

ALCATRAZ ISLAND: ALTERNATIVE 3, FOCUSING ON NATIONAL TREASURES (THE NPS PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE)

Revisions are based on discussions with CLR team, February 3, 2010.

Approved by Steering Committee, February 12, 2010 – ~~with revisions, 2/17/10~~

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OVERVIEW

For more than 150 years, Alcatraz Island has been reworked and altered by human activity. This alternative would immerse visitors extensively in all of Alcatraz's historic periods, including the Civil War military fortifications and prison, federal penitentiary, and American Indian occupation. Alcatraz's history would be interpreted, first and foremost with tangible and accessible historic resources, including the ~~structures, buildings, ruins, cultural~~ landscape, archeology, and museum collection. These resources contribute to the island's national historic landmark status and its recognition as an international icon.

The visitor's immersion in Alcatraz history would begin on a ferry from one or more embarkation points that could include the original Alcatraz dock at Fort Mason. Passing a line of ~~historic~~ warning buoys, the experience would continue at the island's arrival dock, with greater access to restored portions of Building 64, the historic barracks. Visitors would ascend to the Main Prison ~~Building on the summit~~ through a landscape of preserved historic structures and features. While the primary visitor experience would focus on the federal penitentiary, visitors also would be exposed to the other layers of history, literally and programmatically.

This alternative would require extensive stabilization, rehabilitation, and restoration of historic buildings and ~~small scale~~ landscapes ~~features~~, as well as creative interpretative and educational programs and visitor services. It would create additional opportunities for cultural resource stewardship programs.

Visitors would have opportunities to learn about the natural history of San Francisco Bay. The colonial waterbird habitat that has grown in regional importance would be protected, enhanced, and interpreted. Visitors ~~would~~ could also explore the island perimeter ~~trail~~, managed to protect sensitive bird populations while providing opportunities to observe them. The large population of gulls would be managed to reduce conflicts in primary visitor use areas like the Parade Ground.

FERRY EMBARKATION

The visitor's immersion in Alcatraz history would begin at one or more off-island ferry docks that could include the historic Alcatraz dock at Pier 4 in Fort Mason. The primary embarkation site would remain on San Francisco's northern waterfront where orientation and visitor services could be enhanced. Additional ferry connections could also be provided between Alcatraz and other park sites. Ticketing would continue to be through a reservation system, and ferries would operate daily on a year-round schedule. The length of the ferry trip between the mainland and Alcatraz would remain approximately 10-15 minutes.

ARRIVAL AREA (INCLUDING THE ~~ENTRY PIER DOCK~~, BUILDING 64 ~~[(needs parens?)~~ HISTORIC BARRACKS], AND THE SALLYPORT)

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Historic Immersion Zone

Here, as in alternative 1, the park would welcome, orient, and begin to immerse visitors in the island's prison landscape, creating an atmosphere evocative of its history. Selected areas of Building 64 would be restored to tell the story of its history and use. Period restoration in the building would include the post office, canteen, and a prison-era guard apartment to extend the immersive experience. Other areas would be rehabilitated for visitor services and administrative functions and could include modest dorm-like overnight accommodations for participants in education, conservation, and stewardship programs. The upper floors would be stabilized to preserve the structure's integrity.

MAIN PRISON BUILDING-AREA (INCLUDING THE CITADEL, MAIN CELLBLOCK, HOSPITAL WING, ADMINISTRATION WING, RECREATION YARD, NEW INDUSTRIES BUILDING, OFFICERS' CLUB POST EXCHANGE, AND PARADE GROUND)

Historic Immersion Zone

The many historic resources of the Main Prison Building would provide visitors with the opportunity to explore the federal penitentiary's history. Visitors would also have access to the wide range of historic structures and features, in historically accurate conditions that tell stories about the different layers of island history. Park managers would look for opportunities to expose visitors to the tangible resources (including artifacts in the park's museum collection) of the federal penitentiary and military eras.

Treatments ranging from upgrades to exhibits and furnishings to more complete restoration would continue with the goal of increasing access and interpretation of the structure's history.

In this alternative, the park would also manage ~~most of~~ the adjacent areas, such as the main road, Warden's House, and the Parade Ground, to reinforce the sense of history as visitors move around the island. The Parade Ground would be rehabilitated to portray its historic period and support year-round visitor exploration of this area in coordination with the management of Western gulls. The rehabilitation could incorporate measures to support wildlife and remove piles of building rubble natural systems with preservation of cultural resources. **BRIAN AND DAPHNE ARE WORKING ON A REVISION OF THE LAST 2 SENTENCES.**

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The Officers' Club Post Exchange would be stabilized ~~as a ruin~~ while providing visitors with opportunities to explore this historic structure. Additional preservation would be possible with the involvement of partners to make a more complete visitor experience and interpret the building's long history.

[MOVE TO BELOW – it's part of the Nort End]

~~Evolved Cultural Landscape Zone (New Industries Building)~~

~~The New Industries Building would be rehabilitated as a multi purpose facility. It would include flexible space that could accommodate interpretation, special events, classrooms, and meetings, and would include service areas to support these uses. The perimeter trail would connect through the building and provide bird-viewing opportunities from its interior.~~

LIGHTHOUSE

Historic Immersion Zone

The historic lighthouse and surrounding area would be preserved to give visitors opportunities to learn about the maritime history of Alcatraz and its strategic location in the bay. Access and interpretation would be enhanced. The light would continue to function as an aid to navigation.

NORTH END OF THE ISLAND

Park Operations Zone

The Quartermaster Warehouse would be rehabilitated and used as an operational center for maintenance, public safety, and a conservation/stewardship workshop.

The Power Plant would be stabilized to house green, sustainable infrastructure technologies. Where appropriate, visitor access would be provided to showcase the technologies and interpret the ~~island's energy history~~ story of energy use on the island.

~~Evolved Cultural Landscape Zone (including Model Industries and New Industries Buildingbuildings)~~

~~To prevent disruption of nearby sensitive habitat for nesting waterbirds, the Model Industries Building, the adjacent courtyard, and lower cliff area would be closed to general visitation and operational uses. The building would be stabilized as a ruin.~~

The Model Industries Building and the adjacent courtyard would be stabilized. The building, courtyard and adjacent cliffs, would be closed to general visitation and park operational uses to protect nearby sensitive habitat of nesting waterbirds.

The New Industries Building would be rehabilitated as a multi-purpose facility. It would include flexible space that could accommodate interpretation, special events, classrooms, and meetings, and would include restrooms and a service kitchen to support these uses. The perimeter trail would connect through the building and provide bird-viewing opportunities from its interior.

ISLAND PERIMETER

Evolved Cultural Landscape Zone (majority of the island perimeter)

The perimeter of the island, including the coastal cliffs, would be managed to stabilize significant historic resources, protect colonial nesting birds and intertidal habitat, and interpret the island's evolving cultural and natural history. ~~The Opening~~ a perimeter trail, including segments of the historic sentry walk, would provide visitors with enhanced access to much of the island. Sensitive design and seasonal closures of the trail, which could include the ~~existing~~ Agave Trail, would protect nesting bird habitat.

OFFSHORE BAY ENVIRONMENT

Sensitive Resources Zone (extending 300 feet around most of Alcatraz Island)

This zone extends out 300 feet and would be managed as a marine protected area to preserve coastal resources, including Little Alcatraz island, submerged resources, and seabird colonies using the island's cliffs. The area would be demarcated by warning buoys and closed to boats year-round during seabird breeding season.

Historic Immersion Zone (extending from the Sensitive Resources Zone out to 1,000 feet from the island's shore)

(Craig Scott has asked Region to verify the extent of the boundary: 900, 1000 or 1320?)

The National Park Service would manage this area to accommodate ferry service to the island. Park managers would mark and interpret the historic no-trespass zone that was in place during previous periods. ~~The zone would be demarcated by buoys circling the island.~~ Only approved vessels, like the visitor ferry, would be allowed to approach and use the island's dock.

SUSTAINABILITY

Same as the no-action alternative. (Include same text from Alt. 1)