



PUBLIC COMMENTS SUBMITTED ON THE PROPOSAL AND DRAFT CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION (CE)

Pacific Leadership Institute Overnight Program, West Fort Miley, Lands End

This document includes the text of the 45 correspondences that were submitted as comments during the 30-day public review and comment period from March 21, 2017, and ended on April 21, 2017. Personally identifying information has been removed where applicable in respect of the commenter's privacy.

Following the 30-day public review and comment period, the NPS reviewed and analyzed the comments received. Please see Attachment D "Public Comment Summary and Response to Comments" of the Final Categorical Exclusion (CE) document for a detailed discussion of the comments received and park responses.

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Correspondence ID: 1 **Project:** 65492 **Document:** 77983
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Affiliation:
Received: Mar,21 2017 15:43:16
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Regarding the proposal for large groups to regularly camp at West Ft. Miley:

I am generally supportive of young people camping.

However, I am not convinced that this camping activity needs to be done in this suburban area of the City, as opposed to in the Presidio, on Angel Island, or in the Marin Headlands.

I believe the proof will be in the pudding as to the behavior, noise, littering, and control of such groups at this location.

But moreover, I am also wary as I recognize that this has the potential to encourage young people to return to this area, without their leadership group, unsupervised. I would like the police to be put on alert to specially monitor and count the number of incidents they have in this area going forward in time.

Thank you.

Correspondence ID: 2 **Project:** 65492 **Document:** 77983
Outside Organization: Self, resident Unaffiliated Individual
Affiliation: Member
Received: Mar,21 2017 15:57:45
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I am agaido any type of temporary or permanent overnight camping at Ft. Miley or any other area near by. There is coming about Baker Beach in the Presidio.
I am a long time resident of this neighborhood. Thank you for the opportunity to respond.

Regards, [REDACTED]

Correspondence ID: 3 **Project:** 65492 **Document:** 77983
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Affiliation:
Received: Mar,21 2017 16:05:08
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: We live over a block away near the hospital and in the day, can hear groups making noise (clapping, screaming etc.). I am afraid that even with 'quiet hours' noise would carry. Also, how would 'quiet' be determined? I am concerned.

Correspondence ID: 4 **Project:** 65492 **Document:** 77983
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Affiliation:
Received: Mar,21 2017 16:25:55
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Great idea!

As a former Boy Scout Outdoors Activity leader, I am all for outdoor ed.

Peace,



Correspondence ID: 5 **Project:** 65492 **Document:** 77983
Outside Organization: Ms. Unaffiliated Individual
Affiliation: Member
Received: Mar,21 2017 16:34:18
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I am strongly in favor of more opportunities for people to camp outdoors. I believe this reinforces the goals of the Healthy Parks for Healthy People initiative.

Correspondence ID: 6 **Project:** 65492 **Document:** 77983
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Affiliation:
Received: Mar,21 2017 16:57:51
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I live adjacent to the Fort Miley ropes course. During the day, many days a month, and throughout the year, the yelling and screaming of the kids participating in the ropes course continues virtually non-stop thru the late morning and afternoon. It's disruptive and irritating. While I appreciate the value of the activity for the children, I suspect their regular presence here incurs a cost on the neighborhood in terms of our property values and quality of life. It's only at night that we get a reprieve from the noise. The prospect of losing that is highly demoralizing. I've no idea how a girls scream is measured in decibels but I can assure you its intensely aggravating whether it achieves "85db" or not. And now you want to impose that on the neighborhood into the night. I'm adamantly opposed to any expansion of these activities in this area - especially into the night when privacy and peace are of inestimable value - and frankly, what I paid for when moving out here.

Correspondence ID: 7 **Project:** 65492 **Document:** 77983
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Affiliation:
Received: Mar,21 2017 18:46:11
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: This is needed, and meets and extends the NPS and GGNRA missions. I urge you to proceed.

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Correspondence ID: 8 **Project:** 65492 **Document:** 77983
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Affiliation:
Received: Mar,22 2017 23:56:04
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: To Whom it may Concern:

I heard about your proposed overnight camping at Fort Miley from a neighbor. I live close by and I am a member of a nearby safety neighborhood group. The existence of the SFVA Hospital in the area and its expansion has already brought more traffic and nuisance to all residents here. Aside from this, we constantly have to deal with the tourist traffic, the homeless and the car break-ins. Adding a campsite in the neighborhood will constitute more noise and headache. No overnight camper will abide by a 9:30 pm to 6:30 am quiet period! Having an overnight campsite next to a hospital and in this neighborhood is strange and unacceptable. Please find a better and more suitable location.

Correspondence ID: 9 **Project:** 65492 **Document:** 77983
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Affiliation:
Received: Mar,23 2017 10:22:09
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Why in the world would you want to put overnight campers in our backyards when just across the Golden Gate Bridge you have the Marin Headlands, with Kirby Campground already in place and an enormous wild space for kids to explore and enjoy the outdoors with all the noise and exuberance of youth, unhindered, nay, encouraged by all. It is just asking for trouble and bad feeling to corral kids on a little bit of lawn where for a little stimulation they are going to be peering in our windows, climbing over our fences and getting into mischief while their supervisors sleep. This is a bad idea. And absurd, when the whole enterprise could take advantage of the enormous wild spaces of the same GGNRA just across the bridge. Just crossing the bridge brings a sense of adventure. Use that. Don't use us.

Correspondence ID: 10 **Project:** 65492 **Document:** 77983
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Affiliation:
Received: Mar,23 2017 17:43:07
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I have been a resident of Seal Rock Drive for over 30 years and treasure the quiet natural atmosphere of our neighborhood. Multitudes of people from all over the Bay Area and the world for that matter come to this specific location to marvel and it's expensive use an incredible landscape. Including camping in this area will change the atmosphere dramatically! I myself was a young camper and we stayed up late and giggled and talked loudly all night long. The Campground in the Presidio would accommodate proposed campers. This area has served well camping in San Francisco for many years. Sound echoes dramatically in our neighborhood this camping proposal would only add to frustration within our community.

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Please consider my comments
Thank you [REDACTED]

Correspondence ID: 11 **Project:** 65492 **Document:** 77983
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Affiliation:
Received: Mar,25 2017 18:07:26
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: The proposed campsite is adjacent to the north side of the Seal Rock Drive residential area.

None of the existing GGNRA and/or NPS campsites is near an urban residential area.

A campground adjacent to residential properties is unacceptable for a number of reasons among them litter, noise, temporary and/or inadequate sanitary facilities, and break-ins, graffiti, vandalism and arson at nearby properties.

There are homeless campers in West Fort Miley, a fact known to the NPS Police.

Before this project was announced the market value of the properties on the north side of Seal Rock Drive was approximately \$ 55,000,000.

Since the project was announced an owner of one of these properties who may want to sell or refinance his/her building has to answer the following question in writing: Have you received any notice by any governmental or quasi-governmental agency affecting this property? and describe the subject of said notice, i.e., the proposed campground. (Sellers Residential Real Estate Sales Disclosure Statement aka TDS) defined in Civil Code Section 2985.

The lenders appraiser has to do due diligence regarding any factors that might adversely impact the resale value of the property..

The consequence of these disclosures and findings is most likely a discount, i.e., loss of value, of at least 25%. I would not be surprised if one or more of the affected owners took legal action to stop the proposed campground.

Correspondence ID: 12 **Project:** 65492 **Document:** 77983
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Affiliation:
Received: Mar,25 2017 18:35:47
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: The proposed campsite is adjacent to the north side of the Seal Rock Drive residential area.

None of the existing GGNRA and/or NPS campsites is near an urban residential area.

A campground adjacent to residential properties is unacceptable for a number of reasons, among them litter, accidental fires, noise, temporary and/or inadequate campground sanitary facilities, and graffiti,

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vandalism, break-ins and arson.

An owner of one of the properties on the north side of Seal Rock Drive who wanted to sell or refinance his/her building is obliged under the California Civil Code Section 2985 to disclose any and all existing or potential conditions that have or could have a negative impact to the occupants quality of life and/or the fair market value of the property. The California form, Sellers Residential Real Estate Sales Disclosure Statement (aka TDS) must be presented to buyers prior to the execution of a sales agreement.

Furthermore, Certified Residential Real Estate Appraisers hired by lenders are required to conduct an independent due diligence covering all negative impacts and to take this information into account in the Appraisers analysis of the fair market value of the property under consideration by the lender offering financing secured by the subject property.

Before this project was announced by the NPS/GGNRA the total market value of the properties on the north side of Seal Rock Drive was approximately \$ 55,000,000. The immediate consequence to property owners once the project was announced was a discount of the fair market value of at least 25%. I would not be surprised if one of the affected owners took legal action to stop the proposed campground.

██████████
California Real Estate Broker for more than 30 years (Licensee ID Number ██████████)
Loan Officer and Manager of Construction Lending for First Republic Bank (retired)

Correspondence ID: 13 **Project:** 65492 **Document:** 77983
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Affiliation:
Received: Mar,27 2017 11:43:45
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Hi,

Thank you for asking for comments on this issue. I am extremely opposed to ANY camping in the West Fort Miley/Lands End area of GGNRA. My home is actually in the yellow square indicated in Attachment B of the proposal, and it is peaceful and quiet at night for the most part. As your report indicates, we already have a significant problem in our area of the city with homelessness, and petty thieves who prey on tourists, breaking into cars several time per week. We also have refuse blowing into our backyards and streets from overflowing trash cans in the park or from users not disposing of their trash properly. We sleep with our windows open so any camp cooking fumes, smoking, noise, music, loud voices, is easily smelled or heard from users in Fort Miley. Our neighborhood watch program is extremely conscientious of helping to keep the neighborhood cleaner and safer and I feel that even with all our efforts, there are so many people (locals and tourists) who already have a gross disregard for maintaining the trails, grounds, etc, that opening the site to overnight camping will only exaggerate the extra trash, increase noise levels (especially in the evenings), promote break-ins, sanitation violations, litter, fire potential, and increase trampling. Already, every single day people stomp outside the marked or fenced barriers on the Lands End trail so that it has eroded significantly in the 6 years that I have lived there! I often see bicycles where it specifically states that no bicycles are allowed and I have seen groups of people on Segway vehicles literally drive across areas that have just been planted and tagged with flags and these people are NOT on the trail or "designated areas". It is appalling how disrespectful many people are for our beautiful spaces. I have seen It happen over and over and over again, such that trails are more barren, water flow downhill has changed, and seedlings recently planted are trampled. Overuse of this area is also affecting the wildlife which maybe dwindling. As a separate fear, due to our recent drought

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issues, our neighborhood was very vigilant and careful about the Fort Miley area. If a single fire had started from a grill or "campfire", it might have easily spread to our entire block of homes within minutes because it was so very dry.

The Fort Miley Adventure Ropes Course seems to be a valuable and fun experience but it is different from overnight camping because of the limited daytime hours and highly supervised activities. However, you should know that participants are extremely loud during the hours they are there, and the degree of erosion and wear/tear on the property have been significant over the years it has been in operation. The area of erosion has expanded slowly.

I can only speculate that these adverse human behaviors will continue to affect this precious environmental area (and our property) in a negative way and that encouraging overnight activities will exacerbate the erosion, noise, trash, fire potential, and sanitation issues.

PLEASE, PLEASE help protect this area and our neighborhood by NOT allowing camping in this fragile space.

Again, thanks for hearing comments from neighbors... [REDACTED]

Correspondence ID: 14 **Project:** 65492 **Document:** 77983
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Affiliation:
Received: Mar,27 2017 13:47:13
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Squatting is an obvious problem all along the Land's End Trail. Legitimizing it by establishing a camping program would be disastrous. It would provide an excuse and a cover for all the illegal squatting. It would be the worst of Golden Gate Park in the 60's, revisited.

Correspondence ID: 15 **Project:** 65492 **Document:** 77983
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Affiliation:
Received: Mar,27 2017 17:14:20
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Re: Fort Miley PLI Pilot Camping.

I am very concern about :

Lack of 24/7 monitoring, surveillance & security measures to prevent unlawful tents when there are no scheduled camping.

Invited camper's potential nuisance,noise,& misbehaviors particularly any uninvited campers.

Potential detrimental conditions & environments affect property values.

Too close to residential areas.

I strongly oppose the above mentioned pilot program.

Thank you for your attention.

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Correspondence ID: 16 **Project:** 65492 **Document:** 77983
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Affiliation:
Received: Mar,28 2017 09:51:52
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: This sounds like a great idea, a great program, and a great use of our public lands. My family wholeheartedly supports this project!

Correspondence ID: 17 **Project:** 65492 **Document:** 77983
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Affiliation:
Received: Mar,28 2017 13:07:45
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I think this is a great opportunity for city dwellers to spend time in our national park in a different setting. We don't have to drive hours outside the city to go camping and experience some group bonding. I think this is very beneficial to the San Francisco area. As long as the groups are respectful and follow, leave no trace behind rule.

Correspondence ID: 18 **Project:** 65492 **Document:** 77983
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Affiliation:
Received: Mar,30 2017 11:22:16
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: In short: Terrible campground location

I own and live in a property that can't be closer to the current PLI rope course installations. I know how to appreciate the cheers and enthusiasm that groups bring in the park. However, I'm glad to see them go away at the end of the afternoon. With the current schedule, we can enjoy quiet mornings and evenings.

However, a campground of 30 people is far from quiet. The sound from the top of West Fort Miley travel really well in this quiet environment. Moreover, lost of privacy by having a group overlooking bedrooms and backyard is not something that would be appreciated few days a week for 30 weeks out of 52.

I usually support what PLI is trying to accomplish, but West Fort Miley is really a bad location. It will generate a lot of push back from directly affected Seal Rock residents, including myself.

I think that you could get better support from the community if the campground was located further away from Seal Rock backyards. For instance, in East Fort Miley, between the VA and the Legion of Honor. That location is far away from any residences and discrete enough to be little noticed by Lands End hikers.

I would go even further by suggesting that a permanent campground, like the one in the Presidio, could be made possible in the currently closed section of the Lands End parking lot. I would welcome an overnight presence there in the hope to reduce park vandalism and homeless squatters.

Correspondence ID: 19 **Project:** 65492 **Document:** 77983
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Affiliation:
Received: Apr,06 2017 17:30:22
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: To Whom It May Concern:

I have visited the site of the proposed Pilot, Pacific Leadership Institute (PLI) Overnight Camping Program at West Fort Miley at Lands End. I have taken note of the current PLI ropes course site, the surrounding area, the public amenities at W. Fort Miley, its historic structures and vistas, its proximity to neighborhood residences, and the type of number of visitors to the area.

Pacific Leadership Institute, the leading sponsor of the pilot program, is a decades long and trusted partner of GGNRA and has helped youth develop positive personal skills throughout their successful ropes course at W. Fort Miley. They have provided over 350 daytime outdoor educational programs each year at Fort Miley and now seek to add an outdoor campaign element to increase the depth of outdoor leadership experiences to participants while introducing new audiences to the national park. The overwhelming success of the Camping at the Presidio program, the only overnight campground in San Francisco, suggests the proposed Pilot by PLI will be greeted with great enthusiasm and similar success .

The proposed Pilot meets the demand for park programs and it will increase outcomes for participants. In an era of disconnection from the outdoor world due to development and urbanization, the pilot will better serve youth in learning outdoor skills and leadership as a means to improve their own lives and their communities. The Pilot enhances an existing partnership with GGNRA and will inform the permanent establishment of camping facilities at West Fort Miley, in keeping with the goals of the 2014 GMP.

The strict and detailed list of protocols guiding the hours of operation, oversight, the appearance of the site, and use of attendant amenities will satisfy neighbors that the site will be quiet, clean, safe, and well stewarded; an improvement over the current situation which invites homeless and vandalism because of its remoteness and lack of nighttime park users.

Please approve the very positive pilot, the Pacific Leadership Institute's Overnight Program at West Fort Miley, Lands End.

Correspondence ID: 20 **Project:** 65492 **Document:** 77983
Outside Organization: Sierra Club Unaffiliated Individual
Affiliation: OfficialRep
Received: Apr,07 2017 09:03:42
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Sierra Club Comment

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The Sierra Club supports the categorical exemption for the project for a pilot program in a small group campsite. It would accommodate up to 30 campers next to the upper lawn area at Fort Miley for no more than 70 nights a year. It meets the intentions of the legislation and the management plan for the GGNRA. Those intentions are protective of the environmental resources and also carry out the mandate for recreation and education.

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The categorical exemption impact assessment discloses no significant environmental impacts, and the program would increase use of the park with a camping experience for a diverse group of young people.

Correspondence ID: 21 **Project:** 65492 **Document:** 77983

Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual

Affiliation:

Received: Apr,07 2017 13:10:28

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I am writing to express my whole hearted support for the proposed overnight camping program of the Pacific Leadership Institute. I reside in the Richmond District and, among other things, am a member of the PAR board of directors. My daughter and grandchildren also live in the Richmond District.

Correspondence ID: 22 **Project:** 65492 **Document:** 77983

Outside Organization: Impacted resident Unaffiliated Individual

Affiliation: OfficialRep

Received: Apr,10 2017 10:33:14

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: The existing ropes program is quite noisy, but that has not been a major problem for me, because it ends in the afternoon and quiet returns to the neighborhood. But overnight camping is another matter entirely. I have examined the map for the proposed camp site and was disappointed that the tents are situated very close to the edge of a cliff overlooking my street, which is much closer to my residence than the existing ropeway setup-in fact, I have direct line of sight to that cliff-edge. The small paddock of trees in the way is not going to block the sound, because the forest in which the ropeway is situated already does not block the sound. I would like to emphasize that the apartment buildings across the street have their bedrooms in the rear and residences on my side of the street have bedrooms in the front, so the entire neighborhood has bedrooms facing the proposed camp site. Given the existing noise levels during the day, I am not at all reassured by the following, perfunctory assurance in the proposed plan, which is calculated merely to dismiss the issue, rather than to deal with it appropriately:

Impact: There would be an increase of sound around sunset and sunrise, but as per all other SUPs, 85dB would be the maximum allowed. The location is tucked in a corner of the lawn with a grove of trees and approximately 100 yards separating the location from a residential area. Quiet hours would be strictly enforced, and PLI would manage participants very tightly. With security and a high ratio of adults to youth, a close eye would be placed on activities.

Anyone who has ever attended primary and secondary education knows what the reality will be. There is no way that youngsters relocated suddenly away from family and school authority figures are going to fall asleep promptly after an exciting adventure swinging in the trees. It will be virtually impossible for them to sleep after that experience, and they will not be able to contain their understandable ebullience. There will be excited, sporadic cavorting, yelling, screaming, and laughing all night, followed by belated, weary counter-yells from their supervisors. The sporadic and unpredictable character of those sharp outbursts will literally be torture for local residents anxious to sleep prior to another day at work.

In conclusion, I am very disappointed that the plan is so insensitive to the interests of local property

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owners who have been very supportive of park development to this point. It should either be scrapped, or re-sited much farther from the cliff-edge that directly overlooks residential bedrooms.

Correspondence ID: 23 **Project:** 65492 **Document:** 77983
Outside Organization: local resident Unaffiliated Individual
Affiliation: OfficialRep
Received: Apr,10 2017 10:37:07
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: The existing ropes program is already very noisy in my house. It is unacceptable for that kind of noise to continue after 5:00 PM. So I am strongly opposed to the proposed camp site program.

Correspondence ID: 24 **Project:** 65492 **Document:** 77983
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Affiliation:
Received: Apr,10 2017 11:14:31
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: The proposed campsite is adjacent to the north side of the Seal Rock Drive residential area. None of the existing GGNRA and/or NPS campsites is near an urban residential area.

A campground adjacent to residential properties is unacceptable for a number of reason: among them litter, accidental fires, noise, temporary and/or inadequate campground sanitary facilities, graffiti, vandalism, break-ins, and arson.

Correspondence ID: 25 **Project:** 65492 **Document:** 77983
Outside Organization: Drew School Unaffiliated Individual
Affiliation: OfficialRep
Received: Apr,10 2017 16:06:54
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: As the Director of Student Activities at Drew School, I am excited at the potential opportunity to have overnight retreats at PLI. We have been using the Fort Miley location for our Freshman Retreat for the past 4 years. Prior to doing so, we used to have an overnight in Tilden Park. As enjoyable as our time has been at PLI, the Drew faculty members who experienced both, noted that something was lost when we transitioned to a day only event. An overnight affair offers ample opportunity for students to further solidify bonds and connections while adding an extended sense of adventure grounded in nature. Pacific Leadership Institute has done an incredible job of coordinating activities that appeal to both the ambitious learner as well as the shy. If given the opportunity to extend their programming to encompass overnights, I am confident that they will maximize the potential of the experience. Students will have an even more enriched program and emerge with a greater sense of self and belonging in the community, which is always our aim from an institutional perspective. Needless to say, I offer my full support of Pacific Leadership Institute acquiring the ability to host overnight retreats at Fort Miley.

Correspondence ID: 26 **Project:** 65492 **Document:** 77983
Outside Organization: Treasure Island Development Initiative Unaffiliated Individual
Affiliation: OfficialRep
Received: Apr,10 2017 17:55:51
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Hello My name is [REDACTED], and I currently work as an Employment Project Manager on Treasure Island. I have been partnering with PLI for the past 20 years in various training programs focused on assisting SF residents with access to Union construction jobs. PLI has trained thousands of people for me, so part of our trainings we always start our cycle off with exercises conducted by PLI. They have been instrumental in providing the leadership training and being a responsible advocate. We are currently developing 8000 units of housing on the island, and we are into our 2nd year of training, and thus far PLI has trained over 300 people for us. They are professional, responsible, and attentive to our needs. I know if this program is approved that many SF residents will benefit from the added instruction for being a good steward for the environment we live in.

Correspondence ID: 27 **Project:** 65492 **Document:** 77983
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Affiliation:
Received: Apr,12 2017 15:21:34
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: The proposed PLI Overnight Program at West Fort Miley is a great idea, and I fully support the project. The 2-year pilot project should enhance the quality of a longer term program.

While I don't know if it is appropriate to compare this project with the Rob Hill campground in the Presidio, I have followed the Rob Hill program for many years. It is a larger scale program that has introduced thousands of young people to an outdoor experience unlike anything many, if not most, of the kids have ever had. One surprise for me is how clean the area is. It reflects good management for sure, but it is also the product of these kids learning to appreciate the environment. I would expect the PLI Overnight Program to have a similar experience, and that it will improve a portion of West Fort Miley that currently is not well maintained.

Thank you, PLI and the GGNRA for this project.

[REDACTED]

Correspondence ID: 28 **Project:** 65492 **Document:** 77983
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Affiliation:
Received: Apr,14 2017 17:29:45
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I fear that, given the homelessness situation in the vicinity, this proposal seems misguided. Though the program is not open to general public, having tents around will encourage other people to start setting up camp nearby. I don't think this is a good idea for the city at all.

Correspondence ID: 29 **Project:** 65492 **Document:** 77983

Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual

Affiliation:

Received: Apr,15 2017 10:55:03

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Ye, who make decisions impacting the quality of life for your neighbors: would you enjoy the noise of 30 youngsters plus their minders in your backyard every Saturday and Sunday morning waking you at 6:30am? How is that reasonable? Note, that this is not just once in awhile. The proposal is for two out of every three weekends of the year. It is not a small group of three or four individuals - the limit for every other camp site in the GGNR - its twenty or thirty kids. It is not socialized adults with a sense of decorum. It's a mob of juveniles, virtually every weekend, screaming and scrambling about in your backyard. Think about it for half a second, and I can guarantee, you wouldn't want that where you live.

Correspondence ID: 30 **Project:** 65492 **Document:** 77983

Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual

Affiliation:

Received: Apr,15 2017 23:17:50

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Please do not allow overnight camping at Fort Miley area!!!!
It is inappropriate & negative for the environment here, and for the neighborhood, especially regarding noise, human waste, upsetting the habitat and plant life. I live directly across the street, and am very much against this request for overnight camping.

Correspondence ID: 31 **Project:** 65492 **Document:** 77983

Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual

Affiliation:

Received: Apr,16 2017 14:32:49

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: On its website, the Pacific Leadership Institute proudly boasts offering "team-building" activities to companies like Adobe. I don't see why an organization that profits off for-profit ventures should be allowed to turn our public land into a camping ground.

Correspondence ID: 32 **Project:** 65492 **Document:** 77983

Outside Organization: Planning Asscoiation for the Richmond Unaffiliated Individual

Affiliation: OfficialRep

Received: Apr,16 2017 20:23:11

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: The Planning Association for the Richmond (PAR) is the Richmond's oldest and largest neighborhood association. We have a long history of monitoring developments at Fort Miley and in the adjacent GGNRA park lands. Our goal generally is focused on ways to improve the quality of life in the Richmond and its surrounding park lands.

Having reviewed the proposed Pacific Leadership Institute Overnight Program at West Fort Miley, it is a pleasure for PAR to endorsed the project. PLI has established itself as a quality tenant of the GGNRA

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through PLI's environmental education programming at West Fort Miley. PLI's approach to its overnight camping program appears to be thorough and responsible in every respect. It has the potential of improving the environment of an otherwise run-down, poorly maintained area. Its goals to introduce young San Franciscans to outdoor education, personal development and leadership training are commendable. An overnight program at this location can be a great opportunity for San Francisco's youths to have a lasting experience and appreciation of our park lands that goes beyond PLI's day programming.

In reviewing a project such as this one, PAR considers safety issues, hazards and environmental issues, including noise. The proposal appears to adequately address each of those areas, and by having a 2-year pilot program, it can learn from it so that all of these issues can be properly vetted and necessary adjustments can be made. We are mindful that our members reside nearby the proposed project and their rightful expectation that West Fort Miley will continue to be managed in a safe and reasonable manner. In light of the rugged exposure to off shore winds, one important concern is that the use of a portable fire pit be carefully regulated and monitored, such as, having a no-fire restriction under defined criteria, such as wind speed and dryness. Another consideration is sound travel, which we do not pretend to understand, but know it when we hear it. The benefit of the 2-years of operation as a pilot program may generate input from neighbors on Seal Rock Drive that can be resolved by tweaking the hours under defined conditions or some other solution.

Again, this is an exciting proposal and we look forward to its implementation.

Thank you for considering these comments.

Sincerely,

Correspondence ID: 33 **Project:** 65492 **Document:** 77983
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Affiliation:
Received: Apr,18 2017 11:23:53
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Hello.

We live directly adjacent to the Ft Miley ropes course. Nearly every day we are subjected to screaming groups of children and adults, some times dozens, sometimes more than 100, directly behind our back yard, for many hours at a time. The noise is often intolerable. These are not just people having fun; they are practicing team building exercises, which involve and encourage high volume yelling. Please understand I am not exaggerating in the least.

Early morning, evening, and night are the only times we can be guaranteed any degree of peace and quiet. We are deeply dismayed at the possibility of losing even those times to group of campers directly behind our home. The location you are proposing sits a top a hill which I can see directly from our back windows. Noise carries very loudly from that location. In addition, our privacy is at risk as there is a direct view into our back windows from this location. We have a young daughter and we cherish our ability to count on quiet evenings in our neighborhood. Please do not put the quality of our homes in jeopardy by inviting groups of campers to spend their weekends immediately beyond our back yard. Thank you.

Please confirm that you have received my input and that it will be noted.

██████████

Correspondence ID: 34 **Project:** 65492 **Document:** 77983
Outside Organization: People for a GGNRA Unaffiliated Individual
Affiliation: OfficialRep
Received: Apr,19 2017 10:04:50
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: West Fort Miley has been a nearly-derelict site within the GGNRA. The best thing going for it has been the ropes course program of SF State University which serves 10,000 people a year, mostly students. But at the most they use 2 acres of the 12 1/2 acres of this part of the GGNRA. The rest of West Fort Miley, including an historic octagon house, has been subject to severe vandalism and often feels unsafe.

This proposal would provide a trial of expanding the SFSU program so that more people would be served, and would also have the experience of sleeping out of doors in a national park. It is an example of why the GGNRA, as a national park in an urban area, was authorized-- as part of "National parks for the people, where the people are-- in the urban area," to paraphrase Secretary of the Interior Walter Hickel in 1971. The experience of camping in the out of doors is also a good way of creating stakeholders in support of the national parks, and since so many of our American people live in urban areas, these parks need urban-based supporters.

For West Fort Miley, this would create a greater presence of people on more of its acreage. It should help deter the vandalism. Being a pilot program, the camping can be evaluated to see whether it should be considered for permanence.

As one of the advocates for the establishment of this national park and also as a near-neighbor of this site, I warmly support this program.

Correspondence ID: 35 **Project:** 65492 **Document:** 77983
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Affiliation:
Received: Apr,20 2017 17:46:33
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: To whom this may concern,

I am very concerned about the overnight camping being proposed at Fort Miley. The concerns I have are with:

*Noise - we chose this beautiful (quiet) part of the city to enjoy the park like atmosphere, I do not believe you will be able to adequately monitor the noise level

*Trash - I am concerned that there will be an increased trash problem if camping is allowed.

*Burglaries- Our neighborhood already has Burglaries and I feel this will make it easier to bring people here to camp who do not belong here. There are already homeless individuals who try to camp there and I feel they will take over on nights that the program is not running.

I am just NOT convinced this is a good idea for this area. People love enjoying nature in this beautiful area and to imagine seeing tents on our walks is a bit disappointing.

I hope you will listen to the voices of our community as we all seem to be very against this proposal.

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Correspondence ID: 36 **Project:** 65492 **Document:** 77983
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Affiliation:
Received: Apr,20 2017 17:55:39
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: To whom this may concern,
I am against the proposed overnight camp at Fort Miley. I am not convinced this is a good idea for our neighborhood and almost all of our neighbors are against it. This will replace the beautiful nature setting with tents and trash. I am also very concerned burglary crimes will increase. Please listen to the homeowners whose property will most likely lose value and do not allow this to happen.

Correspondence ID: 37 **Project:** 65492 **Document:** 77983
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Affiliation:
Received: Apr,20 2017 18:25:09
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: As a resident of the neighborhood I oppose the proposed campsite, which appears to be less than 200 feet from the property line of houses on Seal Rock Drive, due to the number of campers and the frequency of operation proposed. An uncommon activity (five or so times per year) would be more acceptable, but this will occur on a majority of weekends.

This issue could be mitigated by finding a different site, either farther north (near the Octagon House) or at East Fort Miley where facilities already exist, and are not located in such close proximity to residences.

Correspondence ID: 38 **Project:** 65492 **Document:** 77983
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Affiliation:
Received: Apr,20 2017 22:35:35
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Sir/Madam. We have been living in this Seal Rock drive neighbourhood since 1999. We are quite worried about this proposal to hold overnight camping classes in tents in the wooded area adjacent to the north side of Seal Rock Drive. Ideally, such programs should be held far away from the residences of people. This proposed site would be facing the backyards of people living on the north side of Seal Rock Drive. Apart from loss of privacy and being unsightly (seeing tents and people instead of trees) it increases the chances of litter, noise pollution and increases the risks of accidental fires. In the past few years, with the redesign of the Fort Miley parking lots along El Camino Del Mar, our neighborhood has already experienced increased car break-ins and attempted burglaries of houses along Seal Rock Drive. Most residents in this neighbourhood chose this area due to its close proximity to trees, natural scenery and nature trails. Camping classes should

ideally be held in established camping sites far from residences.
Thank you.

Correspondence ID: 39 **Project:** 65492 **Document:** 77983
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Affiliation:
Received: Apr,21 2017 08:08:01
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I am writing in support of the proposed PLI overnight program, and urge approval of the Draft Categorical Exclusion.

The proposed activities will have limited, if any, additional impact on the area.

In exchange, the proposed overnight program brings Bay area youth into the park. This has 2 significant benefits:

- 1) Currently local youth - especially from the lower income communities - are unlikely to visit the GGNRA, and this program will introduce more youth to the NPS and the importance of natural areas
- 2) The programs focus will skills in collaboration and team work, skills which are desperately needed, yet rarely taught in schools.

I urge you to approve approval of the draft Categorical Exemption, and the implementation of PLI's pilot overnight program.

Correspondence ID: 40 **Project:** 65492 **Document:** 77983
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Affiliation:
Received: Apr,21 2017 13:15:45
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I am writing to oppose the proposed campsite on the north side of the Seal Rock Drive residential area.

The proposal includes entirely too many potential camp nights. There would be little respite for the residents of Seal Rock.

Already, the daytime activities in that area cause considerable noise; people scream during ropes courses exercises. I have a high tolerance and they are still jarring to me after 13 years! It is disruptive; as I work from home, I am affected by the existing noise already and would then have to tolerate extended hours of increased noise.

A campground next to residential properties is not acceptable for a number of reasons. There aren't toilets near the area. It is already barely cared for: litter is everywhere - from graffiti cans and bottles/cans to random food trash. Concerns I have are for accidental fires, noise, temporary campground sanitary facilities, vandalism, break-ins, and arson.

Another major concern for me as a homeowner on the proposed side of Seal Rock, is that of privacy. My and my children's windows face that space. It is disconcerting (at best) to be dressing and look out to see people on the hill there. Additionally, the fencing is not maintained and safety is an issue; there is easy access to most yards from that hill.

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If I ever wanted to sell or refinance my house, I would be obliged under the California Civil Code to disclose any and all existing or potential conditions that could have a negative impact on the occupants' quality of life and/or the fair market value of the property. I believe this would decrease the value of my property considerably.

Finally, I think adding camping to the activities on the hill would disrupt even further the wildlife and flora that exists in this area, and for which it is special.

Please look elsewhere.

Sincerely,

██████

Correspondence ID: 41 **Project:** 65492 **Document:** 77983
Outside Organization: San Francisco VA Health Care System Unaffiliated Individual
Affiliation: OfficialRep
Received: Apr,21 2017 13:30:07
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: San Francisco VA Health Care System (SFVAHCS) has the following comments:

Ensure that SFVAHCS is notified in advance of all dates of this event.

Ensure participant do not park on SFVAHCS property.

Correspondence ID: 42 **Project:** 65492 **Document:** 77983
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Affiliation:
Received: Apr,21 2017 15:01:45
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Hello,

I am writing to oppose the proposed campsite on the north end of the Seal Rock Drive residential area.

While attempting to provide a nature experience which is beneficial for students, this proposal does not fulfill that goal in any way.

Camping in what is essentially a residential park area will not give the participants a nature experience. There has been an increase in car traffic; it is noisy and not safe at night. There is also an increase in drug use/ sharing and homelessness in that exact location.

For us as residents of Seal Rock I am very concerned about privacy, quiet, safety, and light during the night. In addition there are no toilet facilities near the area- a big issue!

Finally, I think adding camping activities in this area will disrupt even further the wildlife and flora that exists in this area. I am a California State Parks volunteer and have worked very hard to off-set the loss of native habitat that increases every year. This location is not the place to have overnight camping!

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Thank you,



Correspondence ID: 43 **Project:** 65492 **Document:** 77983
Outside Organization: Friends of Lands End Unaffiliated Individual
Affiliation: OfficialRep
Received: Apr,21 2017 17:59:35
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Reluctantly, I must oppose the proposed Pacific Leadership Institute (PLI) Overnight Program at West Fort Miley (WFM), Lands End in its current form.

While its mission is admirable, the proposed PLI program brings far too many people to WFM on too many nights of the year. This will impact both nearby residents as well as visitors to Lands End who treasure the quiet and natural beauty of this place.

The program establishes a precedent permitting camping at WFM. Although PLI promises to remove camping gear after each overnight stay, the presence of tents at WFM will not go unobserved and will encourage others to camp there unofficially. We are particularly concerned with the prospect of homeless encampments encroaching on WFM. Park Police - already stretched thin - will need to monitor WFM at all other times to enforce the no-camping status quo. They will be the ones who will have to explain that "you can't camp here, it's only for PLI."

It gives a single organization privileged access to WFM and Lands End.

A two-year pilot program is unacceptable. We recommend a one-year pilot program that reduced the frequency of overnight stay and adds an evaluative process to include all stakeholders (NPS/BMD, PLI, SFVAMC, residents, other users) would better serve all interests. At one year, the proposed action should be assessed for impact and improvements.

Perhaps most troubling, only PLI benefits from the proposed action. It negatively impacts adjacent residents, limits access to WFM for other groups to only one to two weekend per month (as described in the draft plan), and degrades the overall experience of a wild and lonely spot.

Detailed comments are set out below.

Categorical Exclusion

â€¢ We do not agree that the proposed action meet criteria under NEPA for categorical exclusion, nor that it will have "No Adverse Effect."

- o The proposed action represents a major change to the current PLI day-use program. It represents a new use of WFM by PLI.

- o It includes new construction, including an additional low element circuit, a second ropes course and zip line circuit, and involves the temporary set-up and tear-down of structures (additional portable toilets, portable campfire, waste bins, etc.).

Proposed Action

â€¢ The proposed action gives PLI exclusive access to WFM for too much of the year. This puts an unreasonable burden (campfires, early morning activities) on nearby residents and will disturb their weekend activities. It also limits other public access and use of the site. A more reasonable schedule of one monthly overnight use, at least in its pilot phase, would be fairer to both nearby residents and other users of WFM.

- o With 25-35 groups per year, 1-2 nights adds up to 70 nights per year. If camping is held exclusively on weekends (Friday/Saturday/Sunday) for 35 weekends, PLI will be in occupancy for two-thirds of the year, leaving only 17 weekends (or one-third of the year's weekends) for use by the general public. This is an unreasonable burden on local residents and other WFM visitors.

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â€¢ The plan to "reduce potential conflicts and impacts associated with exclusive use, PLI would ensure participants of the "Community Open Days" at the ropes course, which are open to public not affiliated with any particular group."

- o We do not believe this adequately compensates for the loss of access to WFM by the public.
- o This assumes the public is interested and physically able to engage in the ropes course. WFM is, however, a multi-use site. The overnight camping privileges one type of activity (ropes plus overnight camping) over other use cases, including group picnics, local walkers, and skateboarders.
- o Better accommodation of other use cases should be provided to mitigate the loss of access for other groups and individuals.

â€¢ Coordination with the SF VA Medical Center. Who will PLI coordinate with? What happens if problems arise between SFVAMC staff, patients and PLI campers? Has the SFVAMC been included in the development of the proposed plan? Does it represent potential conflicts of interest in use of WFM resources?

â€¢ Overnight parking. Providing six dedicated overnight parking passes to PLI sets a precedent; it will encourage others to park overnight. Because of the large number of tourists who visit Lands End, the area already suffers from a high level of automobile break-ins.

â€¢ Annual meetings with BMD. We encourage NPS and BMD to include other stakeholders in these reviews.

â€¢ Specific impacts

- o Air quality. Open campfires will potentially impact nearby residents (smoke, particulates).
- o Biological/wildlife. The proposed action does not address potential negative impacts on red tail hawks (frequent) and bats (rare) that inhabit the area.
- o Cultural. The proposed action is optimistic in assuming increased activities may not damage historical batteries and may minimize vandalism. It may in fact increase vandalism of and wear-and-tear on historical resources.
- o Socioeconomic. The proposed action does not address the potential negative impact on adjacent private property and property values, residents' privacy, and residents' ability to enjoy the quiet that has brought them to the Lands End neighborhood. Early morning activities and noise will mean early wakeup times for affected residents. While some PLI participants will see a benefit, nearby residents will see a liability.
- o Lightscares. Neighborhood groups have worked with the SFVAMC to minimize or mitigate nighttime light spill; to use the SFVAMC as an excuse for PLI to add increased nighttime illumination ignores the very serious work that has been done to protect night skies. Nighttime camping may also conflict with the Star Parties held at Lands End by the San Francisco Amateur Astronomers. Overnight camping by PLI should not conflict with SFAA star viewing events.
- o Public access limited two hours before sunset. This is the time when many local residents visit WFM and Lands End. Some accommodation should be made for local residents who wish to access WFM during this prime time.
- o Waste management. Before the proposed action is finalized, a waste management plan should be developed.

Correspondence ID: 44 **Project:** 65492 **Document:** 77983

Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual

Affiliation:

Received: Apr,21 2017 22:01:08

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: My main concern is about the location of this proposal even in it's testing phase. The fact that the whole reason for this proposal is to expand it substantially after the two year trial period confirms my objection wholeheartedly. A ropes course and campground filled with young people is

inevitable going to be loud and will disturb the elderly veterans that live in the long term care building right above the proposed site. Many of the veterans in that building made a career out of being in the military. It does not sound like the vets living in this building were considered at all. If that is the case, it's shameful. The smoke from a campground twice a week will rise and enter into this building. It is not good for anyone's health, much less someone that is very elderly and/or in poor health. The smoke will also enter the main hospital building a bit further away which is filled with sick vets.

Another reason I am opposed to this project is that it is another program focused only on youth. The National Park Service does not have any programs focused on seniors or multi-generational programs. Your mission statement talks about being inclusive of everyone. Everyone except seniors. You would not have any money to spend on these programs if it wasn't for our seniors and veterans. How about something for them? Multi-generational programs are a win win for everyone. Maybe San Francisco could be a good example. I heard about this by accident. I was looking for something else. Not many people know this is being considered. I don't know where you advertise, but if you don't get much of a response, you know your outreach is not working.

Correspondence ID: 45 **Project:** 65492 **Document:** 77983
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Affiliation:
Received: Apr,21 2017 23:52:06
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Golden Gate National Recreation Area, Pacific Leadership Institute Overnight Program, West Fort Miley, Lands End - Proposal and Draft Categorical Exclusion Comment

This pilot project with Pacific Leadership Institute (PLI) falls under an existing relationship with NPS/GGNRA. Trying to understand why this pilot project at Fort Miley is important to PLI and NPS, I went to Pacific Leadership Institutes website. I suspect it is all about the financial bottom line for both organizations. The document available on the GGNRA website does not give any information about fixed program costs/revenue to PLI and NPS each group that currently uses the the Ropes Course at Fort Miley. Obviously, PLI has to pay their staff and costs of the program, and NPS has to cover expenses of staff as well as underfunded upkeep, repairs, etc. Lack of funding by Congress, which is likely to get worse under Trump, is the root leading that led to creative financing with a variety of partners of National Parks.

Cost of Program -

" What this GGNRA proposal doesnt say is if the diversity they are looking for are at risk youth and young adults who are economically disadvantaged and racially and/or ethnically diverse.

" Its not clear on the GGNRA proposal if PLI is a for-profit or not-for-profit group. I was surprise to see that the request for donations on the PLI website, with suggested donation amounts, does not declare 501(3)(c) status. If not, donations are not tax deductible. Pacific Leadership Institute and San Francisco State University Health and Social Sciences are not listed in Charity Navigator. However, San Francisco State University Foundation is listed as 501(3)(c) organization, but is not rated.

<http://www.pliprograms.org/get-involved/sponsor-program/>

" Donation amounts gives a clear idea of cost per participant which would requires a generous donor to cover the costs of a group of youth in an underserved community/school outside of the San Francisco School system.

- o \$10-\$499 donation will go directly into our scholarship fund, ensuring diverse under-served youth groups have access to PLI Programs.

- o \$500 donation will provide a targeted under-served group of up to 15 onto the course for a program they

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wouldnt be able to do otherwise. You will be invited to join in on this adventure along with the group you support.

- o \$1,000 donation will provide a targeted under-served classroom of up to 25 students onto the course for a program they wouldnt be able to do otherwise. You will be invited to join in on this adventure along with the group you support.

- o \$2,000 donation will sponsor a youth through our summer Youth Lead! Program. This young person will learn the technical and facilitation skills required to lead adventure programs with PLI through our busy summer season. This young leader will gain 250 hour of leadership training and experience.

- o \$10,000 donation can help maintain an element of the course and programs.

Questions regarding fees for participation:

- o Do the PLI costs/fees for the Fort Miley Ropes Course vary by different kinds of user - corporate program, private school or class program, SF public school class, or one of the Community Open Days?

- o Does NPS charge PLI a sliding scale for use of Fort Miley Ropes Course? If not, would NPS consider it for low income, underserved groups like Sierra Club Inspiring Connections Outdoors (ICO)?

- o What are the fees for Community Open Days? How is Community defined (nearby neighbors, residents of San Francisco or the Bay Area or whoever signs up online? If underserved youth apply are reduced fees or scholarships available?

- o Yelp respondents for both group team building programs and the 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm Community Open Days at Fort Miley report program costs ranging from \$25 for students to \$35 and \$50 for adults over a 2009 to 2015 time period. Most, but not all comments, were positive. Negative ones reported were long lines and closure of the course at 3:00 pm instead of 4:00 pm, etc. How would PLI and NPS respond to these comments or correct them?

Mission of Program -

" PLI's Mission statement quote from the PLI website at <http://www.pliprograms.org/about-us/mission/>
To instill confidence, cooperation, and empowerment of youth and adult leaders to create positive change in their community. We fulfill this mission by providing meaningful team-based experiences to a broad spectrum of the Bay Area community with a specific focus on underserved urban youth.

" Pacific Leadership Institute Overnight Program Proposal and Draft Categorical Exclusion quote from Attachment 1-2 PLI.pdf

PLI seeks to diversify current program offerings by piloting an overnight camping program on the upper lawn at Fort Miley. With high demand for PLI's programs, this new option would allow PLI to reach new youth populations and deepen the experiences for those already being served.

" Attachment A-7 quote

A majority of the campers would be from under-served audiences who visit the PLI Ropes Course prior to camping. This would be the first camping experience for many urban youth who reside in the city.

" Attachment A-8: Issue quote: Increase in diverse populations which visit and use this location.

Impact: Participants of the PLI Ropes Course are: 28% Asian, 24% White, 20% Latino, 14% African American, 4% Pacific Islander, 2% Native American & 8% Other/No Response. Proposed camping participants would participate in the Ropes Course during the day, and therefore be similarly diverse.

Questions concerning During the July 2016 Packing the Parks event used as a precedent for single-night pack in, pack out camping managed by a park partner PLI.

- o How well did the diversity of the participating group on July 2016 match the percentages stated above?

- o How many participants were actually at the July 2016 event?

- o What was the age range of members in participating group?

- o Did the socio-economic status of the participating group in July 2016 match PLI's Mission, a specific focus on underserved urban youth? If not, why not?

- o How were the participants in the 2016 event selected? Were they from a single agency, mix of agencies, a random selection? Please explain..

- o If this participating group was drawn from a school or other agency, was any of their staff, leaders or

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parents present to assist PLI staff?

Background for asking the above questions and some following:

Tamiscal H.S. In Larkspur/Corte Madera, Marin County is one of the partners with about 24 juniors participating in the program at least once a year. Chuck Ford, a founding member, circa 1969, of Sierra Club San Francisco Bay Inner City Outings (recently changed to Inspiring Connections Outdoors or ICO), most likely helped develop the PLI/TEAM relationship while teaching at Tamiscal H.S. The entire student body is an at risk population of under-performing students. It has been very successful and is well funded. Their hiking, backpacking and snow camping trips are included with other SF Bay Area ICO trips to Sierra Club National trip reports. Ive been doing the trip reports for well over 10 years, however this activity was never included as an ICO event. The ratio of white to non-white hovers around 21:3. Because TEAM is well funded, it is able do more than most ICO groups can, and has its own equipment. The rest of SF Bay ICO works in partnership with agencies made up of teachers classes, after school programs, community centers, etc. ICO relies mostly on small grants and/or agency funds to cover and costs of food, transportation, replacing equipment, camping and entry fees. The cost of the PLI programs are well beyond the budget any of fifty Sierra Club ICO Chapters nationwide.

Baltimore ICO formed in 1998. The first trip was with 32 unmatched boys and girls, ages 11 to 14, from the Big Brothers Big Sisters Program. Their program didnt have enough adult volunteers to act as Big Brothers or Sisters. The Baltimore ICO co-chairs worked a deal with a private school in North Baltimore to let these kids try out their Low Ropes Course under oversight of the Course Director. Only a few kids knew each other from school. ICO volunteers drove them in vans from 5 different areas of the city. A few kids came out to the van from behind boarded up buildings. The drive was to the school was completely silent. They didnt talk or act like normal middle school kids. They sat quietly while the Course Director explained what they were going to do and introduced the high school students who would help them. When they walked out to the first challenge, they were still quiet. That changed as they tried to figure out how to solve the first low ropes challenge. After the 2nd, their noise level was normal and their enthusiasm was over the top. Leadership shifted as other kids volunteered alternative solutions during the next 8 challenges. At lunch, before we headed home, they all acted like long time friends. The bus ride home was noisy. Farewells and calls of Hope to see you next month. were the norm. The kids were transformed. The Director felt his students benefitted the shared experience, as much if not more. His assessment led to the school returning our fee and didnt charge the 3 to 4 groups that we took each year after that. Baltimore ICO continued with the partnership for over 5 years until the schools insurance carrier developed concerns about liability issues with the physical set up of Ropes Course. They had no issue with the participation of ICO kids.

Increase socio-economical diversity:

Youth and young adults from troubled, underfunded schools, neighborhoods should be able to participate in the PLI program, at least for a 1/2 or whole day. PLIs website offers this information at <http://www.pliprograms.org/>. FMACC requires a 2 week notice and \$200 deposit for all group reservations. Scholarships available to underserved urban youth groups, ask Rosy@pliprograms.org for details!

Unfortunately, websites are not effective reaching busy administrators or teachers about unique opportunities theyve never heard about.

Questions:

- o Can PLI describe the methods they use to inform schools in San Francisco about their program?
- o Does PLI have a documented history of reaching out to underfunded schools in other parts of the Bay

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Area?

- o What outreach techniques work best and will PLI use those for further outreach during the Pilot Program?
- o If donors are encouraged for underfunded schools/agencies could it be advertised throughout the Bay Area so they could enter a drawing for the available space/spaces?

Quiet Hours:

Im not sure the PLI staff has done much camping with teenagers, which is why I asked about the 2016 Packing in the Parks group. Its very hard to get teens to go to sleep at 9:30, without a lot of physical activity during the day. Ropes courses require physical effort, but there is a lot of down time spent standing around while others or the group finish the obstacle/course. During June-July, twilight is after 9 pm.

As a certified leader for SF Bay ICO, and a cleared chaperone for the Davis Council of both the Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts, Ive gone on camping trips with all three and backpacked twice into PRNS Coast Camp with the Boy Scouts. I can attest to eruptions of laughter after lights out as they settle down in their tents. At least a few kids need to go to the restroom during the night. If the buddy system is in place, 2 or more head to the restroom with flash lights, loud whispers often turning into giggles and laughter. if someone trips they often shout out. For 8 years I took about 130 students to Assateague Island for a weekend field trip over 4 different weekends. We were in a group camp. I had parent volunteers and a former Master Sergeant to help me with the program of exploring the island ecology. Quieting them down at night was the only serious challenge we had every year. To be honest, I put him in charge, and he, with the help of several parents took them on a long night hike.

From the maps presented in the NPS document, it wasnt clear that the campsite picnic tables sit on the concrete pan of West Ft Miley Battery with tent placement closer to the trees. The drawing and map make the 2 Batteries look much further apart than they actually are. Daytime visitors are drawn to stairs, ladders, and trails and want to explore just like I did. They are not far enough away from the campsite. They invite exploration from above and below.

Questions:

- o Should those of us who read the NPS document assume that the neighbors requested the mandatory quiet hours, from 9:30 pm to 6:30 am?
 - o Did NPS point to the neighbors out that Rob Hill campground in the Presidio, CA State Parks, and most National Parks observe 10 PM - 6 PM quiet hours.
 - o Does PLI have back up plans if youth continue to be noisy after the 9:30 pm quiet time?
 - o Will there be enough physical activity before sunset or with a night hike when the sun sets earlier during the spring and fall?
 - o A handicap port-a-pot is uphill from the campsite, about 100 feet from the VA grounds on a wide dirt area. If it stays there teens need to walk past the entry to Battery Chester and a trail to the lower part of Battery West Fort Miley. Will the port-a-pot be installed closer to the tents for the overnight camping?
 - o How is the staff going to be sure that not only will there be no night time exploration by flashlight?
- As a certified Sierra Club ICO leader, I wouldnt want to be camping over night at Battery West Fort Miley. It is far too much temptation to camp within 100 of an inviting ladder that leads down into the Battery, especially if they have a bit of time on their hands. For that matter, I would be nervous about going with my 14 year old grandsons Boy Scout Troop for the same reason. Teenage hormones can wreck havoc with good sense.

I will definitely recommend that SF Bay or San Jose ICOs not apply for a subsidized overnight trip, but if

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possible, a subsidized day trip for the Ropes Course would be a wonderful opportunity.

I asked Alan Carlton to add this sentence added to the Sierra Club San Francisco Bay Area Federal Lands comment. Unfortunately, Alan had submitted it early; so he suggested I add it to my own comment which is below:

Current PLI Ropes Course opportunities are quite expensive and therefore out of reach for the majority of school or non-profits serving kids at risk. With the addition of the Pilot Over Night Program is it possible to subsidize more Day-Only programs for low-income groups of school age children?

Thank you for your consideration. I wish you well with the pilot program.

██████████
