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February 9, 2010

Mr. Michael Boland
Chief of Planning, Projects and Programs
Mr. Rob Thomson
Deputy Federal Preservation Officer
The Presidio Trust
34 Graham Street
San Francisco, California 94129

Re: comments on the First Draft of the Programmatic Agreement for the Main Post Update

Dear Michael and Rob:

Thank you for your presentation to the Heritage Issues Committee on February 2, 2010 regarding the Programmatic Agreement of the Main Post Update. As a consulting party in the Section 106 process, we appreciate the continued transparency and your availability during this process.

We find the treatment for the Presidio Theatre and the Presidio Chapel much improved. Our previous concerns regarding the Theatre, relating to the original proposal to reorient the entrance and split the volume of the historic theatre, have been addressed and we are comfortable with the treatment proposed. Similarly, the Presidio Chapel project strikes an acceptable balance between new construction and ADA compliance and the retention of the historic building. We have no issue with the archaeology lab as proposed.

We consider the conceptual massing of the lodge as proposed to be sympathetic to the Main Post, particularly with the addition of Building #s 86 and 87. We agree that this will add striking definition to the edges of Graham and Anza. We would like to see more articulation and definition of the proposed landscape plan.

While we understand the concern surrounding the World War II-era Building #s 40 and 41, it is our belief that given your incremental archeological and interpretation plans for this sensitive site, it makes sense to allow for their relocation off the El Presidio site. We cannot support their demolition, as they are important resources in the WWII history of the site, but we are open to further discussions regarding their relocation somewhere else in the Presidio. As you indicated, the project will not start right away, and as long as the

Programmatic Agreement includes language guaranteeing a continued consultation regarding where the buildings should be relocated, we are amenable to their removal.

That being said, we feel that there needs to be additional attention given to the interpretation of WWII on the Main Post. While you suggest there are other buildings built outside of the WWII era that were instrumental during that time, we would like an interpretation plan to be something that your staff continues to develop, especially if Buildings 40 and 41 are indeed relocated. Similarly, we encourage your archaeological team to continue developing the presentation and public experience of the El Presidio site once excavation begins. Determining how this site is made available to the public will be critical to the public understanding of the history of the site, and assure its protection for future generations. As the excavation is still a ways off, we look forward to continued consultation as the process develops.

Thank you again for your detailed presentation regarding the Main Post Update. We feel comfortable with the Programmatic Agreement, with the included caveat that additional design details for each project be subject to additional consulting party review upon their development.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jack A. Gold".

Jack A. Gold
Executive Director
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