

NOTES — DRAFT

BRIEFING FOR THE PACIFIC WEST REGIONAL OFFICE

GOGA-MUWO General Management Plan and EIS

September 15, 2008, 1:00-3:00 pm

PARTICIPANTS

PWRO and PWRO/Seattle: Jonathan Jarvis, Patty Neubacher, George Turnbull, Jack Williams, Keith Dunbar, Cicely Muldoon, Stephanie Toothman, Martha Crusius. *[Partial list.]*

GOGA-MUWO: Brian O'Neill Supt, Mai-Liis Bartling, Nancy Hornor, Daphne Hatch, Craig Kenkel, Brian Aviles, Laura Castellini

DSC Planning: Stephan Nofield, Kerri Cahill, Patrick Malone, Sarah Bodo

COMMENTS DURING PRESENTATION:

- 1) **PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT — How did we do with outreach to the national audience? (JJ)**
Park made a concerted effort to engage visitors at sites with frequent out-of-town visitors. Rangers distributed about 1500 newsletters at Alcatraz and Muir Woods, engaged many in conversations about future of these sites. Misinterpreted proposal for Alcatraz “hotel” generated local, national and international media coverage including SF Chronicle, Reuters an AP news services, and National Public radio. Comments received from outside of California were approximately 5% of total.
- 2) **MUIR WOODS**
 - a. **What is the rationale for zoning the creek and main concentration of large trees “Scenic”? Consider “Natural” or other zone that gives more protection for the redwood trees (the primary/predominant resource) and prevents future extension of visitor facilities into other parts of the woods. Consider Alt. 1 zoning (b) (5)**
[REDACTED] requires further consultation with Region. (JJ) Park will reconsider. Park’s interest was in managing intense/ high levels of visitor flow. All zones protect fundamental resources.
 - b. **MUIR WOODS — Will the park build new parking at MUWO to support visitors interested in visiting other parts of the coast? (JW)** The idea of additional parking along Dias Ridge has been suggested by State Parks, and this may be part of a broader strategy that addresses transit to Muir Beach and Stinson Beach; but there is no interest and limited area for new parking at MUWO.
- 3) **ALCATRAZ**
 - a. **How would special uses of the laundry Building improve the alternative (#3)? (PN) Are the utilities in place? (JW)** Special uses could generate funds to help with preservation and operation of the building that would otherwise be hard to

find if building was only for NPS uses. Utilities upgrades are needed under all alternatives. The park would pursue green power (solar, water reclamation, etc.) and a direct connection to the mainland and the power grid as part of meeting island needs and demonstrating sustainable technologies.

- b. **Would photovoltaics be an issue? (JJ) Placement could be a concern in order to not conflict with visitors, be highly visible or reflective. Similar concerns have been addressed at other parks. There may be an effect, but not likely to be adverse. The park should explore old and new technologies, such as cisterns, to meet island needs. (ST)** The park will take this into consideration. New photovoltaic products, such as the roof membranes installed at Fort Baker have met preservation objectives.
- c. **Sustaining appropriate environmental conditions for conservation lab [in Laundry Bldg] could be challenging. How would you avoid conflicts with visitors? Are there options on the mainland? Where they now and what are the advantages to having them on the island? (ST, PN)** (b) (5)
(JJ) Conflicts with visitors could be minimized by partitioning the large 2-story building. The collection is stored in 2 off-island locations: with SAFR at Lower Fort Mason and in Battery Wallace in the Headlands. Both locations have challenges in terms of environmental conditions and access by visitors.
- d. **Region is concerned about the fundamental direction of the preferred alternative. Moving to 24 hour operation rather than closing the gate at night would require substantial up-front investment which would then need to be met by operational dollars. We are at a "Y".** (b) (5)
(JJ) Park will explore the implications of the alternative in further detail. Agrees that we are at a "Y". Overall condition of structures in poor. There are many contributing structures in dire need of repair (such as the water tower).
- e. **Where would maintenance be located? (JW)** On the northern side of the island. Park is exploring the possibility of managing the Modern Industries Bldg as a stabilized ruin. The building is in poor condition, on a site that compromises habitat. Treatment as a stabilized may be more advantageous than restoration for maintenance functions.

4) MARIN

- a. **Use of the term "wilderness next door" may be misleading, especially with local controversy about Point Reyes designated wilderness. (ST)** Noted. Term is title of well known book about the park.
- b. **Coordinate preservation of dairies with Point Reyes. (PN)** Noted. Golden Gate Dairy is a small facility with few resources, some used by the MB Volunteer Fire Department – a use to be continued.
- c. **Promotion of a NEW farm in the park is a big issue for the Service.** (b) (5)

. Perpetuation of use is

different from re-establishing use or introducing a new use. This is a (b) (5) [redacted] Park should revise alternative. Look to local partners (Green Gulch, Slide Ranch) within park boundary rather than Banducci to fulfill educational/interpretive objectives. (JJ, PN) Park's motivation was based on: interest in educational opportunity; restoring farm use; responding to local community sentiment. Park will revise proposal.

5) **PIER 4** (My notes are really thin here. Any help?)

6) **FORT FUNSTON**—Is a maintenance function still part of the plan here? How are the operational needs being addressed? This was a major objective for the GMP. (b) (5) [redacted]

(JW, JJ) Operational facilities are being planned as part of the GMP. Preliminary findings indicate some facility may be needed at Ft Funston. While the plan is considering several alternatives, they rely on the park getting the Presidio Cavalry Stables. The park looks forward to incorporating this plan into the GMP preferred alternative and discussing this with Region in the near future.

7) **GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE**—Will the GMP consider scenarios that ask whether it is worth investing in new facilities at Stinson Beach? And should the park be doing more documentation of resources rather than stabilization, such as buildings being undercut by waves at Alcatraz? Do we know enough to project? (PN) The team is using available science to evaluate the limited development proposals in the GMP. Scenario-based planning will need to continue as part of the park's Climate Change Action Plan.

SUMMARY

The team (park and DSC) was commended for the fine planning and briefing. Urged to clearly define the relationship of other plans (Pier 4, operations, etc.) to the GMP. Ground them in the GMP in order to have them tier off its EIS. (KD)

Regional Director Jarvis requested that the team come back with more information about the following (b) (5) [redacted]

1. **Alcatraz preferred alternative:** (b) (5) [redacted] Want to know investment costs and future commitments (b) (5) [redacted]
2. **Banducci (organic educational farm):** detailed briefing with history of site, status, proposals, etc. Address all similar situations that Region should know about. No surprises.
3. **Maintenance facilities (operational facilities):** resolve how addressed in the GMP
4. **Collections:** resolve how addressed in the GMP
5. **Muir Woods:** reconsider zoning of central area

These 5 need resolution before going to the public.

Date for briefing: September 29, 2:00PM