

April 28, 2011

The Honorable Jerry Sanders  
Mayor of San Diego  
City Administration Building  
202 C St., 11th Floor  
San Diego, CA 92101

Via email: [JerrySanders@sandiego.gov](mailto:JerrySanders@sandiego.gov)

Re: Balboa Park Plaza de Panama Project (Project Number 233958)

Dear Mayor Sanders,

On behalf of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, I am writing to express our concern about the proposed Balboa Park Plaza de Panama Project and its effects on the Balboa Park National Historic Landmark District. While we are pleased that Project proposes to rehabilitate and reclaim important historic spaces such as the Plaza de Panama and El Prado, the National Trust remains concerned about the effects of the proposed bypass bridge and road originating from the Cabrillo Bridge and the 785-space parking structure proposed for the area behind the Spreckels Organ Pavilion.

The National Trust for Historic Preservation is a non-profit membership organization bringing people together to protect, enhance and enjoy the places that matter to them. Chartered by Congress in 1949, the National Trust for Historic Preservation provides leadership, education, advocacy and resources to a national network of people, organizations and local communities committed to save America's diverse historic places and revitalize communities.

Given the national significance of Balboa Park, the National Trust strongly discourages any project that would adversely affect the integrity of the National Historic Landmark District and its contributing features and landscapes. We especially discourage any project that would remove or destroy historic fabric from contributing elements such as the Cabrillo Bridge.

It is our understanding that City of San Diego has determined that the Balboa Park Plaza de Panama Project as currently proposed does not meet the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties*. We urge the City of San Diego to pursue a project that rigorously complies with the Standards and that both enhances the historic environment at Balboa Park and avoids adverse effects to intact features and landscapes. There is room for sensitive change in historic environments, but a nationally significant site like Balboa Park - one so well-known and well-loved nationwide - demands particularly careful consideration and treatment.

Thank you for your consideration, and please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns about the issues raised in this letter. The National Trust looks forward to following the ongoing project planning and review processes for the Balboa Park Plaza de Panama in the coming months.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Anthea M. Hartig". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Anthea M. Hartig, Ph.D.  
Director

cc: Elizabeth Shearer-Nguyen, City of San Diego Developmental Services Department  
Cathy Winterrowd, Senior Planner, Planning Department/Historic Resources Board  
M. Wayne Donaldson, State Historic Preservation Officer  
Cindy Heitzman, Executive Director, California Preservation Foundation  
Bruce D. Coons, Executive Director, Save Our Heritage Organisation  
Elaine Jackson Retondo, National Historic Landmarks Program Manager, National  
Park Service Pacific West Region