CHAIRMAN ROSENBLATT: Could we have the
23 next speaker, please?

24 MS. CHEY: Oh, my name is Youn Chey,
25 Intercultural Institute of California in San Francisco.

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1 CHAIRMAN ROSENBLATT: Thank you.

2 MS. CHEY: Thank you.

3 CHAIRMAN ROSENBLATT: The next speaker,
4 please?

5 STATEMENT OF FREDERICK HOBSON

6 AN INDIVIDUAL

7 MR. HOBSON: Honorable Members of the
8 Board, my name is Frederick Hobson. I am a board member
9 for the San Francisco Health Authority, a HMO, a member
10 of the Harvey Milk Democratic Club, and a member of
11 numerous environmental organizations such as In Defense
12 of Animals.

13 I have a couple of comments to make. First
14 of all, I would like to join you in saluting Nancy Pelosi
15 for the wonderful work that she has done which has
16 culminated in the establishment of the Presidio as part
17 of the GGNRA. I dare say this would not have happened

18 without her stellar leadership.

19 I want to emphasize the remarks that the
20 woman -- two before me I believe -- made about open
21 meetings. Your bylaws say at least two meetings per year
22 will be open. That is not good enough. I would
23 encourage you to amend the bylaws to one open public
24 meeting per month. And that you facilitate those
25 meetings in San Francisco.

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1 The bylaws say at the Presidio or other
2 location. It should be "or other San Francisco location"
3 at the very least. And that public comment be
4 facilitated on any Trust business at any meeting, whether
5 it is calendared on your agenda or not. Those three
6 things would conform to state law, the Ralph Brown Act.

7 I also want to extend greetings from
8 Supervisor Leland Yee, who as most of us here know is a
9 big supporter of the use of the Wherry housing complex
10 for homeless and working poor families. And I want to
11 wind up my remarks with that.

12 I said this was St. Francis (indicating),
13 who we know is the patron saint of animals. He is also a
14 patron saint of the poor. And the little shiny silver
15 medal I am wearing is our Lady of Miracles, the Jewish
16 mother of our Savior.

17 I want to talk very briefly about the
18 Wherry-housing complex. Each night in San Francisco over
19 4000 families go to sleep without a roof over their

20 heads. Or sleep in shelters whose numbers are woefully
21 inadequate.

22 The housing market in this city is
23 encumbered by high rents and scarcity of available units.
24 This makes the housing at Wherry a critical factor in
25 moving forward towards the beginning of resolving
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1 homeless in this city.

2 CHAIRMAN ROSENBLATT: Could you wind up
3 your remarks, please?

4 MR. HOBSON: I will be very brief, sir. I
5 have waited all morning long, just like you. And I spent
6 the night with stomach flue.

7 VOICE: Amen.

8 CHAIRMAN ROSENBLATT: Just wind it up,
9 please.

10 MR. HOBSON: In addition to the thousand of
11 homeless, there are thousands more of the working poor
12 who are imminently homeless. And they are faced each
13 month with the predicament of buying groceries, paying
14 bills, paying doctor bills or making rent payments that
15 consume most of their hard-earned money.

16 I believe that providing affordable housing
17 for the homeless and working poor will not encroach on
18 the environment at the Presidio, but will serve it well
19 in the long run.

20 on this issue, my heartfelt concern for the
21 environment is in tandem with the fight for social and

22 economic justice. One of the tenets of environmentalism
23 is that we live in harmony with nature.

24 This does not happen when thousands of
25 women, men and children sleep on the streets each night.

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1 A little friendly advice -- my parting
2 words -- don't mess with Jewish mothers because surely
3 she is watching here.

4 (Applause.)

5 CHAIRMAN ROSENBLATT: Next speaker, please?

6 STATEMENT OF MARY ANNE MILLER

7 SAN FRANCISCO TOMORROW

8 MS. MILLER: My name is Mary Anne Miller.

9 I am a member of board of San Francisco Tomorrow, which
10 is an urban environmental organization of over 600
11 members with an outreach to more than 2,000 San
12 Franciscans through our very famous newsletter.

13 We have been involved with the Presidio
14 dream since Congressman Philip Burton and since the
15 participation that we did in the preparation of the
16 General Management Plan. And also, we have supported the
17 Trust.

18 We are very hopeful that you will
19 understand the depth of concern of San Francisco
20 neighbors, as expressed today. And the points that we
21 have made in our letter, Jane Morris, our president who
22 wasn't able to be here crafted these points.

23 And it is funny how things have been said

24 before, about public meetings and about the exposure you
25 should give to the public of your decisions.

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1 The only thing I want to say that is any
2 different from these calls for more public meetings is
3 that it appears through a cursory reading of your bylaws
4 that the public will really have to deal with the GGNRA
5 Advisory Commission. And yet you, yourselves, will have
6 to invite them to hear us. It seems very roundabout.

7 The other thing that is very worrisome
8 about the bylaws is that you may have telephone
9 communication with each other. It even appears that you
10 could hold entire meetings by telephone communication, if
11 I read the bylaws correctly.

12 You have asked us to come instead to
13 meetings of your committees. And yet those committees,
14 through the bylaws on page 5 are asked to hold only the
15 sorts of meetings that the Trust itself holds. That is,
16 no more perhaps than two per year.

17 So, if you are going to ask the public to
18 deal more with your staff, deal more with the committees,
19 you are going to have to make these committee meetings
20 much more public.

21 We urge you not to transact major items of
22 business unless it is you, not your others, who transact
23 those items of business in front of the public.

24 Thank you.

25 CHAIRMAN ROSENBLATT: Next speaker, please.

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1 (Applause.)

2 STATEMENT OF DOUG KERN

3 PRESIDIO RESTORATION ADVISORY BOARD

4 MR. KERN: Good morning, Trust Members. My
5 name is Doug Kern. I am a member of the Presidio of San
6 Francisco Restoration Advisory Board.

7 I have been working some three-plus years
8 with Army representatives and community representatives
9 and regulators on the Presidio cleanup. I really have
10 one brief message.

11 And that message is, of the Army's \$36
12 million proposal, \$1.5 million is for cleanup. Thirty
13 six proposed in the whole cleanup, 1.5 goes to cleanup.
14 The balance is for monitoring of the contamination that
15 the Army would to leave in place.

16 So, I am a working colleague with Army
17 representatives. I respect them. I have to work with
18 them on an ongoing basis. But I strongly disagree with
19 this proposal. And I do encourage you and the Army to
20 extend the comment period so that you may give it your
21 fullest attention.

22 Thank you.

23 CHAIRMAN ROSENBLATT: Thank you.

24 (Applause.)

25 CHAIRMAN ROSENBLATT: Next speaker, please.

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1 STATEMENT OF SAUL BLOOM

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, ARC ECOLOGY

MR. BLOOM: Good afternoon, Members. My name is Saul Bloom. I'm the director of Arc Ecology. We are one of the largest base closures environmental organizations, public interest organizations, working on dozens of installations around the country and overseas.

I would like to thank the Trust for its concerns regarding base cleanup. Your concerns are not misplaced, as you already know. I am, however, concerned about the persistent rumors about the Trust considering taking on the responsibility for managing the cleanup. I think this is a singularly bad idea.

Taking over the management of the cleanup will expose the Trust to liabilities. And I can show you examples from other communities that have gone into situations like that.

You will still experience funding restrictions and problems with DOD funding, if DOD is a component of the funding source. And it will require the Trust to operate the restoration advisory board or some form of technical advisory committee consistent with Super Fund law.

This is particularly important to us because sometime in the very near future it is entirely

likely that my organization will be entering into litigation with the Army with regard to the cleanup of the Presidio.

4 We think that taking over the management of
5 the clean up at this point may be in the interest of the
6 DOD, but it may not be in your interest at this point
7 with regard to that.

8 CHAIRMAN ROSENBLATT: Saul -

9 MR. BLOOM: To wrap up -

10 CHAIRMAN ROSENBLATT: Thank you.

11 MR. BLOOM: Certainly, no problem. I would
12 like to instead solicit your support for an effort that
13 is being organized nationally to reform the base
14 realignment and closure program.

15 And I will be providing you with a fuller
16 report on that. It will preserve your concerns while
17 enabling you to protect yourself from significant
18 liabilities from the clean up costs.

19 I will leave it at that, and I will provide
20 you with additional information in writing.

21 Thank you very much for your time.

22 CHAIRMAN ROSENBLATT: Thank you.

23 (Applause.)

24 CHAIRMAN ROSENBLATT: Next speaker, please?

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1 STATEMENT OF JOEL VENTRESCA

2 PRESERVE THE PRESIDIO CAMPAIGN CHAIR

3 MR. VENTRESCA: Good afternoon. My name is
4 Joel Ventresca. And I am chair of Preserve the Presidio
5 Campaign. I am also a former environmental commissioner

6 with the City of San Francisco.

7 Based on the bylaws and the one resolution
8 that your Board has approved today without any public
9 comment, it is practically impossible for meaningful
10 public participation to affect your decisions.

11 It is essential that you consider
12 voluntarily agreeing to put into your bylaws, amending
13 them, promising the public that you will voluntarily
14 follow the open government and sunshine laws of the State
15 of California and the City of San Francisco.

16 If you want meaningful public
17 participation, you need to take that fundamental step.

18 (Applause.)

19 MR. VENTRESCA: Muir and Thoreau helped
20 establish the National Park System to protect places from
21 the ravages of development, to take lands off the market
22 forever, and to insure public control.

23 Today, we begin the process of moving in
24 the opposite direction on all three fronts. The stage is
25 set. This is the first conversion of a national park

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1 into a business park.

2 This is the first time that a national park
3 area will be required to be economically self-sufficient
4 within fifteen years or will be dropped from the park
5 system.

6 And this is the first time that the
7 National Park Service will be kicked out of a national

8 park unit except for a small shoreline area.

9 CHAIRMAN ROSENBLATT: Could you wrap up
10 your remarks, please?

11 MR. VENTRESCA: This privatization
12 legislative model, which mandates what you are supposed
13 to do in the future, unfortunately is the first step
14 towards dismantling the National Park Service and System
15 as we have known it since 1916.

16 The public demands that you operate in
17 public so the public can watchdog the key decisions that
18 you are going to be making in the future. If you close
19 out the public, as a prior speaker mentioned, you will be
20 creating tremendous mistrust.

21 Thank you.

22 (Applause.)

23 CHAIRMAN ROSENBLATT: Next?

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1 STATEMENT OF BRIAN FELSTED

2 PRESIDIO ALLIANCE

3 MR. FELSTED: Good afternoon. My name is
4 Brain Felsted. I represent the Presidio Alliance, a
5 group of community members, residents and Park Partners
6 on the park who have cooperative agreements with the
7 National Park Service to develop public education
8 programs to help achieve the vision of the Presidio as a
9 global center dedicated to sustainability.

10 We are a project of the Tide Center, and
11 have some seed funding from the San Francisco Foundation,
12 and are willing to work with you to develop creative
13 solutions so the daunting task that you have before you.
14 We want to make sure that financial sustainability is not
15 achieved at the expense of environmental quality and
16 social equity.

17 And I just want to welcome you here. And
18 we look forward to working with you.

19 Thanks very much.

20 CHAIRMAN ROSENBLATT: Thank you. Next
21 speaker, please?

22 (Applause.)

23 STATEMENT OF WHIRLWIND DREAMER

24 NATIVE AMERICAN

25 MR. DREAMER: My name is Whirlwind Dreamer.

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1 Good morning, ladies and gentlemen.

2 It is my understanding that each of you was
3 actually initiated into this present Presidio Trust by
4 President Clinton, as well as Nancy Pelosi.

5 And like yourselves, I have had the
6 privilege of serving our illustrious President as well as
7 senators and congressmen. Unlike yourselves, I was not
8 appointed by President Clinton or Nancy Pelosi.

9 I, like the late Jean Dixon who became
10 famous in the 1960s as perhaps a very unusual character,
11 have used my spiritual gifts to serve our government and

12 different official throughout the present time.

13 And I have come today to speak on behalf of
14 my Native American relations, as well as my homeless
15 relations who are in the City of San Francisco and
16 throughout this country.

17 I came to the City of San Francisco four
18 years ago from a Seminary in Tahlequah, Oklahoma. When I
19 first came here to San Francisco, I pretty well planned,
20 like most individuals, to get a job. But very quickly I
21 found out that the homeless situation was out of order.

22 So I found myself in a place of service.
23 So for four years I have worked side-by-side by homeless
24 people, as well as their advocates.

25 So on behalf of the homeless people, my

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1 Native American relations whose land I assert that this
2 is, land whose blood was spilt for, was stolen so you may
3 each have a home, as every other brother and sister in a
4 city may have a home as well as the nation, I beseech you
5 in order to end the karma of violence which you have
6 created, as well as your ancestors have created, to do the
7 right thing.

8 Create an atmosphere in which we can all
9 begin to live together, to learn from one another.

10 Because, ladies and gentlemen, you have a lot to learn from
11 your Native American relations. You are destroying this
12 planet.

13 They may be intellectually ignorant. But

14 spiritually, I assert they know and understand things
15 that you have no comprehension of. And if you don't
16 think the world of spirit affects the world in which we
17 live, you need to take a long look at what is happening
18 to this planet right now, the environment.

19 It is by your actions, not only to what you
20 are doing to your relations of the human, but what you
21 are doing also to the land which inhabits all of our
22 relations. Which means the animal kingdom, the plant
23 kingdom and the mineral kingdom.

24 I suggest you take heed to my advice.

25 CHAIRMAN ROSENBLATT: Thank you.

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1 Next speaker, please?

2 (Applause.)

3 STATEMENT OF LOUIS VITALE

4 CATHOLIC PRIEST

5 FATHER VITALE: My name is Louis Vitale. I
6 am a Catholic priest and Franciscan. We Franciscans were
7 here very early on and have a lot of interest in the
8 park. And we are very happy it is staying a park.

9 I wanted to ask you, Mr. Rosenblatt, a
10 question. You mentioned -- as you see, many of us are
11 interested in the Wherry housing. You made a remark that
12 the housing would be placed under the Park Service -- is
13 that right? -- for maintenance and security.

14 Does that mean they will have control over
15 the Wherry housing and they would be able to continue to

16 destroy some of it, as was done in the past? Is that
17 what you were saying?

18 CHAIRMAN ROSENBLATT: Let me mention that,
19 as I said in the very beginning, this is not an
20 opportunity or a time -

21 FATHER VITALE: Right.

22 CHAIRMAN ROSENBLATT: -- when we can do a
23 dialogue.

24 FATHER VITALE: Okay.

25 CHAIRMAN ROSENBLATT: If you would like -
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1 FATHER VITALE: I just want a
2 clarification.

3 CHAIRMAN ROSENBLATT: to address that
4 question to the Trust in a letter -

5 FATHER VITALE: Okay.

6 CHAIRMAN ROSENBLATT: I will be glad to
7 respond to it.

8 FATHER VITALE: Certainly, I will be glad
9 to do that.

10 CHAIRMAN ROSENBLATT: Thank you.

11 FATHER VITALE: Then I just want to say
12 that -

13 VOICE: Can't you answer one simple
14 question? One simple question?

15 CHAIRMAN ROSENBLATT: Would you like to
16 finish your remarks, please.

17 FATHER VITALE: Yes. I would just like to

18 say that we from the Interfaith Community are obviously
19 very, very interested and concerned about this question
20 of the housing.

21 I am from St. Anthony's dining room. We
22 have 2,000 people there right now waiting for meals. We
23 believe that some very creative plans can be made.

24 Ms. Murphy, you mentioned the idea that the
25 veterans have a very great interest in the Presidio.

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1 Most of those people in that line are veterans. We
2 believe that we could create a plan.

3 Whereas with the works and the activities and
4 the housing here, we could get people back into the
5 mainstream. Many of which are veterans. Many others could
6 be brought back in the mainstream.

7 We would like to work with you. That is
8 why we are hoping that you maintain control over the
9 Wherry housing and enable us to work with you to create a
10 creative plan.

11 Thank you.

12 CHAIRMAN ROSENBLATT: Thank you.

13 (Applause.)

14 CHAIRMAN ROSENBLATT: Next speaker, please?

15 (Applause.)

16 STATEMENT OF KEN BUTIGAN

17 RELIGIOUS WITNESS STEERING COMMITTEE

18 MR. BUTIGAN: Good afternoon, Members. My
19 name is Ken Butigan. I'm a professor at the Franciscan

20 School of Theology. I am also on the steering committee
21 of Religious Witness with Homeless People.

22 As you can see, today opens a conversation.
23 And over the next days, weeks, months, years, we are going
24 to get to know you and you are going to get to know us.

25 As Sister Bernie Galvin said, there are
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1 thousands of people in San Francisco and around the Bay
2 Area, religious leaders and members, who are saying we can
3 make a difference by making Wherry housing available.

4 I would like us all to look around. It is
5 really a beautiful place. We have heard that again and
6 again. But we have also heard that it is a place of blood.

7 For over 200 years, and certainly since the
8 United States took over, the Presidio has been a place that
9 has prosecuted war throughout Asia, throughout the Pacific,
10 throughout the West where Native American peoples were
11 killed on orders from the Presidio.

12 And most recently, the Sixth Army here, under
13 counterinsurgency campaigns throughout Guatemala, El
14 Salvador and Nicaragua. I You must know that. It is a place
15 of death. It can be a place of life.

16 We had 154 human beings, women and men and
17 children, die on the streets of this city in the last year
18 because they were on the streets, because they didn't have
19 housing.

20 We can have it all here, folks. We can have
21 the environmental park. We can have the nonprofit

22 agencies. All the things that you, Amy, have worked for.
23 We can, as you said, Trustee Reilly, see what we as a
24 country are made of.

25 We are facing a crisis, as you know. From

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1 the U. S. Government's own words and studies, over 3
2 million people in this country are homeless. In this city,
3 between 8,000 and 12,000 are estimated to be on the streets
4 every night.

5 We can have it all. And I urge you, all of
6 you, to take into consideration what we have all said. We
7 are going to work hard with you. But I want to also tell
8 you, we are going to be here.

9 Truth passes through three phases -- I am at
10 my last statement. The first is that it is ridiculed. The
11 second, it is fiercely opposed. And the third is that it
12 becomes self-evident.

13 It was a crazy idea to look at having low
14 income people and homeless people living here. And for a
15 year that's what we got. But we are in the second phase
16 now where there is fierce opposition.

17 But it is going to become a situation, as
18 this movement builds, where it will become self-evident.
19 And you know what? We will all feel great about it when it
20 happens.

21 Thank you.

22 (Applause.)

23 CHAIRMAN ROSENBLATT: Next speaker, please?

24 Before you start, I identify that there are
25 two speakers after you waiting, and then that will conclude
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1 our meeting today.

2 Go ahead, please.

3 STATEMENT OF LYNETTE LEE

4 EXECUTIVEDIRECTOR, EAST BAY ASIAN

5 LOCAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

6 MS. LEE: Good morning. I am Lynette Lee.

7 I'm a member of the Urban Habitat Community Advisory Board.
8 And Executive Director of East Bay Asian Local Development
9 Corporation, which is a nonprofit community development
10 corporation.

11 I want to talk about money and resources. I
12 understand that it will cost approximately \$16 million to
13 demolish Wherry housing because of the asbestos in the
14 materials. Asbestos can be lived with if it is
15 encapsulated and nonfriable. What is the alternative?
16 There can be a win-win situation.

17 The City of San Francisco has prepared a
18 report to rehab Wherry housing and make it available for
19 affordable housing. It can pay the Presidio \$600,000 a
20 year, which will help the Presidio in its annual operating
21 income.

22 This is also possible with other buildings
23 and other housing units on the Presidio. And the Bay Area
24 is blessed with many mature and sophisticated nonprofit
25 housing developers who are able to leverage a variety of

1 funding sources to help make the Presidio work in many
2 ways.

3 Thank you.

4 (Applause.)

5 CHAIRMANROSENBLATT: Next speaker, please?

6 STATEMENT OF ARLA ERTZ

7 AN INDIVIDUAL

8 MS. ERTZ: Good morning. My name is Arla
9 Ertz. I am a long-time lover of the Presidio. And since I
10 have moved to San Francisco from Pennsylvania in 1970, I
11 have really looked forward to the day when it was no longer
12 military but was available for all of us to share. So I am
13 really happy that this is happening.

14 I also for the past few years have been
15 working with an organization called "Drawbridge," which is
16 an arts program for homeless children around the Bay Area.
17 In those years, I have come to know very well a number of
18 children and families who don't have a place to live.

19 Now I see several hundred units where
20 families could live. And I just would like to see the
21 families and children who don't have any place to live and
22 the places where people could live come together. I think
23 it makes a lot of sense.

24 The children I know are wonderful children
25 whose lives are so destabilized. It is not just that they

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1 don't have a place to live. It's that they can't have

2 their friends over, they can't let their friends know where
3 they do live, namely in a shelter.

4 It creates all kinds of internal problems.
5 It comes out in their artwork. And it is heart-wrenching.
6 And it doesn't have to happen. Because when there's places
7 available, they could live there.

8 And I would really like -- I really look
9 forward to all of us working together. And I would like to
10 ask you -- I know you don't want to answer me today -- but
11 I would like to ask, what would it take for us to get
12 there?

13 What would it take to be able to have the
14 Wherry housing, which so many people have spoken so
15 eloquently about? What would it take to be able to make it
16 okay for families who need a place to live to live there?

17 Thank you very much.

18 CHAIRMAN ROSENBLATT: Thank you. Next -

19 (Applause.)

20 CHAIRMAN ROSENBLATT: Next speaker, please?

21 STATEMENT OF RICHARD STOCKTON

22 AN INDIVIDUAL

23 MR. STOCKTON: I think I am the last speaker.

24 My name is Richard Stockton. I am a descendant of the
25 Declaration of Independence.

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1 And I Just wanted to say that I am glad that
2 we live in a country where this open discussion can occur.

3 Thank you.

4 CHAIRMAN ROSENBLATT: All right.

5 (Applause.)

6 CHAIRMAN ROSENBLATT: That then completes the
7 public comment portion. And that closes our meeting.

8 We are adjourned.

9 (Whereupon at 12:25 p.m. on Wednesday, July
10 9, 1997, the meeting of the Board of Directors of the
11 Presidio Trust was adjourned, sine die.)

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1 C-E-R-T-I-F-I-C-A-T-E

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4 This is to certify that the attached pro-

5 ceedings before the UNITED STATES OF AMERICA of the meeting

6 of:

7 The BOARD OF DIRECTORS of
8 THE PRESIDIO TRUST
9 Wednesday, July 9, 1997
10 Golden Gate Club
11 Presidio of San Francisco
12 California

13 were held as herein appears, and this is the original
14 transcript thereof for the files of the Trust.

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FRANCES LORRAINE

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Official Reporter

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