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SEP - 2 1970

L58-LL

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Memorandum

To: Secretary of the Interior
Through: Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks

From: Director, National Park Service

Subject: Proposed Concordia National Monument

We have been requested to prepare a Presidential Proclamation pursuant to the authority contained in the Act of June 8, 1906 (34 Stat. 225), for the purpose of establishing a 372 acre national monument on Federal lands located in the City of San Diego and the City of Imperial Beach, California.

These lands are, at present, administered by the Department of the Navy, and are in process of being reported as surplus to that agency's requirements.

The lands constitute the area where the Joint Boundary Commission, composed of personnel from the United States of America and the United States of Mexico, initiated the survey of the international border between the Nations. Enclosed herewith, for your reference, is a historical justification for establishment of the national monument.

We also enclose a draft Presidential Proclamation to establish the area under the name Concordia National Monument, and a draft memorandum of transmittal from the Secretary of the Interior recommending Presidential action.

It is our recommendation that the draft Proclamation be transmitted in accordance with enclosed memorandum.

(SGD) GEORGE B. HARTZOG, JR.

FROM SOLICITOR

SEP 2 - 1970

Enclosures

FOR SIGNATURE

P.S. In accordance with existing procedure, we have notified the Chairmen and ranking minority members of the House and Senate Interior Committees of this proposed action. Confirming letters to the Committee Chairmen are now being prepared for your signature.

Calif

PROPOSED CONCORDIA NATIONAL MONUMENT

On a hill overlooking the Pacific Ocean stands a marble shaft, much repaired after a century and a quarter of weather and vandalism. It is the initial point of the international boundary, United States and Mexico. From this point, in 1849, engineers of the two nations launched an undertaking of large consequence in western exploration and international friendship and cooperation. This was the survey of the international boundary agreed upon at the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo but yet remaining to be marked out on the earth's surface.

The survey of the Mexican-American boundary was a towering accomplishment for both nations. It fixed, presumably for all time, the international boundary. Of perhaps even greater significance, it filled in the physical and natural outlines of the deserts and mountains between the Gulf of Mexico and the Pacific Ocean. It gave cartographers for the first time accurate and detailed maps of this region. It gave the maturing scientific community of both nations informative texts and professional illustrations illuminating topography, geology, botany, zoology, and ethnology. In short, it made an unknown country known in all its features. The Mexican Boundary Survey helped provide the two nations with the knowledge they needed to move west intelligently and knowingly.

The boundary survey, moreover, was an adventure in the best frontier tradition. The surveyors had to make laborious observations and

computations under conditions of climate and terrain adverse to man, beast, and the fragile instruments of the profession. They had to penetrate deserts, mountains, and canyons that other travelers could avoid. They had to find water in an often waterless land. They had to supply themselves by wagon or mule from distant bases over long stretches of difficult country. They had to keep always alert for hostile Indians and be prepared at all times to fight them. This and more they did, and their adventures form some of the most dramatic episodes in the history of the American West.

The boundary survey was a monument to many men of both Mexico and the United States--to military and civilian engineers; to the assistants who did their leg work; to geologists, botanists, zoologists, and artists who revealed a strange new world to the people back home; to political spoilsmen who measured up to the task and to those who did not; and to the officers and soldiers of the military escorts who guarded against hostile Indians and performed a variety of supporting functions.

But most of all the boundary survey was a monument to two skilled and dedicated engineers who first met in 1849 for the survey of the southern boundary of California, who cooperated on the survey of the Rio Grande frontier, who together ran the Gadsden Purchase line, and who finally parted, the job finished, eight years later. Both often

lacked the necessary support of their respective governments, and both often contended with political forces that had no proper place in such an undertaking. But both persevered and ultimately triumphed. Because of Major William Helmsley Emory, U.S. Army, and Major Jose Salazar y Larregui, Mexican Army, the international boundary was laid down on a map and on the ground.

The beginning point of their labors, fronted by the Pacific Ocean and backed by desert mountains, graphically commemorates and illustrates this remarkable story of professional skill, personal fortitude and endurance, and human friendship and cooperation transcending national barriers.

dit



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

Memorandum

To: The President

From: Secretary of the Interior

Subject: Proposed Concordia National Monument

I have the honor to transmit for your signature, if you approve, a proposed Proclamation to establish the Concordia National Monument, California, pursuant to authority contained in the Act of June 8, 1906 (34 Stat. 225).

The Concordia National Monument, if established by you, would commemorate the initiation of the cooperative survey of the international boundary between the United States of Mexico and the United States of America by a Joint Boundary Commission in July 1849, constituting a landmark in the history of lasting cooperation and friendship between the two Nations. In accordance with existing procedures, we have notified the Chairmen and Ranking Minority members of the Senate and House Interior Committees of your consideration of this matter. Chairman Aspinall indicated his concurrence, with the understanding that no construction money would be requested until authorized by the Congress. This limitation is set forth in the attached proposed Proclamation.

Enclosure

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

A PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS the cooperative survey of the international boundary between the United States of Mexico and the United States of America initiated by a Joint Boundary Commission in July 1849 constituted a landmark in the history of lasting cooperation and friendship between the two Nations; and

WHEREAS the personnel from both Nations who conducted the survey organized in San Diego on lands now owned by the United States of America adjacent to the international boundary, in the City of San Diego, and the City of Imperial Beach, California; and

WHEREAS it would be in the public interest to reserve as much land as may be necessary for the protection thereof, as a National Monument; and

WHEREAS under section 2 of the Act of June 8, 1906 (34 Stat. 225, 16 U.S.C. 431), the President is authorized "to declare by public proclamation * * * objects of historic or scientific interest that are situated upon the lands owned or controlled by the Government of the United States to be national monuments, and may reserve as a part thereof parcels of land, the limits of which in all cases shall be confined to the smallest area compatible with the proper care and management of the objects to be protected:"

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Richard Nixon, President of the United States of America, under the authority vested in me by section 2 of the Act of June 8, 1906, supra, do proclaim that, effective October 15, 1970, and subject to valid existing rights, the following described lands in the City of San Diego, and the City of Imperial Beach, State of California are hereby reserved and set apart as the Concordia National Monument:

SAN BERNADINO MERIDIAN, CALIFORNIA

All that tract of land in Township 19 South, Range 2 West, San Bernadino base and meridian, being partially in the City of Imperial Beach, and partially in the City of San Diego, San Diego County, California:

The Southwest quarter of the Northwest quarter and the West half of the Southeast quarter of the Northwest quarter, of section 5;

The East half of the Southeast quarter, the fractional West half of the Southeast quarter, the Southeast quarter of the Northeast quarter and the fractional Southwest quarter of the Northeast quarter, of section 6;

The fractional Northwest quarter of the Northeast quarter, the fractional Southwest quarter of the Northeast quarter, the Northeast quarter of the

Northeast quarter, and the fractional Southeast quarter of the Northeast quarter, of section 7;

The Northwest quarter of the Northwest quarter, of section 8.

Excepting from said lands any portions below the mean high tide line of the Pacific Ocean, and the Northerly 300 feet of the Northwest quarter of the Southeast quarter of the Northeast quarter of Section 7, Township 19 S, Range 2 W, San Bernadino base and meridian containing 4.53 acres.

Said lands described herein, and which shall constitute the national monument, containing 372.43 acres, more or less.

Unless provided otherwise by act of Congress, no funds appropriated to the Department of the Interior shall be expended for the development of the Concordia National Monument.

Warning is hereby expressly given to all unauthorized persons not to appropriate, injure, destroy, or remove any feature of this monument and not to locate or settle upon any of the lands thereof.

The national monument hereby established shall be administered pursuant to the Act of August 25, 1916 (39 Stat. 535, 16 U.S.C. 1, 2-4), and acts supplementary thereto or amendatory thereof.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this
day of September in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and seventy
and of the Independence of the United States of America the one hundred
and ninety fifth.

RICHARD NIXON

September 3, 1970

LAS-LL

Hon. Wayne W. Aspinall
Chairman, Committee on
Interior and Insular Affairs
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Chairman:

In accordance with our recent discussion, I am pleased to provide further information with respect to the proposed establishment of a national monument in San Diego and Imperial Beach, California, by proclamation of the President.

On a hill overlooking the Pacific Ocean stands a marble shaft, much repaired after a century and a quarter of weather and vandalism. It is the initial point of the international boundary, United States and Mexico. From this point, now in the city of Imperial Beach, California, engineers of the two nations launched an undertaking, in 1849, of large consequence in western exploration and international friendship and cooperation. This was the survey of the international boundary agreed upon at the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo but yet remaining to be marked out on the earth's surface.

The boundary survey was a monument to many men of both Mexico and the United States--to military and civilian engineers; to the assistants who did their leg work; to geologists, botanists, zoologists, and artists who revealed a strange new world to the people back home; to political spoilsmen who measured up to the task and to those who did not; and to the officers and soldiers of the military escorts who guarded against hostile Indians and performed a variety of supporting functions.

But most of all the boundary survey was a monument to two skilled and dedicated engineers who first met in 1849 for the survey of the southern boundary of California, who cooperated on the survey of the Rio Grande frontier, who together ran the Gadsden Purchase line, and who finally parted, the job finished, 8 years later. Because of Major William Hemsley Emory, U. S. Army, and Major Jose Salazar y Larregui, Mexican Army, the international boundary was laid down on a map and on the ground.

The beginning point of their labors, fronted by the Pacific Ocean and backed by desert mountains, graphically commemorates and

illustrates this remarkable story of professional skill, personal fortitude and endurance, and human friendship and cooperation transcending national barriers.

The lands in question are presently administered by the Department of the Navy, under the designation "Border Field." Originally established as an outlying field for Ream Field, almost all the lands are now in the process of being reported as excess to the needs of the Department of the Navy.

The total acreage in fee acquired by the Navy is 376.96 acres, of which 88.96 acres were acquired by condemnation in 1941, and 278 acres were acquired by purchase in 1936 and 1938. Out of the total acreage, the Navy will retain 4.53 acres as an antennas field for testing operations. The balance, of 372.43 acres, part of which is in San Diego, and part of which is in Imperial Beach, is excess to their needs.

Under section 2 of the Act of June 8, 1906 (34 Stat. 225, 16 U.S.C. 431), the President is authorized "to declare by public proclamation * * * objects of historic or scientific interest that are situated upon the lands owned or controlled by the Government of the United States to be national monuments, and may reserve as a part thereof parcels of land, the limits of which in all cases shall be confined to the smallest area compatible with the proper care and management of the objects to be protected:"

Pursuant to this authority it is proposed that the President proclaim the area now excess to the needs of the Navy as the "Concordia National Monument," in recognition of the historic events which occurred there and which constituted a landmark in the history of lasting cooperation and friendship between Mexico and the United States.

There would be no initial development cost involved in establishing this national monument. The proclamation would contemplate that no funds appropriated to the Secretary of the Interior may be used for development of the monument without separate congressional authorization. Inasmuch as all the lands involved are in Federal ownership, there would be no land acquisition costs.

Sincerely yours,

(SGD) HARTON L. BILL

Acting Director

cc:
Mr. Lee McElvain (House Committee)
Mr. Sidney McFarland

cc:
DL - Mr. Flynn
LL - Mr. Lambe

JMLambe: bg 9/3/70

Similar Letters sent to:

Hon. Alan Bible
United States Senate

Mr. Jack Carpenter
Mr. Dwight Dyer
Mr. Bernie Hartung

Hon. Clifford Hansen
United States Senate

Mr. Paul Holtz

Hon. Gordon Allott
United States Senate

Mr. Charles Cook

Hon. Henry M. Jackson
United States Senate

Mr. Jerry Verkler

Hon. John Saylor
House of Representatives

Miss Ann Dunbar
Mr. Charles Leppert

DL
LL

Landau 11/20
S. Hunt 11/20
Lambe 11/20

L58

NOV 20 1970

Mr. E. Saylor
Chief, Property Management
and Disposal Service
General Services Administration
49 Fourth Street
San Francisco, California 94103

Dear Mr. Saylor:

This will confirm our telephone advice to you of the interest of the National Park Service in excess real property known as Border Field, in San Diego County, California. (Your memorandum dated October 13, 1970; property control number 9-N-CALIF-982.) This area is of national historic significance as the initial point of the joint survey, begun in 1849, of the international boundary between the United States of America, and the United States of Mexico.

The real property in which we are interested consists of the 372.423 acres of the fee lands described in your notice of October 13, 1970.

We request that you withhold any further disposal action until procedures to establish the area as a national historic site are concluded.

Sincerely yours,

 Joe Holt

Assistant

Director

cc:
Director, Western Region
LW
LL

RMLandau:dmw 11/20/70

Calif.

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JAN 13 1971

Dear Mr. Trent:

Pursuant to your request to the National Park Service, we enclose herewith a management and development plan for Border Field, California. The concept recognizes the compatibility of enhancement of both the historical and recreational qualities and, if executed, could provide multiple benefits to the San Diego-Imperial Beach area in one administrative unit. Though we have not had an opportunity to ascertain the ability or desire of the State or the two cities to participate in development of the area, we would hope to obtain their cooperation. This objective is reflected in point (7) of the conceptual plan.

You will notice that we have used the name "Concordia National Historic Site" in the plan. This would be the designation of the area, if established by the Secretary of the Interior pursuant to the authority contained in the Historic Sites Act of 1935 (49 Stat. 666; 16 U.S.C. 461 et seq.). If established by Presidential Proclamation pursuant to the Antiquities Act of 1906 (34 Stat. 225; 16 U.S.C. 431), the designation would be "Concordia National Monument." This, of course, was reflected in the draft proclamation previously prepared for you. In both situations, however, the development concept would remain essentially unchanged.

We shall be pleased to receive your comments on this matter.

Sincerely yours,

(sgd) Fred J. Russell

Under Secretary of the Interior

Hon. Darrell M. Trent
Deputy Director
Office of Emergency Preparedness
604 17th Street, N.W.
Washington, D. C. 20405

Enclosure

International Boundary Mexico & United States

NPS
cc: Secretary's Files
Under Secretary (2)
FW
Mr. Wolfe, GSA
LW
LL

FWP: randaudaw:dmw 12/28/70
Revised: FJRussell:vd1 1/13/71

CONCORDIA NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE, CALIFORNIAA. Historical Significance:

Establishment of the Concordia National Historic Site would commemorate the land survey by Mexican and American engineers of the international boundary between Mexico and the United States. A marble shaft on a hill overlooking the Pacific Ocean presently marks the spot where, in 1849, engineers of the two nations launched this prodigious undertaking. The shaft recalls this dramatic enterprise in international friendship and cooperation. The boundary survey was a laborious achievement under conditions of climate and terrain adverse to man, beast, and instruments of the profession. That it was successfully accomplished, giving the maturing scientific community of both nations invaluable information in a variety of fields of knowledge, is a tribute to the scientists and soldiers who measured up to the task. This historic site would be a memorial to this epic achievement of professional skill, personal fortitude and endurance, as well as a testament to continuing friendship and cooperation transcending national barriers.

B. Other Resources:

The Concordia National Historic Site would be 372.423 acres in size and is located contiguously on the boundary between Mexico and the United States, about two miles south of Imperial Beach. It is within an hour's drive via U.S. 101 of any point in the San Diego metropolitan area. The pleasant year-round climate permits 12 months visitation.

Aside from its historical significance, the area fronts on the Pacific Ocean, and has a fine sandy beach, low dunes, and a valuable marsh. Therefore the area also offers recreational and educational opportunities of considerable value not only to the nearby urbanites, but to all Americans. Because of this, it is proposed to protect both the historic and the recreational resources of the area, and develop these wisely so that they may be enjoyed by an estimated 250,000 persons in the initial year of full operation, and greater numbers in subsequent years.

C. Conceptual Plan:

It is proposed:

(1) to acquire 372.423 acres of federally-owned land presently excess to the needs of the Department of Defense by transfer from the General Services Administration.

(2) to interpret the Mexico-United States boundary survey story. This can be enhanced by landscaped walks and other special treatment of survey sites such as the "Initial Point" and by interpretation of the broad story in a modest visitor center, where the friendship with Mexico as exemplified by this survey feat may be extolled. The thematic approach used in the visitor center may possibly be expanded beyond the survey story should a review of regional planning reveal that cultural and environmental aspects of Mexican-United States relationships can be enhanced at this strategic location just yards from the common boundary. Also, there is an exceptional opportunity to enhance visitor appreciation of this oceanside locale and its interesting natural environment. The

interpretive effort can be accomplished by guided walks, wayside exhibits, and illustrated talks in the visitor center.

(3) to maintain and protect the historic scene and provide for the safety, comfort and enjoyment of the visitor to the historic site. Seasonal inundation of portions of the area by the Tia Juana River is an engineering problem which must be solved wisely to avoid irreparable harm to the ecosystems involved.

(4) to provide recreational opportunities for public picnicking, swimming, sunbathing, beachcombing, fishing, hiking, nature study, and other compatible uses of the available natural resources.

(5) to develop facilities over a period of five years which will allow visitors to enjoy the area without impairment of the natural and historical scene. Contemplated are: a bathhouse, boardwalks, life-guard stations, trails, picnic sites, restrooms, signs and markers, and connecting roads with parking at the visitor center and bathhouse termini. Development costs are estimated at \$3,450,000.

(6) to provide visitor services a small staff, historically oriented, will be required initially. As recreational facilities are made available, a sizeable increase in staffing is required, much of it seasonal during the summer vacation period. A food service concession at the beach will be required in the second or third year of operation. Costs should be borne by the operator with utility tie-ins furnished by the government.

(7) to seek the cooperation of the State, and its political subdivisions, to achieve any of the preceding objectives, not to exclude the possibility of development or even the administration of this historic site.

L58-LL

JAN 25 1971

Memorandum

To: Assistant Director, Legislation

From: Robert M. Landau

Subject: Border Field - Meeting in Congressman Bob Wilson's Office

Lynn Thompson and I met with Paul Tsompanos, Mr. Wilson's A.A., for about 35 minutes today, to discuss the Border Field situation.

Mr. Tsompanos was aware of the Presidential involvement and was sympathetic to our explanation of the fact that the Park Service had to remain "in the middle" until final direction was given. This came up in view of his understanding that the State and cities were interested in the area and that the property could readily be conveyed to any of them.

I gave him a copy of our development and administration concept (and the summary of historical background). I also attempted to make clear that we would be happy either to go forward with the concept or to release the area for State administration, but that we needed direction. He inquired as to who now had the responsibility, and he was told that Darrell Trent had been and was now coordinating the matter.

He also wanted to know what I thought would be a good way to set the project moving, having indicated his preference for State management. Again, I indicated no preference as to administration of the area, but presented the following possibilities:

1. Secretarial designation of the area as a National Historic Site
2. Cooperative agreement between all the parties as to development and administration, not to exclude the possibility of conveyance of the lands to the State in accordance with the agreement.

is would permit State and city development and administration with prior Park Service technical assistance and advice, and would also give the State some additional backing in dealing with the conflicting plans for the area by other Federal agencies. I also indicated that not only could this be a good cooperative effort, but would be a new "Parks to People" venture.

Mr. Tsampanos is going to check with the State, to see what their plans might be and with Trent (without reference to our talk) and see if he can't get a resolution of the problem.

(Signed)

cc:

Director, Western Region (2)

LL, Mr. Landau

LW, Mr. Branges

RMLandau:olc 1/25/71

158
 Assistant Director, Legislation

February 10, 1971

Robert M. Landau

Border Field

On February 9, 1971, I attended a meeting held at GSA concerning disposition of the Border Field property. Annexed is a list of the participants.

Principal requirements for the property are set forth as follows:

Customs and Immigration: Require a 60-foot wide strip at the border, for patrolling and, potentially, a double fence. I indicated that interpreting Mexican-American friendship might be a little strained with that as a background, and suggested that other alternatives might be possible. They agreed.

They won't need a border station unless a proposed state highway becomes a crossing point. If a marina is built, they'll need a small inspection station at the marina. Quarantine unit of the Department of Agriculture has similar needs if the area is to be a crossing point, and if a marina is built.

International Boundary and Water Commission: Requires 48-acres of the fee area, (and 8 acres in the easement area, in which we have no interest) for the Tia Juana River Flood Control Project, which is being built in cooperation with Mexico. Both San Diego and Imperial Beach have approved the southern route. Completed design is expected this year, with construction to be completed in FY '72. The project proposed is a concrete channel 570 feet wide, and fenced off. I suggested that other alternatives might be possible which could enhance recreational values, such as an unfenced, earthen, landscaped channel which could provide recreational uses. IBWC agreed that it was definitely a feasible alternative, but a more expensive proposition. I suggested that perhaps all concerned might be willing to add funds to accomplish this result, if it was deemed beneficial. IBWC agreed after the meeting to all cooperation in this regard, regarding cost estimates, methods, etc.

Environmental impact statement regarding the channel is in preparation, and will be circulated on completion. Bureau of Sport Fisheries has a concern regarding the Lesser Tern, which is an endangered species, and this area may constitute a significant part of habitat. (i.e. periodic flooding may be necessary).

GSA related that John Ehrlichman had written to the Property Review Board, stating that action was expected on this, and other surplus area, by March 15. I stated that complete coordination, and planning of uses would require more time. We need a clarification of this, which GSA will try to obtain. I also stated our intention to contact the State and cities, and to get started with whatever planning and cooperation that may be necessary. I related this in terms of a cooperative agreement among all interested Federal and local interests, in the context of a possible secretarial designation of a National Historic Site, etc.

I also indicated my belief that no disposition of the property could be made until all interests were plugged in together. (All present wanted to be brought into, or informed of, any meetings we had with the local people.) Also, that this area should be a gem of cooperative activity and environmental planning since it was number one in the President's "Parks to People" message.

I told them that if we went the secretarial designation route, a cooperative agreement among all parties, would be strong back-up for our getting committee clearance. Of course, it can't be determined just exactly what we are going to do until we know what the local interests are willing to undertake. This would seem to be first priority.

Western Region should handle this as soon as possible, in order to get all plans and needs into focus.

cc:

- HH, Mr. Utley
- LW, Mr. Branges
- LW, Mr. Griswold
- LL, Mr. Lambe

RMLandau:tc 2/10/71

S/ — 2/10/71

MEETING ON BORDER FIELD, CALIFORNIA - FEBRUARY 9, 1971

Richard W. Austin	Assistant Commissioner, Office of Real Property-GSA
William P. Wolf	Dep. Asst. Commissioner, " " " " "
David Austin	Director, Western Division, GSA (202) 343-4153
Kenneth Schramm	Chief, Engineering Branch, I&NS
John R. Wadden	Assistant Chief, Engineering Branch, I&NS
Martin Jenkel	OCE
Melvin Hemmer	Office of Operational Planning, PBS, GSA
Delbert D. McNealy	Prin. Engr., Int. Boundary and Water Commission (915) 532-5476, P.O. Box 1859 EL Paso, Texas 79950
T. R. Martin	Special Assistant, Office of Mexican Affairs, State
James R. Fern	Appraiser - GSA - Region 9, San Francisco, Calif.
P. Gary Snyder	Port OPS-UEDA-PQ Code 111-8419
H. R. O'Steen	Port OPS-USDA-PQ Code 111-8419
Frank Reed	Immigration Service Code 155-220
Robert L. Stewart	Immigration Service
Donald R. Knenlein	Customs Code 184-5442
Kenneth Knight	Customs Code 184-5442
Don Hankla	Bureau of Sport Fisheries
Robert Landau	Natinnal Park Service

SERVING THE SOUTH BAY AREA SINCE 1928

BOX 11, NESTOR, CALIFORNIA 92053

March 15, 1971

LW

Mr. Joe Holt
U.S. Department of the Interior
National Park Service
Washington, D.C. 20240

Re: L58-LL

Dear Mr. Holt:

Thank you for your letter of February 1, 1971. I am enclosing a copy of my letter to President Nixon and respectfully request your response to this as soon as possible.

Our committee would like to know if your department is going to be the sole developer of the 372 acre park site. If so when, and can you possibly do anything in time to prevent private industry from destroying the rest of the park site acreage - namely 578 acres east of the Border Field?

Yours very truly,



J. Edward Burn, Chairman
International Park Committee of the
South Bay District Chamber of Commerce

JEB:rh
Encl. 1

SERVING THE SOUTH BAY AREA SINCE 1928

BOX 11, NESTOR, CALIFORNIA 92053 ✓

on serv: P.O. Box 6 ✓

FNP
March 15, 1971

Richard M. Nixon, President
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Mr. President:

Our committee for an international park on our country's South West border has been very pleased by the announcement of the release of 372 acres to the Department of Interior for an international park.

The San Diego Border Area plan approved by vote of citizens and ratified by the San Diego City Council has called for 950 acres inclusive of the Border Field acreage for the international park. Our committee and others were temporarily able to prevent this acreage from being destroyed for a park site. We were also preventing what we think would become an international air pollution problem if sand, gravel and asphalt interests are allowed to expand their operations in that acreage. One company had already been granted a permit to mine 33 acres. They are mining that and leaving a scar on the beautiful bluffs just east of the border field. It gives a picture of what may become of the international park you have spoken of with former President Ordaz of the Republic of Mexico. By June 1st of this year San Diego Consolidated Company, subsidiary of CONROCK, will be able to apply for their special use permit all over again!

It is our hope that you can some how intervene to preserve this land for the international park and to prevent an international air pollution problem parallel to our country's salinization of the Colorado river. Mr. President we urge you to intercede not only on behalf of the people of this area but also on behalf of the 360,000 citizens of Tijuana. I am enclosing a photostat of a Tijuana newspaper article reflecting the great relief our Mexican neighbors felt when the sand, gravel and asphalt operation was temporarily blocked.

Respectfully,

J. Edward Burn
The Rev. Dr. J. Edward Burn, Chairman
Committee for an international park of
South Bay District Chamber of Commerce.

JEB:rh

Encl. 1

Copies: Joe Holt, Asst. Dir. National Park Service, U.S. Dept of Interior;
Representatives: Van Deerlin & Bob Wilson; Mel Harter, Exec. Secretary,
San Diego Ecumenical Conference; U.S. Senators: Cranston, Mills*, &
Tunny; Wm. Penn Mott, Director of Calif. State Parks; Assemblyman
Wadie Deddeh; Councilmen: Floyd Morrow & Leon Williams; Prof. David
Morrow, Dept. Medical & Public Affairs, George Washington University.

*Calif. State Senator

District Chamber of Commerce Inc.

SERVING THE SOUTH BAY AREA SINCE 1911

BOX 11, NESTOR, CALIFORNIA 92053

BRANGES
JACOBSON
LANDAU

Under 4-22

Gold 4/23

Landau 4/26

M. Lundy 4/27

Thompson 4/28

L58-LW

March 15, 1971

APR 29 1971

U.S. Department of the Interior
National Park Service
Washington, D.C. 20240

Re: L58-LW

Dr. J. Edward Burn
Chairman, International Park
Committee of the South Bay
District Chamber of Commerce, Inc.
Box 11
Nestor, California 92053

Dear Dr. Burn:

Thank you for writing to President Nixon and to the National Park Service concerning the Border Field area south of San Diego.

The Department of the Interior is presently formulating a proposal as to what disposition might be made of the Federal property at Border Field in consonance with the President's announced goal of having this area developed for park and recreation purposes. In this regard, liaison will be established with State and local officials to permit the planning to be as comprehensive as possible.

We hope that more information will be available in the near future.

Sincerely yours,

Thomas F. Flynn, Jr.

Deputy Director

- cc: Director-LQR) w/c of inc.
- Director-Western Region (2))
- L)
- LL-Mr. Melvin)
- LW-Mr. Branges)
- LW-Mrs. Taylor)

FNP:RJBranges:RKGriswold:prp:4-8-71

REWRITTEN:RJBranges:crb:4-22-71

(Basic retained in LN(N))

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CH
4/22

Handwritten
9/15

158-LL

SEP 16 1971

Memorandum

To: Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks

From: ^{Deputy} Director, National Park Service

Subject: Border Field, California

Approximately one year ago, Daryl Trent, Deputy Director of the Office of Emergency Preparedness, requested the assistance of the National Park Service in the establishment of certain excess Federal lands in California (approximately 372 acres) as a "national park." He wanted something that the President could announce in connection with the meeting of the President, and the President of Mexico, in San Diego, which was scheduled for 2 days after Trent made the request.

The Park Service prepared, and had cleared, a proposed Presidential Proclamation and statement of historical significance to establish the area as a National Monument, based upon its being the starting point of the joint United States Mexico boundary survey resulting from the Treaty of Guadalupe-Hidalgo. The proposed proclamation, though timely delivered, was not used.

Thereafter, the scope of the problems affecting the area became evident. The property was circularized to Federal agencies in accordance with usual procedures and the following expressed an interest in all or part of the lands:

- NPS - All for National Monument
- IBWC - Several hundred foot wide strip for Tia Juana flood control channel
- BSF - Endangered species habitat (Lesser Tern)
- Dept. of Agric. - Port of Entry quarantine station
- Treasury - Narcotics
- Customs and Immigration - Entry station
- Border Patrol - 60 feet wide boundary strip

There were also strongly conflicting ideas regarding the use of the land, as between the State, the City of San Diego, and the County of San Diego. National Park Service continued taking the lead to identify the various problems. We prepared a use plan, and made

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numerous contacts with both State and local representatives to proceed in accordance with what we understood to be the desires of the White House, that is some form of joint effort, both as to financing and management, between Federal and State Governments.

The various interests of the Federal agencies were expressed at a meeting held one day after the President's message on the Environment to the Congress. That message listed 5 Federal surplus properties, by name, including Border Field. However, while the message indicated that the four other properties were to be disposed of to State and local governments, it was stated that Border Field was to be developed "under the auspices" of this Department. Nobody had any certainty as to what this meant, and we received no guidance from Trent.

Thereafter, the Property Review Board took the lead, and it was determined that of all the alternatives, disposal to the State was the most effective and economic method. BOR was then brought in to prepare for immediate problems, such as having a use permit ready to give to the State pending disposition if disposal time and announcement time did not coincide. The direction from PRB was to keep the matter quiet, in order to preserve the options of the President regarding final disposition, and any announcement he might wish to make.

National Park Service had previously been answering all inquiries concerning the Border Field property, to the effect that studies were being made to determine the type of area that should be established, under either Federal, State, or local control. It was agreed between BOR and NPS that NPS would continue to answer the inquiries on that basis, so as not to tip off the preliminary determination that had, in fact, already been made.

We also helped prepare the BOR discussion draft to PRB of transfer problems. Shortly thereafter, we received copies of letters to private individuals which were written by BOR. These letters made it fairly clear that there would be a disposal to the State. We thereupon requested that all future letters concerning Border Field be directed to BOR, and terminated our involvement.

A short time ago, Border Field was turned over to the State in a ceremony attended by the First Lady.

cc:DF-Mr. Freeman
DL-Mr. Flynn
LL-Mr. Landau

Thomas F. Flynn, Jr.

FNP:RMLandau:dmw 9/15/71