

(916) 445-2358

MAY 14 1979

Mr. John D. Cherry
Regional Director
Heritage Conservation and
Recreation Service
450 Golden Gate Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94102

Dear Mr. Cherry:

Ravenswood High School
Site Acquisition

We are aware that the Ravenswood High School Acquisition proposal is ineligible under the provisions of Section 670.1.8K(3) of the Grants-In-Aid Manual, concerning the transfer of property between public agencies. Because of the unusual circumstances involving this project, however, we are requesting that the Service's policy on the acquisition of school properties be waived on a one-time-only basis to permit acquisition of the Ravenswood High School site with Land and Water Conservation Fund assistance.

Without Land and Water Conservation Fund assistance the open space and recreation facilities at the site will be lost to the residents of the East Palo Alto area. This is a predominately low income, minority community that is sadly lacking in recreational opportunities. It is our understanding that the Sequoia Union School District has agreed to sell the property, which has been appraised at more than \$2,000,000, for \$1,000,000 for the open space, and a nominal fee of \$1 for the school buildings. The Land and Water Conservation Funds will be matched with a HCD Block Grant. The Ravenswood Recreation and Park District has no other funds available.

The Ravenswood project presents an excellent opportunity for the State and Federal Governments to demonstrate their commitment to assisting an economically distressed urban area. We cannot think of a single action

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Mr. John D. Cherry
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that could improve the general welfare of this community as can the fulfillment of their wishes for a major park and community center. We hope you will agree with us that this opportunity transcends any questions of policy and grant your approval.

Enclosed are an original and two copies of an agreement and one copy of a project proposal for the above subject project.

Sincerely yours,

Original Signed by
Russell W. Cahill

Russell W. Cahill
Director

Enclosures

KMSteinhart:jn