

Museum wrong for Presidio district

San Francisco's Presidio is a uniquely historic portion of the 80,000-acre Golden Gate National Recreation Area, and its Main Parade Ground is its historic heart. Should the Presidio Trust allow construction of a 100,000 square foot Contemporary Art Museum at the southern end of the Main Parade ground and a 95,000 square foot lodge at its eastern boundary?

These buildings constitute the Proposed Action alternative of the Trust's recently released Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) for the Main Post. The proposal has stirred up a storm of protest, including highly critical comments by the National Park Service and the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

The Main Post is proximate to the original Spanish Presidio, site of the first European settlement in San Francisco. The Trust should maintain the Main Post as the heart of the Presidio through the rehabilitation, reuse, and interpretation of historic buildings, with, at most, carefully limited new construction, sited and designed to be compatible with the historic district.

The proposed new buildings would instead dominate the historic heart of the Presidio National Park and the National Historic Landmark District. The legislation establishing the Presidio Trust (P.L. 104-333) permits "removal and/or replace-

ment of some structures within the Presidio . . . as a management option," but it does not permit urbanization of the Main Post. The proposal is also in conflict with the Presidio Trust Management Plan, completed in 2002 after a two-year effort involving wide public participation.

WhatYouCanDo

Attend the critical hearing before the Presidio Trust Board at 6:30 pm on **Mon., July 14**, at the Presidio Officers Club. Tell the Board not to build a modern-art museum at the Main Post. You can also send written comments to:

Compliance Manager

The Presidio Trust

P.O. Box 29052

San Francisco, CA 94129

mainpost@presidiotrust.gov

You can request a copy of the SEIS through:

mainpost@presidiotrust.gov

(415)561-4183

www.presidio.gov

This web site also has information on tours of the project area.

To join in the Sierra Club's efforts on this issue, contact Brad Johnson at (415)200-8975 or:

brad@sfbaysc.org

Becky Evans, chair, Sierra Club San Francisco Group