Peninsula Humane Society & SPCA

February 8, 2011

Frank Dean, General Superintendent
Golden Gate National Recreation Area
Building 201, Fort Mason
San Francisco, CA 94123-0022

Mr. Dean,

We are writing to offer our reaction to the GGNRA Dog Management /Environmental Impact Statement (DMP-EIS) plan to exclude all dogs from "New Lands" which would apply to Rancho Corral de Tierra property near Montara.

The Peninsula Humane Society & SPCA (PHS/SPCA) respectfully asks that GGNRA considers allowing off-leash play in the relatively small areas (of Rancho Corral de Tierra's total acreage) which have been used this way informally, but responsibly, for years.

Our position was reached with careful consideration, given that we are an advocate for dogs (and off-leash play) and local wildlife. While PHS/SPCA is a private, independent non-profit best known for sheltering San Mateo County's stray or unwanted domestic animals and finding new homes, we also provide wildlife rehabilitation for sick, injured and orphaned animals from San Francisco through Santa Clara County.

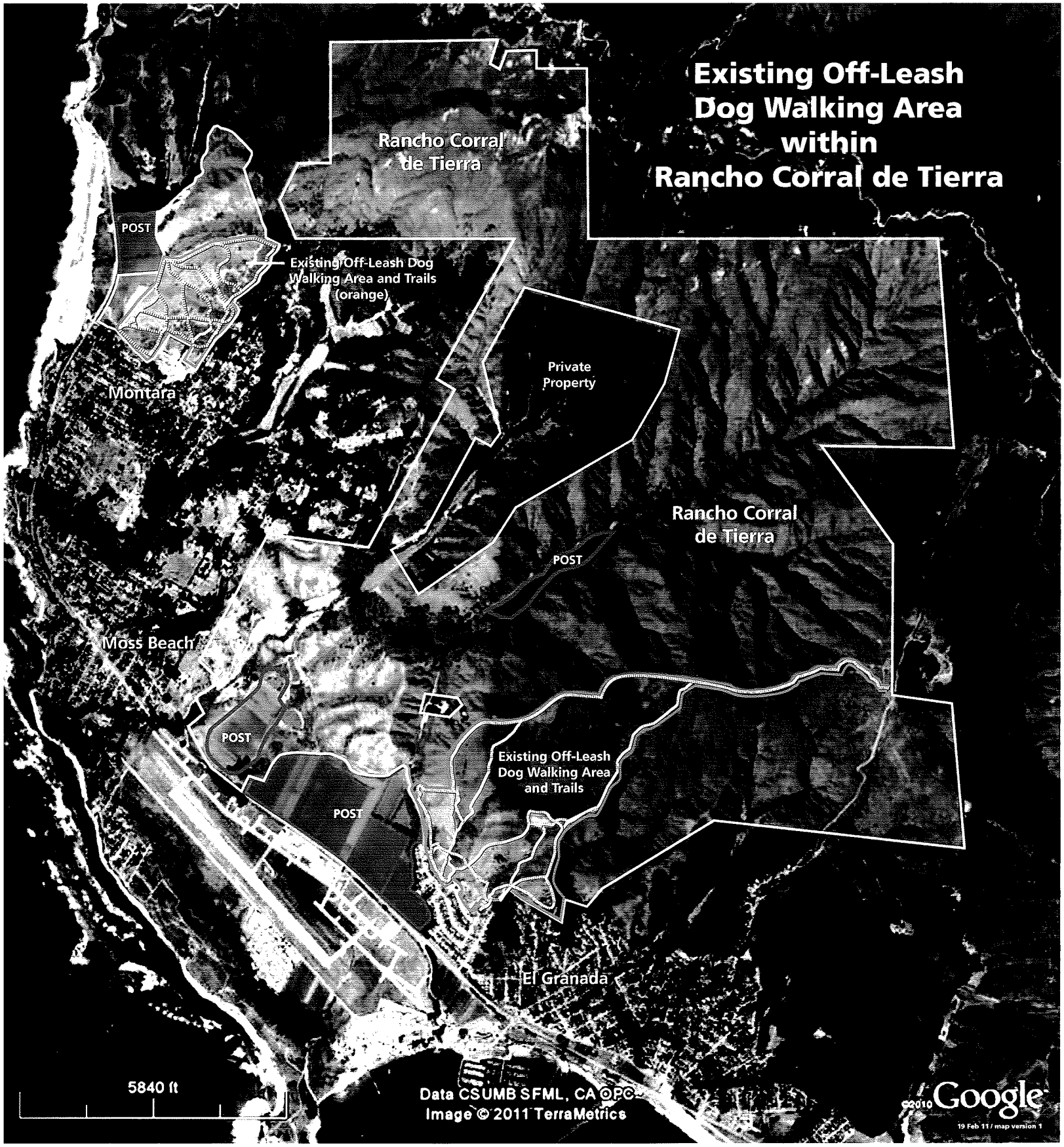
Our professional wildlife rehabilitation staff completed a review/analysis of the site and the proposal, and we believe that there is no observable reason related to the protection of native wildlife which would justify denying access to off-leash dogs in the area. If there was impact on wildlife, it happened long ago. Wildlife continuing to use this area are most likely well versed in people, bikes, and dogs and probably avoid the area during the day. The overall area is very large and wildlife have adequate space to avoid people and dogs.

We should add that we are San Mateo County's contracted provider of animal control work which includes enforcement of the leash law and response to dog bites and attacks. We cannot recall receiving complaints about off-leash dogs or dogs acting aggressively in these areas, which indicates dog owners are being responsible and that the larger area has supported multiple uses peacefully for years.

Please reconsider your plan to ban dogs and off-leash dog play from the small areas of Rancho Corral de Tierra which have informally allowed this use for years with no negative impacts.

Sincerely,

Ken White, President
Peninsula Humane Society & SPCA
12 Airport Blvd.
San Mateo, CA 94401


Existing Off-Leash Dog Walking Area within Rancho Corral de Tierra
Rancho Corral de Tierra
POST
Existing Off-Leash Dog Walking Area and Trails (orange)
Montara
Private Property
Rancho Corral de Tierra
POST
Moss Beach
POST
Existing Off-Leash Dog Walking Area and Trails
POST
El Granada
5840 ft
Data CSUMB SFML, CA OPC
Image © 2011 TerraMetrics
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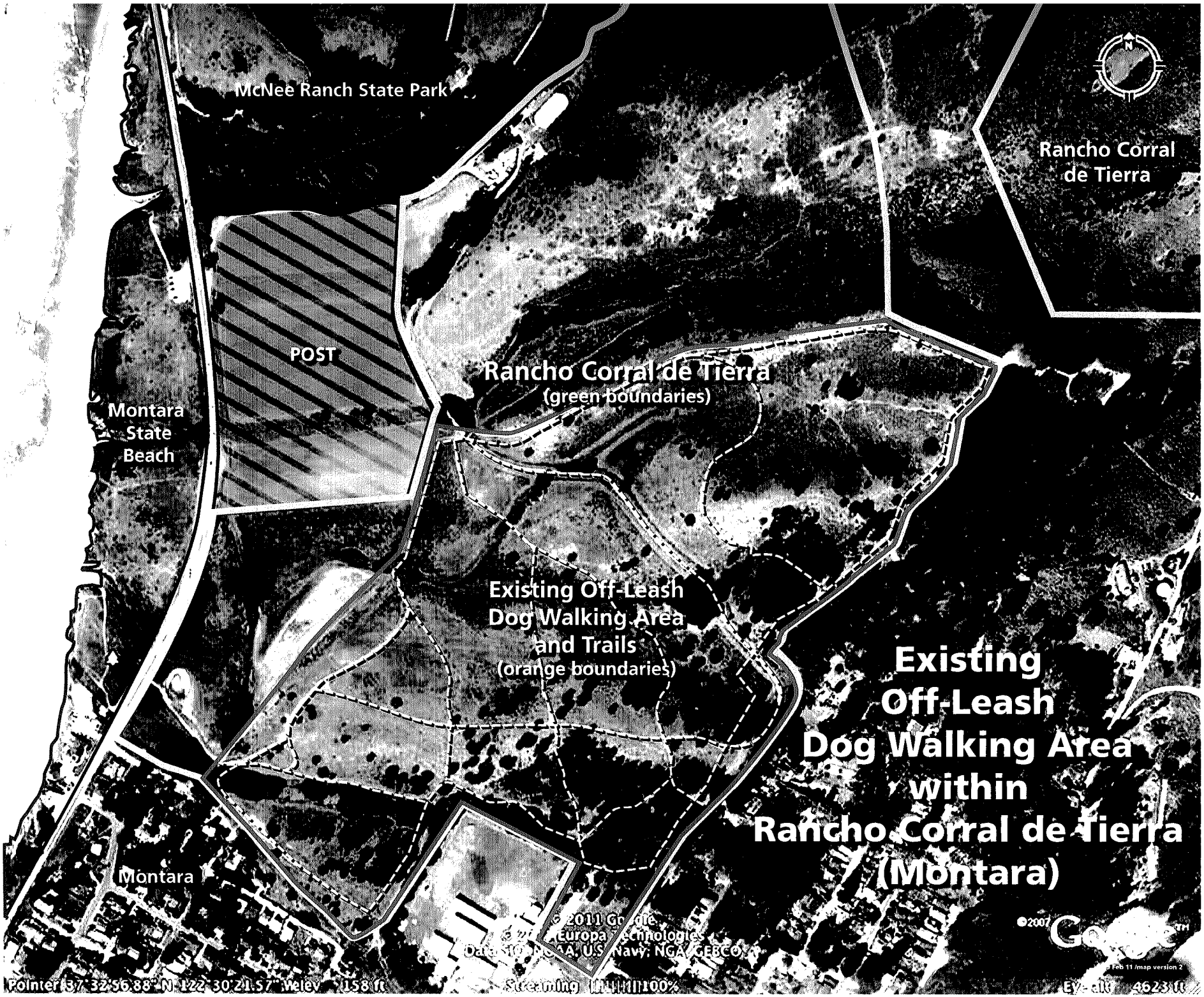
19 Feb 11 / map version 1


McNee Ranch State Park
Rancho Corral de Tierra
POST
Rancho Corral de Tierra
(green boundaries)
Montara State Beach
Existing Off-Leash Dog Walking Area and Trails
(orange boundaries)
Existing Off-Leash Dog Walking Area within Rancho Corral de Tierra (Montara)
Montara
Pointer 37°32'56.88" N 122°30'21.57" Welev 158 ft
Streaming 100%
Eye alt 4623 ft

Existing Off-Leash Dog Walking Area
within Rancho Corral de Tierra
(El Granada)
N
Rancho Corral de Tierra
(green boundaries)
Existing Off-Leash
Dog Walking Area
and Trails
(orange boundaries)
POST
El Granada
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Data SIO, NOAA, U.S. Navy, NGA, GEBCO
Streaming 100%
Eye alt 4610 ft