DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

Extension of San Francisco Municipal Railway Historic Streetcar Service; Golden Gate National Recreation Area and San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park; County of San Francisco; Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement

SUMMARY: In accordance with section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, and pursuant to the Council on Environmental Quality’s regulations (40 CFR parts 1500–08), the National Park Service is initiating the conservation planning and environmental impact analysis process for the proposed extension of the northern waterfront Municipal Railway Historic Streetcar Service. Beginning at Fisherman’s Wharf, this proposed railway extension would serve visitors to two popular units of the National Park System—San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park and the Fort Mason area of Golden Gate National Recreation Area. This project is being developed in close coordination with San Francisco Municipal Railway and other City and County of San Francisco planning and transportation agencies.

Background: A congressionally-mandated Travel Study completed in 1977 recommended restoring the historic rail link between the Hyde Street Pier and Fort Mason to improve access to various National Park Service (NPS) sites. The rail line was subsequently abandoned (1980), and the area between Hyde Street Pier and the Fort Mason tunnel entrance was designated a National Historic Landmark District in 1987 (which is now encompassed in the San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park created in 1988). Also, in the late 1980s Federal highway funds originally intended for extending Interstate 280 were reallocated to a number of alternative transportation facilities along the Embarcadero including creation of an historic streetcar line along Market Street and the Embarcadero to Fisherman’s Wharf. In 2000 this service was extended to Fisherman’s Wharf, only .85 miles from the public-serving facilities at Fort Mason Center. The popularity of the historic streetcars, which currently serve more than 20,000 passengers a day, has resulted in public and private interest in extending the service, with the creation of the E-Line to Fort Mason.

The Municipal Railway (MUNI) currently operates historic streetcar service on Market Street and along the San Francisco waterfront (F-Line) to the line’s existing terminus at Jones Street and Beach (in the Fisherman’s Wharf area). The E-Line extension would begin at the terminus of the F-line and extend west to San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park (NHP) and on to Fort Mason. The exact route has yet to be determined but would utilize either existing rail right-of-way routes confined to city streets or pass through NHP’s Aquatic Park (at the core of the National Historic Landmark District) in order to reach the Fort Mason tunnel. It is anticipated that under all alternatives the railway line would extend through the tunnel and end in the area of lower Fort Mason.

The NHP is visited by approximately 4 million people annually and is currently served by very popular cable cars (often crowded at peak tourist times) as well as streetcar and bus lines. Fort Mason, home to the Fort Mason Center, houses more than 40 non-profit organizations offering more than 15,000 events a year and attracting upwards of 1.6 million visitors. The Fort Mason area is underserved by mass transit access, and as a result automobile-based visitation causes massive parking problems that affect surrounding neighborhoods. Furthermore, inadequate mass transit access makes it difficult for transit-dependent San Franciscans to enjoy the cultural and educational events offered at Fort Mason Center.

Development of Alternatives: At this time a full range of alternatives has not been confirmed. However, in order to be successful, any project selected would:

• Increase alternative transportation options for visitors to the NHP and Fort Mason;
• Serve a new cohesive recreation and cultural corridor along the northern waterfront;
• Enhance links for the City’s lower-income population with all NPS sites and other northern waterfront attractions;
• Improve local and regional transit connectivity and decrease the need for automobile use and parking in historic and environmentally sensitive areas;
• Facilitate efforts to reduce the need for automobile-based trips to the National Historic Landmark District destinations by providing park visitors an attractive, non-polluting mass transit access;
• Avoid or minimize adverse effects on the National Historic Landmark District and related cultural and historic resources and waterfront values.

Scoping: This notice serves to formally open the public scoping comment phase for this planning process. The purpose of the scoping process is to elicit public comment on the proposed extension in order to inform the development of the Draft EIS. The public and interested organizations are encouraged to provide comment on issues and concerns, feasible alternatives, potential environmental effects and appropriate mitigation measures that would reduce project impacts. The public will have an initial opportunity to comment on the proposal by attending a public scoping meeting or providing written comments electronically via the internet or sending letters through the mail. All scoping comments must be postmarked or transmitted not later than 60 days after the publication of this Notice in the Federal Register—as soon as this ending date is confirmed, it will be announced on the project Web site (noted below).

The NPS anticipates hosting a public meeting in late March 2006 (complete information regarding this meeting will be posted on the project Web site). Following a short presentation regarding the project, the public will be given the opportunity to ask questions and provide comments to the planning team. The project Web site will provide the most up-to-date information regarding the project, including project description, planning process updates, meeting notices, reports and documents, and useful links associated with the project (the Web site is: http://parkplanning.nps.gov/fgoa; once at the site, click on project name and follow Web site instructions). Written comments should be mailed to the following address: Superintendent—GGNRA, Attn: Rick Foster, MUNI Railway Extension Project Manager, Fort Mason, Bldg. 201, San Francisco, CA 94123. In addition to the project Web site, project updates or requests to be included on the Draft EIS mailing list.
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Notice of Lodging of Consent Judgment Pursuant to Resource Conservation and Recovery Act

Notice is hereby given that on March 16, 2006, a proposed Consent Judgment in United States v. Citygas Gasoline Corporation, et al., Civil Action No. CV–03–6374, was lodged with the United States District Court for the Eastern District of New York.

The proposed Consent Judgment will resolve the United States’ claims under Section 9006 of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, as amended, 42 U.S.C. 9691e, on behalf of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency against defendant Leggett Land Ltd. (“Leggett”) in connection with alleged violations of the regulations governing underground storage tanks (“USTs”) set forth at 40 CFR part 280 at a gas station owned by Leggett at 1081 Leggett Avenue, Bronx, New York. The Consent Judgment requires Leggett Land Ltd. to pay a civil penalty of $100,000, to comply with the UST regulations within specified deadlines, and to perform a ground-penetrating radar study to locate out-of-service waste oil USTs at its facility, and, if found, to permanently close them.

The Department of Justice will receive for a period of thirty (30) days from the date of this publication comments relating to the proposed Consent Judgment. Comments should be addressed to the Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division, U.S. Department of Justice, P.O. Box 7611, Washington, DC 20044–7611, and should refer to United States v. Adeline R. Bennett, MD Living Trust and Pitts Grandchildren’s Trust, D.J. Ref. 90–11–2–1000/2.

A copy of the proposed Consent Decree may also be obtained by mail from the Consent Decree Library, P.O. Box 7611, U.S. Department of Justice, Washington, DC 20044–7611, or by faxing Toniia Fleetwood at fax No. (202) 514–0097 (phone confirmation number (202) 514–1547) or by e-mailing Toniia Fleetwood at tonia.fleetwood@usdoj.gov. In requesting a copy of the Consent Decree from the Consent Decree Library, please enclose a check in the amount of $69.50 (25 cents per page reproduction cost × 61 pages) payable to the U.S. Treasury.

Henry S. Friedman,
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