

Coalition to Save Ocean Beach / Friends of Sutro Heights Park
A Coalition of Groups devoted to improving the Parklands & City

C SOB/FOSH P
Executive Committee
c/o Tom Kuhn
546 48th Ave
San Francisco CA 94121

October 2, 2013

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

Re: Supporting the Presidio Exchange Project

Dear Members of the Presidio Trust Board:

The Friends of Sutro Heights Park and the Coalition to Save Ocean Beach represent 137 households in neighborhoods that border the northwest portion of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area in San Francisco. Our organizations have a long history of participating as both volunteers and interested collaborators on Presidio and GGNRA projects. We support the Presidio Exchange project for reuse of the Presidio's Commissary building.

We dearly love the GGNRA & Presidio, and we want the reuse of the Commissary building at Crissy Field to provide the best possible programs and building for this central area. The programming should enlarge upon people's understanding and enjoyment of the Presidio. The building should enhance the spectacular site and open up to the views. The museum of illustration and visual art gives nothing about the Presidio to the Presidio's visitors. It may be a fine art collection, but it could go anywhere: we note the nearby vacant Palace of Fine Arts. The proposed Lucas building is a sort of take-off on the buildings of the 1915 Panama-Pacific International Exposition. It doesn't belong in a National Historic Landmark District. The Palace of Fine Arts is the genuine article from that event, and as it happens is of the period of much of what has been shown at public meetings of the Lucas collection.

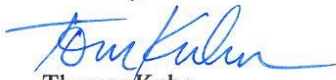
The special way our organizations stay in touch with GGNRA projects is through the Parks Conservancy. They send a representative to our quarterly joint meetings and keep us up to

date. We participated in numerous discussions about the award-winning Lands End Lookout. With our intimate knowledge of the terrain and weather of Lands End, we were able to make suggestions for the building that were incorporated in the design. When the Goldman family and others funded the rehabilitation of the Lands End Trail, safety improvements for walkers and full accessibility for handicapped visitors, we worked with the Conservancy to help ensure the best outcome for our communities and our visitors. Now many thousands of people enjoy this trail and its visitor facilities.

There is another aspect of this relationship: the Conservancy has encouraged our deep loyalty to this park. A couple of years ago, when the GGNRA needed volunteer help to clear a section of Sutro Heights Park of brush, they asked for neighborhood volunteers. For several Saturdays over several months, 20-40 people showed up for work parties— an astonishing number— until the job was done. It was similar to the kind of volunteer help that has made Crissy Field's plantings thrive.

As one of our members has noted recently, "The Parks Conservancy has been there, bringing us in on everything they work on in the area. They make sure our voice is heard.... They are by definition a friend. They have always stood behind us." We believe the PX offers the right answer that will serve those who love the Presidio, the Park, and the public trust.

Sincerely,



Thomas Kuhn

FOSHP



John Frykman

CSOB