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Sanctuary Advisory Council

GREATER FARALLONES NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY

John Armor

Director, Office of National Marine Sanctuaries

1305 East-West Highway

Silver Spring, MD 20910

Dear Mr. Armor,

The Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council (SAC) is writing to voice our strong support for the Facilities Master Plan for the Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary (GFNMS) and the recognized need to prioritize investments in rehabilitating the GFNMS campus at Crissy Field.

The Office of National Marine Sanctuaries (ONMS) funded the development of the Facilities Master Plan in 2004 in part to recognize the role that the GFNMS's location at Crissy Field (a holding of the National Park Service) could play to serve as a "global icon for marine stewardship". Situated in the shadow of the Golden Gate, the Sanctuary's location has heavy visitation and provides an intersection of marine, recreational, cultural and historical resources. Part of the commitment by ONMS for the Facilities Master Plan, with approval from the National Park Service in exchange for a long-term occupancy permit for GFNMS, was to require ONMS to rehabilitate all five structures on the Crissy Field campus.

The GFNMS has proceeded on a deliberate path towards fulfilling the Plan, including the following projects:

- Rehabilitation of the historic former U.S. Coast Guard Commander's Residence to house the Ocean Climate Center in 2010 to accommodate resource protection staff and an exhibit space.
- In 2013, the Sanctuary completed 65% of Design Documents for the Lifeboat Station that includes planning for landscaping, exhibits, and accommodations for the Visitor Center and Sanctuary staff.
- In 2014, the Sanctuary completed 100% Construction Documents for the shop and garage, with plans to convert it into the "Ocean Learning Center", a facility with wet/dry laboratory space dedicated to educational and outreach programming.
- In 2016 the Sanctuary worked with the Presidio Trust to upgrade all subsurface utilities, enabling the installation of high-speed internet and an enterprise communication network; these infrastructure improvements prepared the GFNMS campus buildings for future re-use and rehabilitation.

Over the past two years, the ONMS has committed funds to address deferred maintenance, but has not provided additional funding to meet the Facilities Master Plan's objectives. A small initial investment of \$12,000 in FY19 is required to update the 100% Construction Documents and develop a multi-year cost estimate; and a commitment from the ONMS to fund the project over a 2-3 year period would allow this important project to proceed unimpeded. The GFNMS Sanctuary Advisory Committee strongly encourages and supports continued funding to help realize the completion of the Ocean Learning Center, a critical mandate in the mission of the Sanctuary to provide outreach and education, as well as a commitment to continued funding of all remaining phases of the Facilities Master Plan.

We appreciate your consideration of this funding request.

With respect,

John Largier, Chairman Greater Farallones NMS Advisory Council

CC: William Douros, West Coast Region Director

CC: Maria Brown, GFNMS Superintendent