



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

National Mall and Memorial Parks



May 21, 2015

Mr. David Maloney
District of Columbia Historic Preservation Officer
District of Columbia, Office of Planning
1100 4th Street, SW
Suite E650
Washington, DC 20024

Re: Kennedy Center Expansion Project Final Determination of Effect, Stipulation 4 of the
2015 Memorandum of Agreement

Dear Mr. Maloney:

In accordance with Stipulation 4 of the 2015 Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) among the National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC), the National Park Service (NPS), the District of Columbia State Historic Preservation Office (DC SHPO), and the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts (Kennedy Center) regarding the Kennedy Center Expansion Project, the purpose of this letter is to record our final determination of effect. Since execution of the MOA, the Kennedy Center decided not to pursue the Two Land-Based Pavilions plus River Pavilion (Alternative C2 in the Kennedy Center Expansion Environmental Assessment (EA)) and has elected to pursue the Three Land-Based Pavilions (Alternative B in the EA). The final plans for the Three Land-Based Pavilions are attached for your review. The Kennedy Center intends to submit the plans for the Three Land-Based Pavilions for final approval for the July 2015 meeting of NCPC.

Based on the final plans, NCPC and NPS have determined that there would be no new or intensified adverse effects with the selection of the Three Land-Based Pavilions alternative compared to the Two Land-Based Pavilions plus River Pavilion alternative. By selecting another alternative, adverse effects on the Rock Creek and Potomac Parkway have been significantly minimized. The assessment of effects report (July 2014) and the EA both addressed the adverse effects that would result from the implementation of the Three Land-Based Pavilions alternative. Adverse effects on the Kennedy Center include the removal of a small section of the curtain wall for a projector window. Other adverse effects on the Kennedy Center involve visual impacts on the panoramic views from the south and west terraces as well as views towards the Washington Monument and Lincoln Memorial.

An important component of the project remains a connection to the Rock Creek and Potomac Parkway multi-use trail. The final plans include a potential pedestrian connection over the Rock Creek and Potomac Parkway. The connection to the Rock Creek and Potomac Parkway multi-use

trail will be a future action that will be subject to additional review and approvals. NCPC, NPS and the Kennedy Center will develop alternatives for this component of the project and these alternatives will be the subject of additional Section 106 consultation and environmental review through the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

Along with our final determination of effect, in accordance with Stipulation 4(h) of the MOA, NCPC, NPS, DC SHPO, and the Kennedy Center are required to refine the mitigation defined in the MOA if the Kennedy Center elects to pursue an alternative other than the Two Land-Based Pavilions plus River Pavilion. Per Stipulation 4(h), the mitigation is to be refined in a manner that is commensurate with the adverse effects of the selected alternative. As noted above, the adverse effects on the Rock Creek and Potomac Parkway have been significantly minimized and therefore two of the mitigation measures included in the MOA will not be implemented. This includes the mitigation called for under Stipulation 1, the Cultural Landscape Report for a segment of Rock Creek and Potomac Parkway, and Stipulation 3(b), funding for NPS to implement interpretative signage.

NCPC and NPS are seeking your concurrence with our final determination of effect. In accordance with the MOA, this determination and the final design documentation will be posted on the NPS Planning, Environment & Public Comment (PEPC) website for a 14-day review and comment period, ending June 4, 2015. Following the close of the comment period, we will look to amend the MOA to reflect the selection of the Three Land-Based Pavilions as the preferred alternative and adjust the mitigation measures as specified above.

Sincerely,



Marcel Acosta
Executive Director
National Capital Planning Commission



Karen Cucurullo
Acting Superintendent
National Mall and Memorial Parks

enclosure

cc: Jennifer Hirsch, NCPC
Catherine Dewey, NPS
Kathy Kruse, Kennedy Center