



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Golden Gate National Recreation Area
Fort Mason, San Francisco, California 94123

IN REPLY REFER TO:

A7217 (GOGA-SUPT)

JUN 04 2018

Ms. Joan Cox
420 Litho Street
Sausalito, CA 94965

Dear Mayor Cox,

We appreciate your letter of May 8, 2018, which describes our discussions of the last several months. Our perspective is that progress is being made, especially in building a shared understanding of the issues and interests of our organizations related to future, limited ferry service to Fort Baker. While we have not yet resolved all differences, each of our meetings, phone calls, and revisions to the draft Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) has brought us closer.

We continue to believe the Alcatraz Ferry project meets the transportation goals we communicated with you when we began public scoping in 2012, and that the project will not have significant impacts on Sausalito or surrounding areas and resources. We have confidence in the analysis contained in the Park Service's Environmental Impact Statement and the City of San Francisco's Mitigated Negative Declaration.

We appreciate the refinements you have made to your requests, and we have accepted your requests where possible. However, it is not possible for us to accept your remaining requests in their current form. Federal law, and in particular the Anti-Deficiency Act, prohibits us from agreeing to financial obligations in advance of appropriations. For this reason, we are unable to agree to language obligating us to financially support a future shuttle service. Moreover, shuttle service and bike service were not analyzed as part of the environmental documents. We cannot agree to implement actions whose potential impacts have not been studied. We hope that our meetings have helped explain these positions and the laws that govern our actions and those of the City of San Francisco, our partner in this project.

In light of these concerns, we have proposed language in the MOU that charts a future for collaborative planning between Sausalito and the Park Service. We have a shared interest in making sure the proposed ferry service is executed carefully and in a manner that is sensitive to Sausalito's interests and the need to preserve the superlative natural and historic resources at Fort Baker. We also have a shared interest in addressing the impacts of recreational bicycling on the local region and Fort Baker by engaging related agencies and commercial operators in a search for durable and far-reaching solutions.

The successive drafts of the MOU continue to outline this opportunity. We are disappointed to hear you say that they lack substance.

We remain committed to the MOU process and encourage you to provide us with your comments on the April 20 version of the draft MOU. By better understanding your present objections, we will be able to fully evaluate the potential for a representative of Congressman Huffman's office to participate in a future meeting. We wish no further delay to a project with such clear public benefits.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Laura E. Joss". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "L" and a distinct "E" before the last name.

Laura E. Joss
Superintendent