January 16, 2014

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

Dear Board Members of the Presidio Trust:

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

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

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

We respectfully request that your deliberations about the Mid-Crissy Field site focus on its integration in both purpose and design with the park enhancements being planned around it. This is such a transformational chapter for the Presidio with the opportunity for lasting and meaningful public benefit of international prominence. This will happen when this entire park zone is fully integrated and infused with the fundamental values of our parks as places of inspiration, joy, education and stewardship of the site’s natural and cultural values – and the nature and culture that transcends the site.
If time is needed to make the best decision, we encourage you to take that time. National parks are here for future generations and must stand the test of time. We have confidence in your commitment to do what is right for the Presidio and have the patience to wait until the vision, clear public endorsement and timing are right to achieve that goal.

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

Sincerely,

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

Randi Fisher  
Co-Founder and Trustee  
Pisces Foundation