

**Fort MacArthur Museum Association**

Post Office Box 268, San Pedro, California 90731

March 4, 1997

John R. Edwards
Chief, Environmental Management
Acquisition Civil Engineer Division
SMC/AXFV
2420 Vela Way, Suite 1467
Los Angeles AFB, California, 90245-4650

Dear Mr. Edwards,

The Board of Directors of the Fort MacArthur Museum Association met to consider the mitigation proposal submitted by the Air Force with regard to the six base end stations located on the former Navy property at White Point. It is the position of the Board that the base end stations played a significant role in the operation of the Sea Coast Artillery of the Harbor Defenses of Los Angeles from 1920 until the end of World War II in 1945. We believe that they represent an important historical asset. Four of the base end stations have special historic importance because they are connected directly to the operation of Battery Osgood-Farley and Battery Barlow-Saxton that are on the National Registry of Historic sites located on the Upper Reservation of Fort MacArthur and therefore are entitled to protected status as outlined in section 106 of The National Historic Preservation Act.

The Board of Directors of the Fort MacArthur Museum Association also recognizes that continued operation of the Space and Missile Center at Los Angeles Air Force Base is important to this community and the nation. The Air Force has characterized the development of the eight acres of the former Navy property at White Point as important to the continued success of their mission and a factor in the viability of Los Angeles Air Force Base. We recognize and are grateful that during the Air Force's tenure at the Middle Reservation of Fort MacArthur they have done an excellent good job preserving the historical integrity of the National Historic Site there while utilizing the facility for their purposes. The integrity of that site is of vital importance to this Association and to it's mission to preserve the history of the Fort and the Harbor Defenses of Los Angeles. Because of SMC's commitment over the years to historical preservation in that case we believe that a compromise in this matter is warranted.

It is regrettable when any historical asset is destroyed, even for the best of reasons. In this case we can find no acceptable scenario that would result in the saving of all of the base end stations in their current location. Therefore it is the unanimous decision of the Board of Directors of the Fort MacArthur Museum Association that we accept the mitigation proposal suggested by the Air Force. Specifically that one of the 1920 era Base End Stations be moved from it's current location to a place outside the housing area but in a place that commands a view of the Catalina Channel. That it be restored and that signs be erected to interpret it's role in the Harbor Defenses of Los Angeles as well as the relationship and mission of the other Base End Stations at White Point. That this site should be accessible from time to time to the public in a manner consistent with the security requirements of the Air Force. We support Mr. Milton Heyne, with the San Pedro Bay Historical Society, and his suggestion that the World War II Base End station also be preserved and interpreted. We agree that when this is done we would have an example of both types of Base End Stations found at White Point. We would prefer that this Base End Station be located near the 1920 station. We believe this location would be more cost effective since the distance involved would be small as compared to moving it to a place distant from White Point. However if it cannot be located near the older station at White Point then the Museum Association would find a place for it on the Museum grounds where it can be interpreted. The mitigation proposal indicated that if structurally the Base End Station cannot be moved then it would be replicated and interpreted. This would be a last resort option. We want one of the original 1920 structures preserved.

Over the years we have enjoyed a good relationship with the Los Angeles Air Force Base and SMC. We wish the Air Force a long and successful tenure at Fort MacArthur and in Los Angeles. We take intense pride in the fact, thanks to the Air Force, that Fort MacArthur after nearly 100 years continues to serve in the nations defense.

For the Board of Directors of the Fort MacArthur Museum Association,



Tom Thomas,
President, Fort MacArthur Museum Association