

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**NATIONAL PARK SERVICE TAKES FIRST STEP IN RULEMAKING  
PROCESS FOR DOGWALKING REGULATIONS IN THE GGNRA**  
*Community Invited to Offer Ideas and Suggestions During 60-Day Comment Period*

**January 10, 2001, SAN FRANCISCO, CA...**The National Park Service (NPS) today invited the community to offer its input regarding future pet regulations in the Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA). The 60-day public comment period, noticed in the Federal Register, is the first step in the Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (ANPR), a process that could lead to a rulemaking procedure to develop new pet management regulations for the GGNRA.

The NPS is asking the community to give input on a range of potential management options to address appropriate pet regulations within the GGNRA. Current regulations call for dogs to be on leashes in all areas of the National Parks where they are allowed, including the GGNRA.

“We are excited to kick off this public process, as it will help us determine whether or not we can create special pet regulations for the GGNRA,” explained O’Neill. “As a national park in an urban setting, we are confronted daily with challenges of balancing a large volume of visitation and use with natural and cultural preservation. We hope the public will take advantage of this opportunity to tell us specifically what kinds of pet management policies they’d like to see in the GGNRA.”

The ANPR commences with the initial 60-day public comment period. At the end of this period, the NPS will analyze public comments and other data to make a recommendation as to whether or not to initiate the rulemaking process. The rulemaking process could lead to alternative pet management regulations specifically for the GGNRA. During the ANPR process, expected to take several years, the existing regulations will continue to be enforced.

Copies of the ANPR are available at GGNRA Visitor Centers, Fort Mason, and many public libraries in San Francisco, Marin, San Mateo and Alameda counties. Comments can be made in writing and sent via fax or mail to: GGNRA, Att'n: ANPR, Fort Mason, Building 201, San Francisco, CA 94123. Comments in person will be welcomed at public meetings to be announced at a later date. For meeting dates and locations, call (415) 561-4728. The public comment period extends from January 11 through {WHEN?}.

### **BACKGROUND**

In 1979, the GGNRA's Citizen Advisory Commission recommended a "voice control" policy for certain areas of the park. This recommendation, followed by the National Park Service for 20 years, was recently determined to be out of compliance with Federal laws. NPS is now enforcing the Federal laws in the GGNRA.

Last fall, GGNRA Superintendent Brian O'Neill requested and received special permission from the National Park Service to examine ways to modify the regulations for the GGNRA. This is a first for the GGNRA and the National Park Service. (confirm this)

Issues of increased use and visitation, public and pet safety, natural resource impacts, and user conflict are shared by all Bay Area land-management agencies, causing many of them to re-examine their own pet management policies. These agencies include the San Francisco Department of Recreation and Parks, Marin County Open Space District, California Department of Parks and Recreation the East Bay Regional Open Space District, and most other land agencies in the Bay Area.