

## **CITY OF TULELAKE**

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March 21, 2017

Lawrence J Whalon, Jr.
Superintendent
Tule Lake Unit and Lava Beds NM
PO Box 1240
Tulelake, CA 96134

RE: Tule Lake Unit of WWII Valor in the Pacific National Monument General Management Plan and Environmental Assessment (GMP/EA)

Dear Superintendent Whalon,

The City of Tulelake has been supportive of the Tule Lake Unit and the importance of preserving the history surrounding it. We are also motivated to protect our small, remote city which is self sustained, in large, by our agricultural community.

The Tule Lake Unit is so close to the Tulelake Airport that many concerns regarding the possibility of the airport being shut down have many community members apprehensive. The fears for their future and livelihoods should not go without consideration. As an interpretive center will be a welcome addition to the Tule Lake Unit, it must not impede on the operations or profitable capability of the airport.

We believe it is important to stress that any intention by the National Park Service to expand beyond the boundaries of the Tule Lake Unit for any reason must have the full cooperation of the owner. The National Park Service should also be aware as to not negatively impact the current operations of the airport or interfere with any potential expansion of the airport in any way.

After much discussion and research, the Tulelake City Council feels that the best way to insure the ongoing operation and success of the Tulelake Airport is to support Alternative A, which limits public access to the Tule Lake Unit to the summer season and scheduled tours by National Park Service rangers while still permitting the

restoration of the jail and a local interpretation and education program. We feel that Alternative A is the best option for our community at this time.

It is our hope that we can all work together in keeping our existing agricultural businesses in operation, which are vital to our City's existence, as well as support the National Park Service in preserving the amazing history surrounding the Tule Lake Unit.

Respectfully,

Henry A. Ebinger, Mayor

Richard Marcillac, Mayor Pro Tem

Gary Fensler, Council Member

Kevin Nicholson, Council Member

Henry Weladar
Penny Velador, Council Member