Appendix E: Letters of Support from Resource Experts

WESTERN OFFICE

NATIONAL TRUST
for HISTORIC PRESERVATION

May 8, 2001

John J. Reynolds
Superintendent
National Park Service
Pacific West Region
600 Harrison St., Suite 600
San Francisco, CA 94107-1372

RE: Fort Hunter Liggett Special Resource Study

Dear Superintendent Reynolds:

I am writing to offer the National Trust for Historic Preservation's endorsement of the National Park Service's assessment of the cultural and natural resources at Fort Hunter Liggett. We have reviewed the draft statement of significance and believe that the National Park Service has accurately described and assessed the fort's cultural and natural resources. We strongly support the tentative determination that these resources are nationally significant.

Fort Hunter Liggett is not well known by the public, and yet we know of few other places in California (or indeed the West) that incorporate cultural and natural resources in such a compelling landscape. We feel it is important to emphasize that the natural landscape at Fort Hunter Liggett provides the historic context for the area's nationally significant cultural resources. While the study notes that the fort's oak woodland and oak savanna and other plant communities have great *natural* significance, we believe that these landscapes also carry enormous *cultural* significance.

This landscape embodies a centuries-old popular image of a "golden California" that provides a pastoral counterpoint to the drama of Yosemite Valley and Death Valley. Given the scarcity of such unspoiled oak landscapes and the current threats posed by suburban sprawl, insensitive agricultural practices, and sudden oak death syndrome, we believe it becomes all the more critical to protect Fort Hunter Liggett's intact landscape.

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We recognize that the Mission San Antonio de Padua church and surrounding lands are not subject to the study, but we believe that it is essential that the National Park Service and the mission work cooperatively to reach common goals of preserving a unique and living heritage. While other California missions may be better known or more architecturally significant, we believe that no other mission offers a sense of place that can compare to that of San Antonio de Padua.

The National Trust believes that there is a vital role for the National Park Service in the future stewardship of Fort Hunter Liggett. We are eager to support efforts to assure the ongoing protection of this unique national treasure. Please contact me or Anthony Veerkamp on my staff if we can be of assistance.

Sincerely,

Holly Harrison Fiala
HR

Holly Fiala
Director

Cc: Martha Crusius, NPS Planning and Partnerships
David Look, NPS Cultural Resources Team Leader
Courtney Cuff, Director, NPCA Pacific Region
Susan Brandt-Hawley, National Trust Advisor
Timothy Whalen, National Trust Advisor

Mills College
5000 MacArthur Boulevard
Oakland, California 94613

MILLS

16 November 2001

John Reynolds, Regional Director
National Park Service, Pacific West Region
1111 Jackson Street, Suite 700
Oakland, CA 94607

Dear Mr. Reynolds:

The biological resources of Fort Hunter Liggett are national treasures of global significance. They constitute an intact assemblage of species and natural communities arranged in a mission-era landscape that has persisted into the 21st century. Many of the species are truly rare and will require special conservation measures regardless of the final disposition of the land. The natural communities are diverse, expansive, and beautiful, icons of Alta California and the only proven context for preservation of the rare species. It would be nothing short of tragedy to dissect these elements apart in order to accommodate land use patterns that have put species at risk throughout the state and diminished the resource birthright of our citizens.

At Fort Hunter Liggett, at this time in history, we have a singular opportunity to do the right thing – to preserve a whole, fully functional, piece of our American heritage, without compromise and for the benefit of all. It is piece that can inform and inspire, as well as demonstrate to the rest of the world that swords should not always be hammered into plowshares. Swords can be fashioned into resource stewardship and common good.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Bruce M. Pavlik, Ph.D
Department of Biology
Mills College
Oakland, CA 94613

Verna Jigour Associates

Conservation Ecology Services
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November 10, 2001

John Reynolds, Regional Director
National Park Service
1111 Jackson Street, Suite 700
Oakland, CA 94607

Subject: Letter of endorsement for the NPS Statement of Resource Significance: Draft Special Resources Study of Fort Hunter Liggett

Dear Mr. Reynolds,

I have read the Section 4. Resource Significance of the document cited above (draft dated 10/30/01) and wish to offer my endorsement and corroboration of the accuracy of the statements made and to add a few additional comments. I appreciate that the case is quite well stated in the National Park Service report, though no words can completely convey the full impact these lands have upon the senses in first-hand experience, which is often described as a sensation of being transported to an earlier time. The lands encompassed by Fort Hunter Liggett possess stellar qualities demonstrating a uniquely Californian example of our natural and cultural heritage.

Among the outstanding features of the study area is its landscape context in relationship to adjacent lands conserved for public benefit. The natural communities represented in the FHL study area contrast with and complement those represented in the adjacent Ventana and Silver Peak Wilderness areas, other parts of the Monterey Ranger District (LPNF) and other conserved lands. Only with inclusion of the oak woodlands and savannas, varied riparian habitats, vernal pools, rare plant populations and unique rock formations encompassed by Fort Hunter Liggett is a complete regional ecosystem represented among these conserved lands. The wild food web encompassing these lands depends on flows of material and energy, including food webs and wildlife movement patterns, among the entire assemblage of federal jurisdictions and other conserved lands. This ecological context amplifies the exceptional nature of the FHL lands, which are outstanding in themselves. Including the FHL lands, the entire complex of conserved lands, extending coastward to the Big Sur coast, is **the** outstanding example of a relatively intact California Central Coast Range ecosystem. Its integrity must remain intact for posterity as an outstanding example of our natural heritage.

Representing Ventana Wildlands Project, I want to note another distinction related to this context that may be considered of national significance with respect to the high degree of integrity and relatively unspoiled nature of these lands. My

colleagues in the Central Coast Wildlands planning effort include representatives of California Wilderness Coalition; the Information Center for the Environment, University of California, Davis; GreenInfo Network; and University of California, Santa Cruz Environmental Studies Department and Geographic Information Systems Lab. Together we have conducted an ecoregional geographic information system (GIS) analysis [Thorne et al. 2001 (in press)] to identify extensive core biodiversity conservation areas within the context of an integrated network, connected by wildlife movement linkages. The lands of Fort Hunter Liggett constitute a key part of one of the core conservation areas identified through this systematic process. Our regional analysis is one of several being conducted throughout the state, coordinated through California Wilderness Coalition. In turn, the California Wildlands Project, is part of a continental effort being coordinated by The Wildlands Project. Thus, identification of these lands as part of a key regional conservation area gives it a significant position in what is hoped will become a dedicated nationwide network of biodiversity conservation areas. This important relationship to the nationwide network conveys a national significance.

The NPS report covers the significance of the oak woodlands and savannas, exemplary riparian habitats and the ecological functions of these lands in supporting numerous rare and listed animal and plant species. To the list of supporting documentation included in the report may be added the identification of the San Antonio Valley & vicinity by National Audubon Society among their national list of Important Bird Areas (Cooper 2001) which is currently in preparation. Furthermore, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has just proposed designation of Critical Habitat for the Threatened purple amole (Chlorogalum purpureum var. purpureum) within the boundaries of FHL (USFWS 2001).

An issue related to the outstanding character of these lands, as well as to its value for scientific study and interpretation is the fact that vast areas of FHL remain unsurveyed for rare animal and plant species (Heidi Crowell, USFWS, pers. com. 2001). Thus, the outstanding biodiversity of the land has likely been underreported to date. Expansive opportunities exist for future scientific study and eventual interpretation of these truly wild lands.

Among the opportunities for research and interpretation presented by the lands of FHL is the enticing potential for rediscovering Native American traditional cultural relationships with their ecosystems. Whereas much of the adjacent designated Wilderness encompasses steep and rugged lands largely suitable for only temporary human visitation, the lower elevation rolling oak woodland/savannas of FHL were home to the Salinan people for around 10,000 years. Restoration ecologists have only relatively recently begun to acknowledge and seek to understand the ecological influences of traditional land management techniques practiced by Native Americans to support their economies on the land.

Understanding such a "Native American partnership with nature that left the resource base intact" (Anderson 1993) holds promise for illuminating approaches to

restoring native biodiversity. For example, certain native plant species now considered rare were the subjects of traditional gathering and replacement practices by Native Californians. "There may be a causal relationship between former indigenous gathering and management practices and the rare status of these and other plant species that are disappearing" (ibid.). The vast acreage of relatively intact lands encompassed by FHL, converging with the historic and prehistoric presence of the Salinan people, whose descendents today share a deep concern for these lands (Gregg Castro and Joe Freeman, Salinan Nation, pers. com. 2001), suggests profound opportunities to explore the relationships among traditional land management practices, cultural arts and biodiversity conservation. Indeed, Kat Anderson, University of California, Davis, (cited in the foregoing) has expressed interest in researching these relationships at FHL (pers. com. 2001), as has Joe Freeman (pers. com 2001) and we have begun preliminary discussions regarding a potential research approach. The results of such research will likely bear rich fruit for interpreting our natural heritage to future generations.

In summary, the national significance of the lands of FHL cannot be overstated. These truly outstanding lands must be conserved in perpetuity.

Sincerely,

Verna Jigour

Citations

Anderson, Kat. 1993. Native Californians as ancient and contemporary cultivators. Pages 151-174 in Blackburn, Thomas C. and Kat Anderson. Before the Wilderness: Environmental Management by Native Californians. Ballena Press, Menlo Park, CA.

Cooper, Daniel S. 2001. Preliminary list of Important Bird Areas for the Central West Ecoregion. National Audubon Society, unpublished data.

Thorne, Jim, Dick Cameron, Chris Erichsen and Verna Jigour. 2001 (in press). A regional guide to wildlands conservation for California's central coast. California Wilderness Coalition, Davis, CA.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). 2001. Proposed designation of ciritcal habitat for Chorogalum purpureum, a plant from the South Coast Ranges of California. Federal Register 66 (217): 56508-56531. Thursday, November 8, 2001.

VERN YADON

November 13, 2001

Mr. John Reynolds, Regional Director
National Park Service, Western Region
1111 Jackson Street, Suite 700
Oakland, CA 94607

Dear Mr. Reynolds:

Regarding the national significance of Fort Hunter Liggett, I have visited and collected the botany of the fort for a total of forty years. The repositories of those collections are the Pacific Grove Museum of Natural History, the California Academy of Sciences and the Jepson Herbarium at the University of California. My collections have helped determine the distribution and rariety of certain species and the habitats where they occur.

California is known for its diversity, which has been at least partly protected by the size and uses of such places as Fort Hunter Liggett. Among the statutorily protected species are Purple Amole,Chlorogalum p. var. purpureum and Santa Lucia mint, Pogogyne clareana. But the fort harbors many other rarities that deserve protection but have not attained the designation partly because their distributions are not well known and they have not yet gone through the process. Baccharis plummerae ssp. glabrata and Tropidocarpum capparideum are examples.

The fort has a number of wetlands with appropriate vernal species such as the area at Jolon and vicinity, Los Bueyes and Los Burros Creeks as well as Stony Valley. It has intact assemblages of Valley Oak Savanna and other oak combinations in the area along Milpitas and Del Venturi Roads. There are significant grasslands that have not been studied as well as historical, archaeological and geological features.

The significance of the natural assets of Fort Hunter Liggett cannot properly be described in a brief statement such as this, but the area continues to hold my interest even after forty years of collection and study.

Sincerely yours,

Vern Yadon

Vern Yadon
Director and Curator Emeritus
Pacific Grove Museum of Natural History

Cc: Justin DeSantis

1119 Buena Vista Avenue, Pacific Grove, California 93950 vly@mbay.net

CAREY & CO. INC.
ARCHITECTURE

November 27, 2001

Mr. John Reynolds
Regional Director
National Park Service
Western Region
1111 Jackson Street
Oakland, CA 94607

Dear Mr. Reynolds

I am writing in support of the National Park Service's proposal to designate the Hearst Hacienda and its related grounds and outbuildings at Fort Hunter Liggett as a National Historic Site. I have reviewed the draft recommendation prepared by the Park Service. I agree that their proposal to restore and interpret these historic properties and the areas natural resources will be an extraordinary resource for the visiting public. I also support the management approach they have developed for the historic site.

The Julia Morgan-designed Hearst Hacienda is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The structures and its site are extremely important resources of our State's history for the stories it tells of early California settlement, the Hearst Ranch Years, architect Julia Morgan and military training. Hearst

As an historic preservation architecture firm, we support the preservation of cultural resources for future generations. The National Park Service proposal includes completing historic structures reports and cultural landscape studies for the Hearst Hacienda, the five ranch bungalows and land associated with the Tidball Store. These reports would be a guide to adaptive use, historic landscape restoration and management practices. We wholeheartedly support this proposal and future preservation work.

I look forward to this proposed National Historic Site becoming a significant contribution to the Park Service's continuing program of preservation.

Sincerely yours,

Alice Carey
Principal

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Mr. Ray Murray
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service
1111 Jackson Street, Suite 700
Oakland, CA 94607

January 31, 2002

Re. L2623 (PGSO-PP)

To whom it may concern:

I understand that the National Park Service is evaluating the cultural significance of the San Antonio Valley and the Milpitas Ranch House (aka "The Hacienda"). I have no doubt that both possess outstanding national value. To my knowledge, the Mission San Antonio de Padua is the only remaining California mission which remains in a pastoral setting close to that in which it fourished. The Milpitas Ranch has historic associations with the Atherton, Newhall, and Hearst families before becoming Fort Hunter Liggett.

My chief concern, however, is for the Hacienda which is an outstanding product of the long and unusual association between architect Julia Morgan and the Hearst family. Morgan is now recognized as an architect of national significance both for the quality of her output and for her pioneering role as a woman architect. As a media baron, WIlliam Randolph Hearst shaped world events throughout the first half of the twentieth century. The complex of buildings which he and Morgan concocted on La Cuesta Encantada and in the coastal town of San Simeon constitute a remarkably cohesive vision carried out by a patron of seemingly limitless means. The Hacienda, executed in Mission Revival style in deference to its neighboring San Antonio mission, is an important part of that megalomaniacal vision, its fine interior craftsmanship characteristic of other Hearst-Morgan collaborations. Like La Cuesta Encantada, its guest list during Hearst's ownership of the San Simeon Ranch at its greatest extent is certain to be illustrious.

Hearst Castle has become one of California's premier tourist attractions and the most visited unit of the California state park system. The Hacienda desrves a full study and recognition as a lesser-known but important element of Hearst's San Simeon Ranch and as an outstanding example of Julia Morgan's work.

Sincerely,

Gray Brechin, Ph.D.
Visiting scholar and author *Imperial San Francisco: Urban Power, Earthly Ruin* and *Farewell, Promised Land: Waking from the California Dream*

Appendix F: Army Modifications to BRAC Excess Property Listing at Fort Hunter Liggett

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
ASSISTANT CHIEF OF STAFF FOR INSTALLATION MANAGEMENT
600 ARMY PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20310-0600

Base Realignment and
Closure Division

27 MAY 2005

Mr. Jonathan Jarvis
Regional Director
Pacific West Region
National Park Service
1111 Jackson Street, Suite 700
Oakland, California 94607

Dear Mr. Jarvis:

This is to notify you that the Army has determined that it is necessary to modify the excess property listing at Fort Hunter Liggett in order to support the Army mission and in the best interests of our Soldiers.

Therefore, effective immediately, there is no excess Base Realignment and Closure property at Fort Hunter Liggett. Specifically, the following property is no longer available:

- Unaccompanied Personnel Housing (Buildings 124, 127, 132A, and 149)
- Javelin Court Family Housing Area (Buildings P-18 through P-29, 41 units)
- Hacienda Complex (Buildings 100, 100A, 100B, 101, 103, 130, and 131)
- Jose Maria Gil Adobe (Building 640)
- 1 acre under and adjacent to the Tidball Store

The Army point of contact for this action is Mr. Mohsin Bharmal, (404) 464-2221.

Sincerely,

Robert R. Derrick
Colonel, U.S. Army
Chief, Base Realignment
and Closure Division

cc:
Mr. Ryan, Atlanta, GA BRAC Field Office