August 2010

Dear Friend,

Thank you for your interest and feedback on the Trust’s proposal to install Wood Line by artist Andy Goldsworthy. Wood Line is a temporary art installation that interprets and celebrates the Presidio’s historic forest, which was planted by the U.S. Army at the end of the 19th century. The installation will use limbs from aged trees that have been removed as part of the effort to reforest and revitalize the declining Presidio forest.

In February, the Presidio Trust evaluated the proposed art installation under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) and found that the proposal would not have any significant impact on the environment or adverse effect to the historic resources of the Presidio of San Francisco, which is a national park site and a National Historic Landmark district.

Last February and March, the Presidio Trust also hosted public walks and solicited public comments on the proposal. We received 52 comment letters, emails, and comment cards. Approximately 85 percent of the comments were supportive of the installation, and 15 percent were opposed. A summary of the issues raised is enclosed for your information. The summary is also available on the Presidio Trust website at www.presidio.gov/experiences/woodline.htm.

Pursuant to the Trust’s adopted Art Collections Manual, the Trust convened an art review panel to evaluate the proposal and make a recommendation to the Presidio Trust Board of Directors. A summary of the panel’s report is available online.

Last month, the Presidio Trust Board of Directors reviewed the comments we received from the public, along with the report from the art review panel and the NEPA/NHPA compliance materials. On July 16, the Board unanimously approved the installation of Wood Line.
We hope the work will be installed sometime this fall. We will send another update as we know more including potential programs associated with the project.

Thanks again for your interest and active participation!