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E. C. Whiting

15th August, 1911.

Mr. Julius Wangenhéim, President,
Board of Park Commissioners, Panama-California
Exposition, San Diego, Cal.

Dear Sir:

Replying to your letter of the 9th instant

I quite approve of the policy with respect to park improvement which you outline but with one or two exceptions. I think it is necessary for the proper accommodation of the public to improve the middle drive up through the park with rotten rock or some similar cheap surfacing in place of the asphaltic mixture which has hardened after getting into humps and hollows and I think it is necessary for the proper care of the park and for proper enjoyment of it and for the convenience of persons having business north and east of the park to improve in a cheap manner an east and west drive near the north border of the park, extending from the present drive near Vermont Street to a connection with the present drive entering the park at Redwood Street on the east side. It would be a very good thing to do the grad-

ing for this drive once for all as regards the side slopes, width of drive, etc. but it would be unnecessary to surface with rotten rock a greater width than about 16" exclusive of gutters. I have studied such a drive tentatively on the 200' to the inch topographical map and Mr. Blossom is familiar with my ideas in the matter and as soon as the 80' to the inch topographical map is completed through the portion of the park in question he is to prepare working drawings and specifications and submit to the Park Board an approximate estimate. The Board will then be in a position to pass upon the matter intelligently.

I believe it is also essential that the west drive in the park, that from Date St. and 8th on Cabrillo Hill to Upas Street should be resurfaced with rotten rock, the asphaltic compound having proved a failure, as referred to in the case of Middle Drive. The present width of this west drive, some 50 or 52 feet, while affording an effect of dignity and luxury, I believe to be excessive from the point of view of necessity for actual use and especially as regards cost of improvement and maintenance. At the same time I am convinced that there should be a walk laid out parallel with this drive in order to discourage people from walking upon the drive as at present, not only to their own danger and discomfort but to the decided inconvenience of persons driving or passing over the drive in automobiles.

I have just prepared a plan for this improvement which I will send to Mr. Blossom who will confer with you as to the matter and will submit, with Mr. Allen's assistance, an approximate estimate.

We have contemplated more or less planting east of this west drive somewhat along the lines suggested by you.

In general it is important to keep views from this west drive over the interior of the park, so a good deal of the planting must be kept low enough not to obstruct the view.

If the two bridges which I am showing on the revised plan now being prepared in this office are constructed it will be necessary I think to build a drive to be surfaced with rotten rock extending from the bridges in a northeasterly direction to a connection with Middle Drive. I believe this drive will be a very great convenience to the class of people now passing through the park by means of Middle Drive and to bring them easily out to 8th Street instead of 12th and thus nearer the business center of the City.

I see no reason why Cabrillo Canyon may not be planted with palms at very moderate and entirely reasonable expense since we have the palms all on hand which were bought for this purpose. It would of course be perfectly proper that the Park Commission should have before it an approximate estimate of the cost of this planting before authorizing it.

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I am glad to learn that the storage buildings are not to be on the Mesa. They will be ugly wherever they are no doubt and it will be much easier to hide them with trees and vines in one of the canyons than up on the Mesa.

I shall at all times be very pleased to give you the benefit of my ideas as to any question which has come or is about to come before the Park Board and I hope it is not intruding too much to suggest that in accordance with the terms of our contract with the Park Board all questions affecting the appearance of the park should be referred to us for report before being otherwise acted upon by the Park Board and if possible before any expressions of opinion are given out to interested parties or to the newspapers.

Yours very truly,