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Board of Directors, The Presidio Trust
103 Montgomery Street
San Francisco, CA 94129

Dear Members of the Board:

I enthusiastically support The Presidio Exchange (PX) as the best proposal for reuse of the Commissary site. The long-planned-for move of the Sports Basement is a wonderful opportunity for the Trust to create a legacy project by increasing visitors knowledge of the Presidio, and by using new ways to further understanding of outstanding natural and cultural park resources.

Beloved Crissy Field is the site within the Golden Gate National Parks most highly used by both residents and visitors. The former Commissary detracts from the iconic scene, but reuse of the site could offer valuable programs and provide sheltered enjoyment of the Golden Gate.

The preface to the Trust's Request for Proposals is inspirational. It says "the Golden Gate occupies a singular place in the American psyche," and states the site offers "an extraordinary opportunity to create a cultural facility of international distinction, befitting its location at the Golden Gate and honoring the power of place." I welcome the Trust's decision to reuse the site for these purposes.

*The commissary site should house a project worthy of the location, one uniquely suited to this place on the Presidio, and that cannot be housed as well anyplace else. Only the PX does that.

* The project should offer collaboration with the Presidio Trust and the National Park Service and extend the offerings of the Presidio's Visitor Center and Heritage Center. Only the PX does that.

* The building should be less intrusive in the landscape than the present one. Only the PX proposal does that.

* The building should conform to the requirements of the Mid- Crissy Design Guidelines. Only the PX does that.

* The building's architectural design should meet the requirements of the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for preservation of historic properties.

In 1970, Interior Secretary Walter Hickel declared that our park and a few others across the USA would "bring parks to the people where the people are"— in urban areas. The GGNRA has always been supported by local people: as political advocates, financial donors, and volunteers.

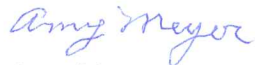
Much of this support has been organized and financed by the Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy. The best future for our Presidio, now self-sufficient and every month becoming a more beautifully rehabilitated national park site, lies in perpetuating and enhancing the sense of ownership people feel for our lands at the Golden Gate. This must continue past our time so the Presidio is a place of joy and learning for generations to come.

The PX would bring the most vital program mix to the site, drawing on the Presidio's rich ties to themes of history, nature, culture, and art, with strong connections to the Bay Area's notable leadership in innovation and technology. The PX would also remain true to the value of the Presidio Interpretive Plan, elevating the joint park partner commitment to telling the Presidio's stories and honoring its rich natural and cultural resources. The PX is a necessary, valuable program addition to the Presidio's Visitor Center and Heritage Center and the Conservancy would fully collaborate with the Presidio Trust.

For all the above reasons, I strongly endorse the Parks Conservancy's PX proposal as the best option, by far, for use of the site of the former Commissary. Only the PX proposal respects the wonderful natural and cultural values of this national park site. Only the PX would continue and enlarge the public's commitment to the Presidio and to the park.

I commend the efforts of the Presidio Trust board and staff—and the public process—to consider the best use of this pivotal Presidio site. I strongly recommend your selection of the Presidio Exchange.

Sincerely yours,



Amy Meyer