



October 31, 2013

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

Dear Members of the Presidio Trust Board:

I am pleased to provide this letter of endorsement for the Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy's proposal for the Presidio Commissary site, and for the programs envisioned by the Presidio Exchange (PX).

As one of Northern California's leading institutions providing informal science education to students, Youth Enrichment Strategies (YES) knows how an institution whose programs are rooted in history, nature, and science can give important lift to the experiences of those students in the classroom. The Parks Conservancy – through thoughtful partnerships with park partners and schools – is known and respected in the Bay Area for its work to create these experiences in the national parks, and especially at the Presidio.

Stemming from this, we believe the Parks Conservancy's PX proposal is, by far, the best fit for the site. In addition to supporting the connection of school children and young people to their parks, the PX will be a tremendous resource to families from local communities and from around the world, providing workshops, performances, exhibits and ties to park-wide programs that draw from its national park setting.

The recent government shutdown exemplified how important the national parks are to the American public. To select an entity for the Commissary site that has no tangible role in this relationship would be a missed opportunity.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eric Aaholm", written over a white background.

Eric Aaholm
Executive Director
Youth Enrichment Strategies