



# CITY OF SAUSALITO

Joan Cox, Mayor

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February 20, 2018

President Hillis  
Members of the Planning Commission  
San Francisco Planning Department  
1650 Mission Street, Suite 400  
San Francisco, California 94103

**Subject: *Request for Continuance* - 2017-000188ENV Alcatraz Ferry Embarkation Project  
City of Sausalito's Appeal of Preliminary Negative Declaration**

Dear President Hillis and Members of the Planning Commission:

Despite conscientious efforts over a 2-year period to collaborate on a 50-year Master Plan for the Alcatraz Ferry Embarkation Project, the City of Sausalito was forced to appeal a Preliminary Mitigated Negative Declaration that is inconsistent with that Plan in order to protect the health, safety and welfare of its current residents and the generations to come. This approval process is our City's only opportunity to collaborate with the Port of San Francisco and the National Park Service to avoid adverse environmental impacts to Sausalito. We have no objection to the improvements planned at Pier 31 1/2 or to the proposed ferry service to Alcatraz Island. The only component of the Plan at issue for us is the proposed ferry service to Fort Baker, our neighbor to the South.

The City of Sausalito supports regional planning solutions that get people out of their cars and onto public transportation such as ferries. However, we have to ensure that reducing impacts on San Francisco and the Golden Gate Bridge does not result in increased congestion and overcrowding in Sausalito. Our small town of 7,000 is already burdened by over a half million tourist bicyclists that visit Sausalito annually, causing significant impacts to traffic, parking, and circulation. We must ensure additional visitors from the proposed Fort Baker Ferry Service do not exacerbate this already critical situation.

The Planning Commission staff report comprised of 350 pages was first made available to us on Thursday, February 15, 2018. It includes an updated traffic report that we saw for the first time then. We have hired a traffic engineer to evaluate the new data presented, but we need more time to meaningfully respond to the staff's lengthy analysis and the new traffic report.

More importantly, we have been working with NPS to develop a mutually acceptable solution to potential impacts. We have provided NPS with a list of mitigation measures we believe would reduce the potential impacts of the Master Plan to a level of insignificance. However, particularly in light of the new data identified in the staff report, we need more time to continue these discussions. Therefore, we respectfully request that the hearing on our appeal be continued for a minimum of 30 days. (If our request for a postponement is not granted, we will provide our substantive response to the staff report under separate cover by close of business Wednesday.)

Sincerely,

**City of Sausalito**

  
Joan Cox, Mayor

cc: Sausalito City Council Members  
John Rahaim, Director of Planning  
Jonas P. Ionin, Commission Secretary