

Exhibit 5: Project Letters

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California State Senate

SENATOR  
MARK LENO

THIRD SENATORIAL DISTRICT



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LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL  
RELATIONS

September 18, 2012

Mr. Douglas Bosco  
California State Coastal Conservancy  
1330 Broadway, 13<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Mr. Bosco:

I am writing in support of the Exploratorium's proposal to the California State Coastal Conservancy. The new Exploratorium at Piers 15/17 moves a world-class science museum to the San Francisco waterfront and offers new opportunities for the public to explore one of state's greatest natural resources – the San Francisco Bay.

The new Exploratorium will revitalize the waterfront by restoring an historic pier into a net-zero energy building that will encourage millions of visitors to explore the world around them. Through hands-on exhibits and its conversation series, the Exploratorium will educate Californians about climate change and its impact on the local environment.

The Coastal Conservancy can serve as a true partner to the Exploratorium by contributing knowledge and expertise to this project. By working with the Exploratorium, the Conservancy and its projects will reach a broader audience and educate more people about climate change and the challenges facing our natural environment.

I whole-heartedly endorse this project and partnership. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mark Leno".

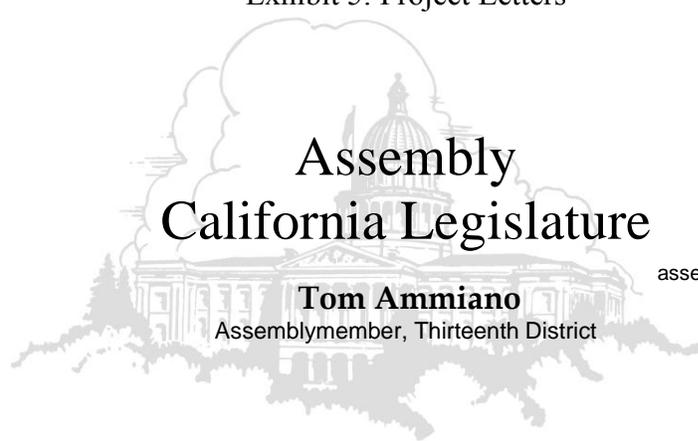
MARK LENO  
Senator, 3<sup>rd</sup> District

cc: Deborah Hirst, CA State Coastal Conservancy



## Exhibit 5: Project Letters

Capitol Office  
State Capitol  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
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# Assembly California Legislature

**Tom Ammiano**  
Assemblymember, Thirteenth District

District Office  
455 Golden Gate Avenue, Suite 14300  
San Francisco, CA 94102  
Phone: (415) 557-3013  
Fax: (415) 557-3015  
E-Mail Address  
assemblymember.ammiano@assembly.ca.gov

September 18, 2012

Mr. Douglas Bosco  
California State Coastal Conservancy  
1330 Broadway, 13th Floor  
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Mr. Bosco:

On behalf of the 13th Assembly District and San Francisco, I endorse the Exploratorium's proposal to the California State Coastal Conservancy. The Exploratorium is a true educational resource for our city and state. By partnering with the Coastal Conservancy, the museum will invite millions of visitors each year to explore the San Francisco Bay and learn about current research and challenges facing the city's great natural resource.

During its planning process, the Exploratorium worked with the Port of San Francisco, the city, neighborhood groups, architects, engineers, and their staff to develop effective ways to incorporate the natural environment into its design. The team decided to refurbish the historic Pier 15 and include many energy efficient features – rooftop photovoltaic arrays, a bay water heating and cooling system, and rainwater collection cisterns. The building itself will serve as an exhibit to educate the public about sustainable practices.

The team also decided to remove a parking lot between Piers 15/17 and to leave the space open to the San Francisco Bay. The water is surrounded by a public promenade that has more than 1.5 acres of public access space, and at the end of the pier is a two-story glass Observatory with expansive views of the bay. With such a stunning location, the museum knew it had to create exhibit experiences to encourage visitors to explore their natural environment. The museum also recognized the importance of incorporating current science and research to demonstrate the bay's dynamic nature. Through exhibits and the Observatory Conversation series, the museum will educate a broad public audience, potentially millions of visitors each year, about current issues facing the bay today.

Equally important is the new Exploratorium's participation in the Bay History Trail. The museum plans to highlight the pier's history, the changing face of the waterfront, and the museum's history. Through multimedia exhibits, the public will learn about the museum's founder Frank Oppenheimer and his belief that everyone is naturally curious and capable of understanding science. This belief is so important today and exemplifies why the Coastal

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Conservancy should partner with the Exploratorium in a unified front to create an educated citizenry, capable of understanding the latest research and making informed decisions.

Thank you for your consideration of this proposal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tom Ammiano". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Tom Ammiano  
Assemblymember, 13<sup>th</sup> Assembly District  
California State Assembly

cc: Deborah Hirst

Exhibit 5: Project Letters

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR  
SAN FRANCISCO



EDWIN M. LEE  
MAYOR

September 24, 2012

Mr. Douglas Bosco  
California State Coastal Conservancy  
1330 Broadway, 13th Floor  
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Mr. Bosco:

The new Exploratorium at Piers 15/17 moves a world-class science museum to the San Francisco Embarcadero and provides new learning opportunities for the public to explore our great natural resource – the San Francisco Bay. The Exploratorium proposal to construct and install exhibits for the Bay Observatory and Public Promenade at its new location, as well as to plan future exhibits for these spaces and to sponsor a series of Bay-focused workshops at the Exploratorium, has gained support from a wide variety of state, local and non-governmental agencies and forged new partnerships to leverage resources and reach broader audiences. I offer my support of the Exploratorium's proposal to the California State Coastal Conservancy and applaud it for the following reasons.

- The new Exploratorium will have more than 1.5 acres of public access space and will delight more than 5 million visitors each year with exhibit experiences to explore the Bay. By partnering with the Coastal Conservancy, the Exploratorium will leverage prior Conservancy-funded research and bring it to a larger public audience.
- The Bay History walk will educate visitors about the vibrant history of the piers, highlight how the waterfront has changed over the years, and Exploratorium-ize the experience to capture an audience of all ages and encourage their exploration of our city's great history.
- The Observatory Conversation series will serve as a resource on pressing issues such as climate change, conservation, and sustainability. By bringing together scientists, artists, and other experts, the series will serve as a unique forum to educate and inform the public about the Bay and its importance to our city's growth and vitality.

The Exploratorium's proposal to the Coastal Conservancy leverages the resources and expertise of both institutions and has the potential to educate millions of people about the natural environment, as well as inspire the conservation of our great natural resource – the San Francisco Bay.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Edwin M. Lee".

Edwin M. Lee  
Mayor

cc: Deborah Hirst, Project Manager, California State Coastal Conservancy

Exhibit 5: Project Letters



Chinatown Community  
Development Center  
華協中心

May 27, 2009

Dennis Bartels  
Executive Director  
Exploratorium  
3601 Lyon Street  
San Francisco, CA 94123

Dear Mr. Bartels:

The Chinatown Community Development Center supports the Exploratorium's proposed move from the Palace of Fine Arts to Piers 15-17. The Exploratorium's project staff presented the Piers design plan to our Board of Directors Programs Committee, and we are excited that the Exploratorium will be moving to Piers 15-17, within walking distance of Chinatown. The Board believes that this move will not only improve accessibility for residents of Chinatown and District 3, but all communities in San Francisco. We were impressed by the museum's intent to take advantage of the natural surroundings and its location on the piers when creating new exhibits. We were also pleased to hear that the outdoor area of Pier 15 will hold rotating exhibits and be open to the public free of charge.

CCDC is eager to see the intended programs for community involvement come to fruition after the move to the Embarcadero is completed. We are excited about the preliminary discussions we've had to find creative and innovative ways to collaborate on accessible programs for the community at the new Piers location.

Thank you for your continual updates on the progress of the project. We look forward to continuing our work with you to develop additional programs available to the Chinatown community in the future.

Sincerely,

Gordon Chin  
Executive Director

## Exhibit 5: Project Letters

July 5, 2006

Supervisor Tom Ammiano, Chair  
Supervisor Aaron Peskin, Member  
Supervisor Michela Alioto-Pier, Member  
Government Audit and Oversight Committee  
City Hall  
San Francisco, Ca., 94102

Dear Supervisor Ammiano and members of the Committee,

The Northeast Waterfront Advisory Group (NEWAG), advisors to the Port of San Francisco, would like to indicate our support for moving forward with the Exploratorium Project at Pier 15. In order for there to be a future for this endeavor, the Board will need to approve the Fiscal Responsibility and Feasibility Report and the Term Sheet. Though the NEWAG has not had an opportunity to review this particular document, we have met with the Exploratorium at length at our June meeting and at earlier meetings. We are all quite satisfied with the progress the Exploratorium and Port have made to date and feel that this project is a good fit for the Port and for the City as a whole.

In terms of this particular document, it memorializes a number of important points and actions.

- +Pier 15 is in very poor condition, and if improvements are not made, it will be red tagged in the near future. If the pier is not repaired, this historic pier will be in jeopardy.

- +The Port does not have the necessary funds to repair either 15 or 17. Through Port's issuance of rent credits of up to \$23.4 million, the Exploratorium will be able to restore and seismically update Pier and its underpinnings, and then will be able to embark on installing a state of the art and expanded Exploratorium. The restorations will meet the historic standards demanded.

- +The report also outlines the fiscal benefits that will accrue to the Port and the City in terms of revenue and jobs. And the results are substantial.

- +Equally important is a recognition of the Exploratorium, which was founded in San Francisco, and whose basic concept of hands-on science education has now been seeded to new locations around the world. This unique educational institution has been searching for a new home in order to expand their efforts. They have explored several sites...lost one and rejected several. If piers 15, and eventually 17, can be shaped into their new, and enlarged Exploratorium, how fortunate for us all.

The Port has provided the Supervisors and the City with an excellent, well-written tool, as required by ordinance, to analyze this project and to move forward. NEWAG strongly recommends that the Board supports this effort and approves the Fiscal Responsibility and Feasibility and the Term Sheet.

With regards,  
Toby Levine, Chair

# PIER 39

March 23, 2009

Dennis Bartels  
Executive Director  
Exploratorium  
3601 Lyon Street  
San Francisco, CA 94123

Dear Mr. Bartels:

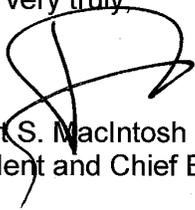
We at PIER 39 fully support the Exploratorium's proposed move to Piers 15 and 17 along the Embarcadero. The addition of another premier bay attraction to the waterfront will not only improve community access to an engaging educational resource, it will foster tourism and commerce in the area and permit exploration of historic piers previously restricted to the public because of safety hazards.

As a neighboring local business, PIER 39 welcomes the opportunity to share the waterfront with the Exploratorium and connect to it via the MUNI F-line. The increased visitorship to the region will stimulate the local economy and help all businesses along the Embarcadero without significantly disrupting the lives of local residents, as studies have proven. In its design plans, the Exploratorium has done a thorough job of balancing the needs of residents and patrons visiting the piers. We congratulate the Exploratorium on its ability to accommodate pedestrians, bicyclists, motorists and public transit users alike making sure that the museum is accessible to everyone—not an easy feat in San Francisco.

Having seen the design plans, we also appreciate the Exploratorium's use of open space along Pier 15. True to the museum's intent of accessibility for all communities, the public space affords even passersby the opportunity to learn science and walk along a piece of San Francisco history.

We thank the Exploratorium for its continual updates on the move and anticipate the formal opening in the next few years.

Yours very truly,



Robert S. MacIntosh  
President and Chief Executive Officer

RSM:cl

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**RENEWSF**

REVITALIZE AND ENERGIZE THE NORTHEAST  
AND WATERFRONT OF SAN FRANCISCO

[renewsf.org](http://renewsf.org)

March 26, 2009

Mr. Dennis Bartels  
Executive Director  
Exploratorium  
3601 Lyon Street  
San Francisco, CA 94123

Dear Mr. Bartels,

The Board of Directors of RENEW SF commends your study and community outreach efforts, and strongly supports the Exploratorium's relocation to Piers 15/17 as proposed.

WE SUPPORT:

Greater prominence of this trail-blazing San Francisco institution on our waterfront, where children and visitors alike can learn of the unique resource of San Francisco Bay.

This rare proposal made by an institution capable of addressing the daunting pier rehabilitation costs necessary to recycle very large, old shed structures, and ensuring us of beneficial use of these piers for the next 50-100 years.

This proposal fulfills the efforts and plans dating back decades to bring visitors to our waterfront, to utilize the BART/MUNI Metro station, along with the highly successful "F" line trolleys, placed precisely to serve the Embarcadero without the need to construct large parking structures on prime waterfront sites.

The replacement of the existing Connector building at the end of Pier 15 with the Bridge Building is a very positive addition to the plan. The proposed building of concrete and glass will open up the view corridor and allow views of our beautiful Bay from the Embarcadero. We find the proposed design of this building not a violation of the historical structures nor intrusive since the building will be almost 800 feet from the Embarcadero. To the contrary, the Bridge Building will provide greater access to and appreciation for the Bay, adding to the maritime ambience slowly taking shape along the Embarcadero.

Thus we enthusiastically support the Exploratorium's relocation plan and believe that it is very much in keeping with the mission of the Port Commission, providing an attraction to bring all residents and visitors to the Northeast waterfront.

Sincerely,



Claudine Cheng  
Chair, RENEWSF

Board of Directors:

Claudine Cheng, Chair  
Rod Freebairn-Smith  
Marvin Kasoff  
Robert Mittelstadt  
Wells Whitney

## Exhibit 5: Project Letters



SAN FRANCISCO  
ARCHITECTURAL  
HERITAGE

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*Executive Director*

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www.sfheritage.org

June 26, 2009

Mr. James Suh  
Wilson Meany Sullivan  
Four Embarcadero Center, Suite 3330  
San Francisco, CA 94111

RE: Exploratorium

Dear Mr. Suh:

Heritage has appreciated the opportunity for ongoing design review regarding the proposed adaptive reuse of Piers 15 and 17 for the upcoming relocation of the Exploratorium. Thank you for the most recent design review update (on June 22, 2009) and presentation of the team's most recent design development documents. We support certification of the EIR and appreciate the work done to address our previous comments, as well as design review executed in consultation with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and the National Park Service (NPS). It's evident that this ongoing design review has strengthened the project. The new design under study appears to be a sympathetic addition to Piers 15 and 17 and in compliance with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards 9 and 10:

*9) New additions, exterior alterations, or related new construction will not destroy historic materials, features, and spatial relationships that characterize the property. The new work will be differentiated from the old and will be compatible with the historic materials, features, size, scale and proportion, and massing to protect the integrity of the property and its environment.*

*10) New additions and adjacent or related new construction will be undertaken in such a manner that, if removed in the future, the essential form and integrity of the historic property and its environment would be unimpaired.*

Having reviewed the project with you on June 23 with a representative from Heritage's Issues Committee, we offer the following comments:

1. The overall appearance of the new construction, together with its connection to the existing Pier 15 structure, has evolved in a positive manner. We endorse specification of a "hyphen" between the proposed new 2-story block and the extant Pier 15 structure, which will enable preservation of interior roof trusses previously scheduled for removal.
2. Some concern was expressed about the sloped 2<sup>nd</sup>-floor walkway connection: although we understand the functional necessity, it disrupts an otherwise elegant design solution. We look forward to further iteration of the design of

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Mr. James Suh

Wilson Meany Sullivan

the walkway including details of its materiality and form and how it may be less apparent.

3. There was a question on why access to the second floor of the Bridge Building could not be provided via elevator on the interior of the Bridge Building.
4. We would like to see more study about the exterior finish materials:
  - a. at the new Pier 15 west entrance,
  - b. the north wall/east end of the pier following removal of the existing Connector Building, and the proposed metal paneling at the shed-wall location, and
  - c. exterior specifications for the addition.
5. While we understand the NPS's rationale for the simplified glass opening specified for the east wall of Pier 15, we have some concern with how these large openings will read from the water.
6. We approve the minor, yet significant design changes proposed for the interior of the Pier 15 building, including eliminating a small enclosed room toward the front entry gallery, and widening the center open hall at the east end of the structure.
7. The Final EIR also should find these design changes to result in even less of an impact than the previous design.

Again, many thanks for the opportunity to review the design updates to the proposed Exploratorium. Heritage appreciates the opportunity to comment, and looks forward to further review as the design develops.

Sincerely,



Jack A. Gold  
Executive Director

## Exhibit 5: Project Letters



SAN FRANCISCO  
PLANNING + URBAN RESEARCH  
ASSOCIATION

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Paul Zeger

James Y. Suh  
Wilson Meany Sullivan  
Four Embarcadero Center, Suite 2200  
San Francisco, CA 94111

Re: Exploratorium at Piers 15 & 17, San Francisco

Dear Mr. Suh:

On behalf of the members of the SPUR Project Review Committee, we would like to thank your team for bringing the proposed redevelopment of Piers 15 & 17 as a new home for the Exploratorium to our group for consideration and review at our April 2008 meeting.

The mission of the SPUR Project Review Committee is to consider projects that are of citywide importance and to evaluate them according to criteria related to land use, public realm interface, building design and environmental effects. In all cases, we are seeking a combination of excellent planning and design solutions that will ensure the positive contribution of each project to a safe, visually appealing, and vibrant urban setting for the people who live and work in San Francisco.

As a result of our review and discussion of the Exploratorium proposal, we provide the following comments for your information and action:

### Land Use

The Exploratorium plans to redevelop the existing historic piers into its new home. The project will be developed in two Phases: Phase 1, which the museum hopes to begin as soon as possible, will include the redevelopment of Pier 15 and the adjacent public and private landscape spaces; the anticipated Phase 2 will redevelop the Pier 17 building sometime in the future. Except where otherwise indicated, our comments will apply only to Phase 1, since only those plans were presented to the committee.

The Phase 1 plans call for a mix of exhibition space, café, cafeteria, classrooms, offices, workshops, and a theatre totaling approximately 195,000 square feet.

The site, a ten minute walk from the Ferry Terminal and the Embarcadero BART/MUNI station, and also along The Embarcadero E-line, is well served by public transport. The Exploratorium plans to lease several hundred parking places from an existing lot across The Embarcadero.

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The committee is very supportive of the Exploratorium's proposed use of the site. We believe such a prominent waterfront site is an ideal location for an institution which will draw visitors from the entire Bay Area, and tourists from afar.

We urge the project sponsor not to underestimate the regional appeal of the new museum in this location, and to plan carefully to encourage the use of regional and local transit to access the museum. Parking at this location is extremely tight. The project sponsor should make use of transportation demand management to maximize the efficient use of the very limited parking resources. Bus drop offs will also need to be carefully planned to not increase traffic congestion and undermine the pedestrian experience. All transportation arrangements should consider both the capacity, proximity, and pedestrian interface with transit, bicycle and vehicular systems.

### **Public Realm Interface and the Promotion of a Pedestrian-Oriented Environment**

By making the water and the waterfront much more accessible to the public, the project greatly enhances the pedestrian environment both on The Embarcadero and on the Piers themselves. Because the truck dock between the two piers is being removed, open water and a public plaza will occupy this space. We are enthusiastic about this idea and how it draws the public into the complex before passing the museum's admission point, allowing visitors to enjoy kinetic sculptures, exhibits, and the water before entering. We concur with the project sponsor that the plaza entry is "civic" and "pedestrian friendly". The formal portico at the bulkhead of Pier 15, facing The Embarcadero is also maintained for those who wish to enter that way, directly into the gift shop.

### **Building & Landscape Design**

As the pier buildings are historically protected, aside from upgrades to windows little is being done to the historic portions of the façade. An attractive double-height glass wall entry from the plaza will replace an industrial garage door. The interior warehouse truss structure will be retained while bring the building up to current code. The façade is sensitively treated, allowing the public pedestrian experience to become the main attraction.

The "connector" building is a glassy structure which offers a pleasing counterpoint to the solidity of the pier buildings. It will house a cafeteria, affording spectacular bay views for those dining there. We are pleased that the public will have direct access to this building and the end of the pier without paying museum admission, but wish that the access route was more direct.

The committee did not review the Phase 2 project, which calls for the redevelopment of Pier 17 and the extension of the "connector" building to span between the two piers at their eastern ends. We view the increased public access to the piers, the bay, and the views beyond as among the strongest aspects of the proposal. Therefore, in the absence of a fully developed design, we would not look unfavorably upon connecting the two piers with a two-story building— higher

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than either of the piers— which would block views from within the new public plaza to the bay beyond.

The landscape and outdoor exhibit design is integral to the entire entry and visitor experience. The public spaces afford opportunities to experience both the bay environment and get a taste of the museum exhibits as well. We are pleased with the low-key treatment of The Embarcadero edge itself.

### **Environmental Effects**

SPUR believes it is essential for projects to build environmental sustainability into their design and function, and this proposal reflects the Exploratorium's commitment to sustainability as an integral and ongoing priority of the design process. The result is a project which reflects the institution's mandate to understand and preserve the world around us.

We applaud the project sponsor's stated goal of attaining LEED Gold certification, and anticipate that the project will serve as an exemplar of sustainable design.

### **Conclusion**

The SPUR Project Review Committee finds the Exploratorium project at Pier 15 to be a superlative use of this prominent and unique site. The public spaces are well conceived, will bring much greater and more interactive use to the piers, and the buildings are thoughtfully restored. We are also encouraged by the project team's genuine commitment to building a demonstrably sustainable project.

We thank you for committing your time and resources to the presentation at SPUR, appreciate the fact that you have presented your proposal to us at an early stage in its development so that you may take our recommendations into consideration. We will follow further refinements of this project with great interest and invite you to keep us informed on its progress.

### **Consideration for Endorsement**

Should you intend to request SPUR to consider this project for endorsement, you should contact the Committee co-chairs at the appropriate time. Endorsement by SPUR is reserved for projects of the highest quality and significance to the city. Consideration for endorsement begins with a formal response by projects sponsors to this review letter, including an update on any significant changes to the project program or design since the project was initially presented at SPUR. The project is then taken up for discussion by an endorsement subcommittee of SPUR board members who serve on committees in the areas of project review, urban policy, housing, sustainability, and transportation. We normally require a month's lead-time to schedule a meeting of the endorsement subcommittee.

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Please do not hesitate to contact us for questions/clarifications.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signatures of Reuben Schwartz and Kirby Sack in purple ink. Reuben's signature is a simple, stylized 'R'. Kirby's signature is a more complex, cursive 'K'.

For:

Reuben Schwartz  
SPUR Project Review Committee Co-Chairs

Kirby Sack

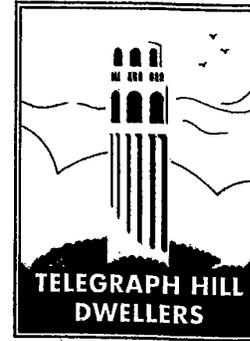
cc: SPUR Board of Directors

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July 20, 2006

*By E-Mail*

Christina Orth  
The Exploratorium  
3601 Lyon Street  
San Francisco, CA 94123



Re: Piers 15-17 Relocation

Dear Ms. Orth:

Thanks so much for presenting to the THD's Joint Planning & Zoning and Waterfront Committee on July 6, 2006 as part of the Exploratorium's outreach program as requested by the Port of San Francisco.

The THD whole-heartedly supports the Exploratorium moving into Piers 15-17 based on the timeline you provided. We are pleased with the progress your project is making despite the lengthy road ahead and are encouraged by your frankness. We understand that the Exploratorium is seeking the Board of Supervisors' approval on its fiscal feasibility report. We understand that the Budget & Finance committee of the Board voted unanimously on July 19, 2006 to have the full Board vote on approving the report.

Based on the Exploratorium's proven success in managing their financial needs and their assurances that the major portion of the \$90 million in project costs has been raised, we urge the Board of Supervisors to find the project fiscally feasible and qualified to move on to the entitlement and design phases.

We continue to ask that you update us with any developments on the project and look forward to working with you and your team.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Vedica Puri", written over a horizontal line.

Vedica Puri  
President  
Telegraph Hill Dwellers

cc: Supervisor Peskin  
Monique Moyer, Port Director  
P&Z/Waterfront Committee

## Exhibit 5: Project Letters

**Office of the Mayor**  
City & County of San Francisco



**Gavin Newsom**

April 29, 2009

Senator Dianne Feinstein  
United States Senate  
331 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Feinstein:

The Exploratorium proposal to build a world-class science museum on the San Francisco Embarcadero provides accessible learning opportunities to the entire Bay Area in a transit friendly location, is central to our ability to maintain the historic districts on our waterfront and is critical to our city financially. Once completed, the new Exploratorium will be one of the largest sustainable buildings of its kind in the world.

San Francisco is a city that has a long and proud history of not only preserving our past but also finding new and vibrant uses for historic structures. Preserving our great history while also adapting it to meet new opportunities and challenges, is amongst the most important priorities of my administration.

The relocation of the Exploratorium to Piers 15/17 is a critical public-private partnership between the Port of San Francisco and the Exploratorium. This partnership is the result of years of planning and collaboration between my administration and the Exploratorium. I consider it one of the City's most important public projects. It is a jewel along the waterfront, effectively anchoring the public way between the Ferry Building and Fisherman's Wharf.

The relocation of the Exploratorium to Piers 15/17 is respectful of our historic waterfront while also allowing for a spectacular addition to the Embarcadero that will educate millions about climate change, the environment and our natural world as well as restore public access to the bay. It will bring vitality and economic activity to an historic part of our city in a way that once again affirms the idea that historic structures can be revitalized for great public purposes. In addition to the historic and programmatic benefits, the new location will bring new jobs and an estimated 800,000 new visitors to the Embarcadero—affirming the central role historic preservation plays in the economic future of San Francisco and California.

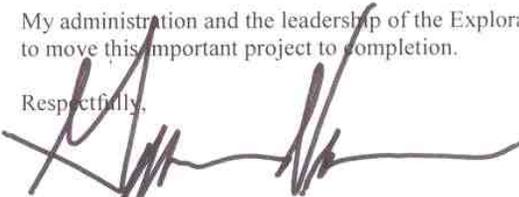
As you know the historic pier sheds along the waterfront need significant capital investment in order to restore them to economic viability. In the current economic climate it is essential that the City's historic preservation efforts involve effective public-private partners who can bring needed capital that can be leveraged to produce large public projects.

The Exploratorium has pledged to raise substantial private sums to seismically upgrade and rehabilitate Piers 15/17. A key component of the financing equation is the historic tax credits, which the State Historic Preservation Officer and the National Park Service must approve and certify. It will be difficult if not impossible for the financing of this project to proceed without these tax credits.

It is essential that all agencies—federal, state and local—with oversight of this project give due consideration to the many important components that must be balanced in order for a complex project of this scope and scale to succeed. As you know, the entitlement process involves balancing the needs of regulatory bodies that have jurisdiction along our waterfront. This process must conclude soon in order to begin construction financing and break ground. Costly delays add substantial risks to the probability of the project moving forward to completion.

My administration and the leadership of the Exploratorium stand ready to work with you and all our elected officials to move this important project to completion.

Respectfully,

  
Gavin Newsom  
Mayor, City and County of San Francisco

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## Exhibit 5: Project Letters

**Office of the Mayor**  
City & County of San Francisco



**Gavin Newsom**

April 29, 2009

Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker, United States House of Representatives  
235 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Madame Speaker:

The Exploratorium proposal to build a world-class science museum on the San Francisco Embarcadero provides accessible learning opportunities to the entire Bay Area in a transit friendly location, is central to our ability to maintain the historic districts on our waterfront and is critical to our city financially. Once completed, the new Exploratorium will be one of the largest sustainable buildings of its kind in the world.

San Francisco is a city that has a long and proud history of not only preserving our past but also finding new and vibrant uses for historic structures. Preserving our great history while also adapting it to meet new opportunities and challenges, is amongst the most important priorities of my administration.

The relocation of the Exploratorium to Piers 15/17 is a critical public-private partnership between the Port of San Francisco and the Exploratorium. This partnership is the result of years of planning and collaboration between my administration and the Exploratorium. I consider it one of the City's most important public projects. It is a jewel along the waterfront, effectively anchoring the public way between the Ferry Building and Fisherman's Wharf.

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My administration and the leadership of the Exploratorium stand ready to work with you and all our elected officials to move this important project to completion.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gavin Newsom", written over a horizontal line.

Gavin Newsom  
Mayor, City and County of San Francisco

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