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NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
WASHINGTON OFFICE

Tiburon, California  
June 9, 1962

JUN 15 9 52 AM '62

Mr. Conrad L. Wirth, Director  
United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service  
Washington 25, D. C.

DRS.C/19/62

*Walt B*  
*Howell* (81)  
*Files*

Dear Mr. Wirth,

Thank you for your letter of May 23rd. Mr. and Mrs. Stanton had been asked by the Belvedere-Tiburon Conservation League, of which I am President, to contact you in regard to saving the Tiburon waterfront.

The Tiburon waterfront is the only remaining natural deep water harbor still available in the San Francisco Bay and is now threatened by private commercial development. We must act immediately since these people have the money to start developing.

Quoting Mr. Peter Behr, Supervisor from Southern Marin, "service by fast commuter boats is the only possible solution to rapid transit in Marin County for at least ten years". The slow ferry boats get to San Francisco from Tiburon in 35 minutes. At the rush hour via bridge it takes 50 to 60 minutes. This also saves San Francisco from strangulation by automobiles and will preserve the beauty of Angel Island, Tiburon Peninsula and San Francisco Bay.

One of our columnists, Cliff Engle of the News-Call Bulletin, said if we could not afford the ferries we would have them immediately. The five mile bridge proposed would be the most expensive bridge ever built in the world as yet. Because of its length and consequent vibration it could not provide rapid transit. Vibration increases with length and trains would have to slow to 10 miles an hour. Many other metropolitan areas use a flexible rapid transit (fast commuter boats). 20 knots has been recommended for San Francisco Bay and the five mile trip would then take only 20 minutes and the 20 knot vessels would not be a menace to the pleasure boats.

The enclosed bulletin will tell you other reasons why we need this waterfront. We have no public recreation near the center of population in Tiburon. Southern Pacific even owned the tiny fishing pier and says that they have now sold this to the before mentioned interests.

Mr. Conrad Wirth

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It is five miles by a tortuous road to the Naval Net Depot recently purchased by Marin County. No public transportation could ever be developed on this road and it is unsafe due to its narrowness for walking or bicycling.

We are at present unincorporated and have only one representative out of five on the County Council, namely Mr. Behr who lives in Mill Valley six miles away across Highway 101.

When we have asked the County for funds to preserve this waterfront they reply that they are not sure it will benefit the County as a whole. This is obviously very short sighted as this waterfront will benefit the entire bay area being only one quarter mile from Angel Island which the State Beaches and Parks people say will be the most important State Park in California and close to a large population in the San Francisco Bay. Here is a highway (the bay) that does not have to be bought or maintained.

I know we can count on you. Not only has your record shown that you have foresight but I have personal knowledge of you from my father, Edward Grotelless, Jr. with the Planning Department (city), Washington, D. C.

Please help and let us know what we can do to help ourselves.

The ferries are a great success and have received tremendous publicity and acceptance by the press.

Thank you,

Constance Field  
(Mrs. Palmer)

CF:vb

Encls.

cc: Mr. Peter Behr  
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Stanton

## BULLETIN

from  
SELVEDERS-TIBURON CONSERVATION LEAGUE

## Federal County

The allocation of state funds is needed immediately for the acquisition of the only remaining segment of the Tiburon waterfront, the only remaining deep water harbor still available in the bay, which is now threatened by private commercial development.

We urgently enlist your aid to provide sufficient money to purchase this waterfront property for the people of Marin County, for the people of San Francisco and all its environs, and for the people of the State of California.

This land, as public domain, is necessary and desirable for the following uses:

1. As a necessary base for the operation of Angel Island State Park, one quarter mile from Tiburon. Making nine miles of recreation area available to Marin County.
2. As an access for flexible rapid transit by fast commuter ferry boats. No other solution to the traffic problem for ten years.
3. As an access for disaster evacuation by ferry and private boats.
4. Needed for turnaround (which has yet to be provided for) at the end of the planned Tiburon State Highway.
5. As a green belt and recreation area only five miles, by water, from the metropolitan center of San Francisco. Master plan shows this as Green belt since 1943. Reaffirmed as green belt 5 years ago.
6. Needed for the Tiburon Harbor District, which would provide sufficient revenue to repay an initial bonded indebtedness from each present member of the sewer district.
7. Flood control.
8. Tourists by ferry coming from Oakland and San Francisco to Angel Island and Tiburon will increase tax revenues without causing parking problems if they had their purse in hand instead of a steering wheel.

701 Funds  
Tiburon is socially and economically related to the metropolitan center of San Francisco.

If there is no public waterfront there will be no ferries and consequently a bridge!

PLEASE SAVE THE TIBURON WATERFRONT!

Tiburon, California  
June 9, 1962

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Mr. Conrad L. Wirth, Director  
United States Department of the Interior  
LSE-RMP  
Washington 25, D. C.

Mrs. Constance Field Palmer  
President, Belvedere-Tiburon  
Conservation League  
Belvedere-Tiburon Post Office  
Belvedere-Tiburon Conservation League,  
Tiburon, California

Dear Mrs. Palmer:

The Tiburon waterfront is the only remaining natural  
In Mr. Wirth's absence, I am pleased to reply to your letter of  
June 9 concerning the preservation of the Tiburon waterfront in  
Marin County, California.

The project which the Belvedere-Tiburon Conservation League is  
supporting sounds very worthwhile. Not being fully aware of the  
circumstances, however, we hesitate to try to suggest a definite  
solution to your community's problem. We are asking Regional  
Director, Lawrence C. Meridian of our San Francisco Office, though,  
to have a member of his staff discuss this matter with you. They  
are in a better position to know what, if anything, might be  
suggested to the League as a means of furthering its objectives.

You are undoubtedly aware of certain Federal programs that provide  
technical or financial assistance in planning the acquisition of  
open space. Within the Department of the Interior, such programs  
are the direct concern of the newly established Bureau of Outdoor  
Recreation, directed by Dr. Edward Crafts. We are sending that  
Bureau a copy of your inquiry and of our reply so that they may  
be apprised of your project. I will also bring our correspondence  
to Mr. Wirth's attention on his return.

Sincerely yours,  
**(Sgd) Ben H. Thompson**

The enclosed bulletin... other reasons why  
we need this waterfront. We have no public recreation near the  
center of population in Tiburon. Ben H. Thompson even owned the  
tiny fishing pier and says that... sold this to the be-  
fore mentioned interests.  
Assistant Director

Copy to: BCR w/c ins.

Regional Director, Western Region (2) w/c inc.  
NOTE: Please contact Mrs. Palmer on this matter.  
Park Planning w/c inc.

JWHowell:TRS:ml  
7/12/62