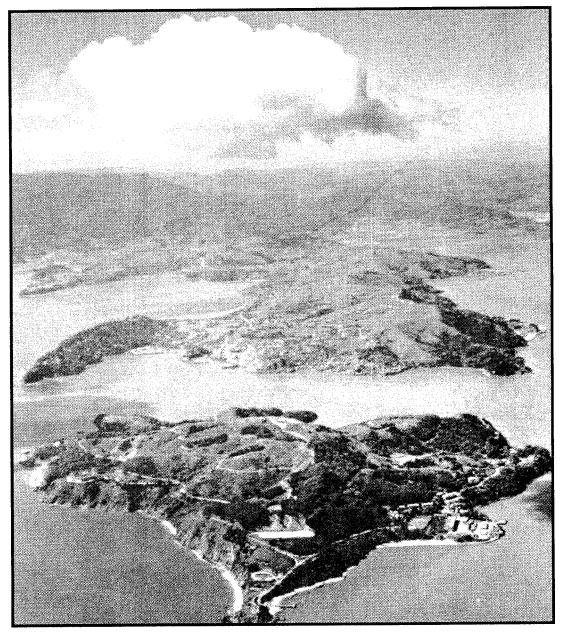
Angel Island State Park



General Development Plan Expanded Tram Service Amendment

Preliminary



March 1996

ANGEL ISLAND STATE PARK GENERAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN AMENDMENT EXPANDED TRAM SERVICE

The Department of Parks and Recreation is proposing to amend the Angel Island State Park General Development Plan (adopted May 5, 1978) to provide for tram service around the entire perimeter of the island. Current tram service is limited to the north side of the island between East and West Garrisons.

The proposed extension of tram service will provide improved access and distribution of visitors to the south side of the island. This extended service will provide additional recreational and interpretation opportunities for the public, and especially for the elderly and the mobility-challenged.

Because of the steep grade and narrow road, no tram service shall be permitted to the top of Mount Livermore.

The following language changes are proposed for the existing General Development Plan:

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> Insert: If determined to be possible, the tram route can generally follow the main perimeter road around the island. The tram route would also extend to the island ferry points at Ayala Cove and East Garrison. The Director or his designee shall have the authority to determine the schedule and routes of the tram service in accordance with visitor service needs, and road capacity, consistent with resource protection.

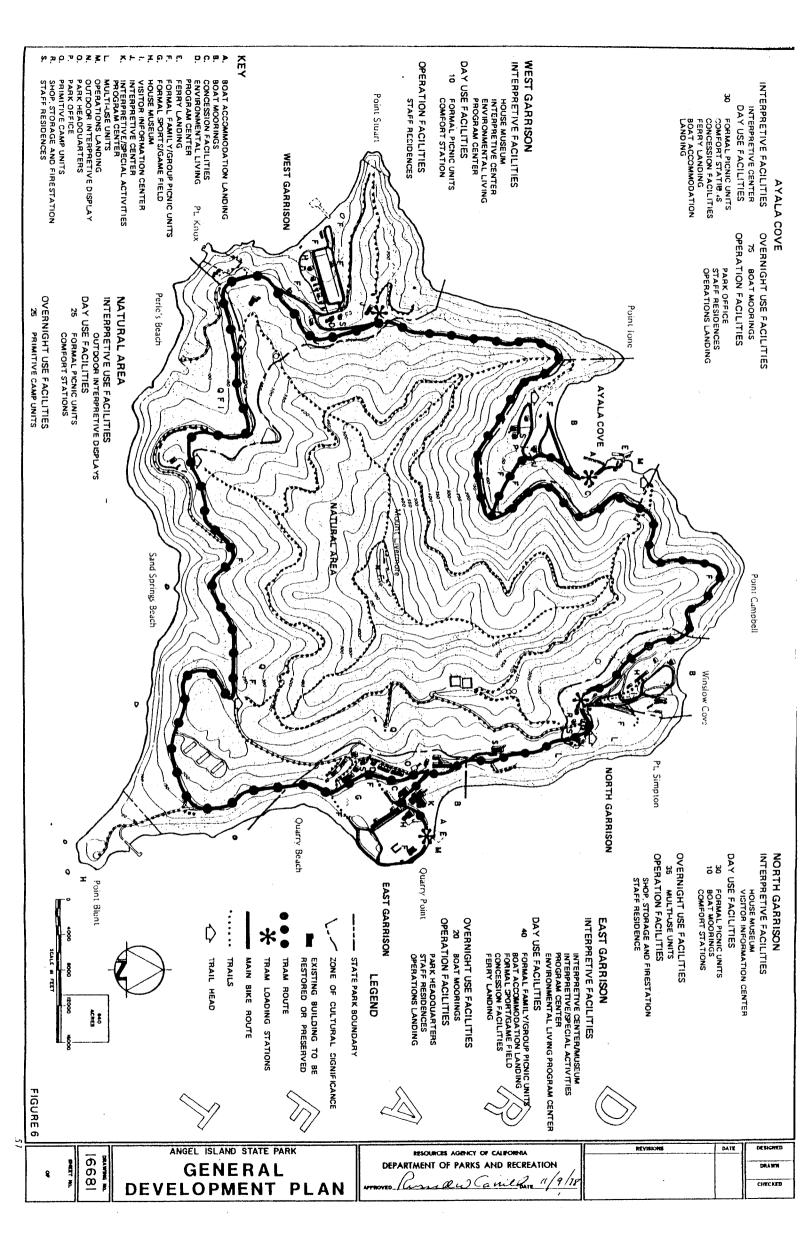
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Insert: "An on-island interpretive tram is also provided by concession agreement."

Delete: "This operation is handled independently of ferry service and tram service by the third concessionaire."

- Page 89 <u>Trams</u> Add: "The Director of his designee has the authority to prescribe the routes and schedule in accordance with visitor service needs, and road capacity, consistent with resource protection."
- Page 125 <u>Roads</u>: Add: "The extension of the tram service to the unpaved road on south side of the island may accelerate erosion and deterioration of the road surface and, therefore, may require improvements to be made to the road.

The General Development Plan and Island Transportation drawings will be revised to reflect the Amendment.



COMMENTS AND RESPONSES

The Angel Island State Park General Development Plan - Expanded Tram Service Preliminary Amendment and Negative Declaration was circulated for public review in accordance with the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act. Notice of Availability was published in the Marin Independent Journal. Copies of the Plan were available for public review at the Belvedere-Tiburon County Branch Library, Marin Civic Center Library, and the Marin District Office. The Preliminary Amendment and Negative Declaration was sent for public review to:

Marin County Planning Department Tiburon Planning Department Association of Bay Area Governments Sierra Club State Park Task Force Marin Conservation League San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission Resources Agency Department of Conservation Department of Fish and Game Office of Historic Preservation Department of Water Resources California Highway Patrol Department of Transportation Air Resources Board California Regional Water Quality Control Board State Lands Commission

Comments were received by the end of the public review from the Marin Conservation League. Their comments and the Department of Parks and Recreation response is attached.



Past and Present

Angel Island Mt. Tamalpais Samuel Taylor Park Bolinas Lagoon/Kent Island Stinson Beach Drakes Bay Beach **Tomales Bay** Pt. Reves National Seashore Richardson Bay Sanctuary Corte Madera Tidelands Strawberry Tidelands **Bothin Marsh** Heerdt Marsh The Northridge Rancho Olompali Marin's Agricultural Lands Marin's Dairy Farms **Coastal Protection** Golden Gate National **Recreation Area** Offshore Oil Drilling Marin Planning Issues Wild and Scenic Rivers S. F. Bay Protection

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MARIN CONSERVATION LEAGUE

A non-profit corporation founded in 1934

35 Mitchell Boulevard, Suite 11 San Rafael, CA 94903 Office telephone: 415 • 472-6170

April 2, 1996

Robert Ueltzen Northern Service Center, Department of Parks and Recreation P.O. Box 942896 Sacramento, CA 95816

RE: General Development Plan Amendment Negative Declaration Angel Island State Park

Dear Mr. Ueltzen:

Thank you for sending us a copy of the General Development Plan Amendment and Negative Declaration for Angel Island State Park. We have several questions about this proposal for extending tram service around the island.

We understand that the road around the south side of the island is in poor shape, both because it has not been needed as a surfaced road, and because some sections have become further eroded due to removal of the eucalyptus.

1) Will the road be regraded or paved for the tram service? If not, the result may be a bumpy tram ride, and may also impact hikers by dust or by road space, as the tram would undoubtedly take the least rutted road section.

2) Who would pay for renovation of the road? The concessionaire/tram operator? The state park, for the benefit of the concessionaire/tram operator? A combination?

Marge Macris
Larry McFaddenThe general plan amendment states that the proposed tram
service extension would provide improved access and
distribution of visitors to the south side of the island.Linda Millerick
Jane MillsIt is our understanding, however, that the current tram
tis our understanding, however, that the current tram
ride is \$9.00 per person, which is quite expensive for
families, and that the ride with its travelogue is not
set up to let people on and off. (People can get off, but
not necessarily on again on a later tram.)

3) Will the tram extension be oriented differently, to

Angel Island page 2

let people on and off, or could a separate tram service be set up to simply distribute visitors around the island at a less expensive price without the travelogue?

Thank you for your consideration of these questions.

Sincerely, riscilla Bul

Priscilla Bull, President

JS

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION P.O. BOX 942896 SACRAMENTO 94296-0001

April 10, 1996

Ms. Priscilla Bull, President Marin Conservation League 35 Mitchell Boulevard, Suite 11 San Rafael, CA 94903

Dear Ms. Bull:

Thank you for your comments of April 2, 1996 on the Negative Declaration for the Angel Island State Park General Development Plan Amendment. Our responses to your numbered comments follow.

1. There is no current proposal to pave the road. We are considering the tram service around the entire island as an experimental program. Following a one year trial, the impacts to the road, and the demand for the service will be evaluated.

2. As stated above, the service is initially experimental. It is not the function of a General Plan or the Amendment to determine responsibility for maintenance and improvements; that would be a negotiated condition of the concession agreement if the program is continued. We have not yet determined who will bear the cost of repairs or paving, if necessary. The Department also uses the unpaved road for patrol and maintenance vehicle access.

The current fee schedule is \$5.00 for the tram ride. One may pay an additional \$4.00 for the headphones for the audio interpretive program.

3. There is no proposal to configure the tram service extension in a different manner at this time. The routes, schedules, and stops are subject to the approval of the District Superintendent. The concessionnaire has replaced one of the trams with one of larger passenger capacity and will soon replace the other which will allow more flexibility to pick up and drop off passengers at different stops.

If you have any questions please fell free to contact Robert Ueltzen, Northern Service Center at (916) 323-0975, or Ken Leigh, Marin District at (415) 456-1286.

Wayne O. Woodrag

Wayne Woodroof, Manager Northern Service Center

NEGATIVE DECLARATION

NAME OF PROJECT:

GENERAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN AMENDMENT

PROJECT PROPONENT:

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

PROJECT LOCATION:

ANGEL ISLAND STATE PARK, MARIN COUNTY

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

AMEND GENERAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN TO PERMIT THE TRAM TO TRAVEL AROUND THE ENTIRE PERIMETER OF THE ISLAND. SEE APPENDIX.

CONTACT PERSON:

ROBERT UELTZEN NORTHERN SERVICE CENTER CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION P.O. BOX 942896 SACRAMENTO, CA 94296 - 0001 (916) 323-0975

THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION PROPOSES TO ADOPT A NEGATIVE DECLARATION FOR THE PROPOSED PROJECT, PURSUANT TO STATE C.E.Q.A. GUIDELINES (TITLE 14 - CALIFORNIA CODE OF REGULATIONS) REGARDING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (PUBLIC RESOURCES CODE - SECTION 21000 ET SEQ.). IF THERE ARE SIGNIFICANT CHANGES IN THE CHARACTER OF THE PROJECT BEFORE ITS IMPLEMENTATION, ANOTHER ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT DETERMINATION WILL BE MADE. STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Department of Parks and Recreation

INITIAL STUDY CHECKLIST

State Clearinghouse # <u>96032021</u>

I. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

A. Name of Project: GEVERAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN AMENDMENT B. Checklist Date: <u>96/03/01</u>. C. Contact Person: ROBERT LIELTZEN Telephone: (9/6) 96/-7786 Location: ANGEL ISLAND STATE PARK, MARIN COUNTY D. E. Description: AMEND CENERAL DEVELOSMENT PLAN TO PERMIT TRAM SERVICE AROUND THE ISLAND. ON THE DEDINAETER F. Persons and Organizations Contacted: Key Leigh, DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT, MARIN DISTRICT: 7/19 ANGE ISLAND GEVERAL DEVELOPMENT ALAN INCORPORATED BY

II. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS. (Explain all "yes" and "maybe" answers. Also, mark with an asterisk (*) and explain all "no" answers that might reasonably be questioned.

Α.	Earth. Will the proposal result in:	Yes	Maybe	No
	 Unstable earth conditions such as slope failure or mudslides? Disruptions, displacements, compaction, or overcovering of the soil? Change in natural topography or major ground surface relief features? 			
	4. The destruction, covering, or modification of any unique geologic or physical features?		-	
	5. Any increase in wind or water erosion of soils, either on or off the site?		NC	
	6. Changes in deposition or erosion of beach sands, or changes in siltation, deposition or erosion which may modify the channel of a river or stream or the bed of the ocean or any bay, inlet, or lake?			Ø
В.	Air. Will the proposal result in:			
	1. Substantial air emissions or deterioration of ambient air quality?			\square
	2. The creation of objectionable odors?		Ø	
C.	Water. Will the proposal result in:			
	1. Changes in the course or direction of water movements, in either marine or fresh waters?			Ø
	2. Changes in absorption rates, drainage patterns, or the rate and amount of surface		\square	
	water runoff?			
	4. Discharge of pollutants into surface waters, or any alteration of surface water quality, including but not limited to temperature, dissolved oxygen or turbidity?			
	5 Alteration of the bed of a lake, stream or river?			

	6. Change in the quantity of ground waters, either through direct additions or with-drawals, or through interception of an aquifer by cuts or excavation?7. Substantial reduction in the amount of water otherwise available for public water			
	8. Exposure of people or property to water-related hazards such as flooding or tidal			
	waves?			Ø
	9. Significant changes in the temperature, flow or chemical content of surface thermal springs?			Ø
D.	Plant Life. Will the proposal result in:			
	1. Change in the diversity of species, or number of any species of plant (including trees, shrubs, grass, and aquatic plants)?			Ø
	2. Reduction of the numbers of any unique, rare, threatened or endangered species of plants?	—	-1	5
	3. Reduction or deterioration of any rare or endangered plant community?	H		N
	4. Reduction of acreage of any agricultural crop or pasturage ?			Ø
E.	Animal Life. Will the proposal result in:			
• ليد	1. Change in the diversity of species, or numbers of any species of animals (birds, land animals including reptiles, fish and shellfish, benthic organisms, or insects)?			
	2. Reduction of the numbers of any unique, threatened or endangered species of animals?			И
	3. Introduction of new species of animals into an area, or result in a barrier to the			
	migration or movement of animals?			NN
	4. Deterioration of existing fish of whome habitat			
F.	Noise. Will the proposal result in:			_
	1. Increase in existing noise levels?	Ø		
	2. Exposure of people to severe noise levels?	L		
G.	Land Use. Will the proposal result in:			
	1. A substantial alteration of the present or planned land use of an area?	Ø		
н.	Energy and Natural Resources Will the proposal result in:			
	1. Increase in the rate of use of any natural resources or energy?	Ŋ		
	2. Substantial depletion of any nonrenewable resources?		Ĺ	
I.	Risk of Upset. Will the proposal result in:			
	1. A risk of an explosion or the release of hazardous substances (including, but not limited to, oil, pesticides, chemicals, or radiation) in the event of an accident or upset conditions?			Ø
	2. Possible interference with emergency response plan or an emergency evacuation		·	
	plan?		L	
J.	Population. and Housing. Will the proposal result in:			
	1. The alteration, distribution, density, or growth rate of the human population of the area?		– 1	N
	 2. Effecting existing housing, or create a demand for additional housing? 			

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К.	 Transportation/ Circulation. Will the proposal result in: 1. Generation of substantial additional vehicular movement?		
L.	 Public Services. Will the proposal have an effect upon, or result in a need for new or altered governmental services in any of the following areas: 1. Fire protection?		
M.	Utilities Will the proposal result in a need for new systems or substantial alterations to the following utilities: 1. Electric power or natural gas?		
N.	Human Health . Will the proposal result in:1. Creation of any health hazard or potential health hazard (excluding mental health)?2. Exposure of people to potential health hazards?		NN N
0.	 Plan Conformance: Will the proposal result in: 1. Conflict with the State Park System's unit's adopted general plan? 2. Conflict with the Department of Park and Recreation's Resource Management Directives? 3. Conflict with any other applicable adopted plan? 		
Ρ.	Aesthetics . Will the proposal result in:1. The obstruction of any scenic vista or view open to the public, or will the proposal result in the creation of an aesthetically offensive site open to public view?2. New sources of light or glare?		
Q.	<i>Recreation</i> . Will the proposal result in: 1. An impact upon the quality or quantity of existing recreational opportunities?		
R.	Cultural Resources . 1.Will the proposal result in the alteration of or the destruction of a prehistoric or historic archeological site?		N N

	3. Does the proposal have the potential to cause a physical change which would affect unique ethnic cultural values?		
	4. Will the proposal restrict existing religious or sacred uses within the potential impact area?	L	
			Ø
S.	Mandatory Findings of Significance.		
	1. Does the project have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or elminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?	П	
	2. Does the project have the potential to achieve short-term, to the disadvantage of	<u>ц</u>	
	long-term, environmental goals?		
	3. Does the project have impacts which are individually limited, but cumulatively		~~
	considerable?		\square
	4. Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse		
	effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?		Z

III. DISCUSSION OF POSSIBLE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS AND POTENTIAL MITIGATIONS (See Attached Comments)

IV. DETERMINATION

On the basis of this initial evaluation:

- I find the proposed project could not have a significant effect on the environment, and a NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.
- □ I find that although the proposed project could have significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect in this case because mitigation measures have been added to the project. A NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.
- ☐ I find the proposed project could not have a significant effect on the environment, but an ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT will be prepared according to Department of Parks and Recreation general plan procedures.

I find the proposed project MAY have a significant effect on the environment, and an ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required.

Date: <u>96 / 03 / 04</u>

Signed: $R_{o}L_{f} + U_{h} =$

DISCUSSION OF POSSIBLE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS AND POTENTIAL MITIGATION

- A.2. The tram traffic on the unpaved portion of the perimeter road will increase compaction and erosion. The road is currently used by park operation vehicles and has been historically used by Army vehicles prior to acquisition by the State. The increased vehicle traffic may require additional road surface maintenance and improvements.
- A.5. The increase in vehicular traffic will cause an increase in the soil erosion of the unpaved portion of the perimeter road. Compaction of the surface will increase runoff which in turn will increase erosion. Additional drainage control structures (culverts, energy dissipaters, curbs, etc.) may be necessary.
- B.2. The tram exhaust will be an objectionable odor to the pedestrians and bicyclists using the roadway. With the tram traveling at 15 MPH, a pedestrian would be within a 50 feet of a tram for about 4.5 seconds.
- C.2. Compaction of the unpaved road surface will increase runoff. The impact is not considered significant given that the increase in traffic will be approximately 7 to 10 trips per day on a weekend. Currently the road is used by park patrol and maintenance vehicles.
- F.1. There will be an increase in the noise levels along the section of road that has not been previously used. A light truck traveling 10 MPH generates between 61 and 65 dbA at 50 feet. Top speed of the tram is about 18 MPH. A pedestrian 10 feet from the vehicle would be subjected to a 14 dbA increase. The Federal Highway Administration design noise level for tracts of lands in which serenity and quiet are of extraordinary significance is 60 dbA; for recreation and parks, the design noise level is 70 dbA. The resultant noise increase will exceed both those levels. These noise increases will only occur during the trams trips, a maximum of 7 to 10 times per day on a weekend.
- G.2. The 1978 General Development Plan limited the tram route between East and West Garrisons on the north part of the island.

This amendment will allow the introduction of a new transportation use in the southern part of the island.

- K.1. While the percentage increase in traffic may be substantial, the actual number of trips per day is not.
- K.4. The southern portion of the island served by the unpaved perimeter road has been limited to visitor foot and bicycle traffic. This plan amendment will permit the tram to travel this portion of the roadway.
- L.4. The additional traffic may require additional upkeep and improvements to maintain the roadway surface.
- O.1. The existing General Development Plan adopted in 1978 limited the tram route to the northern part of the island on the paved road between West and East Garrisons.
- Q.1. The extended tram service will provide access to the southern portion of the island. Recreation, interpretation and scenic opportunities will be made available to a larger spectrum of the visiting public. The recreational experience may be diminished for those visitors seeking to escape urban intrusion created by motorized vehicles.

APPENDIX 1 GENERAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN AMENDMENT EXPANDED TRAM SERVICE

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