



CITIZENS COORDINATE FOR CENTURY 3

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Leigh Ivey, Communications Assistant
National Trust for Historic Preservation
1785 Massachusetts Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20036

Re: Threat to National Historic Landmark Cabrillo Bridge, Balboa Park, San Diego, CA

Citizens Coordinate for Century 3 is one of the oldest and most respected non-profit, non-partisan civic organizations in the San Diego Region. Our mission is to strive for the conservation and improvement of the quality of the environment in the San Diego region, working toward achieving the highest standards of environmental quality, physical design, economic benefit and social progress. Included among our interests is the preservation of the historic fabric of our region.

Balboa Park contains a National Landmark Historic District encompassing the sites of two international expositions, in 1915 and 1935. The Cabrillo Bridge is a defining element of the 1915 Panama-California Exposition.

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A current proposal, known as the Plaza de Panama Project, designed to remove parked cars and traffic from Balboa Park's Plaza de Panama, El Prado, Plaza de California, and Esplanade, includes a proposal to cut an 82-foot opening in the parapet at the east end of Cabrillo Bridge, to construct a "bypass bridge" that would wrap around behind & to the south of the California Quadrangle in order to take traffic into the Alcazar Garden parking lot then via another road across Palm Canyon, to a parking structure to be built behind the Organ Pavilion.

The nucleus of the proposal is to remove parking from the Plaza de Panama, situated between the California Quadrangle and the East Prado, which was closed to traffic in 1973. There is almost unanimous support for removal of parking and returning the Plaza de Panama to its original use as a public pedestrian space.

We strongly believe that this objective can be achieved without construction of a bypass bridge that would remove a significant length of the parapet at the east end of Cabrillo Bridge and obscure the historical view of the south wall of the California Quadrangle, a wall that was designed explicitly to suggest the approach to a fortified hill town in Europe.

The Cabrillo Bridge was an integral part of the western, ceremonial approach to the Panama-California Exposition and continues to provide the same memorable view of the California Quadrangle. It would be a tragedy if that same view is no longer there to greet visitors arriving for the Exposition Centennial in 2015. Therefore, we strongly support listing of this landmark structure in the National Trust "11 Most Endangered Historic Places" as nominated by Save Our Heritage Organization (SOHO), San Diego CA

Sincerely,

Judith A. Swink, Chair
C-3 Parks & Open Space Committee

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