

NEW PRESIDIO PARKLANDS PROJECT



NEW PRESIDIO PARKLANDS PROJECT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Presidio of San Francisco, California

Notice of Availability / Invitation to Participate and Comment

To Interested Parties:

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Presidio Trust (Trust), in consultation with the Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy and the National Park Service, Golden Gate National Recreation Area (NPS), has completed an environmental assessment (EA) to determine if developing 14 acres of new Presidio parklands created by the replacement of the formerly elevated Doyle Drive highway with a below-grade roadway would result in a significant impact on the human environment. The EA describes the need for the proposed project, alternatives, the existing environment that could be affected by the proposed project, the potential impacts from each of the alternatives, and measures proposed to avoid, minimize and/or mitigate potential adverse effects on the environment. From now through **December 14, 2015**, the Trust requests comments on the EA that is available for review at the offices above or online. The Trust also invites you to a series of informational open houses and site tours to learn more about the proposed project and EA.

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PROJECT ABSTRACT

The New Presidio Parklands are 14 acres of new parklands atop a dramatic bluff and at the base of the bluff extending from Lincoln Street on the Main Post to Mason Street at Crissy Field. The proposed project has come about as the result of replacing Doyle Drive, the 75-year-old freeway leading to the Golden Gate Bridge, with the Presidio Parkway. The Presidio Parkway includes an at-grade, tunnel-covered roadway that reconnects the two most public spaces in the Presidio: the Main Post and the bay front at Crissy Field. At the top of the bluff, the Visitor Center and Transit Center in existing buildings (210 and 215)

would anchor a new visitor plaza (Zocalo) and New Observation Post that would be designed and constructed as part of the proposed project. The three acres at the base of the bluff, adjacent to the Crissy Field Center (Building 603), would include new facilities and grounds for youth programs. The new parklands have the potential to become one of the most distinctive park sites in the country, welcoming a broad cross-section of local, national and international visitors to the Presidio. The project

site is expected to offer a high quality park experience and provide visitor-serving amenities and activities necessary to welcome the public, enrich their visit, and encourage them to return.

PARTNERS

The Presidio Trust is the lead agency for the New Presidio Parklands project, directing the planning, design, and construction effort and managing community outreach and engagement. The Golden Gate Parks Conservancy, the non-profit partner to the Trust and NPS, serves as the philanthropic and community engagement partner and supports park restoration and enhancement, education, and visitor service projects and programs. The National Park Service, Golden Gate National Recreation Area manages the adjacent parklands at Crissy Field and is a partner in interpretation, visitor services and programming.

PROJECT GOALS

The New Presidio Parklands project is a vital chapter in the continuing evolution of the Presidio as a national park site. The Trust, Conservancy and NPS hope to accomplish the following with this project:

- Honor the significance of the Presidio
- Offer a magnificent experience of the Golden Gate
- Welcome all
- Integrate the natural landscape of Crissy Field and the cultural landscape of the Main Post
- Create the best place to begin a Presidio experience
- Provide exceptional environmental learning opportunities

OPEN HOUSES + SITE TOURS

Two informational open houses will be held as part of the EA review process.

Wednesday, November 4, 5 to 7:30 pm

Thursday, December 3, 5 to 7:30 pm

(come any time)

New Presidio Parklands – Project Lab

103 Montgomery Street, San Francisco, CA

The open houses will provide participants with an opportunity to meet members of the EA

project team, learn more about the proposed project and issues covered in the EA, and provide comments on the EA.

Additionally, site tours will be offered on Fridays from 4 to 5 pm from October 30 through December 11 (no tour on November 27). Meet at the **New Presidio Parklands – Project Lab**. Registration is appreciated: <http://newpresidioparklands.org/participate/site-tours/>.

PUBLIC REVIEW

The EA will be made available for public review for a minimum of 45 days before the Trust makes its final determination whether to prepare an environmental impact statement or to proceed with the project. An electronic copy of the EA is available for review online at <http://newpresidioparklands.org/>. A paper copy is available for review at the offices above. For individuals with sensory disabilities, the EA can be made available in large print or on compact disk. To obtain a copy in one of these alternate formats, contact the Presidio Trust at 415-561-5300 or newparklands@presidiotrust.gov.

Comments on either the adequacy of the EA or the merits of the alternatives or both are welcomed. Comments should be submitted online at newparklands@presidiotrust.gov or in writing no later than **December 14, 2015**. Written comments may be mailed to: The Presidio Trust, Attn: John Pelka, New Presidio Parklands EA, 103 Montgomery Street, P.O. Box 29052, San Francisco, CA 94129-0052. Please be aware that all written comments and information will be made available to the public, including, without limitation, any postal address, email address, phone number or other information contained in each submission.

NHPA REVIEW

The EA is being coordinated with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act compliance to make a more informed decision.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

John Pelka at (415) 561-5300 or email newparklands@presidiotrust.gov