

LETTER  
FROM  
THE SECRETARY OF WAR,  
COMMUNICATING,

*In compliance with a Senate resolution of February 28, 1872, information concerning the Presidio Military Reservation, near San Francisco.*

APRIL 11, 1872.—Ordered to lie on the table and be printed.

WAR DEPARTMENT, April 10, 1872.

The Secretary of War has the honor to answer the resolution of the United States Senate of the 28th of February, requesting information as to the number of acres contained in the Presidio Military Reservation, near San Francisco; how much of the same is needed for military purposes, and how much the portion not needed is worth, by inviting attention to the inclosed report of the Chief of Engineers, which answers as much in detail as possible the above inquiry.

WM. W. BELKNAP,  
*Secretary of War.*

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF ENGINEERS,  
Washington, D. C., March 8, 1872.

SIR: In reply to the Senate resolution of the 28th of February, 1872, concerning the Presidio Military Reservation, I have the honor to report that the reservation contains 1,541 acres; that for the sole and exclusive use of the permanent fortifications at and about Fort Point, an extent of 300 acres is needed; that for the sole and exclusive use of the military establishments of the Presidio Barracks, about 100 acres are needed. The remainder of the reservation is not needed for immediate military uses, but will be required whenever war is actual or imminent, for earthworks and temporary fortifications to defend the rear of the open batteries at Fort Point.

This Department has not the information upon which it can base any accurate valuation of the lands of this military reservation. It is stated in a report of the board of engineers for the Pacific coast, dated February 9, 1870, that the whole reservation is worth two or more millions of dollars.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

A. A. HUMPHREYS,  
*Brigadier General and Chief of Engineers.*

Hon. W. W. BELKNAP,  
*Secretary of War.*

PART I

THE SECRETARY OF WAR

1. The Secretary of War is the head of the Department of War and is responsible for the management of the Department and the execution of the laws relating to the Army.

2. The Secretary of War is appointed by the President and holds office during the pleasure of the President.

3. The Secretary of War is the principal advisor to the President on all matters relating to the Army and is responsible for the preparation and submission of the annual report of the Department of War to the President.

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