



Memorandum

January 9, 2020

To: NEPA Administrative File
From: Jean S. Fraser, Chief Executive Officer 
Subject: Playground Closures and Upgrades Project: Written Determination under 36 CFR 1001.5 for Closure of Three Playgrounds

As the Chief Executive Officer of the Presidio Trust, under Presidio Trust Board Resolution 04-15, *Authority of Executive Director to Establish Public Use Limits and Closures*, **I am closing the playgrounds in the Baker Beach South, Kobbe and Infantry Terrace neighborhoods.**

Effective in the spring of 2020, the playgrounds in the Baker Beach South, Kobbe and Infantry Terrace neighborhoods will be closed and the play equipment removed. The playgrounds to be closed are in residential neighborhoods away from public view and are not accessible. The closures are consistent with Trust resource management objectives, implement the Trust's management plans, and are necessary to maintain public health and safety and provide equitable allocation and use of facilities. Also, the closures are neither of a nature or magnitude that will result in a significant alteration in the public use pattern.

The project was reviewed under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and a Categorical Exclusion was issued on December 9, 2019 (Project 20-011). Currently, the Trust maintains and operates nine playgrounds and will construct a new two-acre play area (the Outpost) as part of the Tunnel Tops project. The Trust will make additional resources available for the operation and maintenance of the six playgrounds to remain and the future Outpost. Currently, approximately 72 percent of residential buildings are within a 5-minute walk of a playground and 95 percent of residential buildings are within a 10-minute walk of a playground. Closure of the three playgrounds will only slightly reduce the level of service such that 63 percent of residential buildings will be within a 5-minute walk of a playground and 87 percent of residential buildings will be within a 10-minute walk of a playground.

Less restrictive measures were determined to be impractical or infeasible. In their current state, the playgrounds to be removed do not comply with safety or accessibility standards. Costs to bring the playgrounds into compliance are estimated at \$600,000 to \$1,000,000 per playground. Annual maintenance costs for a typical Trust-maintained playground are estimated at \$17,500 per playground. Following closure, the playground in the Baker Beach South neighborhood will be left in a "clean slate" condition and eventually reforested. The playgrounds in the Kobbe and Infantry Terrace neighborhoods will be converted to grass play areas.

The public will be notified of the closures through communication to the tenants in neighborhoods surrounding each playground.