

# ALCATRAZ FERRY EMBARKATION EIS

Golden Gate National Recreation Area, California

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior



## Public Review Notice

The National Park Service (NPS) has completed the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Alcatraz Ferry Embarkation project. The project would establish a new, long-term ferry embarkation site for passenger service between the northern San Francisco waterfront and Alcatraz Island. It would also establish occasional connecting ferry service between the selected Alcatraz ferry embarkation site and the existing Fort Baker pier, as well as between Fort Mason and other park destinations in San Francisco Bay.

## Project Purpose

Alcatraz Island was the nation's first military prison, and later became the most notorious maximum security penitentiary in the United States. It was also the site of the occupation that helped ignite the movement for American Indian self-determination. More than



1.4 million people visit Alcatraz Island annually.

Access to Alcatraz Island is managed by Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA) from a facility located between Piers 31 and 33 (also referred to as Pier 31½), which is owned by the Port of San Francisco (Port). Historically, the embarkation site has been located at other piers in Fisherman's Wharf.

The need for the project is driven by several factors. The Alcatraz ferry embarkation site and associated connections should be a consistent feature for visitors to GGNRA that both reflects the Park Service's identity and provides a quality experience for recreational visitors. As such, the site should provide the space, circulation, and interpretive materials to appropriately and effectively orient recreational visitors to the island and GGNRA. The site should allow for efficiency in making site improvements when necessary, and ability to project facility costs. Additionally, the site provides a valuable opportunity for cross-bay recreational ferry service to other GGNRA parklands.

## Newsletter #2 • Spring 2015



## Project Objectives

The objectives for this project include locating a ferry embarkation site that:

1. Establishes the long-term (50 years or more) primary location for visitor access to Alcatraz Island.
2. Provides an identifiable area for quality welcome, orientation, and interpretation of the natural, cultural, scenic and recreational resources of Alcatraz, the larger GGNRA, and the National Park System.
3. Accommodates critical visitor and operational programs and facilities, and provides for efficient land and vessel operations.
4. Is economically feasible and sustainable, and generates revenue for investment on Alcatraz Island and other NPS facilities and visitor programs.
5. Provides facilities for cross-bay ferry service to accommodate existing and future visitor demand for travel to Alcatraz Island and other parklands in the Bay.

## Project Schedule

Date	Planning Phase
<b>February 20 to May 20, 2015</b>	Public review of DEIS; public meeting March 31 (see back)
<b>Spring/Summer 2015</b>	Respond to comments on DEIS and incorporate into Final EIS
<b>Late 2015/Early 2016</b>	Public release of the Final EIS
<b>2016</b>	Issuance of the Record of Decision

## Action Alternatives

In addition to a No Action Alternative, the DEIS analyzes the following action alternatives:



This site is located along the Embarcadero. It is owned by the Port and serves as the existing embarkation site. The DEIS identified this alternative as the Environmentally Preferred Alternative.



This site is owned by the Port and located in Fisherman's Wharf. It served as the previous embarkation site between the early 1980s and 2006.



This site is located on federal property at Fort Mason, a former U.S. Army post that is now a National Historic Landmark District.

## Project Location



## Activities Common to All Action Alternatives



Activities common to all action alternatives include providing special ferry service to and from Fort Baker, as well as to and from Fort Mason from the primary embarkation site. Service could also include special trips to other locations in the Bay.

## Get Involved

The DEIS can be downloaded at the project website (<http://parkplanning.nps.gov/alcatrazferry>), and viewed at the public libraries including: San Francisco Main Library; San Francisco Library Anza Branch, Sunset Branch, Marina Branch, Presidio Branch; and the Sausalito Main Library.

The document will remain open for review and comment from February 20 through May 20, 2015. We invite you to attend the public meeting and tour to learn more about the project and provide comments:

### PUBLIC MEETING

March 31 at 4:00 to 7:00 P.M.  
Bayside Conference Room  
Pier 1, The Embarcadero  
San Francisco, CA 94111

A tour of Piers 3, 31 1/2, and 41 will be held April 2. For more information, please visit the project website (<http://parkplanning.nps.gov/alcatrazferry>).

Comments can also be submitted online at the project website, as well as by mail to Superintendent, Golden Gate National Recreation Area, Building 201, Fort Mason, San Francisco, CA, 94123, Attn: Alcatraz Ferry DEIS.

## Additional Ways to Connect

**Visit the Project Website:**  
Go to <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/alcatrazferry>

**Join the Park Email Mailing List:**  
Go to <http://www.nps.gov/goga>

**Contact the GGNRA Planning Division:**  
Email [goga\\_planning@nps.gov](mailto:goga_planning@nps.gov) or call (415) 561-4700

**Find Us On:**

Twitter: <http://twitter.com/goldengatenps>

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