

Dear [elected official/agency head]

The National Park Service (NPS) is beginning a new general management planning effort for Golden Gate National Recreation Area, including Muir Woods National Monument and Fort Point National Historic Site, and would like to invite you to participate in this important planning effort. General management plans (GMPs) are the planning documents for each unit of the National Park System that provide a decision-making framework for administering parks. These plans set forth the basic philosophy and management concepts for each park and establish guidelines for park operations for the next 15 to 20 years. The plans are combined with an environmental impact statement that analyzes the impacts of implementing alternative ideas for future park management.

Golden Gate National Recreation Area is a remarkable resource that is part of daily life in the San Francisco Bay area. The park contains superb examples of the region's natural resources and cultural landscapes, featuring important wildlife habitat, coastal environments, scenic views and historic resources. However, Golden Gate National Recreation Area is just one element in the region's complex and interrelated natural and cultural heritage. We all value the beauty of the park and its fragile resources. However, as the San Francisco Bay area continues to grow, greater pressures and demands are placed on the park.

The park's future management needs to be integrated with, and in support of, other regional planning efforts. That is why this planning effort will rely heavily on extensive public involvement. Because the region's economy, populace, and environment are inextricably entwined, we will be reaching out to elected officials; federal, state, county, and municipal agencies; tribes; businesses and other private sector groups; special interest groups; residents, and the visiting public. Through one-on-one meetings, surveys, group presentations, focus groups, public open houses, websites, newsletters, and comment forms, we will be asking people to share their hopes, concerns, and vision for the park, its resources, and the experiences park visitors should expect and enjoy.

As part of this public involvement effort, we plan to convene a partners' group to communicate with the GMP team *throughout* the planning process. I envision this group will include managers and representatives from all levels of government. The partners will formally convene during the development of the GMP. Informal gatherings and communication will also take place from time to time. Input from the partners' group will greatly help the NPS select the preferred management alternative for the park.

I would like to invite you to participate as a partner, or designate someone from your staff. We ask that partners participate throughout the planning process, and if it is someone other than yourself, the participant has a clear communication channel to keep you appropriately briefed on the project as it progresses.

The first partner agency meeting will be held on X from X am until X am. The location for the meeting will be:

XXXX

Directions:

XXXX

Please R.S.V.P. to X by X. Also, if you have any questions about the meetings, please contact X directly.

Sincerely,

Brian O'Neil
Superintendent
Golden Gate National Recreation Area