

Alcatraz Ferry Terminal Relocation

We dodged a bullet on this one. The National Park Service (NPS) contract with the Port of San Francisco for the ferry to Alcatraz expires in 2016, and the need to renew (or lose service to Alcatraz) was a catalyst for trying to locate a more permanent embarkation terminal, with interpretative displays and gift shop, enclosed waiting areas and bathrooms, all of which are lacking in the current set-up. NPS has now issued a Draft Environmental Impact Report ("DEIR") regarding its options and recommendation: the first option was to do nothing and try to renew the existing contract; second option was to move to Pier 3 (Ft. Mason); third was to rebuild the current site (Pier 31 ½); and the fourth was to relocate to Pier 41 and make all the improvements there.

Among other considerations, the proposal studied the impact on marine life, surface traffic and noise. It recommends staying at Pier 31 ½ but fixing the piers and expanding the terminal. This now goes into a period of public comment, with a meeting at the Ferry Building on March 31, 4-7 pm, Bayside Conf Room. Details below. We encourage your attendance.

It would have been terrible for harbor users if they went to Ft. Mason, increasing ferry wake into East Harbor. It would also have made the traffic and parking situation worse due to tourists arriving with rental cars, as well as by taxi, bus, and so forth, and the T-shirt shops and other low quality commercial activity would have affected the neighborhood, and detracted from the existing businesses along the Embarcadero which depend on that customer base. Furthermore, it would have depended on the F line continuation through the tunnel to the Marina, which is unlikely to ever get extended due to high cost, low ridership and impact on foot and bike traffic. The report is contained in a large file that I downloaded but cannot forward. Here's the link:

<http://parkplanning.nps.gov/document.cfm?parkID=303&projectID=41352&documentID=64026>

Bruce J. Stone
President, SF Marina Harbor Association
bruce@brucestone.com
917-822-4060
561-423-0350 eFax

From NPS:

To learn more about the project and to talk to the project team we invite you to attend the public meeting listed below. NPS will be accepting public comments at this meeting.

Meeting Details:

Tuesday, March 31, 2015
4:00 PM - 7:00 PM
Bayside Conference Room
Pier 1, The Embarcadero
San Francisco, CA 94111

Action Alternatives:

In addition to a No Action Alternative, the DEIS analyzes the following alternative locations for a northern waterfront Alcatraz Island embarkation:

- **Pier 31 1/2**
This site is located along the Embarcadero. It is owned by the Port and serves as the existing embarkation site.
- **Pier 41**
This site is owned by the Port and located in Fisherman's Wharf. It served as the previous embarkation site between the early 1980s and 2006.
- **Pier 3**
This site is located on federal property at Fort Mason, a former U.S. Army post that is now a National Historic Landmark District.



Project Locations

PUBLIC REVIEW

The DEIS can be downloaded from the project website: <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/AlcatrazFerry>.

Paper copies can be viewed at the public libraries, including: San Francisco Main Library; San Francisco Library Anza Branch, Sunset Branch, Marina Branch, Presidio Branch; and the Sausalito Main Library

You are invited to submit comments on this Draft EIS from **Friday, February 20 through Wednesday, May 20, 2015** in any of the following ways:

- Online: <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/AlcatrazFerry>
- By mail, to GGNRA Superintendent, Bldg. 201, Fort Mason, San Francisco, CA 94123, Attn: Alcatraz Ferry Embarkation
- At the public meeting (details above)