

## 1. Scenic Beauty and Natural Character

**LIKELY NOT AN ISSUE THAT DRIVES ALTERNATIVES (SHOULD CONTINUE TO TEST), BUT NEEDS GUIDANCE IN THE PLAN AND IS AN IMPORTANT IMPACT TOPIC**

The park's multi-sensory experiences, scenic beauty and natural character provide opportunities for visitors to experience dramatic settings that highlight contrasts between land, water and sky, and between urban and rural landscapes. Preserving these important resources and making them available to the public is one of the primary reasons the park was established. The NPS in collaboration with adjacent landowners needs to protect these resources from degradation due to intrusions, including new development and the surrounding uses of land, air, and water.

**The GMP will identify and provide guidance on the preservation and enhancement of the park's most valued scenic resources.**

### *Factors/Considerations:*

- The park has miles of boundary shared with urban and suburban areas and don't control what happens outside the boundary, which may impact the park's scenic resources.
- Many of the park's landscapes are free and accessible all day, every day
- The park has many highly valued cultural landscapes with blended human use and natural settings
- Open space, or undeveloped areas, is an important contributor to the dramatic scenery
- Some of the most popular and beautiful images of the San Francisco Bay Area are taken from within the park, or are of park areas
- Multi-sensory experiences include opportunities to see, smell, and hear

### *Options/Approaches:*

- Inventory the scenic resources to create a baseline
- Analyze critical elements, including the varied scenic quality of key viewsheds; common viewpoints; visual contrasts between natural and human-dominated elements; the role of sounds, aromas, and other sensations on scenic quality
- Identify and prioritize treatments, including protection of high-use/highly visible areas
- Educate the public about scenic resources and engage them in stewardship

