

1 [National Park Service - Cease Efforts to Locate Alcatraz Ferry Service at Fort Mason Piers]

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3 **Resolution urging the National Park Service to abandon plans to locate Alcatraz Ferry**  
4 **Service at Fort Mason Piers and to focus their efforts on working with the Port of San**  
5 **Francisco to continue service at the Port.**

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7 WHEREAS, The National Park Service (NPS) began a public scoping and planning  
8 process in June of 2012 to establish a long-term ferry embarkation site for passenger service  
9 between the San Francisco waterfront and Alcatraz Island; and

10 WHEREAS, The Alcatraz Ferry Embarkation Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)  
11 will also evaluate a ferry connection from the San Francisco embarkation site to existing piers  
12 in Sausalito and/or Fort Baker; and

13 WHEREAS, NPS is evaluating potential sites at Fort Mason Piers and three sites at the  
14 Port of San Francisco – Piers 31 ½, Pier 41 and Pier 45; and

15 WHEREAS, According to the NPS’ Notice of Intent to Prepare and EIS, over 1.4 million  
16 people visit Alcatraz Island annually from the existing ferry embarkations site at Pier 31 and  
17 33 in San Francisco at Fisherman’s Wharf; and

18 WHEREAS, Fisherman’s Wharf is a bustling commercial district with restaurants, gift  
19 shops, over 3000 hotel rooms and other tourist attractions well served by public  
20 transportation; and

21 WHEREAS, Contrast that to Fort Mason in the Marina – a predominantly residential  
22 neighborhood with a population of 23,000 residents, NPS is looking at a very different  
23 landscape that what is currently in place at Fisherman’s Wharf; and

24 WHEREAS, Linking the embarkation location of the Alcatraz Ferry service to the  
25 closest possible proximity to the center of Fisherman’s Wharf will serve to continue the

1 symbiotic relationship the district has enjoyed with the NPS for years by providing a  
2 convenient link for the end customer to the hotels, restaurants, shops, mass transit and  
3 parking facilities that drive volume to Alcatraz and make a well-rounded experience for  
4 visitors.

5 WHEREAS, The Fort Mason location would require shuttle busses to take people from  
6 Jones Street to Fort Mason which will increase large vehicle traffic on streets already  
7 impacted with Golden Gate Transit, Sightseeing Tour Busses and MTA busses.

8 WHEREAS, Fort Mason also pales in comparison to the public transportation options  
9 offered at Fisherman’s Wharf – one of the City’s most popular tourist destinations; and

10 WHEREAS, Adding the potential of 5,000 visitors per day or 35,000 visitors per week  
11 will more than double the population of the Marina and create adverse impacts on parking and  
12 traffic in an already congested area; and

13 WHEREAS, This number does not take into account how many visitors would increase  
14 if ferry service was established between Sausalito and Fort Baker in addition to Alcatraz Ferry  
15 Service; and

16 WHEREAS, If Fort Mason is selected as the best alternative site, this could mean an  
17 addition of 1.5 million people annually coming through the Marina neighborhood looking for  
18 parking, creating traffic and a likely increase in tour bus activity; and

19 WHEREAS, In addition to a ferry embarkation point, NPS’ desire to create an on-land  
20 experience with a visitor center, store and/or museum will also increase the expected impacts;  
21 and

22 WHEREAS, Based on the Draft EIS the NPS published for the F-Line Extension, we  
23 already know that traffic impacts will be long-term and adverse in this area as it stated, “The  
24 [traffic] effect could be adverse if large numbers of people search parking at the marina,  
25 creating traffic congestion at local intersections”; and

1           WHEREAS, Drastically altering a residential neighborhood and the businesses already  
2 established at Fort Mason is rather bold, especially considering that the Fort Mason Center  
3 and the Fort Mason Merchants group does not believe it's a feasible alternative due to  
4 compatibility of use and the glaring absence of public transportation to the site; and

5           WHEREAS, There are currently 4,297 parking lot spaces with walking distances of  
6 Piers 31-45 but only 738 near the Fort Mason piers; and

7           WHEREAS, The Marina Green is already at capacity on the weekends due to  
8 children's athletic leagues such as soccer and various festivals that are permitted through the  
9 Recreation and Park Department; now, therefore,

10 RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors urges the National Park Service to abandon plans  
11 to locate Alcatraz Ferry Service at Fort Mason Piers and to focus their efforts on working with  
12 the Port of San Francisco to continue service at the Port.