

F O R T B A K E R P L A N
F I N A L E N V I R O N M E N T A L I M P A C T S T A T E M E N T



October 1999



Volume II: Response to Comments



The fundamental purpose of all units of the National Park Service is to conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wildlife therein and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations.

—From National Park Service Organic Act, 1916, as amended 1988.

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Final EIS

RESPONSE TO COMMENTS

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FORT BAKER

Final EIS

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This document represents the second of two volumes comprising the Final EIS for the Proposed Fort Baker Plan. The first volume (Volume I) is bound under separate cover and presents the main body of the EIS (project background, environmental setting, impacts and mitigation, etc.). This document, Volume II, presents the public and agency comments on the Draft EIS and the NPS's response to those comments. Volume II consists of three chapters; this Introduction; Master Responses; and Comments & Responses (which includes copies of all letters, e-mail messages and oral comments received during the public review period and NPS responses). Copies of both volumes of the Final EIS are available for review at local public libraries (see Section 6.6 of Volume I for complete list), or can be made available by contacting the:

Fort Baker Planning Team
Fort Mason, Building 201
San Francisco, CA 94123
(415) 561-4844

The final EIS will also be available on the Internet at the following address:

www.nps.gov/goga/

1.1 OVERVIEW OF PUBLIC REVIEW PERIOD

The Draft EIS was circulated in October 1998 for a 60-day review period that closed on December 7, 1998. During that time, members of the public and other government agencies were encouraged to review and submit comments on the document. A total of 113 letters and e-mail messages were received. In addition, on November 18, 1998, a public hearing was held to receive oral comments from the public at a regularly scheduled meeting of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area Advisory Commission. During the hearing 13 people provided oral testimony. Copies of all comment letters, e-mail messages, and a copy of the hearing transcript are presented in Chapter 3 of this document.

1.2 RESPONDING TO COMMENTS

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the NPS's NEPA Guidelines (NPS-12), all substantive comments were considered and responded to in the preparation of this Final EIS. Substantive comments are generally defined as those which raise, debate or question a point of fact or policy. Comments focused on preferences for a particular alternative or those that agree or disagree with NPS policy are not considered substantive.

A written response for each comment is presented in Chapter 3 of this document. Some comments provided on the DEIS requested further explanation or clarification of information presented in the EIS, while others noted corrections or requested that additional analysis be completed and presented in the FEIS. The NPS has reviewed and responded to each comment, consistent with the provisions of CEQ 1503.4. As a result of some of the responses, text revisions (based on requests for additional analysis or corrections noted by commentors) to the EIS have been made. In these instances, an explanation of the change and a cross-reference to the Section of the FEIS (Volume I) which was revised is provided in the response. During the preparation of the FEIS, additional consultation with

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various agencies or relevant groups/organizations was completed. This consultation is cited, as appropriate, in the text of the responses presented in Chapter 3.

As explained in Chapter 2, some issues were raised several times by more than one commentor or several times by the same commentor. In these instances, a “Master Response” was prepared in order to provide one comprehensive response and reduce unnecessary repetition. Chapter 3 provides a comment-by-comment response for all 127 letters/testimonies. In Chapter 3, cross references to relevant Master Responses in Chapter 2 are provided where appropriate.