

## 3.1 THE PRESIDIO

The resources of the Presidio are described in this chapter, along with the local and regional context, Presidio and surrounding uses, and the laws and policies that govern the Presidio. The Affected Environment provides the basis for the analysis of Environmental Consequences (Chapter 4).

### 3.1.1 OVERVIEW

The Presidio of San Francisco is at the northern tip of the San Francisco peninsula on the south side of the Golden Gate. On its southern and eastern boundaries is the city of San Francisco, on the west is the Pacific Ocean, and on the north San Francisco Bay.

The Presidio is almost centrally located within the San Francisco Bay Area. The region is predominantly urban, and population densities are high. The inland side of the peninsula, from San Francisco southward to San Jose, is dominated by large and small municipalities. Similarly, continuous development stretches northward from San Jose along the eastern side of the bay to Vallejo across from San Francisco. North of the Presidio, Marin County has residential and commercial development concentrated along the Highway 101 corridor and a large amount of permanent open space, a substantial portion of which is under the GGNRA management.

The Presidio spans 1,490 acres. It is a NHLD, and boasts structures from every major U.S. military construction period since 1848 as well as spanish-colonial and pre-historic archaeological remnants from pre-historic times. It contains diverse ecosystems, a dynamic shoreline and wetland resources, and historic forests. It is home to native plant communities and several rare and endangered species. It includes spectacular views. The historical and natural resources of the Presidio are enhanced through the numerous cultural and education programs and facilities.

The Presidio has a tradition of community. Where once shared experiences of military families created a tangible sense of belonging, at present a contemporary live/work model is developing at the park. As with any community, there is a support structure of the transportation systems,

including bicycle and pedestrian systems, public safety including fire and police protection, and utilities.

The Presidio of San Francisco is part of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area and the national park system. The Presidio Trust manages the park in partnership with the National Park Service. The Trust has jurisdiction over the interior approximately 80 percent of the Presidio (Area B), including nearly all of its historic structures. The National Park Service manages coastal areas (Area A).