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**Executive Director**  
Marcel Acosta

IN REPLY REFER TO;  
NCPC FILE No. 7745

**DEC 13 2017**

Mr. Doug Jacobs  
United States Department of Interior  
National Park Service  
National Capital Region  
1100 Ohio Drive, SW  
Washington, DC 20242

Dear Mr. Jacobs:

The National Capital Planning Commission, at its December 7, 2017 meeting, approved the enclosed comments on the site selection for the National Desert Storm and Desert Shield Memorial in Washington, DC. A copy of the Executive Director's Recommendation for the project is also enclosed.

Sincerely,

Marcel C. Acosta  
Executive Director

Enclosures

cc: Eric Shaw, Director, DC Office of Planning  
Frederick Lindstrom, US Commission of Fine Arts

**PROJECT****National Desert Storm and Desert  
Shield Memorial**

Washington, DC

**NCPC FILE NUMBER**

7745

**NCPC MAP FILE NUMBER**

00.00(73.10)44649

**SUBMITTED BY**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**APPLICANT'S REQUEST**Approval of comments on  
site selection**REVIEW AUTHORITY**

Approval

Per 40 U.S.C. 8905, Public Law 113-291 and  
Public Law 115-18**ACTION TAKEN**Approved comments on  
site selection

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The Commission:

**Notes** the proposed memorial area will occupy less than one-quarter of an acre.

Regarding the Constitution Avenue site:

**Finds** the site has a strong thematic connection to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

**Notes** the site is located at the edge of West Potomac Park, near the National Mall, approximately seven blocks from the Foggy Bottom Metrorail Station.

**Recommends** the applicant consider how the proposed memorial design might respond to the future re-establishment and extension of Constitution Avenue.

**Notes** that several major infrastructure projects are proposed for the Constitution Avenue site that may affect the memorial design, including the DC Water Potomac River Tunnel and Army Corps of Engineers Potomac Park Levee improvements.

**Finds** the Constitution Avenue site may allow for the addition of other thematically-related memorials or commemorative elements in the future, due to its size and location; however, the area may require substantial improvements to the street and pedestrian network to establish a cohesive and functional precinct.

Regarding the Walt Whitman Park site:

**Notes** the site was identified in the Monumental Core Framework Plan as part of a linear commemorative park connecting the White House and Kennedy Center.

**Notes** the site is located within an urban context, surrounded by variety of office and commercial uses, approximately five blocks from the Farragut West Metrorail Station.

**Notes** the site is separated from the grouping of 20th Century war memorials located on the National Mall, but is near other sites, such as the U.S. Department of State Headquarters, the U.S. Diplomacy Center, and White House, that are also relevant to the memorial in terms of diplomacy and international cooperation.

**Finds** the site would permit the addition of other thematically related memorials or commemorative elements in the future due to its size, and would need only limited improvements to establish a cohesive and functional precinct.

Regarding the Belvedere site:

**Finds** the Belvedere site has limited opportunity for contemplative space and challenging access; however, the location does allow for a thematic connection to Arlington National Cemetery which is visible across the river.

Regarding the Memorial Circle site:

**Finds** the Memorial Circle site provides a thematic connection to Arlington National Cemetery and other nearby military memorials, but is currently challenged by pedestrian – vehicular conflicts.

**Notes** the site is located between the travel lanes of the George Washington Parkway and Washington Boulevard, and the adjacent road network may detract from a contemplative and safe environment necessary for a successful memorial;

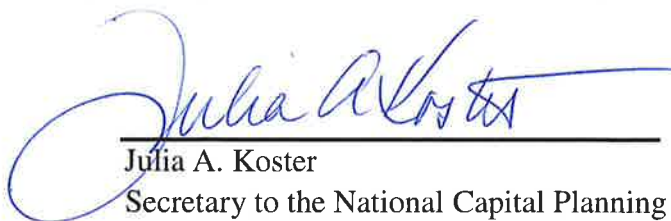
**Supports** the applicant's decision to dismiss the Memorial Circle site from further consideration; and further

**Notes** the U.S. Commission of Fine Arts found the Memorial Circle site “layered with many other commemorative associations” and suggested a “site less laden with established commemorative meaning would provide a better setting” for the proposed memorial.

Regarding all sites:

**Supports** advancing the Constitution Avenue, the Walt Whitman Park, and the Belvedere sites for further study.

**Requests** that the applicant develop one or more alternative design concepts for the three sites, including variations in scale, placement and orientation. The next submission should provide details about the physical relationship of the memorial to the surrounding context, including access and preservation of historic landscapes, and provide information about program needs at each site.

  
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Julia A. Koster  
Secretary to the National Capital Planning Commission

12/08/2017

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Date