



GAVIN NEWSOM
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

February 15, 2012

Milford Wayne Donaldson
State Historic Preservation Officer
1725 23rd Street
Sacramento, CA 95816

Dear Mr. Donaldson,

After a recent visit to San Diego, I became aware of the proposed Plaza de Panama project. This project is a shining example of what we can do to improve our communities when private and public parties come together with the shared goal of preserving California's history.

As Mayor of San Francisco and as Lieutenant Governor, I have often worked to bring parties together to help solve development issues. Subsequently, I was troubled by your decision to send a letter to the National Park Service (NPS) before participating in the draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) comment process.

Additionally, it has come to my attention that the Office of Historical Preservation has yet to contact the City of San Diego's Historical Resources Board, or the design team of the project. This is a project with broad local political, philanthropic and community support so it may be more productive to work in collaboration with the project development team to achieve your goal of preserving this historical open-space.

As the State Historic Preservation Officer I hope that you will consider these arguments, withdraw your comments, and begin to work in collaboration with the leaders of the Plaza de Panama project.

Should you need help making contact with the project team I stand ready to assist. A project as important as Plaza de Panama deserves the input and partnership of all interested parties.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gavin Newsom".

Lt. Governor Newsom