



DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
P.O. Box 942896 • Sacramento, CA 94296-0001
Marketing and Business Development Division
(916) 653-7733

Major General Anthony L. Jackson, USMC (Ret), Director

March 25, 2014

Catharine Benediktsson
cbenediktsson@me.com

Dear Ms. Benediktsson:

Thank you for your comments on the Angel Island State Park ferry route(s) received by California State Parks (State Parks) on January 27, 2014. Director Jackson has forwarded your letter to me for review and response. State Parks intends to post comments received during the January 16th public input meeting on-line at www.parks.ca.gov/concessions.

Your letter asked a specific question regarding whether the Angel Island ferry transportation service qualified as a "concession."

The Angel Island ferry transportation service does qualify as a concession. Concession contracts are income-generating activities, where the State receives a certain percentage of the income, rebate, or other payment from the vendor, rather than paying the vendor for services. Public Resources Code section 5080.03 further describes concession contracts and authorizes State Parks to enter into concessions contracts developed for the safety and convenience of the general public in the use and enjoyment of, and the enhancement of recreational and educational experiences at, units of the state park system. Concession contracts require a competitive bidding process if occupancy of any portion of the state park system is for a period of more than two years. Concessions may not be entered into solely for their revenue producing potential, and must be consistent with the general plan for the park unit. The Angel Island ferry concession has been in place since the General Plan was approved by the California State Park and Recreation Commission in May 1978. The transportation services provided through concession contracts remain consistent with the Public Resources Code, State Park's mission statement, and the General Plan for Angel Island State Park. Further, concession contracts provide the department with the best method to select an operator, a process that includes a selection criteria based on factors other than a monetary competitive bid. Unlike Greyhound bus service, Angel Island transportation services are essential to the park visitor's recreational and educational experience at a specific state park.

You asked why other ferries receive government subsidies, but not Angel Island-Tiburon Ferry, Inc.

State Parks does not subsidize any ferry operations, and all State Parks' concession contracts provide some compensation to State Parks. The public agency, Water

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Emergency Transportation Agency (WETA) operates Alameda County transportation under a public agency operating agreement. They collect our entrance fees and pay a percentage of their transportation rates to State Parks for dock maintenance.

However, our operating agreement with WETA contains a provision that any net profit received from Angel Island State Park transportation be remitted to State Parks. Any subsidy or compensation WETA may provide to a sub-contracted carrier is not subject to State Parks authority to regulate.

The remaining points in your letter regarding environmental impacts of proposed changes to vessel sizes or speeds, implementation of feasibility study recommendations, integration of the Angel Island ferry transportation operations within the historic interpretation of the park unit, a level playing field in terms of government subsidized operations, and public disclosure and composition of the contract award board members will be considered as public input or recommendations for the future competitive bid process.

Thank you again for your interest and participation in ferry service concessions operations at Angel Island State Park.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Doug Neilson", written in a cursive style.

Douglas A. Neilson
Deputy Director
Marketing and Business Development

cc: Major General Anthony L. Jackson, USMC (Ret), Director