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MAGNUSSON KLEMENCIC ASSOCIATES

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PRESIDIO TUNNEL TOPS PARK EARNS ACEC-WA GOLD ENGINEERING EXCELLENCE AWARD

SEATTLE, WA — Magnusson Klemencic Associates (MKA) is pleased to announce the American Council of Engineering Companies of Washington (ACEC-WA) selected Presidio Tunnel Tops (PTT) park to receive the Gold Engineering Excellence Award (EEA) in the Special Projects category during the organization's annual gala on February 3 in Bellevue, Washington. The EEA program recognizes projects representing a wide range of engineering achievements and demonstrating the highest skill and ingenuity.

The design of San Francisco's PTT park provides a preview of the future of civil engineering. This expansive, 14-acre, $118-million landmark destination—built atop two highway tunnels—is the newest addition to America's National Park system. Described by *Fast Company* as "one of the most engineered parks ever built," PTT park features many innovations and "firsts" in its civil engineering design, including:

- Elimination of typical massive concrete stormwater detention tanks through innovative restorative water management that improves the environment
- Development of a new high-performance backfill that uniquely doubles as stormwater storage instead of standard earth backfill
- Creation of an inventive layered embankment design for earthquake resilience

- Minimization of varying park surface settlements over the rigid tunnels and soft Bay mud (both overall and differential)

- A resilient design trifecta—resisting, absorbing, and adapting to saltwater intrusion, groundwater rise, and increasing precipitation

MKA created these design solutions and more—not by leaning on existing civil engineering norms but by exploring novel and innovative ways to restore the natural landscape, overcome challenging site conditions, improve the environment, reconnect visitors to nature, and prepare for earthquakes and climate change.

The result of a design team that included MKA, James Corner Field Operations, the Presidio Trust, and others, PTT park breaks from many past practices to demonstrate that forward-thinking civil engineering can harmonize with nature instead of trying to conquer it. The design provides an elegant and unobstructed pedestrian connection between the San Francisco Bay waterfront and the hilltop Presidio parade grounds—the first such opportunity in nearly 80 years! As the civil and site structural engineers on the project, MKA's design is human-centered instead of concrete- and infrastructure-centered; puts sustainability and resilience at the top of the criteria list instead of just "other factors to be considered;" is designed for aesthetics and function—not just for today or tomorrow, but for a planning horizon measured in centuries; and celebrates the history and culture unique to the Bay Area through restoration, preservation, and community connection.

ACEC-WA is a professional trade association representing consulting engineering, land surveying, and affiliated scientific and planning firms statewide. The organization honored 19 projects in this year's EEA program, as well as the Engineer of the Year and two awards for diversity and inclusion. PTT park is one of only eight ACEC-WA projects selected to move on to the ACEC national competition. Winners of the

national awards will be announced during the organization's annual black-tie gala on June 13 in Washington, DC.

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Magnusson Klemencic Associates (MKA) provides structural and civil engineering services worldwide, with over $100 billion worth of projects in 48 states and 62 countries and individual projects in excess of $2 billion. Founded 103 years ago, the firm maintains offices in Seattle and Chicago, and has a staff of 195, including 145 engineers and 30 BIM technicians.