State of California • The Resources Agency Arnold Schwarzenegger, *Governor*
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION Ruth G. Coleman, *Director*
ACQUISITION AND DEVELOPMENT DIVISION • One Capital Mall - Suite 500 • Sacramento CA 95814

January 30, 2006

Ms. Daphne Kwok
Executive Director
Angel Island Immigration Station Foundation
P.O. Box 29237
San Francisco, CA 94129-0237

Re: Response to Comments
Draft Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND)
Hospital Building Rehabilitation Project
Angel Island State Park

Dear Ms. Kwok:

Thank you for your comments regarding the above project. Your interest in and support for this project is appreciated and it is hoped that the following responses will help to answer your questions regarding this project.

Comment 1: Your comments suggest adding the phrase to the project description element of replacing the historic fencing: "if it is determined to be of the best interest for the project and within the interpretive period."

Replacing the fencing was called for as a treatment in the "Cultural Landscape Report for Angel Island Immigration Station, Volume 3: Treatment," December 2002, National Park Service (see p. 41 and Drawing 2.2). On page 41 the document states that the fence was "constructed by the Bureau of Immigration in 1910." This is consistent with the interpretive period for the facility. DPR would welcome and take into consideration any additional information that might be available about the fence.

Comment 2: You indicate that the project description should be changed to indicate that magnesite flooring will remain but need to be encapsulated if there is any chance the asbestos will become friable.

Thank you for your comment. The element of the project description that calls for removing "all friable asbestos-containing materials" was an editorial error. Indeed, Cultural Resource Condition Cult-3 (page 41) states: "Stabilize and conserve historic magnesite flooring and 3' resilient flooring. If this treatment is not possible, the flooring must be replaced with a safe, non-asbestos-containing material that replicates the look and feel of the original magnesite and the 3' strip resilient sheet flooring."

Based on your comment, the following change will be made to the Final MND. Chapter 2, Section 2.5 Project Description, page 13, item 2)g)i) will be changed to read:

i) If possible, the historic magnesite flooring and 3' resilient flooring will be stabilized, conserved, and encapsulated in a manner developed in consultation with a DPR-approved cultural resource specialist. If this treatment is not possible, the flooring will be replaced with a safe, non-asbestos-containing material that replicates the look and feel of the original magnesite and the 3' strip resilient sheet flooring. ~~Remove a~~All other friable asbestos-containing materials or material that may pose a hazard during construction will be removed.

Comment 3: Your comment states that additional restoration work at the site has been envisioned under the Angel Island Immigration Station Master Plan (2003).

While this document represents an important planning effort, it must be noted that the document has not been formally adopted by DPR nor has it undergone review under CEQA. Funding sources to carry out such work have not been identified. These factors make it far from certain that any of that work would be carried out in the foreseeable future.

Based on your comments the following changes will be made to the Final MND. Chapter 2, Section 2.10 Related Projects, p. 15 will be revised to read:

DPR often has other maintenance programs and rehabilitation projects planned for a park unit. A project is currently underway to restore the Detention Barracks and the cultural landscape, as well as providing a representation of the original Administration Building footprint, repair hardscape features, upgrade site utilities, and abate hazardous materials from the Detention Barracks and Power House.

Additional work would be needed to completely restore the Immigration Station complex, as envisioned by the project partners and interested community members in the Angel Island Immigration Station Master Plan (2003). However, the Master Plan has not been formally adopted by DPR. Funding sources to carry out such work have not been identified. ~~n~~No additional work beyond the activities proposed in this project is currently planned for this site. Only general maintenance work is scheduled to occur in the near future, once this project is complete. If any activities envisioned in the Master Plan were to be undertaken, they will first be subject to review under CEQA for potential impacts, including any cumulative impacts.

Comment 4: Your comment indicates that some site lighting is an element of the project and needs to be evaluated for potential impacts.

The statement that lighting is not a part of the project is indeed in error. Thank you for your observation.

Based on your comment, the following change will be made to the Final MND. Chapter 3, Section I. Aesthetics, Discussion d), page 22 will be revised to read:

Lighting is ~~not an~~ a minimal element of this project. Lighting installed on the building soffit will point downward as will pathway lighting. Designs will be historically compatible and will have no impact to wildlife.~~,~~ ~~a~~All work would be conducted during daylight hours~~, and no permanent new light sources would be introduced into the landscape~~. Therefore, the project would have no impact.

Comment 5: Your comment provides further information on writings on one of the walls. Based on your comment, the following change will be made to the Final MND. Chapter 3, Section V. Cultural Resources, Environmental Setting, page 35, paragraph 5, last sentence will be revised to read:

Some of the writings and inscriptions on the wall in the men's Japanese ward (room 221) were photographed, removed, conserved, and archived several years ago.

Comment 6: Your comment provides further information on writings on one of the walls. Based on your comment, the following change will be made to the Final MND. Chapter 3, Section V. Cultural Resources, Environmental Setting, page 37, final paragraph, second sentence will be revised to read:

Architectural conservator David Wessel removed and archived some of these in 2003 for future re-installation or exhibit.

Comment 7: You comment asks if post-construction photos need to be taken for the elevator installation.

Post-construction photodocumentation will provide for a complete record of the work. DPR will take and store these photos.

Comment 8: Your comment suggests flexibility regarding restoration of the original bathrooms. We feel that the project design and conditions provide for the necessary flexibility while also protecting cultural resources. Cultural Resource Condition Cult-5 recognizes limits of feasibility by calling for retention of original design and construction of new restroom facilities within original restroom spaces "where possible". Further, the condition requires participation of a DPR-qualified historian to ensure the best protection of resources in light of feasibility.

Thank you again for your comments and support for this project.

Sincerely,

Gail Sevrens
Associate Park and Recreation Specialist