

## APPENDIX F: SPECIAL USE PERMIT

### SPECIAL USE PERMIT CONDITIONS

Under Alternatives C, E and F (the preferred alternative), Special Use Permits would be available to both commercial and private dog walkers to walk more than 3 dogs at one time; the maximum number of dogs allowed at one time would be 6. Permits would be issued only for the following seven sites: Alta Trail; Rodeo Beach; Fort Baker, excluding Drown Fire Road; Fort Mason; Crissy Field; Baker Beach; and Fort Funston. Alternatives B and D do not have a special use permit provision because no more than three dogs per dog walker are allowed in those two alternatives.

#### 1) Permit Terms and Conditions

Terms/conditions for commercial dog walker permits and private dog walker permits may differ. Terms include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Permits for commercial or private individuals will allow dog walking of more than three dogs in the following Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA) sites only: Alta Trail; Rodeo Beach; Fort Baker, excluding Drown Fire Road; Fort Mason; Crissy Field; Baker Beach; and Fort Funston.
- Permits are not transferrable
  - Commercial dog walkers
    - Permits will allow use from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, and from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. on weekends.
  - Private dog walkers
    - Initially, permits will not have time of day/day of use limitation.
    - Limited to one permit per person.
- Initially, all permits will be valid for 12 months from date of issue, but following that, permits may be issued for either shorter or longer periods, based on information gained in the first 12 months, and over the life of the plan.
- Initially, there will be no cap on numbers of permits; impacts resulting from overuse are addressed by the monitoring-based management strategy. Impacts may cause areas to be restricted or closed or result in a permit cap or reduction of areas available for permit holders.
- All permit holders will abide by applicable National Park Service (NPS) regulations and permit conditions, including a statement that the permit holder accepts liability for any accident/incident/injury resulting from the permitted use. Applicant signature serves as confirmation that the applicant has read and accepts all terms and conditions.

## Appendices

- All permits will require proof of liability insurance: for commercial dog walkers, \$2 million aggregate/\$1 million per occurrence; for private dog walkers, commercially reasonable liability insurance is required (available through homeowner's or renter's insurance). Proof of insurance must be returned with the permit application.
- All permits will require proof of approved dog-handling training through existing training courses offered by organizations such as Marin Humane, SFSPCA, etc. Proof of training must be returned with the permit application.

### 2) Costs

- Permit charges will be based on cost recovery as outlined in NPS Director's Order 53 and Reference Manual 53.
- Once a permit is issued no refunds are allowed.

### 3) Permit design

- Initial permit design will be an easily identifiable plastic card, with photo and permit holder's name, and month/year of issuance or identification number (personal identifying information will not be visible on outer surface of card if card is required to be displayed). Over the life of the plan, the permit design or method of identifying permit holders in the field may be changed, for instance, requiring that permit holders wear identifying vests.
- Commercial permits may require additional identifying elements.

### 4) Enforcement/Revocation

- Third violation of NPS regulations or permit terms will result in suspension of dog walkers' permit for 3 months. Following initial suspension, any subsequent suspensions (triggered by an additional three violations) will result in a suspension for 12 months.
- NPS retains right to permanently revoke for serious violation or repeated suspensions.

Hi Craig,

Here is a breakdown of what we are looking for – first, in answer to your original questions:

Printed map size? 8 1/2x 11", 11x17", 22x34".....What size can you print? Will it be published? [We would like 22 x 34. They will be published.](#)

Geographic Extent? What kind of detail can be shown on a parkwide scale? GGNRA is a long, odd shape with many separate areas and densely urban areas. [See basemap specs below.](#)

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### **Data delivery:**

We would like the data files to be in EPS or Illustrator. If in Illustrator, it can be in one big layer, which evidently we can peel off one by one. The exception would be a topo layer – it would be better to keep this as a separate tiff or high-res jpg.

### **Layers:**

- Fire roads
- Trails (may wait to get final info from The Conservancy – Andrew Bly). Trails should be labeled.
- Main access roads and parking areas
- Rivers
- Boundaries
- Topo (do not embed topo layer, should be separate tiff or high-res jpg)
- Horses
- Bikes
- Leash
- No dog areas
- From Natural Resource staff:
  - T&E sites

- Rare plants
- Restoration sites
- Vegetation
- Wetlands
- Watersheds?
- Hydrology?
- Soils? (per Heidi – might combine soils with topo layer)

**Basemap Specs:**

- I. First basemap: (each basemap will actually be 2 maps: one north, one south)
  - a. use big font
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    - ii. Whitegate
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    - iv. Muir Beach
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    - vii. Oakwood Valley (including Alta Ave.)
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    - xvii. Lands End
    - xviii. Ft. Miley
    - xix. Sutro Heights
    - xx. Ocean Beach
    - xxi. Ft. Funston
    - xxii. Milagra Ridge
    - xxiii. Sweeney Ridge
    - xxiv. Mori Point
    - xxv. The Phleger Estate
  - e. Should include following layers/data:
    - i. major highways
    - ii. parking areas
    - iii. major rivers, streams, watersheds, lakes
    - iv. major adjacent land areas, especially adjacent city/state open space areas, dog parks, etc.

- v. names of cities
    - vi. major trails and trailheads
    - vii. legislative boundary of the park
    - viii. topo layer – but as a separate file
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- II. Second basemap: (each basemap will actually be 2 maps: one north, one south)
- a. Will be just like the First Basemap, but in addition, this will add all the natural resource layers (and won't be released to the public). Please use your own best judgment as to how many layers we can actually include without making it too cluttered. Trails is the one layer that should always stay on.
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THANK YOU!!!

ALSO – NEED TO INCLUDE THE “Significant Natural Resources Area Plan” for the City of SF --- can get this off their website. It contains open space, T&E, and veg data layers that we might be able to use. (Is Craig checking with Daphne on this?)

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May 13, 2013

Bill Bechtell, President  
Montara Dog Group  
P.O. Box 370493  
Montara, CA 94037

Ms. Christine Lehnertz  
Regional Director, Pacific West Region  
National Park Service  
333 Bush Street, Suite 500  
San Francisco, CA 94104-2828

Dear Ms. Lehnertz,

Portions of Rancho Corral de Tierra, a recent addition to the Golden Gate National Recreation Area, were recently (April 3, 2013) posted as being off limits to dogs. In our opinion this action is premature, illogical, and probably illegal. The unilateral posting was done with no advance notice and no formal public input, at least from dog owners. A GGNRA staff member has said that equestrians were consulted, however.

As explained in detail in the enclosed letter to Congresswoman Jackie Speier, by banning dogs from parts of Rancho while a Dog Management Plan/EIS is being prepared, the status quo of the No Action alternative in that plan is being altered.

We request that the dog ban at Rancho be rescinded, at least until the Dog Management Plan/EIS is finalized, so that decisions on dog management can be made in a legal, formalized, educated manner.

Respectfully yours,



Bill Bechtell  
President, Montara Dog Group

P.O. Box 475372 San Francisco,  
CA 94147-5372 Please Visit Our  
Website: [www.crissyfielddog.org](http://www.crissyfielddog.org)



May 13, 2013

Via [Hand Delivery/U.S. Mail]

Congresswoman Jackie Speier  
155 Bovet Road  
Suite 780  
San Mateo, CA 94402

Dear Congresswoman Speier:

The Montara Dog Group (“MDG”) and the Crissy Field Dog Group (“CFDG”) are greatly concerned by the National Park Service’s (“NPS”) decision to post signs closing portions of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area (“GGNRA”) to dogwalking (e.g., Rancho Corral de Tierra (Rancho)). We write to protest these restrictions and request that your office work with our CFDG, MDG, and other interested stakeholders to ensure that the NPS maintains the status quo of allowing the continuation of recreational dog walking at Rancho until it finalizes the Dog Management Plan and corresponding Environmental Impact Statement (“EIS”).

### **Executive Summary**

The NPS acquired Rancho effective December 9, 2011. On April 3, 2013, NPS, without any public notice, posted approximately eighty percent (80%) of Rancho (Attachment 1) with signs indicating that dog walking was prohibited, even though the NPS had promised that they would maintain the status quo until it finalizes their Dog Management Plan and the EIS. This follows a NPS enforcement action against a dog walker by unwarranted and unjustified use of a taser of which your office is well aware. The NPS by acting without any fact-finding efforts or compliance with land use planning procedures, has adopted a “closed-until-open” policy, which disregards the NPS’s organic statute, NPS’s own mandatory management policies, and Congress’s intent in creating the GGNRA.

The MDG and the CFDG request your help in addressing and resolving this issue with the NPS to preserve the status quo of recreational dog walking until thoughtful reasoned fact finding and public input can be considered. Additionally, the Peninsula

Humane Society supports continued dog-walking recreation in Rancho as having no adverse impact on wildlife and resources. (Attachment 2)

## **Background**

MDG has been active in protecting the habitat at Rancho and has partnered with the community to make recreational use of Rancho compatible for all visitors for many years before it was acquired by NPS. The group was formed in April 2008, to encourage responsible behavior by dog walkers. MDG has placed six “poop cans” and pickup bags for use by the dog walkers in Rancho. A staff of volunteers empties these cans regularly. Also, MDG has a “Leash Protocol” to advise dog walkers when it is appropriate to leash their dogs. MDG currently has over 400 members, mostly from the San Mateo County coast side.

CFDG is a non-profit organization, which has been devoted to responsible off-leash dog recreation for many years in the GGNRA. CFDG has cooperated closely with the NPS on a number of issues related to dog walking within the GGNRA since 2000, served on the GGNRA Negotiated Rulemaking Committee for Dog Management, and are currently participating in development of the GGNRA’s Dog Management Plan and EIS.

## **Discussion**

We have attached the CFDG and MDG Position Statement on the Closure of Rancho to dog walkers (Attachment 3). In short, there is no scientific or legal basis for the NPS action to change decades of existing recreational activity (dog walking) in the middle of the public process for establishing a Dog Management Plan for the GGNRA. Moreover, what the NPS is attempting to do is unilaterally change the so called “no action” alternative in the NEPA process. NEPA requires an analysis of impacts changing from the no-action alternative to various other proposals. NPS is in effect putting their thumb on the scale during the NEPA process to define what is the current status. That is not the intent of NEPA and does not make for good policy.

## **Recommendation**

Given the legal and factual shortcomings of the closed-until-open policy (both generally and as applied to the newly added GGNRA lands) and the on-going NEPA process for the Dog Management Plan, the NPS should maintain the status quo allowing recreational dog walking at Rancho until issuance of the final EIS and Record of Decision for the Dog Management Plan. We look forward to working with your office and other interested parties to preserve recreational uses within the GGNRA.

Sincerely,

(signed)

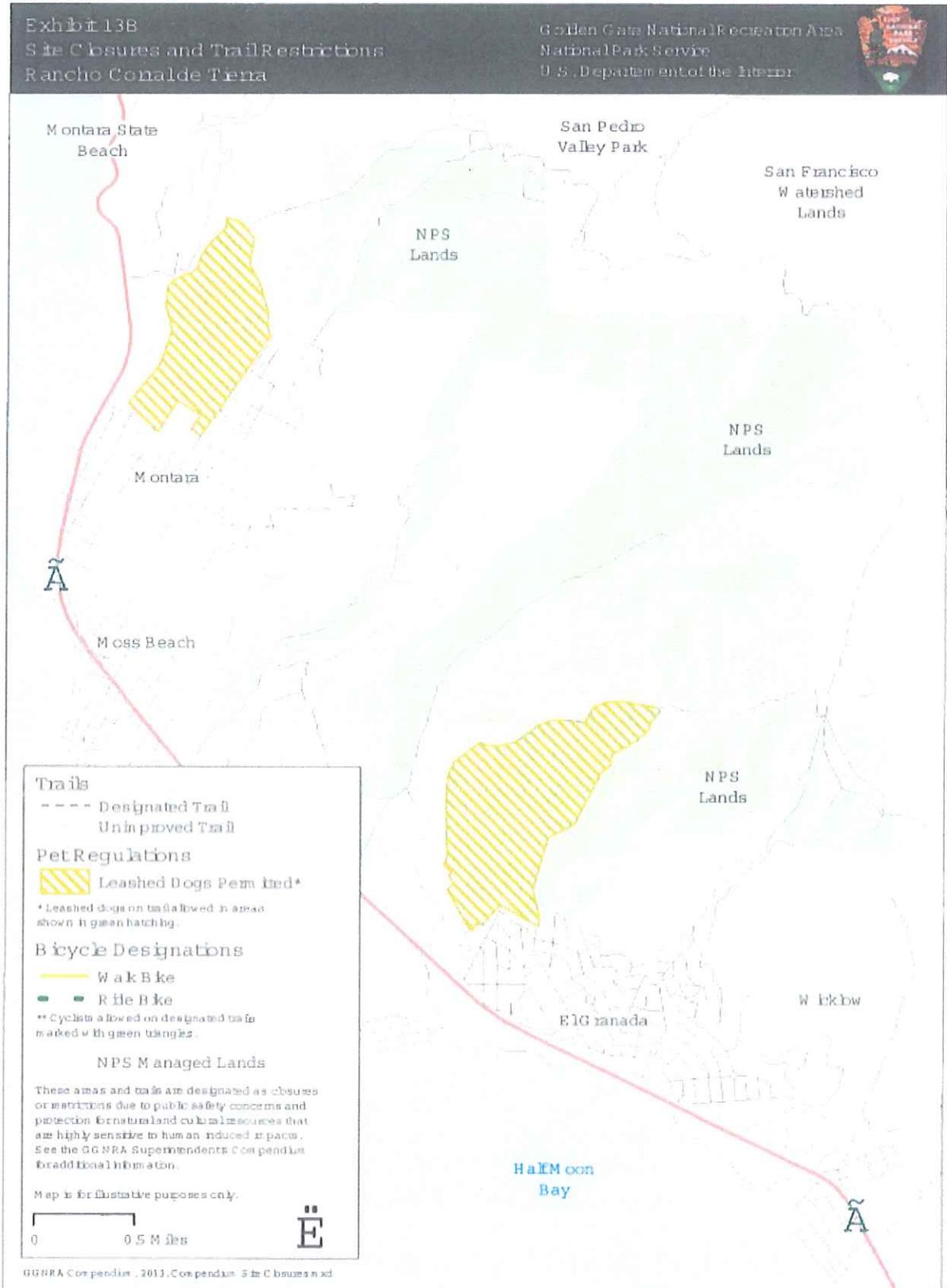
Martha Walters  
Chair, Crissy Field Dog Group

(signed)

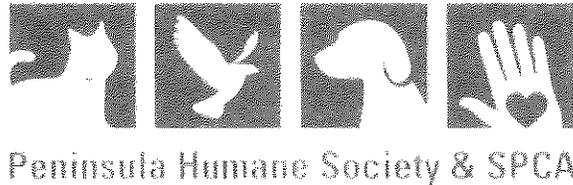
Bill Bechtell  
President, Montara Dog Group

Cc: Senator Diane Feinstein, D-CA  
Senator Barbara Boxer, D-CA  
House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi  
Rep. Jared Huffman, D-Marin  
Sally Jewell, Secretary of the Interior  
Jon Jarvis, National Park Service Director  
Christine Lehnertz, NPS Western Regional Director  
Frank Dean, Superintendent, GGNRA  
Jared Blumenfeld, US EPA, Regional Administrator, Region 9  
Enrique Manzanilla, US EPA, NEPA review, Region 9  
Craig Middleton, Executive Director, Presidio Trust  
Nancy Bechtel, Chair, Presidio Trust Board  
Supervisor Scott Wiener, City of San Francisco  
Dr. Jennifer Scarlett, Co-President, SF SPCA  
Rebecca Katz, Executive Director, Animal Care and Control  
Nancy McKenny, Executive Director, Marin Humane Society

# Attachment 1



## Attachment 2



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

GGNRA014217

### Attachment 3

#### Crissy Field Dog Group and Montara Dog Group Position Statement on Closure at Rancho Corral de Tierra

##### There Is No Legal Basis for the Closed-Until-Open Policy

CFDG and MDG appreciates the NPS's efforts to preserve and maintain the GGNRA, and understands the difficulty NPS faces in balancing its statutory mandate with the unique circumstances of an urban recreation area like the GGNRA. The NPS's "closed-until-open" policy to prohibit all dogs on lands incorporated into the GGNRA after 1979 (hereinafter "new lands"), however, does not strike the right balance.

The organic statute establishing the National Park System directs the NPS to look at the statutory purposes of a park in authorizing uses of the park. 16 U.S.C. § 1A-1. The NPS management policies (which are mandatory unless waived by the Director) require the NPS to do the same. Management Policies (2006), § 1.4.3.1.

The GGNRA's enabling legislation directs that recreation is a mandated use of the GGNRA. (Pub. L. No. 92-589, § 1) (the NPS "*shall* utilize the [GGNRA's] resources in a manner which will provide for recreation"). The "recreation" that Congress envisioned in 1974 included off-leash dogwalking in many areas of the GGNRA. *United States v. Barley*, 405 F. Supp. 2d 1121, 1121 (N.D. Cal. 2005). Portions of the "new lands" have historically hosted off-leash dogwalking. While the NPS incorporated these lands into the GGNRA after the 1979 Pet Policy, the statutory mandate to provide for recreation never changed. NPS should treat recreation activities on the "new lands" as mandated uses in the same manner as it has in other areas of the GGNRA.

The NPS Management Policies requires the NPS to allow mandated uses, subject only to regulation to ensure impacts are "acceptable." Management Policies (2006), § 1.4.3.1 ("*In the administration of mandated uses, park managers must allow the use; however, they do have the authority to and must manage and regulate the use to ensure, to the extent possible, that impacts on park resources from that use are acceptable.*"). The terms "must allow" and "manage and regulate" do not easily lend themselves to what NPS has done here, which is unilaterally prohibit existing recreation uses.

By unilaterally closing certain areas of the GGNRA to a mandated recreation use (off-leash dogwalking) without any fact-finding or compliance with land use planning procedures, the "closed-until-open" policy disregards the NPS's organic statute, NPS's own mandatory management policies, and Congress's intent in creating the GGNRA.

### **There Is No Factual Basis for NPS's Decision to Ban Off-Leash Dogwalking.**

Further, as applied in the 2013 Compendium, the NPS's decision to prohibit off-leash dogwalking in Rancho Corral de Tierra is unsupported and illogical. In accordance with the land management principles outlined in its Management Policies, the NPS should provide scientific evidence to establish that the impacts of dogwalking within Rancho Corral de Tierra and other "new lands" are unacceptable and then propose measures to manage and regulate such impacts.

The NPS's 2013 Compendium provides no evidence and no explanations – only conclusions. For instance, the first 'explanation' provided for closing "new lands" to dogs is "[c]onsistent with public health and safety, the protection of natural and cultural resources, and avoidance of conflict among visitor use activities, pets must be restricted." The second 'explanation' is that "[p]ets are not considered compatible with the broad park goal of minimal resource impact or inherently suitable for adapting quickly to a strange environment often involving close association with strange persons or animals." 2013 Compendium, at 21.

Either statement could apply equally well to other groups of users whose access is not limited by this policy. Mountain bikers and horseback riders can also impact public health and safety, natural and cultural resources, react poorly to close associations with strange persons or animals, and result in user conflict, but the NPS has not restricted their use of Rancho Corral del Tierra and other "new lands" in the same way they have done to dog walkers. CFDG and MDG does not ask that NPS prohibit all forms of recreation – only that if the agency chooses to prohibit dogwalking, that it provide a scientific and factual basis for doing so and follow the requisite procedures.

The Compendium's sole scientific explanation is that the presence of dogs will impact marine life, shorebirds, water birds, and other marine wildlife. *Id.* In its current form, this does not suffice to justify the exclusion of dogs from all GGNRA lands south of Fort Funston and prohibition of all off-leash dogwalking. In addition to providing no actual evidence of impacts (scientific or anecdotal), some areas of "new lands" in the GGNRA are extremely large and have inland trail systems that are distant from the actual coast. (As a starting point, this includes much of the 4,000 acres in Rancho Corral de Tierra and all of Phleger Estate.) While CFDG and MDG trusts the NPS to accurately identify habitat necessary to shorebirds and other marine wildlife, the agency's cursory explanation – without more – cannot withstand scrutiny.

### **NEPA Prohibits Action Prior to Completion of the NEPA Process.**

NPS has already determined that its decisions regarding the management of dogwalking within the GGNRA constitute a "major Federal action significantly affecting the environment" that requires an EIS. In fact, the agency is currently engaged in the

NEPA process by preparing for a Dog Management Plan, which covers dog management decisions for all lands within the GGNRA, including the “new lands.” CFDG and MDG commented on the draft EIS for this Plan, and appreciates the NPS’s efforts to develop a comprehensive record and arrive at a well-informed decision.

A decision regarding dog management in Rancho Corral de Tierra prior to completion of that supplemental EIS, however, would contravene the limitation on actions during the NEPA process. 40 C.F.R. § 1506.1 (prohibiting any action with respect to the proposal which would have an adverse environmental impact or limit the choice of reasonable alternatives). Closure of the Rancho Corral de Tierra portion of the GGNRA to dog walking modifies the environmental baseline discussed in the draft EIS. *See* Draft Dog Management Plan/EIS (2011) at Vol. I, p. 56 (describing the No Action alternative as “dog walking allowed [on-leash] per 36 CFR 2.15”). This modification would, in turn, require serious revision of the impacts analysis and sharply limit the scope of alternatives for this portion of the park by eliminating the “No Action” alternative.

May 13, 2013

Bill Bechtell, President  
Montara Dog Group  
P.O. Box 370493  
Montara, CA 94037

Ms. Christine Lehnertz  
Regional Director, Pacific West Region  
National Park Service  
333 Bush Street, Suite 500  
San Francisco, CA 94104-2828

Dear Ms. Lehnertz,

Portions of Rancho Corral de Tierra, a recent addition to the Golden Gate National Recreation Area, were recently (April 3, 2013) posted as being off limits to dogs. In our opinion this action is premature, illogical, and probably illegal. The unilateral posting was done with no advance notice and no formal public input, at least from dog owners. A GGNRA staff member has said that equestrians were consulted, however.

As explained in detail in the enclosed letter to Congresswoman Jackie Speier, by banning dogs from parts of Rancho while a Dog Management Plan/EIS is being prepared, the status quo of the No Action alternative in that plan is being altered.

We request that the dog ban at Rancho be rescinded, at least until the Dog Management Plan/EIS is finalized, so that decisions on dog management can be made in a legal, formalized, educated manner.

Respectfully yours,



Bill Bechtell  
President, Montara Dog Group

P.O. Box 475372 San Francisco,  
CA 94147-5372 Please Visit Our  
Website: [www.crissyfielddog.org](http://www.crissyfielddog.org)



May 13, 2013

Via [Hand Delivery/U.S. Mail]

Congresswoman Jackie Speier  
155 Bovet Road  
Suite 780  
San Mateo, CA 94402

Dear Congresswoman Speier:

The Montara Dog Group (“MDG”) and the Crissy Field Dog Group (“CFDG”) are greatly concerned by the National Park Service’s (“NPS”) decision to post signs closing portions of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area (“GGNRA”) to dogwalking (e.g., Rancho Corral de Tierra (Rancho)). We write to protest these restrictions and request that your office work with our CFDG, MDG, and other interested stakeholders to ensure that the NPS maintains the status quo of allowing the continuation of recreational dog walking at Rancho until it finalizes the Dog Management Plan and corresponding Environmental Impact Statement (“EIS”).

### **Executive Summary**

The NPS acquired Rancho effective December 9, 2011. On April 3, 2013, NPS, without any public notice, posted approximately eighty percent (80%) of Rancho (Attachment 1) with signs indicating that dog walking was prohibited, even though the NPS had promised that they would maintain the status quo until it finalizes their Dog Management Plan and the EIS. This follows a NPS enforcement action against a dog walker by unwarranted and unjustified use of a taser of which your office is well aware. The NPS by acting without any fact-finding efforts or compliance with land use planning procedures, has adopted a “closed-until-open” policy, which disregards the NPS’s organic statute, NPS’s own mandatory management policies, and Congress’s intent in creating the GGNRA.

The MDG and the CFDG request your help in addressing and resolving this issue with the NPS to preserve the status quo of recreational dog walking until thoughtful reasoned fact finding and public input can be considered. Additionally, the Peninsula

Humane Society supports continued dog-walking recreation in Rancho as having no adverse impact on wildlife and resources. (Attachment 2)

## **Background**

MDG has been active in protecting the habitat at Rancho and has partnered with the community to make recreational use of Rancho compatible for all visitors for many years before it was acquired by NPS. The group was formed in April 2008, to encourage responsible behavior by dog walkers. MDG has placed six “poop cans” and pickup bags for use by the dog walkers in Rancho. A staff of volunteers empties these cans regularly. Also, MDG has a “Leash Protocol” to advise dog walkers when it is appropriate to leash their dogs. MDG currently has over 400 members, mostly from the San Mateo County coast side.

CFDG is a non-profit organization, which has been devoted to responsible off-leash dog recreation for many years in the GGNRA. CFDG has cooperated closely with the NPS on a number of issues related to dog walking within the GGNRA since 2000, served on the GGNRA Negotiated Rulemaking Committee for Dog Management, and are currently participating in development of the GGNRA’s Dog Management Plan and EIS.

## **Discussion**

We have attached the CFDG and MDG Position Statement on the Closure of Rancho to dog walkers (Attachment 3). In short, there is no scientific or legal basis for the NPS action to change decades of existing recreational activity (dog walking) in the middle of the public process for establishing a Dog Management Plan for the GGNRA. Moreover, what the NPS is attempting to do is unilaterally change the so called “no action” alternative in the NEPA process. NEPA requires an analysis of impacts changing from the no-action alternative to various other proposals. NPS is in effect putting their thumb on the scale during the NEPA process to define what is the current status. That is not the intent of NEPA and does not make for good policy.

## **Recommendation**

Given the legal and factual shortcomings of the closed-until-open policy (both generally and as applied to the newly added GGNRA lands) and the on-going NEPA process for the Dog Management Plan, the NPS should maintain the status quo allowing recreational dog walking at Rancho until issuance of the final EIS and Record of Decision for the Dog Management Plan. We look forward to working with your office and other interested parties to preserve recreational uses within the GGNRA.

Sincerely,

(signed)

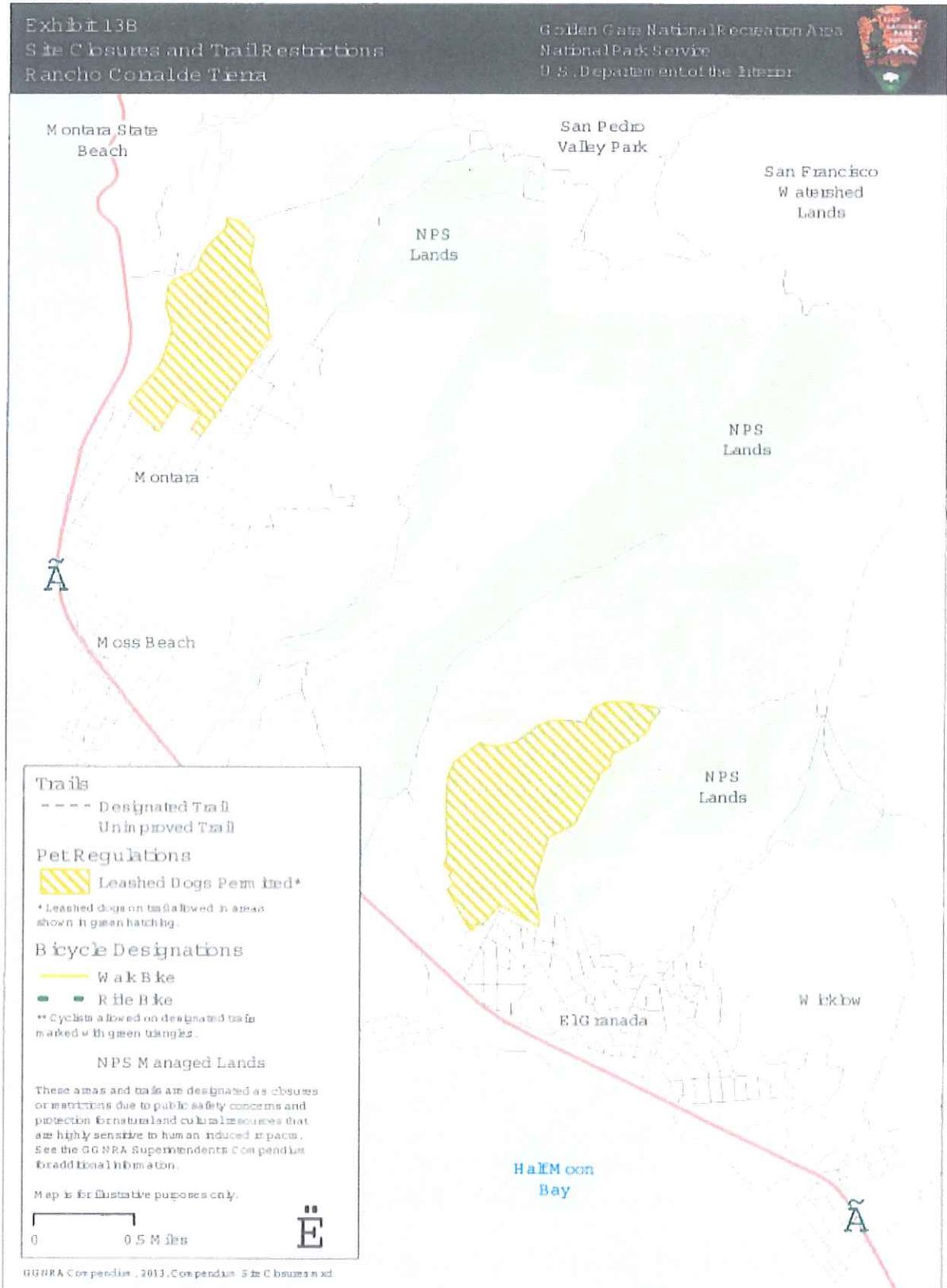
Martha Walters  
Chair, Crissy Field Dog Group

(signed)

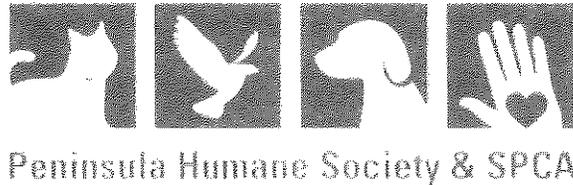
Bill Bechtell  
President, Montara Dog Group

Cc: Senator Diane Feinstein, D-CA  
Senator Barbara Boxer, D-CA  
House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi  
Rep. Jared Huffman, D-Marin  
Sally Jewell, Secretary of the Interior  
Jon Jarvis, National Park Service Director  
Christine Lehnertz, NPS Western Regional Director  
Frank Dean, Superintendent, GGNRA  
Jared Blumenfeld, US EPA, Regional Administrator, Region 9  
Enrique Manzanilla, US EPA, NEPA review, Region 9  
Craig Middleton, Executive Director, Presidio Trust  
Nancy Bechtel, Chair, Presidio Trust Board  
Supervisor Scott Wiener, City of San Francisco  
Dr. Jennifer Scarlett, Co-President, SF SPCA  
Rebecca Katz, Executive Director, Animal Care and Control  
Nancy McKenny, Executive Director, Marin Humane Society

# Attachment 1



## Attachment 2



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

GGNRA014226

### Attachment 3

#### Crissy Field Dog Group and Montara Dog Group Position Statement on Closure at Rancho Corral de Tierra

##### There Is No Legal Basis for the Closed-Until-Open Policy

CFDG and MDG appreciates the NPS's efforts to preserve and maintain the GGNRA, and understands the difficulty NPS faces in balancing its statutory mandate with the unique circumstances of an urban recreation area like the GGNRA. The NPS's "closed-until-open" policy to prohibit all dogs on lands incorporated into the GGNRA after 1979 (hereinafter "new lands"), however, does not strike the right balance.

The organic statute establishing the National Park System directs the NPS to look at the statutory purposes of a park in authorizing uses of the park. 16 U.S.C. § 1A-1. The NPS management policies (which are mandatory unless waived by the Director) require the NPS to do the same. Management Policies (2006), § 1.4.3.1.

The GGNRA's enabling legislation directs that recreation is a mandated use of the GGNRA. (Pub. L. No. 92-589, § 1) (the NPS "*shall* utilize the [GGNRA's] resources in a manner which will provide for recreation"). The "recreation" that Congress envisioned in 1974 included off-leash dogwalking in many areas of the GGNRA. *United States v. Barley*, 405 F. Supp. 2d 1121, 1121 (N.D. Cal. 2005). Portions of the "new lands" have historically hosted off-leash dogwalking. While the NPS incorporated these lands into the GGNRA after the 1979 Pet Policy, the statutory mandate to provide for recreation never changed. NPS should treat recreation activities on the "new lands" as mandated uses in the same manner as it has in other areas of the GGNRA.

The NPS Management Policies requires the NPS to allow mandated uses, subject only to regulation to ensure impacts are "acceptable." Management Policies (2006), § 1.4.3.1 ("*In the administration of mandated uses, park managers must allow the use; however, they do have the authority to and must manage and regulate the use to ensure, to the extent possible, that impacts on park resources from that use are acceptable.*"). The terms "must allow" and "manage and regulate" do not easily lend themselves to what NPS has done here, which is unilaterally prohibit existing recreation uses.

By unilaterally closing certain areas of the GGNRA to a mandated recreation use (off-leash dogwalking) without any fact-finding or compliance with land use planning procedures, the "closed-until-open" policy disregards the NPS's organic statute, NPS's own mandatory management policies, and Congress's intent in creating the GGNRA.

### **There Is No Factual Basis for NPS's Decision to Ban Off-Leash Dogwalking.**

Further, as applied in the 2013 Compendium, the NPS's decision to prohibit off-leash dogwalking in Rancho Corral de Tierra is unsupported and illogical. In accordance with the land management principles outlined in its Management Policies, the NPS should provide scientific evidence to establish that the impacts of dogwalking within Rancho Corral de Tierra and other "new lands" are unacceptable and then propose measures to manage and regulate such impacts.

The NPS's 2013 Compendium provides no evidence and no explanations – only conclusions. For instance, the first 'explanation' provided for closing "new lands" to dogs is "[c]onsistent with public health and safety, the protection of natural and cultural resources, and avoidance of conflict among visitor use activities, pets must be restricted." The second 'explanation' is that "[p]ets are not considered compatible with the broad park goal of minimal resource impact or inherently suitable for adapting quickly to a strange environment often involving close association with strange persons or animals." 2013 Compendium, at 21.

Either statement could apply equally well to other groups of users whose access is not limited by this policy. Mountain bikers and horseback riders can also impact public health and safety, natural and cultural resources, react poorly to close associations with strange persons or animals, and result in user conflict, but the NPS has not restricted their use of Rancho Corral del Tierra and other "new lands" in the same way they have done to dog walkers. CFDG and MDG does not ask that NPS prohibit all forms of recreation – only that if the agency chooses to prohibit dogwalking, that it provide a scientific and factual basis for doing so and follow the requisite procedures.

The Compendium's sole scientific explanation is that the presence of dogs will impact marine life, shorebirds, water birds, and other marine wildlife. *Id.* In its current form, this does not suffice to justify the exclusion of dogs from all GGNRA lands south of Fort Funston and prohibition of all off-leash dogwalking. In addition to providing no actual evidence of impacts (scientific or anecdotal), some areas of "new lands" in the GGNRA are extremely large and have inland trail systems that are distant from the actual coast. (As a starting point, this includes much of the 4,000 acres in Rancho Corral de Tierra and all of Phleger Estate.) While CFDG and MDG trusts the NPS to accurately identify habitat necessary to shorebirds and other marine wildlife, the agency's cursory explanation – without more – cannot withstand scrutiny.

### **NEPA Prohibits Action Prior to Completion of the NEPA Process.**

NPS has already determined that its decisions regarding the management of dogwalking within the GGNRA constitute a "major Federal action significantly affecting the environment" that requires an EIS. In fact, the agency is currently engaged in the

NEPA process by preparing for a Dog Management Plan, which covers dog management decisions for all lands within the GGNRA, including the “new lands.” CFDG and MDG commented on the draft EIS for this Plan, and appreciates the NPS’s efforts to develop a comprehensive record and arrive at a well-informed decision.

A decision regarding dog management in Rancho Corral de Tierra prior to completion of that supplemental EIS, however, would contravene the limitation on actions during the NEPA process. 40 C.F.R. § 1506.1 (prohibiting any action with respect to the proposal which would have an adverse environmental impact or limit the choice of reasonable alternatives). Closure of the Rancho Corral de Tierra portion of the GGNRA to dog walking modifies the environmental baseline discussed in the draft EIS. *See* Draft Dog Management Plan/EIS (2011) at Vol. I, p. 56 (describing the No Action alternative as “dog walking allowed [on-leash] per 36 CFR 2.15”). This modification would, in turn, require serious revision of the impacts analysis and sharply limit the scope of alternatives for this portion of the park by eliminating the “No Action” alternative.



## COMMERCIAL DOG WALKING PERMIT REQUIREMENT

August 2013

### INTRODUCTION

The National Park Service, Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA) is considering a public use limit and permit requirement for persons walking four or more dogs at one time for consideration (commercial dog walker) on lands under the administrative jurisdiction of GGNRA in City and County of San Francisco and Marin County where dog walking is allowed.



Permits will allow a maximum of six dogs per dog walker, and require a business license and proof of liability insurance and approved dog-handling training through existing training courses, such as those offered by Marin Humane or SF SPCA. Permit holders must abide by all National Park Service regulations, including 36 CFR 2.15(a), which requires that dogs be restrained by a leash no longer than 6 feet in sites that are not open to voice control dog walking per the 1979 Pet Policy.

This document outlines and describes the reasons why action is needed.

### Purpose of the Proposed Action

This proposed public use limit and permit requirement is a direct response to commercial dog walking permit programs recently enacted by the San Francisco Board of Supervisors and the Town of Tiburon in Marin County which went into effect in July 2013, and which limit the number of dogs per commercial dog walker to 8 or 6 dogs, respectively.

The proposed public use limit and permit requirement would be adopted as interim measures and would be replaced by a regulation that will be published in Title 36 of the Code of Federal Regulations. This regulation will be developed after the GGNRA completes the dog management planning project which addresses recreational and commercial dog walking. The plan and its accompanying environmental impact statement (EIS) are well underway. Once the plan is finalized, the NPS will initiate a rulemaking process and seek public comment on the codification of the plan's regulatory elements in the Code of Federal Regulations. A final rule is not anticipated until 2015. In the absence of this interim action and a final rule, if the status quo

is not changed, commercial dog walkers would continue walking unlimited number of dogs at GGNRA park sites where dog walking is currently allowed.

### **Need for the Proposed Action**

Given the extremely broad geographical reach (parks, open spaces, Port of San Francisco lands, and San Francisco Public Utility Commission properties) of the City and County of San Francisco's ordinance, coupled with the effect of the City of Tiburon's ordinance, the NPS reasonably anticipates that a number of commercial dog walkers, who would otherwise use areas that would cause them to fall under these ordinances, will instead walk their dogs in areas under the administrative jurisdiction of the NPS in San Francisco and Marin Counties that are already regularly used by dog walkers, including commercial dog walkers. The San Francisco ordinance on commercial dog walking went into effect July 1, 2013, although there is a 120 day grace period to allow completion of permit training requirements. As of August X, XX commercial dog walking permits had been issued by San Francisco's Animal Care and Control. The City of Tiburon's permit program went into effect July 19, 2013; as of XXX, 2 permits had been issued by the City of Tiburon.

Research and interviews conducted as part of the GGNRA's dog management planning project indicate that there are now at least 100 commercial dog walkers in the City and County of San Francisco, although there are also commercial dog walkers who do not have a business license and are not listed in the phone book. Many of these dog walkers are single individuals (who may or may not be licensed), as well as companies with several employees. There is at least one association for commercial dog walkers in San Francisco (Prodog). In a recent interview about San Francisco's new commercial dog walking ordinance, a spokesperson for ProDog estimated that there might be as many as 300 commercial dog walkers in San Francisco. In San Francisco, the GGNRA sites most often used by commercial dog walkers are Fort Funston, Crissy Field and Fort Mason, but commercial dog walkers are also seen at Baker Beach and Ocean Beach. Commercial dog walkers typically bring between four and ten dogs or more at a time to GGNRA sites and spend about one hour, twice a day, in the park.

The San Francisco ordinance is anticipated to have a noticeable impact, particularly at Fort Funston and Crissy Field, the two sites most regularly used by dog walkers. Crissy Field already receives very high visitor use (approximately 3.2 million in 2009), including from individual and commercial dog walkers. GGNRA staff estimates that there are generally ten to fifteen commercial dog walkers per day (fewer on weekends than weekdays), and typically at least three present, with at least four to eight dogs each, at any given time of the day. A 2011 Visitor Use Study found that 24% of visitors at Crissy Field were dog walkers. That same study found that at Fort Funston, where the average number of dogs walked on the site each day is 1,600, an average of 62% of daily visitors were dog walkers (66% on weekdays and 57% on weekends). On weekends, 3.1% of dogs at Fort Funston are walked in groups larger than 6, accounting for 10 dog walker visits. However, on weekdays, 34.7% of dogs were in groups larger than 6, accounting for approximately 127 dog walker visits. Of that group 19.4% of dogs were in groups larger than 8 (approximately 61 dog walker visits). The study notes: "At Fort Funston, many visitors were observed with large groups of dogs. While some of these visitors may be individuals who own multiple dogs, most are likely professional dog walkers."

Marin County Parks and Open Space began requiring permits for commercial dog walkers on Open Space lands in 2002; the permits allowed a maximum of 6 dogs per walker. Currently, certain GGNRA-managed sites in southern Marin are used by commercial dog walkers with more than six dogs per person; dog walkers with six or more dogs have been seen at both Rodeo Beach and the Alta Trail above Marin City. The Alta Trail, an easily accessible GGNRA site in close proximity to Tiburon, is regularly used by commercial dog walkers who have an average of ten dogs per dog walker. GGNRA staff have often experienced up to 50 off-leash dogs at one time on the Alta Trail.



Because of the ease of access from Highway 101, availability of on-street parking at the trailhead and proximity to Tiburon, Alta Trail is likely to be an alternative for those commercial dog walkers who would otherwise use Tiburon open space areas, where there is now a permit requirement and limit of 6 dogs per walker. Without an interim restriction on commercial dog use, commercial dog walking could increase on GGNRA lands in southern Marin, particularly the Alta Trail, which is also used by private dog walkers, hikers, runners and bicyclists.

### Visitor Experience and Safety

In heavily used areas, and areas especially popular with multiple user groups, limiting the number of dogs per dog walker for this interim period would lessen the potential for conflict between user groups by allowing better control by dog walkers. Additionally, a limit on the number of dogs, would address the safety and visitor experience concerns of other users, including private dog walkers, who have been displaced from areas heavily used by commercial dog walkers, where large groups of dogs are not always well controlled. Numerous comments on the draft Dog Management Plan/EIS and visitor complaints received by park staff have voiced safety and visitor experience concerns about large groups of dogs that are not adequately supervised. Additional control made possible by dog walkers with smaller groups of dogs would also address park employee concerns about working outdoors in areas heavily used by dog walkers, including commercial dog walkers.

The maximum number of dogs per commercial dog walker in this proposed interim compendium amendment was drawn from the permit conditions for commercial dog walkers developed in the dog management planning process. The permit conditions for commercial dog walkers proposed in the preferred alternative of the draft dog management plan/EIS (draft plan/EIS), including the number of dogs allowed per dog walker, were developed initially by the GGNRA Negotiated Rulemaking Committee for dog management, and further developed in the draft Plan/EIS. During the public comment period on the draft Plan/EIS, the National Park Service (NPS) received multiple comments regarding the appropriate number of dogs allowed per dog walker. Some commenters expressed support for limiting the number at six dogs with strict guidelines.

Other commenters, including some dog walkers, expressed concern that public health and safety would be adversely impacted by allowing more than three dogs per dog walker, with some noting that four or more dogs could be hard to control. Some commercial dog walkers noted the potential economic impacts to their businesses of limiting the number of dogs to a maximum of six, while other commenters requested that commercial dog walking not be allowed at all.

In proposing alternatives for the maximum number of dogs per walker in the draft plan/EIS, the NPS was concerned first and foremost with resource protection and visitor experience and safety, key objectives of the draft plan/EIS. The NPS questioned whether a dog walker could consistently control more than six dogs in areas open to voice control, particularly in an NPS area where there is a primary mandate of resource protection and a secondary mandate of visitor (not commercial) experience. The NPS was unable to find literature supporting the idea that



more than six dogs would not damage park resources or impact visitor experience and safety, or put another way, would provide both resource protection and visitor experience and safety. Based on public comment, feedback from the GGNRA Negotiated Rulemaking Committee for dog management, park staff observations and research, and law enforcement experience, the NPS believes that allowing more than six dogs total could negatively impact visitor experience and visitor and employee safety. It should

also be noted that the commercial dog walker legislation information pamphlet developed by San Francisco's Animal Care and Control states that 8 dogs per walker is the limit and that 6 dogs per dog walker is recommended. The preferred alternative proposed in the draft Plan/EIS would require that commercial and private dog walkers with more than three dogs obtain a permit; the permit would limit the number of dogs per walker to a maximum of six, and permits would be issued for only seven park sites, all of which are in either Marin or San Francisco counties.

This proposed public use limit is similar in that it would impose a maximum of 6 dogs per commercial dog walker for the protection of resources and visitor and employee safety, however, it would not limit commercial dog walkers to only seven sites. Rather, all GGNRA sites open to dog walking in San Francisco and Marin would be available for commercial dog walkers under this interim action.

## **NEXT STEPS**

Comments to GGNRA may be submitted online at [https://parkplanning.nps.gov/\\*add](https://parkplanning.nps.gov/*add) shortlink name, or by mail to:

National Park Service  
Golden Gate National Recreation Area  
Attn: Commercial Dog Walking  
Fort Mason, Building 201  
San Francisco, CA 94123

Comments to the Trust may be submitted electronically to [cdw@presidiotrust.gov](mailto:cdw@presidiotrust.gov), or by mail to:

The Presidio Trust  
Attn: John Pelka  
103 Montgomery Street  
P.O. Box 29052  
San Francisco, CA 94129

All written comments submitted to GGNRA and the Trust will be considered, and these proposals may be modified accordingly. If GGNRA approves implementation, the park's Compendium would be amended and the public would be notified through community outreach, outreach to dog walking organizations, brochures and the Park's website. The final decision of the Trust will be published in the Federal Register.

*Public Availability of Comments:* If individuals submitting comments request that their address or other contact information be withheld from public disclosure, it will be honored to the extent allowable by law. Such requests must be stated prominently at the beginning of the comments. The Trust will make available for public inspection all submissions from organizations or businesses and from persons identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations and businesses.

## COMMERCIAL DOG WALKING PERMIT REQUIREMENT ANNOUNCED FOR GGNRA AND PRESIDIO TRUST

Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA), together with the Presidio Trust, intend to establish an interim permit requirement for commercial dog walkers walking four or more dogs at one time, with a limit of 6 dogs, on GGNRA lands in Marin and San Francisco Counties, and in the Presidio of San Francisco. This proposal is in response to the recent ordinances limiting the number of dogs allowed per commercial dog walker passed by the City of San Francisco, and the Town of Tiburon. This interim permit requirement would remain in effect until a final special regulation addressing dog walking and commercial dogwalking in GGNRA, is finalized, which is expected in late 2015.

Permit holders would be able to use any GGNRA and Trust lands where dog walking is allowed. In GGNRA Marin and San Francisco lands, permit holders would continue to be able to walk dogs off leash and under voice control in areas currently open to voice control per the 1979 Pet Policy.

GGNRA would implement a permit system for GGNRA lands. The Presidio Trust would honor GGNRA permits on lands administered by the Trust. The annual permit cost would consist of a \$75.00 application fee and a \$300 per person fee for a non-transferrable badge. Badges must be visibly displayed when commercial dog walkers are within GGNRA. To obtain an NPS permit, applicants must submit a business license, proof of liability insurance, and proof of dog-handling training from an existing training course provider (e.g., the Marin Humane Society or the San Francisco SPCA).

This permit requirement is proposed to go into effect on May 5, 2014 as an interim action for GGNRA GGNRA, and for the Presidio after the Presidio Trust establishes an interim special regulation for their lands. These changes would remain in effect in GGNRA until a final special regulation addressing dog walking and commercial dog walking is completed as part of the Dog Management Plan. The final special regulation is anticipated in late 2015.

The GGNRA permit requirement would be implemented through an amendment to the GGNRA Compendium. A copy of the Compendium language and other information regarding this action is available at --- <https://parkplanning.nps.gov/commercialdogwalking>. During this 30-day public notice period, questions, comments or concerns can be addressed to the Superintendent by mail to:

National Park Service  
Golden Gate National Recreation Area  
Attn: Commercial Dog Walking  
Fort Mason, Building 201  
San Francisco, CA 94123

Or on this website <https://parkplanning.nps.gov/commercialdogwalking>.

Commercial Dog Walking Permit applications and information packets are now available from the GGNRA's Business Management branch of Special Events and Uses as well as on the GGNRA website at -  
--- [www.nps.gov/goga/permits](http://www.nps.gov/goga/permits).

### **Selection of DEIS comments**

- small children who can easily be knocked over by romping dogs, are frightened by large groups of dogs running around together (as happens when dog-walkers bring many dogs in a group),
- With the rise of dog walkers taking large groups of dogs out at once, the ability to control the dogs and keep them from widening trails is reduced
- real problems that need addressing, which include the very large groups of dogs brought to the park by individuals that are supervised inadequately
- presence of off leash dogs (and professional dog walkers with large groups of dogs) is now the most significant detractor from the quality of visitor experience the park faces
- encounter people with 10 or more pooches in tow. Not only are that many dogs in a group intimidating to those who fear dogs, such treatment is unfair and maybe not humane for the dogs themselves. And one can only wonder how dog walkers of large groups deal with dog feces and urine. Packs of dogs must also be unsettling to wildlife, even if leashed.
- I would support limiting the number of dogs professional dog walkers are allowed to bring to the park. Most dog walkers are great but there are those that take advantage. Even I avoid the peak professional dog walking times.
- Another very upsetting point is regarding Fort Funston. The place is completely taken over by dogs - not just a single owner with a dog or two, but dog walking "services" with 5-10 dogs each. I decided to go running on the trails there a few weeks ago and couldn't take more than a dozen steps without being surrounded by dogs. It looked like a kennel and was just a complete waste of a beautiful property. I had to turn around and leave. I won't be going back there, or even recommending it to friends, until something is done.

### **From Shirwin's telephone call log**

- Private dog walker on Alta – so many off-leash dogs at one time she cannot use trail
- Resident near Alta – there can be 30-40 dogs at one time – not ok makes trail less usable by others. Would like to use trail for walking/running since lives in the neighborhood.
- Baker Beach user, calling about 2-3 people who bring 30-40 dogs regularly mid-week. One woman has over 20 dogs not on leash. He and his children are afraid of out of control dogs and want to be able to visit the beach.
- Complaint about CDW with too many dogs; est. at 35. Can't control that many, shouldn't be allowed to walk so many dogs.
- Complaint from man who was intern at Letterman Hospital; has many years familiarity with Crissy. On last visit, woman with 7/8 dogs, one ran towards him aggressively; she did not have dog under voice control.
- Member of Funston hang gliding club has problem with a CDW who doesn't pick up after her dogs and responds aggressively to club members who ask her to do so.
- Has seen multiple CDWs in Oakwood Valley with as many as 10 dogs off leash. Is this legal? How can he report it?

December 23, 2013

On the call: Russ Wilson and Jay Calhoun, Regs Office; Lee Dickenson (WASO permits office); Michael Edwards, EQD.

- Confirmed that SUP is the correct authority for permitting dog walkers with more than 3 dogs.
  - SUP is an instrument used to manage an activity. As long as \$ is not exchanged on park property, an SUP can be used.
  - Fine distinction that we are not allowing a use, we are managing a use.
- Concerned that the interim action is specifically commercial, and SUPs are not an appropriate way to regulate a commercial activity.
  - Where is the authority that says that – Lee thinks RM-53
- Note that only an SUP allows cost recovery.
- Re: interim action, ask for the short form.
- Lee concerned with the different requirements between commercial and private permits. Why? MBE notes CDW is a privilege not a right, plus CDW is the biggest user in this area. Lee – why not require the private dog walkers to have the same level of insurance??
- Lee concerned that the questions asked in the interim CDW cover letter are sufficiently tied to the application. **SES sent draft docs today for Lee's review.**
- Jay – to do: look for any issue with permits not allowed for commercial uses. SES to look at short form application.

Dear Rancho neighbors,

~~As many of you know, the National Park Service (NPS) is in the process of developing the Dog Management Plan for the Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA). As many of you know, when the National Park Service (NPS) NPS acquired management of Rancho Corral de Tierra (Rancho) in 2011, the NPS national regulations took effect, including the regulation on-for dog walking went into effect, which requires that where dogs are permitted, they must be on leash. Since-Subsequently, following discussions with stakeholder groups and initial staff site investigations, several areas of Rancho were determined to have potential resource sensitivity or visitor use conflicts-. Taking a cautious management approach, the NPS then restricted dog walking in these to areas at Rancho without potential for resource sensitivity or use conflicts.~~

~~As you also likely know, the NPS is developing a Dog Management Plan for Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA), which will address where and how dog walking can occur throughout GGNRA, including at Rancho. The 2012 dog walking restriction at Rancho was intended only for the period prior to the completion of the Dog Management Plan. However, until the dog management planning process was completed.~~

~~We have recently heard from many neighbors and stakeholders that this ~~these regulations restriction~~ represents an unexpected and significant change in dog walking use, particularly compared to dog walking use prior to NPS management. We specifically heard, and that the community surrounding Rancho is concerned that they have would like the opportunity to provide input on dog walking regulations at Rancho, through the appropriate planning process.~~

Therefore, in view of these concerns, effective today, the Superintendent of GGNRA has designated **all of Rancho as open to on-leash dog walking**. This regulation will remain in effect until a new special regulation for dog walking in GGNRA, developed out of the Dog Management Plan - which has two more opportunities for public comment -, is put into place. Our maps on the website and signage in the field will be updated to reflect this change.

We look forward to working with you and hope that you will participate in the dog management planning process to provide your input on the future of dog walking-use at Rancho. For more information, please visit <http://www.nps.gov/goga/parkmgmt/dog-management.htm>

Have a safe and fun holiday weekend!

# Significant Differences Between DEIS and SEIS Preferred Alternative

### Map 5 Preferred Alternative: Muir Beach



2011

National Park Service  
 U.S. Department of the Interior  
 Golden Gate National Recreation Area

### Map 5-F: Muir Beach



**Preferred Alternative**

Leash Required

All sidewalks and paved roads leash required. Dogs prohibited in unshaded areas within Plan/EIS Boundary.

Plan/EIS Boundary

N  
↑

Dog Management Plan/EIS  
 December 2010



**Alternative F**

Leash Required

Plan/EIS Boundary

Parking lots, picnic areas and paved public roads are open to on-leash dog walking unless otherwise noted.

Trail and fire road names are current as of 12/15/10 and are subject to change.

Draft Dog Management Plan/EIS  
 For Illustrative Purposes Only

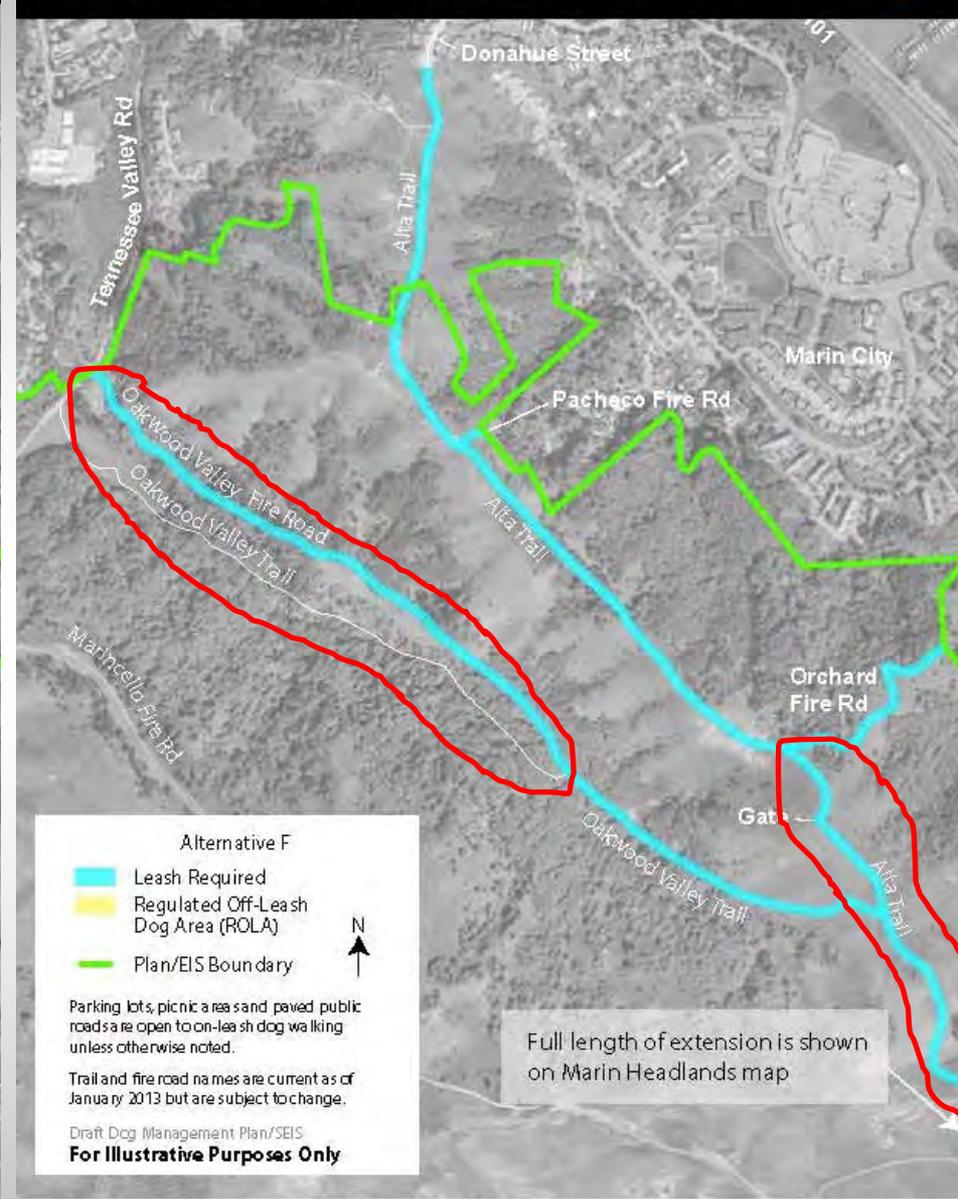
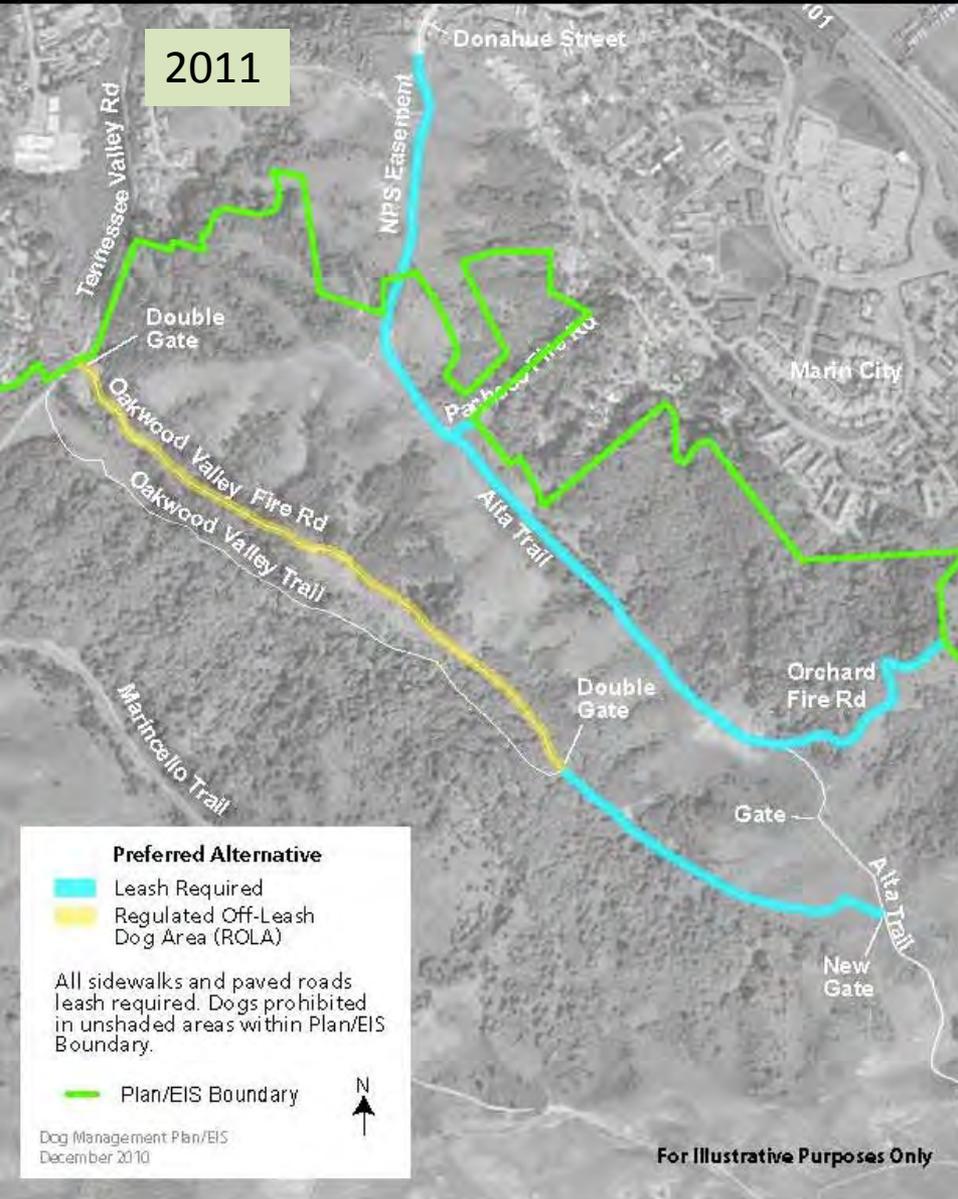
N  
↑

GGNR-017-210

**Map 4 Preferred Alternative:  
 Oakwood Valley / Alta Trail**



**Map 4-F:  
 Oakwood Valley / Alta Trail**

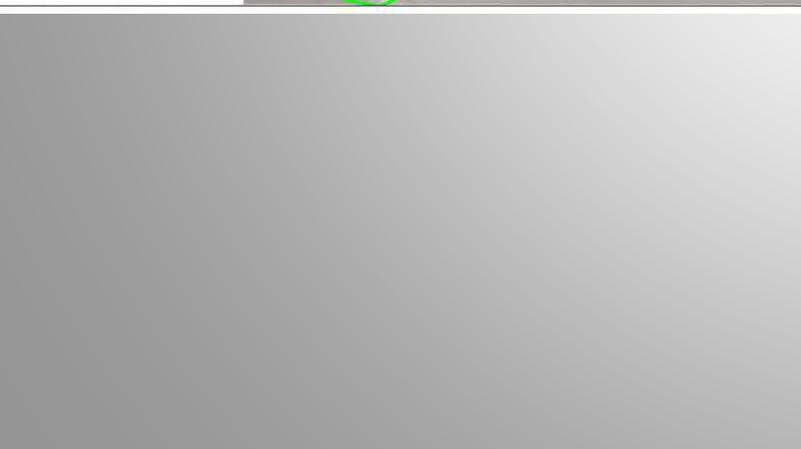


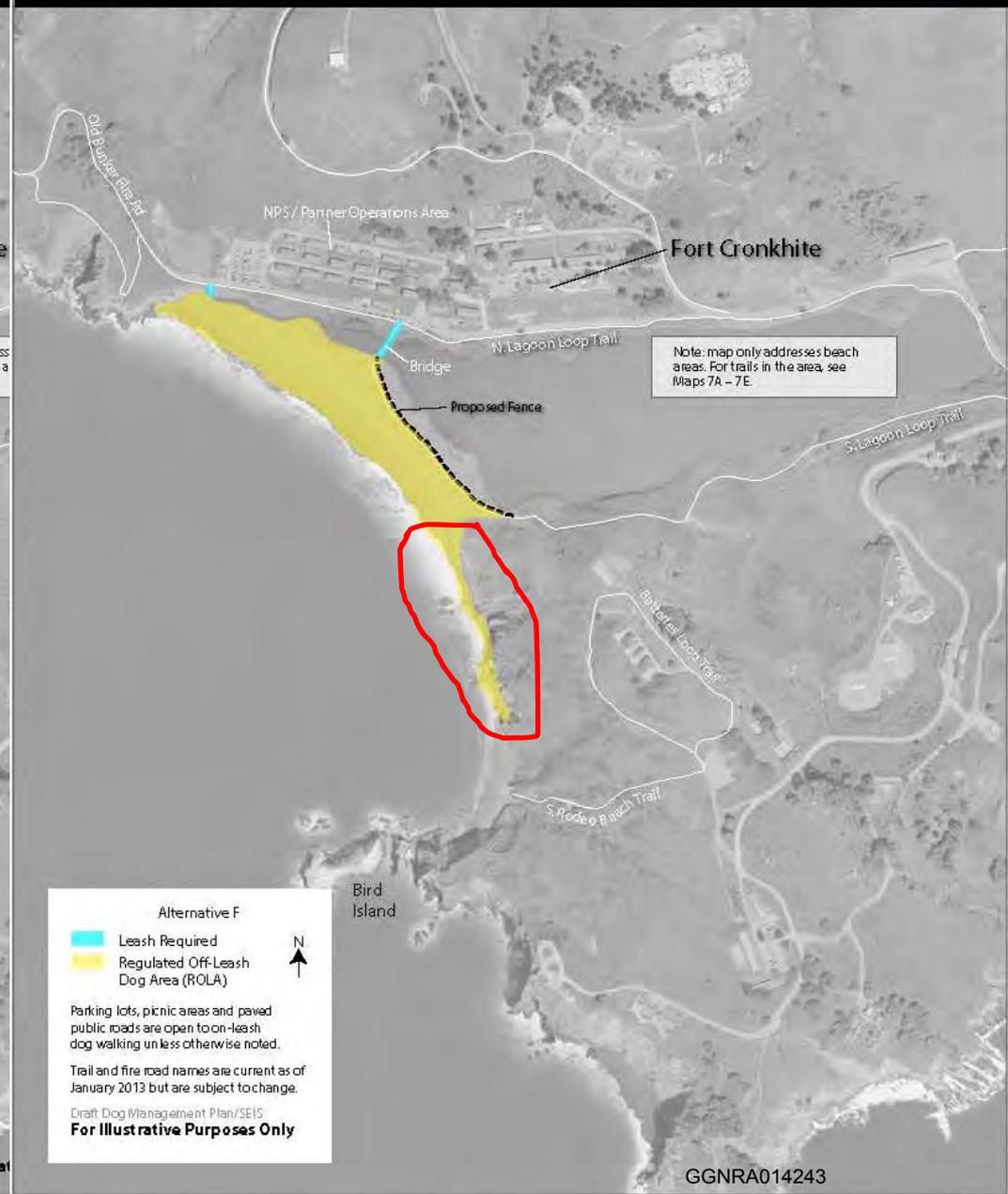
# Map 7 Preferred Alternative: Marin Headlands Trails



National Park Service  
 U.S. Department of the Interior  
 Golden Gate National Recreation Area

## Map 7-F: Marin Headlands Trails

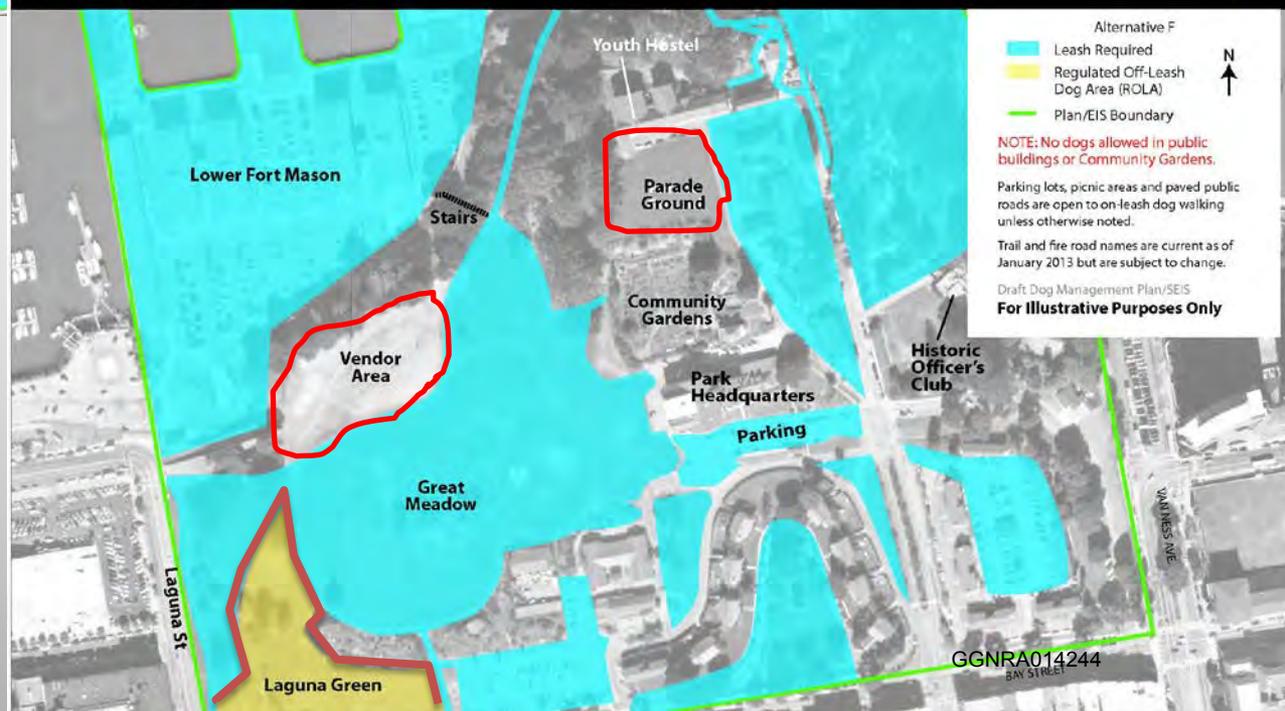




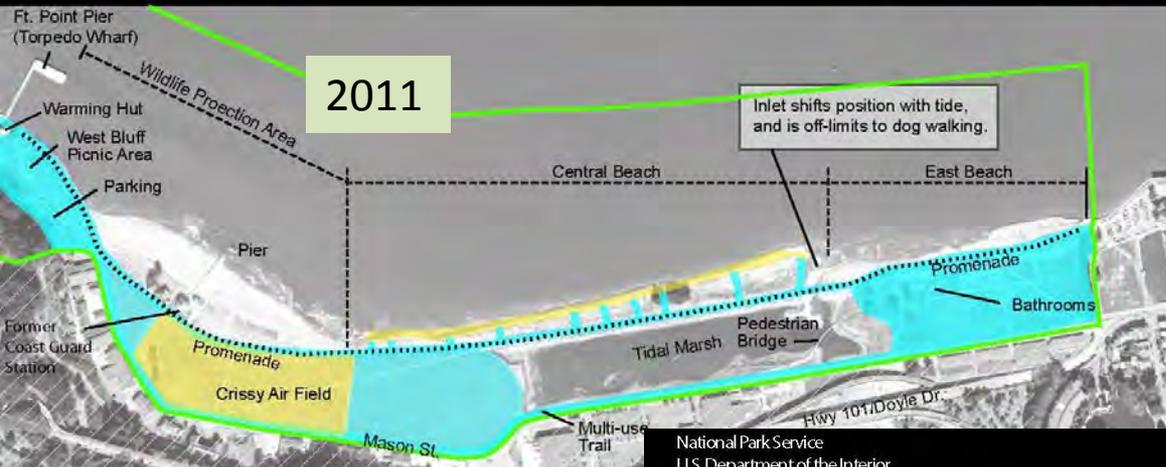
### Map 9 Preferred Alternative Upper Fort Mason



### Map 9-F: Upper Fort Mason



# Map 10 Preferred Alternative: Crissy Field

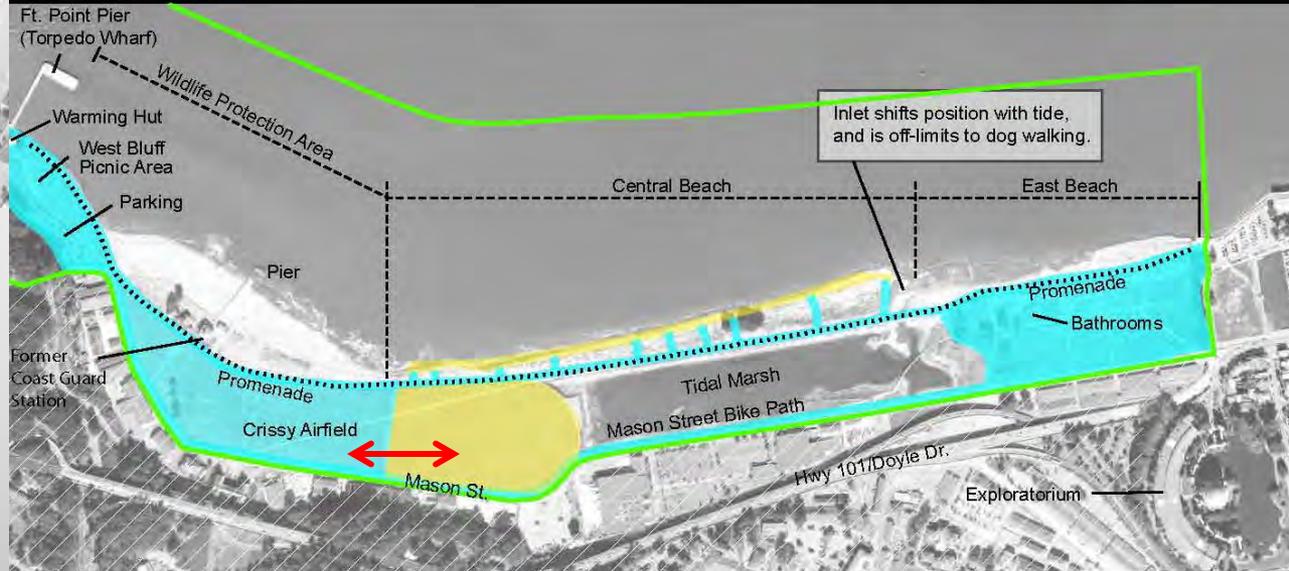


**Preferred Alternative**

- Leash Required
- Regulated Off-Leash Dog Area (ROLA)

All sidewalks and paved roads leash required. Dogs prohibited in unshaded areas within Plan/EIS Boundary.

# Map 10-F: Crissy Field



**Alternative F**

- Leash Required
- Regulated Off-Leash Dog Area (ROLA)
- Presidio Trust
- Plan/EIS Boundary

N ↑

Parking lots, picnic areas and paved public roads are open to on-leash dog walking unless otherwise noted.

Trail and fire road names are current as of January 2013 but are subject to change.

**GGNRA014245** Plan/SEIS  
**For Illustrative Purposes Only**

# Map 16 Preferred Alternative: Fort Funston



# Map 16-F: Fort Funston



Preferred Alternative  
Required Off-Leash Area (ROLA)  
Project Boundary  
Boundary  
Purposes Only

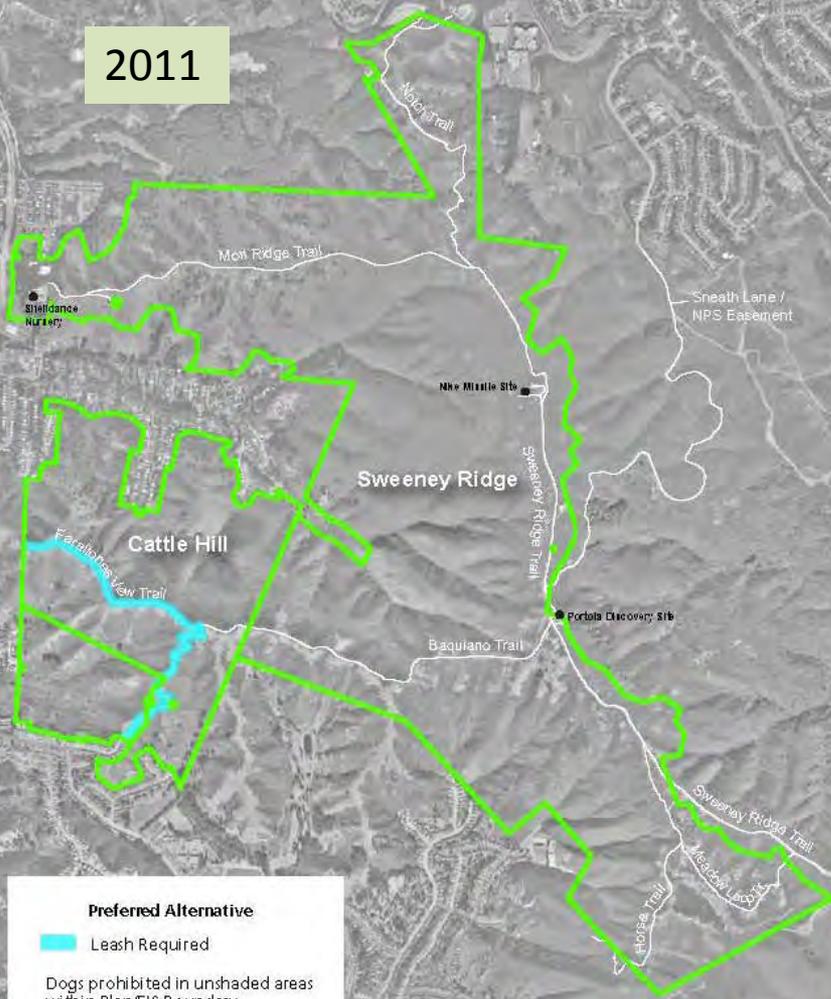
Preferred Alternative F  
Required Off-Leash Area (ROLA)  
Project Boundary  
Purposes Only

GNRA014246

**Map 19 Preferred Alternative:  
 Cattle Hill / Sweeney Ridge**



2011



**Preferred Alternative**

Leash Required

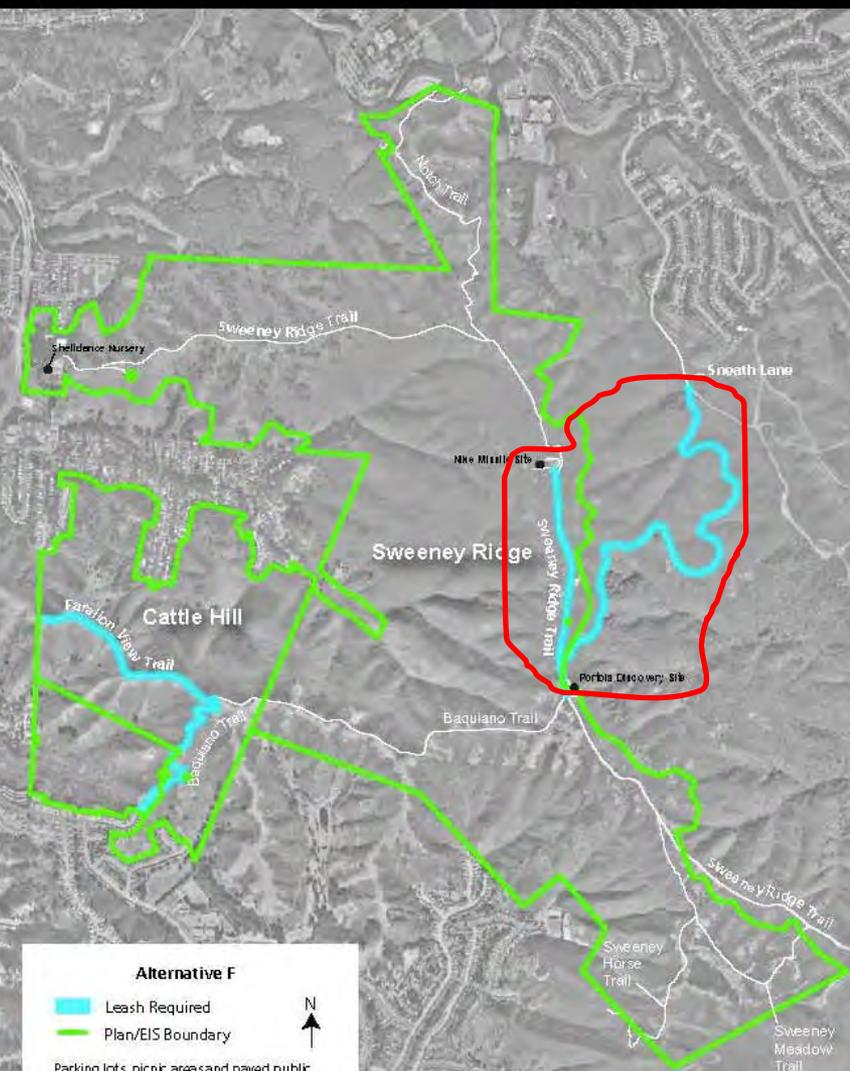
Dogs prohibited in unshaded areas within Plan/EIS Boundary.

Plan/EIS Boundary

Dog Management/EIS  
 December 2010

**For Illustrative Purposes Only**

**Map 19-F:  
 Cattle Hill / Sweeney Ridge**



**Alternative F**

Leash Required

Plan/EIS Boundary

Parking lots, picnic areas and paved public roads are open to on-leash dog walking unless otherwise noted.

Trail and fire road names are current as of January 2013 but are subject to change.

Draft Dog Management Plan/SEIS  
**For Illustrative Purposes Only**



**Alternative F**

- Leash Required
- Plan/EIS Boundary

**NOTE: Trail information shown is from preliminary trail planning working drafts.**

Parking lots, picnic areas and paved public roads are open to on-leash dog walking unless otherwise noted.

Trail and fire road names are current as of January 2013 but are subject to change.

Draft Dog Management Plan/SEIS  
**For Illustrative Purposes Only**

Discussions for trail use designations determined prior to acquisitions by SM Team based on:

- Sensitive resource locations
- Summer 2011 - Discussions with equestrian lease holders at Moss Beach Ranch, Ember Ridge, Ocean View Farms, and Renegade Ranch indicating that off-leash dogs can be a conflict with new riders
- Discussions with Montara Dog Group on current dog-walking areas

Required to have trail use designations in place by date of acquisition:

- A published rule/regulation within 90-120 days of NPS ownership
- **Posted regulations on map online December 2011**
- **Updated compendium December 2011**

Public Notification specific to Rancho (**15 meetings**):

- November 2011 - **Informed public at SM Open House of proposed regulations/signage plan**
- December 2011 – Presented Rancho update at MCC
- February 2012 – Presented Rancho update at MCC
- February 2012 – Hosted Meet and Greet event in El Granada
- July 2012 – Hosted Meet and Greet event in Moss Beach
- August 2012 – Presented Rancho update at MCC
- September 2012 – Public meeting re: taser incident; additional updates on Rancho
- September 2012 – Princeton by the Sea HOA
- October 2012 – Hosted Meet and Greet event in Montara
- November 2012 – SM Open House
- January 2013 – Coastside Running Club
- January 2013 – Princeton by the Sea HOA
- March 2013 – Rancho Volunteer Day
- April 2013 – Presented Rancho update at MCC
- April 2013 – Newsletter launched

Public Notification in San Mateo County:

- January 2012 – Pacifica GGNRA Liaison Committee
- April 2012 – Pacifica Earth Day
- May 2012 – Streets Alive Parks Alive / Quarry Park
- November 2012 – ETRAC member meeting
- April 2013 – Pacifica Earth Day

## BACKGROUND OF DOG MANAGEMENT AT GOLDEN GATE NATIONAL RECREATION AREA

Dogs that are not controlled by caging or a leash no longer than six feet are currently prohibited across the entire national park system (36 CFR 2.15 (a)(2)), with the exception of GGNRA. This exception is the result of a 2005 decision by the United States District Court for the Northern District of California but has its roots in earlier policy decisions by the park.

### GOLDEN GATE NATION RECREATION AREA LANDS INCLUDED IN THE DRAFT PLAN / SUPPLEMENTAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

In 1972, GGNRA was established by Congress with a boundary that encompassed 32,000 acres in San Francisco and Marin counties. Today, the park has more than doubled in size and its boundary now encompasses approximately 80,500 acres in San Francisco, Marin, and San Mateo counties.

Within this boundary, GGNRA owns approximately 34,000 acres and manages approximately 20,000 of those acres. This draft plan/SEIS will only address lands directly managed by GGNRA and certain additional lands that will be directly managed by the park in the near future. The draft plan/SEIS also provides a framework and criteria for the treatment of future new lands. GGNRA-owned lands in Olema Valley north of Bolinas-Fairfax Road will not be included, as they are managed by Point Reyes National Seashore through an agreement with GGNRA (see map 1 in the “Maps” section of this document). These areas will continue to be managed under 36 CFR 2.15.

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*This draft plan/SEIS will only address lands directly managed by GGNRA and certain additional lands that will be directly managed by the park in the near future.*

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Alternatives in this draft plan/SEIS include locations in Marin, San Francisco, and San Mateo counties. The selection of sites addressed in this draft plan/SEIS was determined by NPS managers, and was based on information from historical and current dog management in GGNRA, including the 1979 Pet Policy (appendix A); NPS law, policy, and regulations; park resources; and the Federal Panel Recommendations to the General Superintendent (NPS 2002a, 1). The panel concluded that under voice and sight control dog walking in GGNRA may be appropriate in selected locations where resource impacts can be adequately mitigated and public safety incidents and public use conflicts can be appropriately managed.



**Pedro Point**

Credit: NPS

In addition to lands currently under GGNRA management, the draft plan/SEIS includes two areas within the park’s boundary that will be transferred to GGNRA in the near future: Pedro Point Headlands and Cattle Hill in San Mateo County. When the dog management planning process started, these two new portions were included because it was anticipated that acquisition would occur during, or shortly after, the planning process was completed. Another very recent change considered in this draft plan/SEIS is a third San Mateo property, Rancho Corral de Tierra (Rancho), which was transferred to the NPS in December 2011. As a result of this recent land transfer, the Rancho site is addressed in the draft plan/SEIS. Table 2 in chapter 2 lists the sites that were considered under the action

alternatives for this draft plan/SEIS. Dog management for other lands that may be acquired and managed by the NPS in the future is discussed under “Elements Common to Action Alternatives” in chapter 2.

GGNRA-managed lands not specifically addressed in this draft plan/SEIS, but which are not currently closed to dogs, include (but are not limited to) the following:

- In Marin County: lands north of Stinson Beach and south of Bolinas-Fairfax Road (excluding Audubon Canyon Ranch lands), between Highway 1 and Marin Municipal Water District lands and Mount Tamalpais State Park lands—encompassing land in Morses Gulch and McKennan Gulch and the lands above Audubon Canyon Ranch.
- In Marin County: GGNRA coastal lands north of—and including—Muir Beach Overlook and west of Highway 1, and the former Banducci lands in Franks Valley.
- In San Mateo County: an easement over coastal lands and beach south of Fort Funston and north of Thornton State Beach totaling 31 acres; three parcels of coastal lands, totaling 2.5 miles in length and 120 acres, south of Thornton State Beach.

## **LAND USE PRIOR TO PARK ACQUISITION**

The history of dog walking in some areas of GGNRA began prior to the establishment of the park, when dog walking, including off-leash dog walking, occurred informally at sites under varied jurisdictions in San Francisco and Marin counties. Some of the lands designated as part of the new national recreation area had been formerly owned and managed by other public entities, and practices prohibited in national park system units, such as allowing dogs off leash, had been sanctioned or allowed on those lands. In the first years after GGNRA was established in 1972, those practices continued largely uninterrupted, although park staff recognized and documented issues arising from the practice during the early years of the park’s existence.

The 1975 agreement for the lands transfer from the City of San Francisco to the NPS states that “The National Park Service, acting through the General Superintendent, agrees to utilize the resources of GGNRA in a manner that will provide for recreational and educational opportunities consistent with sound principals of land use, planning and management, to preserve the GGNRA in its natural setting and protect it from development and uses which would destroy the scenic beauty and natural character of the area, and to maintain the transferred premises in a good and sightly condition.” There is no additional specificity as to what uses constituted “recreational opportunities.” The deeds for the transferred lands state that: “To hold only so long as said real property is preserved and used for recreation and park purposes,” also with no additional specificity as to what uses constituted recreation.

The lands in San Francisco known as the “Presidio” are managed by both the NPS and the Presidio Trust. The Presidio was once one of the oldest continuously operating military posts in the nation. Since 1994, when the Presidio was transferred to the NPS, it has been a distinct public park site in San Francisco. In 1996, Congress passed the Presidio Trust Act, which established the Presidio Trust and put the interior 80 percent of Presidio lands, approximately 1,170 acres, (known as Area B) under the management of the Presidio Trust. The coastal portions of the Presidio (known as Area A) remain under the management of the NPS. This draft plan/SEIS addresses only the Area A Presidio lands.

The Presidio Trust is a cooperating agency for this draft plan/SEIS. The NPS granted the Presidio Trust cooperating agency status with regard to those lands addressed by the draft plan/SEIS in Area A of the Presidio, adjacent to lands managed by the Presidio Trust, and based on the Trust’s special expertise in the Presidio Area B and the potential for spillover effects onto Trust lands from adjacent GGNRA areas.

## **GOLDEN GATE NATIONAL RECREATION AREA CITIZENS' ADVISORY COMMISSION AND THE 1979 PET POLICY**

The legislation establishing GGNRA in 1972 (PL-92-589) also established the GGNRA Citizens' Advisory Commission, which coordinated public involvement for the park. Their charter stated that they may advise the park on general policies and specific matters related to planning, administration, and development, and in doing so may seek the views of various citizen groups and members of the public.

In 1978, due to public requests from dog walkers, the GGNRA Citizens' Advisory Commission developed a pet policy for the park. In 1979, they formally recommended the policy, which has since been known as the 1979 Pet Policy (appendix A), to the park Superintendent. The 1979 Pet Policy, developed with input from park staff, provided general guidance for dog walking and recommended locations for both on-leash dog walking and off-leash or "voice control" dog walking in lands owned and managed by GGNRA, although this recommendation did not abide by the federal regulation regarding dog walking in national parks (36 CFR 2.15). The Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) is the codification of the general and permanent rules published in the Federal Register by the executive departments and agencies of the federal government.

The 1979 Pet Policy identified the following areas as appropriate for voice control of dogs:

- Homestead Valley
- Oakwood Valley
- Muir Beach
- Rodeo Beach
- Several trails in Marin County
- Crissy Field
- Baker Beach, north beach area
- East and West Fort Miley
- Lands End
- Ocean Beach
- Fort Funston.

Although in the policy the GGNRA Citizens' Advisory Commission referred to "regulations (that would) be developed by the NPS Field Solicitor's office," a special regulation to allow off-leash dog walking in GGNRA, based on this recommendation, was never promulgated by the NPS. The GGNRA Citizens' Advisory Commission's policy did not and could not override NPS regulations prohibiting pets off leash in national parks, but for more than 20 years, the park erroneously implemented the 1979 Pet Policy in contravention of Service-wide regulations.



**Tracks in the Sand at Fort Funston**

Credit: NPS

## **INCREASE IN USE OF THE PARK FOR DOG WALKING AND OTHER RECREATIONAL USES**

Since the 1990s, the San Francisco Bay Area population and overall use of GGNRA park sites have increased, as have the number of private and commercial dog walkers. At the same time, the number of conflicts between park users with and without dogs began to rise, as did the fear of dogs and dog bites or attacks. The hours devoted by park staff to manage these conflicts, rescue dogs and owners, dispose of dog waste, educate the public on dog walking policies and regulations at each park site, and enforce regulations also increased. In addition, since the establishment of the park, several species with habitat in GGNRA areas used by dog walkers have been listed as threatened, endangered, or special-status species requiring special protection.

Underscoring the increasing conflict over off-leash dog use, dog walking groups filed a lawsuit against the NPS in March 2000 when GGNRA closed part of Fort Funston to the public to provide resource protection and restoration. In particular, the park intended to protect new nesting locations of the state threatened bank swallow (*Riparia riparia*) population; increase biological diversity by restoring coastal native dune scrub habitat; increase public safety by keeping visitors and their pets away from cliff areas; and protect geological resources, including the bluff top and interior dunes, that had been subject to accelerated erosion because of humans and dogs. The park discussed a 12-acre closure with interested groups, including both environmental and off-leash dog walking interests. Based on these discussions, the park reduced the closure to 10 acres. Upon initiation of the 10-acre closure, which reduced available off-leash areas, a lawsuit was filed. The federal district court held that the NPS had not adequately obtained public input on the proposed closure as required by 36 CFR 1.5. Upon completion of public involvement efforts, the court agreed that GGNRA had fully complied with required sections of 36 CFR 1.5 and that the need for “prompt protective action” was “genuine.” The park closed the original 12 acres in February 2001, per the GGNRA Compendium (NPS 2001b, 1; appendix B). During this period, it was clarified by the Department of Justice, the U.S. Attorney, and the U.S. Department of the Interior Solicitor Offices that the voice control policy then in effect at Fort Funston and other locations in the park was contrary to NPS regulations.

In a public meeting in January 2001, the GGNRA Citizens’ Advisory Commission acknowledged that the voice control policy was contrary to 36 CFR 2.15(a)(2), prohibiting off-leash dogs in national parks, and therefore illegal and unenforceable. Hundreds of people in favor of the 1979 Pet Policy attended the January 2001 GGNRA Citizens’ Advisory Commission meeting, and following the meeting, the park received significant comment in support of off-leash dog walking. At the same time, the park continued to receive an increasing number of complaints by park visitors, including minorities, seniors, and families with small children, alleging that off-leash dogs had prevented them from visiting the park for fear of being knocked over or attacked by dogs or verbally abused by dog owners, or that they had experienced these situations in visits to the park.

In the year following the GGNRA Citizens’ Advisory Commission meeting, park staff attempted to facilitate the transition into compliance with 36 CFR 2.15(a)(2) through educational outreach, new signs, and law enforcement actions including verbal and written warnings. When these measures failed to bring about compliance with the regulation, GGNRA law enforcement staff issued citations in addition to warnings. During this time, conflicts between dog walkers and park staff increased significantly.

In 2004, citations issued for off-leash dog walking at Crissy Field were challenged. Similar to the Fort Funston dog walking case, the federal district court found that the NPS did not have the authority to enforce 36 CFR 2.15 requiring that dogs be on leash, in areas that had allowed off-leash dog walking per the 1979 Pet Policy, without first completing notice and comment rulemaking as required under 36 CFR

1.5(b) due to the controversial nature of the closure (U.S. v. Barley, 405 F.Supp. 2d 1121 (N.D. Cal. 2005)).

Since that time, GGNRA has had a mixture of dog management regulations and legal conditions guiding the status of dog walking in the park: the NPS-wide leash regulation, the GGNRA Compendium, the special regulation for protection of the federally threatened western snowy plover (*Charadrius alexandrinus nivosus*), and the 1979 Pet Policy voice control conditions (which were effectively reinstated by the 2005 federal court decision). Table 1 summarizes current dog management conditions within the specific park sites addressed in this draft plan/SEIS. Maps located in the “Maps” section of this document, which show park sites by county, from north to south, also illustrate historic and current dog walking management (see maps 2-A, 3-A, 4-A, etc.).

**TABLE 1. CURRENT DOG MANAGEMENT CONDITIONS**

| <b>Golden Gate National Recreation Area Site*</b>   | <b>Alternative A: No Action<br/>(represents 36 CFR 2.15, 36 CFR 7.97(d), 1979 Pet Policy, and Golden Gate National Recreation Area Compendium)</b>  |
|---|---|
| Stinson Beach: parking lots/picnic areas only   | On leash only   |
| Homestead Valley  | Entire site on leash or under voice control   |
| Alta Trail / Orchard Fire Road / Pacheco Fire Road  | On leash or under voice control from Marin City to Oakwood Valley   |
| Oakwood Valley  | Oakwood Valley Fire Road And Oakwood Valley Trail from junction with Fire Road to junction with Alta Trail: on leash or under voice control<br>Oakwood Valley Trail from trailhead to junction with Oakwood Valley Fire Road: on leash  |
| Muir Beach  | Beach only: on leash or under voice control<br>Bridge and path to beach: on leash   |
| Rodeo Beach / South Rodeo Beach   | Both beach areas only: on leash or under voice control<br>Footbridge and access trail to beaches: on leash  |
| Marin Headlands Trails<br>Trails previously opened to dog walking, including but not limited to:<br><ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coastal Trail from McCullough Road to Muir Beach</li> <li>• Miwok Trail from Tennessee Valley to Highway 1</li> <li>• County View Road off the Miwok Trail</li> <li>• Miwok Trail to Wolf Ridge to Hill 88</li> <li>• Lagoon Trail</li> <li>• South Rodeo Beach Trail</li> </ul> | On leash or voice control:<br><ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coastal Trail: Golden Gate Bridge to Hill 88, including Lagoon Trail</li> <li>• Coastal, Wolf, Miwok Loop</li> <li>• Old Bunker Fire Road Loop (includes section of Coastal Trail)</li> <li>• On leash only:</li> <li>• Coastal Trail: Hill 88 to Muir Beach</li> <li>• Batteries Loop Trail</li> <li>• North Miwok Trail</li> <li>• County View Road</li> </ul> |
| Fort Baker  | On leash in areas where dogs are allowed  |
| Upper and Lower Fort Mason  | On leash  |
| Crissy Field Wildlife Protection Area (WPA)   | Voice control except for seasonal leash restriction   |

| Golden Gate National Recreation Area Site*   | Alternative A: No Action<br>(represents 36 CFR 2.15, 36 CFR 7.97(d), 1979 Pet Policy, and Golden Gate National Recreation Area Compendium)  |
|--|---|
| Crissy Field   | Promenade (East Beach to the Warming Hut): voice control<br>Crissy Airfield: voice control<br>East and Central Beaches: voice control<br>Trails and grassy areas near East Beach and around Old Coast Guard Station: voice control  |
| Fort Point Promenade / Fort Point National Historic Site (NHS) Trails              | Fort Point Promenade, Andrews Road, Presidio Promenade, Battery East Trail, and grassy area near restrooms: on leash  |
| Baker Beach and Bluffs to Golden Gate Bridge                                       | Beach North of Lobos Creek: voice control<br>All trails except Batteries to Bluffs Trail: on leash  |
| Fort Miley   | East and West Fort Miley: voice control   |
| Lands End  | Voice control   |
| Sutro Heights Park   | On leash  |
| Ocean Beach Snowy Plover Protection Area (SPPA) (Stairwell #21 to Sloat Boulevard) | Voice control with seasonal leash restriction   |
| Ocean Beach  | North of Stairwell 21: voice control<br>South of Sloat Boulevard: voice control   |
| Fort Funston (excluding areas closed by fence or signs)                            | Beach: voice control, with voluntary seasonal closure at the foot of northernmost bluffs when bank swallows are nesting (April 1- August 15)<br>South of Main Parking Lot, including all trails: voice control<br>North of Main Parking Lot, including all trails: voice control except for fenced wildlife/habitat protection area |
| Mori Point   | On leash on all trails  |
| Milagra Ridge  | On leash on all trails  |
| Sweeney Ridge / Cattle Hill (adjacent properties that share a trail system)        | Sweeney: on leash on Sneath Lane, Sweeney Ridge Trail, and Baquiano Trail<br>Cattle Hill: not yet part of GGNRA   |
| Pedro Point Headlands  | Not yet part of GGNRA   |
| Rancho Corral de Tierra  | On leash where dogs are allowed (Montara and El Granada areas)  |

\* Under current management, commercial dog walking occurs, but is not an authorized use.

## ADVANCE NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULEMAKING

In January 2002 the park published an Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (ANPR) in the Federal Register asking for comment on potential options for future dog management in GGNRA that could include a special regulation for dog walking in GGNRA. During the public comment period, park staff held two informational meetings about the rulemaking process in March 2002 and a public oral comment session in April 2002. Through the ANPR and public comment process, the park asked for public input on a range of dog management questions and put forth two management options for comment: option A, which would continue to enforce the existing NPS regulations that allow only on-leash dog walking; and option B, which would begin the analysis and eventual rulemaking to allow some specific off-leash use areas. Option A indicated that the park would consider allowing on-leash dog walking in some areas where it was not permitted at the time. These areas included Stinson Beach, Fort Baker Pier, Phleger Estate, and portions of Tennessee Valley. The public was also asked for input on specific management

questions, including which areas should be closed to dogs, which areas should be fenced, which areas should allow on-leash dog walking, and which areas should allow dogs under voice control. Additional questions asked how the number of dogs should be limited, how to ensure the park was not liable for injuries caused by or to dogs, and what the potential environmental impacts of the alternatives might be.

In response to the ANPR in January 2002, the park received 8,580 documents and the results were published in a public comment analysis report by the Northern Arizona University Social Research Laboratory (NAU 2002a, 1). In this report, 71 percent of public comments favored option B, allowing for off-leash dog walking in selected GGNRA sites. Of the 71 percent, the majority were residents of San Francisco (88 percent of 4,222 comment documents). Twenty-eight percent of public comments favored option A, calling for the enforcement of existing leash laws in the GGNRA. Respondents from out of state overwhelmingly voted for option A (96 percent of 1,186 comment documents). Fort Funston, Crissy Field, and Ocean Beach were the sites most frequently mentioned by those preferring either option A or option B (NAU 2002a, 5, 7).

In response to the ANPR request for input on specific management questions, the public made the following suggestions for future management of dog walking in GGNRA, which were coded into the dataset of the public comment analysis report (NAU 2002a, 9-26):

- Separate dog walking under voice control from other visitor uses.
- Designate specific areas, or days, and times when dog walking under voice control is allowed.
- Fully enforce whatever regulations result, but if violations occur, do not assume that all dog owners are irresponsible and that areas need to be closed to dogs.
- Create a licensing process to demonstrate that dogs are under voice control.
- Fence environmentally sensitive areas or fence voice control areas.
- Limit the number of dogs on leash and/or under voice control per person.
- Encourage volunteer efforts to assist in stewardship of voice control areas.
- Educate the public about how to control dogs and about the impacts dogs have on park resources.
- Monitor the impacts of dogs and report the results every few years.

## **Telephone Survey**

To gain as broad an understanding of public opinion as possible, GGNRA commissioned Northern Arizona University's Social Research Laboratory to conduct a telephone survey in the four-county region surrounding GGNRA regarding NPS pet management regulations (NAU 2002b, 1). The survey design was initiated in the spring of 2002 during the ANPR public comment period and was conducted from May to July 2002. The survey was conducted with a random cross section of people from 400 households each (for a total of 1,600) in Alameda, Marin, San Francisco, and San Mateo counties to provide a more general overview of public support for or opposition to off-leash dog walking. Results of the telephone survey showed that 28 percent of the respondents owned or cared for one or more dogs. Among these dog owners, 50 percent had taken their dog(s) to a GGNRA site and 20 percent of that group had also hired a commercial dog walker to walk their dog(s) in a GGNRA site, which translates to one percent of all survey respondents using a commercial dog walker (NAU 2002b, 16-17).

The first set of questions asked the public if they generally supported or opposed the existing NPS regulation that allows on-leash dog walking at most GGNRA sites and prohibits any off-leash dog walking. Seventy-one percent of all respondents supported and 23 percent opposed the current NPS regulation for walking dogs on leash at most GGNRA sites and prohibiting off-leash dog walking. Survey results indicated that support for the existing NPS pet regulation was consistent throughout the four counties and across every demographic subset (NAU 2002b, 11, 83-86).

In another set of questions, when asked whether they specifically supported allowing off-leash dog walking in GGNRA, 40 percent of all respondents stated that they supported allowing dogs off leash in GGNRA. Of this 40 percent, 17 percent strongly supported and 23 percent somewhat supported allowing dogs off leash in GGNRA. Fifty-three percent of all respondents stated that they opposed allowing off-leash dog walking in GGNRA sites. Of this 53 percent, 17 percent opposed and 36 percent strongly opposed allowing off-leash dog walking in GGNRA sites. However, dog owners were closely divided on the question of whether they specifically supported allowing off-leash dog walking in GGNRA. Fifty-one percent of dog owners supported and 45 percent of dog owners opposed off-leash dog walking at GGNRA sites (NAU 2002b, 25).

The respondents were then read an abbreviated version of the GGNRA mission statement: “The mission of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area is the preservation, unimpaired, of the natural and cultural resources, and scenic and recreation values, of the park for present and future generations to enjoy” (NAU 2002b, 30). When these respondents were again asked if they supported or opposed off-leash dog walking at GGNRA sites, the percentage of all respondents in the four-county area opposing off-leash dog walking at GGNRA rose from 53 to 58 percent, and the percentage of respondents supporting off-leash dog walking in the park fell from 40 to 36 percent (NAU 2002b, 30-31).

### **Federal Panel Recommendation**

Subsequent to the ANPR, a panel of senior NPS officials from outside GGNRA was convened to review the public comment and other technical information. The purpose of the panel was to recommend to the Superintendent of GGNRA whether the park should proceed toward rulemaking to allow some off-leash dog walking or whether the current regulation—requiring that pets be on leash in all GGNRA areas where they are allowed—should remain in effect. The panel concluded that off-leash dog walking in GGNRA may be appropriate in selected locations where park resources would not be impaired if the standards for appropriate use (as defined in NPS policies and regulations) could be met, if adverse impacts to park resources could be adequately mitigated, and if public safety incidents and public use conflicts could be appropriately managed. The panel further recommended that the park pursue both rulemaking and comprehensive planning for pet management to address suitable locations and proper management strategies. Options for conducting an integrated rulemaking and planning process were included, as well as suggested criteria for formulating a proposed rule and implementation strategy. As a result of the federal panel review, public comment, and other internal park discussions, GGNRA chose to pursue negotiated rulemaking under the *Negotiated Rulemaking Act*.

## Negotiated Rulemaking

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*In June 2005, a NOI to Establish a Negotiated Rulemaking Committee was published in the Federal Register, followed by a Notice of Establishment of the Committee in February 2006.*

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In 2004 the NPS, working with the U.S. Institute of Environmental Conflict Resolution, hired a neutral team to assess the prospects for using a negotiated rulemaking process that would allow a representative group of stakeholders to have significant, direct input into the development of a special regulation for dog management at GGNRA. In June 2005, a Notice of Intent (NOI) to Establish a Negotiated Rulemaking Committee (Committee) was published in the Federal Register, followed by a Notice of Establishment of the Committee in February 2006. The Committee was composed of 19 primary representatives and alternates representing three informal caucuses—voice control advocates, environmental and conservation organizations, and other park users—as well as the NPS. The Committee’s goal was to reach consensus on a special regulation on dog management at GGNRA and recommend that regulation to the NPS. The Committee held seven full Committee meetings and nine Technical Subcommittee meetings between March 2006 and October 2007. The

Committee was only able to reach consensus on nine guiding principles, guidelines for commercial dog walking, and a site-specific alternative for Oakwood Valley (Marin County). It was not able to reach consensus on a proposed special regulation for dog management at GGNRA. A report summarizing the negotiated rulemaking process, products, and outcomes; negotiation structures, strategies, and approaches; and dynamics was prepared by the Facilitation Team of the Committee (Bourne et al. 2008, 1).

The NPS intent was to use the negotiated rulemaking process to provide public input for potentially drafting a special regulation for dog management in GGNRA. Since the Committee was not able to recommend a proposed regulation, the NPS will develop a draft rule for dog management. The findings of this draft plan/SEIS will inform the development of the regulation.

## Dog Management Plan / Environmental Impact Statement

The plan/EIS is required prior to implementation of a new regulation for dog management at GGNRA. During the period when the Committee was being formally created, the park began its required environmental planning process under NEPA. In late January 2005, GGNRA park staff and consultant specialists met with the NEPA team from the NPS Environmental Quality Division to draft the purpose, need, and objective statements to identify existing management problems and begin drafting possible solutions in the form of conceptual alternatives. This “internal scoping” is a process that can take many months and usually ends with publication in the Federal Register of a NOI to prepare an EIS and to hold meetings to gather public comment. The GGNRA NOI to prepare an EIS was published February 22, 2006.

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*The draft plan/SEIS is required prior to implementation of a new regulation for dog management at GGNRA.*

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GGNRA committed to having the NEPA and negotiated rulemaking processes proceed concurrently, to facilitate the sharing of information between the two processes and to allow any consensus from the negotiated rulemaking process to be fully analyzed along with a range of reasonable alternatives before choosing a preferred alternative. Additionally, since negotiated rulemaking requires that meetings of the full Committee be open to the public and has other fact-finding requirements that overlap with those of NEPA, the concurrent completion of both processes helped avoid duplication of effort and saved time.

A draft plan/EIS was released on January 14, 2011 and public comment was open until May 30, 2011 (136 days). As a result of substantive public comments, NPS determined that a number of changes to the draft plan/EIS would be necessary to be responsive to public comment. These changes include the following:

- the addition of new data (including additional law enforcement and visitor use data)
- new references
- additional *Americans with Disabilities Act* (ADA) information
- changes to the impacts analysis (including additional analysis of potential redistributive effects of opening/closing areas to dog walking)
- changes to the compliance-based management strategy (now referred to as the monitoring-based management strategy) by including natural and cultural resource monitoring and removing automatic triggers and restrictions
- evaluation of additional fencing as a method to minimize dog walking impacts
- relatively minor changes to each site specific preferred alternative.

Additionally, a site recently transferred to GGNRA, Rancho Corral de Tierra (Rancho), was added to the park sites specifically addressed by the plan, and a range of reasonable alternatives for the site was developed and is analyzed in this draft plan/SEIS. When significant new information or substantial changes to the proposed action occur that are relevant to environmental concerns, a SEIS should be prepared (Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) NEPA Regulations, 40 CFR 1502.9(c)). Preparing a draft plan/SEIS at this time gives the NPS the opportunity to hear comments from the public on the new information before NPS issues a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, the final plan/SEIS and record of decision, and final rule.

A Notice of Proposed Rulemaking will not be published in the Federal Register until comments on this draft plan/SEIS have been fully analyzed, as public comment may influence the substance of the proposed rule.

This draft plan/SEIS examines the impacts of a full range of alternatives for dog management, and assesses the impacts that could result from continuing current dog management practices. Upon conclusion of this decision-making process one of the alternatives, or an alternative composed of elements of a number of the alternatives, will be selected for implementation, which will guide future park actions related to dog management.

### **Current Dog Management**

Current dog management in the park is based on a number of factors. Areas covered by the GGNRA Citizens' Advisory Commission 1979 Pet Policy (appendix A) are managed in accordance with the June 2, 2005, decision by U.S. District Court for Northern California Judge Alsup (*U.S. vs. Barley* decision, 405 F.Supp.2d 1121 (N.D. Cal. 2005)) affirming that GGNRA cannot enforce the NPS-wide regulation requiring on-leash walking of pets (36 CFR 2.15(a)(2)) in areas that were included in the 1979 Pet Policy until notice and comment rulemaking under Section 1.5(b) is completed. In response, GGNRA revised its enforcement position to reflect that court decision, removing "leash required" signs in areas that had been selected for voice control in the 1979 Pet Policy and limiting enforcement of the NPS leash regulation to areas that were not included in the 1979 Pet Policy or that were identified as on-leash dog walking areas in the 1979 Pet Policy. However, in all areas where dog walking is allowed in GGNRA, whether under the NPS leash regulation or the 1979 Pet Policy, on-leash dog walking regulations that address areas

closed to pets, disturbance to wildlife, removal of pet waste, and creating a hazardous or offensive condition have remained in effect and are being enforced.

In addition, many park areas have been closed to dog and visitor use for resource or safety reasons through the GGNRA Compendium (NPS 2001b, 1), although areas closed where dog use had traditionally occurred were closed pursuant to notice and comment rulemaking. The closures are reviewed and updated each year. The GGNRA Compendium is the format wherein each park, where allowed by the CFR, can publish park-specific regulations to protect cultural or natural resources, enhance public health or safety, or avoid conflict among visitor use activities. It is considered the responsibility of park visitors to know park rules and regulations before they visit any park.

### Protection for the Western Snowy Plover

The western snowy plover was listed as a threatened species under the federal *Endangered Species Act* (ESA) in 1993 due to loss of habitat by encroachment of non-native vegetation, predation, disturbance from recreational use of beaches, and development. The plover's threatened status affords it protection from harassment, defined under the ESA as "an intentional or negligent act or omission which creates the likelihood of injury to wildlife by annoying it to such an extent as to significantly disrupt normal behavioral patterns which include, but are not limited to, breeding, feeding, or sheltering."

The NPS *Management Policies 2006* (NPS 2006a, 45) provide guidance to the NPS for the management of threatened and endangered species. Section 4.4.2.3 states, "The Service will survey for, protect, and strive to recover all species native to national park system units that are listed under the ESA. The Service will fully meet its obligations under the NPS *Organic Act* and the ESA to both proactively conserve listed species and prevent detrimental effects on these species."

The 2005 decision by Judge Alsup cited above noted that the court's action "in no way restricts the authority of the Superintendent to 'protect the resource,' including the protection of endangered and threatened species." Following notice and comment under 36 CFR 1.5(b), these actions can be taken through the GGNRA Compendium, wherein each park, where allowed by the CFR, can publish park-specific regulations to protect cultural or natural resources, enhance public health or safety, or avoid conflict among visitor use activities.

In November 2006, and again in 2007, the GGNRA Compendium amendments were signed to adopt emergency regulatory provisions for protection of the federally threatened western snowy plover on portions of Crissy Field and Ocean Beach, which had been reopened to off-leash use through the 2005 federal court decision. These seasonal use restrictions were necessary to provide an area of reduced disturbance for resting and feeding by the western snowy plover. The restrictions required that pets be walked on leash during the time the plovers overwinter (July–May, or until monitoring determines the species is no longer present). In 2007, the park initiated a notice and comment rulemaking process to provide a special regulation to ensure ongoing seasonal protection for the western snowy plover in two areas, Crissy Field WPA and Ocean Beach SPPA, until long-term dog management for those areas is addressed in the rule resulting from the draft plan/SEIS.



Protection Area Sign at Ocean Beach

Credit: NPS

A Final Rule (36 CFR Part 7.97(d)) for the protection of the western snowy plover came into effect October 20, 2008. This rulemaking provides temporary protection for plovers in the Crissy Field and Ocean Beach protection areas until a permanent determination is made through this planning process for a new regulation for dog management for the entire park.

## **CURRENT DOG MANAGEMENT ISSUES AND IMPACT TOPICS**

At the internal scoping session held in January 2005, observations of current issues surrounding dog walking generally fell into the following categories, some of which are described in more detail in the paragraphs below:

- Expectations and views of dog walkers and other visitors
- Impacts of dogs on cultural and natural resources in the park
- Visitor use and experience
- Employee, visitor, and dog health and safety
- Needs of urban area residents
- Public confusion over NPS-wide dog regulation, GGNRA-specific rules, NPS mission and policies
- Public lack of understanding and confusion over regulations for dogs at GGNRA park sites, including why some park areas are completely closed to dogs while other areas allow on-leash dog walking
- Visitor noncompliance with regulations
- Ability of law enforcement staff to enforce rules.

## **EXPECTATIONS AND VIEWS OF DOG WALKERS AND OTHER VISITORS**

As stated previously and in response to the ANPR in January 2002, a public comment analysis report was published (NAU 2002a, 1). In this report, 71 percent of public comments favored allowing off-leash dog walking in selected GGNRA sites (option B) and 28 percent of public comments favored the enforcement of existing leash laws in the GGNRA (option A) (NAU 2002a, 5). Also in the public comment analysis report, approximately 10 percent of the documents (984 of 8,580 documents) mentioned the sociability benefits that off-leash dog walking provided, not only for the dog owners, but for the dogs themselves (NAU 2002a, 16-17). Other respondents cited the “therapeutic value” dog owners experienced in knowing that their pets had been well exercised. More than 500 dog walkers affirmed their belief that it is their right to walk dogs off leash at park sites. Other reasons given in support of off-leash dog walking concerned the benefits to humans, including increased sociability with other dog walkers or with



**Dog Walkers at Fort Funston**

Credit: NPS

## **Edits for draft GGNRA Dog walking guide July 27, 2009**

### **Inside text (containing list of areas):**

#### Format

The concept of background-colored text blocks to make sections stand out is good, but there are so many different styles and different ways of listing info - the eye bounces around a lot instead of quickly picking out info.

Our edits to make it easier to read:

- Be consistent with the font, and pls don't use italics, all caps or serif fonts.
  
- Remove blue block of text completely. We will only keep one line and add it on the back page.
  
- Use consistent listing style for the sites rather than separating out the Marin trails in a separate box.. Group first by type of dogwalking (on leash or vc) and use a color block for that header text rather than all caps to make the 3 dog walking "options" (vc, leash and no dogs) stand out. Within each of those, list by county and make county name bolder so easier to see.
  
- Include Marin trails listings under each dogwalking type heading rather than setting them off in a separate block

#### Text edits

- throughout pls replace "with the following exceptions" with "excluding".
  
- For Crissy Field and Ocean Beach protection areas, change "rest of the year dogs must be on leash" to "otherwise, dogs must be on leash"
  
- For Fort Point listing, change "inside the historic fort and Fort Point pier" to "interior of the fort and the pier"
  
- Under Areas Closed to Dog Walking, for San Francisco, change "Presidio Area A (Batteries to Bluffs Trail, China Beach and Lobos Creek)" to just separate listings under the SF section for Batteries to Bluffs Trail, China Beach and Lobos Creek.

### **Map:**

#### Format

- We need to show San Mateo County. George Su has sent you another map that, once the unnecessary elements are stripped out, should work. Another problem that the new map will solve is that specific sites are not colored. That's fine, because on the draft, too much area in each site was colored, since current dog walking status only applies to a portion of many of the sites, not entire sites. Showing the darker green as GGNRA lands is fine.
  
- Loved the colored tags showing whether on leash or voice control, but would you use the NPS graphics for dogs leashed or not? George Su can send if he has not already.
  
- Can map be expanded to fill out the entire back of the page? We'd prefer with full bleeds

- The wildlife protection areas at Crissy and Ocean Beach need to be delineated somehow, to indicate that they have a seasonal leash requirement July 1 to the following May 15 and are open to voice control only May 15 to July 1.
- Can you add a tag indicating Batteries to Bluffs trail is closed (this map may be too small for that)
- With the tags, if an area has two governing regulations, e.g. partly leash, partly voice control or closed, show that on one tag rather than two (as in Stinson Beach)
- Not all sites are shown on the map, missing are Homestead Valley, Oakwood Valley, Alta Avenue, Rodeo Beach, the specific trails in Marin Headlands and of course the San Mateo sites. You can have one box generally pointing to that area, and somewhere in this portion of the guide we can list the park's web site as source of park maps and site brochures. (Here's general web site [www.nps.gov/goga](http://www.nps.gov/goga) – I'm not giving specific map/brochure URL because apparently the NPS is going to roll out a new template in the not too distant future and that may change the current page-specific URLs. Here's the park's web site which did not change in the last formatting switch)
- Fort Miley tag is a bit off, both E and W Miley are more to the east - you could move the tag "inland" and it would be easier to connect it to the right spots.

#### **Back page:**

##### Format

- Suggest making the block with the great dog pic and "interim guide" text smaller and give more room to the regulations. Now regulatory text is hard to read, not enough space in between lines - text could be a bit smaller if there was more space to let each line stand out.
- Use a colored block for the "Please keep control..." line rather than all caps as noted above for inside text. If it works, you can then put the regulatory text on white or some set up that lets the title of this section stand out.

##### Text edits

- For type next to dog pic, replace current text with: "This interim guide to dog walking in Golden Gate National Recreation Area provides all the current dog walking information to help you have an enjoyable visit with your dog. An updated guide will be published when a new regulation for dog walking in this national park is finalized, which is anticipated in 2013. "
- In regulatory section, add "prohibits:" after "Title 36 **of the** Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) § 2.15" (and add the bolded "of the" and "s" after Regulation)
- In general the regulatory section needs a bit of space to be more readable, but also give an extra line between the 2.15 sections and the following sections which do not prohibit, but rather require certain behaviors.
- Change the URL at the bottom to [www.nps.gov/goga](http://www.nps.gov/goga) (there is no page with URL [nps.gov/goga/pets](http://nps.gov/goga/pets), and further, the current URL to the pet specific page [nps.gov/goga/planyourvisit/pets](http://nps.gov/goga/planyourvisit/pets) may be changed in the future as noted above)

- Change title of phone number to “Information line” Just so it’s more clear that a person doesn’t answer.

- Also suggest that we add “2009” somewhere on the brochure so it is clear when it was created.

## Internal

### Draft Areas for Consideration for On-leash Use Restrictions

#### 10.7.05 SES comments

**Suggested Course of Action:** *Post notice in Federal Register to promulgate proposed special regulation (per 1.5b) to institute visitor use restrictions in areas with special resources issues, ~~that were opened to voice control dogwalking through the recent court ruling (U.S. vs. Barley). This special regulation will to~~ ensure these areas are protected. Think it would be more accurate to describe this action as one that is ensuring proper closure of areas to protect resources that had previously been closed only through compendium and not as prescribed in 1.5(b)?*

**Ocean Beach:** Pets on-leash on approximately 2.5 out of 5 mile section of the beach (Sloat Blvd. north to Lincoln Blvd. (Stairwell #21)) for protection of federally threatened western snowy plover

**Crissy Field:** Closure to all visitors and pets in wildlife protection area, fenced wetland and dune areas throughout the year for protection of sensitive wildlife and habitat.

**Marin Headlands:** No pets on specified trails in Marin Headlands for protection of the federally endangered mission blue butterfly. (This should only refer to mission blue habitat as this is NO DOGS. Dogs on-leash on trails in undeveloped areas is a different issue.)

**Rodeo Lagoon and Beach:** Fenced closure to all visitors and pets within approximately 100 yards of west end of Rodeo Lagoon. Low post and cable fence from south end of footbridge to southeast end of beach at the base of the cliffs where Rodeo Lagoon trail accesses the beach for protection of federally endangered brown pelicans, federally endangered tidewater goby and other wildlife. No pets in Rodeo Lagoon west of footbridge for protection of tidewater goby and other wildlife. (Do not need to mention Rodeo Lake if we continue to have all freshwater bodies closed to pets. 1979 Pet Policy did not refer to Rodeo Lake. *Per comment above, should this reference been removed?*)

**Muir Beach:** No pets in Big Lagoon and Redwood Creek for protection of federally threatened Coho salmon, Steelhead Trout and California red-legged frog. Fenced areas closed to all visitors.

**Alta Avenue Fire Road/Trail :** ~~No off-leash use CFR 2.15 regulation enforced and no pets off trail~~ for protection of federally endangered mission blue butterfly and documented conflicts with off-leash dogs and coyotes.

**Fort Funston:** Closure to all visitors and pets in habitat closures which were established between 1992-1995, 1998 and 2000. Seasonal closure to all visitors and pets posted within 50-feet of base of cliffs during state endangered bank swallow nesting season.

**Pet Waste:** Visitors are required to clean up after dogs in all areas of park where dogs are allowed and dispose of waste in proper waste receptacle either in or out of park. (already in 2.15)

~~**Other areas of the park where dogwalking is allowed:** Those areas will be addressed in the Negotiated Rulemaking Committee discussions along with new areas proposed for addition to the park.~~

**Justification for action:** NPS is ensuring proper closure of areas to protect resources that had previously been closed only through compendium and not as prescribed in 1.5(b)  
~~is responding to the need to protect resources in areas of the park now open to off-leash use due to recent court ruling (U.S. vs. Barley) and will correct the procedural error noted in this ruling.~~

**BUREAU: National Park Service**

**PARK:** Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA)

**Congressional Districts:**

|                   |                    |                     |                                |
|-------------------|--------------------|---------------------|--------------------------------|
| <i>California</i> | <i>District 6</i>  | <i>Lynn Woolsey</i> | <i>Senate: Diane Feinstein</i> |
|                   | <i>District 8</i>  | <i>Nancy Pelosi</i> | <i>Barbara Boxer</i>           |
|                   | <i>District 12</i> | <i>Tom Lantos</i>   |                                |
|                   | <i>District 14</i> | <i>Anna Eshoo</i>   |                                |

**ISSUE:** GGNRA Dog Management Plan/EIS

**BACKGROUND:** Although the NPS regulation in 36 CFR 2.15(a)(2) requires that all pets, where allowed in national park sites, are to be crated, caged, restrained or otherwise physically confined at all times, dog walking is becoming increasingly difficult to manage in the GGNRA. A growing number of dog walkers use the park and do not voluntarily comply with the regulation and park rangers and USPP have other priorities, such as homeland security details.

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~~In addition, a Federal judge recently ordered GGNRA to re-establish its recently abandoned unofficial policy dating back to 1979 that allowed dogs to be off-leash under voice control in certain areas of GGNRA. A recent decision by the United States District Court for the Northern District of California affirmed a December 2004 District Court dismissal of three citations for violations of 36 CFR 2.15 on Crissy Field. The decision stated that the GGNRA Advisory Commission's voice control policy had been in effect in the park for many years and that the public needed to be properly notified in order to enforce the NPS regulation requiring pets on-leash. The decision stated that "Contrary to the government, GGNRA has not carried out the notice and comment process envisioned by Section 1.5 (b)." Therefore, GGNRA is currently not in compliance with 36 C.F.R. 2.15(a)(2). Thus, this recent court case, visitor conflicts, resource management issues and stress on the park staff has have led to the park underscored the need for the park to embark on initiate a NEPA process to develop a management plan and EIS and a concurrent the process of Negotiated Rulemaking (reg-neg) process to potentially develop an alternate regulation for dogwalking at GGNRA and a concurrent NEPA process to develop a management plan and EIS.~~

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**CURRENT STATUS:** The ~~Notice of Intent to establish a negotiated rulemaking committee was published in the Federal Register in June, 2005. GGNRA considered the comments received, and has forwarded a package containing responses to comments and a Notice of Establishment to the Director requesting that the Committee be established. Secretary of the Interior for approval. It is expected that the~~ Notice of Establishment for the Negotiated Rulemaking Committee will be published at the same time as the Notice of Intent for the Dog Management Plan/EIS. The first meeting of the Negotiated Rulemaking Committee is anticipated in late 2005 or early 2006. The public scoping meeting for the NEPA process is planned for winter 2006.

**POSITION OF INTERESTED PARTIES:** The park continues to receive significant comment in support of off-leash dog walking, as well as complaints from other visitors alleging that off-leash dogs are a nuisance and potentially harmful. Environmental organizations have expressed concerns about the protection of resources should an alternate regulation be proposed for the park. Organized dog walking groups and Congressional Representatives have asked the NPS to move forward with reg-neg to potentially allow off-leash dogwalking in certain areas of the park in order to resolve this contentious issue. Park staff would like to reduce the conflict and find another way to manage this issue, taking into account NPS regulations, policies and guidelines.

**BUREAU PERSPECTIVE:** Per Director's Order 75A, the NPS will move forward with the reg-neg process to collaboratively involve the public in exploring alternatives for management of this highly emotional and difficult issue.

**BUDGET IMPLICATIONS:** The park has submitted PMIS statement #91339 for FY05 for \$498,450 for funding by the NPS Environmental Quality Division (EQD) for the NEPA process.

~~**NOTE:** GGNRA would like the Notice of Intent for the Dog Management Plan/EIS to be published in the Federal Register on the same date that the Notice of Establishment for the negotiated rulemaking committee is published. Please proceed with approval of the EIS Notice of Intent, but then hold it until the Notice of Establishment is ready to be published.~~

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**CONTACT:** Christine Powell, Office of Public Affairs, [Chris.Powell@nps.gov](mailto:Chris.Powell@nps.gov) or (415) 561-4732.

**DATE:** October 5, 2005

## FRONT:

Walking Your Dog In Golden Gate National Recreational Area  
A Guide to Dog-Accessible Sites, Beaches & Trails in GGNRA

## INSIDE:

### Top Band:

Golden Gate National Recreational Area has many areas that visitors can enjoy with their dogs. This guide provides a map and complete listing of GGNRA sites open for dog walking, to help you understand GGNRA dog walking regulations so that you have an enjoyable visit.

### **Areas open to dog walking on leash or under voice control:**

#### Marin County

Homestead Valley

Muir Beach, excluding Redwood Creek and fenced areas

Rodeo Beach, excluding Rodeo Lagoon and Lake

Marin Headlands Trails:

Coastal Trail: Golden Gate Bridge to junction with Wolf Ridge Trail (at Hill 88)

Wolf Ridge Loop: Coastal Trail to Wolf Ridge Trail; Wolf Ridge Trail to Miwok Trail; Miwok Trail back down to Coastal Trail.

Bunker Road Loop: Coastal Trail from Rodeo Beach parking to Old Bunker Road near Battery Townsley; return via Old Bunker Road.

#### San Francisco

Crissy Field (dogs must be on leash in parking lots and picnic areas)

Crissy Field Wildlife Protection Area (dogs must be on leash May 1-July 1)

Baker Beach, north of Lobos Creek (dogs must be on leash in parking lots and picnic areas)

East and West Fort Miley

Lands End

Ocean Beach north of Stairwell 21 and south of Sloat Blvd.

Ocean Beach Plover Protection Area between Stairwell 21 and Sloat Blvd. (dogs must be on leash May 1-July 1)

Fort Funston (excluding designated habitat/wildlife protection area)

### **Areas open to dog walking on leash only:**

#### Marin County

Stinson Beach (in parking lots and picnic areas only)

Coast Trail between Hill 88 and Muir Beach

North Miwok Trail between Tennessee Valley parking lot and Highway 1

Fort Baker(excluding the pier)

### **San Francisco**

Fort Point lands (excluding inside the historic fort and the pier)  
Fort Mason  
Sutro Heights

### **San Mateo**

Milagra Ridge  
Sweeney Ridge, excluding the Notch Trail  
Mori Point

### **Areas closed to dogs**

All park buildings that are open to the public, including outdoor restrooms and showers.

### **Marin**

The beach at Stinson Beach  
Muir Woods National Monument  
Redwood Creek Trail (between Muir Woods and Muir Beach)  
Muir Beach lagoon and Redwood Creek  
Fort Baker pier, Chapel Trail and fenced areas  
Marin Headlands: Upper and Lower Fisherman Trails, Kirby Cove, Rodeo Lagoon and Rodeo Lake  
Tennessee Valley (excluding where Coastal Trail traverses Tennessee Valley)

### **San Francisco**

Alcatraz Island  
The interior of Fort Point and Fort Point pier  
Crissy Field Marsh and Lagoon  
Batteries to Bluffs Trail  
China Beach  
Lobos Creek  
Ft. Funston Fenced Habitat Protection Area and section of beach below swallow nests (seasonal closure)

### **San Mateo**

Phleger Estate

Guide and Service dogs recognized by the NPS are permitted in all areas open to park visitors.

**Please keep control of your dog at all times, and follow these regulations that apply whether you are walking your dog on leash or under voice control.**

36 CFR § 2.15

- Dispose of pet excrement
- Do not leave a pet unattended
- Do not allow your pet to make excessive noise

36 CFR § 2.1 –Preserve natural, cultural and archeological resource.

36 CFR § 2.2 - Protect wildlife. Do not let your dog chase or harass wildlife.

36 CFR § 2.34(a)(4) - Do not commit disorderly conduct by allowing your dog to create hazardous or physically offensive conditions.

BACK:

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Golden Gate National Recreational Area

This brochure is an interim guide to dog walking in GGNRA. We expect to publish a permanent dog-walker's guide to the park in 2013 to coincide with a new regulation for dog walking in the park. For information, please call the Dog Management Information line at 415-561-4728.

FOLLOWING TEXT TO BE ADDED SOMEWHERE ON THE MAP PAGE

Detailed maps of specific park sites are at:

<http://www.nps.gov/goga/planyourvisit/brochures.htm> The Marin Headlands trail map is at: <http://www.nps.gov/goga/upload/2008-0910-mahe-map-web.pdf>

FRONT:

Walking Your Dog In Golden Gate National Recreational Area  
A Guide to Dog-Accessible Parks sites, Beaches & Trails

INSIDE:

Top Band:

Golden Gate National Recreational Area has many areas that visitors can enjoy with their dogs. ~~is proud to be the national park with the most dog-accessible spaces.~~  
This brochure ~~is a complete~~ provides a map and complete listing of GGNRA ~~parks~~ sites open for dog walking, both those where dogs must be on leash and those where dogs can be walked under voice control. We hope that this will help dogs walkers and their companions will take full advantage learn of and enjoy of these remarkable places.

Comment [MGM1]: to be in compliance with the rules and

Areas open to dog walking Under Voice Control or On Leash:

Marin County

Homestead Valley

Muir Beach

Rodeo Beach

Coastal Trail: Golden Gate Bridge to junction with Wolf Ridge Trail (at Hill 88)

Wolf Ridge Loop: Coastal Trail to Wolf Ridge Trail; Wolf Ridge Trail to Miwok Trail;

Miwok Trail back down to Coastal Trail).

Bunker Road Loop: Coastal Trail from Rodeo Beach parking to Old Bunker Road near Battery Townsley; return via Old Bunker Road.

(see Marin Headlands Trail map

<http://www.nps.gov/goga/planyourvisit/upload/map-mahe-web.pdf>

Comment [MGM2]: I would prefer to always have the "On Leash" listed first then, "Voice Control" option for dog walking.

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Comment [MGM3]: add "does not include Redwood Creek or Big Lagoon"??

San Francisco

Crissy Field; in parking lots and picnic areas dogs must be on leash

Crissy Field Wildlife Protection Area ~~from~~ - May 1-July 1 only

Baker Beach, ~~on~~ north ~~end of beach only of Lobos Creek~~; in parking lots and picnic areas dogs must be on leash

East and West Fort Miley

Lands End

Ocean Beach north of Stairwell 21 and south of Sloat Blvd.

Ocean Beach Plover Protection Area ~~(between Stairwell 21 and Sloat Blvd.) from~~ -

May 15 to July 1 only

Fort Funston, except in designated habitat/wildlife protection area

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Areas open to dog walking On Leash Only:

Marin County

Stinson Beach, in the parking lots and at picnic areastables only

Coast Trail between Hill 88 and Muir Beach

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Miwok Trail between Tennessee Valley parking lot and Highway 1

Fort Baker, except the piers

Comment [MGM4]: North

**San Francisco**

Fort Point lands, except inside the fort or on the pier but not inside or on the

Fort Mason

Sutro Heights

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Comment [MGM5]: closed areas inside Historic Fort and pier

**San Mateo**

Milagra Ridge

Sweeney Ridge

Mori Point

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Marin Headlands Trails:

Comment [MGM6]: should this section go in the Marin County portion?

~~Under Voice Control or On Leash:~~

~~Coast Trail from Golden Gate Bridge to Hill 88, Rodeo Beach to Battery Townsley and on paved road~~

~~Wolf Ridge Trail between Coast and Miwok Trails~~

~~Miwok Trail between Wolf Ridge and Coast Trails~~

~~Oakwood Valley Road to Alta Avenue~~

~~Alta Avenue between Marin City and Oakwood Valley~~

~~On Leash Only:~~

~~Coast Trail between Hill 88 and Muir Beach~~

~~Miwok Trail between Tennessee Valley parking lot and Highway 1~~

~~Dog walking is not permitted in Tennessee Valley, Muir Woods, China Beach, Pleger Estate, Alcatraz or inside Fort Point.~~

**Areas closed to dogs**

**Park Facilities**

All park buildings and facilities, including outdoor restrooms and showers

**Marin**

The beach at Stinson Beach

Muir Woods National Monument

Redwood Creek Trail (between Muir Woods and Muir Beach)

Muir Beach lagoon and Redwood Creek

Fort Baker pier and the Chapel Trail

Marin Headlands: Upper and Lower Fisherman Trails, Kirby Cove, Rodeo Lagoon and Rodeo Lake

Tennessee Valley (except where Coastal Trail crosses Tennessee Valley)

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**San Francisco**

Alcatraz Island

The interior of Fort Point and Fort Point pier

Crissy Field Marsh

Batteries to Bluffs Trail

China Beach

Ft. Funston Habitat Protection Area

Lobos Creek

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Comment [MGM8]: and Lagoon

Comment [MGM9]: Fort Funston Bank Swallow site (seasonal closure)

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**San Mateo**

Phleger Estate

Guide and Service dogs recognized by the NPS are always permitted anywhere within the park.

**Please keep control of your dog at all times, and follow these regulations that apply whether you are walking your dog on leash or under voice control.**

36 CFR § 2.15 - The sections of the NPS pet regulation that require dogwalkers to:

-Dispose of pet excrement

-Not leave a pet unattended

-Not allow a pet to make noise that is unreasonable considering the location

36 CFR § 2.1 – Requires that visitors preserve natural, cultural and archeological resources

36 CFR § 2.2 - Requires that visitors protect wildlife

36 CFR § 2.34(a)(4) - Requires that visitors not commit disorderly conduct (unmanaged dogs creating hazardous or physically offensive condition)

BACK:

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Golden Gate National Recreational Area

This brochure is an interim guide to ~~the parks of dog walking in~~ GGNRA ~~open for dog walking~~. We expect to publish a permanent dog-walker's guide to the park ~~no later than in~~ 2013, ~~once a new regulation proposed for dog walking in GGNRA is finalized~~. ~~For information, please call the Dog Management Information line at 415-561-4728.~~

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Areas open to dog walking Under Voice Control or On Leash:

**Marin County**

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Homestead Valley

Muir Beach

Rodeo Beach

Coastal Trail: Golden Gate Bridge to junction with Wolf Ridge Trail (at Hill 88)

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(see Marin Headlands Trail map

<http://www.nps.gov/goga/planyourvisit/upload/map-mahe-web.pdf>)

**San Francisco**

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Crissy Field; (in parking lots and picnic areas dogs must be on leash)

Crissy Field Wildlife Protection Area ~~from~~ (-May 1-July 1 dogs must be on-leash) only

Baker Beach, on north end of beach only of Lobos Creek (in parking lots and picnic areas dogs must be on leash)

East and West Fort Miley

Lands End

Ocean Beach north of Stairwell 21 and south of Sloat Blvd.

Ocean Beach Plover Protection Area (between Stairwell 21 and Sloat Blvd.) from May 15 to July 1 dogs must be on-leash) only

Fort Funston, (except excluding in designated habitat/wildlife protection area)

Areas open to dog walking On Leash Only:

**Marin County**

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Stinson Beach, (in ~~the~~ parking lots and at picnic ~~areastables~~ only)  
Coast Trail between Hill 88 and Muir Beach  
Miwok Trail between Tennessee Valley parking lot and Highway 1  
Fort Baker, (~~exceptexcluding~~ the piers)

### **San Francisco**

Fort Point lands, ~~except(excluding inside the fort or on the pier) but not inside or on~~  
~~the~~

Fort Mason

Sutro Heights

### **San Mateo**

Milagra Ridge

Sweeney Ridge

Mori Point

~~Marin Headlands Trails:~~

~~Under Voice Control or On Leash:~~

~~Coast Trail from Golden Gate Bridge to Hill 88, Rodeo Beach to Battery Townsley  
and on paved road~~

~~Wolf Ridge Trail between Coast and Miwok Trails~~

~~Miwok Trail between Wolf Ridge and Coast Trails~~

~~Oakwood Valley Road to Alta Avenue~~

~~Alta Avenue between Marin City and Oakwood Valley~~

~~On Leash Only:~~

~~Coast Trail between Hill 88 and Muir Beach~~

~~Miwok Trail between Tennessee Valley parking lot and Highway 1~~

~~Dog walking is not permitted in Tennessee Valley, Muir Woods, China Beach, Pleger  
Estate, Alcatraz or inside Fort Point.~~

### **Areas closed to dogs**

#### **Marin**

The beach at Stinson Beach

Muir Woods National Monument

Redwood Creek Trail (between Muir Woods and Muir Beach)

Muir Beach lagoon and Redwood Creek

Fort Baker pier and the Chapel Trail

Marin Headlands: Upper and Lower Fisherman Trails, Kirby Cove, Rodeo Lagoon and

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Tennessee Valley (excluding ~~except~~ where Coastal Trail crosses Tennessee Valley)

**San Francisco**

Alcatraz Island

The interior of Fort Point and Fort Point pier

Crissy Field Marsh

Batteries to Bluffs Trail

China Beach

Ft. Funston Habitat Protection Area

**San Mateo**

Phleger Estate

Service dogs are always permitted anywhere within the park.

**Please keep control of your dog at all times, and follow these regulations that apply whether you are walking your dog on leash or under voice control.**

36 CFR § 2.15 - ~~The sections of the NPS pet regulation that require dogwalkers to:~~

-Dispose of pet excrement

-Do ~~N~~not leave a pet unattended

-~~Not a~~ Do not allow your a pet to make excessive noise ~~that is unreasonable considering the location~~

36 CFR § 2.1 - ~~Requires that v~~Visitors must preserve natural, cultural and archeological resources

36 CFR § 2.2 - ~~Requires Protect that visitors protect wildlife (do not let your dog chase or harass wildlife)~~

36 CFR § 2.34(a)(4) - ~~Requires that visitors not commit disorderly conduct by allowing (unmanaged your dog tos creating hazardous or physically offensive conditions)~~

BACK:

National Park Service

U.S. Department of the Interior

Golden Gate National Recreational Area

This brochure is an interim guide to ~~the parks of~~ dog walking in GGNRA ~~open for dog walking~~. We expect to publish a permanent dog-walker's guide to the park ~~no later than in~~ 2013 to coincide with a new regulation for dogwaking in the park, once a new regulation proposed for dog walking in GGNRA is finalized. For information, please call the Dog Management Information line at 415-561-4728.

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7/9/2009 – FINAL draft

FRONT:

Walking Your Dog In Golden Gate National Recreation Area  
A Guide to Dog-Accessible Lands, Beaches & Trails in GGNRA

INSIDE:

Top Band:

Golden Gate National Recreation Area has many areas that visitors can enjoy with their dogs. This guide provides a map and complete listing (north to south) of GGNRA sites open for dog walking. Our goal is to help you understand GGNRA dog walking regulations so that you have an enjoyable visit.

Service animals accompanying a person with a disability, as defined by Federal law and Dept. of Justice regulations (Title 28 Code of Federal Regulations § 36.104), are allowed wherever visitors or employees are allowed.

**Comment [GOGA1]:** Danielle – have this stand out in some way, pls.

## **Areas open to dog walking on leash or under voice control:**

### **Marin County**

Homestead Valley

Muir Beach, with following exceptions:

- Redwood Creek and fenced areas

Oakwood Valley:

- Oakwood Valley Road to Alta Avenue

Alta Avenue:

- Between Marin City and Oakwood Valley

Marin Headlands:

- Rodeo Beach, excluding Rodeo Lagoon and Lake
- Coastal Trail: Golden Gate Bridge to junction with Wolf Ridge Trail (at Hill 88)
- Wolf Ridge Loop: Coastal Trail to Wolf Ridge Trail; Wolf Ridge Trail to Miwok Trail; Miwok Trail back down to Coastal Trail.
- Bunker Road Loop: Coastal Trail from Rodeo Beach parking to Old Bunker Road near Battery Townsley; return via Old Bunker Road.

### **San Francisco County**

Crissy Field, with following exceptions:

- Dogs must be on leash in parking lots and picnic areas.
- Crissy Field Wildlife Protection Area where voice control allowed May 15 to July 1; rest of year dogs must be on leash.

Baker Beach, north of Lobos Creek, with following exception:

- Dogs must be on leash in parking lots and picnic areas

East and West Fort Miley

7/9/2009 – FINAL draft

Lands End

Ocean Beach:

- North of Stairwell 21 and south of Sloat Blvd.
- Between Stairwell 21 and Sloat Blvd. (Ocean Beach Plover Protection Area - voice control allowed May 15 to July 1; rest of year dogs must be on leash)

Fort Funston, excluding designated habitat/wildlife protection areas

### **Areas open to dog walking on leash only:**

#### **Marin County**

Stinson Beach, in parking lots and picnic areas only

Marin Headlands:

- Coast Trail between Hill 88 and Muir Beach
- North Miwok Trail from Tennessee Valley parking lot to Highway 1

Fort Baker, with following exceptions:

- Ft. Baker pier
- Chapel Trail

#### **San Francisco County**

Fort Point lands with following exceptions:

- Inside the historic fort
- Fort Point pier

Fort Mason

Sutro Heights

#### **San Mateo County**

Milagra Ridge

Sweeney Ridge, excluding the Notch Trail

Mori Point

### **Areas closed to dogs**

Park buildings open to the public, including outdoor restrooms and showers.

#### **Marin County**

Stinson Beach, beach only

Muir Woods National Monument

Muir Beach Lagoon and Redwood Creek

Tennessee Valley, excluding the Coastal Trail where it traverses Tennessee Valley

Marin Headlands:

- Upper Fisherman Trail and beach
- Lower Fisherman Trail and beach
- Kirby Cove
- Rodeo Lagoon and Rodeo Lake

Fort Baker:

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- Pier
- Chapel Trail
- Fenced areas

**San Francisco County**

Alcatraz Island

Fort Point, inside historic fort and on the pier

Crissy Field Marsh and Lagoon

Presidio Area A:

- Batteries to Bluffs Trail
- Lobos Creek
- China Beach

Fort Funston:

- Fenced Habitat Protection Area
- Seasonal closure of beach below bank swallow nests

**San Mateo County**

Phleger Estate

**Please keep control of your dog at all times, and follow these regulations that apply whether you are walking your dog on leash or under voice control.**

Title 36 Code of Federal Regulation (CFR) § 2.15

§ (a)(1) Having your pet in a closed public place

§ (a)(3) Leaving your pet unattended

§ (a)(4) Allowing your pet to make an unreasonable noise

§ (a)(5) Failing to comply with pet excrement disposal regulations

Title 36 CFR § 2.1 - Preserve natural, cultural and archeological resources.

Title 36 CFR § 2.2 - Protect wildlife. Do not let your dog chase or harass wildlife.

Title 36 CFR § 2.34(a)(4) - Do not commit disorderly conduct by allowing your dog to create hazardous or physically offensive conditions.

BACK:

National Park Service

U.S. Department of the Interior

Golden Gate National Recreational Area

This brochure is an interim guide to dog walking in Golden Gate National Recreation Area. We expect to publish a permanent dog-walker's guide to the park in approximately 2013 to coincide with a new regulation for dog walking in this

7/9/2009 – FINAL draft

national park. For information, please visit [www.nps.gov/goga/pets](http://www.nps.gov/goga/pets) or call the Dog Management Information line at 415-561-4728.

FOLLOWING TEXT TO BE ADDED SOMEWHERE ON THE MAP PAGE

Detailed maps and brochures of specific park sites are at:

<http://www.nps.gov/goga/planyourvisit/maps.htm>

## COMMERCIAL DOG WALKING PERMIT REQUIREMENT ANNOUNCED FOR GGNRA AND PRESIDIO TRUST

Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA), together with the Presidio Trust, intend to establish an interim permit requirement for commercial dog walkers walking four or more dogs, with a limit of 6 dogs, at one time on GGNRA lands in Marin and San Francisco Counties, and in the Presidio of San Francisco. This proposal is in response to the recent ordinances limiting the number of dogs allowed per commercial dog walker passed by the City of San Francisco, and the Town of Tiburon. This interim permit requirement would remain in effect until a final special regulation for dog walking in GGNRA, including commercial dog walking, is finalized, which is expected in late 2015.

Permit holders would be able to use any GGNRA and Trust lands where dog walking is allowed. In GGNRA Marin and San Francisco lands, permit holders would be able to walk dogs off leash, on voice control, in areas currently open to voice control per the 1979 Pet Policy; in all other areas, only on-leash dog walking would be allowed.

GGNRA would implement a single permit system for both GGNRA and Presidio Trust lands. The annual permit cost would be a \$75.00 application fee and \$300 per person for a non-transferrable badge, which must be visibly displayed when in GGNRA. To obtain a permit a business license, proof of liability insurance and approved dog-handling training through existing training courses would be required.

This permit requirement **is proposed to go into effect on April 13, 2014** as an interim action for both GGNRA and the Presidio Trust, and would remain in effect in GGNRA until a final special regulation for dog walking, including commercial dog walking, is promulgated. That final special regulation is anticipated in late 2015.

The park has prepared all the appropriate Categorical Exclusion screening forms, which are available for review on the PEPC website <https://parkplanning.nps.gov/commercialdogwalking>. The public is invited to comment on NPS's proposal to require a permit and limit the number of dogs a commercial dogwalker may walk in GGNRA at one time. During this 30-day notice period questions, comments or concerns can be addressed to the Superintendent by mail to:

National Park Service  
Golden Gate National Recreation Area  
Attn: Commercial Dog Walking  
Fort Mason, Building 201  
San Francisco, CA 94123

Or on this website <https://parkplanning.nps.gov/commercialdogwalking>.

NPS will also reach out to interested and affected federal, state and local agencies to request their feedback and direct consultation if deemed necessary.

Once the public notification period concludes the NPS will review all the comments received and will then make a decision on whether or not to implement the proposal. A decision document, signed and approved by the Superintendent, would be released at that time and uploaded onto the NPS website noted above, and the public notified.

Should the Superintendent of GGNRA approve this interim permit requirement, an amendment to GGNRA's Compendium would be completed. Should the Presidio Trust Executive Director approve this interim public use limit and permit system, an interim rule would be promulgated through publication in the Federal Register.

####



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION IX  
75 Hawthorne Street  
San Francisco, CA 94105-3901

**MAY 28 2013**

Bill Bechtell, President  
Montara Dog Group  
P.O. Box 370493  
Montara, CA 94037

Dear Mr. Bechtell:

Thank you for your May 13 letters to Mr. Enrique Manzanilla and Mr. Jared Blumenfeld regarding your concerns with dog walking restrictions on the Rancho Corral de Tierra portion of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area in relation to the Dog Management Plan under development by the National Park Service (NPS). EPA's involvement in the Dog Management Plan is limited to our independent review authority under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Section 309 of the Clean Air Act.

The NPS is currently in the process of conducting an environmental review of the proposed Dog Management Plan under NEPA. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) was released to the public in January 2011. EPA submitted comments on the DEIS to the NPS on May 30, 2011. This and all our letters are available on our website at <http://www.epa.gov/region9/nepa/index.html>. It is our understanding that the NPS intends to release a supplemental DEIS for the Dog Management Plan this summer with a 90-day public review period. We encourage you to express your concerns to the National Park Service through this public process.

Should you have any questions regarding EPA's comments, please contact Stephanie Skophammer, EPA's lead reviewer for the project. Stephanie can be reached at (415) 972-3098 or [skophammer.stephanie@epa.gov](mailto:skophammer.stephanie@epa.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kathleen Martyn Goforth".

Kathleen Martyn Goforth, Manager  
Environmental Review Office  
Communities and Ecosystems Division

cc: Shirwin Smith, Golden Gate National Recreation Area

## Frequently Asked Questions

### Addressing Concerns with Pets in the Park

1) My cat has always been an outdoor cat. How could I ever keep it inside?

- a) I know it seems hard, but it's do-able! ~~There are lots of resources to help you teach old dog (er cat) new tricks.~~ Cats are creatures of habit and after some gradual training and changes indoors, your cat ~~will feel can become content to be right at home~~ inside and safe with you. ~~The Peninsula Humane Society and SPCA is a great source of resources to help you teach old dogs (er-cats) new tricks. Here is a list of resources with online guides. Both There are how-to tips on the Peninsula Humane Society and the SPCA their website have plenty of good tips on their websites. There is even and they have a~~ Humane House, ~~which to offers some demonstrate some of the~~ ways to make your home more cat-friendly ~~home at the Peninsula Humane Society.~~ Here are some ~~pictures of what we've seen that could help you examples.~~

**Comment [SES1]:** Even though this is an internal piece, it would be good to tighten it down as much as possible –tighter text would help ensure it all gets read.

**Comment [SES2]:** Assume photos will be added here.

2) I never see my cat harming anything. How do you know ~~this that~~ she does?

- a) It's hard to know what Fluffy does when we're not looking, but cats are natural hunters, ~~even our well-fed pets. It's just what they do.~~ There have been several studies of cat movement patterns and behaviors, including a recent one that put cameras on cats' collars (Google: Kitty cam) ~~and analyzed their actions,~~ that ~~show that cats have a document cats'~~ impact on wildlife, including birds, mice, snakes, lizards, and frogs. Cats will eat or just play with their prey and then leave it – ~~usually injured. Only~~ occasionally ~~do~~ they bring their "prize" back to ~~the your~~ house to show off, so there's a good chance Fluffy is honing her hunting skills without you knowing.
- b) Our staff has seen many house cats ~~sitting by~~ near the ~~Mori Point~~ ponds, hunting frogs and other wildlife. When ~~the wildlife being hunted is you have a~~ threatened ~~and or~~ endangered ~~wildlife species,~~ then the concern ~~about predation~~ becomes ~~even greater even more serious.~~ ~~Even if your cat is not hurting anything, you are allowing it to be in harm's way in an area where it could be attacked by a coyote or hawk. Park staff has seen raptors pick up and drop cats on Mori, once from about 15 feet in the air!~~

**Comment [SES3]:** Clarify the results of a cat's "playing"

**Comment [SES4]:** Sitting didn't seem to imply hunting.

**Comment [SES5]:** Move this to a new section about keeping pets safe

3) Why can't I just put a bell or special collar on my cat?

- a) Cats are very clever and can sometimes change the way they move ~~their body to~~ ~~keep~~ make the bell ~~not ring from ringing.~~ Plus, wildlife ~~isn't trained to~~ doesn't naturally associate a ringing bell with danger, so ~~it the sound~~ doesn't necessarily trigger ~~a the~~ ~~necessary~~ defensive response. ~~Also, think about our c~~ Cold-blooded wildlife, ~~that is probably out-~~ sunning ~~itself trying~~ to gain ~~enough~~ energy, ~~can't to~~ move ~~quickly enough~~ when a cat is on the prowl; ~~a ringing bell would not help them escape. They might not be able to get out of the way!~~ There are some special collars (the CatBib) ~~out there~~ designed to prevent a cat from pouncing. ~~It's that are~~ pretty quite effective (~~up to 81%~~

~~one study said up to 81%~~ for birds, but ~~less so (only 33%)~~ for other animals. ~~(like lizards, frogs, and snakes, which were~~ the most common prey for suburban ~~birds cats~~ (from in a recent study in Georgia), tend to be easier to catch ~~and; for those species especially, aren't protected by~~ the bibs areas much ~~less effective (only 33%). However, even cats with these special devices are not allowed in national parks.~~

**Comment [SES6]:** move this to beginning or another section - at the beginning you could talk about pet regs in parks.

**Formatted:** List Paragraph, Indent: Left: 1"

4) My dog always stays right by me off-leash. Why is that a problem?

- a) Most national parks do not ~~even even~~ allow dogs in ~~most areas the park~~ to protect the wildlife, park visitors, and the dogs themselves. ~~You know that~~ San Pedro Valley County Park here in Pacifica doesn't allow dogs and has an abundance of wildlife – deer, bobcats, coyotes, even mountain lions. At Mori Point dogs are allowed on leash, ~~and that is considered a great privilege.~~ Even the most well-trained dog ~~under voice control might still stray could go~~ off-trail and pose a threat to wildlife or become prey to a coyote. Keeping your dog leashed also shows consideration for park visitors ~~enjoying the site who may not be~~ comfortable around dogs.

**Comment [SES7]:** These animals are likely also at Sweeney – where dogs are allowed although on leash.

**Comment [SES8]:** Prefer that we restrict this piece to cats, and address dogs separately. Only section that could contain both might be a section discussing pet safety. Let's discuss before this is finalized.

5) You just keep fencing everything off and making more rules. Why is this such a big deal?

- a) ~~Yes, there are more fences, but we would argue that it is a more beautiful area too. Most of the fences blend in with the landscape and~~ serve a dual purpose of protecting the most critical habitat for wildlife, as well guiding park visitors to the most enjoyable locations. Since ~~this Mori Point~~ became ~~part of the National Park Service (NPS)~~ a national park in 2002, it ~~is has been under federal regulations~~ managed in such a way as to ~~preserve and protect the area's natural resources for the future. Protecting the natural resources for "future generations" has been a part of the – an essential~~ mission of the ~~National Park Service NPS~~ since its ~~inception was created~~ in the Organic Act of 1916. ~~This preservation goal not only serves future generations, but enriches the area's natural beauty and enjoyment for visitors and neighbors today.~~

6) There is no way I can keep my cat out of the park. What are you going to do about that?

- a) ~~We're very much want to hoping we can work with you to protect your neighboring wildlife avoid future problems and help your cat live a longer, healthier life. But in the future, if pets are found National Park Service regulations allow for the removal of pets~~ roaming at large, ~~NPS regulations do allow for the removal of pets~~ which are threats to wildlife. Your pet should ~~always~~ have ~~an a collar and~~ i.d. tag, ~~and collar on it. You may get if your pet is found, you may receive~~ a warning or a ticket from a park ranger, depending on the situation – ~~the fine for off leash pets starts at \$100.~~ Ultimately, ~~if we continue to see the same cats repeatedly hunting at Mori, we may need to have to~~ catch and ~~bring take~~ problem cats to the Peninsula Humane Society in Burlingame. ~~Rangers have been fining off leash dog owners 100 dollars and more on Mori Point. We're hoping we can work with you to avoid future problems and help your cat live a longer, healthier life.~~

**Comment [SES9]:** Run this by LE. Believe this is the starting fine, but repeat offenders may see higher fines.

**Comment [SES10]:** Ck with both LE and Peninsula Humane as to whether we should state this.

7) My cats are helping to keep the rodent population down. You guys don't want a lot of rats and mice around, do you?

a) Actually, research shows that cats prefer amphibians and reptiles (like our threatened and endangered species!) over small rodents. (Google "kitty cam".) Also, there are lots of different kinds of rats and mice out there, native and ~~it's the~~ non-native. The non-native ones (house mice, rats, Norwegian mice, etc.) ~~that tend to be the~~ most problematic for people. ~~They are the ones that invade homes, and they're also the ones that have evolved in places that have small wild cats (like Eurasia) and have, therefore and unfortunately, have~~ evolved to evade cat capture. ~~However, o~~Our native rodents' lifestyles (foraging techniques) make them ~~extra~~-vulnerable to domestic cat predation. ~~Another concern is that outdoor cats are at greater risk to get diseases. Rodents can infect your cat with parasites that carry toxoplasmosis. This disease can lead to blindness in pets, and it can be transmitted to cat owners, causing a variety of health problems including birth defects.~~

**Comment [SES11]:** Move to section below about safety for cats – and I'd move the cat safety closer to the top.

8) My cat's lived this long outdoors! Why should I be worried about health threats now?

a) Yes, some cats are able to evade predation for a while, but we've all seen an increase in larger predators like coyotes. (One four month study of coyotes in Tucson showed that 8 coyotes had 36 interactions with cats, and they resulted in 19 killed cats. At Mori, our staff has seen large raptors pick up and drop cats in the Bowl (near the ponds)—one from about 15 feet in the air. Think about the risk of infection from the raptors' talons in addition to the potential damage from falling from that high up! Keeping your pet inside can reduce health threats and vet bills. It may even save their life.

**Comment [SES12]:** Make this the all encompassing health and safety for cats section and move up closer to the top.

**Comment [SES13]:** This is repeated in earlier section- delete one of them. If you do create one health and safety section, you'll see the duplicate and it will be easy to consolidate.

Good Resources about transitioning your cat from outdoor to indoor:

**Comment [SES14]:** Lots of good options, but might be better to select the best of them. Saw one with a bit of a mixed message due to comments added below an article. PETA: "I learned about outdoor cats the hard way" <http://prime.peta.org/2011/02/outdoor-cats>

PETA: "Outdoor Cats" <http://www.peta.org/about/why-peta/outdoor-cats.aspx>

ASPCA: "Outdoor Cats" <http://www.aspca.org/pet-care/cat-care/bringing-outdoor-cats-inside.aspx>

American Humane Society: "Indoor Cats vs. Outdoor Cats"

<http://www.americanhumane.org/animals/adoption-pet-care/caring-for-your-pet/indoor-cats-vs-outdoor-cats.html>

Ohio State University Vet School: "Basic Indoor Cat Needs"

<http://indoorpet.osu.edu/cats/basicneeds/index.cfm>

Petfinder: Transitioning your Cat Inside <http://www.petfinder.com/pet-care/transitioning-outdoor-cat.html>

Interesting pieces about outdoor cats:

The Daily Cat: Outdoor Cat Dangers [http://www.thedailycat.com/health/safety/outdoor\\_cat\\_dangers/](http://www.thedailycat.com/health/safety/outdoor_cat_dangers/)

Petside: Advisor Roundtable Discussion <http://www.petside.com/article/are-outdoor-cats-ok>

Medicine Net: Comparison of indoor vs. outdoor life [http://www.medicinenet.com/pets/cat-health/should\\_you\\_have\\_an\\_indoor\\_cat\\_or\\_an\\_outdoor\\_cat.htm](http://www.medicinenet.com/pets/cat-health/should_you_have_an_indoor_cat_or_an_outdoor_cat.htm)

University of Illinois Outdoor Cat Study Results:  
[http://news.illinois.edu/news/11/0526\\_cat\\_study\\_Horn-Mateus-Warner.html](http://news.illinois.edu/news/11/0526_cat_study_Horn-Mateus-Warner.html)

KittyCam Reveals High Levels of Wildlife Being Killed by Outdoor Cats  
<http://www.chattanooga.com/2012/8/6/231697/KittyCam-Reveals-High-Levels-Of.aspx>

Petfinder: Indoor Cat Myths <http://www.petfinder.com/pet-care/6-indoor-outdoor-cat-myths.html>

PETA: "Outdoor Cats" <http://www.peta.org/issues/companion-animals/outdoor-cats.aspx>

PETA: "I learned about outdoor cats the hard way" <http://prime.peta.org/2011/02/outdoor-cats>

UC Davis Vet School: "Indoors or Outdoors?" [http://behavior.vetmed.ucdavis.edu/local-assets/pdfs/Cats-Indoors\\_or\\_Outdoors.pdf](http://behavior.vetmed.ucdavis.edu/local-assets/pdfs/Cats-Indoors_or_Outdoors.pdf)

[Rodents and cats: http://www.tws-west.org/transactions/Hawkins%20Grant%20Longnecker.pdf](http://www.tws-west.org/transactions/Hawkins%20Grant%20Longnecker.pdf)

[Rodents, cats, and disease:](http://cats.about.com/cs/zoonoticdiseases/a/catsandmice.htm)

<http://cats.about.com/cs/zoonoticdiseases/a/catsandmice.htm>

<http://www.stanleyresearch.org/dnn/LaboratoryofDevelopmentalNeurovirology/ToxoplasmosisSchizophreniaResearch/tabid/172/Default.aspx>

[Coyotes and Cats: \[http://www.bioone.org/doi/abs/10.2193/2008-033\]](http://www.bioone.org/doi/abs/10.2193/2008-033)

Technology that might help:

CatBib: Pounce preventer <http://www.catgoods.com/>

CatBib assessment: <http://www.catgoods.com/field-trial-results.php>

Cat Enclosure Resources: <http://catnet.stanford.edu/articles/enclosures.html>

Homemade Cat Enclosure Example: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PJaJBbLTmY>

# United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
Golden Gate National Recreation Area  
Fort Mason, San Francisco, California 94123

IN REPLY REFER TO:  
W34 (GOGA-VRPCR)

## Memorandum

To: Frank Dean, General Superintendent

From: Kevin Cochary, Chief Ranger

Subject: Interim Compendium Amendment for Commercial Dog Walking

### Summary:

GGNRA and the Presidio Trust wish to establish a public use limit and permit requirement for persons who are walking four or more dogs at one time for consideration (commercial dog walker) on lands under the administrative jurisdiction of the National Park Service in Marin County and the City and County of San Francisco, and the Presidio of San Francisco (Area B, Presidio Trust) where dog walking is allowed. Permits will allow a maximum of 6 dogs per dog walker, and require a business license and proof of liability insurance and approved dog-handling training through existing training courses. Permit holders must abide by all NPS and Presidio Trust regulations. This includes NPS regulation 36 CFR 2.15(a), which requires that dogs be restrained by a leash no longer than 6 feet in sites that are not open to voice control dog walking per the 1979 Pet Policy; and Presidio Trust regulation 36 CFR 1002.15. GGNRA would implement a single permit system for both GGNRA and Presidio Trust lands. The annual permit cost would be a \$75.00 application fee and \$300 per person for a non-transferrable badge.

This use limit would be an interim action for both GGNRA and the Presidio Trust, and would remain in effect in GGNRA until a final special regulation for dog walking, including commercial dog walking, is promulgated. That final special regulation is anticipated in late 2015.

Should the Superintendent of GGNRA approve this interim public use limit and permit system, an amendment to GGNRA's Compendium would be completed. Should the Presidio Trust Executive Director approve this interim public use limit and permit system, an interim rule would be promulgated through publication in the Federal Register.

## Recommended Regulatory Action

I recommend that you exercise the discretionary authority delegated to you under 36 C.F.R. Section 1.6 to adopt an interim compendium amendment that would require that any person walking more than three dogs at one time for consideration (commercial dog walker) in any Marin or San Francisco site of Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA) where dog walking is allowed, must first obtain a permit from the park.

The proposed text of the Compendium amendment is as follows:

### PART 1 – General Provisions

#### 36 CFR § 1.6 Permits

##### COMMERCIAL DOG WALKING

- (a) The walking of more than six dogs at one time by any one person for consideration (commercial dog walking) is prohibited within San Francisco County and Marin County sites administered by Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA).
- (b) The walking of more than three dogs, with a limit of six dogs, at one time by any one person for consideration (commercial dog walking) within San Francisco County and Marin County sites administered by GGNRA, where dog walking is otherwise allowed, is hereby authorized provided that:
  - i. That person has a valid commercial dog walking permit issued by GGNRA;
  - ii. The walking of more than three dogs, with a limit of six dogs, is done pursuant to the conditions of that permit; and
  - iii. The commercial dog walker badge issued to the permittee by GGNRA shall be visibly displayed at all times as directed in the permit while the permittee is engaging in commercial dog walking activities, and shall be provided upon request to any person authorized to enforce this provision.

If approved, this Compendium amendment would remain in effect until the final special regulation for dog walking in GGNRA is promulgated, which is anticipated in late 2015.

#### **Justification**

Adjacent Jurisdictions: This proposed public use limit and permit requirement is a direct response to commercial dog walking permit programs enacted in 2013 by the San Francisco Board of Supervisors and the Town of Tiburon in Marin County. These permit program limit the number of dogs per commercial dog walker to 8 or 6 dogs, respectively. Given the extremely broad geographical reach (parks, open spaces, Port of

San Francisco lands, and San Francisco Public Utility Commission properties) of the City and County of San Francisco's ordinance, coupled with the effect of the City of Tiburon's ordinance, the National Park Service (NPS) reasonably anticipates that a number of commercial dog walkers who use the areas in San Francisco and Tiburon that would cause them to fall under these ordinances, will instead walk their dogs in GGNRA areas in San Francisco and Marin Counties that are already heavily used by dog walkers, including commercial dog walkers. The San Francisco ordinance on commercial dog walking went into effect July 1, 2013, with a 120 day grace period to November 1, 2013, to allow completion of permit training requirements. As of February XX, 2014 commercial dog walking permits had been issued by San Francisco's Animal Care and Control. The City of Tiburon's permit program went into effect July 19, 2013; as of February XX, 2014, XX permits had been issued by the City of Tiburon.

The San Francisco ordinance is anticipated to have a noticeable impact, particularly at Fort Funston and Crissy Field, the two sites most regularly used by dog walkers. Crissy Field already receives very high visitor use (approximately 3.2 million in 2009), including from individual and commercial dog walkers. GGNRA staff estimate that there are generally ten to fifteen commercial dog walkers per day (fewer on weekends than weekdays), and typically at least three present, with at least four to eight dogs each, at any given time of the day. A 2011 visitor use study found that 24% of visitors at Crissy Field were dog walkers. That same study found that at Fort Funston, where the average number of dogs walked at the site each day is 1,600, an average of 62% of daily visitors were dog walkers (66% on weekdays and 57% on weekends). On weekends, 3.1% of dogs at Fort Funston are walked in groups larger than 6, accounting for 10 dog walker visits. However, on weekdays, 34.7% of dogs were in groups larger than 6, accounting for approximately 127 dog walker visits. Of that group 19.4% of dogs were in groups larger than 8 (approximately 61 dog walker visits). The study notes: "At Fort Funston, many visitors were observed with large groups of dogs. While some of these visitors may be individuals who own multiple dogs, most are likely professional dog walkers."

Marin County Parks and Open Space began requiring permits for commercial dog walkers on Open Space lands in 2002; the permits allowed a maximum of 6 dogs per walker. Currently, certain GGNRA-managed sites in southern Marin, particularly Alta Trail above Marin City, are used by commercial dog walkers with more than six dogs per person. The Alta Trail, an easily accessible GGNRA site in close proximity to the town of Tiburon, is regularly used by commercial dog walkers who have an average of ten dogs each. GGNRA staff have often experienced up to 50 off-leash dogs at one time at that site. Because of the ease of access and parking, Alta Trail is likely to be an alternative for those commercial dog walkers who would otherwise use Tiburon open space areas where there is now a permit requirement and limit of 6 dogs per walker.

**Safety and Visitor Experience:** In heavily used areas, especially areas popular with multiple user groups, limiting the number of dogs per dog walker for this interim period would lessen the potential for conflict between user groups by allowing better control by dog walkers. Additionally, a limit on the number of dogs would address the safety and visitor experience concerns of other users, including private dog walkers, who have been displaced from areas

**Commented [SES1]:** NOTE: Need to contact SF Animal Care and Control (Deb Campbell 554-9427) and City of Tiburon, Nicholas Nguyen, Dir. of Public Works, 435-7388 or [nnguyen@ci.tiburon.ca.us](mailto:nnguyen@ci.tiburon.ca.us) to get current permit numbers before we release this document!

heavily used by commercial dog walkers where large groups of dogs are not always well controlled. Numerous comments on the draft Dog Management Plan/EIS and visitor complaints received by park staff have voiced safety and visitor experience concerns about large groups of dogs that are not adequately supervised. Additional control made possible by limiting the number of dogs walked at one time by commercial dog walkers would also address park employee concerns about working outdoors in areas heavily used by commercial dog walkers.

Establish Control and Regulations: Research and interviews conducted as part of GGNRA's dog management planning project indicate that there are now at least 100 commercial dog walking businesses in the City and County of San Francisco. There are also commercial dog walkers who operate without a business license. Commercial dog walkers include individual dog walkers, as well as companies with several employees. There is at least one association for commercial dog walkers in San Francisco, the San Francisco Professional Dog Walkers Association (ProDog). In a July 14, 2013, San Francisco Chronicle article about San Francisco's new commercial dog walking ordinance, a spokesperson for ProDog estimated that there might be as many as 300 commercial dog walkers in San Francisco. In San Francisco, the GGNRA sites most often used by commercial dog walkers are Fort Funston, Crissy Field and Fort Mason, but commercial dog walkers are also seen at Baker Beach and Ocean Beach. Commercial dog walkers typically bring between four and ten dogs, or more, at a time to GGNRA sites and spend about one hour, twice a day, in the park.

Without this interim action, commercial dog walkers would be able to continue walking unlimited number of dogs in GGNRA sites where dog walking is currently allowed until the NPS completed the GGNRA dog management planning process, which addresses both commercial and recreational dog walking. The dog management plan and its accompanying environmental impact statement (EIS) are well underway. In 2014, following review and consideration of public comment on the draft plan/SEIS, the NPS will develop and seek public comment on a proposed rule that codifies the dog management plan's regulatory elements in the Code of Federal Regulations. A final rule is not anticipated until 2015. When that rule is in place, the GGNRA interim compendium amendment for commercial dog walking will expire.

#### **Basis of the Interim Permit Six Dog Limit**

The maximum number of dogs per commercial dog walker in this proposed interim compendium amendment was drawn from the permit conditions developed in the dog management planning process. The permit conditions - including the number of dogs allowed per dog walker - proposed in the preferred alternative of the draft Dog Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement (draft plan/EIS) and the just-released draft Dog Management Plan/Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (draft plan/SEIS), were developed initially by the GGNRA Negotiated Rulemaking Committee for dog management (2006-2007), and, as one of the Committee's consensus agreements, were incorporated in the preferred alternative of the 2011 draft Dog Management Plan/EIS, and the 2013 draft Dog Management Plan/Supplemental EIS. During the public comment period on the draft

Plan/EIS, the NPS received multiple comments regarding the appropriate number of dogs allowed per dog walker. Some commenters expressed support for limiting the number at six dogs with strict guidelines. Other commenters, including some dog walkers, expressed concern that public health and safety would be adversely impacted by allowing more than three dogs per dog walker, with some noting that four or more dogs could be hard to control. Some commercial dog walkers noted the potential economic impacts to their businesses of limiting the number of dogs to a maximum of six, while other commenters requested that commercial dog walking not be allowed at all.

In proposing alternatives for the maximum number of dogs per walker in the draft plan/EIS, the NPS was concerned first and foremost with visitor experience and safety, as well as resource protection, key objectives of the plan. The NPS questioned whether a dog walker could consistently control more than six dogs in areas open to voice control, of particular concern in an NPS area where there is a primary mandate of resource protection and a secondary mandate of visitor (not commercial) experience. The NPS was unable to find literature supporting the idea that more than six dogs would provide both visitor experience and safety, and resource protection. Based on public comment, input from the GGNRA Negotiated Rulemaking Committee for dog management, park staff observations, research on national and international best practices and law enforcement experience, the NPS believes that allowing more than six dogs total could negatively impact visitor experience and visitor and employee safety.

The preferred alternative proposed in GGNRA's draft Plan/EIS and SEIS would require that commercial and private dog walkers with more than three dogs obtain a permit; the permit would limit the number of dogs per walker to a maximum of six, and permits would be issued for only seven park sites, all of which are in either Marin or San Francisco counties. This interim public use limit is similar in that it would impose a maximum of 6 dogs per dog walker for the protection of visitor experience, visitor and employee safety and resources, however, it would only address commercial dog walkers, and would not limit them to only seven sites. Rather, all GGNRA sites open to dog walking in San Francisco and Marin would be available for commercial dog walkers under this interim action.

#### **Applicable Law and Policy:**

NPS regulations allow superintendents to implement public use limits to protect park resources, equitably allocate use of areas, protect public health and safety, and avoid conflicts among user groups. Public use limits may be adopted following a written determination and publication of the use limitation in the park's Compendium. In addition, under 36 CFR § 1.6, Permits, the National Park Service may adopt a permit system to implement a public use limit enacted under 36 CFR §1.5.

This proposed interim proposed use limit is consistent with NPS Management Policies, which allow the issuance of permits for special park uses that provide a benefit to an individual, group or organization rather than the public at large; that require authorization and some degree of management control to protect resources and the public interest and

that are not prohibited by law or regulation. In that commercial dog walking is not a visitor-serving use, a permit is the proper authorizing mechanism rather than a commercial use authorization, which is intended to benefit the visiting public at large. This interim action allows continued access by commercial dog walkers to all GGNRA Marin and San Francisco sites open to dog walking, but in a manner that is protective of other park users. Use of the most popular dog walking sites in GGNRA is already heavy – additional unregulated use could aggravate issues among dog walkers both commercial and private, as well as impact or displace other users. Finally, the 1979 GGNRA Citizen’s Advisory Commission Pet Policy did not address commercial dog walking, thus this interim action is not inconsistent with that policy.

This interim action is not of a nature, magnitude or duration such that it would result in a significant alternation of the public use patterns of the park. The expected duration of this proposed interim action is approximately two years, when the NPS intends to replace it with a special regulation published in the Code of Federal Regulations that will govern dog walking, including commercial dog walking, in GGNRA. The scope of this proposed action is limited, applying only to GGNRA lands in San Francisco and Marin counties where dog walking is allowed; GGNRA lands in San Mateo County would not be affected. In addition, this proposed action would only affect commercial dog walkers; private dog walkers would not be affected. Commercial dog walkers are a subset of the dog walking that occurs on GGNRA lands, and only a portion of commercial dog walkers handle more than 6 dogs at one time. More importantly, the proposed action does not ban commercial dog walking. It allows the use to continue, with the requirement of a permit for those with more than 3 dogs, and a limit of 6 dogs, in San Francisco and Marin GGNRA sites.

This interim action would not adversely affect the natural, aesthetic or cultural values of park lands in Marin and San Francisco counties. Because this interim action limits the number of dogs per commercial dog walker, it potentially allows greater control of dogs, particularly in areas where dogs are currently allowed under voice control. Thus, this action would not adversely affect, and may even have a beneficial effect, on natural, aesthetic and cultural values of park lands, by reducing the potential for multiple, large groups of dogs in park sites.

Adoption of the proposed action would not require a long-term or significant modification in the park’s resource management objectives since it is an interim action and the park anticipates that it would be replaced by a final regulation in approximately two years. The proposed action is also not inconsistent with the park’s resource management objectives and broadly follows the goals and objectives of the GGNRA dog management draft Plan/EIS and SEIS, both of which considered the park’s resource management objectives in developing the range of alternatives. This proposed action is also consistent with natural resource goals of the updated GGNRA General Management Plan, particularly the goal of maintaining the integrity and diversity of natural resources and systems and mitigating the effects of urban pressures.

The proposed interim restriction is not highly controversial. Multiple jurisdictions in the Bay Area, including the City and County of San Francisco, the City of Tiburon, and Marin County Parks and Open Space, have recognized the need to impose reasonable restrictions on commercial dog walking and have done so; the most recent actions were in July of this year. The interim action proposed here was initially proposed by the commercial dog walking representative to the GGNRA Negotiated Rulemaking Committee, and was further developed, with much public review, throughout the GGNRA dog management planning effort. Finally, this action is similar to the approach that is currently being used by the adjacent jurisdictions mentioned previously.

This interim action is also the minimum necessary action at this time; narrowly tailored to address the anticipated increase in commercial dog walking that is expected to result from the adoption of local ordinances regulating commercial dog walkers in San Francisco and Tiburon. Without this interim action, it is reasonably expected that GGNRA lands in San Francisco and Marin Counties could see an increase in the amount of commercial dog walkers with large groups of dogs, which in turn would affect the use and enjoyment of park lands by other visitors, including other dog walkers.

Finally, this interim action is not expected to displace commercial dog walkers to adjacent lands managed by other agencies. Both the City of Tiburon and the Marin County Parks and Open Space District already have similar restrictions on commercial dog walking. In San Francisco, there may be some commercial dog walkers who prefer to use City and County of San Francisco lands, in that they would be allowed an additional 2 dogs per walker under the San Francisco permit. However, that difference is not expected to result in a significant amount of displacement from GGNRA lands to San Francisco-managed sites. There would also be no displacement onto Presidio Trust (Trust) lands as a result of this action, in that the Trust will institute a similar interim restriction on Trust lands, intended to be enacted in concert with the GGNRA interim restriction under the GGNRA permit system.

**NEPA Compliance:**

The Handbook for NPS Director's Order 12 contains a listing of Categorical Exclusions. Section 3.4 A(5) of the Director's Order 12 Handbook provides that "Issuances, extensions, renewals, reissuances or minor modifications of concession contracts or permits not entailing new construction or new environmental impact as a result of concession operations." may be categorically excluded under NEPA.

This compendium amendment requiring permits with a limit of 6 dogs per dog walker for commercial dog walking within GGNRA Marin and San Francisco sites that are open to dog walking would result in minor changes to commercial dog walking activities in the park. The park has prepared all the appropriate Categorical Exclusion screening forms, which are available for review. These forms disclose that the actions would result in no measurable adverse environmental effects. Furthermore, no exceptional circumstances or conditions exist that would make use of a Categorical Exclusion inappropriate. As such,



## §7.97 Golden Gate National Recreation Area

(e) (1) *What is the scope of this section?* The regulations contained in paragraphs (e)(1) through (e)(11) apply to all persons visiting the park while walking dogs, including commercial dog walkers, except that Service animals accompanying a person with a disability, as defined by Federal law and Department of Justice regulations, are allowed wherever visitors or employees are allowed.

(2) *What terms do I need to know?*

*Aggressive Dog* is a dog which exhibits behavior such as snarling or unwanted jumping and/or is uncontrolled.

*Commercial Dog Walker* means any individual who is walking dogs for consideration.

*Regulated Off-Leash Areas (ROLAs)* are the defined areas where off-leash dog walking under voice and sight control is allowed. ROLAs would be periodically closed to allow re-growth of vegetation on an as-needed basis.

*Monitoring-based Management Strategy* is the regular monitoring and recording of noncompliance and impacts to natural and cultural resources. Noncompliance would include dog walking within prohibited areas, dog walking under voice and sight control in on-leash dog walking areas, and dog walking under voice and sight control outside of ROLAs, **as well as violation of other NPS regulations pertinent to visitor and resource protection.** When the level of compliance is deemed unacceptable based on violations and/or impacts to resources, primary management actions such as focused enforcement of regulations, education, and establishment of buffer zones, time and use restrictions, and SUP restrictions would be implemented. If noncompliance continues, secondary management actions including short-term closures (typically one year or less) would be implemented through the compendium. All areas open to dog walking, including ROLAs, are subject to the monitoring-based management strategy to encourage compliance, and ensure protection of park resources, visitors and staff.

Comment [EMB1]: We may need to list

*Uncontrolled Dog* is any dog which: annoys, harasses, or attacks people, livestock, or other leashed or unleashed dogs; intentionally or unintentionally annoys, pursues, hunts, harasses, harms, wounds, chases, attacks, captures, or kills wildlife; enters leash-required or dog-prohibited areas; and/or digs, destroys vegetation, or enters fenced or closed areas.

*Voice and Sight Control:* means that dogs must be within direct eyesight of the dog walker, and that dog walkers must be able to immediately recall their dog(s) to their side so that a leash can be attached to the dog(s)'s collar, and shall demonstrate this ability when requested by Law Enforcement personnel.

(3) *How many dogs can I walk at one time?* All dog walkers, including commercial dog walkers, are allowed to walk up to 3 dogs per person. All dog walkers with more than 3 dogs must obtain a dog walking permit; under a permit, the limit is 6 dogs.

(4) *What is needed to get a dog walking permit?* All permits will require proof of liability insurance and approved dog-handling training through existing training courses offered by organizations such as Marin Humane, SFSPCA, etc. Permits will only be issued for: Alta Trail; Rodeo Beach; Fort Baker, excluding Drown Fire Road; Fort Mason; Crissy Field; Baker Beach; and Fort Funston. Permit charges will be based on cost recovery.

(5) *Where can I walk my dog(s)?* Dog walking is allowed on leash in areas designated for on-leash dog walking and in all parking lots, picnic areas and paved, public roads unless otherwise noted. You can also walk your dog(s) on leash or under voice and sight control in areas designated as Regulated Off-Leash Areas. All other areas of the park are closed to dog walking.

(6) *What are the rules in areas open to dog walking?* All dogs must be licensed and wear an ID at all times, including name and phone number of the owner. Dog walkers must keep dogs out of any area closed by fence or sign for restoration, habitat protection, or safety concerns and must pick up their dogs' feces immediately and dispose of them in a garbage container. Bagged feces may not be left on the ground, but must be carried to a garbage container.

(7) *What additional rules are there for areas open to on-leash dog-walking only?* A functional leash, no longer than 6 feet, must be attached to each dog and simultaneously held by the dog walker.

(8) *What additional rules are there in a Regulated Off-Leash Area (ROLA)?* ROLAs are the only areas where dog walkers may walk dogs off leash. Each off-leash dog must be under voice and sight control at all times. Uncontrolled dogs, aggressive dogs and dogs in heat are prohibited. All dog walkers must have a functional leash for each dog under their care and dogs under four months old must be leashed at all times. Dog walkers must keep dogs on leash in parking lots and on paths that access ROLAs.

(9) *What areas allow only on-leash dog walking?*

*(i) Marin County*

(A) *Homestead Valley* - Homestead Fire Road and two neighborhood connector trails (Homestead Trail and Homestead Summit Trail).

(B) *Alta Trail* - from Donahue Street to the Morning Sun Trail, and the Orchard and Pacheco Fire Roads.

(C) *Oakwood Valley* - the Fire Road and the Oakwood Valley Trail from junction with Fire Road to junction with Alta Trail.

(D) *Muir Beach* – the beach, the path and bridge to beach and Muir Beach Trail.

(E) *Marin Headlands* - Lower Rodeo Valley Trail Corridor, Old Bunker Fire Road Loop, Batteries Loop Trail, Rodeo Avenue Trail and Morning Sun Trail.

(F) *Fort Baker* - Lodge/Conference Center grounds, the Parade Ground, Drown Fire Road, Bay Trail including Battery Yates Loop Road and the Vista Point Trail.

*(ii) San Francisco City and County*

(A) *Fort Mason* - Great Meadow, sidewalks/paved trails/ open areas around housing, lawn below Laguna Street path.

(B) *Crissy Field* – Promenade, paths to Central Beach, trails and grassy areas near East Beach, grassy areas around Old Coast Guard Station, Mason Street Bike Path, middle and western sections of the Airfield.

(C) *Fort Point National Historic Site* - Fort Point Promenade, Battery East Trail, Andrews Road, Presidio Promenade, and grassy area near restrooms.

(D) *Baker Beach and Bluffs to the Golden Gate* – Baker Beach south of the north end of north parking lot, trails to the beach south of the north end of north parking lot, Coastal Trail

(E) *East Fort Miley* - east side trail corridor.

(F) *Lands End* - El Camino del Mar, Lands End Coastal Trail and connecting trails and steps.

(G) *Sutro Heights Park* - paths, parapet, and lawns.

(H) *Ocean Beach* - Ocean Beach Trail that parallels the Great Highway.

(I) *Fort Funston* – Funston Beach Trail (South), Sunset Trail (excepting section included in the upland ROLA), Battery Davis Road from Muir Drive parking lot to the upland ROLA and Muir Drive Trail.

(iii) **San Mateo County**

(A) *Mori Point* - Mori Coastal Trail, Old Mori Road Trail, Pollywog Trail and beach.

(B) *Milagra Ridge* - Fire Road, trail to overlook and WW II bunker, and Milagra Battery Trail.

(C) *Sweeney Ridge* - Sneath Lane, Sweeney Ridge Trail between Portola Discovery Site and Nike Missile Site.

(D) *Cattle Hill* - Baquiano Trail from Fassler Avenue to, and including, Farallon View Trail.

(E) *Pedro Point* - Multi Use Coastal Trail

(F) *Rancho Corral de Tierra* - On leash on designated trails in the two areas open to dog walking near Montara and El Granada.

(10) *What areas are ROLAs?*

(i) **Marin County**

(A) *Rodeo Beach*- the full length of the main beach

(ii) **San Francisco City and County**

(A) *Fort Mason* – the Laguna Green section of Upper Fort Mason

(B) *Crissy Field* – Central Beach and the eastern section of the Airfield

(C) *Ocean Beach*- the section of beach north of Stairwell 21

(D) *Fort Funston*- the section of beach south of Funston Beach Trail (North), and ROLA corridor from just north of the new trail (to be built) along the northern edge of the parking lot that extends to, and includes the Funston Beach Trail (North). The ROLA corridor includes the Chip Trail and sections of the Sunset Trail, Funston Road, and Battery Davis Trail – all north of the parking lot. The ROLA also extends into the disturbed area across from the Funston Beach Trail (North)

(11) *What areas are closed to dog walking?* All areas of the park not included in sections (5), (9) or (10) above are closed to dog walking.

**FORT FUNSTON CLOSURE LAWSUIT  
Administrative Record**

The Administrative Record consists of 10 binders; there are 6 copies of the complete record. There was no index included; below is a summary of the contents of each binder.

**Binder 00001-00614**

|         |   |
|---------|---|
| 1-9     | Federal Register notices                            |
| 10-148  | Public Comment Summary                              |
| 149-153 | Calif. Coastal Commission Consistency Determination |
| 154-164 | Quintex   |
| 165-284 | NPS Management Policies                             |
| 285-350 | Project Review                                      |
| 351-374 | Directors Order 55                                  |
| 375-379 | Pro-Leash Letters                                   |
| 380-406 | Anti-closure/Off-Leash Letters                      |
| 407-419 | Miscellaneous Correspondence                        |
| 420427  | NPCA  |
| 428-490 | SPCA/SF Dog Water bird Protection Crissy/FOFU       |
| 491-528 | Articles  |
| 529-549 | City Attorney                                       |
| 550-593 | FOFU City Plans                                     |
| 594-614 | FOFU SF Supervisors                                 |

**Binder 00615-01181**

|         |                                  |
|---------|----------------------------------|
| 615-670 | Decision Document                |
| 671-785 | FOFU Files/E Mail – Daphne Hatch |

|            |  |
|------------|--|
| 786-865    | Rich Weideman Files  |
| 865.1-1181 | Michael's (Feinstein) Clippings (includes transcript of 8/29/00 Advisory Commission Meeting) |

**Binder 01182-01900**

|           |  |
|-----------|--|
| 1182-1340 | Transcript of 11/28/00 Advisory Commission Meeting                                 |
| 1341-1566 | FOFU Closure/Regulation Enforcement Comment Letters/Cards (from Supt's Files L-30) |
| 1567-1587 | Fort Funston Articles  |
| 1588-1618 | Miscellaneous Correspondence   |
| 1619-1727 | FY2000 Natural Resource Plan   |
| 1728-1768 | Supervisory Yee Hearing  |
| 1769-1771 | Fort Funston Press Release   |
| 1772-1802 | List of Speakers – 9/26/00 Advisory Commission Meeting                             |
| 1803-1806 | Advisory Commission Resolutions re: Ft. Funston                                    |
| 1807-1812 | Judge's Order  |
| 1813-1858 | Mtgs w/ SF/Letters on FOFU   |
| 1859-1860 | FOFU Miscellaneous   |
| 1861-1877 | Lydia Boesch/FOFU Support Docs   |
| 1878-1881 | Ft. Funston November 2000  |
| 1882-1898 | Ft. Funston Oct/Sept 2000  |
| 1899-1900 | Ft. Funston Sign   |

**Binder 01901-02550**

|           |                |
|-----------|----------------|
| 1901-2550 | Public Comment |
|-----------|----------------|

**Binder 02551-03054**

|           |                |
|-----------|----------------|
| 2551-3054 | Public Comment |
|-----------|----------------|

**Binder 03055-03590**

|           |                |
|-----------|----------------|
| 3055-3590 | Public Comment |
|-----------|----------------|

**Binder 03591-04103**

|           |                |
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| 3591-4103 | Public Comment |
|-----------|----------------|

**Binder 04104-04617**

|           |                |
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| 4104-4617 | Public Comment |
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**Binder 04618-05128**

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| 4618-5128 | Public Comment |
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**Binder 05128-05779**

|           |                |
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| 5128-5779 | Public Comment |
|-----------|----------------|

**Binder 05780-06429**

|           |                |
|-----------|----------------|
| 5780-6429 | Public Comment |
|-----------|----------------|

**BUREAU: National Park Service**

**PARK:** Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA)

**Congressional Districts:**

|                   |                    |                     |                                |
|-------------------|--------------------|---------------------|--------------------------------|
| <i>California</i> | <i>District 6</i>  | <i>Lynn Woolsey</i> | <i>Senate: Diane Feinstein</i> |
|                   | <i>District 8</i>  | <i>Nancy Pelosi</i> | <i>Barbara Boxer</i>           |
|                   | <i>District 12</i> | <i>Tom Lantos</i>   |                                |
|                   | <i>District 14</i> | <i>Anna Eshoo</i>   |                                |

**ISSUE:** GGNRA Dog Management Plan/EIS

**BACKGROUND:** Although the NPS regulation in 36 CFR 2.15(a)(2) requires that all pets, where allowed in national park sites, are to be crated, caged, restrained or otherwise physically confined at all times, dog walking is becoming increasingly difficult to manage in the GGNRA. A growing number of dog walkers use the park and do not voluntarily comply with the regulation and park rangers and USPP have other priorities, such as homeland security details.

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~~In addition, a Federal judge recently ordered GGNRA to re-establish its recently abandoned unofficial policy dating back to 1979 that allowed dogs to be off-leash under voice control in certain areas of GGNRA. A recent decision by the United States District Court for the Northern District of California affirmed a December 2004 District Court dismissal of three citations for violations of 36 CFR 2.15 on Crissy Field. The decision stated that the GGNRA Advisory Commission's voice control policy had been in effect in the park for many years and that the public needed to be properly notified in order to enforce the NPS regulation requiring pets on-leash. The decision stated that "Contrary to the government, GGNRA has not carried out the notice and comment process envisioned by Section 1.5 (b)." Therefore, GGNRA is currently not in compliance with 36 C.F.R. 2.15(a)(2). Thus, this recent court case, visitor conflicts, resource management issues and stress on the park staff has have led to the park underscored the need for the park to embark on initiate a NEPA process to develop a management plan and EIS and a concurrent the process of Negotiated Rulemaking (reg-neg) process to potentially develop an alternate regulation for dogwalking at GGNRA and a concurrent NEPA process to develop a management plan and EIS.~~

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**CURRENT STATUS:** The ~~Notice of Intent to establish a negotiated rulemaking committee was published in the Federal Register in June, 2005. GGNRA considered the comments received, and has forwarded a package containing responses to comments and a Notice of Establishment to the Director requesting that the Committee be established. Secretary of the Interior for approval. It is expected that the~~ Notice of Establishment for the Negotiated Rulemaking Committee will be published at the same time as the Notice of Intent for the Dog Management Plan/EIS. The first meeting of the Negotiated Rulemaking Committee is anticipated in late 2005 or early 2006. The public scoping meeting for the NEPA process is planned for winter 2006.

**POSITION OF INTERESTED PARTIES:** The park continues to receive significant comment in support of off-leash dog walking, as well as complaints from other visitors alleging that off-leash dogs are a nuisance and potentially harmful. Environmental organizations have expressed concerns about the protection of resources should an alternate regulation be proposed for the park. Organized dog walking groups and Congressional Representatives have asked the NPS to move forward with reg-neg to potentially allow off-leash dogwalking in certain areas of the park in order to resolve this contentious issue. Park staff would like to reduce the conflict and find another way to manage this issue, taking into account NPS regulations, policies and guidelines.

**BUREAU PERSPECTIVE:** Per Director's Order 75A, the NPS will move forward with the reg-neg process to collaboratively involve the public in exploring alternatives for management of this highly emotional and difficult issue.

**BUDGET IMPLICATIONS:** The park has submitted PMIS statement #91339 for FY05 for \$498,450 for funding by the NPS Environmental Quality Division (EQD) for the NEPA process.

~~**NOTE:** GGNRA would like the Notice of Intent for the Dog Management Plan/EIS to be published in the Federal Register on the same date that the Notice of Establishment for the negotiated rulemaking committee is published. Please proceed with approval of the EIS Notice of Intent, but then hold it until the Notice of Establishment is ready to be published.~~

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**CONTACT:** Christine Powell, Office of Public Affairs, [Chris.Powell@nps.gov](mailto:Chris.Powell@nps.gov) or (415) 561-4732.

**DATE:** October 5, 2005

GGNRA Dog Plan Map Comments / Responses

| Committer   | Comment   | Response  | How Proposed Map Addresses the Issue/ <u>SES edits</u>   |
|---|---|---|--|
| 3/17/08 Alternatives Meeting:<br>Decisions that Apply to All Maps | Do not shade parking lots, picnic areas, or areas around buildings; instead state that dogs are allowed on leash in parking lots and picnic areas but those areas will change based on other park planning. | n/a   | Incorporated <u>NOTE that there will be a few exceptions to this in at least one alternative, for a few specific sites.</u>  |
| 3/17/08 Alternatives Meeting:<br>Decisions that Apply to All Maps | State that other than in urban parks, dogs are not allowed off trail unless otherwise noted   | n/a   | Should be stated in text, not on maps. <u>There is no current regulation requiring no off trail dogwalking. All alternatives will add this as an element of a new rule in most of the sites.</u>   |
| 3/17/08 Alternatives Meeting:<br>Decisions that Apply to All Maps | State that dogs are not allowed in campgrounds (this is a change from the Parameters List)  | n/a   | Incorporated <u>Could instead describe this as: GGNRA campgrounds are in areas that do not allow dogs.</u>   |
| 3/17/08 Alternatives Meeting:<br>Decisions that Apply to All Maps | Remove Sensitive Habitat hatching from all maps   | n/a   | Incorporated   |
| 3/17/08 Alternatives Meeting:<br>Decisions that Apply to All Maps | Indicate that all piers are no-dog areas  | n/a   | Incorporated   |
| Craig Scott   | limit colored sections on map to areas open to on leash or ROLA (legend already notes "Dogs ONLY allowed in ROLA and on leash areas")   | In many instances, such as Fort Funston, trails where dogs are not allowed about a ROLA or on-leash area. Because beach access has been a major issue in this project, shading beaches should help remove all doubt about beach access. | All designated trails are shaded. Beach access is shaded. <u>2 points:</u><br><u>1. with this approach "No Dog" areas are both plain gray and red. One shading would seem to be better.</u><br><br><u>2. also, in this approach we'll be marking marking all no dog trails. in Marin Headlands for instance? This will make the maps very busy.</u><br><br><u>Suggest instead have only areas open to some kind of dogwalking colored. No dog areas will be that gray/no color. We could address trail designation detail by having in the appendix a trails list, by site, calling out which are open/closed to dogwalking.</u> |

GGNRA Dog Plan Map Comments / Responses

| Commenter       | Comment   | Response  | How Proposed Map Addresses the Issue/ <u>SES edits</u>  |
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| Craig Scott     | make trails stand out more with black, possibly dashed, lines, that will show through transparency etc.   | Trails are now white, which shows up under transparency.  | All designated trails are white and shaded to show leash status.  |
| Craig Scott     | combine any adjoining polygons with similar leash status  | Polygons with similar leash status are combined unless transected by trails.  | Polygons are shaded lightly; designated trails are darker to stand out within solid-shaded areas.   |
| Craig Scott     | if using hatching, outlines of hatched areas could be thinner (notes hatching generally means "no" in mapping use, so perhaps we might want to use some other method of showing where dogs can be)<br>if using transparency, could use lighter transparency so trail etc. details can be seen through the color | One could argue that every designation in the plan means "no" to someone. When lighter transparency was used in previous versions, comments were made that the shading was not prominent enough and the color under the shading distorted the shaded color. | Grayscale features can be seen under the shading. Because the underlying map is gray, the shaded colors are not distorted. <u>Shading in current version works very well.</u> |
| Michael Edwards | I agree with Craig's suggestions. I don't know if we can escape hatching though, solid colors seem to obliterate everything on the map. Thus, I would vote for option Cb, with Craig's suggestions incorporated.  | Please review the grayscale version, which is better than Cb.   |   |
| Daphne Hatch    | I think I'll let you all figure out what works for the mapping. I'd like to stick to more substantive issues if that's ok.  | OK.   |   |
| Chris Powell    | I agree that we can't do without hatching, but the finer details should be left to the map experts. I think your examples Jaunita are much better than where we were awhile back.<br><br>My only other comment is that I like your use of distinct colors instead of several shades of similar colors.          | The shading became obscured or looked very similar to other colors when applied to a colored aerial.  | On the proposed map, shaded colors remain distinct because the underlying map is grayscale. <u>And it works well, as noted.</u>   |
| Bill Merkle     | I find version C way too distracting with all the hatching.   | Agreed  | On the proposed map, shading is used.   |

GGNRA Dog Plan Map Comments / Responses

| Commenter   | Comment   | Response  | How Proposed Map Addresses the Issue/ <b>SES edits</b>   |
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| Bill Merkle | I seem to like version A the best. I agree with Craig that maybe the transparency could be lightened to show background. Version B is my second favorite, though I find the hatching distracting. Could we see a thinner hatch on that, per Craig's comment to compare with version A.  | Hatching is distracting. The proposed map is easier to read.  | Grayscale features can be seen under the shading. However, the purpose of the maps is to show the alternatives – not to serve as trail maps or vegetation maps.  |
| Bill Merkle | Are the only places dogs can be off trails ROLA's--either on trails or beaches?   | Not a map format question   |  |
| Bill Merkle | How are we going to fence the ROLA on the beach? Not really a map design question.  | Not a map question  |  |
| Bill Merkle | The red in the color scheme stands out the most. Is that what we want (to highlight the on-leash)? We should maybe give some thought to this. I would like to see the NO DOG areas be the most obvious. However, we also need to be sure that it is 100% clear that areas not designated for dog use are NO dog also (which seems to be covered from a couple of angles in the Legend). | Over the various iterations of maps, the resounding issues on color have been: (1) colors must be distinct from each other, and (2) the user must be able to clearly identify the different use types. In the grayscale version, ALL dog use areas are obvious. | Red is recognized as a negative color and as such is now used to indicate No Dogs.<br><br>The colors used to shade areas are distinct from each other. Different colors could be used, but that decision needs to be made now. |

GGNRA Dog Plan Map Comments / Responses

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| Bill Merkle        | <p>limit colored sections on map to areas open to on leash or ROLA (legend already notes "Dogs ONLY allowed in ROLA and on leash areas")</p> <p>I agree that all areas not desinated as ROLA or on-leash should be no dogs. The only confusion here is that some no dog areas are designated with the colored symbol and others wouldn't be. This would solve our problem about designated the areas adjacent to areas on the map. My thought is that while we are evaluating/establishing dog regulations parkwide, we should have the plan cover all of the park.</p> | <p>ONLY shading on leash or ROLA areas would be easiest to understand, but in many instances, such as Fort Funston and Crissy Field, trails where dogs are not allowed about a ROLA or on-leash area. Because beach access has been a major issue in this project, shading beaches should help remove all doubt about beach access.</p> | <p>All designated trails are shaded. Beach access is shaded. <a href="#">See previous comment re: another approach to no-dog trails, and trail designations in general.</a></p> |
| Marybeth McFarland | <p>Ca.pdf appears the most clear. I would recommend to add color to the parking lot to indicate on leash.</p>   | <p>At the 3/17/08 meeting, the following decision was made: Do not shade parking lots, picnic areas, or areas around buildings; instead state that dogs are allowed on leash in parking lots and picnic areas but those areas will change based on other park planning.</p>   | <p>Parking lots are not shaded.</p>   |
| Marybeth McFarland | <p>I agree with the comments below submitted by Craig Scott, particularly the notation on "prohibited/closed" areas usually are the areas with the hash marks, and not over all the other allowed activities.</p>   | <p>One could argue that every designation in the plan means "no" to someone. When lighter transparency was used in previous versions, comments were made that the shading was not prominent enough and the color under the shading distorted the shaded color.</p>  | <p>Grayscale features can be seen under the shading. Because the underlying map is gray, the shaded colors are not distorted.</p>   |

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| Marybeth McFarland | <p>Where will ROLA be explained? In legend?</p>   | <p>The maps are complementary to the text. ROLA will be defined in the text.</p>   |  |
| Marybeth McFarland | <p>Delete all of the landmark descriptions outside NPS boundary, i.e. SF Firing Range, Harding Golf Course, etc.... too much information!</p>   | <p><b>Landmark descriptions were added over the past months as directed. If that direction has changed at a park-level, the maps will be updated as noted.</b></p>             | <p><u>Perhaps limit exterior landmarks to a few of the larger, just to orient folks?</u></p>   |

GGNRA Dog Plan Map Comments / Responses

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**Comment [MBE1]:** But, maps should reflect what each alternative is proposing. So, if Alt. C is proposing no off-trail dogwalking, then areas off of trails would be gray or shaded red.

**Comment [ses2]:** Sorry, this comment is really on the text in column 2 – just wanted to clarify that there is no such existing reg as “no off trail travel in urban parks” We’d be making that stipulation in our alts. in this EIS

**Comment [MBE3]:** But isn’t this a text change, not a map change? SES – Right. Campgrounds would just be in the gray areas of map that = no dogs.

**Comment [MBE4]:** I think the maps need to reflect the status of all trails, not just those open to dogwalking. Otherwise you get an incomplete picture. SES - By having the no-dog trails in gray shaded portions of the map, you are addressing all the trails. The only down side to this approach might be that it might be harder for reviewers to call out trails they want to change the designation of. Also, having the no-dog area designated by two colors (gray for general area, red for trails) seems less clear than just leaving all no dog areas gray.

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**Comment [MBE5]:** I think the maps need to show all trails, not just designated trails. SES response – you mean show social trails, too?

GGNRA Dog Plan Map Comments / Responses

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|--------------------|---|--|--|
| Marybeth McFarland | <p>Legend should include this language within the color designations, and not have more text below. The way it is, it appears to be adding additional rules and therefore more room for confusion</p> <p>Legend:</p> <p>Dogs Prohibited:<br/>Off Trail<br/>Campground (?? at FOFU?)</p> <p>Leash Required:<br/>Designated Trails<br/>Parking Lots<br/>Picnic Areas</p> <p>Dogs Allowed Off Leash (ROLA):<br/>Designated Areas, Beaches and Trails</p> | <p>For areas that do not have campgrounds, the "campground" portions of the legend will be removed. In the samples provided we tried to include every scenario for review.</p> | <p>The grayscale legend has been categorized per the suggestion. <u>This much text in the legend seems confusing. Suggest simply shading map as to where dogs are allowed on leash and in ROLAS, and append trails list for that specificity.</u></p> <p><u>That would leave the legend as follows:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>On leash areas (specify color)</u></li> <li>• <u>ROLA (specify color)</u></li> <li>• <u>All other areas, No Dogs</u></li> </ul> <p><u>For comprehensive list of trail designations, see Appendix XXX</u></p> |
| Marybeth McFarland | Where will ROLA be explained? In legend?  | The maps are complementary to the text. ROLA will be defined in the text.  |  |
| Marybeth McFarland | Delete all of the landmark descriptions outside NPS boundary, i.e. SF Firing Range, Harding Golf Course, etc.... too much information!  | Landmark descriptions were added over the past months as directed. If that direction has changed at a park-level, the maps will be updated as noted.                           | <u>Perhaps limit exterior landmarks to a few of the larger, just to orient folks?</u>  |

GGNRA Dog Plan Map Comments / Responses

| Commenter   | Comment   | Response  | How Proposed Map Addresses the Issue   |
|---|---|---|--|
| 3/17/08 Alternatives Meeting:<br>Decisions that Apply to All Maps | Do not shade parking lots, picnic areas, or areas around buildings; instead state that dogs are allowed on leash in parking lots and picnic areas but those areas will change based on other park planning.   | n/a   | Incorporated   |
| 3/17/08 Alternatives Meeting:<br>Decisions that Apply to All Maps | State that other than in urban parks, dogs are not allowed off trail unless otherwise noted   | n/a   | Should be stated in text, not on maps.   |
| 3/17/08 Alternatives Meeting:<br>Decisions that Apply to All Maps | State that dogs are not allowed in campgrounds (this is a change from the Parameters List)  | n/a   | Incorporated   |
| 3/17/08 Alternatives Meeting:<br>Decisions that Apply to All Maps | Remove Sensitive Habitat hatching from all maps   | n/a   | Incorporated   |
| 3/17/08 Alternatives Meeting:<br>Decisions that Apply to All Maps | Indicate that all piers are no-dog areas  | n/a   | Incorporated   |
| Craig Scott   | limit colored sections on map to areas open to on leash or ROLA (legend already notes "Dogs ONLY allowed in ROLA and on leash areas")   | In many instances, such as Fort Funston, trails where dogs are not allowed about a ROLA or on-leash area. Because beach access has been a major issue in this project, shading beaches should help remove all doubt about beach access.                     | All designated trails are shaded. Beach access is shaded.  |
| Craig Scott   | make trails stand out more with black, possibly dashed, lines, that will show through transparency etc.   | Trails are now white, which shows up under transparency.  | All designated trails are white and shaded to show leash status.   |
| Craig Scott   | combine any adjoining polygons with similar leash status  | Polygons with similar leash status are combined unless transected by trails.  | Polygons are shaded lightly; designated trails are darker to stand out within solid-shaded areas.                          |
| Craig Scott   | if using hatching, outlines of hatched areas could be thinner (notes hatching generally means "no" in mapping use, so perhaps we might want to use some other method of showing where dogs can be)<br>if using transparency, could use lighter transparency so trail etc. details can be seen through the color | One could argue that every designation in the plan means "no" to someone. When lighter transparency was used in previous versions, comments were made that the shading was not prominent enough and the color under the shading distorted the shaded color. | Grayscale features can be seen under the shading. Because the underlying map is gray, the shaded colors are not distorted. |

GGNRA Dog Plan Map Comments / Responses

| Commenter       | Comment  | Response   | How Proposed Map Addresses the Issue  |
|-----------------|--|--|---|
| Michael Edwards | I agree with Craig's suggestions. I don't know if we can escape hatching though, solid colors seem to obliterate everything on the map. Thus, I would vote for option Cb, with Craig's suggestions incorporated.   | Please review the grayscale version, which is better than Cb.  |   |
| Daphne Hatch    | I think I'll let you all figure out what works for the mapping. I'd like to stick to more substantive issues if that's ok.   | OK.  |   |
| Chris Powell    | I agree that we can't do without hatching, but the finer details should be left to the map experts. I think your examples Jaunita are much better than where we were awhile back.<br><br>My only other comment is that I like your use of distinct colors instead of several shades of similar colors. | The shading became obscured or looked very similar to other colors when applied to a colored aerial. | On the proposed map, shaded colors remain distinct because the underlying map is grayscale.   |
| Bill Merkle     | I find version C way too distracting with all the hatching.  | Agreed   | On the proposed map, shading is used.   |
| Bill Merkle     | I seem to like version A the best. I agree with Craig that maybe the transparency could be lightened to show background. Version B is my second favorite, though I find the hatching distracting. Could we see a thinner hatch on that, per Craig's comment to compare with version A.                 | Hatching is distracting. The proposed map is easier to read.   | Grayscale features can be seen under the shading. However, the purpose of the maps is to show the alternatives – not to serve as trail maps or vegetation maps. |
| Bill Merkle     | Are the only places dogs can be off trails ROLA's--either on trails or beaches?  | Not a map format question  |   |
| Bill Merkle     | How are we going to fence the ROLA on the beach? Not really a map design question.   | Not a map question   |   |

GGNRA Dog Plan Map Comments / Responses

| Commenter          | Comment   | Response   | How Proposed Map Addresses the Issue  |
|--------------------|---|--|---|
| Bill Merkle        | <p>The red in the color scheme stands out the most. Is that what we want (to highlight the on-leash)? We should maybe give some thought to this. I would like to see the NO DOG areas be the most obvious. However, we also need to be sure that it is 100% clear that areas not designated for dog use are NO dog also (which seems to be covered from a couple of angles in the Legend).</p>  | <p>Over the various iterations of maps, the resounding issues on color have been: (1) colors must be distinct from each other, and (2) the user must be able to clearly identify the different use types. In the grayscale version, ALL dog use areas are obvious.</p>   | <p>Red is recognized as a negative color and as such is now used to indicate No Dogs.</p> <p>The colors used to shade areas are distinct from each other. Different colors could be used, but that decision needs to be made now.</p> |
| Bill Merkle        | <p>limit colored sections on map to areas open to on leash or ROLA (legend already notes "Dogs ONLY allowed in ROLA and on leash areas")</p> <p>I agree that all areas not desinated as ROLA or on-leash should be no dogs. The only confusion here is that some no dog areas are designated with the colored symbol and others wouldn't be. This would solve our problem about designated the areas adjacent to areas on the map. My thought is that while we are evaluating/establishing dog regulations parkwide, we should have the plan cover all of the park.</p> | <p>ONLY shading on leash or ROLA areas would be easiest to understand, but in many instances, such as Fort Funston and Crissy Field, trails where dogs are not allowed abut a ROLA or on-leash area. Because beach access has been a major issue in this project, shading beaches should help remove all doubt about beach access.</p> | <p>All designated trails are shaded. Beach access is shaded.</p>  |
| Marybeth McFarland | <p>Ca.pdf appears the most clear. I would recommend to add color to the parking lot to indicate on leash.</p>   | <p>At the 3/17/08 meeting, the following decision was made: Do not shade parking lots, picnic areas, or areas around buildings; instead state that dogs are allowed on leash in parking lots and picnic areas but those areas will change based on other park planning.</p>  | <p>Parking lots are not shaded.</p>   |

GGNRA Dog Plan Map Comments / Responses

| Commenter          | Comment   | Response  | How Proposed Map Addresses the Issue   |
|--------------------|---|---|--|
| Marybeth McFarland | I agree with the comments below submitted by Craig Scott, particularly the notation on "prohibited/closed" areas usually are the areas with the hash marks, and not over all the other allowed activities.  | One could argue that every designation in the plan means "no" to someone. When lighter transparency was used in previous versions, comments were made that the shading was not prominent enough and the color under the shading distorted the shaded color. | Grayscale features can be seen under the shading. Because the underlying map is gray, the shaded colors are not distorted. |
| Marybeth McFarland | <p>Legend should include this language within the color designations, and not have more text below. The way it is, it appears to be adding additional rules and therefore more room for confusion</p> <p>Legend:</p> <p>Dogs Prohibited:<br/>Off Trail<br/>Campground (?? at FOFU?)</p> <p>Leash Required:<br/>Designated Trails<br/>Parking Lots<br/>Picnic Areas</p> <p>Dogs Allowed Off Leash (ROLA):<br/>Designated Areas, Beaches and Trails</p> | For areas that do not have campgrounds, the "campground" portions of the legend will be removed. In the samples provided we tried to include every scenario for review.   | The grayscale legend has been categorized per the suggestion.  |
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# **DRAFT**

## **Negotiated Rulemaking Advisory Committee for Dog Management at Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA)**

### **Frequently Asked Questions**

**March 6, 2006**

1. What is the purpose of the GGNRA Dog Management Negotiated Rulemaking Advisory Committee?

The Committee will seek to reach consensus on a proposed rule for dog management in GGNRA and any other matter within the discussion guidelines laid out in the charter that the Committee determines is relevant to the proposed rule.

2. What is Negotiated Rulemaking, and how does it work?

Negotiated Rulemaking supplements the federal rulemaking process by convening an advisory committee that is representative of the interests that will be significantly affected by the rule and whose members are willing to negotiate in good faith to attempt to reach a consensus on a proposed rule.

3. Why has GGNRA chosen to use Negotiated Rulemaking?

GGNRA has chosen Negotiated Rulemaking to supplement the federal rulemaking process for the express purpose of involving the key stakeholders more directly in the rulemaking process. Given the longstanding and passionate interest that various stakeholders have in this issue, GGNRA believes there is a greater chance of success working in partnership with stakeholders who have diverse values and views about dog management than in unilaterally developing a rule governing dog management..

4. What are the alternatives to Negotiated Rulemaking?

The alternative to Negotiated Rulemaking is traditional agency rulemaking, an administrative process which does not involve those who will be significantly affected by the rule in the initial drafting process and requires only that the agency publish any proposed rule and allow opportunity for public comment.

5. Why is off-leash dog activity being considered in GGNRA?

Off-leash dog walking is being considered in GGNRA because it has traditionally been one of the recreational opportunities allowed in specified areas of GGNRA. In most cases, the areas within GGNRA which have been used for off-leash activity were historically used for this purpose prior to being incorporated into GGNRA. As such, GGNRA management believes opportunities for off-leash activity should be evaluated in light of historical use, as well as in the context of mandates and guidelines governing recreational and related activities and resource protection in GGNRA.

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The major concerns raised about off-leash dog activity relate to potential resource impacts, public and staff safety, public access, and compatibility with other allowed uses.

7. How will the environmental, economic, social, recreational and other aspects of dog management walking be evaluated during the process?

In addition to a discussion of these issues within the Negotiated Rulemaking Advisory Committee (perhaps by one or more subcommittees), an environmental review and assessment will be conducted by the National Park Service under the National Environmental Policy Act, (NEPA).

8. How is the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) related to the Negotiated Rulemaking process?

The Negotiated Rulemaking and NEPA processes will be closely coordinated in order to share information about possible options and alternatives and their impacts and implications.

9. Who will be represented on the Negotiated Rulemaking Committee?

The Committee will be comprised of representatives who can effectively represent the balance of interests that will be significantly affected by the rule. This includes representatives of off-leash dog advocates, environmental advocates, and other park users such as equestrians, the elderly, the disabled and children.

10. What is the role of the alternates on the Committee?

Each Committee member has an Alternate. The primary role of Alternates is to represent the interests of the Committee member in case of absence. In those few cases where the Alternate represents a different organization from that of the Committee member, the Alternate will have a negotiating role equivalent to that of the Committee member to ensure balanced representation..

11. Can people who are not Committee members participate in the Negotiated Rulemaking process?

Committee meetings are open to the public; opportunities for public comment will be provided during designated periods. It may also be possible for Subcommittees to include non-Committee members, as determined by the Committee.

# DRAFT

12. How will the Committee make its decisions?

The Negotiated Rulemaking Act encourages the use of consensus. “Consensus” means unanimous concurrence among the interests represented on the Committee, unless the Committee defines “consensus” in a different way in their operating guidelines

13. What happens if Committee members disagree on one or more proposals?

This has yet to be determined by the Committee, but options such as majority/minority reports can be considered.

14. How will recommendations of the Committee be used by the NPS?

The NPS, to the greatest possible extent consistent with its legal obligations, will use the consensus as the basis for a proposed rule. Specifically, whatever consensus the Committee is able to achieve will be moved forward in one or more alternatives of the EIS which will result from the concurrent NEPA process. The preferred alternative of the EIS will be the basis for a special regulation for dog management at GGNRA.

15. Once there is a proposed rule, what is the process for adopting a special regulation for dog management in GGNRA?

General notice of a proposed rule is published in the Federal Register with either substance of the proposed rule or a description of the subjects and issues involved. Interested persons may then comment on the proposed rule. After consideration of the relevant comments, the NPS will draft a final rule with a concise general statement of their basis and purpose.

16. How much is the Negotiated Rulemaking process costing?

The contract for the negotiated rulemaking process at this time is for approximately \$250,000. This must be put in the context of the costs of more than five years of controversy around this topic that has consumed extensive National Park Service staff time to address public outreach, enforcement actions, legal actions, technical studies and management.

17. What is the role of the mediators, or “neutrals” in the process?

Per the Negotiated Rulemaking Act (USC Title 5, Part I, Chapter 5, Subchapter III), independent, impartial mediators were utilized to help assess how best to proceed with the negotiated rulemaking process, identify potential stakeholders and committee members and clarify the key issues which need to be addressed and/or resolved. Now that the Committee members have been appointed, the impartial mediators will plan and facilitate meetings of the Committee and any Subcommittees, prepare meeting

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summaries, and help the Committee in conducting discussions and negotiations to find solutions to the outstanding issues.

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The mediators were chosen through a competitive process managed by the U.S. Institute for Environmental Conflict Resolution in Tucson, Arizona. The Institute used a team of reviewers, comprised of representatives of key stakeholders and GGNRA staff, to help select the mediators.

19. Will the outcomes from the GGNRA Negotiated Rulemaking process likely serve as a precedent for other National Park units?

It is not the intent of GGNRA to create a precedent that is applicable to other national park units, nor does GGNRA believe it will do so. As spelled out in the Federal Panel Recommendation to the General Superintendent on Proposed Rulemaking for Pet Management at Golden Gate National Recreation Area, November 2002, GGNRA has a unique set of characteristics: the integration of properties which had historically been used for off-leash dog walking; the 1979 Citizen's Advisory Commission Pet Policy recommending the continuation of those uses; GGNRA parkland being immediately adjacent to one of the most densely populated urban centers in the United States; a significant portion of recreational open space, particularly waterfront, in San Francisco and Marin Counties where residents rely on portions of that open space for exercise of their pets, managed by GGNRA; and GGNRA locations such as grassy areas and other landscaped sites that may be suitable for off-leash dog use without causing unacceptable impacts,

20. Why, then, does GGNRA not just adopt the 1979 Pet Policy as its dog management regulation?

The NPS must ensure that any rule promulgated is consistent with applicable statutory requirements, including, but not limited to, the National Environmental Policy Act and the Endangered Species Act. No such analysis was completed for the 1979 Pet Policy and in addition, conditions within the park have changed since 1979. Increased visitation, addition of park areas and increased knowledge of resources within the park must be taken into consideration in any new dog management regulation.

21. How long will it take to complete the Dog Management Negotiated Rulemaking process?

Although the Committee is chartered for two years, the intent is to complete the primary elements of the Negotiated Rulemaking process within one year of its being chartered by the Department of Interior. This is subject to change based on the availability of data and other information needed for the Committee to complete its work, and the NEPA process.

# DRAFT

22. Once a Final Rule is issued, how long will it take to go into effect?

A final rule would become effective 30 days after it is published in the Federal Register. Although the Negotiated Rulemaking and NEPA processes are complex, NPS staff expects that a final rule, barring unforeseen circumstances, could be published in late 2007.

23. Once a Proposed Rule is issued, how will the rule be enforced? Will additional funding/staff be allotted to the park service to enforce the rule?

One of the objectives of the negotiated rulemaking and NEPA processes is to establish dog management that is within the fiscal ability of the park to manage. As stated in the Federal Panel's recommendations to GGNRA regarding development of a management plan and rule : "Implementation would also depend on fiscal and operational feasibility of any operational alternative selected. Implementation would also depend on the involvement of users to support the program."

24. How does the Negotiated Rulemaking process relate to off-leash dog management initiatives in the City of San Francisco and other Bay Area jurisdictions adjacent to GGNRA?

Similar issues are being addressed by the City of San Francisco as well as other local governments adjacent to GGNRA. As federal lands, however, the uses, decision making processes, policies and regulations associated with GGNRA must comply with federal guidelines.

# DRAFT

## Negotiated Rulemaking Advisory Committee for Dog Management at Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA)

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March 6, 2006

1. What is the purpose of the GGNRA Dog Management Negotiated Rulemaking Advisory Committee?

The Committee will seek to reach consensus on a proposed rule for dog management in GGNRA and any other matter within the discussion guidelines laid out in the charter that the Committee determines is relevant to the proposed rule.

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## DRAFT

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In addition to a discussion of these issues within the Negotiated Rulemaking Advisory Committee (perhaps by one or more subcommittees), an environmental review and assessment will be conducted by the National Park Service under the National Environmental Policy Act, (NEPA).

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Comment [JMH1]: I have trouble with this language. What is a “concise general statement?” And is “their” the correct pronoun?

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The Committee will be comprised of representatives who can effectively represent the balance of ~~interests that~~ ~~interests that~~ will be significantly affected by the rule. This includes representatives of off-leash dog advocates, environmental advocates, and other park users such as equestrians, the elderly, the disabled and children.

10. What is the role of the alternates on the Committee?

Each Committee member has an Alternate. The primary role of Alternates is to represent the interests of the Committee member in case of absence. In those ~~few~~ ~~eases~~ ~~few cases~~ where the Alternate represents a different organization from that of the Committee member, the Alternate will have a negotiating role equivalent to that of the Committee member to ensure balanced representation.

11. Can people who are not Committee members participate in the Negotiated Rulemaking process?

Committee meetings are open to the public; opportunities for public comment will be provided during designated periods. It may also be possible for Subcommittees to include non-Committee members, as determined by the Committee.

## DRAFT

### 12. How will the Committee make its decisions?

The Negotiated Rulemaking Act encourages the use of consensus. “Consensus” means unanimous concurrence among the interests represented on the Committee, unless the Committee defines “consensus” in a different way in their operating guidelines

### 13. What happens if Committee members disagree on one or more proposals?

This has yet to be determined by the Committee, but options such as majority/minority reports can be considered.

### 14. How will recommendations of the Committee be used by the NPS?

The NPS, to the greatest possible extent consistent with its legal obligations, will use the consensus as the basis for a proposed rule. Specifically, whatever consensus the Committee is able to achieve will be moved forward in one or more alternatives of the EIS which will result from the concurrent NEPA process. The preferred alternative of the EIS will be the basis for a special regulation for dog management at GGNRA.

### 15. Once there is a proposed rule, what is the process for adopting a special regulation for dog management in GGNRA?

General notice of a proposed rule is published in the Federal Register with either the substance of the proposed rule or a description of the subjects and issues involved. Interested persons may then comment on the proposed rule. After consideration of the relevant comments, the NPS will draft a final rule with a concise general statement of itstheir basis and purpose.

Comment [JMH1]: I have trouble with this language. What is a “concise general statement?” And is “their” the correct pronoun?

### 16. How much is the Negotiated Rulemaking process costing?

The contract for the negotiated rulemaking process at this time is for approximately \$250,000. One way to evaluate this ~~This projected amount is to compare it with the costs to the National Park Service in staff time over the past five years must be put in the context of the costs of more than five years of controversy around this topic that has consumed extensive National Park Service staff time to address related to~~ public outreach, enforcement actions, legal actions, technical studies and management.

### 17. What is the role of the mediators, or “neutrals” in the process?

Per the Negotiated Rulemaking Act (USC Title 5, Part I, Chapter 5, Subchapter III), independent, impartial mediators were utilized to help assess how best to proceed with the negotiated rulemaking process, identify potential stakeholders and committee members and clarify the key issues which need to be addressed and/or resolved. Now that the Committee members have been appointed, the impartial mediators will plan and facilitate meetings of the Committee and any Subcommittees, prepare meeting

## DRAFT

summaries, and help the Committee in conducting discussions and negotiations to find solutions to the outstanding issues.

### 18. How were the mediators chosen?

The mediators were chosen through a competitive process managed by the U.S. Institute for Environmental Conflict Resolution in Tucson, Arizona. The Institute used a team of reviewers, comprised of representatives of key stakeholders and GGNRA staff, to help select the mediators.

### 19. Will the outcomes from the GGNRA Negotiated Rulemaking process likely serve as a precedent for other National Park units?

It is not the intent of GGNRA to create a precedent that is applicable to other national park units, nor does GGNRA believe it will do so. As spelled out in the Federal Panel Recommendation to the General Superintendent on Proposed Rulemaking for Pet Management at Golden Gate National Recreation Area, November 2002, GGNRA has a unique set of characteristics: the integration of properties which had historically been used for off-leash dog walking; the 1979 Citizen's Advisory Commission Pet Policy recommending the continuation of those uses; GGNRA parkland being immediately adjacent to one of the most densely populated urban centers in the United States; a significant portion of recreational open space, particularly waterfront, in San Francisco and Marin Counties where residents rely on portions of that open space for exercise of their pets, managed by GGNRA; and GGNRA locations such as grassy areas and other landscaped sites that may be suitable for off-leash dog use without causing unacceptable impacts,

### 20. Why, then, does GGNRA not just adopt the 1979 Pet Policy as its dog management regulation?

The NPS must ensure that any rule promulgated is consistent with applicable statutory requirements, including, but not limited to, the National Environmental Policy Act and the Endangered Species Act. No such analysis was completed for the 1979 Pet Policy and in addition, conditions within the park have changed since 1979. Increased visitation, addition of park areas and increased knowledge of resources within the park must be taken into consideration in any new dog management regulation.

### 21. How long will it take to complete the Dog Management Negotiated Rulemaking process?

Although the Committee is chartered for two years, the intent is to complete the primary elements of the Negotiated Rulemaking process within one year of its being chartered by the Department of Interior. This is subject to change based on the availability of data and other information needed for the Committee to complete its work, and the NEPA process.

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22. Once a Final Rule is issued, how long will it take to go into effect?

A final rule would become effective 30 days after it is published in the Federal Register. Although the Negotiated Rulemaking and NEPA processes are complex, NPS staff expects that a final rule, barring unforeseen circumstances, could be published in late 2007.

23. Once a Proposed Rule is issued, how will the rule be enforced? Will additional funding/staff be allotted to the park service to enforce the rule?

One of the objectives of the negotiated rulemaking and NEPA processes is to establish dog management that is within the fiscal ability of the park to manage. As stated in the Federal Panel's recommendations to GGNRA regarding development of a management plan and rule : "Implementation would also depend on fiscal and operational feasibility of any operational alternative selected. Implementation would also depend on the involvement of users to support the program."

24. How does the Negotiated Rulemaking process relate to off-leash dog management initiatives in the City of San Francisco and other Bay Area jurisdictions adjacent to GGNRA?

Similar issues are being addressed by the City of San Francisco as well as other local governments adjacent to GGNRA. As federal lands, however, the uses, decision making processes, policies and regulations associated with GGNRA must comply with federal guidelines.

# DRAFT

## Negotiated Rulemaking Advisory Committee for Dog Management at Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA)

### Frequently Asked Questions

March 6, 2006

1. What is the purpose of the GGNRA Dog Management Negotiated Rulemaking Advisory Committee?

The Committee will seek to reach consensus on a proposed rule for dog management in GGNRA and any other matter within the discussion guidelines laid out in the charter that the Committee determines is relevant to the proposed rule.

2. What is Negotiated Rulemaking, and how does it work?

Negotiated Rulemaking supplements the federal rulemaking process by convening an advisory committee that is representative of the interests that will be significantly affected by the rule and whose members are willing to negotiate in good faith to attempt to reach a consensus on a proposed rule.

3. Why has GGNRA chosen to use Negotiated Rulemaking?

GGNRA has chosen Negotiated Rulemaking to supplement the federal rulemaking process for the express purpose of involving the key stakeholders more directly in the rulemaking process. Given the longstanding and passionate interest that various stakeholders have in this issue, GGNRA believes there is a greater chance of success working in partnership with stakeholders who have diverse values and views about dog management than in unilaterally developing a rule governing dog management.

4. What are the alternatives to Negotiated Rulemaking?

The alternative to Negotiated Rulemaking is traditional agency rulemaking, an administrative process which does not involve those who will be significantly affected by the rule in the initial drafting process and requires only that the agency publish any proposed rule and allow opportunity for public comment.

5. Why is off-leash dog activity being considered in GGNRA?

Off-leash dog walking is being considered in GGNRA because it has traditionally been one of the recreational opportunities allowed in specified areas of GGNRA. In most cases, the areas within GGNRA which have been used for off-leash activity were historically used for this purpose prior to being incorporated into GGNRA. As such, GGNRA management believes opportunities for off-leash activity should be evaluated in light of historical use, as well as in the context of mandates and guidelines governing recreational and related activities and resource protection in GGNRA.

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6. What are the major concerns associated with allowing off-leash dog walking within GGNRA?

The major concerns raised about off-leash dog activity relate to potential resource impacts, public and staff safety, public access, and compatibility with other allowed uses.

7. How will the environmental, economic, social, recreational and other aspects of dog ~~management~~ ~~management walking~~ be evaluated during the process?

In addition to a discussion of these issues within the Negotiated Rulemaking Advisory Committee (perhaps by one or more subcommittees), an environmental review and assessment will be conducted by the National Park Service under the National Environmental Policy Act, (NEPA).

8. How is the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) related to the Negotiated Rulemaking process?

The Negotiated Rulemaking and NEPA processes will be closely coordinated in order to share information about possible options and alternatives and their impacts and implications.

9. Who will be represented on the Negotiated Rulemaking Committee?

The Committee will be comprised of representatives who can effectively represent the balance of ~~interests that~~ ~~interests that~~ will be significantly affected by the rule. This includes representatives of off-leash dog advocates, environmental advocates, and other park users such as equestrians, the elderly, the disabled and children.

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Each Committee member has an Alternate. The primary role of Alternates is to represent the interests of the Committee member in case of absence. In those ~~few~~ ~~eases~~ ~~few cases~~ where the Alternate represents a different organization from that of the Committee member, the Alternate will have a negotiating role equivalent to that of the Committee member to ensure balanced representation.

11. Can people who are not Committee members participate in the Negotiated Rulemaking process?

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The Negotiated Rulemaking Act encourages the use of consensus. “Consensus” means unanimous concurrence among the interests represented on the Committee, unless the Committee defines “consensus” in a different way in their operating guidelines

### 13. What happens if Committee members ~~disagree on one or more proposals~~ is unable to reach consensus?

This has yet to be determined by the Committee, but options such as majority/minority reports can be considered.

### 14. How will recommendations of the Committee be used by the NPS?

The NPS, to the greatest possible extent consistent with its legal obligations, will use the consensus as the basis for a proposed rule. Specifically, whatever consensus the Committee is able to achieve will be moved forward in one or more alternatives of the EIS which will result from the concurrent NEPA process. The preferred alternative of the EIS will be the basis for a special regulation for dog management at GGNRA.

### 15. Once there is a proposed rule, what is the process for adopting a special regulation for dog management in GGNRA?

General notice of a proposed rule is published in the Federal Register with either the substance of the proposed rule or a description of the subjects and issues involved. Interested persons may then comment on the proposed rule. After consideration of the relevant comments, the NPS will draft a final rule with a concise ~~general~~ statement of ~~its~~their basis and purpose.

**Comment [JMH1]:** I have trouble with this language. What is a “concise general statement?” And is “their” the correct pronoun?

### 16. How much is the Negotiated Rulemaking process costing?

The contract for the negotiated rulemaking process at this time is for approximately \$250,000. One way to evaluate this ~~This~~ projected amount is to compare it with the costs to the National Park Service in staff time over the past five years ~~must be put in the context of the costs of more than five years of controversy around this topic that has consumed extensive National Park Service staff time to address~~ related to public outreach, enforcement actions, legal actions, technical studies and management.

### 17. What is the role of the mediators, or “neutrals” in the process?

Per the Negotiated Rulemaking Act (USC Title 5, Part I, Chapter 5, Subchapter III), independent, impartial mediators were utilized to help assess how best to proceed with the negotiated rulemaking process, identify potential stakeholders and committee members and clarify the key issues which need to be addressed and/or resolved. Now

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that the Committee members have been appointed, the impartial mediators will plan and facilitate meetings of the Committee and any Subcommittees, prepare meeting summaries, and help the Committee in conducting discussions and negotiations to find solutions to the outstanding issues.

### 18. How were the mediators chosen?

The mediators were chosen through a competitive process managed by the U.S. Institute for Environmental Conflict Resolution in Tucson, Arizona. The Institute used a team of reviewers, comprised of representatives of key stakeholders and GGNRA staff, to help select the mediators.

### 19. Will the outcomes from the GGNRA Negotiated Rulemaking process likely serve as a precedent for other National Park units?

It is not the intent of GGNRA to create a precedent that is applicable to other national park units, nor does GGNRA believe it will do so. As spelled out in the Federal Panel Recommendation to the General Superintendent on Proposed Rulemaking for Pet Management at Golden Gate National Recreation Area, November 2002, GGNRA has a unique set of characteristics: the integration of properties which had historically been used for off-leash dog walking; the 1979 Citizen's Advisory Commission Pet Policy recommending the continuation of those uses; GGNRA parkland being immediately adjacent to one of the most densely populated urban centers in the United States; a significant portion of recreational open space, particularly waterfront, in San Francisco and Marin Counties where residents rely on portions of that open space for exercise of their pets, managed by GGNRA; and GGNRA locations such as grassy areas and other landscaped sites that may be suitable for off-leash dog use without causing unacceptable impacts,

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### 21. How long will it take to complete the Dog Management Negotiated Rulemaking process?

Although the Committee is chartered for two years, the intent is to complete the primary elements of the Negotiated Rulemaking process within one year of its being chartered by the Department of Interior. This is subject to change based on the

## DRAFT

availability of data and other information needed for the Committee to complete its work, and the NEPA process.

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23. Once a Proposed Rule is issued, how will the rule be enforced? Will additional funding/staff be allotted to the park service to enforce the rule?

One of the objectives of the negotiated rulemaking and NEPA processes is to establish dog management that is within the fiscal ability of the park to manage. As stated in the Federal Panel's recommendations to GGNRA regarding development of a management plan and rule: "Implementation would also depend on fiscal and operational feasibility of any operational alternative selected. Implementation would also depend on the involvement of users to support the program."

24. How does the Negotiated Rulemaking process relate to off-leash dog management initiatives in the City of San Francisco and other Bay Area jurisdictions adjacent to GGNRA?

Similar issues are being addressed by the City of San Francisco as well as other local governments adjacent to GGNRA. As federal lands, however, the uses, decision making processes, policies and regulations associated with GGNRA must comply with federal guidelines.

# DRAFT

## GGNRA Dog Management Negotiated Rulemaking

### Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is the purpose of the GGNRA Dog Management Negotiated Rulemaking?

The Negotiated Rulemaking Committee will consider matters relating to dogwalking in GGNRA and attempt to reach a consensus concerning a proposed rule for dogwalking in GGNRA and any other matter the Committee determines is relevant to the proposed rule. within the discussion guidelines layed out in the charter.

2. What is Negotiated Rulemaking, and how does it work?

Negotiated Rulemaking supplements the federal rulemaking process by convening a committee with a balanced representation of persons who can represent the interests that will be significantly affected by the rule and are willing to negotiate in good faith to attempt to reach a consensus on a proposed rule.

3. Why has GGNRA chosen to use Negotiated Rulemaking?

GGNRA has chosen Negotiated Rulemaking to supplement the federal rulemaking process for the express purpose of involving the key stakeholders more directly in the rulemaking process. Given the longstanding and passionate interest that various stakeholders have in this issue, GGNRA believes there is a greater chance of success ~~would rather~~ working in partnership with these stakeholders—who have varying views about off-leash dog walking – than unilaterally developing a rule governing dogwalking.

4. What are the alternatives to Negotiated Rulemaking?

The alternative to Negotiated Rulemaking is traditional agency rulemaking which does not involve those who will be significantly affected by the rule in the drafting of the proposed rule and requires only that the agency publish any proposed rule and allow opportunity for public comment.

5. Why is off-leash dog activity being considered in GGNRA?

Off-leash dog walking is being considered in GGNRA because it has traditionally been one of the recreational opportunities allowed in specified areas of GGNRA. In most cases, the areas within GGNRA which have been used for off-leash activity were historically used for this purpose prior to being incorporated into GGNRA. As such, GGNRA management believes opportunities for off-leash activity should be considered and evaluated in light of historical use, as well as in the context of mandates and guidelines governing recreational and related activities and resource protection in GGNRA.

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6. What are the major concerns associated with allowing off-leash dog walking within GGNRA?

The major concerns raised about off-leash dog activity relate to potential resource impacts, public and staff safety, public access ~~and~~ compatibility with other allowed uses, among others.

7. How will the environmental, economic, social, recreational and other aspects of off-leash dog walking be assessed during the process?

In addition to these issues potentially being addressed by a Technical Subcommittee of the Negotiated Rulemaking Committee, an environmental review and assessment will be conducted by the National Park Service under the National Environmental Policy Act.

8. How is the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) related to the Negotiated Rulemaking process?

The Negotiated Rulemaking and NEPA processes will be closely coordinated, and ~~will be used to inform each other information~~ about possible strategies to consider, and the impacts and implications of ~~each these process will be relevant in the other process, strategies. (I think that we need to find other wording than "used to inform each other". Shirwin—you had some good wording in the NEPA brochure.~~

9. Who will be represented on the Negotiated Rulemaking Committee?

The Committee will be comprised of a balanced representation of persons who can adequately represent the interests that will be significantly affected by the rule. This includes representatives of off-leash dog advocates, environmental advocates, and other park users such as equestrians, the elderly, the disabled and children.

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15. Once there is a proposed rule, what is the process for adopting a special regulation for dog walking in GGNRA?

General notice of a proposed rule is published in the Federal Register with either substance of the proposed rule or a description of the subjects and issues involved. Interested persons may then comment on the [proposed rule, rule-making](#). After consideration of the relevant comments, the NPS will draft a final rule with a concise general statement of their basis and purpose.

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The contract for the negotiated rulemaking process at this time is for approximately \$250,000. This must be put in the context of the costs of more than five years of controversy around this topic that has consumed extensive National Park Service staff time to address public outreach, enforcement actions, legal actions, technical studies and management.

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[Per the Negotiated Rulemaking Procedure \(USC Title 5, Part I, Chapter 5, Subchapter III\)](#), independent, impartial mediators are utilized to help assess how best to proceed with the negotiated rulemaking process, identify potential stakeholders and committee members and clarify the key issues which need to be addressed and/or resolved. Once a Committee is appointed, impartial mediators plan and facilitate meetings of the

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The required publication of a rule shall be made not less than 30 days before its effective date,

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One of the objectives of the negotiated rulemaking and NEPA processes is to establish dogwalking management that is within the fiscal ability of the park to manage. As stated in the Federal Panel's recommendations to GGNRA regarding development of a management plan and rule for dogwalking: "Implementation would also depend on fiscal and operational feasibility of any operational alternative selected. Implementation would also depend on the involvement of users to support the program."

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Similar issues are being addressed by the City of San Francisco as well as other local governments adjacent to GGNRA. As federal lands, however, the uses, decision making processes, policies and regulations associated with GGNRA must comply with federal guidelines.

**PARK:** Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA)

**Congressional Districts:**

|                   |                    |                     |                                |
|-------------------|--------------------|---------------------|--------------------------------|
| <i>California</i> | <i>District 6</i>  | <i>Lynn Woolsey</i> | <i>Senate: Diane Feinstein</i> |
|                   | <i>District 8</i>  | <i>Nancy Pelosi</i> | <i>Barbara Boxer</i>           |
|                   | <i>District 12</i> | <i>Tom Lantos</i>   |                                |
|                   | <i>District 14</i> | <i>Anna Eshoo</i>   |                                |

**ISSUE:** GGNRA Dog Management Plan/EIS

**BACKGROUND:** Although the NPS regulation 36 CFR 2.15(a)(2) requires that all pets, where allowed in national park sites, are to be crated, caged, restrained or otherwise physically confined at all times, dog walking is becoming increasingly difficult to manage in GGNRA. A growing number of dog walkers use the park and do not voluntarily comply with the regulation and park rangers and USPP have other priorities, such as homeland security details.

In addition, a recent decision by the United States District Court for the Northern District of California affirmed a December 2004 District Court dismissal of three citations for violations of 36 CFR 2.15 on Crissy Field. The decision noted that the GGNRA Advisory Commission's voice control policy had been in effect in the park for many years, and that prior to enforcing the NPS regulation requiring pets on leash in all areas of the park, public notice and comment was required. The decision stated that "Contrary to the government, GGNRA has not carried out the notice and comment process envisioned by Section 1.5 (b)." This court case, visitor conflicts, resource management issues and stress on the park staff have underscored the need for the park to initiate a NEPA process to develop a management plan and EIS with a concurrent Negotiated Rulemaking (reg-neg) process to potentially develop an alternate regulation for dogwalking at GGNRA .

**CURRENT STATUS:** The Notice of Intent to establish a negotiated rulemaking committee was published in the Federal Register in June, 2005. GGNRA has forwarded a package containing responses to comments and a Notice of Establishment to the Director requesting that the Committee be established. It is expected that the Notice of Establishment for the Negotiated Rulemaking Committee will be published at the same time as the Notice of Intent for the Dog Management Plan/EIS. The first meeting of the Negotiated Rulemaking Committee is anticipated in late 2005 or early 2006. The public scoping meeting for the NEPA process is planned for early 2006.

**POSITION OF INTERESTED PARTIES:** The park continues to receive significant comment in support of off-leash dog walking, as well as complaints from other visitors alleging that off-leash dogs are a nuisance and potentially harmful. Environmental organizations have expressed concerns about the protection of resources should an alternate regulation be proposed for the park. Organized dog walking groups and Congressional Representatives have asked the NPS to move forward with reg-neg to potentially allow off-leash dogwalking in certain areas of the park in order to resolve this contentious issue. Park

staff would like to reduce the conflict and find another way to manage this issue, taking into account NPS regulations, policies and guidelines.

**BUREAU PERSPECTIVE:** Per Director's Order 75A, the NPS will move forward with the reg-neg process to collaboratively involve the public in exploring alternatives for management of this highly emotional and difficult issue.

**BUDGET IMPLICATIONS:** PMIS statement #91339 was entered in 2002 requesting \$498,450 from the NPS Environmental Quality Division (EQD) to fund the NEPA process. At this time, EQD has provided funding for the first two phases of the NEPA process.

**CONTACT:** Christine Powell, Office of Public Affairs, [Chris\\_Powell@nps.gov](mailto:Chris_Powell@nps.gov) or (415) 561-4732.

**DATE:** October 18, 2005

## **SECTION 2.15 OF GOGA COMPENDIUM**

### **2013 Compendium**

**36 CFR §2.15 – PETS** <http://www.nps.gov/goga/parkmgmt/pets.htm>

**(a)(1) The following structures and/or areas are CLOSED to pets by the Superintendent:**

- All park buildings and facilities, including outdoor restrooms and public showers.
- Marin County
  - IN THE FORT BAKER AREA
    - Chapel Trail
    - Fort Baker Pier
  - IN THE MARIN HEADLANDS AREA
    - Alta Trail (only between Oakwood Valley Trail intersection and Wolfback Ridge Road)
    - Bicentennial Campground
    - Bobcat Trail
    - Coyote Ridge Trail
    - Dias Ridge
    - Fort Baker Pier
    - Fox Trail
    - Green Gulch Trail
    - Hawk Campground and Trail
    - Haypress Campground and Trail
    - Kirby Cove area
    - Lower Fisherman Trail & Beach
    - Marincello Road
    - Middle Green Gulch Trail
    - Miwok Cutoff Trail
    - Miwok Trail, between Wolf Ridge and Bobcat Trail
    - Morning Sun Trail
    - Old Springs Trail
    - Point Bonita Lighthouse Trail
    - Rodeo Avenue Trail
    - Rodeo Beach Lagoon
    - Rodeo Lake
    - Rodeo Valley Trail
    - Rhubarb Trail
    - SCA Trail
    - Slacker Hill Trail
    - Tennessee Valley Beach
    - Tennessee Valley Trail from Parking Lot to Beach
    - Upper Fisherman Trail & Beach
  - IN THE MUIR BEACH AREA
    - Big Lagoon
    - Owl Trail
    - Redwood Creek
  - MUIR WOODS NATIONAL MONUMENT AREA
    - Muir Woods National Monument
    - Redwood Creek Trail
  - IN THE STINSON BEACH AREA
    - Coast Trail

- Dipsea Trail
  - Matt Davis Trail
  - McKennan Trail
  - Willow Camp Fire Road
  - Stinson Beach (beach only).
- San Francisco
- Alcatraz Island
  - IN THE CRISSY FIELD AREA
    - Crissy Field Tidal Marsh and Lagoon
  - IN THE UPPER FORT MASON AREA
    - Community Garden
  - IN THE FORT FUNSTON AREA
    - Fort Funston Habitat Protection Area (Attachment)
    - Coastal Trail, intersection of Horse Trail to Great Highway, closed due to erosion.
  - IN THE FORT POINT AREA
    - Fort Point (inside historic fort)
    - Fort Point pier (Torpedo Wharf)
  - IN THE PRESIDIO AREA A
    - Baker Beach (South of Lobos Creek)
    - Battery to Bluffs Trail
    - China Beach
    - Lobos Creek
    - Marshall Beach
- San Mateo County
- Phlegar Estate
  - SWEENEY RIDGE AREA (**Exhibit #13A**)
    - Notch Trail
  - RANCHO CORAL de TIERRA AREA (**Exhibit #13B**)
    - All other areas of Exhibit 13 not designated as Leashed Dogs Permitted
- The above prohibitions or restrictions do not apply to:
- Emergency search and rescue missions or training exercises
  - Law enforcement patrol or bomb dogs
  - Service Animals as defined by 28 CFR part 35 section 34.104 and accompanying an individual with a Disability as define by 43 CFR Part 17.503. (NOTE: Crime deterrent effects of an animal's presence and the provision of emotional support, well-being, comfort, or companionship do not constitute work or tasks for the purposes of the definition of Service Animal but are considered "pets" with no access rights under federal statue.)

*These restrictions are for the purpose of the protection of irreplaceable natural resources. These areas provide vital habitat for marine life, shorebirds and large concentrations of water birds. Consistent with public health and safety, the protection of natural and cultural resources, and avoidance of conflict among visitor use activities, pets must be restricted. Pets are not considered compatible with the broad park goal of minimal resource impact or inherently suitable for adapting quickly to a strange environment often involving close association with strange persons or animals. It is recognized that many park visitors have pets and they are permitted where they do not jeopardize basic park values. This restriction on pets will provide important areas of reduced disturbance for resting and feeding water and shorebirds and other marine*

## 2012 Compendium – San Mateo section of 2.15 only

- SWEENEY RIDGE AREA
  - Notch Trail
- RANCHO CORAL de TIERRA AREA (**Exhibit 13**)
  - All other areas of Exhibit 13 not designated as Leashed Dogs Permitted
- The above prohibitions or restrictions do not apply to:
  - Emergency search and rescue missions or training exercises
  - Law enforcement patrol or bomb dogs
  - Qualified service animals accompanying persons with disabilities per the American Disability Act. (NOTE: Companion animals are not service animals, but are merely “pets” with no access rights under federal statute.)

*These restrictions are for the purpose of the protection of irreplaceable natural resources. The wildlife protection areas provide vital habitat for marine life, shorebirds and large concentrations of water birds. Consistent with public health and safety, the protection of natural and cultural resources, and avoidance of conflict among visitor use activities, pets must be restricted. Pets are not considered compatible with the broad park goal of minimal resource impact or inherently suitable for adapting quickly to a strange environment often involving close association with strange persons or animals. It is recognized that many park visitors have pets and they are permitted where they do not jeopardize basic park values. This restriction on pets will provide important areas of reduced disturbance for resting and feeding water and shorebirds and other marine wildlife.*

## Briefing Statement

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**Bureau:** National Park Service  
**Issue:** Dog Management Plan / DEIS NOA  
**Park Site:** Golden Gate National Recreation Area  
**Date:** October 25, 2010

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### Background:

- The NPS-wide pet regulation requires dogs to be restricted by cage or leash. However, GGNRA practices following the park Citizens Advisory Commission's 1979 development of a voice control dog walking policy for certain GGNRA areas, accompanied by an increase in the number of dog walkers using the park and changing expectations for use of the park, have resulted in confusion, controversy, and litigation over dog management and voice control dogwalking.
- GGNRA began to emphasize education and enforcement of the NPS pet regulation in 2002; however, the regulation was routinely ignored by many park visitors. Park staff were overextended attempting to enforce the NPS regulation, ensure visitor (and dog) safety, maintain areas heavily used by dogs, and monitor and prevent resource damage.
- A 2005 decision by the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California affirmed a dismissal of three citations for violations of the NPS leash regulation. The decision noted that the 1979 dog walking policy had been in effect in the park for many years, and that prior to enforcing the NPS-wide leash regulation the park was required by the Code of Federal Regulations to conduct a formal public notice and comment rulemaking process.
- In response to the court ruling, the park began a lengthy Dog Management planning process, by establishing a Negotiated Rulemaking Committee pursuant to the Negotiated Rulemaking Act and initiating work on an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. Although the Negotiated Rulemaking Committee met over a period of almost two years, the Committee was not able to reach consensus on a proposed special regulation for dog management at GGNRA. They did reach consensus on certain elements for a special regulation: nine guiding principles for dog management; guidelines for commercial dog walking; and site-specific treatment for one area under consideration by the Committee, Oakwood Valley in Marin County. These consensus agreements have been incorporated into three of the six alternatives in the Dog Management Plan/EIS.
- The purpose of the Dog Management Plan/DEIS is to provide a clear, enforceable policy to determine the manner and extent of dog use in appropriate areas of the park. This plan would promote the following objectives: preserve and protect natural and cultural resources and natural processes, provide a variety of visitor experiences, improve visitor and employee safety, reduce user conflicts, and maintain park resources and values for future generations.
- The plan evaluates the impacts of six alternatives for dog management in 21 areas of GGNRA, and includes four alternatives that would allow off-leash dog walking in some areas of the park. The preferred alternative combines site-specific treatments from multiple action alternatives that allows for a balanced range of visitor experiences, including no dogs, dog walking on-leash, and dog walking under voice-control. It includes the following key elements: the Negotiated Rulemaking Committee's consensus agreements; on-leash and/or voice-control dog walking in certain, specific areas of the park where impacts to sensitive resources and visitor experience were minimized; no dogs in areas of the park where impacts were unacceptable and could not be mitigated; a

compliance-based management strategy measuring compliance in on-leash and voice-control dog walking areas that provides a range of management responses, including further restrictions or elimination of a use if compliance is not achieved; permits for more than three dogs per dog walker in limited areas of the park; and new lands closed to dog walking, but opened for on-leash dog walking by compendium if certain criteria are met.

**Current Status**

- A 90-day public comment period on the Draft EIS is anticipated to begin in January 2011.
- Communications Plan is established and will be updated as appropriate to meet target project milestones.
- Four public scoping meetings (open house format) will held in Bay Area locations in February 2011, with exact times and locations to be announced.

**EIS Tentative Schedule:**

- Notice of Proposed Rulemaking: November 2011
- Final EIS completed: May 2012
- Record of Decision Signed: July 2012
- Publish final special regulation: September 2012

**Contact:**

Shirwin Smith, Management Assistant, Golden Gate National Recreation Area, (415) 561-4947, Shirwin\_Smith@nps.gov



## ***Communications Plan***

# ***Golden Gate Dog Management Plan Draft Environmental Impact Statement***

***November 2010***

**WORKING DRAFT  
Golden Gate National Recreation Area**

**Communications Plan**  
Golden Gate National Recreation Area  
Dog Management Plan  
Draft Environmental Impact Statement

***Project Purpose and Need***

The purpose of the Dog Management Plan is to provide a clear, enforceable policy to determine the manner and extent of dog use in appropriate areas of the park. This plan would promote the following objectives:

- Preserve and protect natural and cultural resources and natural processes
- Provide a variety of visitor experiences
- Improve visitor and employee safety
- Reduce user conflicts
- Maintain park resources and values for future generations

A dog management plan is needed because Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA; park) resources and values, as defined by the park's enabling legislation and the NPS Organic Act, could be compromised to the extent that, without action, those resources and values in some areas of the park might not be available for enjoyment by future generations. Additionally, a dog management policy inconsistent with NPS regulations and increased public expectations for use of the park for dog recreation have resulted in controversy, litigation, and compromised visitor and employee safety, affecting visitor experience and resulting in resource degradation. The conflicts will likely escalate if not addressed in a comprehensive dog management plan.

***Project Background***

The NPS pet regulation requires dogs to be restricted by cage or leash where they are allowed. However, following the GGNRA Citizens' Advisory Commission's 1979 development of a voice control dog walking policy for certain GGNRA areas, the park allowed voice control dog walking in those areas for over 20 years.

In 2002, GGNRA began to emphasize education and enforcement of the NPS pet regulation; however, the regulation was routinely ignored by many park visitors. Park staff were overextended in attempting to enforce the NPS regulation, ensure visitor (and dog) safety, maintain areas heavily used by dogs, and monitor and prevent resource damage.

A 2005 decision by the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California affirmed a dismissal of three citations for violations of the NPS leash regulation. The decision noted that the 1979 dog walking policy had been in effect in the park for many years, and that prior to enforcing the NPS-wide leash regulation a formal public notice and comment period was required by the Code of Federal Regulations, but had not been carried out by the park.

Following the court's ruling, the park began a lengthy Dog Management planning process through both a Negotiated Rulemaking Committee pursuant to the Negotiated Rulemaking Act and an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. The Negotiated Rulemaking Committee met over a period of almost two years. The Committee was not able to reach consensus on a proposed special regulation for dog management at

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### **Communication Plan Milestones**

| <b>Milestone</b>   | <b>Target Completion Date</b>      |
|--|------------------------------------|
| DEIS Released for Public Comment (90 Days)<br>(Four public meetings) | January – April 2011<br>(February) |
| Notice of Proposed Rulemaking  | August 2011                        |
| Final EIS  | January 2012                       |
| ROD Signed   | July 2012                          |
| Publish final special regulation                                     | August 2012                        |

### **Goals and Objectives of the Communication Plan**

This communication plan provides information about the process and timing of activities relating to the development of a Dog Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement. Conservation groups, dog walking groups, the general public, members of Congress, and other interest groups have substantial interest in this issue. A plan for communicating important details and dates of the planning process will help to keep both internal and external audiences informed as the NEPA process unfolds, an important element of building public trust in the process.

The objectives of the communication plan are to:

- Ensure that NPS and DOI deliver consistent messages
- Provide accurate information and transparency in decision-making
- Identify strategies for general public outreach and information
- Put out accurate information about the EIS process and protocols to minimize public misunderstanding.
- Communicate NPS mission, values and GGNRA-specific values

The desired outcomes are to:

- Increase public understanding and awareness
- Clearly communicate the NEPA process

### **Communication Plan Tasks Based on Milestones**

| <b>Tasks: DEIS Released to Public</b>   | <b>Who Will Implement</b>   | <b>Date to Implement</b>       |
|---|---|--------------------------------|
| Legislative notification/briefing of congressional delegation and key committee staff | Park Superintendent,<br>Director of Communications and Partnerships | January 2011                   |
| Federal Register Notices of Availability prep and surnaming                           | Park, EQD, Region, WASO   | October/November/December 2010 |
| Federal Register publication  |   | January 2011                   |
| Press release on DEIS   | Park PIO with   | Early January 2011             |

|   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
|   | assistance from Park Mgmt Assistant   |   |
| Newsletter/brochure (also on park website) that summarizes DEIS                       | Contractor, EQD, Park Management Assistant (to mail)  | December 2010 (produced)<br>Early January 2011 (mailed) |
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| <b>Tasks: FEIS Released to Public</b>   | <b>Who Will Implement</b>   | <b>Date to Implement</b>                                |
| Legislative notification/briefing of congressional delegation and key committee staff | Park Superintendent, Director of Communications and Partnerships  | March 2012  |
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|   |  |                          |
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## ***Ongoing Communications Tasks***

### **Media Interviews**

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- ✓ NOAA Fisheries
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- National Park Service Director, Department of the Interior officials
- GGNRA staff, volunteers and partners



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- Local dog walking groups and organizations
- Bay Area land management agencies
- Local and national conservation groups and organizations
- Congressional delegation staff and key congressional committee staff
- Agencies who have been invited or agreed to be cooperators:
  - ✓ The Presidio Trust

- ✓ California Department of Fish and Game
- ✓ NOAA Fisheries
- ✓ US Fish and Wildlife Service
- ✓ California Coastal Commission
- National Park Service Director, Department of the Interior officials
- GGNRA staff, volunteers and partners



# United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Pacific West Region

1111 Jackson Street, Suite 700

Oakland, California 94607

IN REPLY REFER TO:

L1425(PWR-LP)  
GOGA Tide & Submerged Tracts  
(Jurisdiction)

September 21, 2005

## MEMORANDUM

To: Superintendent, Golden Gate National Recreation Area  
Attn: Chief of Natural Resource Management & Science

From: Chief, Pacific Land Resources Center, Pacific West Region

Subject: Jurisdictional Status of Tide and Submerged Lands within  
Portions of Golden Gate National Recreation Area

In response to your request for assistance in determining the jurisdictional status of tideland and submerged tracts at Golden Gate within the City and County of San Francisco and County of Marin, I have consulted with the Field Solicitor's office and submit the following:

**Presidio of San Francisco** (San Francisco City and County)  
(including Crissy Field, Fort Point, and Baker Beach south to Lobos Creek)

Extent of Ownership: The United States owns fee title to the tide and submerged lands 300 yards beyond low water. The United States exercises exclusive jurisdiction over this area.

Legal Authority: Act of March 9, 1897, by California Legislature

**Fort Mason** (San Francisco City and County)

Extent of Ownership: The United States owns fee title to the tide and submerged lands 300 yards beyond low water. The United States exercises exclusive jurisdiction over this area.

Legal Authority: Act of March 9, 1897, by California Legislature

**Alcatraz Island** (San Francisco City and County)

Extent of Ownership: The United States owns fee title to the tide and submerged lands 300 yards beyond low water. The United States exercises exclusive jurisdiction over this area.

Legal Authority: Act of March 9, 1897, by California Legislature

**Point Bonita to West End of Lime Point (Golden Gate Bridge)** (Marin County)

Extent of Ownership: The United States does not have fee ownership of these offshore lands. The 1987 lease from the California State Lands Commission provides the National Park Service with a leasehold interest (in a strip of tide and submerged lands 1,000 feet wide extending waterward from the ordinary high water mark). The federal jurisdiction is proprietary.

Legal Authority: 1987 California State Lands Commission lease

**East Fort Baker** (Marin County)

Extent of Ownership: The United States holds fee title to the tide and submerged lands out to 500 yards beyond low water. The United States exercises exclusive jurisdiction over this area.

Legal Authority: Act of April 16, 1859, by California Legislature

**Angel Island** (Marin County)

Extent of Ownership: No federal ownership. This island is within the authorized boundary of Golden Gate NRA, but the United States does not have a fee or leasehold interest in the tide and submerged lands.

With the exception of Angel Island, the United States, under terms of the 1987 California State Lands Commission lease, exercises management jurisdiction over tide and submerged lands within the boundaries of Golden Gate NRA in San Francisco, San Mateo, and Marin Counties, extending waterward 1,000 feet from the ordinary high water mark. The federal jurisdiction is proprietary in the leasehold area.

If you need further assistance or have any questions, please call me at 510/817-1414.

*s/Gregory F. Gress*

Gregory F. Gress

| Corr. ID         | Document   | In EA files | If no, status                         |
|------------------|--|-------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1850             | Erickson, Elizabeth B. 2001. <i>Rocky Mountain National Park: History and Meanings as Constraints to African-American Park Visitation</i> . Unpublished doctoral dissertation, West Virginia University, Morgantown, West Virginia.            | Yes         |                                       |
| 1929, 4693       | Warren, Megan. 2007. <i>Recreation Disturbance Does Not Change Feeding Behavior of the Western Snowy Plover</i> . Unpublished undergraduate thesis. UC Berkeley Environmental Sciences 196, Senior Research Seminar, May 7, 2007.              | Yes         |                                       |
| 3759             | California Department of Parks and Recreation. 2001. <i>Pilot Program for Unleashed Dog Areas</i> . December 17, 2001.   | Yes         |                                       |
| 3759             | Ewing, John. 1999. <i>Managing Off-leash Recreation in Urban Parks</i> . February 27, 1999.  | Yes         |                                       |
| 3945             | Robinson-Nilsen, Caitlin, Demers, Jill Bluso, and Cheryl Strong. 2010. <i>Western Snowy Plover Numbers, Nesting Success, Fledgling Success and Avian Predator Surveys in the San Francisco Bay, 2010</i> . SFBBO and USFWS. December 30, 2010. | Yes         |                                       |
| 3945             | NPS. 2006. <i>Protecting the Snowy Plover</i> . October.   | Yes         |                                       |
| 4640, 4650       | USFWS. 2006. <i>San Francisco Garter Snake (Thamnophis sirtalis tetrataenia) 5-Year Review: Summary and Evaluation</i> . Sacramento Field Office, Sacramento, California. September.   | Yes         |                                       |
| 4640, 4650, 4667 | Fancy, SG, Gross, JE, and SL Carter. 2009. <i>Monitoring the Condition of Natural Resources in US National Parks</i> . Environmental Monitoring and Assessment: Vol. 151, pp 161-174.  | Yes         |                                       |
| 4704             | Pets Are Wonderful Support (PAWS). 2007. <i>The Health Benefits of Companion Animals</i> . Brochure produced for PAWS.   | Yes         |                                       |
| 1881             | Villabli, JR, Cleries, M, Bouis, S, Peracho V, Duran, J, and C. Casas. 2010. <i>Decline in hospitalisations due to dog bite injuries in Catalonia, 1007-2007. An effect of government regulation?</i> Injury Prevention, Vol. 16, pp. 408-410. | No          | Available for purchase, may be on ILL |

Comment [EMB1]: If you can get the price and link, NPS can probably purchase.

|                       |   |     |   |
|-----------------------|---|-----|---|
| 1881                  | Unshelm, J, Rehm, N, and E Heidenberger. 1993. <i>The Problem of the danger of dogs; a study of incidents with dogs in a large city</i> . Dtsch Tierarztl Wochenschr, Vol. 100, No. 10, pp 383-389. October 1993. Published in German.  | No  | Probably not available—may be able to purchase it |
| 1881                  | Beck, Alan, ScD, Loring, Honey, and Randall Lockwood. 1975. <i>The Ecology of Dog Bite Injury in St. Louis, Missouri</i> . Public Health Reports: May-June 1975, Vol. 90, No. 3.  | Yes |   |
| 3715                  | Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. 2011. <i>WISQARS (Web-based Injury Statistics Query and Reporting System)</i> . February 24, 2011. Available [online]: <a href="http://www.cdc.gov/injury/wisqars/index.html">http://www.cdc.gov/injury/wisqars/index.html</a> . Accessed June 14, 2011.  | Yes |   |
| 3715                  | Public Health Agency of Canada. 1999. <i>Injuries associated with... Dog bites and dog attacks</i> . Canadian Hospital Injury Reporting and Prevention Program (CHIRPP). November 11, 1999. Available [online]: <a href="http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/injury-bles/chirpp/injreprables/dogbit-eng.php">http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/injury-bles/chirpp/injreprables/dogbit-eng.php</a> . Accessed June 14, 2011. | Yes |   |
| 3931                  | City and County of San Francisco. n.d. <i>Guidelines for Dog Walkers</i> . Animal Care and Control. Available [online]: <a href="http://www.sfgov2.org/index.aspx?page=1083">http://www.sfgov2.org/index.aspx?page=1083</a> . Accessed June 21, 2011.   | Yes |   |
| 4683                  | Murphy, Dan. 1996. <i>San Francisco Peninsula Birdwatching: Ocean Beach and Fort Funston</i> . Sequoia Audubon Society.   | Yes |   |
| 4695                  | North American Bird Conservation Initiative, U.S. Committee. 2011. <i>The State of the Birds: 2011 Report on Public Lands and Waters</i> . U.S. Department of Interior: Washington, DC. 48 pages.   | Yes |   |
| Multiple letters      | The Center for Disease Control<br><a href="http://www.cdc.gov/HomeandRecreationalSafety/Dog-Bites/biteprevention.html">http://www.cdc.gov/HomeandRecreationalSafety/Dog-Bites/biteprevention.html</a>   | Yes |   |
| 4695                  | Grinnell, Joseph. 1932. "Type localities of birds described from California." <i>University of California Publications in Zoology</i> , Vol. 38, No. 3:243-324.   | No  | Should be able to obtain from ILL                 |
| Found during research | Zlatunich, Matthew. 2008. <i>Western Snowy Plover Monitoring at the Crissy Field Wildlife Protection Area of the Presidio of San Francisco and the Effectiveness of the Seasonal Use Restriction 2007/2008</i> . Golden Gate Audubon, San Francisco, California.  | Yes |   |

|                       |   |     |   |
|-----------------------|---|-----|---|
| Found during research | Zlatunich, Matthew and Lynes, Michael. 2010. <i>Western Snowy Plover Monitoring at the Crissy Field Wildlife Protection Area of the Presidio of San Francisco 2009/2010</i> . Golden Gate Audubon, San Francisco, California. | Yes |   |
| 3689, 3690, 4668      | Pomerantz, G. A., Decker, D.J., Goff, G.R., & Purdy, K. G. (1988). <i>Assessing impact of recreation and wildlife: a classification scheme</i> . Wildlife Society Bulletin, 16, 58-62.  | Yes |   |
| 3689, 3690, 4668      | Davidson, N. C., and P. I. Rothwell. 1993. <i>Human disturbance to waterfowl on estuaries: conservation and coastal management implications of current knowledge</i> . Wader Study Group Bull. 68:97-105.                     | Yes |   |
| 3689, 3690, 4668      | Gill, J.A., Norris, K., and W.J. Sutherland. 2001. <i>Why behavioral responses may not reflect the population consequences of human disturbance</i> . Biological Conservation 97:265-268.                                     | Yes |   |
| 3689, 3690, 4668      | Keller, VE. 1991. <i>Effects of human disturbance on eider ducklings Somateria mollissima in an estuarine habitat in Scotland</i> . Biological Conservation 58: 213-228.  | No  | Available for purchase, may be on ILL   |
| 3689, 3690, 4668      | Kersten, M. and T. Piersma. 1987. <i>High levels of energy expenditures in shorebirds: metabolic adaptations to an energetically expensive way of life</i> . Ardea 75: 175-187.   | Yes |   |
| 3689, 3690, 4668      | Kirby, J. S., C. Clee, and V. Seager. 1993. <i>Impact and extent of recreational disturbance to wader roosts on the Dee Estuary: some preliminary results</i> . Wader Study Group Bull. 68:53-58.                             | Yes |   |
| 3689, 3690, 4668      | Lenth, B.E., Knight, R.L., and M.E. Brennan. 2008. <i>The Effects of dogs on wildlife communities</i> . Natural Areas Journal 28(3):218-227.  | No  | Available for purchase, may be on ILL. Earlier version available online for free-may not be same as published version |

Comment [SES2]: Suzie – I believe I have the published version – it shows as a number of pages from the Natural Areas Journal. Want me to send?

|                        |   |     |   |
|------------------------|---|-----|---|
| 3689,<br>3690,<br>4668 | Pfister, C., Harrington, B.A., and Lavine, M. 1992. <i>The impact of human disturbance on shorebirds at a migration staging area</i> . Biological Conservation 60: 115-126.                           | No  | Available for purchase, may be on ILL                                   |
| 3689,<br>3690,<br>4668 | Scott, F. E. 1989. <i>Human disturbance of wading birds on the Ythan estuary</i> . Unpubl. B.Sc. thesis, Department of Zoology, Univ. Aberdeen. 42 pp. [abstract in Wader Study Group Bull. 68:81-82] | No  | Not available for purchase, may be on ILL, abstract is available online |
| 3689,<br>3690,<br>4668 | Smit, C. J., and G. J. M. Visser. 1993. <i>Effects of disturbance on shorebirds: a summary of existing knowledge from the Dutch Wadden Sea and Delta area</i> . Wader Study Group Bull. 68:6-19.      | Yes |   |
| 3689,<br>3690,<br>4668 | Thoms, K., Kvitek, R.G., and C. Bretez. 2003. <i>Effects of human activity on the foraging behavior of sanderlings Calidris alba</i> . Biological Conservation 109: 67-71                             | Yes |   |



# United States Department of the Interior

## NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

GOLDEN GATE NATIONAL RECREATION AREA  
FORT MASON, SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 94123

IN REPLY REFER TO:

L30 (GOGA-SUPT)

JUL -3 2013

Congresswoman Jackie Speier  
155 Bovet Road, Suite 780  
San Mateo, California 94402

Dear Congresswoman Speier:

Your letter of June 19, 2013 to Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell has been forwarded to me for a response.

As you know, the issue of dog use at Rancho Corral de Tierra has been evolving since National Park Service (NPS) management of the property began in December 2011. We were copied on the letter written to your office by the Crissy Field Dog Group and Montara Dog Group that expressed concern with recently installed signs that described our interim designation of where dog walking is permitted in Rancho. These groups felt that these designation signs came with no prior public notice or input. They also expressed concern that the upcoming Supplemental EIS/Dog Management Plan would use this current status of dog walking area at Rancho as the "No Action" alternative, instead of the unsanctioned and unrestricted dog walking that had occurred in the years prior to NPS ownership.

Regarding the permissible dog walking use at Rancho, the national regulation on dog walking in areas managed by the NPS (36 CFR 2.15) requires that where they are permitted, dogs must be on a leash; this is the applicable regulation for any new lands acquired by the NPS. In addition, through discussions with interested stakeholder groups prior to acquisition, park staff worked to identify prime dog walking areas. Based on this information, and a desire to take a cautious approach regarding areas of potential resource sensitivity and other visitor uses at Rancho, dog walking was limited to those prime areas identified by the community for the interim period prior to the completion of the dog management plan. A map showing this restriction was posted on the park's web site and distributed to members of the community shortly after Rancho transferred to the NPS.

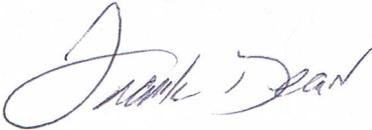
At the time, we considered this a reasonable and minor change to use, since the prime areas of dog use were still open to dog walking and we received little negative feedback from the community. However, from the recent letters received from Montara Dog Group and Crissy Field Dog Group, and from discussion with others in the community, it is clear that many people in the community surrounding Rancho, reminded of the status of dog walking by the new signs, view this as a large change in use, especially when compared to their use of the site prior to the NPS ownership. Therefore, in view of these concerns, effective today, I have designated all of Rancho as open to on-leash dog walking, per 36 CFR 2.15. This regulation will pertain to Rancho until a new special regulation, developed out of the Dog Management Plan, is put in

place. Our field staff has been fully briefed on this change, and we will update the map on our website and modify the signs on site to reflect this change. We will also contact Bill Bechtell and other interested stakeholders directly to ensure that the word gets out about this change.

This decision will also affect the No Action Alternative in the upcoming SEIS, which will be revised to reflect this changed management status. We understand that Montara Dog Group and Crissy Field Dog Group believe the No Action alternative should reflect the unsanctioned off-leash dog use that occurred prior to NPS ownership, but that is a management status we could not legally continue under existing NPS regulations.

We will connect with your office prior to release of the upcoming SEIS, which is now anticipated to occur in early fall. We will also be holding public open house meetings during the SEIS public review and comment process; one of those meetings will be in San Mateo County, close to Rancho. We would welcome your participation in that meeting.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Frank Dean". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Frank Dean  
General Superintendent

- 1) We have studied impacts to adjacent parks, including city parks, in the DEIS.
- 2) We welcome any additional info on impacts to adjacent parks. If there are models they are aware of to evaluate this kind of thing we would be interested. Please send by end of comment period. We will evaluate this data and incorporate, as appropriate.
- 3) We will not conduct a new study of impacts to city parks because 1) difficult to study impacts of an action not yet occurring, 2) costs of delay - our NEPA regs direct us to consider costs and delay to projects in determining additional information. However, the EIS will contain a statement detailing what info may be lacking.
- 4) Decision on whether or not to supplement is made after public comments have been fully analyzed. This is a legal determination, not a policy or political decision, made by the Washington office in consultation with Office of the Solicitor.
- 5) Impacts to city parks also uncertain b/c irrespective of the alternative chosen by GGNRA, one requirement is that dogs must be registered, and it is estimated that SF has only registered 10% of its dog population. For liability reasons alone NPS could not consider allowing unlicensed dogs through this plan. Therefore, the impact to city dogwalkers may hinge on actions the city takes or doesn't take to register dogs, not on any particular alternative chosen by NPS.

#### CEQ AND DOI REGS ON DATA:

##### 40 CFR 1502.22 Incomplete or unavailable information - CEQ

When an agency is evaluating reasonably foreseeable significant adverse effects on the human environment in an environmental impact statement and there is incomplete or unavailable information, the agency shall always make clear that such information is lacking.

(a) If the incomplete information relevant to reasonably foreseeable significant adverse impacts is essential to a reasoned choice among alternatives and the overall costs of obtaining it are not exorbitant, the agency shall include the information in the environmental impact statement.

(b) If the information relevant to reasonably foreseeable significant adverse impacts cannot be obtained because the overall costs of obtaining it are exorbitant or the means to obtain it are not known, the agency shall include within the environmental impact statement:

(1) A statement that such information is incomplete or unavailable; (2) a statement of the relevance of the incomplete or unavailable information to evaluating reasonably foreseeable significant adverse impacts on the human environment; (3) a summary of existing credible scientific evidence which is relevant to evaluating the reasonably foreseeable significant adverse impacts on the human

environment, and (4) the agency's evaluation of such impacts based upon theoretical approaches or research methods generally accepted in the scientific community. For the purposes of this section, "reasonably foreseeable" includes impacts which have catastrophic consequences, even if their probability of occurrence is low, provided that the analysis of the impacts is supported by credible scientific evidence, is not based on pure conjecture, and is within the rule of reason.

DOI: 46.125

43 CFR § 46.125 Incomplete or unavailable information.

In circumstances where the provisions of 40 CFR 1502.22 apply, bureaus must consider all costs to obtain information. These costs include monetary costs as well as other non-monetized costs when appropriate, such as social costs, delays, opportunity costs, and non-fulfillment or non-timely fulfillment of statutory mandates.

# United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
Golden Gate National Recreation Area  
Fort Mason, San Francisco, California 94123

W34 (GOGA-SUPT)

July 3, 2013

Memorandum to Files

Subject: Dog Walking Restrictions at Rancho Corral de Tierra

Golden Gate National Recreation Area acquired Rancho Corral de Tierra on December 9, 2011. Upon acquisition, National Park Service regulations, including 36 CFR 2.15, took effect.

On January 10, 2012, a Compendium Amendment was enacted that restricted on-leash dog walking to two sections of Rancho, in order to take a cautious approach regarding areas of potential resource sensitivity and other visitor uses at the site. In retrospect, allowing public comment on the Compendium Amendment may have been a preferred course of action. Therefore, as of this date, we are rescinding the Compendium Amendment in order to allow public notice and comment under NEPA and through the rulemaking associated with the Dog Management planning process.

Thus the current dog walking regulation at Rancho Corral de Tierra is 36 CFR 2.15.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Frank Dean  
General Superintendent

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**Outline of Implementation Strategy for Law Enforcement Concerning Dog  
Management**

**GREG = EIS WILL DEAL WITH DETAIL OF ENFORCEMENT STRATEGY – working with advisory group, education, use of LE and ed. Staff., design ROLAs to be enforceable. Design strategies that enhance enforcement and don't cause new problems. Until we know fully what kinds of sites we're dealing with, we can only provide the list of planning elements that we'll be considering when deciding how to manage enforcement.**

**GOAL - Orientation to new dogwalking landscape**

**APPROACH:**

- Education
  - Timeline (1 month)
  - Focus major efforts on areas that changed
  - Explain consequences of non-compliance -
  - Info- Brochures, website, papers and partner websites, media stories
  - Signage- windmasters up for a period of time
  - During education period, verbal warnings or citations will be handed out if situation calls for it

**Monitoring**

Consequences for non-compliance – *if monitoring shows that compliance is low, then privilege of offleash or on-leash dogwalking will go away. Triggers and program will be established through the NEPA process.*

**GREG – what would adaptive management strategies or default actions be in response to non-compliance**

**EDUCATIONAL TOOLS:**

**Orientation for Staff & Volunteers**

All staff will have an orientation to the new regulations. They will enforce the regulations in each area as the situation warrants.

We will build consistency in enforcement amongst LE staff

We will work to have them handle like situations in like ways

Ongoing training & feedback

**Outreach**

NPS Staff Onsite and Partners

1<sup>st</sup> Week-Varying Hours, everyday

2<sup>nd</sup> Week- W/E and every other day

3<sup>rd</sup> Week – every 3 days

4<sup>th</sup> Week- 2 times/week

**GGNRA Dogwalking Guidebook**

- Information about who to call if there is a problem, etiquette, preserving species
- Produce our own guide in parks and partnerships.

**Dogwalkers Support**

Dogwalking groups will encourage members to understand new regulations and to abide by them. Correct information will be posted on website.

**DRAFT**

6/5/07

**Outline of Implementation Strategy for Law Enforcement Concerning Dog  
Management**

**The implementation goal is:**

1. Orientation and education (tells them what happens if they don't comply)
2. Verbal Warnings and citations will be handed out if situation calls for it (staff can use other tools if need be)
3. Timeline (1 month)
4. Info- Brochures, website, papers and partner websites, media stories
5. Focus on areas that changed
6. Signage- windmasters up for a period of time

**Monitoring**

*Consequences for non-compliance – if monitoring shows that compliance is low, then privilege of offleash or on-leash dogwalking will go away. Triggers and program will be established through the NEPA process.*

## **GGNRA Dogwalking Guidebook**

- Information about who to call if there is a problem, etiquette, preserving species
- Produce our own guide in parks and partnerships.

### **Onsite Education**

NPS Staff Onsite and Partners

1<sup>st</sup> Week-Varying Hours, everyday

2<sup>nd</sup> Week- W/E and every other day

3<sup>rd</sup> Week – every 3 days

4<sup>th</sup> Week- 2 times/week

### **Dogwalkers Support**

Dogwalking groups will encourage members to understand new regulations and to abide by them. Correct information will be posted on website.

### **Orientation for Staff & Volunteers**

All staff will have an orientation to the new regulations. They will enforce the regulations in each area as the situation warrants.

We will build consistency in enforcement amongst LE staff

We will work to have them handle like situations in like ways

Ongoing training & feedback



Home | Parks | Project / Search | Reports | Tools | Admin | Logout

GOGA > [Interim Compendium Amendment - Commercial Dog Walking Permit \(46523\)](#)

Project Home

[Edit](#) [Print](#)

1 Project Setup

Basic Information

- Basic Information**  
[View](#) | [Edit](#)
- Milestones**
- Justification**  
[View](#) | [Edit](#)
- Project Development Questions**  
[View](#) | [Edit](#)
- Cooperating Agencies**  
[View](#) | [Edit](#)
- Joint Lead Agencies**  
[View](#) | [Edit](#)
- Print Forms**
- 2 Funding
- 3 Internal Scoping / IDT Tasks
- 4 Natural/Cultural Compliance
- 5 Internal Documents / Comments
- 6 Public Communication
- 7 Public Documents & Comment Analysis
- 8 Close Project

**Project ID:** 46523      **Other Project ID:**  
**Project Status:** In Process      **Target Compliance Completion:** 06/28/2013  
**Compliance Status:** **In Process**      **Actual Compliance Completion:**  
**Funding Status:** Funded      **Funded Date:** 03/18/2013  
**Project Creation Date:** 03/18/2013  
**Project Target Start:** 07/01/2013  
**Project Close Date:**

**Funding Source:** ONPS - Operations of the National Park System  
**Sensitive:** No

**Title:** Interim Compendium Amendment - Commercial Dog Walking Permit  
**Secondary Title:**  
**Description:** TBD  
**Send an email for Project Descriptions change:** No  
**Project Leader:** Shirwin Smith  
**NEPA Specialists:** Steve Ortega  
**NHPA Specialists:** Bob Holloway  
**External Agency/Applicant:**      **Division/Office:** Superintendent  
**Designer:**      **Conceptual Design Date:**  
**RPRS(Research Permit Report System) ApplicationID#:**

**Project Type:** Other: Interim Compendium Amendment  
**Project Category:** , Other: Interim Compendium Amendment

General Notes

TBD

Locations

| County/Borough, State | District, Section | Geo. Marker | Other |
|-----------------------|-------------------|-------------|-------|
| San Francisco, CA     |                   |             |       |

Admin Contact Information

**Admin. Record Contact:** Shirwin Smith  
**Admin. Record Location:** Management Assistant

File List

**Title**  
 No Link or File has been Submitted.

**Last Updated Date:** 03/18/2013  
**Last Updated By:** shirwin\_smith



## Content Analysis Report (02/28/2011)

Document ID: 38106

Document Title: GGNRA Draft Dog Management Plan / Environmental Impact Statement

**\*NOTE:** Please note that the following analysis is preliminary. Comment coding has not been reviewed.

### Comment Distribution by Status

| Status       | Number of Comments |
|--------------|--------------------|
| In Process   | 1                  |
| Coded        | 1,042              |
| New          | 8                  |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>1,051</b>       |

### Correspondence Distribution by State

| State        | Percentage | Number of Correspondence |
|--------------|------------|--------------------------|
| AR           | 0.12%      | 1                        |
| CA           | 97.66%     | 794                      |
| CT           | 0.12%      | 1                        |
| DE           | 0.12%      | 1                        |
| FL           | 0.12%      | 1                        |
| IL           | 0.12%      | 1                        |
| MA           | 0.12%      | 1                        |
| MD           | 0.12%      | 1                        |
| NC           | 0.12%      | 1                        |
| NV           | 0.25%      | 2                        |
| NY           | 0.12%      | 1                        |
| OH           | 0.12%      | 1                        |
| OR           | 0.12%      | 1                        |
| PA           | 0.12%      | 1                        |
| UN           | 0.12%      | 1                        |
| VA           | 0.12%      | 1                        |
| WA           | 0.12%      | 1                        |
| WI           | 0.12%      | 1                        |
| <b>Total</b> |            | <b>813</b>               |

### Correspondence Distribution by Country

| Country                  | Percentage | Number of Correspondence |
|--------------------------|------------|--------------------------|
| United States of America | 99.88%     | 812                      |
| Switzerland              | 0.12%      | 1                        |
| <b>Total</b>             |            | <b>813</b>               |

### Correspondence Signature Count by Organization Type

| Organization Type       | Number of Correspondences |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| Unaffiliated Individual | 813__                     |
| <b>Total</b>            | <b>813__</b>              |

#### Comment Distribution by Code

**(Note: Each comment may have multiple codes. As a result, the total number of comments may be different than the actual comment totals)**

| Code   | Description   | Number of Comments |
|--------|---|--------------------|
| AL1000 | Suggest New Alternative Elements                            | 115__              |
| AL1010 | Suggest an Alternative that has Been Dismissed              | 43__               |
| AL5000 | Comments on Dog walking Permit System                       | 20__               |
| AT1100 | Alta Trail: Support Preferred Alternative                   | 0__                |
| AT1200 | Alta Trail: Oppose Preferred Alternative                    | 4__                |
| AT1300 | Alta Trail: Desire Other Alternative                        | 5__                |
| AT1400 | Alta Trail: Suggest Change in Alternative                   | 2__                |
| AW1000 | Animal Welfare: Impact on/to dogs                           | 14__               |
| BB1100 | Baker Beach: Support Preferred Alternative                  | 0__                |
| BB1200 | Baker Beach: Oppose Preferred Alternative                   | 2__                |
| BB1300 | Baker Beach: Desire Other Alternative                       | 6__                |
| BB1400 | Baker Beach: Suggest Change in Alternative                  | 2__                |
| CB1000 | Comments Regarding the Compliance Based Management Strategy | 10__               |
| CC2000 | Consultation and Coordination: Reg-Neg process              | 0__                |
| CF1100 | Crissy Field: Support Preferred Alternative                 | 12__               |
| CF1200 | Crissy Field: Oppose Preferred Alternative                  | 22__               |
| CF1300 | Crissy Field: Desire Other Alternative                      | 20__               |
| CF1400 | Crissy Field: Suggest Change in Alternative                 | 13__               |
| CO1000 | Coastal Zone Consistency Determination                      | 0__                |
| CR2010 | Cultural Resources: Affected Environment                    | 1__                |
| CR4000 | Cultural Resources: Impact Of Proposal And Alternatives     | 2__                |
| CR5000 | Cultural Resources: Cumulative Impacts                      | 0__                |
| CR6000 | Cultural Resources: Impairment Analyses                     | 0__                |
| CS1100 | Cattle/Sweeney: Support Preferred Alternative               | 0__                |
| CS1200 | Cattle/Sweeney: Oppose Preferred Alternative                | 0__                |
| CS1300 | Cattle/Sweeney: Desire Other Alternative                    | 3__                |
| CS1400 | Cattle/Sweeney: Suggest Change in Alternative               | 0__                |
| DC1000 | Duplicate comment   | 6__                |
| ED1000 | Editorial   | 7__                |
| EJ2010 | Environmental Justice: Affected Environment                 | 0__                |
| EJ4000 | Environmental Justice: Impact of Proposal and Alternatives  | 5__                |
| EJ5000 | Environmental Justice: Cumulative Impacts                   | 0__                |
| FB1100 | Fort Baker: Support Preferred Alternative                   | 2__                |
| FB1200 | Fort Baker: Oppose Preferred Alternative                    | 3__                |

|        |   |       |
|--------|---|-------|
| FB1300 | Fort Baker: Desire Other Alternative                                  | 2__   |
| FB1400 | Fort Baker: Suggest Change in Alternative                             | 0__   |
| FF1100 | Fort Funston: Support Preferred Alternative                           | 3__   |
| FF1200 | Fort Funston: Oppose Preferred Alternative                            | 40__  |
| FF1300 | Fort Funston: Desire Other Alternative                                | 32__  |
| FF1400 | Fort Funston: Suggest Change in Alternative                           | 13__  |
| FM1100 | Fort Mason: Support Preferred Alternative                             | 1__   |
| FM1200 | Fort Mason: Oppose Preferred Alternative                              | 1__   |
| FM1300 | Fort Mason: Desire Other Alternative                                  | 1__   |
| FM1400 | Fort Mason: Suggest Change in Alternative                             | 1__   |
| FP1100 | Fort Point: Support Preferred Alternative                             | 0__   |
| FP1200 | Fort Point: Oppose Preferred Alternative                              | 1__   |
| FP1300 | Fort Point: Desire Other Alternative                                  | 1__   |
| FP1400 | Fort Point: Suggest Change in Alternative                             | 0__   |
| FT1100 | Fort Miley: Support Preferred Alternative                             | 1__   |
| FT1200 | Fort Miley: Oppose Preferred Alternative                              | 1__   |
| FT1300 | Fort Miley: Desire Other Alternative                                  | 1__   |
| FT1400 | Fort Miley: Suggest Change in Alternative                             | 0__   |
| GA1000 | Impact Analysis: General Comment                                      | 12__  |
| GA2000 | Impact Analysis: Use Trends And Assumptions                           | 10__  |
| GA3000 | Impact Analysis: General Methodology For Establishing Impacts/Effects | 9__   |
| GA4000 | Impact Analysis: Impairment Analysis-General Methodology              | 8__   |
| GC1000 | Off-leash dogs: Support   | 149__ |
| GC2000 | Off-leash dogs: Oppose  | 31__  |
| GC3000 | General Comment: Support current management                           | 84__  |
| GC4000 | General Comment: Continue to allow dogs within GGNRA                  | 55__  |
| GC4010 | General Comment: Ban all dogs from GGNRA                              | 23__  |
| GC5000 | On-leash dogs: Support  | 44__  |
| GC6000 | On-leash Dogs: Oppose   | 5__   |
| GC7000 | General Comment: Support New Dog Management Plan                      | 84__  |
| GC8000 | General Comment: Oppose New Dog Management Plan                       | 85__  |
| GC9000 | General Comment: Support Alternative A for All Sites                  | 22__  |
| GC9010 | General Comment: Support Alternative B for All Sites                  | 5__   |
| GC9020 | General Comment: Support Alternative C for All Sites                  | 4__   |
| GC9030 | General Comment: Support Alternative D for All Sites                  | 22__  |
| GC9040 | General Comment: Support Alternative E for All Sites                  | 1__   |
| GC9050 | General Comment: Oppose Alternative A for All Sites                   | 0__   |
| GC9060 | General Comment: Oppose Alternative B for All Sites                   | 2__   |
| GC9070 | General Comment: Oppose Alternative C for All Sites                   | 1__   |
| GC9080 | General Comment: Oppose Alternative D for All Sites                   | 1__   |
| GC9090 | General Comment: Oppose Alternative E for All Sites                   | 0__   |
| GR2010 | Geologic/Soil Resources: Affected Environment                         | 2__   |
| GR4000 | Geologic Resources: Impact Of Proposal And Alternatives               | 2__   |

|        |   |      |
|--------|---|------|
| GR5000 | Geologic Resources: Cumulative Impacts  | 0__  |
| GR6000 | Geologic Resources: Impairment Analyses   | 0__  |
| HS2010 | Health and Safety: Affected Environment   | 7__  |
| HS4000 | Health and Safety: Impact of Proposal and Alternatives  | 13__ |
| HS4010 | Health and Safety: Impacts of Dogs vs. Humans   | 9__  |
| HS4015 | Health and Safety: Impacts of Dog Related Incidents   | 17__ |
| HS5000 | Health and Safety: Cumulative Impacts   | 1__  |
| HV1100 | Homestead Valley: Support Preferred Alternative   | 0__  |
| HV1200 | Homestead Valley: Oppose Preferred Alternative  | 2__  |
| HV1300 | Homestead Valley: Desire Other Alternative  | 3__  |
| HV1400 | Homestead Valley: Suggest Change in Alternative   | 0__  |
| LE1100 | Lands End: Support Preferred Alternative  | 0__  |
| LE1200 | Lands End: Oppose Preferred Alternative   | 1__  |
| LE1300 | Lands End: Desire Other Alternative   | 1__  |
| LE1400 | Lands End: Suggest Change in Alternative  | 2__  |
| LP1000 | Laws and Policies: Impact of GGNRA actions on other NPS units'<br>enforcement of servicewide policies and regulations | 3__  |
| LU1000 | Land Use: Policies and Historical Use   | 10__ |
| LU2000 | Other Agencies Policies and mandates Regarding Dog<br>Management  | 2__  |
| LU3000 | Land Use: Dog Parks Provided by San Francisco and Other<br>Municipalities   | 17__ |
| LU3010 | Adjacent Lands: Impacts to other State or County Parks  | 30__ |
| LU3020 | Adjacent Lands: Impacts to other Dog Parks  | 22__ |
| MB1100 | Muir Beach: Support Preferred Alternative   | 2__  |
| MB1200 | Muir Beach: Oppose Preferred Alternative  | 25__ |
| MB1300 | Muir Beach: Desire Other Alternative  | 22__ |
| MB1400 | Muir Beach: Suggest Change in Alternative   | 7__  |
| MH1100 | Marin Headlands: Support Preferred Alternative  | 1__  |
| MH1200 | Marin Headlands: Oppose Preferred Alternative   | 4__  |
| MH1300 | Marin Headlands: Desire Other Alternative   | 8__  |
| MH1400 | Marin Headlands: Suggest Change in Alternative  | 4__  |
| MP1100 | Mori Point: Support Preferred Alternative   | 1__  |
| MP1200 | Mori Point: Oppose Preferred Alternative  | 1__  |
| MP1300 | Mori Point: Desire Other Alternative  | 1__  |
| MP1400 | Mori Point: Suggest Change in Alternative   | 2__  |
| MR1100 | Milagra Ridge: Support Preferred Alternative  | 1__  |
| MR1200 | Milagra Ridge: Oppose Preferred Alternative   | 0__  |
| MR1300 | Milagra Ridge: Desire Other Alternative   | 0__  |
| MR1400 | Milagra Ridge: Suggest Change in Alternative  | 0__  |
| MT1000 | Miscellaneous Topics: General Comments  | 11__ |
| NL1100 | New Lands: Support Preferred Alternative  | 1__  |
| NL1200 | New Lands: Oppose Preferred Alternative   | 6__  |
| NL1300 | New Lands: Desire Other Alternative   | 16__ |

|        |  |      |
|--------|--|------|
| NL1400 | New Lands: Suggest Change in Alternative                               | 5__  |
| NL1500 | New Lands: Question Definition of New Lands                            | 0__  |
| OB1100 | Ocean Beach: Support Preferred Alternative                             | 4__  |
| OB1200 | Ocean Beach: Oppose Preferred Alternative                              | 8__  |
| OB1300 | Ocean Beach: Desire Other Alternative                                  | 10__ |
| OB1400 | Ocean Beach: Suggest Change in Alternative                             | 2__  |
| OV1100 | Oakwood Valley: Support Preferred Alternative                          | 1__  |
| OV1200 | Oakwood Valley: Oppose Preferred Alternative                           | 3__  |
| OV1300 | Oakwood Valley: Desire Other Alternative                               | 2__  |
| OV1400 | Oakwood Valley: Suggest Change in Alternative                          | 0__  |
| PN4000 | Purpose And Need: Park Legislation/Authority                           | 23__ |
| PN7000 | Purpose and Need: Adequacy of EIS Purpose and Need                     | 18__ |
| PN8000 | Purpose And Need: Objectives In Taking Action                          | 20__ |
| PO2010 | Park Operations: Affected Environment                                  | 8__  |
| PO4000 | Park Operations: Impact Of Proposal And Alternatives                   | 27__ |
| PO5000 | Park Operations: Impacts   | 0__  |
| PP1100 | Pedro Point: Support Preferred Alternative                             | 0__  |
| PP1200 | Pedro Point: Oppose Preferred Alternative                              | 0__  |
| PP1300 | Pedro Point: Desire Other Alternative                                  | 0__  |
| PP1400 | Pedro Point: Suggest Change in Alternative                             | 0__  |
| PS1000 | Comment Regarding Public Scoping Process                               | 10__ |
| RB1100 | Rodeo Beach: Support Preferred Alternative                             | 2__  |
| RB1200 | Rodeo Beach: Oppose Preferred Alternative                              | 2__  |
| RB1300 | Rodeo Beach: Desire Other Alternative                                  | 7__  |
| RB1400 | Rodeo Beach: Suggest Change in Alternative                             | 2__  |
| RF1000 | References: General Comments   | 1__  |
| SA1100 | Site Accessibility   | 11__ |
| SB1100 | Stinson Beach: Support Preferred Alternative                           | 2__  |
| SB1200 | Stinson Beach: Oppose Preferred Alternative                            | 4__  |
| SB1300 | Stinson Beach: Desire Other Alternative                                | 2__  |
| SB1400 | Stinson Beach: Suggest Change in Alternative                           | 2__  |
| SH1100 | Sutro Heights: Support Preferred Alternative                           | 1__  |
| SH1200 | Sutro Heights: Oppose Preferred Alternative                            | 1__  |
| SH1300 | Sutro Heights: Desire Other Alternative                                | 1__  |
| SH1400 | Sutro Heights: Suggest Change in Alternative                           | 0__  |
| TE2010 | Threatened and Endangered Species: Affected Environment                | 28__ |
| TE4000 | Threatened And Endangered Species: Impact Of Proposal And Alternatives | 20__ |
| TE5000 | Threatened And Endangered Species: Cumulative Impacts                  | 0__  |
| TE6000 | Threatened And Endangered Species: Impairment Analyses                 | 0__  |
| VR2010 | Vegetation and Riparian Areas: Affected Environment                    | 15__ |
| VR4000 | Vegetation And Riparian Areas: Impact Of Proposal And Alternatives     | 4__  |
| VR5000 | Vegetation And Riparian Areas: Cumulative Impacts                      | 0__  |

|        |   |      |
|--------|---|------|
| VR6000 | Vegetation And Riparian Areas: Impairment Analyses  | 0__  |
| VU2010 | Visitor Use and Experience: Affected Environment  | 10__ |
| VU4000 | Visitor Use and Experience: Impact of Proposal and Alternatives on Visitors who Enjoy Dogs        | 46__ |
| VU4005 | Visitor Use and Experience: Impact of Proposal and Alternatives on Visitors who Do Not Enjoy Dogs | 35__ |
| VU4010 | Visitor Use and Experience: Actions of Dog Owners   | 10__ |
| VU4015 | Visitor Use and Experience: Concern Statement of a Dog Owner                                      | 1__  |
| VU4020 | Visitor Use and Experience: Concern Statement of Non Dog Owners                                   | 0__  |
| VU4025 | Visitor Use and Experience: Professional Dog Walkers  | 28__ |
| VU5000 | Visitor Use and Experience: Cumulative Impacts  | 0__  |
| WH2010 | Wildlife and Wildlife Habitat: Affected Environment   | 48__ |
| WH4000 | Wildlife And Wildlife Habitat: Impact Of Proposal And Alternatives                                | 21__ |
| WH5000 | Wildlife And Wildlife Habitat: Cumulative Impacts   | 0__  |
| WH6000 | Wildlife And Wildlife Habitat: Impairment Analyses  | 0__  |
| WQ4000 | Water Resources: Impact Of Proposal And Alternatives  | 3__  |
| WQ5000 | Water Resources: Cumulative Impacts   | 0__  |
| WQ6000 | Water Resources: Impairment Analyses  | 0__  |
| WR2010 | Water Resources: Affected Environment   | 3__  |

#### Correspondence Distribution by Correspondence Type

| Type         | Number of Correspondences |
|--------------|---------------------------|
| Web Form     | 773__                     |
| Letter       | 40__                      |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>813__</b>              |

#### Comment Distribution by Substantive/Non-Substantive

|                 | Number of Comments |
|-----------------|--------------------|
| Substantive     | 914__              |
| Non-Substantive | 859__              |

**Correspondence ID:** 1      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS

**Name:** -

**Address:** - CA  
USA

**Email:** 1956kiteboarder@gmail.com

**Outside Organization:** San Francisco Board Sailing Association. Unaffiliated Individual

**Received:** Jan,14,2011 00:00:00

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** The problem is a significant percentage of dog owners have been behaving badly. There are current rules of lease use in the parking lots and picnic areas, no dogs in the bathrooms or the outdoor shower as stated in the superintendents compendium. The restricted area at Ocean Beach for the snowy plover. All being ignored and from what I have seen, no enforcement either. Poop not being picked up, to running dogs knocking over people. Peeing

on personal property. And dogs that are obviously out of control of there master by voice command. Chasing and killing wildlife and digging wholes allover.

That east beach at Crissy Field is disgusting, the parking lot, picnic areas smell there is poop all over and many dog owners are using the shower as a dog grooming station, very unsanitary. The whole area is being used as a dog bathroom.

I am in favor of implimenting all aspects of the new dog management plan.

I would like to see enforcement of existing rules until the new rules take effect.

---

**Correspondence ID:** 2      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** -  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan.14,2011 09:33:39  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am a frequent user of the Crissy Field East Beach area, near the north end of the main Crissy parking lot by the concrete bathroom building and the windsock. I am fully in agreement with the Plan's recommendation that this area be made a no-dog area. While I love dogs, the dog owners who use the East Beach do not respect the current leash rules and often let their dogs crap on the beach and the lawn, creating a hazard for everyone else. Please register another SF native and 40-year resident in support of this plan. Thank you!

---

**Correspondence ID:** 3      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** -  
**Outside Organization:** crissy field dog group Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan.14,2011 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Please do not limit or diminish the off leash areas at Crissy Field. I walk my dog with my 2 year old almost everyday of the week and that beach and the freedom to have such a large area off leash has been a huge part of my life for all the 22 years I have lived in San Francisco. The off leash area specifically was a deciding factor to not take a position in Chicago last year. Our family would have had a huge house and great public schools and lived a few blocks from Lake Michigan but there are no off leash beaches anywhere around there....My wife and I chose to stay here in no small part because of crissy field and the off leash freedom we enjoy everyday. Alternative C does is not large to be viable for all the dogs that use Crissy Field. Too small a space will crowd dogs and dogwalkers and exacerbate whatever problems the GGRNA is trying to solve. Much of the year the tide is too high to use the beach and will further reduce the space which all dogs will be forced to use. Whenever Family is visiting I am proud to show off the best off leash park in America and they are all amazed at how well behaved and the dogs and their owners are. Please leave the off leash areas as they have been for the last few years; they are a large part of what I love about San francisco.

---

**Correspondence ID:** 4      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** -  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Received:** Jan,14,2011 10:18:30

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** As a regular use of both Crissy and OB I fully support the plan. I love dogs but things are out of hand at Crissy in particular. Last time I was their an off leash dog ran right over/through my water sports equipment - the owner was an idiot and claimed it was my fault for " being there ". Minutes later another off leash dog came over an peed all over it. The owner pretended not to notice, and when I asked him to clean it up he said " dogs are dogs " and told me to get lost. Good riddance to these people. Now the kids won't have to play in dog shit anymore.

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**Correspondence ID:** 5      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS

**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA

**Email:** mjb82@cornell.edu  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Received:** Jan,14,2011 10:44:50  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Regarding proposal for Crissy Field: Small dogs like mine (<20 lbs miniature poodle) are not safe playing in the surf on the main beach. Having access to the tidal area for ball chasing and fetch is critical to teaching them to swim in a safe environment. The joy my dog gets from romping in the water(and the stress relief I get from watching him) is immeasurable and there is really no other place for him to do that, assuming I obey the laws. So for this area (again the tidal area) I would respectfully request this be changed from leash only to "voice control" or be off limits only to large dogs who are safer playing in the surf, maybe allowing access only to dogs <20lbs who are less likely to have an impact on children and families in the area. Otherwise the proposal at Crissy Field makes sense. I will add that leashes have been required on the trails at all times and those are not enforced. As the owner of a small dog, I don't appreciate it when big dogs are allowed to roam free. So I would ask that laws be enforced otherwise the only people who suffer are the people and dogs who actually obey the law.

Lastly, please consider stricter regulation, licensing and fees for dog walkers vs. single or 2 dog owners. I was unemployed for six months this year and visited nearly all of these sites with my dog so I have seen first hand that dog walkers are often careless, rude and overwhelmed. Dog walkers need to pay for a license that covers the damage they do to the parks when they bring 6-10 dogs at a time to an area. It's dogs that are not well managed that cause problems, and There's a BIG difference in environmental impact of 5 dogs + 5 owners vs 5 dogs and 1 dog walker. One idea might be that during the weeks, when dog walkers are more active the rules are different than on weekends when owners are more likely to be out.

Thank you for your consideration.

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**Correspondence ID:** 6      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS

**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA

**Email:** -  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Received:** Jan,14,2011 11:16:10  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Please leavethe Presidio and Funston open to off-leash dogs. If you don't, you will simply make the neighborhood parks more crowded with dogs/their walkers. Further, our family loves to "hike" with our toddlers and our 12-pound dog in the Presidio

San Francisco's warm and progressive approach to dogs is one of reasons its such a great city

---

**Correspondence ID:** 7      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS

**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** -  
**Outside** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Organization:**  
**Received:** Jan,14,2011 11:30:07  
**Correspondence** Web Form  
**Type:**  
**Correspondence:** Please, please, please do not implement this plan. My golden retriever and I run along ocean beach and thru Fort Funston daily. By inacting this plan, you'll take away the joy so many San Franciscan's enjoy. The dogs learn social skills and are able to interact much easier off leash. On leash, dogs become protective, often leading to altercations; the best way to avoid this is to keep the parks the way they've always been. Please, we are pleading with you, sincerely, karin sunden

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**Correspondence ID:** 8      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS

**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA

**Email:** ggparcs@isbrown.com  
**Outside** Unaffiliated Individual

**Organization:**

**Received:** Jan,14,2011 11:39:06

**Correspondence** Web Form

**Type:**

**Correspondence:** After year of having dog run wild at Crissy like they own it I think this plan is great. I understand the needs for dog to run free but having them stay on leash until after the marsh is a great plan to keep use for all beach goers equal.

I am at Crissy with my family weekly and I go all most daily to Kitesurf, windsurf or stand up paddle surf. I have been doing this there for almost 21 years.

I love dogs but have had them piss everything from my kiting, kid and lunch because the owner is not in control of them. The worst thing that has happen is when a dog chased my then 3 year old into the Bay and the owner said that it was my son's fault.

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**Correspondence ID:** 9      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS

**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA

**Email:** tschilke@gmail.com  
**Outside** Unaffiliated Individual

**Organization:**

**Received:** Jan,14,2011 11:49:02

**Correspondence** Web Form

**Type:**

**Correspondence:** I am extremely disappointed by the recommendation for Chrissy field, Fort Funston and the Presidio. As a responsible dog walker it is absolutely vital for my dog's health to continue to enjoy off leash dog walking in the entire Chrissy Field Area. Further, if the NPS kicks the commercial dog walkers out of the Presidio and Fort Funston they will all need somewhere to go. Neighborhood parks managed by the City will be flooded with dog walkers and that will most likely lead to increased crowding and degradation of these parks. By restricting off leash walking in the GGNRA they may inadvertently destroy my neighborhood park. I would like to see a full analysis of the downstream consequences of this decision.

There are over 100,000 dogs in San Francisco and they need somewhere to go. Fort Funston and the Presidio are wonderful places for dogs to run off leash. This is one reason San Francisco is beautiful and unique, frankly this is why I live in the city. Not only will you destroy quality of life for residents you will also be destroying property values as residents my move out.

**Correspondence ID:** 10      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS

**Name:** -

**Address:** - CA  
USA

**Email:** -

**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Received:** Jan,14,2011 12:03:57

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Having so many off leash areas is hugely important to me as a San Francisco resident. It is part of what makes this city so attractive to my husband and I. Our dog is very important to us, as I know they are to other residents as well. The importance of the ability to run our dogs off leash cannot be understated. I always feel so bad for dogs in other cities where they don't have the opportunity to run off leash. I also understand the necessity of protecting wildlife and habitat, but there must be a balance. Not to mention that if we severely curtail where dog walkers can go in the parks, they will flood the city, which is likely to have negative unintended consequences. It is incredibly sad to me that so many of these options entail no dogs at all. We are a city that loves our dogs, and to restrict even further the parks we can go with our dogs would be a travesty. To that end, the following are my comments on some of the various areas under review.

Stinson Beach: Alt A.

Homestead Valley: Alt A.

Alta Trail, etc: Alt A.

Oakwood Valley: Alt A - I regularly use this area and it is a wonderful place to take my dog on an off leash run. I would be fine with fencing to protect habitat, but only if the whole area (Oakwood Valley Fire Road and Oakwood Valley Trail) remain off lease.

Muir Beach: Alt A.

Rodea Beach: Alt A or Alt C

Marin Headlands: Alt A, please please please not "No dogs."

Fort Baker: Alt A or Alt C.

Fort Mason: Alt C - It would be great if some portions were designated for restricted off-leash use.

Crissy Field Wildlife Protection Area: Alt B - protect this sensitive area, while leaving the rest of the Crissy Field area off leash, voice control.

Crissy Field: Alt A. Off lease use here (voice control), especially on the beaches, is hugely important to me. Please do not take this away. I use the Crissy field beach with my dog all the time. I cannot even express how terrible it would be if this became a leash only area.

Fort Point: Alt A.

Baker Beach: Alt A.

Fort Miley: Alt C.

Lands End: Alt A.

Sutro Heights: Alt E.

Ocean Beach Snowy Plover Protection Area: Alt C. Protect wildlife areas, keep the rest as voice control.

Ocean Beach: Alt A.

Fort Funstron: Alt A. Having this huge park as off-leash, voice control is really important for me and my dog, but also for the dog walkers of this city.

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**Correspondence ID:** 11      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** -  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan,14,2011 12:04:44  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Your plan to ban dogs on the sandy part of ocean beach South of Irving St. is not acceptable to dog owners of San Francisco. Most people get dogs to have someone to walk with them on the beach. My dog died in May. Since then I havAt e walked the beach alone. It is not fun. I am about to get another dog to have someone to walk the beach with me. If you do not allow me to walk my dog on the beach on leash, I may as well stay home and become obese. I am 81 years old, I live at Ulloa St. and cannot get to the area North of Irving St. Yes, I can walk on the path with my dog, but I love being on the beach itself, at the water's edge. Please reconsider allowing dogs on the beach area. Thank you for your consideration. Sincerely, Jean Mont-Eton

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**Correspondence ID:** 12      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** david@davidhtaylorlmd.com  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan,14,2011 12:06:54  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** we are muir beach residents and dog owners. we live adjacent to the beach alongside a highway. there is basically no place to walk our dog other than Muir Beach. period. Tamalpais State Park is closed to dogs as are large portions of GGNRA trails in our area. We are deeply committed to the restoration of Redwood Creek. It is saving the salmon and reducing our flood risk. We are daily stewards of the beach. Our labrador retriever is part of our family and community. She is not a risk to anything at Muir Beach at all. To close Muir Beach to dogs and their owners would be an extraordinary blunder on the part of the GGNRA. Who do you think will be visiting and caring for this treasure in our community if people like us are not out there every day? Tourists? Please be realistic and considerate of the lives of people and animals in this community and DO NOT stop access for dogs at Muir Beach EVER.

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**Correspondence ID:** 13      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** markcashel@yahoo.com  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan,14,2011 12:11:58  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Dear Sir or Madam,

We are furious about these proposed regulations.

There are over 100,000 dogs in San Francisco and they need somewhere to go. Fort Funston and the Presidio are wonderful places for dogs to run off leash. This is one reasons San Francisco is so beautiful and unique. By restricting off leash walking in the GGNRA you may inadvertently destroy our neighborhood parks. There are just too many dogs and not enough parks already. Finally, as the owner of an active dog, we need off-leash places for our dog to recreate and we hope you reconsider these proposed changes.

Sincerely,

Mark & Ashley Cashel

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**Correspondence ID:** 14      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS

**Name:** -

**Address:** - CA  
USA

**Email:** carabrennan@gmail.com

**Outside Organization:** Canine Crew Unaffiliated Individual

**Received:** Jan,14,2011 12:13:07

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** For over 100,000 dog owners in San Francisco, a critical reason we live her is because of the dog-friendly nature of our community. We are responsible, tax paying citizens who enjoy the parks. We support the parks--and have an interest in keeping them pristine. Displacing us and our animals is not a solution. It is a means to divide the community and reduce the quality of life for those who own dogs and enjoy our friends and fellow community member's animals while in the parks. This is an issue for everyone and a community issue overall. If we can't take our dogs to the park, we will be forced into small, crowded community grass areas and that will affect everyone.

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**Correspondence ID:** 15      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS

**Name:** -

**Address:** - CA  
USA

**Email:** -

**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Received:** Jan,14,2011 12:13:53

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Dogs have been allowed on Muir Beach for many many years. People come from all over the Bay Area (especially from other parts of Marin County) to enjoy the beach with their dogs, especially in the morning.

There are many beaches in the Bay Area where dogs are not allowed. Muir Beach should remain as one of the few that are left where one can bring their dog.

I don't realistically see how dogs can adversely impact the environment. They're not jumping in the creek to eat salmon or frogs. They simply go from the parking lot to the beach and frolic and romp and chase balls and add to the recreational experience. The lagoon area remains as a wetland habitat for everyone else to enjoy.

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**Correspondence ID:** 16      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS

**Name:** -

**Address:** - CA  
USA

**Email:** cohond@peds.ucsf.edu

**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan,14,2011 12:24:58  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Have lived in Muir Beach since 1979 and have not been bothered by having dogs on the beach. If there is a way to see that owners monitor their dog's behavior and clean up after them while at the beach, I think that dogs add a positive note to beach days.

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**Correspondence ID:** 17      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA

**Email:**  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Received:** Jan,14,2011 12:36:13  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** As a resident of Muir Beach, the proposed ban on dogs at the beach is extremely upsetting to myself and most of the community. Dogs have been permitted at Muir Beach since the formation of the GGNRA (with the exception of a brief period that was soon overturned), so this is a distinct departure via this proposed rule. Though we supported the Redwood restoration project with both our volunteer work and tax dollars, it is especially upsetting that this is one of the reasons being mentioned for the proposed ban.

I walk my dog daily from my home down to the beach and up along the trail above the beach. Most week days the beach is completely deserted and it seems ludicrous to ban dogs during these times.

You can expect a very large public outcry at this proposed ban -- with petitions, flyers circulated throughout Southern Marin and a strong protest presence at public hearings. I hope you will consider seriously the strong feelings of the community who have every right to enjoy this public space with their pets.

Sincerely, Joanie Wynn 1 Starbuck Drive Muir Beach, CA

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**Correspondence ID:** 18      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA

**Email:**  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Received:** Jan,14,2011 12:40:21  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Dogs on Muir Beach are a wonderful thing. Having the beach available as an area where off-lease dogs, under their owners control is permissible should be preserved. In the several years I have lived at Muir Beach I have not observed any problems with the dogs of locals or visitors. People self police and a very respectful. Signage encouraging this would be appropriate as well as additional pet waste collection bag dispensers.

Thanks

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**Correspondence ID:** 19      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA

**Email:**  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Organization:****Received:** Jan,14,2011 12:42:10**Correspondence Type:** Web Form**Correspondence:** I wish to submit my thoughts and concerns about your proposed new policy to keep dogs off of Muir Beach. I am in real estate and sell most of the homes here. I find that it's common for buyers to want to be surrounded by nature and to walk down to their beach to run their dogs (it's healthy for both the owners and the dogs and it's safer than just going alone and leaving the dogs confined at home). A brief walk to the local beach, letting our dogs run in the waves, saying "hi" to our neighbors is a wonderful, attractive community feature that buyers can request when deciding to purchase homes at Muir Beach (adding to our property values in a special way). And it doesn't make environmental sense to ask us to actually DRIVE our dogs to a dog park that's 6 miles away or to another beach that's 1/2 hour away. Using our local beach makes sense, and Muir Beach shouldn't be closed off to our dogs. I've seen ravens and sea gulls on Muir Beach, but our dogs seem more interested in just running and enjoying their brief freedom with their owners and neighboring dogs. Such a wonderful time together is happy and healthy for us all. Please don't ruin that. Thank you, Debra Allen, Realtor

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**Correspondence ID:** 20      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS**Name:** -**Address:** - CA  
USA**Email:** chris@naturetemple.net**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual**Organization:****Received:** Jan,14,2011 12:55:47**Correspondence Type:** Web Form**Correspondence:** The plan makes a great deal of sense and moves toward protecting both the wildlife and human safety in open park spaces. My wife, friends and I have hiked all over the Bay Area for many years and it has become a regular, expected part of our Nature experience to encounter dogs and their owners many of whom consistently and carelessly allow their animals to charge or chase us or wildlife. I have had many pets throughout my life and do not hate dogs. Yet, the situation has become intolerable when we are forced to carry walking sticks or pepper spray simply to defend ourselves from the thoughtlessness of others. Please implement these stricter rules and regulations for the benefit of the vast majority who simply wish to enjoy the beauty of the Bay Area in peace and safety. Thank you!

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**Correspondence ID:** 21      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS**Name:** -**Address:** - CA  
USA**Email:** michael@thepierhouse.us**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual**Organization:****Received:** Jan,14,2011 12:56:13**Correspondence Type:** Web Form**Correspondence:** Walking my dog on Muir Beach and letting her run free in the surf is one of the freedoms I treasure. Please don't take that away.

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**Correspondence ID:** 22      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS**Name:** -**Address:** - CA  
USA**Email:** Unaffiliated Individual**Outside Organization:****Received:** Jan,14,2011 12:57:19**Correspondence Type:** Web Form**Correspondence:** Look, it's all about the poop. That's really what it comes down to. We walk our dog every day and lucky for us, she actually only likes to poop at our house. But when she does poop in public, we pick it up. Plain and simple. When I

see poop laying around it definitely angers me and is disgusting. I totally agree. That is completely irresponsible of the dog owners. NOBODY wants to step in poop, or see it. Rather than ban dogs from being off-leash, just create a much bigger fine for people who dont pick up their poop. SF cant afford to add police to areas, but if people have the fear of a steep fine they will think twice about not cleaning up. Thank you!

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**Correspondence ID:** 23      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** -  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan,14,2011 12:58:56  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I would like to comment on the proposed rule changes on dogs within the CGNRA.

I am a former resident of San Francisco, and I am a frequent visitor to various locations within the CGNRA, especially Ocean Beach. I have surfed Ocean Beach almost every single week since 1980.

In my opinion, the proposed rule changes have no merit whatsoever. From my personal experience, I would take issue with the rationale that is being presented to change the rules from the 1979 Pet Policy:

-Data presented for problems within the existing rules seem extremely low, and do not support any change -The main problem presented within the data seems to be for off-leash violations, however the problem with dogs present within restricted area are quite low. -Fecal contamination by dogs at Ocean beach is cited as a rationale for restricting dogs, however due to strong currents and wave action, the only time I can remember any problem with water quality at Ocean Beach is due to sewage overflow.

CGNRA seeks to impose more restrictive regulations on pets. In my opinion, such increased regulation does not take into consideration the CGNRA's unique location next to a major metropolitan area, and unnecessarily impacts historic and generational use.

As far as I can see, the only impact of increased regulation is a chance for the NPS to increase fining people for leash violations, which will not offset the \$1,500,000 budget cited for implementation.

We do not need more regulation nor increased budgets. Please allow responsible pet owners to continue to enjoy the area in line with the 1979 Pet Policy. I will support any legal action to prevent unnecessary restrictions to be put in place.

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**Correspondence ID:** 24      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** -  
**Outside Organization:** Muir Beach Volunteer Fire Dept. Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan,14,2011 13:06:43  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** To whom it may concern:

Banning dogs at Muir Beach is a bad idea. (Federal plans would ban dogs... Chronicle Jan. 13, 2111). Who really comes up with these stupid and costly plans? It surely isn't someone who lives in Muir Beach. It's likely some bureaucrat sitting in an office in Washington that doesn't even know where Muir Beach is.

I'm a 25 year resident of Muir Beach, a member of the Muir Beach Volunteer Fire Dept. for 22 years and an EMT. I have never responded to Muir Beach for an emergency caused by a dog. Dogs may poop, but the don't drink

alcohol, break bottles, litter, carry weapons, start fires, drown or fall off cliffs. If the park service superintendent really wants to make Muir Beach a better place, he or she should ban people. Let the dogs have the beach. The people can sit in their cars and litter the parking lot.

The excuse that some how dogs effect the environment or chase or scare birds is a smokescreen. In 25 years I've never seen a dog catch a bird. At most they chase away seagulls and crows that are scavaging the trash and vomit left by humans. Is the park service going to ban horses? Ban fires? Ban alcohol? Are they planning to enforce littering laws? Are they planning to clean the disgusting porta-potties once in a while? In other words, is the park service planning to do something that really matters or just this petty bureaucratic crap?

In addition, I have always felt much better, when my wife and children are out enjoying the beach and trails, that they have our dog with them for safety. Our dog would only lick the would be bad guy to death, but he wouldn't know that. Women and children should be allowed to have this benign level of protection and companionship wherever they go in our parks.

Robert Allen, MBVFD, Muir Beach.

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**Correspondence ID:** 25      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106

**Project Name:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS

**Address:** - CA  
USA

**Email Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Received:** Jan,14,2011 13:08:22

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I am writing about the proposed changes to allowing dogs in the various areas of the GGNRA, and what restrictions should be placed in various areas. As a dog guardian and resident of Muir Beach, I adamantly oppose any changes to the current restriction on dogs in the GGNRA. I prefer option A in the Executive Summary. I am sympathetic to the need to reduce conflict between dog owners and those who may be afraid of dogs, the preservation of habitat, and reducing potential liability of the GGNRA. Let me address these items in the order I have listed them. 1) Nobody can control the fear of others, but we can enforce leash laws that allow owners to control their dogs, even if the dog does not respond to voice control. I have encountered people who are morbidly afraid of dogs, either through personal experience, irrational fear, or cultural learnings. The solution is simple: I simply move my dog to one side and place myself between the dog and the person. 2) The biggest problems to habitat are restricting usage of the park to trail or public use areas and dog feces. Park trail access is also a problem for humans. I recently saw a family in Muir Beach that didn't want to use the pedestrian bridge, saw a shortcut through the lagoon and trampled through the newly planted area that park staff and volunteers have so carefully planted. They didn't have a dog. Should we also ban humans from Muir Beach as well? If you value the habitat, that may be prudent. I see far more humans abusing habitat at the Muir Beach lagoon than people, including off-trail usage and littering. On the matter of dog fecal matter, why not require all people that are walking dogs to provide evidence of having poopie bags for removing litter? Anyone without a bag is obviously going to let their dog's fecal matter by the side of the trail and should be fined. 3) On the liability of the GGNRA, the only lawsuit against GGNRA was brought regarding Fort Funston access by dog owners. If the GGNRA bans dogs outright, does this increase liability risks? I think it does. I would like to see compiled statistics on the number of dog bites vs. number of people coming to the park. Is this a true problem? Is the frequency of dog bites normalized by visitors increasing? Or is the absolute number increasing while park personnel are decreasing? There are other matters to consider: Enforceability. If the park wants to ban dogs at this point, does GGNRA have the resources to enforce the policy? I frequently hike the hills in Marin and in the past 5 years I have only seen a ranger on a trail once. Some people may decide to take their chances with enforcement. Public access. As residents of Muir Beach, there aren't a lot of choices for walking a dog. Muir Beach is a small community that is ringed by state and national park land. Restricting to the options that allow no dogs would only mean that we have to use our greenhouse gas polluting cars to go somewhere that allows dogs, increasing traffic congestion needlessly on Highway 1. Is this the intended action of the GGNRA? I would posit that my car harms the environment more than my dog, unless the GGNRA has evidence to the contrary to present to the public.

I appreciate your time to hear my concerns about the proposed changes to dog access in the GGNRA.

Sincerely, Scott Crowder

**Correspondence ID:** 26      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA

**Email:**  
**Outside** Unaffiliated Individual

**Organization:**  
**Received:** Jan,14,2011 13:15:44

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** As a resident and dog owner of Muir Beach California, I am sincerely requesting that the dog policy for Muir Beach remain as it is - Please take no action. The dogs and dog walkers that enjoy Muir Beach are consistently thoughtful and respectful of both nature and people. I have never witnessed a dog disturbance or any destruction resulting from the dogs that enjoy the beach. I urge you to continue to allow all those that enjoy the beach to continue to enjoy as they do today - regardless of the number of legs they have.

Sincerely yours, Muir Beach lover and dog owner.

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**Correspondence ID:** 27      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA

**Email:** dyercrouch@yahoo.com  
**Outside** Unaffiliated Individual

**Organization:**  
**Received:** Jan,14,2011 13:32:24

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I support your new regulations, WILL YOU ENFORCE THEM??? My small son has been knocked down by a dog, chased by dogs and I ALWAYS have to be on guard in GGNRA areas because there are always owners who are off leash letting their dogs come up to my son rambunctiously & sometimes I am not even sure what the dog's body language is. The dog owners always have an "attitude" about this when I fend their dog off my kid. I can not play catch with a ball or a Frisbee on ANY beach within the GGNRA without having an unwanted rambunctious dog join in and grab the ball or Frisbee at some point. Don't believe me? Go try it with some little kids. Are you guys going to enforce the leash law or are you just politely going to ask owners to follow the rules & have that go out the window as soon as the officer leaves which is what goes on now? You would think the GGNRA is \*currently\* running a big dog park. Don't even get me started on the birds that USED to be at Fort Funston. They are all gone now? It seems that every beach in the GGNRA is a bird rodeo for dogs too. How did it get this way?

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**Correspondence ID:** 28      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA

**Email:** -  
**Outside** Unaffiliated Individual

**Organization:**  
**Received:** Jan,14,2011 13:41:41

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** One of the great pleasures of going to our beach is watching the obvious joy that dogs experience as they visit the beach. They always brings a smile to other beach walkers. What possible reason could there be for forbidding them? I've lived in Muir Beach for eight years and have NEVER seen dog feces left on the sand for others to deal with. Our dog owners are responsible and clean up after their pets. And the pets themselves are a delight for young and old alike. KEEP DOGS ON OUR BEACHES!

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**Correspondence ID:** 29      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS

**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** ntede@aol.com  
**Outside** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Organization:**  
**Received:** Jan,14,2011 13:42:25  
**Correspondence** Web Form  
**Type:**

**Correspondence:** As a resident of Muir Beach and a dog owner I am very distressed by the news that the GGNRA is considering complete prohibition of dogs on Muir Beach. There are already significant limitations placed on where one is "allowed" to go with a dog and these regulations are becoming unpleasantly excessive in this community. I don't believe that GGNRA has in it's mission statement the goal of preventing a whole subsection of the population the right to enjoy the hills and beaches of our neighborhood but that is in essence what this proposal will do.

I do not believe that anything good can come of absolutes and at the very least there should hours in the morning and late afternoon, early evening where there would be no limitations placed on dogs or their owners.

Nikola Tede

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**Correspondence ID:** 30      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA

USA  
**Email:** hamiltonrivers@hotmail.com  
**Outside** Unaffiliated Individual

**Organization:**  
**Received:** Jan,14,2011 13:42:46  
**Correspondence** Web Form

**Type:**  
**Correspondence:** I AM A RESIDENT AND HOME OWNER OF MUIR BEACH AND I AM KEEN THAT DOGS REMAIN WELCOME VISITORS TO OUR BEACH, ALONG WITH THEIR OWNERS!

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**Correspondence ID:** 31      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA

USA  
**Email:** dfugate@sandomenico.org  
**Outside** Unaffiliated Individual

**Organization:**  
**Received:** Jan,14,2011 13:55:14  
**Correspondence** Web Form

**Type:**  
**Correspondence:** Please, please, please do not require leashes for dogs on the beaches!!! Walking a dog on leash on a beach is torture for both human and dog. The birds know how to fly away and be safe! I have never seen one injured; everybody has a great time.

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**Correspondence ID:** 32      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA

USA  
**Email:** johnston@celadon.com  
**Outside** Unaffiliated Individual

**Organization:**  
**Received:** Jan,14,2011 14:03:36  
**Correspondence** Web Form

**Type:**  
**Correspondence:** Hi,

I have lived in Muir Beach, CA for 14 years. I don't have a dog, but many of my friends and neighbors do. So much of my enjoyment on the beach and trails where dogs are currently allowed, is spent with my friends and their canine counterparts. Everyone I know here with dogs has been so respectful of the wildlife and environment as far as their dogs are concerned. Dogs are such a large part of our community, and, as we are such a close neighbor to the GGNRA with Muir Beach, I strongly encourage and support the NPS continuing their current policy of allowing our dogs off leash on Muir Beach.

Thanks,

Kathy Johnston Sunset Way Muir Beach

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**Correspondence ID:** 33      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** -  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan,14,2011 14:52:49  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** People who train their dogs to be friendly. voice and eye responsive, and who clean up after their dogs should not be penalized for the laxity of roughly 2% of those who do not train their dogs appropriately. Particular, and punitive laws should apply to those who leave aggressive, attack dogs off leash or out of their control. It has been my experience that any peaceable dog owner will immediately call law enforcement when they or their dogs are threatened or attacked by such dogs. It has also, unfortunately, been my experience that there is no timely response. Perhaps this is where the study should focus. It appears such a study would be far less expensive and the lack of reaction would be more accountable.

If any consideration of these laws is just to make money, it should come from harsher fines against those owners who do not register their dogs nor train them to respond peacefully in all circumstances while on public property - including respecting the space of other species.

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**Correspondence ID:** 34      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** -  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan,14,2011 15:08:15  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** The proposal to disallow Dogs to be off Leach on Beaches is another curtailment on our personal freedom. All Birds, Plants, Animals and People have interacted as long as there existence. How do you plan to control any other wild life that may show up on a Beach that does not have a Taxpaying owner to their credit? Birds have always coexisted with other Animals and thrived. Controlling the natural world has brought us to the imbalance in our environment we are now experiencing. I would strongly recommend reconsidering and finding some other project more deserving of the very scarce funding.

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**Correspondence ID:** 35      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** bigcountryread@yahoo.com  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Organization:****Received:** Jan,14,2011 00:00:00**Correspondence Type:** Web Form**Correspondence:** To: National Park Service We, the undersigned, strongly urge the Citizens' Advisory Commission (CAC) to the Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA), Superintendent Brian O'Neill, the National Park Service, Senator Dianne Feinstein, Senator Barbara Boxer, Representative Nancy Pelosi, Mayor Willie L. Brown, Jr., the San Francisco Board of Supervisors and other elected and appointed officials to take the necessary action to maintain the right of dog owners to walk with their dogs under voice control and off-leash as well as current on leash areas in the GGNRA.

The proposed policy is exclusionary and bans responsible dog owners from use of current and future areas acquired by the GGNRA. Specifically I would like to see Sweeny Ridge, San Pedro Point and Rancho Tierra Maintain current policy towards dogs on leash.

Aaron Read

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**Correspondence ID:** 36      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS**Name:** -**Address:** - CA  
USA**Email:** mle42@hotmail.com**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual**Received:** Jan,14,2011 00:00:00**Correspondence Type:** Web Form**Correspondence:** To: National Park Service We, the undersigned, strongly urge the Citizens' Advisory Commission (CAC) to the Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA), Superintendent Brian O'Neill, the National Park Service, Senator Dianne Feinstein, Senator Barbara Boxer, Representative Nancy Pelosi, Mayor Willie L. Brown, Jr., the San Francisco Board of Supervisors and other elected and appointed officials to take the necessary action to maintain the right of dog owners to walk with their dogs under voice control and off-leash as well as current on leash areas in the GGNRA.

The proposed policy is exclusionary and bans responsible dog owners from use of current and future areas acquired by the GGNRA. Specifically I would like to see Sweeny Ridge, San Pedro Point and Rancho Tierra Maintain current policy towards dogs on leash.

Emily Read

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**Correspondence ID:** 37      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS**Name:** -**Address:** - CA  
USA**Email:** grubbs@glocap.com**Outside Organization:** Glocap Unaffiliated Individual**Received:** Jan,14,2011 15:50:02**Correspondence Type:** Web Form**Correspondence:** Dear Sir or Madam,

I am extremely upset about these proposed regulations.

There are over 100,000 dogs in San Francisco and they need somewhere to go. Fort Funston and the Presidio are wonderful places for dogs to run off leash. This is one thing that makes San Francisco so beautiful and unique. By restricting off leash walking in the GGNRA you may inadvertently destroy our neighborhood parks. There are just too many dogs and not enough parks already. Finally, as the owner of an active dog, we need off-leash places for

our dog to recreate and we hope you reconsider these proposed changes.

Sincerely, Peyton Grubbs

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**Correspondence ID:** 38      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** -  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan,14,2011 16:21:43  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I for one would like to applaud NPS for the approach taken in the preferred alternative. As a frequent National Park user, I feel that the "preferred alternative" takes a balanced approach that considers the visitor experience of ALL park users as well as the maintenance and conservation of the GGNRA's cultural and natural resources. I hope the preferred alternative wins out.

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**Correspondence ID:** 39      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** -  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan,14,2011 16:28:03  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** The proposed recommended alternatives for baker beach, fort funston and crissy field have access issues that question both the fairness and legal viability of the plan.

Given that the park service has proposed off leash dog walking, under voice control, as a valid recreational activity it has a responsibility to ensure that all users have equal access to partake in this activity. This means equal parking, facilities, and physical access.

For those with disabilities, pregnant, with young children, or elderly, it is often difficult to walk, even a very well trained dog, on leash for great distances. For example, at Crissy Field the parking is so limited near the acceptable off leash areas that it would make it essentially useless to these types of users. Plus there are no nearby facilities. The same goes for the beach access at Fort Funston.

How can you enable a recreational activity that only a few can use?

Continous off leash access from parking lot, to facilities to off leash designated areas is a must in all cases. Otherwise you are discriminating. It is an issues of law and fairness.

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**Correspondence ID:** 40      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** -  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan,14,2011 16:32:16  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Part of your mission is to preserve the cultural history of the parks. Not the culture of the parks. I have had frequent dealing with the park service and it is the culture of the park service to limit or ban dogs in the parks. It has long been the culture of the park to have a robust off leash dog culture where people meet and great friends, family and nature. This culture long predates the parks. Any attempt to change this culture is a violation of the parks purpose.

Walking your dog off leash long predates GGNR. It is part of GGNR's history and culture and therefore it deserves to be preserved. This plan does not do that. It appears deliberately designed to limit access or provide access only where it is difficult or impractical to use.

Do your job, preserve the culture of the parks. You must provide much more off leash dog areas that provided in the recommended alternatives.

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**Correspondence ID:** 41      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS

**Name:** -

**Address:** - CA  
USA

**Email:** wsamgr@aol.com

**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Received:** Jan,14,2011 16:46:19

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** My concerns are with Crissy Field which I visit almost daily. Over the years it has been transformed into an off-leash dog park. During this time I have been injured, attacked, and threatened by dogs and dog owners. On one occasion while I was jogging a woman throwing a ball on the promenade to three large dogs hit me from behind while the dogs were running at full speed. I filed a report. Another time my 4 year old child was traumatized when he was tackled by a dog also on the promenade. I had numerous encounters with dogs approaching me in an aggressive way. When I asked their owners to leash their dogs I was insulted and even threatened. Parking was increased over the original plan and it has brought SUVs with dogs to the park. Even if dogs have to be leashed on the promenade dog owners will let their dogs run off the leash from their cars to the beach. Other cities have designated fenced in small and large dog areas to go off-leash. The grass area on the other side of the parking lot would be perfect. Enforcement is also a concern. When there used to be an enforceable policy it was not. Residents and visitor to Crissy Field should have the right to enjoy it without being harassed, inconvenienced or threatened by dogs and dog owners. Ideally dogs should be banned but this is San Francisco.

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**Correspondence ID:** 42      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS

**Name:** -

**Address:** - CA  
USA

**Email:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Received:** Jan,14,2011 16:49:33

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** A very large percentage of California households include dogs. Fort Funston & Chrissie Field are perfect places for dogs to run and swim off-leash. Their effect on wildlife at these sites is non-existent and it makes no sense to ban off-leash dogs at these sites. If people don't want contact with dogs, stay away from these sites. There are plenty of other places they can go to enjoy the Bay and ocean.

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**Correspondence ID:** 43      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS

**Name:** -

**Address:** - CA  
USA

**Email:** feebster@gmail.com

**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Received:** Jan,14,2011 16:54:03

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I've never seen any problems with dogs offleash in these areas. Instead of prohibiting dogs, maybe they can apply for a "license" - you can even charge for the license. The license would require owners to follow certain rules otherwise get cited. This would make owners accountable and still allow well-trained dogs to enjoy your parks.

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**Correspondence ID:** 44      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS

**Name:** -

**Address:** - CA  
USA

**Email:** -

**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Received:** Jan,14,2011 17:04:25

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** To whom it may concern,

We just became aware of the proposal to ban dogs from Muir Beach today and we are ADAMANTLY OPPOSED to such a ban. We have owned our home at Muir Beach for 5 years and are frequent users of the beach. At no point have we ever felt that there was an issue with dogs on the beach, and frankly I cannot imagine Muir Beach without our canine friends being permitted to also be present at this public, open space.

If there is an exception that needs to be granted, or extended, to continue to allow dogs on the beach, it should be extended. This is not merely a matter of whether or not people can continue to bring their dogs along with them to the beach, this is a "way of life" matter that frankly I am shocked to see up for consideration in the state of California and, more specifically, in the bay area.

Please let me know if there is something more that I can do to introduce balance and reason into this debate.

Sincerely, Steve Pattison Mobile: 650-743-5020 Email: pattison\_steve@hotmail.com

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**Correspondence ID:** 45      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS

**Name:** -

**Address:** - CA  
USA

**Email:** IJENNIFER2@AOL.COM

**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Received:** Jan,14,2011 17:04:28

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I AM A REGULAR VISITOR TO FORT FUNSTON BECAUSE IT IS ONE OF THE VERY FEW AREAS WHERE I CAN TRULY LET MY DOGS RUN OFF LEASH AND PLAY WITH OTHER DOGS. WHEN ALL DOGS ARE OFF-LEASH THERE SEEMS TO BE A WONDERFUL, NON-AGGRESSIVE ATMOSPHERE AMONG OUR PETS. IT ALLOWS THEM TO PLAY NATURALLY AND LET OFF STEAM. THIS CANT HAPPEN WHEN THE DOGS ARE ON-LEASH. IN THE SAME WAY THAT WE BUILD PARKS FOR CHILDREN TO RUN AND PLAY IN, SO SHOULD WE BUILD AREAS WHERE OUR BELOVED PETS (WHO SOMETIMES ARE OUR CHILDREN) CAN RUN AND PLAY HAPPILY. PLAN E FOR FORT FUNSTON IS BY FAR THE BEST ALTERNATIVE, IN MY OPINION. IT GIVES ALL PET OWNERS THE MAXIMUM AMOUNT OF OFF-LEASH SPACE WHILE STILL PRESERVING AREAS FOR OTHER HABITATS. I TRULY HOPE YOU CONSIDER HOW MANY DOG LOVERS FREQUENT FORT FUNSTON AND WEIGH OUT YOUR DECISIONS BASED ON THAT. THERE ARE MILES AND MILES OF COASTLINE WHERE DOGS ARE NOT PERMITTED ALREADY. THANK YOU.

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**Correspondence ID:** 46      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS

**Name:** -

**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** -  
**Outside** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Organization:**  
**Received:** Jan,14,2011 17:41:15  
**Correspondence** Web Form  
**Type:**  
**Correspondence:** I drive from South San Jose to Fort Funston because it is one of the only places left in the entire bay area where I can enjoy off-leash time with my dogs. Please do not take these last havens away -- there are countless on-leash or no-dogs public areas for all to enjoy already, but so very few choices left to us.

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**Correspondence ID:** 47      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS

**Name:** -

**Address:** - CA  
USA

**Email:** steinbach.alan@gmail.com

**Outside** Muir Beach Community Service District Unaffiliated Individual

**Organization:**

**Received:** Jan,14,2011 17:56:13

**Correspondence** Web Form

**Type:**

**Correspondence:** I just received notice that your 'preferred option' regarding dogs at Muir Beach might be a complete ban on dogs on the beach. I disagree with this option, and would like to oppose it in the strongest possible way. There are several reasons. I am a senior citizen, a taxayer, and a decade long resident at Muir Beach. I recently acquired a small dog. She lives with us at Muir Beach. As you know, most of the week the beach is largely deserted. The dog loves to run on the beach. She also gets to play with other dogs. If she was banned, there is no other comparable open area within 5 miles. It would not be excessive to say that a ban on dog use would constitute cruelty. Many people use Muir beach for recreation specifically because of the access under voice control policy. There are many other beaches where dogs are not allowed, and where people who prefer not to associate with dogs could find what they want. But there are very few beaches like Muir Beach. Informally, on weekends I have counted as many as 8 dogs on the beach at a time. They socialize happily, and their owners also enjoy the social milieu created. By moving to a no dogs policy, you would be changing an established habit for those of us who abut the area. I would do all in my power to use whatever laws protect habitual and established use of outdoor areas to contest the policy. I am reasonably sure that I would have considerable support in this. I routinely look for signs of dog scat on the beach. I have actually never found any, although occasionally a coyote seems to feel compelled to leave her mark. I have never witnessed an instance of a stray or out of control dog on the beach. I support continuing the access off leach under voice control policy for dogs on Muir Beach.

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**Correspondence ID:** 48      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS

**Name:** -

**Address:** - CA  
USA

**Email:** -

**Outside** Unaffiliated Individual

**Organization:**

**Received:** Jan,14,2011 18:08:32

**Correspondence** Web Form

**Type:**

**Correspondence:** I do not understand why your organization continues to restrict dogs off leash both on the coast and bay. There are more than enough areas both for dogs and their owners, and people who hate to see happy dogs. Fort Funston and Crissy field are perfect examples. It would be so simple to section off areas where dogs can run and play from areas where dog haters can walk. As far as the Snowy Plows are concerned.....these areas should also be sectioned off from both people and dogs. I do not understand, when this country has so many real issues of safety and concern...people continue to zero in on restricting dogs from beaches and trails as if by doing this the world will be a better place. Perhaps the GGNRA should look to the success of the East Bay Regional Parks.....both parties can be and are happy.

Maybe we should also restrict all people with blue eyes....???????

Sad

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**Correspondence ID:** 49      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** -  
**Outside Organization:** resident of California/ member of Sierra Club Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan,14,2011 18:44:44  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Muir Beach has always been a wonderful place to walk and to play with my dogs (several of them over the past 80 years) Owners are responsible for their dogs behavior, but the opportunity to run the shore, play catch and tease should NOT be taken away.

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**Correspondence ID:** 50      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** -  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan,14,2011 18:45:33  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I have lived in the Bay Area since '89 and the last 12 years in Muir Beach and also considered Muir Beach to be one of the most special places in Marin. One of the things that made is special was that it is dog friendly. I don't have a dog today but many of my friends do and I DON'T see any reason to change what we have have today. So, please let the dogs run.  
  
Keith Adams

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**Correspondence ID:** 51      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** -  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan,14,2011 19:32:04  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Dogs belong on Muir Beach like kites belong in the sky. As a resident dog owner I see little negative impact from dogs running the beach. In fact more litter is left by families and young partyers than could possibly be left by dogs. And when you take into consideration the number of strangers that have met over watching their dogs play together it's a "no brainer" This would not happen if they just came to take in the sun and the scenery. Some people specifically buy dogs for this social activity. I personally like waking on a Sunday morning early to just watch all the fun the dogs are having running in and out of the waves sprinting up and down the beach chasing balls chasing each other it's all good. This place has been "dog heaven" since way before I got here 15 years ago and should remain so. The local volunteer fire department even has a dog as a logo. You may pass whatever law you want but you might then also start planning on how you'll deal with all the civil disobedience. I for one will not abide by anyone telling me I have to leash my dog on this beach. And I'll still tell every dog owner that I know to keep coming out to Muir beach with their pooch cause it's "dog heaven" respectfully John Koene

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**Correspondence ID:** 52      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -

**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** -  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan,14,2011 19:32:44  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** please continue to allow unleashed dogs at muir beach

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**Correspondence ID:** 53    **Project:** 11759    **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** -  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan,14,2011 20:35:23  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I just want to thank you for putting together this plan and let you know I support it.

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**Correspondence ID:** 54    **Project:** 11759    **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** petrinawhitton@hotmail.com  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan,14,2011 20:56:56  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** My husband and I are the proud owners of a sweet, energetic, fun-loving 2 year-old, 65 pound dog. We ensure he gets the training, nutrition and exercise he needs to be a happy, healthy dog. We walk him twice a day; he goes to playgroup or daycare 5 days a week and his absolute favorite place on the planet, Fort Funston every weekend. His health and welfare are of upmost importance to us. Dogs need places to run freely, sniff around and play, on-leash activity is not sufficient for a dog's needs. Not getting enough exercise can lead to behavioral issues. It's in the best interest of everyone to have sufficient areas for dogs to get the exercise they need. Due to the population density in San Francisco, there are not a lot of yards and a lot of people live in small places. It is absolutely essential to have places to exercise dogs. We always try to be cognizant of others that may not share our love for dogs and are understanding of that. That is one of the reasons we drive all the way out to Fort Funston every week so we can enjoy time with our dog and not disturb others. I can understand having restricted areas where there are a lot of people, such as Crissy Field. I think it is more than reasonable to have at least one area without a lot of restriction. I can't comment on all the areas since I haven't been, I will stick to commenting on my experiences. There so many beaches for people to go to, and many that don't allow dogs at all if people do not want to be around them and just a few places for dogs.

We take our dog to Fort Funston every week, all year-round. Ninety-five percent of the people here are there with their dogs and generally these people that are willing to drive out there to get their dog the appropriate exercise are responsible dog owners. I personally have never seen someone out there not pick up after their dog, never seen any disturbances between dogs, never seen a dog bothering a person. I'm sure there have been isolated incidents; however, I have never seen it and I've been there at least a 100 times. We are out there on cold winter days in our down jackets with only other dog owners in sight. We are the main users of this particular park; we should be the ones whose enjoyment should be priority. The only other consistent users I see are horseback riders and a few times a year a hand glider or two. It's entirely possible all of the non-dog users go at different times from me or during the week but I feel very confident in saying that dog owners are the clear majority. I certainly am not saying no one else should be able to use the area, of course they should, but it doesn't make sense to restrict the use for the majority of people there to cater to a small minority.

This study also doesn't take into account the high-tide at Fort Funston. There are times when the entire beach is underwater. The preferred alternative would not allow anywhere for dogs to run at these times and we conscientious dog owners are there all year-round.

This study claims to be interested in the enjoyment of parks for everyone, except that the needs of non-dog owners are clearly priority. It is clear that the study does not understand the population of San Francisco. There was an

article in the SF Chronicle that said there are more dogs in San Francisco than children, an estimated 120,000 dogs. The study doesn't appear to realize that we are also the users of the parks, and instead of trying to unreasonably restrict us; it should be focused on how to better serve dogs and their owners. We feel as though we are treated as second-rate citizens for having a dog.

There seems to be a concern about people being able to have a "no-dog" beach experience. I don't particularly enjoy having children screaming, running around, kicking up sand while I'm trying to have a relaxing beach day. I don't know of any child-free beaches. I don't see a difference between that and someone not liking dogs. Dogs are part of people's family's and if someone is in a public area, they have to deal with other people's choices of how they want to spend their day. Are you going to ban BBQ's because someone doesn't like the smell, beach balls because they might fall into someone's picnic? That's just unreasonable.

That people would want a no-dog experience at Fort Funston is unrealistic. I find it hard to believe that the people that wrote this study have been there. I have, every week, there is usually at least one dead animal on the beach (sea lion, bird, dolphin), sometimes several of them depending on the season and trails of horse dung everywhere. I'm shocked that people see dogs as more of a problem disturbing people there, rather than dead animals and horse dung. I love the place and it's beautiful, however, its definitely a "raw" natural beauty, its not exactly white sand beaches. I'm perfectly happy to take the less desirable beach to have as a haven for my dog, it seems like the dog haters aren't even satisfied with that.

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**Correspondence ID:** 55      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:**  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan,14,2011 22:51:19  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I support dogs under voice control at muir beach. Yeshi Neumann

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**Correspondence ID:** 56      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** -  
**Outside Organization:** MICROSAFE SYSTEMS Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan,14,2011 22:52:57  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** My first comment:

The Newsletter I just received on the Dog Management Plan is incorrect in that it lists the download site as [parkplanning.gov/goga](http://parkplanning.gov/goga).

The correct web site is [parkplanning.nps.gov/goga](http://parkplanning.nps.gov/goga).

This is a serious error since that is the place where the document should be for most people reviewing it!

(1/14/2011)

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**Correspondence ID:** 57      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** -  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Received:** Jan,15,2011 01:19:26

**Correspondence** Web Form

**Type:**

**Correspondence:** I don't even know where to begin. i understand park land in the Bay Area is meant to be shared with everyone, including local wildlife and plants, people and people with pets. Maybe I'm uneducated about current problems or issues occurring in the parks right now. I doubt anyone would go to this effort if there weren't some problems or complaints, so I understand there MUST be some reason GGNRA is trying to implement changes to the status quo.

That being said, I am heartbroken at the prospect of loosing the freedom and pleasure I have walking my two dogs off leash in some cherished areas. I have been bringing my dogs to Fort Funston for several years. Our walks there are occasional treats for both them and myself. We enjoy time at Ocean Beach and Crissy Field as well, but NOTHING compares to Fort Funston. Dog owners refer to that place as dog heaven on earth. The dogs simply walk and play and sniff and don't ever seem to bother anyone or cause problems.

I can understand wanting to establish some clear locations where dogs aren't allowed off leash or not at all, especially if the local ecosystem is of concern. But I am begging you as a tax paying, voting, contributing citizen of this area who has worked as police officer in San Mateo County for five years and who plans to give another twenty of my best years working for, and serving, the public, do not touch Fort Funston!!!!!!!!!!!!!! Anyone who goes there a few times will see, its is THE dog place. People do not go there UNLESS they have a dog. So I can't see the logic in making dog restrictions to an area ONLY frequented by dog people??

Please note, I am not asking for "dog parks" around the area. That is not what I, or my dogs, or my friends, with or without dogs, want. We want to go for WALKS, along trails, up and down hills, through fields etc. etc. The places we like to go are Sweeney Ridge, Fort Funston, Ocean Beach and Crissy Field.....a few places that can be set aside for the many dog lovers in this area, compared to the relatively fast expanse of the GGNRA? I simply don't go places that my dogs can't enjoy with me, so if they are banned, I'm banned, and that's very frustrating.

I think part of what makes up the character and culture of the Bay Area, is its dog-friendly atmosphere. I love the cafes and restaurants that let my dogs sit on a patio with me. The people around me always seem happier to have a dog wag their tail at them, and people walking by smile at them a lot. The same thing applies when we got out on walks. People seem to appreciate the wags and happy faces. Please don't let a few very vocal anti-dog advocates convince you that they are so disturbed by a dog walking by, they can't enjoy a park.

I would even suggest imposing steep fines for owners who fail to clean up after their dogs if you're trying to address the dog waste issue. If your trying to address the wildlife issue, make clearly defined trails and impose fines for dogs leaving the trails.....there's a lot of room for compromise here if you look for it.

Thank you for taking my input into consideration. Sincerely, Katie Miller

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**Correspondence ID:** 58      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS

**Name:** -

**Address:** - CA  
USA

**Email:** -

**Outside Organization:** Tailblazers Dog Walking & Pet Services Unaffiliated Individual

**Received:** Jan,15,2011 08:42:48

**Correspondence** Web Form

**Type:**

**Correspondence:** I understand where the GGNRA is coming from, but there must be better ways to coexist without such extreme changes. I'm a dog walker and I respect the on leash laws in certain areas. I do, however, NOT agree to limiting dog walkers to 6 dogs. If we have to pay for a permit, we should at least be legal at 8 dogs. There essentially putting a cap on what we can make. I'll lose well over \$30K per year with this change.

If I'm licensed, insured, a member of Dog Tec and I can safely walk 8 dogs on or off leash, then I should be allowed to. My first time walking at Dog Tec, they gave me 5-6 dogs off leash to walk and I did so successfully. I've been doing this for 5 years and you're capping me at 6 when I can do at least 8? Walkers should all have to be licensed and insured, and we all need to be more responsible out on the trails and at the beaches. Owning/walking dogs is a serious responsibility and those of us who take our jobs seriously are being penalized by those that don't.

**Correspondence ID:** 59      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS

**Name:** -

**Address:** - CA  
USA

**Email:** -

**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Received:** Jan,15,2011 08:46:58

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Look at the people who go to the beach and walk their dog. Stop trying to micro manage people and start doing your job of enhancing the enviroment of Muir beach,take the huge busses that clog the roads for 10 months of the year off the roads,less people,less competition for space ,less impact on LOCAL INVIROMENT. Muir beach is a community that likes well behaved,friendly dogs.Quite trying to apply concepts that are wrong for this community.I want dogs to be band from the beach as much as I want the cayotes to stop howling every night,Maybe thats next.

---

**Correspondence ID:** 60      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS

**Name:** -

**Address:** - CA  
USA

**Email:** -

**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Received:** Jan,15,2011 10:03:10

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I would love to be able to enjoy the GGNRA lands without dogs that chase wildlife, run up me without my permission, or appear in areas where they are not permitted. Therefore I fully support any effort to create dog-free areas and enforce leash laws.

However, since I regularly encounter dogs in prohibited areas and see owners take their dogs off leash as soon as they are around the bend from posted signs, I seriously doubt you will get any compliance unless you issue citations each and every time a violation is seen. Dog owners know they are rarely going to be cited so their behavior does not change.

Thanks and good luck.

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**Correspondence ID:** 61      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS

**Name:** -

**Address:** - CA  
USA

**Email:** samullen45@comcast.net

**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Received:** Jan,15,2011 10:07:51

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Our family have three dogs that we regularly take to many of the sites that will be impacted by this new management plan. The dogs need spaces like Fort Funston to run and exercise and socialize in order to maintain health and happiness. We need these parks for all citizens to enjoy and that includes dog owners. I am a senior citizen who visits and enjoys our national parks frequently. On extended holidays, I do not take my dogs but on regular non holidays, I take the animals out to these wonderful spaces that keep our dogs happy and healthy.

Keep these spaces free of leash laws.

Sharon Mullen

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**Correspondence ID:** 62      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** bayareakite@gmail.com  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan,15,2011 10:15:35  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am opposed to any changes in dog policy and feel this is creating problems where there are none. The problem in our society lies much more with unleashed people than unleashed dogs! There are becoming fewer and fewer open spaces where people can enjoy outdoor recreational places with their dogs, and this is a shame.

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**Correspondence ID:** 63      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** nbopine@gmail.com  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan,15,2011 10:58:46  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** This plan fails to address a key element of park management as it relates to dogs in the park. No where does the plan discuss training for park officials. This is a disaster waiting to happen. Any attempt to enforce the policy without adequate training will lead to lawsuits and possible death.

I do not exaggerate. A couple of years ago I witnessed a ranger pull a gun on a dog. There was a bunch of people and a few other rangers. It is one of the dumbest things I've ever seen. I highly doubt that ranger could hit a moving dog with his gun and more likely would have hit a nearby person. Whether dog or person it was an incident that could easily have ended in tragedy.

Here is the strange part. The dog was not being aggressive or threatening the ranger in any manner. Yes the dog was barking. But there is a difference between barking and threatening. It would take about 15 minutes of training to learn the difference by the type of bark, dogs body language, position of the tail, etc. Most people who own dogs can discern this without any training at all. It obvious stuff.

Any plan that includes possible increased interaction, (ie enforcement), between park officials and dogs MUST include a comprehensive training plan and rules of engagement. This MUST include when it is acceptable to use lethal force versus pepper spray/mace or some other solution.

Be responsible. If not leave things as they are with very limited interaction between park officials and dogs.

My child was with me and could have been killed by that officer. 2400 pages and things are only more scary.

---

**Correspondence ID:** 64      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** -  
**Outside Organization:** Muir Beach Neighbors Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan,15,2011 11:09:17  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Type:****Correspondence:** Ref your proposal for NO DOGS ON MUIR BEACH:

I'm astonished at this proposal, especially since Muir Beach residents have been extremely vocal in wanting to have dogs on the beach for years.... since the beginning of the GGNRA.

I am not a current dog owner, but love to have them on the beach and in our neighborhood. Most residents are deeply appreciative of our animal community and their welfare, and we welcome those who come to the beach with their four-legged friends.

I STRONGLY SUPPORT KEEPING THE POLICY AS IS!!!! Dogs can be off-leash, but within voice control.

Thank you.

Marilyn Laatsch

**Correspondence ID:** 65      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS

**Name:** -

**Address:** - CA  
USA

**Email:** -

**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Received:** Jan,15,2011 11:18:08

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I support the plan 100% The current situation is out of control. The park areas have been taken over by dog owners letting their dogs run wild, harrassing other people and wildlife. It is impossible to enjoy these areas now. The dog waste is unbelievable, discusting and unsanitary. I prefer banning dogs outright from all areas, but support this compromise. Please impliment this plan and enforce it with stiff fines!

**Correspondence ID:** 66      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS

**Name:** -

**Address:** - CA  
USA

**Email:** -

**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Received:** Jan,15,2011 11:22:05

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** please let dogs and their people have access to the whole wonderful GGNRA area, one of the greatest area in the world.

**Correspondence ID:** 67      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS

**Name:** -

**Address:** - CA  
USA

**Email:** yaderhey@comcast.net

**Outside Organization:** Self Unaffiliated Individual

**Received:** Jan,15,2011 13:02:59

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the issue.

National Parks are for people, not dogs.

Dogs should not be allowed in any National Park, National Seashore, National Monument, or National Recreation Area.

Exceptions should be made only for the following: law enforcement, search dogs, and guide dogs for the blind, not for utility dogs.

My wife and I hike throughout GGNRA and Pt Reyes. We often walk on many of their glorious beaches. We are not dog haters, we like dogs, just not with our nature. We have witnessed multiple issues and problems with dogs and their owners in the GGNRA and Pt. Reyes.

Dog owners have many other options for recreating with their dogs; they do not need to be on any of the trails or beaches in the GGNRA.

Violators should receive large citations.

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**Correspondence ID:** 68    **Project:** 11759    **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS

**Name:** -

**Address:** - CA  
USA

**Email:** -

**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Received:** Jan,15,2011 13:15:48

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I am opposed to further restriction of off leash Dog Access at Fort Funston. This area serves as one of the few natural open Spaces in the Bay area where dogs can run off leash. Dogs need off leash exercise for good health. And people benefit from healthy dogs. I have used Fort Funston for off leash walking for over seven years and have never seen any problems with the dogs there.

However I would favor restricting commercial dog walkers, who bring up to 12 or more dogs a at time. There could be a rule that there would be a maximum of 2 dogs per person. I would not be opposed to a fee for use of the Fort Funston area.

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**Correspondence ID:** 69    **Project:** 11759    **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS

**Name:** -

**Address:** - CA  
USA

**Email:** -

**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Received:** Jan,15,2011 13:30:01

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Please keep Fort Funston open for off-leash recreation for dogs. It is one of the things that keeps our family living in the city of San Francisco, which is often very family-unfriendly. When the suburbs beckon, a weekend morning at Fort Funston reminds us why we live in SF.

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**Correspondence ID:** 70    **Project:** 11759    **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS

**Name:** -

**Address:** - CA  
USA

**Email:** kirk@lansharks.net

**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Organization:**  
**Received:** Jan,15,2011 14:18:10  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Please return to the 1979 Pet Policy allowing unleashed dogs UNDER VOICE CONTROL OF OWNERS at Ocean Beach in San Francisco.

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**Correspondence ID:** 71      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** munzer3@msn.com  
**Outside Organization:** none Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan,15,2011 17:10:54  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I strongly believe that certain designated areas in GGNRA should exclude pets such as Fort Miley and huge swats of Ocean Beach. "No Pets" signs should be made visible and available for everyone to see including nighttime.

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**Correspondence ID:** 72      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** barry.ress@yahoo.com  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan,15,2011 18:23:19  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I have seen off leash dogs disturb wildlife in multiple beach areas. Dog owners generally do not obey leash laws so banning dogs from some beaches is for now the only solution to keeping beaches safe for wildlife and make them the peaceful places they are supposed to be.

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**Correspondence ID:** 73      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** -  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan,15,2011 18:26:49  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** It is unconscionable that any person or group would want to prevent unleashed dogs from running and playing at Ft. Funston. In all the years I have been walking my dog there, I have never witnessed a fight of even unpleasantness between dogs. Furthermore the owners are very observant about the rules, and they always pick up after their dogs. That's why the garbage cans are full!

Dogs are more than playthings; they guide and protect people. They need fresh air and exercise and Ft. Funston is ideal for that purpose. I don't understand what needs to be preserved there. Ice plants are not attractive! Only the trees contribute to our air, and the dogs do not defecate on trees!

And what about us dog owners? Don't we taxpayers deserve to walk in the beauty of the ocean and the surrounding skyline?

Terrye Wilder

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**Correspondence ID:** 74      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** -  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan,15,2011 21:14:38  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Please keep dog access available. I take my dog to dog-friendly beaches whenever possible.

---

**Correspondence ID:** 75      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** katherines9968@yahoo.com  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan,15,2011 22:21:05  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I agree 100% with the restricted area's for dogs in the Presidio, Crissy Field area of the San Francisco Bay, it's about time! I love dogs but over the last couple of years its really gotten out of control there, children play in the sand where dogs do their business and run all over the place, while most owners aren't paying much attention. Also, dog fights break out often, causing adult frustration and arguments, I hope this helps the situation.

Thank you.

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**Correspondence ID:** 76      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** Nancyjobear@gmail.com  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan,16,2011 06:58:24  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am absolutely taken back that you would even think of not allowing dogs at Muir Beach. What are public areas for if not families and their animals? It seems the more the parks have gotten involved the more you begin to take our personal rights away. I am just amazed and terrified that you would even think that this is o.k. Please Please let us take our dogs to the beach. As a resident of Muir Beach I have never minded when dogs are brought to the beach - why should you? Nancy Heldt

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**Correspondence ID:** 77      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** rexchow19@yahoo.com  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan,16,2011 12:43:01  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I believe the rules regarding off-leash dogs should remain as they are today within the GGNRA. I think the areas deeded to the GGNRA by the City of San Francisco should just revert back to the city rather than having any changes made to the existing use rules.

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**Correspondence ID:** 78      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** howard@rheingold.com  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan,16,2011 13:01:33  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I have walked my dogs in Oakwood Valley 3-5 times a week for the past 5 years. It is one of the very few places where they can run off-leash. Not only is restricting them on parts of the trail loop a disaster for responsible dog owners, but I question whether enforcing such a law is anywhere near a sane expenditure of funds at a time when California is in such bad condition.

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**Correspondence ID:** 79      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:**  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan,16,2011 13:12:28  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I was bitten by an off leash "friendly" dog, while running in the park in SF in an on-leash area about 10 years ago. Reasonably, I still have a fear of dogs. I now only run in on-leash areas. However, I really like some of the off leash areas and wish I could recreate there. To make matters worse, many dog owners disobey the law and continue to let their dogs off the leash in on-leash areas. This makes me very uncomfortable and I feel like I don't have the right to recreate without fear. Many dog owners have been disrespectful and aggressive towards me if I ask them to leash their dogs. Some have even threatened me and now I not only don't feel safe because of the dogs, but because of the dog owners.

Ideally, dogs would not be allowed in the park at all as even the sound of a dogs bark makes me jump, and causes my blood pressure and heart rate to rise. However, I there are ways to compromise and suggest the following changes:

1. The existing laws should be enforced and dog walkers with dogs off leash should be ticketed.
2. All dogs should be muzzled everywhere. In particular if they are off leash.
3. There needs to be dog free areas (in my case I would like to see some of these areas in SF).
4. Pit bulls and other breeds that are bred to be aggressive should not be allowed in the park.
5. One owner should be limited to 3 dogs on leash and if in an off leash area, one dog off leash.

Humans should be able to enjoy the parks, not only dogs. Thank you for considering this matter.

---

**Correspondence ID:** 80      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** marlies.janzen@gmail.com  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan,16,2011 14:19:36  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** As much as I appreciate the effort to keep the GGNRA for the future, I believe it also must be possible to manage

the use and enjoyment for all of us NOW including our dogs. I understand the importance of keeping it safe and clean for all visitors and the natural wildlife As a dog owner and regular visitor of the parks with my dog, I also really enjoy the option to let my dog run free without leash, especially at the beaches. Dogs love and need to run to exercise their bodies and release energy which is impossible to do on-leash. I can't run as fast as my dog or any dog. I am able to manage my dog with voice control and believe most dogs can be controlled that way. I probably would restrict the number of dogs private and dog walkers can control without leashes to a maximum of 3. We already live in an area with many restrictions for people with dogs and there are many people with dogs. We need some spaces for our group of citizens as much as we need spaces for people with no dogs. I am not sure whether this counts as a VOTE or how to VOTE for which option? I want to VOTE for Option A! no changes

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**Correspondence ID:** 81      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** -  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan,16,2011 15:18:51  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** It's time for GGNRA to finally accept the fact that walking off leash with a dog is a legitimate form of recreation enjoyed by millions of people, one that must be given its fair share of resources.

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**Correspondence ID:** 82      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** -  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan,16,2011 15:19:33  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** It's time for GGNRA to finally accept the fact that walking off leash with a dog is a legitimate form of recreation enjoyed by millions of people, one that must be given its fair share of resources.

---

**Correspondence ID:** 83      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** -  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan,16,2011 16:11:43  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** We have a very well-behaved dog who loves nothing more than a run in the waves at Fort Funston. He is a border collie/cattle dog mix who needs daily physical exertion beyond what our small City yard and local park can provide.

Since we work full-time during during the week, we pay a dog walker to take him out daily with a group of other dogs. This gives our dog both socialization and exercise. Our dog walker is fantastic with the animals, and they respond to his commands exactly as they do to those of their owners.

While it is true that some dog owners are irresponsible, this is no different than some parents. Legislating such extreme restrictions to all dogs and their owners is unfair and unreasonable. We pay taxes and have the right to be

able to enjoy weekend trips to the park with our entire family, which includes our dog.

Carmel is a city which allows dogs nearly everywhere. I am unaware of any significant complaints or problems that the city experiences as a result.

Please reconsider this draconian measure.

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**Correspondence ID:** 84      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS

**Name:** -

**Address:** - CA  
USA

**Email:** -

**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Received:** Jan.16,2011 16:16:36

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:**

I strongly object to dogs in the GGNRA. People with dogs have effectively bullied the rest of us out of both our San Francisco city parks and the GGNRA. So much so that I have long since abandoned the use of both. Aside from dog urine and feces, the dogs' barking and wildness have completely wrecked the serenity that I formerly found in the natural world. Not only have I been attacked multiple times in parks, but have had vicious, rude, and obscene comments leveled at me by dog owners and even professional dog walkers (who make a living abusing our natural spaces but don't pay a dime in their upkeep) in response to my courteous requests to keep their dogs away from me. Most dogs aren't even licensed or registered, so their owners are literally appropriating everyone's resources and giving nothing back. Wildlife reacts negatively to dogs. Not only on beaches, but everywhere that dogs pee on and mark as their own, just as their owners have ganged up on the rest of us and taken our own peaceful little bit of nature.

Whereas I object to any dogs in the GGNRA, I realize that the best I can hope for are dogs on leashes. But they must be rigidly monitored and any violation punished in proportion to the loss to the rest of us. Forget voice command; it's a total fiction invented by dog owners too lazy to socialize their dogs and too selfish to care about the dogs' impact on everyone and everything else. I have yet to see an off leash dog respond to its owner's command. And that supposes, of course, that the owner is even paying attention to what the dog is doing. They rarely are; they're on their phones, or talking to other dog owners, while their dogs are running around hundreds of feet away, defecating and urinating everywhere, and in some cases, chasing or attacking people. As a senior citizen, I feel at risk. My husband has Parkinsons and his walking is compromised. No way will we be in the GGNRA any time soon unless the dog owners are leashed. The majority of dog owners are selfish and irresponsible when it comes to their dogs and the rest of the world. Dogs are a huge liability to people and nature.

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**Correspondence ID:** 85      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS

**Name:** -

**Address:** - CA  
USA

**Email:** -

**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Received:** Jan.16,2011 17:43:08

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:**

General Comments

My family owns a dog and lives in San Francisco. We visit the GGNRA at least once a week. The Draft Dog Management Plan would reduce our enjoyment and use of the park considerably.

In the plan the enabling legislation for the GGNRA is quoted: "In order to preserve for public use and enjoyment certain areas of Marin and San Francisco counties, California, possessing outstanding natural, historic, scenic and recreational values and in order to provide for the maintenance of needed recreational open space necessary to urban environment and planning, the Golden Gate National Recreation Area is hereby established". The plan also

discusses the long history of off-leash dog access before and after the creation of the park.

Because open space is so limited in San Francisco, and because the GGNRA controls the entire coastline I strongly support continued access to provide reasonable exercise and recreation for dogs and their owners.

I'm very concerned about the tone of the plan and some of the specific provisions.

The objectives listed in the executive summary all relate to controlling, reducing and restricting dog access. Given the park's charter to provide 'public use and enjoyment' and 'needed recreation open space' an important objective should be to preserve sufficient space for off-leash dog access.

The plan exhaustively lists real and theoretical issues related to dog access however there is no comparable section discussing issues with prohibiting or restricting dog access. These include wasting limited park resources on restricting responsible dog owners rather than cautioning the irresponsible, forcing dog owners to travel further to take their dogs for a reasonable walk and increasing the likelihood of aggression by concentrating dogs in increasingly small designated areas.

The plan also continually discusses dog access in the context of park-wide regulations preventing any off-leash dog walking. San Francisco donated properties to the GGNRA on the proviso that traditional recreation would be maintained. The tone suggests that leash-free access was a mistake, and that the park service is begrudgingly fulfilling the park's mission only when forced to do so. I'd have much more confidence in the process if the plan started from the position of accepting a variety of recreational activities, including off-leash dog walking, and then attempted to balance the varied needs of visitors, culture and wildlife from there.

Given this I find the adaptive management provision of the regulated off-leash areas (ROLAs) to be unacceptable. This provides the NPS with a mechanism to further erode dog access to on-leash only and even to prohibit dogs entirely without further consultation. The plan further states that under no circumstances will the reverse be true ? once dogs are banned the park will never consider opening up access again. This is a far greater threat to preserving the park for future generations than any amount of dog access.

Rather than penalizing the vast majority of responsible dog owners the Dog Management Plan should focus on enforcing existing rules and regulations.

Below I discuss the proposed plan for the sites we visit regularly:

#### Fort Funston

The preferred alternative is far too restrictive. When the closed section of trail to the north of Fort Funston is open again there should be off-leash access for the full length of the beach and alongside trails so that a loop can be made down the sand ladder and then returning via the central or northern access trails. Of all the GGNRA sites Funston would seem to be the best candidate for Alternative A ? maintaining current access ? especially if the preferred alternative is selected for restricting most of Ocean Beach. We visit Fort Funston weekly, rain or shine, and given how heavily the area is used I'm surprised at how rare it is to encounter any problems.

#### Crissy Field

The preferred alternative is a good balance. When the east beach is busy there can be far too many dogs and people competing for space. For this reason we usually visit Crissy field when the weather is too severe to walk on an ocean facing beach and so it tends to be just dog walkers anyway.

#### Ocean Beach

The preferred alternative is reasonable, provided that Fort Funston is not overly restricted (see above).

#### Marin Headlands / Rodeo Beach

The preferred alternative massively reduces the trail available for hikers with a dog. We often complete the loop up the coastal trail to Hill 88 and then down Wolf Ridge / Miwok to return to Rodeo Beach. The trails are rarely crowded and a well behaved dog has no more impact than a person. The Hill 88 loop should be kept open to off-

leash dogs. The preferred alternative for Rodeo Beach is acceptable.

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**Correspondence ID:** 86      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** bruce.francis@gmail.com  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan,16,2011 23:28:15  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** As a disabled person and a dog lover, I strongly urge that GGNRA continue to be open to well-behaved dogs under voice control. Existing laws, such as the restrictions on dogs at certain areas of Ocean Beach, are more than enough to protect the environment og GGNRA. My personal health and well being are enhanced by my walking the beach with my dog, who provides both help and motivation for me.

I have spent countless hours in the GGNRA with my dog and have NEVER observed my dog or anyone else's harm the environment or detract from a fellow citizen's enjoyment of this national treasure.

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**Correspondence ID:** 87      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** jmastagni@comcast.net  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan,16,2011 23:59:24  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** While recognizing that more and more people, as well as pets, create complications, I fully support a dog owners' and a dogs' right to enjoy our parks, walkways and exquisite beauty of the bay area. Dogs make us all happy, just to see their joy and to watch them interact with people, animals and life itself.

If they are banned in any way, there will be less joy and we will be lonely without our beloved creatures around us. I do not have a dog, but am thrilled to see them when out walking. They are every bit as pleasing as people, with individual and unique traits. They make their own friends along the pathways and greet those people that they like whether on leash or not. They beam their greetings to those of us who love and cherish the animals of the planet. Humans have a brotherhood with dogs.

I do not support pitbulls in public, as the one exception. That is because they have proven to be dangerous and lethal to so many people. Pitbulls are outlawed in Canada, while other dogs are not. They cannot be trusted and should not be allowed to attack other beings. All dogs cannot be placed in the same category and all dogs should not be punished because pitbulls are out of control.

I rejoice in the presence of canines and find that life would be cold and unbearable if we were not able to see and interact with them on a daily basis. Will we next ban butterflies, hummingbirds, ladybugs, felines and other life forms that create magic and give us reason to live?

Our dogs are our friends and family. If they cannot behave politely around others, they should be on a leash. Many dogs act intelligently and make no problems and should therefore be allowed to walk free of confinement.

Can we not let life express itself? Must we take all freedoms and comforts from life and live in barren landscapes with no love?

Thank you for your consideration,

Jean

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**Correspondence ID:** 88      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** Jonesrb@gmail.com  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan,17,2011 00:15:15  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Dear National Park Service,

I am a native of the San Francisco Bay Area and a lifelong dog lover and owner. I recently read the draft dog management plan and I would like to comment. I fully support conservation efforts but I also think it is necessary to recognize the fact that a large portion of the land in question has been used for a number of years as dog accessible land. I would like to request that the competing demands to conserve the land be balanced with the need to maintain the availability of dog accessible land.

My concern if the lands are closed to dogs or the access for dog is limited is that the amount of available land for dog exercise in the San Francisco will go down significantly. Additionally, placing limitation on the lands in question will push the dog traffic onto other land that currently does not have dog impact.

For instance, Fort Funston which I regularly visit with my dog has proposed dog use changes. I believe that changing the rules at Fort Funston will push dog traffic onto other lands. It would be better to leave the existing lands open to dogs with minor changes as needed to meet conservation goals than to make drastic changes.

Please do not close or limit dog access in the areas proposed.

Thank You, Ryan Jones

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**Correspondence ID:** 89      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** -  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan,17,2011 10:21:39  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:**

The San Francisco Bay Area has always been a famously dog-friendly environment. It is part of the reason my family and I decided to move here. We have had many rich and rewarding experiences taking our dog out to Crissy Field, Fort Funston and other beautiful outdoor spots for years. Our dog is taken to Fort Funston everyday by his dog-walker and he has become a more socialized and better behaved dog because of that.

If our dog's ability to get natural exercise in an outdoor setting is compromised I truly believe that his, and thereby my families', quality of life would be severally affected in an adverse manner. We all benefit from the exercise and the community involvement we experience when gathered with other dogs and dog owners in beautiful surroundings. It truly is one of the things that makes this such a special place to live.

There are plenty of places for the public to gather where dogs aren't allowed. I implore you to keep in mind the wishes and desires of those of us who own dogs. Please let us keep our open spaces to let our dogs run free.

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**Correspondence ID:** 90      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -

**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** phoebe.grow@gmail.com  
**Outside** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Organization:**  
**Received:** Jan,17,2011 10:59:38  
**Correspondence** Web Form  
**Type:**  
**Correspondence:** Enclosed off-leash areas seems to me the only tenable solution. I used to live in San Francisco and would frequently visit Fort Funston or Chrisy Field. I loved walking in these areas and mostly enjoying watching the frolicking dogs. BUT... most times I visited, I saw some kind of undesirable behavior from the dogs (ex. fighting with other dogs) or their owners (ex. not picking up feces or not paying attention to their dogs). As such, I will never bring my young child to either of these beautiful PUBLIC places. I think it's very unfair the desires of dog owners are allowed to dominate over those of children and parents - especially when enclosed dog run areas are a perfectly workable compromise.

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**Correspondence ID:** 91      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** ewdickman@yahoo.com  
**Outside** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Organization:**  
**Received:** Jan,17,2011 11:02:11  
**Correspondence** Web Form  
**Type:**  
**Correspondence:** Fort Funston is our puppy's idea of heaven. We have been going to Fort Funston and Crissy Field for over 14 years, and have be impressed by the sense of responsibility and consideration demonstrated by 95% of dog owners. Example: we have rarely found excrement in the parks, because owners are prompt and conscientious about cleaning up after their dog. Dog owners are attentive to their pets, and willing to leash dogs when/as appropriate. We always respect the Snowy Plover restrictions because there is so much other space available, and because we are also ardent conservationists.

Off-leash dog areas are few and far between, and dog owners, grateful for those that do exist, are eager to ensure that these areas remain in good condition.

Please do not diminish opportunities for dogs to experience the freedom and beauty that their owners are happy to enjoy and share.

---

**Correspondence ID:** 92      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** -  
**Outside** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Organization:**  
**Received:** Jan,17,2011 11:04:54  
**Correspondence** Web Form  
**Type:**  
**Correspondence:** I support having dogs in \*fenced\* areas in the GGNRA. This would allow people who do not want to interact with dogs to avoid them, while giving people who \*do\* want to be with dogs a place to go and play/exercise with them. The current state of affairs in the GGNRA is that there are too many out-of-control dogs there, and too many dog walkers who have so many dogs on leash at once that the "pack" blocks the path for ordinary walkers. We all have a right to safely use this national park, it's not just for dogs.

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**Correspondence ID:** 93      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA

**Email:** USA  
**Outside** -  
**Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan,17,2011 11:05:33  
**Correspondence** Web Form  
**Type:**  
**Correspondence:** While I understand the Preferred Alternative C tries to balance all interests, it does not make sense to me to say we know a safer alternative exists, but choose a more UNSAFE alternative as the preferred plan.

Alternative D is really the best in the long term. A safe experience in the GGNRA will be the most important and memorable for visitors. This is especially true for children. One experience with a badly behaving dog can last for a lifetime.

Steve Frankel

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**Correspondence ID:** 94     **Project:** 11759     **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** gpera@astound.net  
**Outside** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Organization:**  
**Received:** Jan,17,2011 11:06:13  
**Correspondence** Web Form  
**Type:**  
**Correspondence:** Thank you for being on the KQED show on this topic.

My husband (a scientist at Stanford) and I (a bestselling author and longtime community volunteer) love dogs.

We do not, however, love

smelling dog poop on a hike being unable to sit on the ground because of dog poop/pee watching dogs destroy habitat watching dogs chase birds

For these reasons, we have stopped visiting Fort Funston. Just thinking about it makes me feel nauseated from the poop smell on the trails.

The dog owners who are not mindful of their dogs will always spoil it for the responsible dog owners. Nothing will change that.

They cannot manage themselves or their dogs, so the environment must manage them. That means NO dogs at Crissy Field, or at best in a contained, fenced in area.

Thank you

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**Correspondence ID:** 95     **Project:** 11759     **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** suea47@sbcglobal.net  
**Outside** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Organization:**  
**Received:** Jan,17,2011 11:06:20  
**Correspondence** Web Form  
**Type:**  
**Correspondence:** We share the planet. People who do not want to be around dogs want it all. Their reasoning is, if they take their

children to a dog designated off leash area, and there's trouble, the dogs should go. Cramming thousands of dogs into smaller spaces is going to create more impact on the landscape as well as more dog-related incidents. Dog owners would have more space in which to walk their dogs, not less. Non-dog enthusiasts have the whole coastline. In addition to being about dogs, this is also about people with dogs, people enjoying nature with their canine companions. I think the land GGNRA now stewards should be given back to San Francisco. I'd also like to know why GGNRA leaves dead carcasses of seals, birds, and fish to rot on the beaches???

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**Correspondence ID:** 96      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project Name:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** freewendy@gmail.com  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan,17,2011 11:08:43  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Dogs should be kept on leash in areas where other people, birds and plants are located. I'm a resident of Duboce Triangle, where the park has a large off-leash dog section and a smaller space for people and dogs on leash. The rules are painted on sidewalks, but the majority of dog owners ignore the rules and allow their dogs to remain off leash after they leave the dog-appropriate area. This results in lots of dog feces & urine in the spots where people like picnicking as well as dogs roaming into and disturbing people who are resting, eating or trying to relax in the "people only" area. I think that fences are the solution. This prevents the impact of loose dogs' negative behavior from being imposed upon the public. Large, fenced-in area where dogs may run off the leash. This area should be separated by impermeable fences so that any humans who wish to enter must make the choice to do so. This will reduce dog feces that off-leash dogs create and also reduce the number of times that dog's behavior negatively impacts children, adults, and other animals.

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**Correspondence ID:** 97      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project Name:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** -  
**Outside Organization:** California State University, Sacramento Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan,17,2011 11:09:17  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** This plan removes a recreation opportunity (off-leash dog use) from the spectrum of offerings at GGNRA and this approach is overly restrictable and regrettable, particularly as dogs are becoming more and more common as companions, and norms for acceptable dog behavior are improving.

In my estimation as a recreation resource planning consultant, the area at Crissy Field is a human-created, urbanized landscape that is appropriate for large off-leash dog areas. Ask any large dog owner about small, fenced dog areas and you'll hear they are entirely inadequate.

I would simply suggest that the plan be implemented with triggers for increased restrictions (e.g. reports of incidents/injuries) similar to the Limits of Acceptable Change planning process. While issues related to public safety are important I think that the SF dog/human community is affiliated and active enough that off-leash, non-fenced areas should be workable.

Best of luck in working with a difficult issue! Thanks for all your hard work, NPS staff people!

David Roloff, Ph.D. Associate Professor of Outdoor Recreation California State University, Sacramento

rolloff@csus.edu

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**Correspondence ID:** 98      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106

**ID:**  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:**  
**Outside** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Organization:**  
**Received:** Jan,17,2011 11:11:15  
**Correspondence** Web Form  
**Type:**  
**Correspondence:** As a fairly new comer to the area (previously I have lived in Massachusetts and Tennessee), I find it a shame that these dog restrictions are being considered. The beautiful recreation/parks available to dogs is one of the unique and diverse aspects of this amazing state, and because these areas are open to and welcome dogs, it is the main reason my husband and I visit these areas. It is a shame, because if these restrictions are put in place - I do not feel that we will enjoy these areas anymore - as we tend to only visit parks/recreation area with our dogs. I understand that wildlife and other non-dog visitors must be held high in this decision process, but I would very much like to see less-extreme restrictions on dogs put into place.

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**Correspondence** 99      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106

**ID:**  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:**  
**Outside** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Organization:**  
**Received:** Jan,17,2011 11:11:28  
**Correspondence** Web Form  
**Type:**  
**Correspondence:** I would like to urge you to adopt (D) ["Allows for the highest protection of "natural and cultural resources" and visitor safety] for the following reasons:

1) On- and off-leash dogs present a danger and an annoyance to children. We have a 4 year old and a 6 year old who love to hike in the woods, visit the beach, and generally enjoy the outdoors. The six year old, who has a sensory-processing disorder, is very afraid of dogs after being repeatedly chased and jumped upon by dogs while hiking. While a majority of the dogs are trying to play, it doesn't appear like that to a small child.

My requests to "please control your dog -- my child is afraid of dogs" is consistently met with assurances by the owner, from a distance, that the dog is safe. The assurances, which always include the phrase: "don't worry - he's/she's friendly" provide no comfort to a small child.

Additionally, dogs sometimes bark loudly at my children and we have had, on two occasions, dogs bare their teeth at our child. It is too dangerous to allow dogs in a public place with children.

As a result of this constant harassment we are no longer free to enjoy areas of the GGNRA that permit dogs in any way.

2) Dogs often run off trail through poison oak. I am very sensitive to poison oak. Having a "friendly" dog "say hi" is a real problem and ruins my visit to the park as I have to concern myself with whether the dog has poison oak on its coat after it has rubbed me.

3) Dog owners leave feces on trail or off trail on bags. This is unsanitary and disgusting. Leaving plastic bags by the side of trails for someone else to clean up is littering pure and simple -- just as if I were to throw an empty water bottle or empty bag of Doritos. We do not need more sources of pollution in our treasured parks.

4) Dogs consistently harass the fragile wildlife in the parks. Dogs enjoy chasing animals, especially birds, in the parks. I often also see dogs in streams and rivers. This is their nature-- they are not trying to misbehave; this is what dogs do. To maintain the natural resources dogs must not be allowed in the parks.

Again, I urge you to adopt (D) ["Allows for the highest protection of "natural and cultural resources" and visitor

safety] for all the lands within the GGNRA.

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**Correspondence ID:** 100      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** dbdeforest@hotmail.com  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan,17,2011 11:15:39  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am a long-time resident of San Francisco--a middle-aged woman with pets, and an active volunteer for a local animal welfare organization.

I AVOID and DO NOT USE Chrissy Field and other areas of the GGNRA which are overrun with off-leash dogs. It is scary, annoying, and full of dog poop. I know others who feel the same way and completely avoid those areas. By allowing off-leash dogs in areas of the GGNRA, you ELIMINATE those areas for use by people who are seeking a quality recreational experience--including very young children, the elderly, the handicapped, and people like me, who just like peace and quiet and views.

There is no such thing as reliable "voice control" for any but the most highly-trained dogs (e.g., military and guard dogs). Dog owners who believe they can stop their family dog fifty feet away from jumping on a toddler, chasing down a bird, or attacking another dog are delusional. It's not fair to the dog, and it's certainly not fair to those impacted by the dog's natural behavior. There is no right or entitlement to let your dog run free on any land but your own--not on public lands.

If the GGNRA chooses to establish fenced, contained, off-leash dog-run areas (preferably segregated by dog size), that's great. Otherwise, all dogs in the GGNRA should be on a leash. I prefer Alternative D in the EIS.

Thank you for considering my comments.

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**Correspondence ID:** 101      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** -  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan,17,2011 11:19:41  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I strongly disagree with any further restrictions on dogs and dog walking in the Golden Gate National Recreation area. I am not a dog owner, but I feel that the current restrictions are already stringent enough.

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**Correspondence ID:** 102      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** rugg@berkeley.edu  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan,17,2011 11:29:19  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing as a non-dog-owner. I like dogs and grew up with one on a farm in the Midwest, but I find that the use of public space by urban dog-owners presents a number of vexing issues. I wonder whether any study has been

done on the increase of dog ownership among people in densely populated urban areas, whether a limited number of licenses should be issued, for instance. Because public spaces in urban areas ought not be taken over by dogs, something that quickly and easily happens because of the nature of that species. But that's perhaps an issue for another discussion: the overpopulation of urban areas with dogs.

More to the point: the insistence that I have heard from dog-owning groups that fenced-in spaces are not feasible exercise spaces has never been adequately explained or defended as far as I can tell. I listened to a radio program on public radio this morning, 1/17/2011, in which one of the leaders of the dog-owning group kept insisting that fenced-in areas would be unacceptable to her group, but she never gave a reasonable explanation as to why. A fenced-in area can be large enough to serve the desired purpose. Fenced-in areas for dogs are a must, in my opinion. Responsible dog-owners may be legion, and they are always the ones speaking on behalf of organizations, but I have experienced plenty of irresponsible dog-owners. "Under voice command" may be a real thing in dog training, but in many actual cases it is simply another way to say "no control," because many people have no voice control over their dogs, or at least, they do not exercise control. Poop bags are used by the majority, but even a minority of non-poop-bag users creates a noxious environment. As a jogger I have been chased by dogs, a dog has jumped up on me with muddy paws and scratched me with a dirty claw, I have been scolded by a dog-owner because I allowed my son to ride his bike on a trail shared with dogs (she said that her dog was nervous and became aggressive when he saw people on bikes and often wanted to chase them). It seems evident that dog-owners (such as the woman I mention in the last case) feel that the right to have dogs "under voice control" in a shared-use area makes dogs the dominant species in the park (we have to alter our behavior to avoid making the dog nervous or aggressive). Simply because dogs are what they are, they have a tendency to dominate and over-run any area where they are allowed to run free.

In the East Bay we have Point Isabel, where there is a large off-leash area that is also fenced off from the jogging path. There I have had great experiences as a jogger and cyclist, protected from curious and/or aggressive dogs but also able to watch them at play, which I enjoy. I think you should ignore the people who insist on no compromise. Areas used by dogs are inevitably less accessible to non-dog-owning humans, especially vulnerable ones like children, the disabled, the elderly, and the cynophobic (people afraid of dogs, of which I have several in my group of friends). My opinion, simply put: people and protection of environment must take precedent over rampant dog use of parks. And dogs, in this equation, are not counted as "people."

Thanks for your attention.

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|                             |  |                 |       |                  |       |
|-----------------------------|--|-----------------|-------|------------------|-------|
| <b>Correspondence ID:</b>   | 103  | <b>Project:</b> | 11759 | <b>Document:</b> | 38106 |
| <b>Project Name:</b>        | Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS   |                 |       |                  |       |
| <b>Address:</b>             | - CA<br>USA  |                 |       |                  |       |
| <b>Email:</b>               | cmkun@comcast.net  |                 |       |                  |       |
| <b>Organization:</b>        | Unaffiliated Individual  |                 |       |                  |       |
| <b>Received:</b>            | Jan,17,2011 11:33:55   |                 |       |                  |       |
| <b>Correspondence Type:</b> | Web Form   |                 |       |                  |       |
| <b>Correspondence:</b>      | I am a dog owner. I clean up after my dog, and keep her under voice control. |                 |       |                  |       |

For decades I have been taking my dog to Muir Beach (I have been a dog owner in Marin since 1937). It is a happy scene, with many dogs and very few incidents of distress. Far better to let the dog owners work out a system of monitoring the situation than to ban dogs altogether.

Many people need dogs. Their dogs are a major element in a peaceful, sociable life.(Note the dog programs in prisons that reduce violence by something like 30%.) Dogs NEED to run---at least most big dogs do. The dogs will be nervous and unsafe if constantly keep under restraint.

Dog parks are insufficient for exercising dogs. Not all dogs are sociable enough to exercise in crowded spaces.

GGNRA has made it impossible for me to walk from my home in Mill Valley to the beach, unless I walk on the roads (very unsafe). Surely at least some of the trails (Diaz especially) should be available for a dog on a leash!

Of course, much worse than the situation in Marin County are the San Francisco restrictions. For shame, practically outlawing walking one's dog. On leash does not count for many dogs. I would expect lots more dog

violence with this plan.

I hope you review this program and make allowance for Man's Best Friend (have birds ever been considered Man's Best Friend?). With thanks for your consideration, CM Kun

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**Correspondence ID:** 104    **Project:** 11759    **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:**  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan,17,2011 11:42:24  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Firstly, I would like to say that this website and process was very hard to negotiate and understand. After spending an hour looking over the document I still don't really understand what exactly this plan is proposing. Given that, as a dog owner, I would like to comment. Open space (not fenced) off-leash dog areas are very important to me. I take my dog to Crissy Field, Ocean Beach, and other open areas. Some times I have my dog off-leash and sometimes I have my dog on-leash. My main comment is that as a responsible dog owner I am very careful about how how I use public areas and those areas are very important to me, my health, and my dogs health. On the other hand, I do see really irresponsible behavior of dog owners all the time. It is frustrating to me that I will be negatively impacted by others bad behavior. I feel that it is a given that regardless of how restrictive you get about off-leash laws, people who are irresponsible will do what ever they want anyway. Because of this I would request that rather than make more restrictions and laws, you step up enforcement and fines of people who are acting irresponsibly. In my own interest I would like to request that at least Chrissy Field Beach remain off-leash. I was under the understanding that when tax dollars were spent to re-furbish that beach that it was intended to be an off-leash spot. Thank you.-

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**Correspondence ID:** 105    **Project:** 11759    **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** -  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan,17,2011 11:46:50  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** where dogs & people mix use leashes voice control is not 100% when park is closed hose down the dog urine keep dogs away from nests burrows no digging over population problem  
  
keep some areas dog-free rotate over years with dog/dog-free park areas

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**Correspondence ID:** 106    **Project:** 11759    **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:**  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan,17,2011 11:48:11  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** We are occasional users of the GGNRA Park (typically Fort Funston with our two Finnish Lapphunds - medium sized herding dogs) and annual contributors to Golden Gate Park (\$250/year). We contribute an equivalent amount to Yosemite, where our dogs are precluded from joining us and as a result, we rarely visit even though it is a favorite spot. Our dogs are under effective voice control and will not enter habitat protection areas. There are too

few places in the region where they can run, play and socialize with other dogs.

I can not effectively comment on the majority of the Maps/alternatives having not visited with our dogs.

I can comment on Fort Funston and my preference would be a variation of Map 16-A and the Preferred alternative. Generally voice control as the priority with Seasonal closures, except for a boundary area along Skyline, to preclude car/dog accidents. I have never seen any real problems at this area, dogs for the most part know how to work things out. If there are issues, it is with owners. Problems, if any, typically originate when there is a dog on a leash (restricted maneuverability and therefor potentially vulnerable/fearful) and a free running dog which precludes them from safely working things out in terms of dominance within the "pack".

In terms of multiple use, as described on the KQED Krasny show this AM and concern about service dogs, they have the run of every Park location. I do not see the need to restrict every location to meet the needs of the .001% of the population that requires their assistance. They already are able to enjoy the majority of Park areas that "regular" dog owners are precluded from. Fencing, if required, around habitat protection areas makes sense.

If it generally becomes significantly more restrictive in terms of dog access, since I have seen little evidence that the current situation is broken, my solution will be simple ... no longer visit and no longer contribute funds.

Good luck trying to resolve what is clearly an emotional set of issues.

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**Correspondence ID:** 107      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS

**Name:** -

**Address:** - CA  
USA

**Email:** kkochaver@yahoo.com

**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Received:** Jan,17,2011 11:51:30

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** As a fervent supporter and user of our national parks, and a regular financial contributor to both the California state park system AND the GGNRA, I was dismayed to hear about the new proposed dog regulations on this morning's Forum program.

As an avid hiker, any semi-decent day typically finds me hitting a trail either up in the Sierras, or in any of the beautiful wild areas around the Bay. When my yellow lab came home five years ago, I envisioned the two of us taking long hikes throughout the mostly empty trails that I had typically wandered. What I had NOT realized, however, was how incredibly restrictive most Bay Area parklands are towards dogs. Not just leashed dogs - but ANY dog presence at all.

I basically don't visit the Peninsula anymore - formerly a frequent stomping ground for me - as there are essentially just a handful of trails that I can even take my dog on - leash or no. Perhaps a 1 or 1.5 mile leash trail with a square block of offleash area for Lucy to sniff around. Not quite up to the 6-8 miles hikes we're looking for. I don't visit national parks anymore - besides contributing financially to them, as I don't want to spend my time stuck in a paved parking lot.

The ONE thing for which I have been grateful has been living near the Presidio and the GGNRA. Having lived in this area for almost 20 years, and being a frequent visitor to the Presidio before it was turned over the NPS, I was frankly worried. Would the NPS manage the park properly? Would they sell off pieces of property or buildings that would destroy some of the national beauty of the park?

But what I've seen has impressed me. Yes, some of the rough trails that used to be "secret" are now graded and full of tourists, but overall, the park has done an incredible job of developing and redeveloping the areas. On Sunday, as Lucy and I did our favorite loop through the Presidio, ending up down on Crissy Field for a beach romp before heading back to the car, I thought to myself how lucky I was to live near a beautiful area that allowed me to spend the day wandering with my dog. I gave kudos to the NPS and to SF for allowing dogs and working to keep the area open.

So I was surprised and dismayed to hear the radio show this morning, and in looking through the proposal to see the vast restrictions on dog access to this area and to other areas in Marin (where I've been forced to go now that most areas of the Peninsula are off limit to us now).

As a responsible dog owner, I DO get that not everyone likes dogs. I get the need to balance the disparate needs of the population. I get that some areas that I love my have to be banned due to sensitive habitats. And unlike some, I could see and would not oppose some dog restrictions on Crissy Field (such as restricting dogs to the middle part of the beach). What I'm more concern about is what appears to be wholesale restriction of dog usage generally across the GGNRA - leashed or not.

Where can a person who wants to go for a good six mile hike on a sunday take their dog in the Bay Area? Taking my dog to an enclosed dirt area filled with poo and skittish dogs is not her idea of fun and certainly not mine. The reason I live in SF, pay exorbitant local and state taxes, contribute to the parks system despite decreasing service levels and increased closures, is that I appreciate my ability to access them and believe generally in their mission. But now I'm not so sure.

A couple of things to note about the plan:

1) Fort Funston - requiring folks to leash their dogs on the sand ladder to Fort Funston is quite frankly dangerous. Clearly the writers have not walked up and down that ladder very often. It's very steep and frequently eroded - thus making it a slope. I believe that if dogs were leashed, you'd have quite a few more people taking spills head-first as their dogs eagerly pull them down. If the concern is to keep dogs from romping on the hills, then simply restrict the dogs to inside of the fence.

2) Marin Headlands - Oh look - you've left me 1.5 mile flat fire road past the porta potties that I can take my dog - yeehaw. As i move to my wheelchair, this will come in handy i suppose. But for now, until Lucy and I lose the ability to actually use our legs, we'd love to be able to access a hill. Any hill. Anywhere.

I understand the challenge you all face in meeting the demands and requests of multiple constituencies and fulfilling your overall mission, but please please PLEASE do a better job of allowing parklands access to responsible dog owners. Surely you are capable of managing the land and being respectful of the wild areas without banning all of them entirely to pet owners or limiting us to the parking lot and semi-paved trails. In a city with more dogs per capita than children, it would seem that the park system has a vested interest in gaining pet-owner support and working to have them become advocates of the parks, not antagonists.

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**Correspondence ID:** 108    **Project:** 11759    **Document:** 38106  
**Project Name:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan,17,2011 11:52:28  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** The current system works well and I support no substantive changes. I am particularly concerned about preserving Muir Beach and Ocean Beach to off-lease usage.

If the concern is irresponsible dog owners, the emphasis should be on greater enforcement of current rules. If owners are forced to leash their dogs, the most responsible owners will comply and the irresponsible ones still will not. Owners with aggressive dogs should be individually sanctioned and forced to leash their dogs.

---

**Correspondence ID:** 109    **Project:** 11759    **Document:** 38106  
**Project Name:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email Outside:** squarewheels06@hotmail.com  
Unaffiliated Individual

**Organization:****Received:** Jan,17,2011 11:58:52**Correspondence Type:** Web Form**Correspondence:** Your outcome shall effect not just your region but other areas that are being destroyed by reckless dog owners...

My simple plan is to gate and fence areas surrounding a park area (circumferenced areas) so people can walk the distance around a park without interfering with others and dog people with leashed dogs. Let's take a portion of golden gate park a.d make part of it devoted to offleash dog.park taking the traffic away from sensitive areas.....(stupidly pt isabel was planned to be adjacent to a bird sanctuary)...whoever did that must be sitting on their brains....!

I am and have always owned dogs...I realized there will always be irresponsible dog owners ...you must place your laws to protect the wild life by any means to take the worst human activity and violators into account...not the responsible ones..the dog walker association. Is the most vocal because of their political pull..but they are a minority voice ...they are not necessarily being rational....people once given privileges don't normally want to backpeddle...I love my dogs and love to walk them offleash but also know we need to protect what's left of our environment ..fences should be put up to protect environmentally sensitive areas near beach areas from all human traffic...I use the American river to walk my dogs and there are many off leash people responsible and irresponsible walking...you are right its not the #dogs causing the problems but the dog owners...these people that are dog walkers are not all great people are not altruistic agenda...but influenced by a very well organized group of people who make their living walking dogs...and dont want anyone prohibiting them from their new found livelihood...make sure you are aware of this when judging what they say to you in their defense..on the hand I am a member of the point Isabel dog org. And work together to keep that off leash area clean and help police and rangers keep an eye on activities there. I however seen a lot of dogs allowed to Chase and desturb the wild birds feeding and resting on threstricted areas which are not being watched closely by rangers art all....Is there a reason why the dog walkers can't walk dogs in Presidio and goldengate park? Can they be given an exclusive area of beach like parts of north beach to walk dogs? Thanks for listening go out there and start giving out tickets to violators and also unlicensed dogs!!!

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**Correspondence ID:** 110      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS**Name:** -**Address:** - CA  
USA**Email:** -**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual**Received:** Jan,17,2011 11:59:10**Correspondence Type:** Web Form**Correspondence:** Comment on GGNRA Dog Management Plan: I agree with the proposal for Milagra Ridge (Map 18). Please KEEP this park leash only, and do not listen to anyone wanting to extend the dog-allowed part of Milagra Ridge beyond the paved road that runs through this park. It is a locked gated road so there is practically no vehicular traffic to worry about. There are relatively narrow unpaved foot trails in the park which are used by small native slithering/crawling/burrowing animals and a few (feral?) rabbits, so these foot trails should be kept off limits to dogs. To protect this wildlife, leashed dogs should not be allowed in these unpaved foot trails, besides the fact that it is difficult to manage a leashed dog on these narrow trails, given the foliage bordering them. It would also be more difficult to pick up after a dog on these trails. Unleashed dogs will go into these trails so there should be no unleashed dogs at this park. I live next to this park and see that virtually all dog owners who come to it seem quite used to the idea of leashing their dogs. Thank you. Jim Sarbeck, Pacifica

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**Correspondence ID:** 111      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS**Name:** -**Address:** - CA  
USA**Email:** -**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual**Received:** Jan,17,2011 12:00:13**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Type:**

**Correspondence:** I feel that the public would be best served if the Golden Gate National Recreation Area took it's cue from every other national park and did not allow any off-leash dogs. We need an enforceable, consistent regulation to allay the disproportionate negative impact that off-leash dogs make on the ecosystem; they damage plants, chase birds, leave feces, and harass other creatures, while potentially destroying the endangered species that abound in this park. Off-leash dogs intimidate visitors without pets, people who bring leashed dogs, and small children. People and small dogs can be harassed and hurt by exuberant off-leash dogs who don't know their own strength.

Keep dogs on leashes--this will result in more enjoyable recreational opportunities for everybody.

**Correspondence ID:** 112      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS

**Name:** -

**Address:** - CA  
USA

**Email:** gsax@sbcglobal.net

**Outside Organization:** n/a Unaffiliated Individual

**Received:** Jan.17,2011 12:36:31

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I fully support the restriction of dogs, even leashed dogs, in the parks. I am retired and spend much of my free time hiking and much of that is in the parks. It is all too common now to find dogs running wild, non-responsive to voice commands. They tear thru the brush off trail, chasing each other as well as anything that moves. At Chrissy Field they terrorize the birds. It is often difficult to dangerous to just take a walk at Chrissy Field with the hundreds of dogs. It is not at all unusual for people to have two or more dogs at a time running off leash. There is no way you can stay on top of that many dogs or clean up after them. I cannot tell you the number of walks/hikes that have been ruined for me after stepping in dog feces. My friends who have small grandchildren have to be very careful where they take the kids because many of the smaller ones are frightened of dogs. I believe there are sufficient dog parks scattered thru out the Bay Area that can accommodate dogs, particularly off leash.

**Correspondence ID:** 113      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS

**Name:** -

**Address:** - CA  
USA

**Email:** -

**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Received:** Jan,17,2011 12:39:47

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Hi There- I just wanted to request that you please allow for some beach access for dogs off leash. My dog has arthritis and one of the best forms of exercise for his condition is swimming. Running on hard ground puts too much pressure on his tender joints. There are no dog friendly pools, & I understand that some areas of the beach access may be cut off for off leash dog walking. I'm OK w/ that if its for the greater good. However, please allow for some area for dogs to swim. Another though I had was - perhaps you could partner w/ a dog trainer that could give classes to teach dog (and person) how to act responsible and considerate in the park. & maybe give certificates that would extend the off leash area for those specific certified dogs & person. Best regards, Jennifer Duetting

**Correspondence ID:** 114      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS

**Name:** -

**Address:** - CA  
USA

**Email:** eszj1116@comcast.net

**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Received:** Jan,17,2011 12:41:37

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I live near the Park, and use it frequently. It is my opinion that the only off-leash dog walking should be in fenced areas. There are times that the Park is crowded, and off-leash dogs are a hazard. Voice control is not adequate. I am particularly concerned about the very young and very old.

I do not think that dogs should be allowed on the same beaches as young children play. Babies touch the sand and then their mouths, and there is a danger of e-coli, etc. even if the actual piece of poop has been picked up.

Both the young and old are in danger of being knocked over, even while the owner is calling the dog.

I understand that the proposed plan restricts dogs to certain areas, but they are not enclosed. They should be enclosed, and that should be the only place that dogs off leash are permitted.

Many cities have such dog parks, and everybody is happy.

Thank you Evelyn Jurow BTW, I heard about the plan in many ways: friend, newspaper, radio, NPS

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**Correspondence ID:** 115      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS

**Name:** -

**Address:** - CA

USA

**Email:**

**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Received:** Jan,17,2011 12:50:52

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** This report appears to be far from complete. I for one am confused on the rational for suggesting all of Ocean Beach should be closed to dogs on and off leash. If the rational is to protect the snowy plover, why then is the beach not open in the summer months when the snowy plover is gone? Also, why not just keep it as is as an on leash only area during the months the bird is around? Additionally, if it really is an environmental concern, why do rangers drive their SUVs up and down the beach? Why are bonfires allowed? Why are the homeless allowed to camp? Why are revelers allowed to drink and litter the beach with their empty beer cans? Why is there no attempt to keep people from shooting fireworks off at the beach? There are so many things that the GGNRA is already failing at, please do not take the senseless action of banning all dogs from Ocean Beach.

I live one block from the beach and walk my dog regularly on the beach and it will be tragic if my dog is not allowed on the beach. The beach will become useless to me and my family. We will be forced to take walk our dogs on the paved path, which in turn will increase the potential for accidents to occur. That path is frequented by bikers (traveling at high speeds), joggers, walkers etc. Combine the increase in traffic and the narrow width of the path and you will see more dogs acting out at humans, more bike accidents/personal injury claims as they try to avoid the congestion, etc.

Did anyone who created this report consider the impact to the SPCA and ACS? By making dog ownership more difficult I would imagine adoptions will decrease and thus more dogs will be put down. An assault to human morality and fiscally a sure cost increase.

The other aspect sometimes presented as a rational for the closure is to make the area more accessible to non dog users. I'm not sure why a person would not be able to use the beach if dogs were allowed on leash. Is the goal to make the beach better for a group of people who will use the beach two days a year at the expense of those who use it daily?

Please, please, please, do not tell a member of my family that he cannot walk on the beach with me.

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**Correspondence ID:** 116      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS

**Name:** -

**Address:** - CA

USA

**Email:** yoshiko\_olsen@sbcglobal.net

**Outside** Unaffiliated Individual

**Organization:**

**Received:** Jan,17,2011 12:58:59

**Correspondence** Web Form

**Type:**

**Correspondence:** I fully support the proposed plan; however, I have the following comments in support of more restrictive dog use within GGNRA:

1. San Francisco is an international city, and far more people from around the United State and the world visit GGNRA than locals. These park visitors also deserve a voice, not just vocal local dog owners. Unfortunately, the voices of local dog owners will undoubtedly unfairly bias the overall number of comments GGNRA receives, smothering the legitimate opinions of countless other citizens who visit GGNRA less frequently. If GGNRA policy makers were to solicit the opinions of these out-of-town visitors, say, through on-the-spot visitor surveys, they would perhaps have much broader basis upon which to justify their proposed plan. Again this issue affects all Americans, not just those who live in the local area. GGNRA is a NATIONAL recreation area.

2. Dog owner groups argue for "voice control". One does not need to be around dogs for long to know that this is little, if any, control at all. Dogs will obey only when they are not distracted. I have been approached and jumped on numerous times by "well trained" dogs that have disobeyed their owner's voice commands. Let a bird land, or any other wildlife happen by, and the distracted dog is completely out of control; hence, the reason for lease laws in our National Parks.

3. Dog owner groups claim dog problems are due to a small minority of (off-leash) dog owners. This might be true; however, it doesn't take but a few mismanaged dogs to disrupt or victimize lots of visitors. At times, a single abandoned dog poop on the beach or trail, can be witnessed by literally hundreds of Park visitors. On one occasion, I witnessed a dog pee on someone's kayak on the Crissy Field beach, and I have witnessed many people being approached and touched by these so-called controlled "friendly" animals, besides me.

4. When my local community created a dog park, the number of dog problems along the city streets and along the waterfront trails diminished enormously. As a result everyone is better able to enjoy our extremely scarce urban park resources. Even so, I still cannot walk along the nearby waterfront trail without finding dog poops, even within a hundred feet of complimentary poop bags and garbage cans.

5. Within an enclosed dog park, dogs are able to run free, their owners are able to socialize with others of like mind, the owners police the area, and most importantly, their pets do not disturb others. Our local city dog park is proof of that!

6. Dog owners claim that the amount of GGNRA area where dogs are allowed off leash is small compared to the overall GGNRA area (I've heard less than 1%). Were the comparison made to GGNRA beach area, however, the statistic would likely flip flop. Such unrestricted use by a few dog owners is blatantly unfair to the remaining majority of us GGNRA users who seek a more natural outdoors experience.

7. Dog owners often sling yellow tennis balls into the bay for their pets to chase. Invariably, the dog tires of this sport, and the tennis ball floats away. I have retrieved these yellow tennis balls along remote beaches on almost every outing. This practice of throwing balls into the bay for dogs to chase should be strictly forbidden.

8. I constantly hear the term "responsible dog owner" used to describe city apartment dwellers who own large dogs. Clearly it is irresponsible to own such a dog in the city if the owner is not able to provide a suitable habitat for the animal to roam outside the city. GGNRA has no responsibility to provide this habitat and, in fact, should absolutely not do so to the considerable detriment and burden of all who enjoy and cherish this very special limited resource.

Although I do not think that the GGNRA plan goes far enough in curbing unconstrained use of the Park by dogs, I feel it goes a long way in abating the unfair abuses that have taken place in the past and continue to take place today. I sincerely hope that GGNRA policy makers have the courage and will to follow through with these much needed proposals, in spite of the enormous political pressure they will undoubtedly receive from the powerful organized San Francisco dog ownership community.

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**Correspondence ID:** 117      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS

**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** rwa7@aol.com  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan,17,2011 13:15:04  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I consider myself a responsible dog owner and an appreciative user of public areas to exercise my dogs and exercise myself at the same time. This report and its "preferred alternatives" appear to consistently introduce many more regulations and restrictions without showing in detail any specific data to justify these additional restrictions.

I would like to see data showing a list of any actual incidents that necessitate these additional regulations. All I have found so far are generalized blanket statements and slogans that are not specific to the particular individual geographic areas under consideration. - I would like to be able to identify problems that may be occurring in specific areas. - Have dog biting incidents happened at specific locations on a more frequent basis than other areas? - Is soil degradation or habitat disruption occurring more rapidly in a particular area.

I cannot comment on all of the geographic areas under consideration. However I do frequently use the Marin Headlands and Rodeo Beach areas of the GGNRA. The Coastal/Wolf Ridge/Miwok loop is the most valuable area to me. This loop offers me a challenging hiking environment as well as an off-leash opportunity for my dogs.

I would ask that consideration is given to maintaining ROLA's that offer not only flat walking areas such as Crissy Field etc., but also ROLA's that offer more challenging exercise opportunities for those of us who enjoy the hiking offered within the GGNRA.

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**Correspondence ID:** 118      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** -  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan,17,2011 13:16:08  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Further restrictions on dogs and their owners are unacceptable. There are already so many restrictions and so few places where dogs are allowed, these new rules are unnecessary and, though I hesitate to use the term, unfair. The parks need rules and guidelines, and I am a supporter of protecting open space and the environment. However, if anything should change it should be in the direction of providing more areas that are open and accessible to dogs and their owners. That may not be perfect for maintaining open space in its perfect, pristine natural state, but compromise is necessary, and there are hundreds and thousands of park acres that can and are set aside for that precise purpose--no wheel chair accessibility, no bikes, no horses, no dogs, etc.--essentially only for the able bodied hiker. For instance, Tennessee Valley trail is already a mini highway. It even has a paved road. I see no reason why leashed dogs should not be allowed there. Muir Beach has a tradition of being open to dogs, and from the comments I see in our local paper, many residents are in favor of keeping it that way. (The renovations/modifications that have been done there are the subject of another letter. What were you thinking?) There are places in our parks that are going to suffer from use. That is inevitable, but not a good reason for these added restrictions. We have to hope that dog owners will be responsible. We don't live in a perfect world, so there will undoubtedly be problems--that's life and even the parks should make the best of it without punishing everyone.

By the way, I do not own a dog, but am willing to share my space with them and their owners. They are far more agreeable and less destructive than many other park users I have met in my 65 years on the planet.

So I say NO to the new plan.

I will be out of town on March 2 when the public meeting is to be held at Tamalpais High School, so I can't be there to say it in person. Thank you for your time.

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**Correspondence ID:** 119      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** -  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan,17,2011 13:23:09  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** i support Alternative A, thank you Walter Dawydiak

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**Correspondence ID:** 120      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** carolinet@sbcglobal.net  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan,17,2011 13:30:55  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:**

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**Correspondence ID:** 121      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** berkeley2222@yahoo.com  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan,17,2011 13:41:24  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** This plan is overly restrictive and lacks many other variables that should be considered.

- As I walk the beach at Crissy Field, though I do see an occasional missed dog feces, I see much more human produced contaminants. I have seen everything from syringes, various plastics, bottles, cans. The Park Service was handing out collection bags last week. The VAST majority of the people who participated in the beach clean up were dog owners. Without the dog owners, the beach will be much less clean and safe. - The government is very concerned with healthcare of late, especially obesity. The main reason I get as much exercise as I do is because I walk my dog. - Dogs at Crissy Field stay exclusively on the beach or in the water. They do not go in any areas that are not allowed access by humans. -One of the main attractions of Crissy Fields are the dogs. Many non-dog owners that I have spoken with come to Crissy Field to enjoy the vista and see the dogs play. - owners with aggressive dogs rarely bring their dogs to Crissy Field. I have never seen a negative dog/human interaction that caused harm. Dog owners self-regulate the type of dog that comes to Crissy Field. If an aggressive dog is brought to the site, the many owners will make sure that that dog is banished.

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**Correspondence ID:** 122      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** a\_m\_ambrose@yahoo.com  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan,17,2011 14:34:12  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Thank you for addressing the issue of dogs in the parks.

I have read the park document and I am in favor of option D - the most restrictive as far as dogs in public parks.

The over-population of dogs in San Francisco is putting all other living creatures at risk for disease or destruction. I realize there are many dog lovers in this city that want no restrictions on their pets, but that is in no way healthy for plants, animals or humans. Please consider heavy restrictions on dog access to parks before they destroy even more of our environment.

Thank you, Adrienne

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**Correspondence ID:** 123      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** madilenes@yahoo.com  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan,17,2011 14:36:08  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing this comment in support of keeping Fort Funston an off leash dog park. I take my dogs to Fort Funston on the weekends with my husband and my husband takes them every day of the week. I am trying to get some kind of logic to why would this Dog Management plan would take affect to somewhere as great as Fort Funston. This area is great to take our pets not really to me considered an area for kids to be around, the trails are perfect for dogs and horses. I also watch as my dogs learn more on interaction with other animals and people. We have very limited areas to take our dogs off leash and for anyone to take that away would mean we are feeling like being driven out. We as pet owners have always been told to make sure you train, get your dog to interact, and give them exercise but how can we do all of that if we can't even let them run around in a free space.

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**Correspondence ID:** 124      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** -  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan,17,2011 15:00:39  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Some pet owners let their pets roam around without leash on Lands End. I try to remind the owners to leash their pets. Their usual responses are " Oh, it's harmless. " Well, until it bites.

I have nothing against pets except when they are not leashed. I feel threatened when the pets are not on leash. I do not want to feel scare when I enjoy a walk in the National Parks. I do not want to wear an armor or carry a stun gun to protect myself against pets.

There were one too many dog mauling cases in SF alone. If unleashed pet is a violation of the Health Code in SF, it should apply to the entire City Period.

The selfish behavior of the unleashed dog owners needs to be stopped.

The potential hazard of this dangerous situation needs to be mitigated before tragedy explodes.

There should be patrols and signs with dispatch phone number to report violators and to spell out the penalty of the unleashed pet owner including but not limited to prosecution and civil lawsuit.

Safety is my paramount concern. I prefer that pets are prohibited at Lands End.

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**Correspondence ID:** 125      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** -  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan,17,2011 16:33:28  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I have lived in San Francisco for over 40 years and have enjoyed the use of the beaches and recreational areas with my dogs. I do not like to walk dogs on a leash and thus have taken them to Ocean Beach and the beaches near Fort Funston where it has been legal to walk them off leash. I feel that this new plan is not fair to the residents of San Francisco because we are used to having the full use of Ocean Beach and most of the areas under consideration. It seems that this plan not only takes away most of the area but also makes it off limits to dogs at all. This is a city where thousands of people live and at least 35% of them (in my estimation) have dogs. This is not a rural National Park, but rather a urban environment where the people use the beaches for relaxation and exercise, not to mention just sitting and looking at the ocean. I was just out at the beach near Irving Street watching dogs romp, children play and yes, the little birds running in the surf all in harmony with each other, no one disturbed by anyone else, all enjoying the freedom of a lovely day at the beach.

If this plan goes into effect, I believe the most people will just continue to do what they always do, take their dogs to whatever beach is convenient, only now they will have to be afraid that some park ranger may come up and give them a ticket.

I am firmly against this plan and I hope that you will reconsider and change it to leave our beaches to us, the citizens of San Francisco and our dogs to use in peace.

Thanks you

Linda Ost

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**Correspondence ID:** 126      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** -  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan,17,2011 17:03:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** As a neighbor of the GGNRA and a frequent walker/jogger on the GGNRA trails in southern Marin, I recommend that the Coastal and Miwok trails be limited to dogs on leash. Voice control is a joke in these areas, and it is an unenforceable standard. I have seen numerous altercations with dogs on the trails, and my husband was once attacked by a dog under "voice control." Dog walkers often bring 5 - 6 or more dogs onto these trails at one time. There is a great deal of human, bicycle, and animal traffic along these trails, and I believe that dogs should be more tightly controlled in this area.

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**Correspondence ID:** 127      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** -  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Received:** Jan,17,2011 17:14:42  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** After reading the documents on this site, I question the motives of the authors of these proposals, their merit and the legality of introducing potential regulations so clearly based on opinions, mischaracterizations and misinformation. The below quote is taken from the executive summary and depicts an environmental statement that must accompany any proposal the agency is to consider, and is followed by my rationale as to why none of the stated purposes of the action are adequately addressed by the proposal.

"The National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) requires an environmental impact statement (EIS) to briefly provide a statement of purpose and need for the action the agency is proposing."

Stated purpose for taking action, and why the proposals do nothing to address these "needs".

? Preserve and protect natural and cultural resources and natural processes

In all of the documents listed on this site, I couldn't find any scientific studies or facts stating definitively that dogs negatively impact the natural and cultural resources more than humans alone. As coyotes (wild dogs) are native to much of areas of concerns, dogs are simply an extension of nature.

? Provide a variety of visitor experiences

99% of the areas of concern are free of dogs under the current rules and regulations. If variety of visitor experiences are a priority, dogs should be allowed in a greater percentage of the available land.

? Improve visitor and employee safety

I did not see any documentation regarding decrease in visitor and employee safety due to off-leash dogs. In my opinion, an off-leash dog is much safer than an on-leash dog as the majority of dogs will attempt "flight" before "fight". However, on a leash the ability to flee is removed, and only the fight remains. In the absence of clear evidence that displacing off-leash areas with on-leash improves safety, how can this blanket statement regarding improved safety be considered?

? Reduce user conflicts

The documents cite confusing rules and regulations regarding off-leash and on-leash and resultant user conflicts. I have reviewed proposals B-E and find them as equally confusing and convoluted as the status quo (proposal A) if not more so. There is no chance yet another confusing set of changes on top of the current rules will improve comprehension of the policies and thus reduce user conflicts.

? Maintain park resources and values for future generations

The use of the term "maintain" here is out of place as only proposal A (status quo) maintains the current rules and values. As for resources, that was addressed in the first bullet.

I am shocked and embarrassed that my tax dollars have funded such a poorly executed and clearly biased set of proposals. Please leave the dogs alone and spend our tax dollars on something that actually improves society.

---

**Correspondence ID:** 128      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** jessesmith@mindspring.com  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan,17,2011 18:41:46  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Oppose New Regulations

I understand the challenge the NPS faces in balancing many competing needs for use of the park and at the same time the overarching goal of protecting the environmental and natural features of the GGNRA for generations to come. Not an enviable task.

But the proposed new regulations regarding dogs are not the answer. Already there are many beaches and trails where dogs are not allowed or must be leashed. There are relatively few places where dogs can be off leash. The key is to make sure that overall balance is preserved and that in those areas where dogs are allowed off leash dog owners act responsibly. That means requiring that dog owners pick up their dog's waste, have voice control over their dogs, and be mindful of small children or others who may be afraid of dogs. Regulating the number of dogs one person can have makes sense, including requiring permits for professional dog walkers who have more than three dogs at a time.

Stinson Beach, a state beach has it right - dogs are allowed off leash on one big stretch and not allowed at all on another. That way, there is an area for people who do not want to be around dogs, and for birds to be free from dogs. Many dog owners, in appreciation of the beach front use, pick up garbage that others leave behind.

There is hardly anything more joyful and that connects many to animals and nature than watching a happy dog run free. That is a beneficial use that NPS should recognize.

---

**Correspondence ID:** 129      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** alph2294@yahoo.com  
**Outside Organization:** Ocean Beach Dog Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan,17,2011 19:37:52  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing to object to the proposed 2011 Dog Management Plan for the GGNRA. In my view, the GGNRA has not gathered enough evidence of any sort to justify banning/restricting dogs from the GGNRA lands. Your science advanced is weak, and few surveys indicate that the majority of park users see any need for change.

I suspect your continuing with these policies which show so little regard for the preferences of the majority of the citizens will subject you to lengthy and vigorous law suits. Please don't waste my taxpayer money causing the GGNRA to be a target because of your poorly reasoned policies.

It is hypocritical to ban dogs -- why not then also ban people, kite flyers, bike rider, and your earth movers which have regularly torn up Ocean Beach?

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**Correspondence ID:** 130      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** -  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan,17,2011 19:46:13  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Thank you very much for this plan. I support it 100 percent because it is fair and balanced for dog-walkers, non dog-walkers and the environment. It is now up to the dog walkers to show that this can work by not violating it.

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**Correspondence ID:** 131      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS

**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** katewing1@gmail.com  
**Outside** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Organization:**  
**Received:** Jan,17,2011 20:27:35  
**Correspondence** Web Form  
**Type:**  
**Correspondence:** To: Superintendent Frank Dean, GGNRA

Dear Mr. Dean,

I am writing to express my support for the tighter regulation of dogs on federally managed properties in Marin.

Protecting wildlife should be the highest priority, and for this reason, it is inappropriate for dogs to be off-leash anywhere in the GGNRA. Also, there should be more rigorous official enforcement of the law. Without enforcement, the change in the law will accomplish little.

Thank you for defending our beautiful, wild parks.

Katherine Wing

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**Correspondence ID:** 132    **Project:** 11759    **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA

**Email:**  
**Outside** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Organization:**  
**Received:** Jan,17,2011 20:34:57  
**Correspondence** Web Form  
**Type:**

**Correspondence:** I have had one too many unpleasant encounters with unleashed dogs, not just while walking at Limantour Beach, Tennessee Valley, or hiking through Muir Woods but in many other places. I'm sorry, but I don't think GGNRA, NPS, State, Local, or any agency is responsible for the happiness of dogs or their owners. I've had unleashed dogs growl at me and come towards me in an extremely aggressive manner. I've also had unleashed dogs jump on me and, in some cases, they have torn my clothes. When I complain to the owner, I'm told to go "F" myself. Nice. Personally, I think dogs are a nuisance and don't belong in any of our state, local, or national parks. I've seen dogs chase deer, fawns, birds, and other dogs. I think we put enough stress on wildlife without adding dogs to the mix. Dog owners can put their pets on leashes and jog through the streets with them for exercise - it will benefit the owner as well as the dog. Finally, I will add that service dogs are excluded from my rant.

---

**Correspondence ID:** 133    **Project:** 11759    **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA

**Email:** esaibel@yahoo.com  
**Outside** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Organization:**  
**Received:** Jan,17,2011 20:57:02  
**Correspondence** Web Form  
**Type:**

**Correspondence:** I am a dog owner (5 year old yellow lab) who visits GGNRA beaches once every 3-4 weeks. We have thoroughly enjoyed the off-leash, voice-control policy at Rodeo, Muir and Crissy Field beaches over the last 5+ years. I consider myself a responsible owner - always cleaning up after my dog, not allowing her to roam freely without my close supervision, etc. I respect the need to protect the environment and to ensure that non-dog owners can enjoy their experience, and I also recognize that there are some dog owners who aren't as responsible as they should be. With that in mind, I make the following observations:

a) On a typical visit to Muir Beach, I find the remnants of barbeques, picnics, bonfires, parties where alcohol has been consumed, etc. I have literally filled bags with the leftover trash from these events - none of the damage done looked to have been made by dogs. The environment suffers most by the presence of people, not supervised dogs.

b) I am hard pressed to ever find dog poop on Muir, Rodeo or Crissy. I think this is because we dog owners understand we are under (deserved) extra scrutiny, and overall we act as stewards of the beaches because we cherish our ability to exercise our dogs there leash-free (having dogs on-leash on a beach is oxymoronic).

c) The proposed ROLA at Muir Beach is far too limited in size - dogs tend to have issues with each other in more confined spaces. The size of the beach prevents too many dogs from being in one place. I can see a problem with dogs being off leash on the busiest of weekend days, when space is at a premium. However, most days at Muir are pretty mellow - even on weekend mornings before 10, I am often there with less than 10 people. Perhaps there is a way to allow dogs during certain times of the day - say, not allowing them off leash during peak people hours.

I feel that, rather than implement on-leash restrictions (I wouldn't bring my dog to the beach in that case) or an outright dog ban, the GGNRA can study creative ways to reduce dog presence, if in fact they are deemed as hazardous to the environment. For example, they could be permitted on summer weekends before 10 am - that way they would not be an issue to non-dog owners during more crowded hours. Ultimately, I feel that people are the biggest environmental hazard. I would wager that dog owners care more for the beach (most are probably frequent visitors to their beach of choice) than the weekend picnicker.

Thank you.

---

**Correspondence ID:** 134      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project Name:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** -  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan,17,2011 22:19:55  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I live in Brisbane but frequently visit the Ft Funston GGNRA to exercise my dogs. I also own property in San Francisco County and pay taxes so I have a financial investment and policy say in San Francisco County. The Ft. Funston area is used almost exclusively by dog owners who do an excellent job in self managing the area. We owners clean up after our dogs and also dogs who don't belong to us; we collectively manage the behavior of the animals and ensure that no animals behave improperly to other dogs or humans. Ill behaved animals and their owners are told to leave. Unlike Chrissy Field where the areas are utilized by non-dog owner families and dog owners, Ft. Funston does not attract non-dog adults; non-dog family with children; on non-dog sunbathers and picnic parties. Under the proposed plan the current beach area of Ft. Funston will remain off-leash. That's great. However, the walkways to the beach should remain off leash also. There currently exists barriers along the walkway to keep dogs away from the sand dunes that require protection; and if dogs do venture into those areas, they are quickly recalled by voice command. This plan while well intentioned is unnecessary and costly. We don't need government supervision in an area where responsible dog owners already have this issue under control.

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**Correspondence ID:** 135      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project Name:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** -  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan,17,2011 22:24:34  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** When considering these changes please keep in mind the difference between commercial dog walkers and private citizens who own canines.

Kindly keep the majority of these wonderful areas dog friendly and as much off-leash as possible. Our dogs love the open space! Not everyone has access to a car to get to some of the parts of town that are further afield (Chrissy Field, Fort Funston, etc) so it's important that all parks maintain some sort of off-leash area.

Thank you

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**Correspondence ID:** 136    **Project:** 11759    **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS

**Name:** -

**Address:** - CA  
USA

**Email:** -

**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Received:** Jan,17,2011 22:30:42

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:**

Dear National Park Service, Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to comment on your GGNRA Draft Dog Management Plan. As a tremendous fan of the National parks and the amazing jewels of the GGNRA, I am dismayed at this proposal. I have a three year old child and a black Labrador retriever and we all love Crissy Field. The opportunity for our family to take a walk together, breathing the fresh air while taking in the splendors of the Bay is a true benefit of living in San Francisco. Our dog stays on leash much of the time but loves the chance to run free on East Beach and swim in the water. I believe we can do this while respecting the environment and the fellow parkgoers. We love meeting the other dogs and people enjoying Crissy Field. Walking there with everyone makes you feel a part of something bigger- a community in the natural beauty of San Francisco Bay. Please don't eliminate this opportunity by drastically restricting the off leash sections and forbidding dogs on East Beach. A compromise is definitely possible. Far fewer people will come to the GGNRA if you enact these draconian measures. And aren't parks for people too?

Sincerely, Diana Gregory

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**Correspondence ID:** 137    **Project:** 11759    **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS

**Name:** -

**Address:** - CA  
USA

**Email:** kbird\_sf@yahoo.com

**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Received:** Jan,17,2011 23:46:33

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:**

At a minimum all dogs should be on leashes at all times. Banning dogs from many areas is also a good idea. I like dogs, but I don't feel comfortable taking my daughter to these parks and beaches because there are so many dogs that are not on leash and out of control. On more than one occasion I've seen small children bowled over by a dog. Also, I don't want to let my daughter crawl around, and I don't want to sit down where a dog has just defecated or urinated. I know the usual response is that most dog owners are responsible and that it is unfair to punish all dog owners; however, it is unfair to punish me and my family by making us deal with the bad owners or forgo the use of the parks.

---

**Correspondence ID:** 138    **Project:** 11759    **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS

**Name:** -

**Address:** - CA  
USA

**Email:** -

**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Received:** Jan,18,2011 00:29:20

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I am for keeping all dogs on leashes in public areas. I was recently attacked by two unleashed Husky's at Pt. Reyes National Seashore where the owner gave me a phony name and address. This incident caused me medical bills and a question of contracting Rabies. People cannot control their dogs with voice commands as well as they think so, a leash is the only way to protect the public from a dog's bad behavior. Please protect the people and natural resources from uncontrolled pets. Thank you very much, Francois Saint Gassies

---

**Correspondence ID:** 139      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS

**Name:** -

**Address:** - CA  
USA

**Email:** -

**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Received:** Jan,18,2011 08:46:43

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** To whom it may concern,

I am an active user of Crissy Field and not a dog owner. I have been frustrated over the years by the brash and borderline obnoxious behavior of many dog owners, particularly at the East Beach and the adjacent parking lot. That said, there are many dog owners in SF and I do believe that there needs to be addressed somewhere within the boundaries of Crissy Field.

I want to express my strong support for the Preferred Alternative in the DEIS that came out on 1/14/11. It is an extremely fair and balanced proposal that addresses the needs of all the park users and not just dog owners. I know that a lot of hard work went into tackling a contentious and often emotional issue. Off leash dog use is just not always compatible with other park uses, particularly parts of the park that are used intensely such as the East Beach. I believe the DEIS acknowledges this in how spaces are allocated. Trying to sit with your children or picnic on a beach full of off leash dogs is honestly impossible. We have a right to enjoy this place just as much as dog owners. By providing off leash, on leash, and dog free zones, ALL of us can pick and choose the quality and type of experience we want.

I know that some dog owners and their advocacy groups are already lining up opposition to your plan. They will be organized and are already spreading misinformation. They will show up at meetings like they did several years ago and drown out those who disagree with them. Just because you can yell the loudest doesn't mean that you speak the truth or represent the majority. I keep seeing them cite figures that 99% of the park is already off limits to dogs. In the case of Crissy Field, that is just not the case and certainly will not be the case under the preferred alternative. The Central Beach is almost > of a mile long. By my estimation more than half of the beach at Crissy would allow off leash dog use under the preferred alternative. Over half the large grassy field will be designated off leash. These two areas are huge and ideal for off leash dog use since they are used less intensively than other parts of the park. When described to my dog-owning friends, they are thrilled that they will still be able to come down to Crissy and run their dogs off leash with minimal restriction.

Until this alternative is adopted, please note that the 1979 Pet Policy requires that dogs be on leash in all parking and picnic areas at Crissy Field. Despite the action of the judge requiring the negotiated rulemaking, the 1979 Pet Policy still needs to be enforced relative to dogs off leash in and around the parking lot and picnic area adjacent to the East Beach.

Regards, Chris Apicella

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**Correspondence ID:** 140      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS

**Name:** -

**Address:** - CA  
USA

**Email:** -

**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Received:** Jan,18,2011 00:00:00

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I understand that there is a need to control dog access to some parts of GGNRA. I'm all for the protection of ecosystems, wildlife and people. I also understand that many dog owners are not particularly responsible. However, dogs are a very important part of our lives and being able to take them into nature off-leash is a valuable and healthy activity for owners and dogs alike. I have been taking my small dog to Ocean Beach every weekend for the past 3 years. I've never seen a problem - it appears to me that for that section of the beach all the people and pets seem to coexist quite well. It would be sad if a few irresponsible people would cause great joy to be taken away from so many. It would be better if there were a system that allows responsible dog owners to enjoy these areas while banning those who can not follow the rules. Unfortunately, in the meantime the problem people will continue to cause problems regardless of your policies.

---

**Correspondence ID:** 141      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS

**Name:** -

**Address:** - CA  
USA

**Email:** -

**Outside Organization:** GGNPC Unaffiliated Individual

**Received:** Jan,18,2011 09:41:15

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Please do not further restrict dog-friendly areas of the Park. As a responsible dog owner, I truly value being able to enjoy the Park with my dog. I always pick up after him, and he is under excellent voice control.

As a lifetime resident of San Francisco, I urge you to not limit dog access further than it already is limited.

Thank you!

---

**Correspondence ID:** 142      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS

**Name:** -

**Address:** - CA  
USA

**Email:** cshadan@ebmud.com

**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Received:** Jan,18,2011 09:52:48

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I agree with the proposed plan. It seems like a fair compromise for everyone, including dog owners. I own two dogs and a horse.

I do not visit the unofficial 'dog park beach' at Crissy Field because all of the dog owners are not as responsible as they should be. The problem of unruly dogs seems to stem from sedentary owners who have very active dogs that they just want to stand and throw a ball to. And many times the 'dog play' ends up across the walkway in the habitat restoration area. Yes, dogs need exercise, but running or taking a long walk on leash should be the preferred exercise.

In terms of dog waste, I wonder what it does to the eco system of the bay to have what amounts to a small sewage dump at the beach?

Dog owners shouldn't be selfish in their demands. This is a fair plan for everyone.

---

**Correspondence ID:** 143      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS

**Name:** -

**Address:** - CA  
USA

**Email:**  
**Outside** Unaffiliated Individual

**Organization:**  
**Received:** Jan,18,2011 10:11:56

**Correspondence** Web Form  
**Type:**

**Correspondence:** As a frequent user of the federal parks in San Francisco I believe reducing the amount of off-leash access for dogs is a terrible mistake. One of the things that makes San Francisco so unique is it brings together people from all over the world. However, my experience over the last 6 years is that people are so busy with work and/or caring for their families that it is hard to meet new people and form new relationships. My wife and I have met a great detail of friends and built out our community in Cow Hollow primarily through interactions with "strangers" at GGNP because of our dog.

Beyond community interaction there are significant health benefits of off-leash dog access. The only exercise my parents get is long walks with their dog which is only enjoyable if the dog is not tied to owner. Considering how unhealthy and overweight our country is and financial impact it has on the federal government doing anything that reduces American's outdoor activities seems irresponsible.

Finally while I do not have the numbers I imagine that dog owners pay significantly more federal taxes than non-dog owners. Therefore from a equitable standpoint the proposed regulations are unfair and unjustifiable.

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**Correspondence ID:** 144      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS

**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA

**Email:** -  
**Outside** Unaffiliated Individual

**Organization:**  
**Received:** Jan,18,2011 00:00:00

**Correspondence** Web Form  
**Type:**

**Correspondence:** The additional restrictions proposed for dog owners is very sad. There are already few enough areas where well behaved dogs can go for long walks. Typical dog parks are not comparable alternatives.

---

**Correspondence ID:** 145      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS

**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA

**Email:** toddrovatti@yahoo.com  
**Outside** Unaffiliated Individual

**Organization:**  
**Received:** Jan,18,2011 10:16:42

**Correspondence** Web Form  
**Type:**

**Correspondence:** this would be a treable loss for the bay area. there ae few areas that dogs are allowed to run free. the local dog parks are nice, but are not Ft Funston. we use this park every weekend, year round. To limit it to a small confinded area, makes it no better then the local dog park.

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**Correspondence ID:** 146      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS

**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA

**Email:** crath3@gmail.com  
**Outside** Unaffiliated Individual

**Organization:**  
**Received:** Jan,18,2011 10:19:46

**Correspondence** Web Form

**Type:**

**Correspondence:** I support the parks effort to create a fair dog policy. This is a good start. I favor banning all off leash dogs from the park. Many dog owners openly flaunt leash laws resulting in terrified innocent visitors and wildlife. We all must share the space. Thank you.

---

**Correspondence ID:** 147      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS

**Name:** -

**Address:** - CA  
USA

**Email:** jnicolemille@gmail.com

**Outside** Unaffiliated Individual

**Organization:**

**Received:** Jan,18,2011 10:51:20

**Correspondence** Web Form

**Type:**

**Correspondence:** As a resident of the City of San Francisco since 1997 and a Bay Area resident since 1984, I am very grateful for our parks and open spaces. I have lived here both as a non pet owner and more recently for the past 5 years as a dog owner. I feel that most dog owners are responsible for their personal dogs and pick up after their dogs and abide by the rules outlined for parks. For many of us professionals, these animals are akin to children. It is with this great sensitivity that I ask you to consider the regulations being proposed. Limited use, off-leash areas in the parks are very beneficial to the neighborhoods of the Bay Area as it gives an acceptable way for us as urban residents to keep pets. These dogs add so much not only to our lives but to those in the neighborhoods around us. In order for pets to be well-behaved (watch any dog training show) they need exercise. It's the responsible pet owner who takes their dog to parks that allow off-leash exercise. That good pet-ownership behavior should be commended and not punished. Suggestions that may help both protect these park areas and allow respectful off-leash use within these areas are described below: Create a license for dog walkers who use the areas to ensure that these walkers are bonded and insured as well as licensed to use the recreation area. Limit the number of dogs any one walker can have at a given time to for example 5 dogs and no more than two visits per day by the walker to any one park. Post rules and regulations to allow violation reporting for dogs (such as unlicensed dogs, not picking up feces, aggressive dogs, too many visits per day to an area by dog walkers). Personally, I would be OK with Crissy field having a limited-us off leash period such as from 4-10pm. I do see this as a potential area of compromise. This would allow residents to walk dogs and would eliminate the dog walker issue at Crissy Field which is limited in space as compared to Fort Funston. There are a lot of children there and so this would likely get rid of that overlap also. You are welcome to comment me with further questions or discussion.

Kind regards, Nicole Miller, PhD 415-525-2732

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**Correspondence ID:** 148      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS

**Name:** -

**Address:** - CA  
USA

**Email:** -

**Outside** sf dog Unaffiliated Individual

**Organization:**

**Received:** Jan,18,2011 10:52:41

**Correspondence** Web Form

**Type:**

**Correspondence:** I have been taking my dog out to Fort Funston since I moved to California in 1996. I have frequented Fort Funston ever since with my Siberian husky Zoey. My breed of dog was bred to run and explore. Fort Funston is a beautiful, beneficial, and unique place in that it provides the vast open space necessary to socialize, exercise, and conduct canine training for large volumes of dogs. My experience with training dogs tells me that dogs being pack animals require open space to exercise properly and socialize without any tension caused by a restraint or leash. You can't play ball or swim off excess energy with a dog lead attached. I've also made many friends over the years that share my interest and love for dogs. There is even a grassroots organization that was created to maintain the integrity of Fort Funston and to promote the continued use of the park for off leash hikes with our dogs (Fort Funston Dog Walkers). There are also other canine interest groups who organize to protect the past and current status off a dog friendly preserve at the Fort. The SFSPCA, ProDog, and SF Dog are all involved with the education and the promotion of our dogs' physical and mental health. After all, dogs are animals too and even though they have been domesticated over a thousand years, they still have strong drives and needs that need to be satisfied in order to avoid the development of behavioral problems and unsocial mannerisms. Dogs require a place where they can just

be dogs, as do other species in the animal kingdom. Being essential parts and members of our families in San Francisco and the surrounding counties, I and many others feel that our family dogs will be very negatively impacted if Fort Funston is turned into a leashed dog park. After all, where else could hundreds of dogs go everyday to seek the social and physical stimulation that is required to keep them balanced individuals, as well as "good K-9 citizens"?

If the proposed plan passes, the inadequate small parcel of land allotted for "off leash" dog activity will create a dangerous and cramped atmosphere. The boundaries of bluffs, highway, and parking lot, will create a safety issue for dogs who need space to exercise and explore. This will adversely affect the quality of life at the surrounding local parks which can't provide the adequate space necessary for the hundreds of dogs banned from Fort Funston. The ripple effect will be devastating on the local community, as well as the physical and mental health of our beloved canine family members. Fort Funston has been a dog friendly park even before it was ceded to the GGNRA, under certain conditions and requisites, back in 1979. The dogs are an integral make up of the spirit, character, and landscape at Fort Funston. If you do remove the dogs from Fort Funston, the vacuum will inevitably bring in nefarious and undesirable elements, such as crime and homeless encampments. Funston has served this community for decades and you will find that 90% of the park users and advocates own dogs. It is not in the interest of the federal government to go against the wishes of the local inhabitants, simply because it has the power. If it's not broke, then don't fix it.

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**Correspondence ID:** 149      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS

**Name:** -

**Address:** - CA  
USA

**Email:** -

**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Received:** Jan,18,2011 11:54:33

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Dear People, I am appalled by the proposed limitations for dogs at our parks and beaches. There are already so few places where dogs and their owners can enjoy some freedom in the natural world that these new restrictions would make living in the beautiful Bay Area feel like bondage.

The restrictions are not in response to an actual problem. Dogs off-leash do not harm people or the environment or people's enjoyment of the environment. 99% of dog owners are very responsible, and the community is in general self-policing. If the rare dog owner neglects to pick up a poop, it's just as likely to happen on-leash as off-leash. And whenever I or my friends spot a stray poop, we pick it up.

It's a little like banning all food & picnicking at parks because one irresponsible family leaves their trash behind. It's overkill and makes no sense. There will always be jerks, but it's important to maintain our liberties. So we impose fines on lawbreakers and hire people to help keep the parks clean. And we encourage citizens to take care of their parks.

We all just need to learn to get along. I may not like it if some kid throws sand in my direction or runs across my towel, but that's just life at the beach. We need to share our resources, respect our neighbors as much as possible, and be tolerant of each other. We don't need knee jerk reactions like banning kids, or picnics or dogs, just to satisfy a few loud, uptight people who would prefer to have our parks to themselves.

I am a responsible dog owner. I deserve to have the freedom to enjoy the few remaining parks and beaches where dogs are allowed to go. Crissy Field already has non-dog areas. Please do not bow to the minority opinion of control freaks and animal haters by unnecessarily restricting our rights and our world.

Thank you for your help.

---

**Correspondence ID:** 150      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS

**Name:** -

**Address:** - CA  
USA

**Email:** thomaseroth@gmail.com  
**Outside**  
**Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan,18,2011 00:00:00  
**Correspondence**  
**Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** San Francisco is all about quality of life. For many of us here, the City and the GGNRA being dog-friendly is one of the reasons that the Bay Area is a great place. To be able to enjoy our parks and beaches with our four-legged friend is important to us.

Please don't squeeze us all into tiny spaces.

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**Correspondence ID:** 151      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** douglas.vonqualen@wfadvisors.com  
**Outside**  
**Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan,18,2011 12:10:53  
**Correspondence**  
**Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I think that the GGNRA should treat dogs exactly as they treat them in other national parks. Dogs should be kept on-leash at all times. Free-running dogs are a threat to bird-nesting habitat and they frighten many people, including my wife. There is no such thing as "effective voice control" of a dog.

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**Correspondence ID:** 152      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** jrnewhouse@mac.com  
**Outside**  
**Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan,18,2011 12:29:00  
**Correspondence**  
**Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Dear Sir or Madam,

It would be a complete travesty if anything other than option A was chosen.

There are over 100,000 dogs in San Francisco and they need somewhere to go. Not everywhere has to be off-leash, but Fort Funston, Crissy Field and the Presidio are wonderful places for dogs. This is one reason San Francisco is so beautiful and unique. The comments that dog waste could possibly cause the reduced enjoyment of the park for future generations is preposterous. From what I see, most dog people are extremely careful about cleaning up after their pets and self-policing those that do not. I would worry more about those locations with a lot of people, not dogs, as those most likely to be degraded by over use.

Finally, as the owner of an active dog, we need off-leash places for our dog to recreate and we hope you reconsider these proposed changes.

Sincerely,

James R Newhouse

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**Correspondence ID:** 153      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -

**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** tinawebb@gmail.com  
**Outside** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Organization:**  
**Received:** Jan,18,2011 12:34:39  
**Correspondence** Web Form  
**Type:**  
**Correspondence:** I have reviewed the proposed map for the Fort Funston area and have concerns.

1. The off leash area is NOT large enough for the volume of dogs on a typical day.
2. The beach is often unsuitable for recreation due to weather conditions. Limiting the pathways to leash only defeats the purpose of this park.
3. If you truly want to know how dog owners feel about this place - please check out yelp.com and see the 420+ reviews over several years of the intense usage of dogs and owners.
4. This is NOT just a park for those on the peninsula. We intentionally drive 45 minutes to come to this location. It is used by the ENTIRE bay area.
5. Please don't let the hatred of the few or the irresponsibility of the few create rules for the masses.
6. The pathway indicated for leash only down to the beach is IMPRACTICAL. It is extremely sandy and a MAJOR incline. I foresee the GGNRA being SUED for improperly maintaining that trail since dogs will DRAG their owners down this path/cliff. Injuries will happen!!!!!!

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**Correspondence ID:** 154      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA

USA  
**Email:** broth23@gmail.com  
**Outside** Unaffiliated Individual

**Organization:**  
**Received:** Jan,18,2011 12:34:42  
**Correspondence** Web Form

**Type:**  
**Correspondence:** I am writing with respect to the proposed law changes regarding dogs on Muir Beach. Like many, if not all, residents who live here, we deeply value and appreciate the natural beauty and splendor that this area has to offer. For many of us, it is the primary reason why we choose to live here. That said, we certainly do not take our habitat for granted, and many of us are actively involved in projects that better ensure that our surroundings remain clean, unspoiled and unpolluted. That said I strongly disagree that the current off-leash (voice control) laws need to be changed on Muir Beach ... and on many of the surrounding trails. Again, as a resident of the Muir Beach community, I strongly believe that I am able to provide some sound, on the ground perspective as to the reasons why I think these laws must not be changed. First, most of the dogs that enjoy Muir Beach belong to residents that live in Muir Beach. I say this with confidence and first-hand perspective as I frequent the beach on a daily basis. Speaking on behalf of myself and my fellow neighbors, the resident dog owners truly respect the privilege of having our dogs enjoy the beach....and dog-owners act accordingly to safeguard the more sensitive habitats from our pets. Second, there have been no dog attacks at Muir Beach. This fact speaks volumes as I have never seen nor heard about a vicious dog attack in our community. Of course, this also speaks very well about not only the owners that live here, but every dog-owner who visits here....not to mention the types of visitors that this area attracts. Third, we do not have a dog 'waste' problem on the beach. In other words, the concept of doggie bags is a quite familiar and respected...especially in an area as beautiful as Muir Beach. Fourth, the notion that dogs have threatened the wildlife in more sensitive areas is quite simply unfair and unfounded. The creek bed area currently has signs and fencing that indicate sensitive habitat. Also, it is simply not true that dogs roam freely in these sensitive areas eating endangered toads or fish...not to mention destroying their habitats. Never have I heard nor seen this happen. Never have I heard a neighbor recount a story that this happened. Further, the probability of foxes, coyotes or feral felines 'disturbing' this area is significantly greater than that of dogs. I say this because the overwhelming number of dog-owners appreciates the off-leash laws and see it as a privilege.

In light of all this, I understand that much work has been put into restoring and protecting the areas surrounding Muir Beach. I also understand that it is only natural to create new laws to further bunker proof this area from all and any threats. However, changing the current off-leash laws would create far further damage to the community and to all those that visit with their dogs. It would be unfair and unwarranted punishment to change these dog laws or enforce further restrictions without the burden of proof that dogs have been in any way responsible for any habitat destruction. Certainly, if the primary concern is safeguarding the creek and sensitive areas from predators, than I kindly ask that that your committee looks into better, more robust fencing and more signage as a pre-emptive measure. Also, posting signs with fines for non-compliance would be another effective deterrent.

I appreciate the time and consideration that you took to read my letter.

All the best, George

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**Correspondence ID:** 155    **Project:** 11759    **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** jsasso24@sbcglobal.net  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan,18,2011 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I have been walking my dogs off leash on Ocean Beach & Ft Funston for almost 40 years. These areas should be available for use by citizens who live in the area. What other uses are there? I understand the need to protect natural resources but for whom are you protecting them?

I have seen over the years more damage done to the environment by unsupervised children and adults than I have ever seen done by dogs. Most of the people now using these areas are doing so to enjoy spending time with their pets and those without dogs seem to be enjoying the interaction with the dogs. My worst experience on Ocean Beach for example was when a hang glider crashed on the beach and injured a pedestrian and scared several animals.

Do you also intend to ban people from using these areas altogether? You may extend your protection to this extreme if you consider it necessary. This is my fear. There are many people in this City who consider their pets as part of their family and in many cases as their only family. They have the right as taxpayers and citizens to use these parks for their recreation.

---

**Correspondence ID:** 156    **Project:** 11759    **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan,18,2011 13:23:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am thankful for the GGNRA to put forth this plan and hopefully reign in some of the reckless dog recreation in the GGNRA. I no longer bring my 2 little girls to many of the sites mentioned in the plan, i.e. crissy field tidal lagoon, because of the out of control dog recreation. The Crissy field tidal inlet is the one of the best locations in the city where a child can experience the wonder of tidal influence. Although the few times I have brought my girls (1 & 3 yr old) to play in the water they have been either knocked down or intimidated by 'oh don't worry, he's friendly dogs'. Needless to say my little ones did not have the experience I thought they would.

I am also pleased that the plan recognizes the value of the natural world in the GGNRA. It is the responsibility of the GGNRA to protect not only the rare plants and animals, but also the habitat which creates the foundation for

our land to carry as much biodiversity as possible.

My only complaint would be that the plan does not go far enough in limiting off-leash dog recreation. Although I recognize it would not be a popular option, I personally would like to see all GGNRA lands leash only and no dogs allowed.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment

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**Correspondence ID:** 157      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS

**Name:** -

**Address:** - CA  
USA

**Email:** -

**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Received:** Jan,18,2011 13:24:24

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I am an active use of Crissy Field and not a dog owner. I spend at least 2-3 hours per day at Crissy Field, mostly engaged in running, biking, windsurfing, and paddling. I have been frustrated over the years by the behavior of many dog owners, particularly at the East Beach and the adjacent parking lot. While I do agree dogs should be allowed on East Beach, many dog owners do not behave like they are willing to share the wonderful resource that is East Beach with other recreational users. Over the years I have seen a great deal of obnoxious and sometimes dangerous dog behavior due to unsupervised dogs at East Beach.

I want to express my strong support for the Preferred Alternative in the DEIS that came out on 1/14/11. I feel this is a fair proposal that addresses the needs of all park users, including dog owners. By providing off leash, on leash, and dog free zones, all recreational users will be able to enjoy their park experience with minimal nuisance.

---

**Correspondence ID:** 158      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS

**Name:** -

**Address:** - CA  
USA

**Email:** anna\_yen@yahoo.com

**Outside Organization:** self Unaffiliated Individual

**Received:** Jan,18,2011 13:27:35

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Dear GGNRA:

Some of the restrictions proposed in your draft Dog Management Plan seem reasonable and as a dog owner, I can understand why they make sense. What I do find alarming about your plan, however, is the severe limitations it places on off-leash dog walking. I am most concerned about the restrictions proposed on Crissy Field East Beach.

Crissy Field East Beach is one of the most gorgeous, peaceful areas of our City. There is nothing like a stroll down the beach or along the path at that location and it is one of the reasons I love living in San Francisco. Walking there with my dog is a wonderful, stress free experience because it is a large, beautiful area where dogs, people (even non-dog owners) and the environment co-exist happily. As with everything in life, things are not always perfect - there are times where a dog owner will behave irresponsibly. But when this happens, another dog owner that is present is the first to point out the problem in an effort to correct whichever rule was being broken. The fact of the matter is that dog owners are very vigilant about acting responsibly, but they monitor those around them as well because they are very aware of the repercussions the group as a whole might suffer because a few dog owners aren't being careful. I also see the contributions dog owners...and their dogs...make to the area. They routinely pick up garbage that has collected on the beach, for example. Perhaps instead of prohibiting off leash dog usage, using the environment as the main reason, you'd consider making more restrictive barriers to the protected areas you're worried about. If cost is the issue, I am more than certain dog owners would be willing to pay a dog tax.

Thank you. Anna

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**Correspondence ID:** 159      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** lschrupp@gmail.com  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan,18,2011 13:56:21  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I favor implementation of Alternative B, implementation of the existing NPS leash regulation at all locations. The mere fact that these regulations were not previously in effect at these locations is irrelevant. All national park areas were at one time prior to their establishment as parks completely unregulated. The point of making them national parks is to protect them, which by its very nature entails putting restrictions on how they are used. The existence of a vocal and litigious community of dog-owners does not change the facts.

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**Correspondence ID:** 160      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** jasonjungreis@gmail.com  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan,18,2011 14:25:20  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Presently, there is no meaningful enforcement on Ocean Beach, Sutro Heights Park, or Lands End; I speak to these three locations as I am most familiar with them, but I suspect my comments would be true of all locations. The preferred alternatives fail to address issues with dogs that are not truly under voice command. I would accept voice command if it were real, but in reality it is rare. Consequently, I would prefer leash laws, and enforcement of those leash laws, at all GGNRA locations, or the development of a specific set of procedures for issuing citations: I believe these procedures should simply be observation of an unruly dog, or observation of a dog that does not immediately heel immediately after being summoned once by its guardian. In sum, the most important of the plan is to have strict enforcement.

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**Correspondence ID:** 161      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** mcommins2@comcast.net  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan,18,2011 14:39:03  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing in support of Dog Management Plan Alternative D for all areas. As a regular walker in parks around the Bay area, I am well aware of the problem associated with off leash dogs. Unfortunately few dog owners have true voice control over their animals. This lack of control results in deleterious impacts on the environment and constitutes a potential danger to other park users. I have been approached countless times by aggressive snarling dogs who pay little heed to their owners attempts to call them away. I am truly tired of the tyranny of dog owners who think it is some sort of god-given right to do as they please without consideration of the environment or other people. Thank you.

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**Correspondence ID:** 162      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS

**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** -  
**Outside** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Organization:**  
**Received:** Jan,18,2011 14:57:55  
**Correspondence** Web Form  
**Type:**  
**Correspondence:** To Whom is May Concern,

The proposed restrictions on where dogs may or may not run free in this city are shocking, appalling and overly restrictive. As a responsible dog owner in this city, who has taken the burden of unwanted animals off of the city's tax payers and on to ourselves, my family, friends (many of whom also adopt unwanted dogs from city shelters) and I are adamantly against the proposed changes.

San Francisco is in the unique position of having the majority of our city parks within the overly rigid and ridiculous National Parks System (which my husband and I support both with annual donations and the purchase of annual park passes). The dog-friendly nature of San Francisco is part of what makes this city unique and part of what keeps many dog lovers living here.

I am disappointed to see that my tax dollars and donations, which have probably gone to many of the conservation efforts that are being cited as the reason for this change, are not being used to my benefit.

I can understand places like Lands End which is a pedestrian walkway being limited on on-leash dogs as well as a portion of Crissy Field which is often heavily populated by tourists and families with small children. But Fort Funston and Marin??? Really?!?! When was the last time anyone on this committee visited Fort Funston? If it was in the last five years you would know that 99% of the people there are responsible dog lovers who worship and appreciate Fort Funston as a place to enjoy with your off leash dog. There is semi-annual cleanup of Fort Funston by an entirely volunteer organization dedicated to a dog friendly San Francisco. Further, Marin was established as a park for the people.

I think you will find that restricting the use of San Francisco parks to on-leash or dogless people will cause more trouble than good. You will have an increase in aggressive dog incidents and more people breaking the rules, quite frankly.

The proposal is far far far too strict and should be loosened. You argue that it is a compromise but, it is not. It is driven by special interest groups and clearly for the sole benefit of dogless people and tourists.

I have to say that should this pass, as is, in a year, my contributions both to the National Parks will stop and I certainly will have less reason to stay in this city.

Sincerely,

Allison Taylor

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**Correspondence ID:** 163    **Project:** 11759    **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS

**Name:** -

**Address:** - CA

USA

**Email:** callandere@yahoo.com

**Outside** Unaffiliated Individual

**Organization:**

**Received:** Jan,18,2011 14:59:39

**Correspondence** Web Form

**Type:**

**Correspondence:** I am opposed to the proposal of limiting off leash dogs on many historically dog friendly recreational walks, particularly on Crissy Field's East Beach. Like many San Francisco dog owners, I support protecting the environment and I agree with restrictions limiting the negative impact of people and development on wilderness

areas. However I view walking my dog on the beach at Chrissy Field as an opportunity to enjoy our beautiful outdoor spaces while getting needed exercise for both myself and my dog and do not see the conflict between protecting the environment and allowing dogs to run off leash in an already developed section of the beach. The beach at Chrissy Field is not a pristine wilderness. It is in a highly developed part of the Presidio which itself is in a dense urban city. It includes man-made jetties, piers, sea walls, gravel paths, cafes, boardwalks and benches. Gas powered Park Service vehicles and lawn mowers are allowed to operate feet from the beach in addition to hundreds of tourist bicycles, runners and walkers. The beach has paved parking lots at both ends and US Highway 101 is within a quarter mile. Existing fenced sections allow for wildlife and dune protection without preventing dog owners from giving themselves and their dogs much needed exercise walking a several mile loop. Dogs, like roads, parking lots and cars, help us to access the outdoors and should not be limited unless the benefit outweighs the restriction of access to our public spaces, which it clearly does not in this case. If the issue is not the environment but the of quality of life, restrictions should focus on those issues, and fines should be levied for irresponsible dog/owner behavior not simply allowing your dog off leash. Most dog owners, myself included, are the first to insist on responsible dog ownership which includes training and voice control, and socialization, as well as picking up after your dog. Sincerely, Elizabeth Callander

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**Correspondence ID:** 164      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** rachelbrass@yahoo.com  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan,18,2011 15:10:19  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I approve of the plan. Currently dog owners act as if the whole area belongs to them. Many have poorly trained dogs walking off lease and to whom they are paying little attention. They wander in front of pedestrians on the promenade, and then into the lot in front of cars, and are often not cleaned up after. Any dog area should be enclosed by a fence, or limited. While dogs should share our parks, they should not control them, as has become the case.

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**Correspondence ID:** 165      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** krvenus@gmail.com  
**Outside Organization:** Muttville Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan,18,2011 15:16:05  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** To Whom it May Concern,

I moved to San Francisco five years ago and one of my main pulls to the city was how accommodating it was to our canine friends. I moved to a house that did not allow dogs, and when I was new to the city and felt alone, I would go to Fort Funston as a way to alleviate my sadness. Seeing dogs in their natural habitat and running free gave me a sense of security and belonging. It also cured my nagging pup fix, since I could not have one of my own.

Now that I have a dog, I cannot imagine the city without dog parks/beaches. It is my, as well as my dog's, favorite part of the day. If you choose to extinguish these dog friendly beaches, you will sufficiently detract from the overall draw of this amazing area. The level of canine acceptance sets us apart from other areas of the country and, in my personal opinion, makes us a better group of people.

In all honesty, the issue that has always wedged itself under my skin has been the amount of kids left unattended at public beaches. Dogs, while some could consider them nuisances, are constantly cleaned up after and minded, while children run amok and leave trash and other rubbish in their wake. When I am relaxing on a beach, I am much more irritated by naughty children than I am with dogs. Are you going to restrict beaches to adults only? If

you are trying to alleviate irritants and pollutants, then perhaps you can pass a bill that excludes children as well.

Please don't take away these beautiful animals' right to run free.

Sincerely, Kate Lauren Rosen Berkeley High School English Teacher

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**Correspondence ID:** 166      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** -  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan,18,2011 15:54:24  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Banning dogs on Chrissy field and Muir Beach is a bad idea based on flawed reasoning. What are the possible reasons to ban dogs: Dogs have negative impact on wildlife: Dogs have a much lighter impact on wildlife than their human friends. On my many visits to Muir beach and Chrissy Field I am constantly picking up human waste. Humans invade wildlife habitats, pollute the water and leave their trash everywhere. Let's ban Humans from Muir Beach and Chrissy Field!!! Why not do the reasonable thing and have stricter enforcement of litter laws and trespassing on 'sensitive' habitats. Dog's ruin most people's trips to the park: Well behaved dogs coexist peacefully with beach goers. In fact, most regular beach goers in the Bay Area are dog owners. Dog's get their owners out to the beach where they can appreciate nature and learn to be better custodians of our resources. True, ill-behaved dogs can ruin a trip to the beach. However, so can a rowdy, drunken person, or somebody who's smoking, or somebody blaring a radio, or ... Banning dogs will prevent a large segment of the population from enjoying THEIR public resources. Let's not prevent a large segment of the population (perhaps the largest demographic) from enjoying the beach because some others do not like dogs. GGNRA and CSP heavy-handedness: The GGNRA knows what's best for our native ecosystems and will work to re-create the pre-settlement landscape. Having lived in the bay area for 15 years, I am constantly shocked by the heavy-handed destruction of healthy eco-systems in favor of 'native' vegetation. I have seen several lovely landscapes in the presidio and marin headlands ruined by clear-cutting, permanent fencing, over-the-top trails, and other construction projects. Sometimes, the best solution is letting mother nature take care of itself, rather than ripping out, building fences to keep people out and building trails to increase access. Banning dogs is in perfect keeping with GGNRA's perception that they are the experts and will save us from destroying our natural resources, when in fact, they are excluding the people who OWN the space from using it in a responsible way.

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**Correspondence ID:** 167      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** -  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan,18,2011 15:57:31  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Most of my life in San Francisco, I did not own a dog, and in that capacity, I understand the problems with dogs off leash. I have been approached by fierce dogs running towards me, while walking on Ocean beach, not knowing what they would do. I observed a dog peeing on my kid's sand castle they made at Crissy Field beach, while I was worried to take a nap there, in fear my feet would be sprayed on. I have stepped on dog poop in some parks and cleaned off my sidewalk and the area around my tree in front of my house multiple times.

However, I am now am a recent owner of a dog for my family (2 daughters) and I understand the value of having an area where our dog can run free. Anyone that owns a dog understands the need of allowing a dog run off leash, allowing them to sniff where they want to and get some good exercise running and playing around.

The places I take my dog are Crizzly field and Fort Funston, and I would be very upset seeing these places taken away or severely restricted as a place to let our dog run free. I feel as a dog owner, we are already very restricted as

is where we can take our dog; there are a lot more places where dogs are not allowed or required to walk on leash. As a result, the places where dogs are allowed to run free have high concentrations of dogs, which feels threatening to non-dog owners, and this is something that will get worse if space is restricted even more.

Dogs are very important in people's lives. Their companionship and unconditional love are essential to many people's emotional health. Because of the cost and challenge of raising children in SFO, many couples chose a dog as a substitute to fill their lives with joy, love, and companionship. Those that do decide to have children often move out of San Francisco. I've heard that there are more dogs in San Francisco than there are children. Therefore, I feel you need to preserve the amount of spaces where dogs can run off leash and I vote for the status quo.

Thanks you,

Walter Van Riel

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**Correspondence ID:** 168    **Project:** 11759    **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** -  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan,18,2011 16:03:28  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am very upset to hear that dog access will be further restricted in the future. I will be contacting any and all elected officials to express my anger over future restriction. San Francisco has a substantial population of dogs and limited current locations where they can be exercised. Further restriction will lower the quality of life of the residents of the City who pay significant taxes compared to most cities in the nation.

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**Correspondence ID:** 169    **Project:** 11759    **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** rod\_noda@yahoo.com  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan,18,2011 16:07:01  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I support your Draft Dog Management Plan EIS. The EIS protects wildlife and protects people without dogs. Muir Beach and Rodeo Beach have become "dog parks", people without dogs who just want to enjoy a quite walk on the beach are intimidated by dogs running at yourself and at wildlife. The term "voice command" means that the dog owner lets his dog run free, the dog can chase wild life and run up to people. After the dog has disrupted wildlife or people, the dog owner can call the dog "back" if he thinks the dog has done anything disruptive, but most often the owner will say "he's a good dog, he won't hurt anyone". Maybe so but just a dog running up to me scares me first, how am I to know the the dog is "people friendly". I see dogs chasing birds and ducks on both beaches constantly in full view of the owners who do nothing to stop the dogs.

Please return the beaches and trails to people and wildlife. Thank you for this plan.

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**Correspondence ID:** 170    **Project:** 11759    **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** -  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Received:** Jan,18,2011 16:09:09

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I strongly support the plan's proposal to require dogs to be on-leash in the East Beach area of Crissy Field. I am the mother of two small children and my kids are sometimes scared of all of the dogs running wild in that area. That beach is ideal for families and children because they can play in the shallow water and it is next to the parking lot. When families are enjoying that area of Crissy Field, they should not have be concerned about dogs (1) scaring or attacking their children, (2) getting into their snacks and picnic food, and (3) urinating or defecating in an area in which children are playing.

---

**Correspondence ID:** 171      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106

**Project Name:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS

**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA

**Email:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Received:** Jan,18,2011 16:45:38

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I support of Dog Management Plan Alternative D for all areas. Although we need a "big tent" of support for our parks including dog owners, hikers, horse riders and others, there has to be reasonable balance between the park users. Walking in San Francisco Bay Area parks for over 40 years, I do meet occasional people whose dog(s) are off leash and under voice control. By far the majority of dogs, however, ignore their owners calls and make straight for me, often running, mouths open and barking. The owners usually say, "Don't worry, he/she is friendly." But how do I know beforehand when sharp teeth are a few inches from me? I have been bitten before in my life and do not want a repeat. Sometimes there is no owner even in sight and when they finally catch up with their pets they seem indignant that I am upset by being assaulted by their dogs!

Possibly the reason why dog owners do not have such a problem with other people's dogs is that dogs run to another dog not the owners. I have no dog so become the dog's target.

The dogs I see off-leash naturally chase about and so we rarely see the wildlife in our parks. That is a pity for multiple uses and is not necessary. It is also certain that being chased by a dog reduces the life span of many birds and animals, especially in winter when food and energy supplies are low in wild creatures but not in well-fed domestic dogs. So keeping dogs on a leash seems the least we could do for our wildlife in our parks

There is also the problem with dog waste. Although many owners do now pick up solid excretion, the urine remains to pollute out soils and especailly surface waters. I see no answer to this problem excetp to keep all pets out of the parks as occurs in most national parks.

Please keep free-running dogs out of our parks. Let's have the dog owners walk their pets in our parks and run their dogs off leash in specially designed, fenced dog parks like the one at Point Isobel in Richmond, CA. Everyone seems happy with this solution.

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**Correspondence ID:** 172      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106

**Project Name:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS

**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA

**Email:** jshafer@me.com

**Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Received:** Jan,18,2011 18:08:19

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** The proposal to require dogs on lease in all areas of Crissy Field is ridiculous! As a resident of SF since 1983, I have visited Crissy Field almost daily with my dog.

It is the most wonderful part of the week - for me and her. My kids have grown up playing with our dog on the

beach. I have a constant running partner. We are clean and pick up after her.

Do not take away such a joyous experience. It's the little things in life that make us rich - this tiny bit of freedom makes our lives better.

---

**Correspondence ID:** 173    **Project:** 11759    **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** -  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan,18,2011 19:04:43  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I would like the exact cost of the 2400 page document made public and the number of employee hours involved'

Further,I would point out that the GGNRA is not a national park, but a national RECREATION area and importance should be placed on the large numbers of people, many older and/or disabled or merely not fit enough to ride 70 miles in orange spandex on their \$5000 bikes, whose recreation is walking the beach, interacting with other dogwalkers, and enjoying the unique beauty of free dogs at play.

There appears to be a disturbing trend by the NPS to overmanage the Muir Beach area in particular. An example is the expensive and totally irrelevant fencing at the Overlook resulting in a manicured "look" that apparently appeals to "planners".The wanton destruction of trees during the Creek project is a further assault on the community feel. Removing dogs from the beach and trails looks better on paper, but this area is a community as well as part of a recreation area and the beach is the center in many ways - complete with our dogs. Please show some respect for the character and charm of this unique spot and try to sublimate the urge to "manage" us.

---

**Correspondence ID:** 174    **Project:** 11759    **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** -  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan,18,2011 19:48:28  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am African-American and have family members with disabilities. Many of my African-American friends do \*not\* patronize the recreation areas because dog owners have literally taken over the areas and make visits uncomfortable for us. For various reasons, many people of color already don't use national parks enough. Leaving the current untenable dog-running wild situation at the recreation areas is yet another impediment to our rights to enjoy the parks.

Additionally, the current situation denies our family members with disabilities a reasonable access right to the parks. I have two family members who are very sensitive about unleashed dogs and who we cannot bring to the parks for that reason. Just because a dog owner says his/her dog is friendly or "will not bite or hurt you" (a common refrain when we express concerns about unleashed dogs), we have no idea if that's true or not, and even if it is true, it's irrelevant to our family members concerns.

Of course, many dog owners are responsible. And dogs have a right to get exercise. A very, very reasonable compromise is to provide, as the plan does, for fenced dog areas. It is ironic and irresponsible that dog owners would reject such a reasonable compromise. It makes little sense and is totally inappropriate for owners to put dogs' needs ahead of human needs. The plan gives access to both non-pet owners and pet owners in a sensible fashion.

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**Correspondence ID:** 175    **Project:** 11759    **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** -  
**Outside** P.O.O.C.H. Unaffiliated Individual  
**Organization:**  
**Received:** Jan,18,2011 20:18:35  
**Correspondence** Web Form  
**Type:**  
**Correspondence:** There are precious few places where dogs can be safely and legally walked off-leash. Please don't take one of the last, and nicest, Fort Funston, away from us. Having acceptable places is good for everyone: our furry friends, the people who walk them (it promotes health), and the people who don't want off-leash dogs around. Providing an acceptable venue removes the temptation to walk dogs off-leash where it is not appropriate. Please let there continue to be this tiny space for our best friends.

---

**Correspondence ID:** 176      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA

**Email:** -  
**Outside** Unaffiliated Individual

**Organization:**  
**Received:** Jan,18,2011 00:00:00

**Correspondence** Web Form

**Type:**

**Correspondence:** I have been walking my dog(s) at Chrissy Field since 1979. Since this time I have seen the beautification of this area though it has always been an incredible spot. Part of the beauty of this experience has been the relative peace, the overwhelming natural beauty and the sense of freedom that one enjoys while walking on the edge of the Bay. My dogs have always been well trained, under voice control at all times and have been able to play with their friends off leash. This magical part of the day watching the unabandoned joy of dogs playing is one of the best parts of my day. The people that one meets in this fashion is also a wonderful way in which san franciscans of all ages and backgrounds can meet and share in the mutual interest of their dogs. There is no doubt that there are peak hours and days and generally I avoid those times as that is not what I am looking for.

I feel that other people's preferences may be different than mine, but we live in a society that tries to honor everyones point of view. I feel that mutual respect is demanded and I do not see why leashing dogs has become the panacea for problems with this issue. Recreational dog-walking and other peoples enjoyment of Crissy Field are not mutually exclusive.

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**Correspondence ID:** 177      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA

**Email:** -  
**Outside** Unaffiliated Individual

**Organization:**  
**Received:** Jan,18,2011 21:10:21

**Correspondence** Web Form

**Type:**

**Correspondence:** I think areas for dogs should be preserved in GGNRA such as Crissy Field and Fort Funston. I don't even own a dog but this is just common sense! There are miles and miles of coastline where dogs are not allowed. Why take away this small area for people and their dogs to enjoy? There are other areas people who don't like dogs can go.

I heard about this issue from my co-worker who likes to take her 15-lb dog to Fort Funston.

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**Correspondence ID:** 178      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -

**Address:** - CA  
USA

**Email:** -  
**Outside** Unaffiliated Individual

**Organization:**  
**Received:** Jan,18,2011 22:01:50

**Correspondence** Web Form  
**Type:**

**Correspondence:** I am glad to see this dog management plan as my family and friends have been always restricted to certain parks to visit safely especially with our small children. I prefer NO DOGS at all in any public parks. Dog owners do not respect or understand our dog fear issues. Even though their dogs may be friendly, it doesn't matter for children who fear any dogs. From our experience with off-leash dogs in the parks, they are not always verbally controlled. Worse than that, dog owners do not bother to control their dogs not to come to the children because they think their dogs are friendly, not understanding dog fear children may have. In fact, our children's dog fear has escalated because of irresponsible dog owners with off-leash dogs chasing our children.

Unleashed dogs have ruined our lunches by licking or jumping. Such dogs were controlled verbally only after the incidents. But they did not put their dogs on leash despite our requests to put them on leash while they were letting the dogs play at the picnic area.

Leashed dog policy doesn't really protect public safely either. Nowadays dog walkers use extendable long leash with which dogs can freely walk right up to children unless thoughtful dog walkers control their leash short.

I hope NPS would advertise more about this issue so that more people who have been affected negatively by dogs are notified and can comment for NO DOG or most restricted policies. If you are getting more comments from dog owners, then that's not fair representation of public.

Of course, nature and wildlife should be protected for future generation.

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**Correspondence ID:** 179      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS

**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA

**Email:** finocchio68@yahoo.com  
**Outside** Unaffiliated Individual

**Organization:**  
**Received:** Jan,18,2011 22:40:32

**Correspondence** Web Form  
**Type:**

**Correspondence:** Hello- I am writing to support this proposal. Thank you for your efforts to bring a reasonable compromise to the table. I think this is a fair decision-- there will be areas that dogs are free to be off-leash, but other areas where they are on leash. Not all dogs are well controlled by their owners and it's good to know there will be some areas for folks to enjoy without worrying about interference from off-leash dogs.

---

**Correspondence ID:** 180      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS

**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA

**Email:** eatobin@yahoo.com  
**Outside** Private citizen, dog owner Unaffiliated Individual

**Organization:**  
**Received:** Jan,18,2011 23:10:14

**Correspondence** Web Form  
**Type:**

**Correspondence:** To whom it may concern, Please keep the east beach on Chrissy field open to off leash dogs. The experience of walking on the beach with my dog is one of the all time great San Francisco experiences for this native. Providing the variety of activities at Chrissy field has turned that area into our Central Park. Please maintain the diversity of activities on Chrissy. thank you, E Tobin

**Correspondence ID:** 181      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS

**Name:** -

**Address:** - CA  
USA

**Email:** smayer@thegrid.net

**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Received:** Jan,18,2011 23:14:31

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Regarding the plans for Muir Beach, your Preferred Alternative totally bans dogs from the beach. There is absolutely no logical reason for this.

My preferred alternative is Alternative A, which would require dogs to be on leash adjacent to the environmentally sensitive areas, but would leave the beach available for voice control. This would still be easily enforceable by park personnel. With appropriate signage, visitors w/ dogs for the most part would keep their dogs out of the sensitive areas. The higher dunes, lagoon area, riparian areas, and trails can easily be marked for banning dogs or keeping them on-leash on trails. Sensitive areas could also be fenced off in an environmentally friendly manner to keep people and dogs away. When fish are running in the creek, it could be posted to keep dogs out during that brief period.

Muir Beach has been known as a dog friendly beach for decades, long before GGNRA ever existed. People are much more destructive than dogs. Most dog owners are responsible, and are usually environmentally aware and supportive. If you go to Muir Beach on a weekend, dog owners have their dogs under voice control and clean up after them. The only problem I have seen is the trash left on the beach by humans. And I am not aware of any dog who has left a cigarette butt on the beach or dug fire pits in the sand - again, humans are the culprits, not the dogs.

The choice of having to go to Rodeo Beach is a slap in the face of dog owners. It is not safe for dogs near the water, whereas Muir Beach is frequently low-surf and dog-safe. Why not have two beaches as off-leash voice control areas?

A compromise for Muir Beach is the best alternative. A total ban on dogs, which is what your "Preferred" Alternative is, is just unfair. By the way, who "prefers" that alternative? What citizens who use the beach were asked to weigh-in on that plan? How many citizens were able to have a say in that alternative? As of this last Sunday, Jan. 16, 2011, there was no visible public posting about this plan. Why is that? I heard about this proposal through word-of-mouth, from someone who read an article about it in the IJ. This proposal needs to be posted at the beach, w/ directions for the public on how to respond.

---

**Correspondence ID:** 182      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS

**Name:** -

**Address:** - CA  
USA

**Email:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Outside Organization:**

**Received:** Jan,19,2011 00:45:47

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** The proposed plan to severely limit the amount of off-leash territory within the Fort Funston Recreational Area is, plain and simple, a terrible idea. I would imagine that most of the people who are using Fort Funston are dog owners who live in an urban environment. Lot sizes are typically 25' x 120' in San Francisco, so it is not like a pet dog will have sufficient room in a yard to run at full speed and just to be a dog. We have been going to Fort Funston for many years with the various dogs we have owned. While there may be a few dogs that have adjusting to the social situation out there, the vast majority of dogs are perfectly well-behaved off leash. If a dog cannot behave properly toward other dogs and humans, then he/she should be leashed. It doesn't mean that all of the dogs should be leashed. If people don't want to be near unleashed dogs, they should go to the 99.9% of the city that does require a leash.

The tiny off-leash area is a joke and is much, much too small given the available space out there. Dogs need to run

in large open spaces and to have the room to socialize, leave a bad situation if it arises, and the proposed space will provide neither of those things. If anything, it will do the opposite.

Please leave Fort Funston the way that it is.

Thank you for listening.

---

**Correspondence ID:** 183    **Project:** 11759    **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** -  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan,19,2011 01:09:01  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** While there may be a need to reassess the dog "zoning", the changes seem drastically skewed towards increasing on-leash restrictions and decreasing accessible areas. Of particular disappointment is the fact that many of the trails designated for on- or off-leash walking do not connect or do not create loops. It would be better to have a designated series of trails from a centralized starting point (e.g. Rodeo Beach or Donahue) that can provide owners with a variety of distances and terrain to walk their dogs. I urge you to reassess the proposed dog-friendly trails. It would be a travesty to see Fort Funston change from the dog-heaven it currently is.

---

**Correspondence ID:** 184    **Project:** 11759    **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** suzcleee@juno.com  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan,19,2011 09:51:02  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I have concerns over the areas being limited by dogs off leash. Penalties should be applied to the ones that violate the off leash rules. If you take away these areas, there will be more dog fights with the crowding. Many persons that are disabled enjoy the comfort of a their animals. They provide mental health stimulation also. The dogs need places they can run. Several of the areas you are restricting the dogs and owners enjoy for stress relief and mental well being. Some owners are disabled and can only go in areas that you are restricting. They may have to walk with canes or W/C. Thanks for your time.

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**Correspondence ID:** 185    **Project:** 11759    **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** -  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan,19,2011 11:12:05  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I feel that the new proposals greatly limit the areas available for off leash dogs. Particularly Ft Funston, Ocean Beach, and Crissy Field. These are ideal locations for dogs to enjoy running free and they should remain so.

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**Correspondence ID:** 186    **Project:** 11759    **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS

**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** -  
**Outside** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Organization:**  
**Received:** Jan,19,2011 11:32:24  
**Correspondence** Web Form  
**Type:**  
**Correspondence:** As a dog owner, I am not fond of, nor do I support off leash areas for dogs in general, unless they are a dedicated dog park. I do however support increased National park access for dogs on leash only. Responsible dog owners like myself should not be punished or excluded due to the lack of consideration of a few individuals.

Offleash dogs create a hazard for wildlife, hikers, bike enthusiasts, and other dog owners. While some owners may argue that their dog is "well behaved", and causes no problems, that is entirely subjective. What is well behaved to one may appear out of control to others. Additionally, dogs off leash create problems for on leash dogs, as the dog on the leash may feel at a disadvantage, and become aggressive, which leaves the poor leash holding dog owner in a position to try and not only control thier dog, but the dog that is off leash as well.

In short, allow on leash access, increase the areas open to reponsible dog owners, and eliminate off leash access altogether. Enforce the law with fines, and generate some much needed revenue for the park system.

---

**Correspondence ID:** 187     **Project:** 11759     **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** lisaannethomson@hotmail.com  
**Outside** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Organization:**  
**Received:** Jan,19,2011 11:39:54  
**Correspondence** Web Form  
**Type:**  
**Correspondence:** Access to beautiful beaches, parks and other outdoor spaces is a huge part of what makes living in the Bay Area so great. There are thousands and thousands of dogs living within Bay Area homes - in fact some statistics show that there are more dogs than children in San Francisco - and being able to share recreation with our dogs in these great outdoor spaces is both a joy and a necessity for both the dogs and their owners. I understand that not all dog owners are as responsible as we'd like, but the vast majority of people understand the importance of responsible dog ownership and make sure that their dogs behave in an appropriate and safe (for everyone) manner while in public places. On-leash walks are okay in a pinch, but do not allow dogs to run and play and get real exercise. If anything, we need more places where we can let our dogs off-leash, under our supervision of course.

Taking away our access to leash-free recreation areas will greatly impact the quality of life of many, many residents (and their dogs) and I hope you seriously consider the bigger repercussions of this plan before implementing it.

---

**Correspondence ID:** 188     **Project:** 11759     **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** stefanie.miller@earthlink.net  
**Outside** NPS Unaffiliated Individual  
**Organization:**  
**Received:** Jan,19,2011 11:51:52  
**Correspondence** Web Form  
**Type:**  
**Correspondence:** Recently I decided to join and support the NPS through membership, but am very surprised and disappointed at the proposal to limit dog walking if not outright ban dog walking in certain areas. We live in Marin County and this is an extremely dog friendly area and is one of the best for families with dogs. We all believe in protecting wildlife but we also believe in protecting existing rights to dog walking. If other wildlife truly need protection, please do so in the least restrictive way regards to dog walking. If dog walking becomes terribly restrictive, then the pendulum

will have swung too far the opposite way and will impact many family dogs and families themselves by not having places to dog walk which is completely unacceptable. In fact, more places should be open to responsible dog walking. We have a 4 month old dog that we have been taking to classes at the Marin Humane Society for obedience and will certainly have a dog under voice control and encourage that to be a requirement, but will not support bans and greater restrictions. I know we feel as strongly as the majority here in Marin.

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**Correspondence ID:** 189      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:**  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan,19,2011 12:51:50  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** In order to enhance the enjoyment of all users of public areas, especially national and state parks, I am in support of restrictions placed on dog owners / dog access. Thank you and best of luck in your efforts! - SEE

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**Correspondence ID:** 190      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** -  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan,19,2011 12:52:05  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Hi,  
  
It is very important to me to have space available for my dog to run free and the Golden Gate Recreational area is a wonderful space. Please consider keeping the laws the way they are.  
  
Thanks, jess

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**Correspondence ID:** 191      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** marcy\_potter@hotmail.com  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan,19,2011 13:45:18  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Dear GGNRA:  
  
RE: GGNRA Draft Dog Management Plan  
  
I urge you to maintain the current open areas and allow dogs to have several areas throughout the Bay Area to run free. Maintaining the off leash area is very important to the health of our pets and the community.  
  
Regarding the limit of dogs for the Professional walkers (licensed, trained, insured walkers), I strongly support that up to 8 dogs per walk is fine for those licensed professionals. I am fine with any additional licensing for each

individual dog.

Thank you for your careful consideration this matter.

Sincerely, Marcy

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**Correspondence ID:** 192    **Project:** 11759    **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** -  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan,19,2011 13:49:57  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am a San Francisco parent with kindergarten aged twins.

I am in favor of the proposed changes. There are many parts of GGNRA that we simply cannot use because they are overrun with off leash dogs. One of my kids is very fearful of dogs. Everywhere we go, we find that dogs are running up to us. As my daughter cowers in fear, the dog owner usually says something like "oh, he's very friendly." That doesn't matter, my daughter should have the benefit of using our public parks without fear of having her personal space intruded upon by "friendly" dogs.

We can't even go to Chrissy Field, Ocean Beach, Baker Beach, etc. because of the off leash dogs. One time we tried the beach at Chrissy Field only to be overrun by dogs. As I carried my crying child away, one dog owner, said "don't come to this beach if you don't like dogs." I like dogs fine, I even used to have a dog, but this really has to stop. Give the dogs a safe enclosed area of their own to run off leash. They shouldn't be allowed off leash everywhere.

Thanks.

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**Correspondence ID:** 193    **Project:** 11759    **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** jim@think-local.com  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan,19,2011 14:42:05  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I applaud your efforts! I am not a dog owner, but appreciate responsible ownership.

I approve of increased restrictions, especially in wildlife sensitive or heavy use areas. Having lived near Fort Mason for a couple of years, I am in favor of Alternative C - ROLAs. There are quite a few dog owners in the area who want to walk to an area for their dog, and I feel like the ROLAs would be appropriate. This would reduce the tendency to violate off-leash restrictions on the Great Meadow. If there are no ROLAs, I feel that people will be more inclined to ignore the rules unless there is heavy enforcement.

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**Correspondence ID:** 194    **Project:** 11759    **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** -  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Organization:****Received:** Jan,19,2011 15:24:13**Correspondence Type:** Web Form**Correspondence:** This is an unnecessary plan that continues a long process by government of taking away citizen rights and enjoyment from the majority so that you can pacify the more vocal minorities. An overwhelming majority of dog owners are responsible people who clean-up after their pets and have control of their animals. Stop wasting our taxpayer dollars on 2400 pages of ridiculous new rules! The current restrictions are more than are needed and should be loosened, not tightened.**Correspondence ID:** 195      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106**Project Name:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS**Address:** -  
- CA  
USA**Email:** longhualsalt@gmail.com**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual**Received:** Jan,19,2011 15:43:12**Correspondence Type:** Web Form**Correspondence:** Please keep the parks open and accessible to dogs and people who and care for them. So little of the city has space for dogs as it is, to further limit the spaces available for dogs to run and play would be a tragic loss of my rights as a dog owner and citizen of the county and state. Jules Wilt**Correspondence ID:** 196      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106**Project Name:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS**Address:** -  
- CA  
USA**Email:**  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual**Received:** Jan,19,2011 15:44:51**Correspondence Type:** Web Form**Correspondence:** As a long time resident of San Francisco as well as a dog owner for many years one of the things I love about living here is that despite being the resident of a city I still have the ability to take my dog out for real exercise within a few minutes walk or drive. This city is unique in that you never feel cut off from water, green or areas of outdoor activity. Many people--myself included--continue to live here in spite of the expense because these resources are available to us and our pets.

As the owner of a large dog who lives in the city I, like many, do not have a yard for the dog to get adequate exercise and no matter how many hours I walk him the amount of exercise he can get on leash is not enough.

I think it would be wise to consider the demographic that exists in San Francisco--many people who start families opt to move to the North Bay, East Bay, etc., leaving a large number of active, single or couples without kids, many of whom consider their dogs their children. This is the same demographic that spends a great deal of money going out to dinner, shopping and otherwise bringing much needed cash flow into the local economy.

In fairness, I think that irresponsible dog owners should be penalized--this includes those who don't clean up after their dogs, those with dogs not under their control and especially those with aggressive dogs. Aggressive dogs are not appropriate for off leash areas under any circumstances and those owners who put others at risk deserve harsh penalties. The suggestion of having a few small areas for off leash play is a recipe for disaster--the inevitable outcome is an overcrowded area with a bunch of hyped up dogs and not enough space...not a good situation for anyone.

I take my dog to Chrissy Field almost every day. He runs on the sand, swims and plays with other dogs. We also go to Ft. Funston on weekends. Without the ability to conveniently take my dog out I would seriously reconsider paying the excessively high costs of living in the city--if I were to need to drive over a bridge simply to let my dog

play what would be the point??

I would strongly request that this plan be reconsidered. There are better alternatives that will allow non-dog people (because in reality that's really what this is about) to enjoy the park without feeling encroached upon.

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**Correspondence ID:** 197      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** -  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan,19,2011 16:11:01  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I oppose the draft plan submitted by the GGNRA on the basis of the restrictions placed on dog owners visiting Chrissy Field. In the current plan, dogs will not be allowed off-leash along the best beach areas at Chrissy Field. I have two labs who love to fetch their balls and romp in the water. They get fabulous exercise at Chrissy Field, in part because they are so excited to be there and to run in the waves. The slope of the beach is perfect for the dogs, who can chase each other and frolic in the waves without the worry of a steep drop-off or dangerous waves.

We only visit Chrissy Field in the morning. At that time of day, unless it is a particularly warm day, the dogs and dog owners vastly outnumber sunbathers. Even so, I walk my dogs on their leashes down to the water, take them off their leashes when we have reached the water, and put them back on their leashes to travel back through the sandy area to the parking lot. We pick up after our dogs, make sure they do not enter any protected areas, and confine them to the shoreline to alleviate any concerns of sunbathers.

If it is determined that it is necessary to impose restrictions at Chrissy Field, I believe that a far better approach would be to confine off-leash access to certain times of day. For example, if dog owners had access to the beach from 8-11 am in the winter and from 7-10 am in the summer, and possibly for another hour at an appropriate evening time, everyone's needs could be met.

Thank you for your consideration of my comments.

Very truly yours,

Marta Cervantes

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**Correspondence ID:** 198      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** lobospoint@yahoo.com  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan,19,2011 16:46:52  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am very saddened to see you trying to eliminate all off leash locations for our dogs to run. I visit San Francisco quite often since my daughter lives there. We visit the marin Headlands and Crissy Field with our dogs . Eliminating these resources would be a big mistake. Please do not take this away from us !!

---

**Correspondence ID:** 199      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA

**Email:** -  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan,19,2011 16:50:54  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** The draft Dog Management Plan appears to have been thoughtfully developed. It takes into consideration the different and at times conflicting needs of various constituents, and has arrived at workable conclusions. I support the plan as contained in the draft.

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**Correspondence ID:** 200      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106

**Project Name:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Address:** - CA  
USA

**Email:** -  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Received:** Jan,19,2011 17:01:32  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** With off-leash areas dwindling everywhere, I have to come all the way from Oakland for beach access and good walking paths for my dog and I both to exercise. I am distressed to see it threatened, and for no good reason. The more we are forced to keep dogs indoors with nowhere to run, the worse their manners and social skills will be, leading to fewer and fewer pet dogs. Perhaps that's your intent (PETA, anyone?).

Dogs need to exercise, and for that they need room to run, and room to keep appropriate social distance from other dogs who show up. The smaller and more cramped it all is, the less useful and healthful it will be. Keep the fields open, and honor your many dog-owning residents near and far.

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**Correspondence ID:** 201      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106

**Project Name:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Address:** - CA  
USA

**Email:** -  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Received:** Jan,19,2011 17:09:50  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** 1. Muir Beach: I prefer Alternative A. I have been using this beach for years to recreate with my dog and I see no problem with the current practice of voice control on the beach. I have never witnessed conflict between dog-owners and other users. I have never seen aggressive dogs or poorly controlled dogs. The beach is clean and owners clean up after their dogs.

"B" and "C" look identical to me. Is there a difference?

2. Rodeo Beach: I prefer Alternative A. The trouble with the ROLA "preferred" option is that a few non-compliant individuals could ruin it for the rest of us. Management could decide to close the beach to dogs at any time due to non-compliance. Why let a few bad eggs ruin it for the rest of us? Instead, enforce the rules of voice control and punish only the wrong-doers.

3. Marin Headlands Trails: I prefer Alternative A. It is the only option that allows dogs on the Coastal Trail/Wolf Ridge/Miwok loop. There is no other alternative that allows for a loop trail experience of moderate length (about 4 miles). All other trail options, whether voice control or leash options, offer only shorter loops (.75 miles around the lagoon) or trails that require doubling back to approach the 4 mile desired length. The trouble with Headlands trails, in general, is that there aren't enough loop trails of moderate length. This is the only hike in the area that fits that bill. I would love to be able to continue hiking it with my dog.

"B" and "D" look identical to me. Is there a difference?

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

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**Correspondence ID:** 202      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** -  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan,19,2011 17:15:37  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** My female shepherd-lab is 15 (I'm happy to report) and she has been my companion for walks at Baker Beach, Fort Funston, Chrissy Field, and Stern Grove for all of those years. I raised my three children in the city, and two of the three have also acquired dogs as companion animals now that they've reached adulthood; they also use these same off-leash areas, and we often enjoy walks together with our dogs and their children, as a family. I am an attorney, and would like to share a legal principle that I think applies to the alternatives proposed in the GGNRA Draft Dog Management Plan: Equitable estoppel. This legal doctrine serves to "estop" someone from making a legal argument or taking an action that affects another's rights when four elements are present. In this situation, I believe that the GGNRA is estopped from radically restricting off-leash access by residents of the affected areas and their companion canines because these elements apply, as follows: (1) the party to be estopped (in this case, the GGNRA) was apprised of the fact that dog ownership has been growing exponentially in all of the areas affected by this proposal; (2) the GGNRA intended that the liberal off-leash policy be acted upon, or acted so that the parties asserting the estoppel (in this case the dog owners) had a right to believe it was so intended; (3) the dog owners were ignorant of the true state of facts, that being that the off-leash area could be radically restricted; and (4) the dog owners relied upon the conduct of the GGNRA to their detriment. I don't believe it is an exaggeration to say that 10s of 1000s of people in the affected counties, including me and my family members, have relied on our detriment on the amount of off-leash area available to us when we made the decision to acquire a companion dog. Many were ignorant of the fact that the GGNRA could effect the drastic curtailment of off-leash dog park area proposed here and, if the most restrictive alternative is adopted, will face a bleak reality. If the most restrictive alternative is adopted by the GGNRA, there will be severe, really unimaginable, overcrowding in the remaining off-leash areas (for example, Stern Grove). This is what causes problems -- too many dogs in too little space. I am a responsible dog owner. Ninety-nine percent of the dog owners I encounter on my daily off-leash walks are equally responsible. The only problems I see are with dogs who have not been spayed or neutered. Perhaps a less restrictive alternative would be to require that all intact dogs be on leash on GGNRA property. As a 60-year-old woman who relies on my daily off-leash walks as the centerpiece of my physical and mental health regime, I'm imploring you to retain enough off-leash, voice control area so that I, and the 10s of 1000s of other responsible dog owners in the affected areas, can continue to safeguard their own health and the health of their dogs with off-leash walks of sufficient length so that those health benefits can continue to be accessed. Despite severe arthritis in my elderly dog, and my own mild arthritis, both of us are active and healthy, primarily because we can walk on dirt or grass, rather than concrete, for a mile or two each day. Overcrowding in off-leash areas will effectively exclude older dogs like mine who cannot see or hear well, and therefore will, quite simply, be knocked down and quite possibly injured by the younger, more active dogs. My dog likes to sniff and explore. I like to keep up a steady, rapid pace so that I derive full health benefits from my walk. My needs and that of my dog can only be mutually met if we are not joined by a leash. Not to mention our social needs. My dog is running freely with another dog, getting the vigorous exercise she requires, while I am visiting with the dog owner. Many many residents of the affected areas, like me, derive the majority of their social contact from the dog park. Human connections are made there that benefit the community as a whole. Dog connections are made there that provide the essential socialization that ensures that the dog will function well in both human and dog communities. Leashes interfere with these connections, plainly and simply. Please...please, leave us the off-leash area we require to be happy and healthy.

---

**Correspondence ID:** 203      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** nadelcel@gmail.com  
**Outside Organization:** Muttville Unaffiliated Individual

**Received:** Jan,19,2011 18:23:04  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I would like to see statistics of dog attacks in these areas, because my perception is that such issues are very rare, and we cannot legislate based on fear alone.

Even if there are official public safety data to sustain the theory that unleashed dogs present a constant danger to general population, I would like to see a proposal that offers alternatives and some level of compromise. Maybe some days of the week days could be with leash, some without. Or maybe we could split the areas, 1/2 on leash, 1/2 without leash...

It makes me very sad to imagine all dogs & dog owners condemned to lack of exercise and happiness...

---

**Correspondence ID:** 204      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** mnewf@yahoo.com  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan,19,2011 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** GGNRA are key places where people can let their dogs off-leash.

---

**Correspondence ID:** 205      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** Bambooskaa@aol.com  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan,19,2011 19:03:54  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Hello, I would like to add to your list of open areas where dogs should not be allowed to be off-leash. I'm talking about the beach at San Quentin. It is a very small beach and there are too many people bringing dogs to this beach where families and small children come to enjoy their day. My small dog has been attacked 5 times from dogs at this beach. I live here. Its not fair to me or to other small dogs that tend to be mistaken for a cat. I have seen a number of dog walkers bring up to 5 dogs on this beach. They don't pick up after their dogs. The beach is left filled with dog poop almost every day. I worry about little kids being exposed to poop. Most of the people that come down to the beach like to swim. I have seen dogs pee and poop right in the water next to small children. Its just not safe for people and dogs to mix together at this beach. Please consider making it mandatory for people who want to bring their dogs must keep them on leash at our small beach. Its just too small and too dangerous for dogs to be off-leash at our beach.

Thank you for your consideration

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**Correspondence ID:** 206      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** -  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan,19,2011 19:32:55  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am opposed to the draft regulations which further restrict the ability of responsible dog owners to enjoy public recreation areas. The number of locations where dogs can be off leash and under ice control should be increased,

not furer restricted.

---

**Correspondence ID:** 207      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** -  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan,20,2011 00:16:29  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am a frequent visitor to Crissy Field and Fort Funston as well as other GGNRA areas. I visit these places because of the restrictions in Sonoma County. There is only one private beach near me (Dillon Beach in Marin) that I can take a dog off leash. Dog walkers are also hikers, and we need places to walk and hike our dog off leash. Small dog parks are fine for small dogs perhaps, but I like to hike with my dog. So many places are already off limits to dogs such as all California state parks. The majority of dog-owners are responsible and clean up after their dogs. Some dogs do disturb wildlife, but in all my years of hiking with my dog, I've never observed any dog attacking birds. We can all share in the parks. Let's keep our off-leash areas!

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**Correspondence ID:** 208      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** -  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan,20,2011 10:18:50  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I agree with the Naciona Park Services efforts to either ban dogs completely or allow dogs only on leash in designated areas in the GGNRA. Thank you.

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**Correspondence ID:** 209      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** broth23@gmail.com  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan,20,2011 11:12:25  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** As a resident of Muir Beach, I strongly endorse Alternative A (voice control for dogs). I also strongly endorse Alternative A for Marin Headlands Trails.

As part of your analysis, please understand the Muir Beach is a neighborhood with close communal ties. It is also a community with responsible dog-owners who very much respect and appreciate the surrounding natural beauty. As such, banning or restricting dogs from Muir Beach and the surrounding areas would have a harmful impact on the social ties of this community. Further, I have discussed these proposals with several environmental consultants. They agree that additional dog restrictions or bans would not significantly reduce the environmental impact....so long as dog-owners abide by the signs that indicate sensitive areas. As a daily beach-visitor, I can attest that dog-owners are overwhelmingly compliant and respectful?and they do abide by these signs. There is no need to implement new laws as self-policing as well as current law enforcements are more than adequate deterrents.

Thank you, Brian

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**Correspondence ID:** 210      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106

**ID:**  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:**  
**Outside** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Organization:**  
**Received:** Jan,20,2011 11:37:53  
**Correspondence** Web Form  
**Type:**  
**Correspondence:** It would be a real shame to restrict all park areas to dogs on leash or banning dogs altogether. I appreciate the need to strike a balance between dog owners/dog lovers and those who prefer to enjoy recreational activities without dogs in the vicinity. Please keep some parks, particularly Fort Funston and parts of Crissy Field, open to dogs off leash. It's important for society. Thank you.

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**Correspondence ID:** 211      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** -  
**Outside** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Organization:**  
**Received:** Jan,20,2011 11:56:20  
**Correspondence** Web Form  
**Type:**  
**Correspondence:** To whom it may concern, regarding the Draft Dog Management plan for the Golden Gate National Recreation Areas:

My dog and I have visited Fort Funston an average of two or three times per week for the last five years, while we have been residents of the Merced Heights neighborhood. As I have walked my dog literally over 1,000 miles on that beach, off-leash and under voice control, and as I continue to be a regular user of the recreation area, I hope that my comments will be given due consideration.

I appreciate the need for review of dog policy in our parks. Environmental protection and sustainability are crucial considerations, as is human safety. I deeply hope that the review board is able to institute new regulations that are beneficial to the preservation of the environments, while also not impinging on residents' ability to walk dogs off-leash.

It is critically important to provide large spaces in which residents can walk dogs off-leash. Most breeds of dogs (especially medium or large-sized dogs) are difficult or impossible to adequately exercise on-leash. Not all dog owners are able to run long distances with their dogs, including the elderly and disabled. Those people should still have a right to own dogs, and to take those dogs to places where they can run and play freely. San Francisco is a compact city where many residents have little or no backyard space of their own, and most private parks and athletic fields don't allow dogs, or are on-leash only. This is why it is so important to continue to dedicate a portion of our public recreation space to dog owners.

Dogs that are inadequately exercised develop behavioral problems such as barking, digging under fences, and biting, as ways to burn off energy and stave off boredom. Dogs that are well-exercised are happy and well-behaved. I fully believe that this is why the frequency of bad incidents related to dog behavior at Fort Funston is extremely low: dogs who visit Fort Funston regularly are healthy, happy dogs. In five years of very regular visits to Fort Funston, I have never witnessed a violent incident between dogs. The vast majority of dog owners I see there either exercise responsible voice control, or keep their dogs on-leash.

Dog walking is also valuable exercise for people. In this day and age where obesity is epidemic, one of the most important services our local parks can provide is an incentive for people to get out and walk. This is why I think it would be tragic to limit the voice control portion of Fort Funston and other recreation areas to small spaces. Walking their dogs gives people a reason to get out of the house and get some exercise. It is a sad idea to take that incentive away, or to limit dog-walking to a small fenced area where there is no room for people to walk.

I also strongly oppose the limiting of voice-control areas at local parks other than Fort Funston, because reducing

off-leash access at one place will only over-crowd the remaining options, leading to more rapid environmental wear-and-tear. If anything, we should expand the amount of space available for voice-control dog walking, thereby spreading out the environmental impact.

A quick glance at all local recreation areas and nature preserves makes it clear that most outdoor areas disallow dogs fully or are on-leash only. There are ample spaces available for non-dog-owners to enjoy. Dog owners have few choices already, and I sincerely hope that the new policy will not limit them even further.

The fencing and signage for habitat restoration areas at Fort Funston is inadequate. The fences are broken and buried in many places, and they are not dog-proof fences in the first place. People disregard the boundaries because the boundaries aren't clear. It does not seem to me that it would be all that difficult or expensive to build and maintain adequate fencing and signage in the parts of the park that are being reserved for habitat restoration or breeding of sensitive species. I would strongly support the allocation of park resources to determining and maintaining these boundaries.

I would also support limitations on the number of dogs that can be walked at a time by a single person. Professional dog walkers are pervasive during weekday hours at Fort Funston. While most of them are good at keeping track of their dogs, I often see that it is hard for one person to keep adequate track of the waste produced by 10 or 15 dogs at once. Their environmental impact is also obviously disproportionately large, as compared to residents walking their own dogs. Since professional dog walkers are using the recreation area as a key component of earning their livelihood, it makes sense to me that they should pay a reasonable fee for that use, and that there should be permits required for walking more than a few dogs at a time.

Personally, I would be willing to pay an annual membership fee in exchange for the right to walk my dog under voice control at the recreation area. It's a hugely important part of my life. It is my dog's favorite thing to do, and the several miles we walk there two or more times per week are an important part of my weekly exercise regimen. Fort Funston helps keep me and my pet healthy, along with the hundreds of other dogs and dog owners who walk there on any given day. Please do not take that away from us.

Plan A for Fort Funston, which preserves the way that the space is used now, is the only alternative that is viable. Additionally, please note that the current and already large volume of traffic supported by Fort Funston would only increase if voice-control access was restricted at other areas. Therefore I am asking you to preserve voice-control access that exists now in all areas relevant to the Draft Plan, and to consider expanding access rather than restricting it. I also urge you to build and maintain adequate fencing and signage for restricted or habitat-restoration areas. Finally, I support the implementation of reasonable permits or fees, especially for professional dog walkers, if that is what is necessary to maintain voice-control dog walking access to the parks.

Sincerely,

Robin Gold

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|                              |   |                 |       |                  |       |
|------------------------------|---|-----------------|-------|------------------|-------|
| <b>Correspondence ID:</b>    | 212   | <b>Project:</b> | 11759 | <b>Document:</b> | 38106 |
| <b>Project Name:</b>         | Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  |                 |       |                  |       |
| <b>Address:</b>              | - CA<br>USA   |                 |       |                  |       |
| <b>Email:</b>                |   |                 |       |                  |       |
| <b>Outside Organization:</b> | Unaffiliated Individual   |                 |       |                  |       |
| <b>Received:</b>             | Jan,20,2011 12:16:51  |                 |       |                  |       |
| <b>Correspondence Type:</b>  | Web Form  |                 |       |                  |       |
| <b>Correspondence:</b>       | Having lived in San Francisco, visited the areas covered and having been a dog owner in some of those years and now recognizing the need to protect the environment of the parks, I clearly see the need for control of park land for future generations. I support the uniform adoption of Plan D, leash control for individual dog owners and no use for commercial dog walkers. Individuals must take responsibility for their dogs and the message must be clear, enforceable and respected. I did not read any mention of enclosed dog parks, but I do know that these are used in Sacramento and have served pets and people very well. Perhaps pet owners could organize to explore possibilities for having enclosed dog parks. For opportunities to enjoy the natural beauty of these areas with native plants, and creatures, young families, seniors and handicapped persons need safe access. Dogs on leash make it possible for pet owners to enjoy the same privileges. Golden Gate Recreation and the National Park Service needs to protect |                 |       |                  |       |

and plan for the benefit and safety of all users. Thank you for doing that job.

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**Correspondence ID:** 213      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** nquinn@quinn-assoc.com  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan,20,2011 12:32:35  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I support the balanced approach to dog management, and am completely opposed to Alternative B, which would require that all dogs remain on leash at all times. Our dog has been going to Fort Funston with his dog-walking group for almost 12 years, and this experience has kept him healthy (at age 13) and well-socialized.

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**Correspondence ID:** 214      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** -  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan,20,2011 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** To whom it may concern: this draft is a complete load of garbage. You want to say it's about nature and the environment but, it's not. It's about uptight conservationists who don't like dogs. 99% of the parkland in this country is not dog friendly. The same goes for San Francisco. Don't try and tell us that the environmental problems at Fort Funston are a result of dogs and not the result of active bombs buried in the ground, military war construction or that giant pipe that's pumping sewage into the ocean. Please.

People who don't like dogs, which is what this is about, are free to go wherever they want in this city. You want to chastise dog lovers, and owners like myself, my wife and my friends by saying "hey, every other national park doesn't allow dogs so be grateful for what you have?" Well first, as someone who has an annual parks pass and has been to every National Park in this country, let me say, screw you! I love our parks and I hope to keep them pristine. Part of that love is a love for animals. I have adopted two dogs from the San Francisco SPCA. As someone who takes it upon myself to remove some of the burden of unwanted animals off of the city taxpayers, I would like to have somewhere to take those dogs and let them run around. Further, no other city in the country is as effected by the title "National Park" than San Francisco. You're basically saying that the majority of this city's parkland is subject to the same stringent rules and regulations as an isolated place like Denali or Death Valley. Again, give me, give us, a break!

Do you know how many of the rescued and rehabilitated dogs from Michael Vick's dogfighting ring are in this city? Many of them. Shouldn't they have a place to go?

My family and I live in this city for a lot of reasons but, one of them is the dog friendliness. I honestly have to say that I will reconsider living here should this pass. This is solely about whining special interest groups and dog-hating morons who want the world to revolve around their inability to handle variety in the city.

I'm sorely disappointed and disgusted in this place and in the parks departments ridiculous agenda. I hope that this will not pass.

Sincerely,

Justin Jennings San Francisco Resident Dog Lover Dog Owner

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**Correspondence** 215      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106

**ID:**  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** rebeccaowl@gmail.com  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan,20,2011 12:41:17  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** San Francisco has always been one of the most dog-friendly cities in the country. And having established dog-friendly policies, behaviors and customs, it is no surprise that many people living in this city have dogs. We have chosen to have dogs not only because it is our right in our pursuit to happiness, but because we live in a city that is, and has always been friendly and accommodating to dogs. We are committed to San Francisco and to our dogs and consider them members of our families.

That being said, having and caring for a dog in a city where most people do not have yards and live in small apartments is hard and very big commitment. It is a labor of love and sacrifice much of the time. It has been established and accepted for years that dogs are allowed at the currently designated state parks in the city. Essentially, this is the backyard that we all share. Taking dog areas and off the leash areas away now is like saying private boats are no longer allowed in the bay because a few of them are leaking oil and running into seals. Yes, those things are bad, but they are not the majority of boats who enjoy the bay everyday. People have chosen this city and built their lives around the values and choices in lifestyle it believes in and upholds. Taking the parks away from dog owners and dogs is essentially putting almost every dog in the city in a kennel.

I do acknowledge and agree that there are people that abuse the GGNP's dog friendly policies. Namely, the "professional dog walkers" that bring 7-10 dogs to the park at a time in their small trucks several times a day. There is no way that one person can control that many dogs off the leash or even on sometimes. It is also these dog walkers that do not pick up their dogs waste. I have told many dog walkers that one of their dogs has defecated here or there, and most always they say they "did not see it" some just flat out ignore me. This is really unacceptable because is their JOB to see it and pick it up. It is what they are getting PAID to do. If they can't see that one of their dogs has defecated, even once, then they have too many dogs with them. There are also regular people who feel entitled to leave their dogs feces on the ground. These are the people that are ruining the enjoyment of the park for others including other dog owners. The majority of the people that use these parks and bring their dogs here, love these parks and keep these parks clean. I see dog owners that go along picking up other peoples trash along the beach as they walk their dogs!

I agree these problematic dog issues need to be stopped, but I propose that instead of banning all dogs or leashing dogs in parks, under the guise of an "environmental issue", when dogs have been allowed in these parks for years, we deal with the real problem of the bad dog owners and professional dog walkers.

Nobody (even those of us that have and love dogs)wants dogs at the park that are out of control, dig huge holes in the sand, defecate and have it not picked up, or run into others and disturb others right to enjoy the parks. These "bad" dogs are the product of and the responsibility of bad owners. These dog owners are the ones that should be punished. They give everyone else that treats these parks with respect and like their own back yard a bad rap. It's completely unfair and unjust to take away the rights of all because of a few who abuse their rights.

If the city imposed a maximum dog per person rule in parks and a very strict and expensive fine for not cleaning up dog waste, I believe this would change many of the issues that led to this proposed plan. Let's ticket someone \$100 for not picking up their dogs waste. Let's ticket them \$500 for a second offense. Let's ticket dog walkers \$1000 for bringing more than 3 dogs to the parks. Let's ticket dogs that are not licensed with the city.

For example, if the city imposed a fine of \$500 for leaving dog feces on the ground in a national park, a ranger could probably give out 50 tickets a day. That's \$25,000 A DAY. More than enough to cover the salary of someone appointed to oversee and fine bad dog owners.

I am fine with all these tickets because I am not going to get a ticket. I don't do these things, nor does the majority of San Francisco dog owners. Charge huge fines for bad owners because the majority of us think of these parks as our backyards too and we grew up in them, we take our families to them (including our dogs) and we keep them the way we keep our homes. We respect the rights of others and keep our children and dogs under control. We respect the environment and other peoples right to enjoy the park and to walk around without looking at or stepping in dog feces. No one likes it. In fact we are the people that come with extra poop bags from home to

restock the baggie areas.

We all know that the streets in San Francisco are crowded with cars and pedestrians and bikers. And we all know there are bad drivers on the streets. These bad drivers are dangerous and disrespectful to pedestrians as well as other drivers. What happens is that these drivers get tickets and punished AND the city makes money from these fines. We don't stop everyone else from driving around because some bad drivers hit pedestrians, pollute the air with bad exhaust, damage city property, double park during rush hour or hit other peoples cars and leave the scene.

This pendulum approach to problems is not working. We don't need to go from one extreme to the opposite fix issues at hand. This mentality has not fixed things in the past and it will not fix the current problems in the parks. Many people in the city have dogs. Wealthy people, poor people and even homeless people. Dogs have always been part of this city. Dogs need a place to run and play and interact. Taking away the parks or leashing dogs is not a solution, because it creates a new problem, dogs caged up in small apartments, on city streets or confined to small areas of city parks where the sod quickly become muddy and disgusting due to overcrowding too many dogs in too small an area.

Lastly, people who understand dogs, know many leashed dogs act completely different off leash. Leashes are not natural for dogs and create an environment in which a dog may feel threatened because they are restrained and cannot behave like dogs instinctively do with each other. The best thing someone can do if a dog is becoming aggressive with another dog while on the leash is drop the leash. This changes the entire dynamic and does not result in a dog fight, it results in a "conversation" between the dogs and everyone can then go on their way. Off the leash, dogs can interact, socialize, exercise in a natural way.

I understand and support dogs being leashed on the streets and public places for the safety of everyone including the dogs. However, I have been to Chrissy Field at least three times a week for many years and I have never witnessed a dog fight between dogs off the leash. On the contrary, I have seen dogs on leashes lunging and growling at each other walking down the streets as they pass one another everyday. Mandatory dog leashing at dog parks is not an alternative "solution" to the problem. In fact it creates more tension, more potential for aggressive behavior and deters from the enjoyment of both dog and owner.

The solution is to target the people creating the issues such as the dog owners and walkers with too many dogs, not picking up dog waste and not training or bothering to keep their dogs under control. All people, including dog owners, would enjoy the parks more if these people were eliminated. And like traffic fines, it could even become a revenue stream for the city.

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**Correspondence ID:** 216      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** -  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan,20,2011 15:12:49  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** My wife and I support Alternative A. We've been visiting the Crissy Field east beach for many years, and find it to be one of the most spectacular urban recreation areas in the world. It's notable--and representative of San Francisco's unique character--for the diversity of its visitors and of their activities, from runners and dog walkers to kite surfers and even the occasional swimmer. The sight of dogs cavorting happily there adds substantially to this area's wonderful appeal. We've never encountered any sort of problem involving the dogs, and we urge that current practices in this regard be continued. It's not broken; we need not fix it.

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**Correspondence ID:** 217      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** natashadolby@yahoo.com  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Received:** Jan,20,2011 00:00:00

**Correspondence** Web Form

**Type:**

**Correspondence:** As a dog owner, I am for a plan that clarifies where dogs are allowed, but ensuring there are places in a city--whose identity is in part to be a dog-friendly city-- where our dogs can play off-leash and be dogs. My two dogs absolutely love Crissy Field and whenever we bring them down we usually bring our baby with us too: it's a complete family outing. There is no other place north of SOMA where one can do that. In addition, why are there no hiking trails in the headlands where dogs are allowed to be off-leash?

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**Correspondence ID:** 218      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS

**Name:** -

**Address:** - CA

USA

**Email:** jrb@MagicHourVentures.com

**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Received:** Jan,20,2011 15:59:31

**Correspondence** Web Form

**Type:**

**Correspondence:** As a San Francisco native and dog lover and dog owner (temporarily residing in Washington but in SF half-time) I'd like to comment on the latest plan.

In my view, the problem which requires regulation is not dogs, but dog owners who are blind to the consequences of their failure to control their pets.

Were these animals truly under voice control, and accompanied by a caretaker who was actually taking care, there would be no need for regulation.

Unfortunately this is not the case. While one frequently hears "He won't bite," what the dog's custodian is right about is that their dog won't bite THEM. And, when a bite isn't the issue, having a dog thrust their muzzle into your crotch, or jump up, or knock down an infant (all of which I have experienced from dogs required to be under voice control) their assurances to the contrary, then government is called upon to remedy the absence of common sense on the part of the dog owner.

Fact: dogs are animals that don't always perform as expected.

Fact: dog owners are inordinately forgiving of their own transgressions of both the law and safety and freedom from canine harassment.

Fact: dogs are guiltless in this regard, since they cannot correlate expectation and appropriate behavior (one of the reasons they are so loved, but not by all).

Fact: If a human did what dogs frequently do in off-leash areas (and all too often in leash law areas where the owner thinks the laws don't apply to them) that human would be subject to arrest and prosecution.

Why, then, should we accept behavior in dogs that is inappropriate for all, in public spaces? The answer is that if we had a proficiency among dog owners as one finds in Europe, where animal custodians take their responsibility (to both dog and fellow human) much more seriously and conflict between dogs and between humans and dogs is virtually unheard of, regulation would not be needed and all could play in peace.

Since dog owner myopia is so frequent, the regulations proposed are minimal when public safety, recreation, and enjoyment of these resources are considered. These resources are meant to be SHARED, not ceded to the self interest of some. Since humans would not be tolerated who behaved as many off leash dogs do, dogs should, if need be (and need is) leashed.

But please don't blame the dogs. They're guiltless. It is the dog owner, careless when they should be careful that necessitates regulation and I admire the responsiveness of the G.G.N.R.A. to protect the recreational importance of these resources for ALL, not merely the loudest.

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**Correspondence ID:** 219      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS

**Name:** -

**Address:** - CA  
USA

**Email:** stumblingoblin@yahoo.com

**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Received:** Jan.20,2011 16:04:19

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Regardless of decisions made, people will continue to allow their dogs to run off-leash in the less populated areas of the GGNRA. My concern is that when a mountain lion or coyote attacks somebody's dog that the wild animal will be seen as a nuisance and killed. (I've already watched coyotes stalk leashed dogs, so this is just a matter of time.) I'd like to see some sort of safeguard in place for the animals that belong in the parks rather than for those that only visit. Maybe posting warning signs. I don't want to see more signs, but some people don't believe that their dogs are seen as trespassers or moving snacks to local fauna. My main hope is that when somebody complains that Spot found one cat that it shouldn't have chased that the park sends flowers to the dog owner rather than a firing squad for the mountain lion.

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**Correspondence ID:** 220      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS

**Name:** -

**Address:** - CA  
USA

**Email:** -  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Received:** Jan.20,2011 16:42:30

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** My main experience is with Chrissy Field, where my wife and I often walk our 15 lb poodle mix under voice control. The majority of people with whom we interact come away with a positive experience from our dog, and we have never had a bad experience interacting with other dogs in the area.

From Appendix G, I see that there was only one report taken for dog bite/attack in Chrissy Field in all of 2008 (with no citations and no warnings). The only remaining reports from 2008 are all leash citations/warnings/reports (with the exception of one pet rescue), which leads me to believe that the Police are OVER-patrolling the area, if anything.

I certainly don't understand how these seemingly benign conditions could warrant a change in existing laws to a more restrictive leash environment. There were no complaints, so I don't understand the motivation behind a change in the Chrissy Field regulations.

If it is asserted that environmental considerations are the driving factor in a regulatory change at Chrissy Field, I would ask to see evidence that leash laws decrease the environmental impact of pets. My own experience is that negligent owners will allow their animals to harm the area through digging or through uncollected feces regardless of whether the animal is on a leash or not.

You can count myself and my wife as generally opposed to any change in leash law regulations in and around San Francisco, and specifically opposed to a change at Chrissy Field.

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**Correspondence ID:** 221      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS

**Name:** -

**Address:** - CA  
USA

**Email:** whhouston@yahoo.com

**Outside Organization:** Personal Use Unaffiliated Individual

**Organization:**

**Received:** Jan,20,2011 17:04:43

**Correspondence** Web Form

**Type:**

**Correspondence:** I strongly oppose creating any restricted areas for dogs at either Chrissy Field or Fort Funston. As a dog owner, those areas are vital (and rare) spaces where my dog is free to interact with the environment. A contained space is simply not the same for a dog, or a dog owner. It would also significantly hinder my use and enjoyment of the space. In fact, although I am a frequent visitor to both parks now, I would be unlikely to go at all if the only option was a penned in space. We need places in the city that are free spaces for dogs and taking away those limited spaces is just unacceptable.

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**Correspondence ID:** 222      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS

**Name:** -

**Address:** - CA  
USA

**Email:** -

**Outside** Unaffiliated Individual

**Organization:**

**Received:** Jan,20,2011 17:25:21

**Correspondence** Web Form

**Type:**

**Correspondence:** Running with our dog Rubicon freely on Crissy Field's East Beach is not only a true pleasure and joy, but critical to maintaining her physical and emotional well-being (as well as our own!).

By allowing Rubi to be off leash, she can get considerably more exercise than when tethered to her slower human counterparts. She is also able to socialize with other dogs of all ages and sizes easily. This also is good for her fitness and mental health. Leashes severely encumber the ability of dogs to intermingle as they get tangled, often around people legs, threatening injury to the dogs and their owners. The limitations that leashes impose will discourage the activity and socialization of dogs and our entire community, not just the dogs and their owners, will be worse off.

Off leash allowance encourages proper training and socialization of dogs. It affords greater physical and emotional health of dogs and their owners. And it therefore contributes to a better overall society.

Please support the happiness and health of our community by allowing dogs to be off leash.

Sincerely, Eliza Lochner

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**Correspondence ID:** 223      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS

**Name:** -

**Address:** - CA  
USA

**Email:** -

**Outside** Unaffiliated Individual

**Organization:**

**Received:** Jan,20,2011 17:34:06

**Correspondence** Web Form

**Type:**

**Correspondence:** It is very important that my dog be able to have space to run. There are already too many parks that don't allow dogs to be off leash. Let us keep the ones we have.

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**Correspondence ID:** 224      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS

**Name:** -

**Address:** - CA  
USA

**Email:** -

**Outside** Unaffiliated Individual

**Organization:**

**Received:** Jan,20,2011 00:00:00

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I've lived in Muir Beach for 35 years and raised numerous dogs as well as children here. Removing the dogs from this community or those that come from afar from the beach would be an end of a wonderful tradition that allows dogs the freedom to exercise and play as well as to interact with other dogs and people on the beach. If they became wild packs of dogs attacking this environment I would feel differently, but as I write I watch dogs playing on the beach harming no one.

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**Correspondence ID:** 225      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS

**Name:** -

**Address:** - CA

USA

**Email:** simondarcy1@yahoo.com

**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Received:** Jan,20,2011 18:05:26

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** We are longstanding San Francisco residents with a dog in our family. Like most residents in the City of San Francisco, we do not have a lawn or yard. Our only chance to provide our dog with the exercise and activity he needs is to take him to places like Chrissy Field, where he can run off leash, play fetch and socialize with other dogs. In fact, one of our dog's favorite activities is to visit the beach at Chrissy Field, play fetch and go swimming to retrieve his ball. He can't wait to get out on the sand and in the water when we bring him down there. It is also one of our favorite activities. We are extremely responsible dog owners, as are the other dog owners down at Chrissy Field. We respect other visitors, always pick up after our dog and ensure that he does not bother anyone. We have never encountered any negative responses or feedback from other non-dog owners visiting the area. In fact, just the opposite. Most people's faces light up when they see our cute, happy, friendly black lab running along the beach. We are also very aware of how lucky we are to have a place like Chrissy Field to take our dog. Therefore, we pay particular attention to respecting the area, the environment and respecting other visitors.

We are also fairly new dog owners, having just added our black lab to the family in May of 2010. That said, we have both lived in San Francisco for over 15 years and were frequent and regular users of the Chrissy Field and the Presidio long before having a dog. We even lived in the Presidio for 3 years. Neither of us ever encountered any problems with dogs during our years of usage and, in fact, always found the dogs and their owners to be extremely respectful. Not only that, but the presence of dogs and their games and happiness adds an element that would be sorely missing if dogs weren't allowed or were severely restricted in their areas of use and play.

Dogs make people happy. Dogs and people have happily coexisted at Chrissy Field for decades. Taking away this idyllic place for dogs and their owners harms everyone and the community at large. It means the world to us to be able to bring our beloved Bruno down to the beach and see the joy in his face. The city and Chrissy Field would not be the same if adopted the proposed policies. Please leave Chrissy Field as it is.

Thank you,

Darcy Manning, San Francisco Resident since 1994 Mother to Bruno Manning 10 month old Black Lab

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**Correspondence ID:** 226      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS

**Name:** -

**Address:** - CA

USA

**Email:** -

**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Received:** Jan,20,2011 18:10:22

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Please do not take away the pleasure of Fort Funston and Chrissy Field for our dogs. My dog Odie goes with his beloved dog walker to Funston every weekday, and most weekends my husband and I take long hikes there with

him. It is his second home. There is nowhere else in the world he is allowed to run free with his dog friends, and being able to do so has been crucial to socializing him. I believe that if it were not for Funston, he would not be as happy and well-socialized as he is today. Some of my most treasured memories involve taking Odie to Funston on a gorgeous weekend and walking alongside the ocean throwing a stick. It's the simple things. Please don't take that away from us.

---

**Correspondence ID:** 227    **Project:** 11759    **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA

**Email:** -  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Received:** Jan,20,2011 18:29:10

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I would like to support restricting dogs in GGNRA and make sure that they are on the leash ALWAYS. I work as an outdoor educator in GGNRA and I have encountered many dog incidents in the park while I was with my students. For example, a dog peed on my students backpack and a dog ran up to my student and took sandwich out of her hand. I have also seen dog chasing wildlife and disturbing its habitat. One time a buck deer died as he was running away from the dog in the lagoon. I think it will be solved if we can make a rule to put dogs on the leash just like we used to have it as a rule here in Marin Headlands.

I like dogs but we can never be sure that all dog owners are responsible dog owners. I think it is reasonable to make this rule.

---

**Correspondence ID:** 228    **Project:** 11759    **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA

**Email:** -  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Received:** Jan,20,2011 18:30:16

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Even though my dog is small - she needs to run a great deal. Fort Funston is one of her favorite places to go as it is the only park where she is not scared of the other dogs and that is not full of mud or mosquitoes in the winter. She cannot get the exercise she needs on leash. Fort Funston and the other parks are already packed full of dogs - restricting the size of off leash play would make it dangerous for small dogs and people protecting them as they would be confined in the same areas that aggressive large dogs also are playing. Thank you,

---

**Correspondence ID:** 229    **Project:** 11759    **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA

**Email:** -  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Received:** Jan,20,2011 18:54:29

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** PLEASE do not approve this plan!

San Francisco is a dog-friendly city, considering its relatively small size and high population density. It is hard enough to have a dog in any city, but this new policy will make it VERY difficult on our local dogs, who need fresh air an exercise just like we do. There is very little privately-owned green space in the city. Our parks and our

beaches are our yards.

The vast majority of dog owners are respectful, law-abiding citizens who clean up after their pets and follow the rules. Please don't punish these people and their dogs by implementing a plan like this, which is directed at those who are disrespectful and irresponsible.

Lastly, you might be surprised to note that there are more dogs in San Francisco than there are young children. Please keep this in mind before you pass this bill.

Thank you, Marshall Smith

---

**Correspondence ID:** 230    **Project:** 11759    **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** schacht@gmail.com  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan,20,2011 19:55:34  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** As a resident of San Francisco, I am extremely concerned to read about the proposed additional restrictions limiting off-leash dogs to small areas in Fort Funston and other recreational areas. For almost all of my friends and neighbors in Noe Valley, the current regulations allowing dogs on voice command at Fort Funston is one of the few reasons we are able to still live in the city. There is extremely limited space to allow "dogs to be dogs" and run extensively throughout the city. Fort Funston is one of those few gems that allow dog owners to ensure their dogs get the type of exercise they need. Some may argue that a smaller space for off-leash dogs would be a better solution - but they are wrong. With the number of dogs that use fort funston on a daily basis (as part of the economic infrastructure of the dog-walking community), a space the size of a football field will simply not work.  
  
Please reconsider the changes to the off-leash policy and at least allow Fort Funston as this area in the city for the thousands of dog-owners and their dogs who enjoy it ever day and on the weekends.

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**Correspondence ID:** 231    **Project:** 11759    **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** anniem926@hotmail.com  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan,20,2011 19:56:36  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Please do not take away or reduce off-leash areas in the city. As a dog owner and resident of San Francisco, I truly value these spaces and cannot imagine where we would go to allow our dog to exercise and run freely. Fort Funston and Crissy Field are two of the best locations for our dog, Frankie, to be able to get the exercise he needs while socializing with other dogs. Responsible dog owners like us deserve to continue to use this space without further limitation.

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**Correspondence ID:** 232    **Project:** 11759    **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** toddwandell@mac.com  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan,20,2011 20:29:21

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I have a yellow lab. Having an off leash park such as Fort Funston and Chrissy Field was crucial to me adopting this dog from the SPCA. I knew he needed lots of exercise - which he can't get on leash. Please keep these parks off leash dog friendly. Dogs need it.

---

**Correspondence ID:** 233      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS

**Name:** -

**Address:** - CA

USA

**Email:** atrepp82@yahoo.com

**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Received:** Jan,20,2011 21:30:31

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** As a responsible dog owner, I feel that that dog management plan draft is far too limiting for the large number of us responsible dog owners. Looking at the map with the proposed dog areas at Crissy Field, half the main areas where dogs have the most fun will be off limits. While I do feel off leash dogs must be under strict control by their owners, cutting the few areas where dogs can RUN, is a terrible direction for the GGNRA to take.

Yours truly,

Alice E. Trepp

Alice E. Trepp

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**Correspondence ID:** 234      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS

**Name:** -

**Address:** - CA

USA

**Email:** -

**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Received:** Jan,20,2011 21:35:18

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** My 70 pound dog and I live in San Francisco. Both Ft Funston and Crissy Field play a large part in his regular off

leash exercise (I take him to Ft Funston on a regular basis and my dog walker uses Crissy Field). I rescued my dog 15 years ago off the street when he was only 3 months old. The dog friendly nature of San Francisco played a large part in my decision to keep him, knowing he was going to be a big boy and would need off leash exercise on a regular basis. Please consider the large population of dogs in the city that use these parks and need to run around off leash after a long day of waiting for their guardians to come home. Thank you! Hannah and Moon

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**Correspondence ID:** 235      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS

**Name:** -

**Address:** - CA

USA

**Email:** -

**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Received:** Jan,20,2011 22:04:45

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I have raised, trained and handled dogs all my life. I don't currently own a dog, but go to Ft. Funston on a daily

basis to be around dogs and hike. Since I "don't have a dog in this fight", I believe I am objective and can provide some insight. As a canine enthusiast, I still respect the fact that not everybody wants to be around dogs. I also realize that very few owners (or dog walkers for that matter!) actually have voice control of their dogs. I think the limit of 6 dogs for walkers is appropriate. Regarding the "Preferred proposal": It seems workable and reasonable. The only flaw I see is that the "no dog area" North of the access trail is often inaccessible at high tide, due to a

outcrop of rock from the cliff. I don't think this is fair to people who don't want to be around roaming dogs. I would keep the "no dog area", but make the beach (to the South) between the access trail and the sewer outlet pipe an on-leash area. The beach from the pipe to the sand ladder trail could ROLA. This would provide a landmark (the pipe) to define the two areas. It would also allow dogs to access the "voice control" area from the North or South. I think it provides plenty of beach for ROL. Regarding Crissy Field; I don't think it is workable to have ROLA at the water line. I think sections of beach have to be designated as I proposed for Ft. Funston.

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**Correspondence ID:** 236      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS

**Name:** -

**Address:** - CA  
USA

**Email:** -

**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Received:** Jan,20,2011 22:32:15

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:**

The new plan will more densely pack areas increasing the already horrific danger for small dogs. PLEASE like other places in the bay area and thruout the country, PLEASE PLEASE PLEASE, reserve some off leash spaces for SMALL dogs only and have them enclosed. There is no such area in san francisco. We desperately need them. New york has them, South peninsula has them, many places have them. why not san francisco? The danger to small dogs of predatory drift from larger dogs is real. All that needs to happen is that a bee can sting a small dog or a dog can get is foot caught, and if he runs yelping or bleeds, the primitive brain of the larger dog regresses and thinks "rabbit" attacks, the other dogs join in and the little one is finished. IT is horrible. It has nothing to do with good dog or bad dog, it can happen with dogs who have played together for years. IF you guys are going to increase this danger by packing more dogs into fewer spaces, you have the moral obligation to set aside some enclosed areas for SMALL DOGS ONLY. Thank you for your consideration. Why is san francisco so very dark ages on this issue. no enclosures for small dogs only in any park anywhere. plenty of other localities have them, why not us?

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**Correspondence ID:** 237      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS

**Name:** -

**Address:** - CA  
USA

**Email:** -

**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Received:** Jan,20,2011 22:46:17

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:**

I appreciate the hard, and thoughtful work that went into this document. I am a dog owner myself, and know how others love their dogs. In the interests not only of today's environment, but that of our children, however, I wholeheartedly support, without exception, your alternate D.

We are preserving these parks and this parkland for ourselves and our children, not for ourselves and our dogs, not for our children and their dogs. We don't choose to be born. We choose to have a dog. With that choice comes some responsibilities, the least of which is obeying the law.

I volunteer for the Park Stewardship program when I can, I spend part of almost every weekend hiking/bird+bugwatching through the parks. I love them for what they are, the wonders of the juncus plant pressing through wetlands, or the black shouldered kite hovering above some hill are sights that I want to preserve for my unborn grandchildren. The pressure of dogs on the environment make this much less likely to occur.

If dog owners were courteous, if they obeyed the on-leash signs, if they obeyed the no dog signs, then I would reconsider. But almost every time I have gone out hiking, I have found a dog off leash where it shouldn't be. Or more than one. On the Bobcat Trail. In the Crissy Field Marsh. In Kirby Cove. Tennessee Valley Beach. Lobos Creek. Off leash on Milagra Ridge. You name it, I've seen it. Just as often as not, these are big dogs! Their owners, on the few times I have pointed out that their dogs are NOT supposed to be here, or at the very least, supposed to be on leash, act as if I am violating a god-given right to own a dog, and then to permit this animal to run free, "in nature." While it's nature that it's plundering, as it disturbs a plover's nest, destroys one of the few non-argentinian

ant nests still around, or digs up a ceanothus in chase of some burrowing creature, thus permitting pampas grass to take over its recent excavation (this last I cannot claim to have seen fully, but over the course of years, have suspected it!)

In short, my vote is no dogs. A natural park is a privilege that we have maintained for humans, a natural park contains certain fragile environments. The dogowners that I have seen are willing to "let it go to the dogs." As a large population of dog owners - in fact, I would say the majority of dog owners I have encountered in my 25 years walking the parks break the rules, then they should not be permitted into the parks with their dogs. I realize that this will not satisfy a sizable population who do obey the rules, and who do want to give their dog an outing where there are wonderful smells to be had. And I also realize that they are not responsible for the aforesaid scofflaws. I am sorry for them and their dogs. But this doesn't change my decision. It is a pity that their access must be reduced, but in my view, it must. I hope that you will choose option D, and that you will have the resources to enforce it.

Respectfully submitted,

Owen Brown

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**Correspondence ID:** 238      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** jszim@yahoo.com  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan,20,2011 22:52:35  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I value California native species and habitats. I do not feel that dog walkers have the right to let their dogs run uncontrolled in these areas.

Voice control is NOT control. Enclosed areas would be acceptable for off- leash dog running.

I value children and people who are either disabled or fearful of uncontrolled dogs. That is another reason dogs need to be leashed.

Perhaps some owners clean up after their dogs. Unfortunately, a lot do not; and because of those unconscious people we have to deal with contamination in scenic areas. Another reason to keep dogs on leash.

Personally, I am tired of the strident demands of the dog owners and walkers. They are but one small but too vocal group.

For all the reasons above, I completely support the GGNRA Draft Dog Management Plan.

Sincerely,

James Zimmerman

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**Correspondence ID:** 239      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** -  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan,20,2011 23:49:27  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I am writing in response to the GGNRA Draft Dog Management Plan / Environmental Impact Statement. I own and operate a dog walking service serving clients in Southern Marin, and have done so since 2006. I frequent many of the areas in the draft, including the Homestead Valley fire road, Oakwood Valley Trail, Coastal Trail in the Marin Headlands, and Rodeo Beach South. I have completed the Trail manners class at the Marin Humane Society and am a Certified Dog Walker through DogTec. In addition, I have been working professionally with dogs and the public since 1997. Professional dog walkers provide a valuable service for Marin dog owners. Regular exercise provides a positive outlet for their pet's energy, reducing behavior issues that cause dogs to be surrendered to animal shelters, and nuisance behaviors such as barking. Dog walking companies also create jobs within Marin County. GGNRA trails are one of the few areas in which we are permitted to walk dogs off leash (under voice control). On leash walks do not allow dogs the freedom to run and effectively burn excess energy. For the majority of our clients, an off leash walk does not meet the exercise needs they have for their dog(s). Our company policy on walking dogs on public land allows our client dogs to run and play while having the least amount of impact on trails and other GGNRA patrons. We limit our groups to 5 dogs maximum, carry leashes for all the dogs, and clean up and remove dog waste on the trail. We call our dogs over and leash them when we see anyone approaching, though the most wonderful part about GGNRA trails is that we rarely see anyone. We keep our dogs on trails where dogs under voice control are permitted, and do not allow the dogs to damage vegetation, chase wildlife, or run off the trails. Prior to participation in group walks, we screen dogs for appropriate behavior and voice control. This includes an in-home interview with the owner and dog, and several weeks of on-leash walks to evaluate behavior. This allows us only accept non-aggressive dogs that respond well to voice commands. If there is no avenue for walkers to be responsible and legally walk dogs off leash, that increases the likelihood of dog walkers using GGNRA areas illegally. Walkers who violate on-leash regulations are also more likely to ignore common courtesy guidelines such as cleaning up after their dogs and keeping dogs under voice control. Being able to walk dogs at GGNRA is a wonderful privilege that I do not want to lose. I urge the National Park Service to consider keeping the current voice control areas open and available to both commercial and recreational dog walkers. The majority of dog walkers I see in GGNRA are responsible in their use of the trails with their dogs. I would encourage better enforcement of rules for dog owners not following protocols, including issuing citations where necessary. Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on the GGNRA Draft Dog Management Plan / Environmental Impact Statement, it is much appreciated.

Jessica Bay Urban Escapes [www.UrbanDogEscapes.com](http://www.UrbanDogEscapes.com)

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**Correspondence ID:** 240      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project Name:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Address:** -  
 - CA  
 USA  
**Email:** -  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan,21,2011 02:03:35  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** As a dog owner and tax payer of this city, I am perplexed. Our off-leash dog space is already limited to a fraction of the Bay Area's open space. Why not try increasing fines for people who violate on-leash or no-dog laws already in place before the draconian move to make off-leash dog play more difficult than it already is? Why not move to limit the number of dogs a professional dog walker can take alone if unsupervised dogs are the issue?

Bay Area dogs are as much a part of the environment as birds and flora. And further, if not exercised correctly, which means sufficient off-leash running, even the sweetest of dogs becomes noticeably more irritable and aggressive. These dogs then become more than ever a danger to each other and to people as well, in the urban settings we share. If dogs cannot exercise, you put them, their owners, their owners' families, and their neighbors at risk.

Further, social and scientific studies show the benefit of dog ownership to humans: the companionship, the bond, the exercise both dog and owner get outside, in the sunshine- no one can deny these are healthy both mentally and physically. Of all animals in the environment, dogs are the creatures who have evolved to serve and live for humans. Why do we not do all we can to protect them? They should be granted everything they need to be healthy and happy, for they make their human counter-parts the same.

We must compromise on this issue. Increase as much as you need to the fines for off-leash violations, for not cleaning up after dogs. Consider dog walker-licensing and regulation. Try these less punitive measures first, before taking steps that in the end actually punish even those who claim to hate and fear dogs. Because one of the worst

thing you can do to a dog's disposition is to prohibit the animal's instinctive, very real, need to run and play.

Finally, we are tax payers and supporters of the very parks we wish to use. We are also dog owners. We are hard pressed to see how our needs are not important in this study's focus. We trust with consideration, this proposal can be made more fair.

---

**Correspondence ID:** 241      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** oneeejit@aol.com  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan,21,2011 10:14:21  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am sorry to read this proposal which even further limits places for dog owners to allow their dogs any off leash activity. I agree that in sensitive habitat areas, or at certain times of the year, breeding or nesting seasons for example, it may be necessary to restrict access or enforce use of leashes. The recreation areas we have should be available for those of us who enjoy them with our pets, as well as those without dogs.

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**Correspondence ID:** 242      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** -  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan,21,2011 10:29:52  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Dear Parks Service,

I am greatly disturbed by the thought of many of San Francisco's beaches becoming inaccessible for off-leash activities. Dogs, just like people, need exercise to stay healthy and happy. Leash walking in a confined area is a bit like putting a dog on a gerbil wheel- not really exercise and certainly not fun for anyone.

Dogs are a wonderful counterbalance to the stresses of city life. Being able to roam freely with them on Chrissy Field, Ocean Beach, and Fort Funston is invaluable, since most of the city's parks and trails, and of course all the state parks, are closed to dogs entirely. In a time when our society is struggling with the issues of obesity, environmental destruction, and social alienation, the ability to play with your dog on these beaches encourages personal exercise, new friendships, and a raised awareness of the necessity of environmental stewardship.

I urge you to adopt Option A, a continuation of the current status of these parks and beaches, so that all of us living in this beautiful city can continue to enjoy health and happiness with our dogs.

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**Correspondence ID:** 243      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** dennisfluet@comcast.net  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan,21,2011 10:34:02  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Hi, I stable a horse at Miwok Livery...ride trails on a daily basis. When riding the trails especially at a trot or canter

it is totally unnerving to confront a dog off leash. There is no way to anticipate what the horse or dog will do...most dog owners feel their pet will not be aggressive toward the large horse...they have no idea how my horse will react or what will happen to me being in the saddle 5 feet off the ground! I realize the trails must be shared however it should be mandatory to have all dogs on leash on ALL Trails I contribute annually to the GGRA and appreciate the ongoing work that that has taken place over the past 5 years. Thanks Dennis Fluet

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**Correspondence ID:** 244      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** loujudson@mac.com  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan,21,2011 10:50:42  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I feel all dogs need to be on leash in all public parks, except in designated fenced areas. I do not wish to encounter dogs anywhere in parks, possibly excepting on leash with owners required to pick up their leavings.

NO DOGS!

Thanks very much.

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**Correspondence ID:** 245      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan,21,2011 11:59:09  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I know you'll get a lot of mail from the pro-dog community. I've reviewed your alternatives, and hope the options selected work out. I just wanted to let you know there are also members of the community that are anti-dog, of which I am one. The experience at the park is compromised when dogs are present.

Best of luck.

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**Correspondence ID:** 246      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** kinvor9@gmail.com  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan,21,2011 12:09:35  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** To Whom It May Concern,

I am very disappointed in our city, as a collective community, at the thought that we would further limit our commitment to our animal family members. I grew up in Marin and am now a home owner and small business owner in SF. I have three dogs, rescues, that I have adopted. Given my busy work life, my time with my dogs at Crissy field is very meaningful. I often equate it to church. As a bike rider and avid runner, I have trained my dogs where to walk and to come when called in the event that they are anywhere near an oncoming runner or biker. Although it would be hard to detail the degree of pure bliss my dogs feel when at Crissy field I can, with no

hesitation, share the pure joy that my dogs bring to those at Crissy field when we go. Some days its hard to get the entire walk in as people are so taken with my dogs and they love to watch, pet, interact..with them and at times Ive though to have a print out of answers to the questions people love to ask me about them. My dogs do not go into protective areas, I clean after them with great care and I have never seen an orphaned dog mess. This city is about its dogs and we need to pay careful to the decisions we make to limit our communities ability to interact with them. Such a considered measure does not represent us as city. I urge you to please consider this very carefully.

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**Correspondence ID:** 247      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** stevenkark@gmail.com  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan,21,2011 12:09:44  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** The proposed limits on dog offleash areas at Fort Funston and Crissy Field would be extremely detrimental to doga and their owners.I have a boxer who needs to be given large open spaces for exercise and play. She is taken by a dog walker to Fort Funston while I take her to Crissy Field. There is even a boxer meet-up once a Month at Crissy Field.

By limiting these areas to off leash, would only crowd exercise areas making the whole exercise plan an impossibility. Dogs would only get in each others path causing potential harm to all dogs.

DO NOT MAKE THE PROPOSED OFF LESH AREAS AT FORT FUNSTON AND CRISSY FIELD LIMITED IN SPACE IN ANY WAY. DOG OWNERS IN SAN FRANCISCO AND THEIR DIGS NEED MUCH BETTER THAN WHAT IS BEING PROPOSED.

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**Correspondence ID:** 248      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** -  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan,21,2011 12:31:17  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** From my perspective, the bottom line is options. People who do not prefer dogs have MANY more options of where they can enjoy activities without dogs. Living in an urban environment, I think we have to protect access to areas that historically have be open to dogs to get maximum excercise off-leash. Dogs that do not get enough excercise can cause even more distrupction to people who do not prefer dogs by way of barking & being a general nuisance when they are frustrated from lack of activity.

RE: environmental concerns, as I read the document the general impact seems to be low to moderate. Can't a buffer be created in those areas instead of limiting/eliminating access all together to those areas. Most people try to be very respectful if it clearly communicated why there is a need for protection to endangered wildlife/ecosystems. People that utilize the areas with dog access have a vested interest in protecting that access. Better communication and asking users to call on their fellow users to respect the rules (access, clean up, etc.)so as not to jeopardize use for everyone.

Bottom line it seems that the biggest concern is for people who do not prefer dogs and I think they should avoid those areas that they know there is a possibility that they might run into dogs (and that doesn't mean that people who let dogs off-leash shouldn't be responsible for their dogs being trained to obey voice commands to leave people alone and generally behave politely) and go to the MANY other places that they can enjoy the same activities where dogs are not allowed.

No way to avoid the fact that the SF Bay Area is not going to see any fewer dogs in the future as our population

continues to age, families have fewer children, and the high percentage of families that move out of the urban areas for more suburban room.

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**Correspondence ID:** 249      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA

USA  
**Email:** rebelmezzo@yahoo.com  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Received:** Jan,21,2011 12:51:21  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** First, thank you for posting these documents--it allowed me to have a much greater sense of the scope of the issues and the immense difficulty involved in resolving them to the satisfaction of all the interested parties.

As a San Francisco resident since 1993 (and dog owner since 1998), I am very grateful to have so many beautiful areas to escape to for recreation and exercise with my dog. In that time I have mainly utilized Fort Funston, although I have also visited Crissy Field and Land's End/Sutro Heights Park on rare occasions. I am also aware, having had many conversations with park rangers over these years, that maintaining these areas is a difficult, expensive, and time-consuming process. So, coming up with alternatives that address the need for balance between environmental and recreational uses, and lays out the different possibilities in an easy-to-understand and-compare format, is very much appreciated.

After having read the five alternatives you have listed, I would like to state that, IMHO, alternative C seems the most feasible, flexible, and (sorry, but it's the best word I could think of) humane way to deal with the issues involved in managing the GGNRA and the diverse needs of its users. I recognize that it will be a headache to deal with each park on a case-by-case basis, as this alternative seems to dictate, but I believe that, once it has been done, it is the best way to manage the usage of the parks in a way that will satisfy the most people. (Of course, being a dog person, I'd love to vote for alternative E, but I recognize that it's not the most realistic way to protect the interests of all the park users, nor would it be financially realistic to expect the NPS to provide MORE money to maintain park resources considering the current financial situation in our country.)

At any rate, thank you again for posting this, and for allowing the public to have their say. Sincerely, HL  
Waterman

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**Correspondence ID:** 250      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA

USA  
**Email:**  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Received:** Jan,21,2011 13:01:15  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** While I recognize the need to balance several factors, the proposed changes to Crissy Field and Fort Funston are particularly objectionable in terms of the new on leash areas. These two parks are some of the last refuges in the Bay Area for dog owners have to experience the beauty of these parks, get some exercise, and allow dogs to run. I have never encountered problems with the cleanliness of the area even with free-range canines present, and all of the dog owners take great care to clean up after themselves.

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**Correspondence ID:** 251      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA

USA  
**Email:** -

**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan,21,2011 13:06:01  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** By restricting the off-leash dog areas to such small portions of this outdoor space, when the legal places to have dogs off leash is already extremely restricted in San Francisco, you will just make those few places so incredibly crowded and they will no longer be enjoyable locations to visit. I sincerely hope that places like Crissy Field & Fort Funston will remain off leash dog walking areas for those of us who have dogs, and use the areas responsibly and enjoy them so much as they are now.

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**Correspondence ID:** 252    **Project:** 11759    **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA

**Email:** keafoster@aol.com  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Received:** Jan,21,2011 14:50:49  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I frequently walk Chrissy Field and also the walk paralleling the Presidio Golf Course with my Cairn Terrier. At Chrissy I and my friend who also has an even smaller dog feel that our dogs get far more exercise off leash than on leash. It is not so much for our dogs that I am requesting that you keep at least the area of the East Beach of Chrissy an off leash area, but for the sake of the larger dogs who really need to be able to run and play leash free. On the whole, owners have been wonderful about picking up after their pets and keeping badly behaved dogs on leash. I believe the walk area just before the warming hut and on out to the fort is an on leash area. Dividing Chrissy in that way is acceptable I believe. But to restrict the whole of Chrissy Field plus the other places you are planning to limit, leaves owners virtually no place where they can go to exercise their dogs adequately. Cannot we be fair to both dog owners and to non dog owners? Compromise is the key to satisfactory living conditions. Thank you for your time Ceseli Foster

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**Correspondence ID:** 253    **Project:** 11759    **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA

**Email:** -  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Received:** Jan,21,2011 14:52:25  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I do not own a dog. I am a resident who enjoys running, biking and hiking in Golden Gate park and Crissy Field. At Crissy Field's beach and greenway, it brings me happiness to see all beings - humans and dogs - able to play freely. When dogs and kids are able to release their pent-up energies by running around, they become happy, healthy, and playful. I have NEVER once felt unsafe around off-leash dogs. They are too excited exploring and romping to pay attention to me. Alternatively, I HAVE felt unsafe around human beings. A public park is a public park. If you are not going to ID potential criminals who walk onto the beach, then why restrict the most playful, obedient companion of humans - the dog? I ask the GGNRA to please not overreact, just because of a few bitter people. Allowing dogs the freedom to romp, will only result in happiness and playfulness for all.

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**Correspondence ID:** 254    **Project:** 11759    **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA

**Email:** -  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Received:** Jan,21,2011 15:48:08

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I have enjoyed most of the parks mentioned both before and after the National Park Service acquired them. I have enjoyed them as a dog owner and for the long period I did not have a dog.

I can understand the Service wanting uniform regulations in all its parks. However, this park was created as an urban park unique to the system and as such retained traditional practices and uses for the urban residents surrounding the park.

With respect to the increased management cost, is removing human litter any less expensive. Also what is the ratio of dog related confrontations as opposed to human related confrontations?

Also what about the positive aspects of dogs in the park? Most dogless people I encounter in the park smile when they see my dog, some ask to pet him, and children hug him. He has enhanced their park experience, and they like his.

San Francisco is a diverse community and will reject any plan that renders park usage less diverse. And let's not forget dogs have been part of this ecosystem for over 10,000 years.

To sum up: all of the adverse effects in the report are the result of increased number of visitors to the park.

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**Correspondence ID:** 255      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS

**Name:** -

**Address:** - CA  
USA

**Email:** -

**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Received:** Jan,21,2011 15:56:16

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Fort Funston and Crissy Field are two of our dog's favorite spots. She loves the ocean and she loves swimming in it without a leash on. There are so few places these days to let our dogs be dogs...especially in SF. PLEASE preserve some of the most amazing places for our dogs to roam and be happy. We need these places as dog owners and our dogs need them too. We would pay more in our dog license fee to cover the additional costs of preserving these places for our dog's benefit.

Thanks for considering!

---

**Correspondence ID:** 256      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS

**Name:** -

**Address:** - CA  
USA

**Email:** -

**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Received:** Jan,21,2011 16:52:44

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I AM A GREAT SUPPORTER OF OUR PARK AREAS...

...AND I AM ASKING YOU PLEASE DO NOT RESTRICT THEM FURTHER TO LEASHED AND OFF-LEASHED DOGS. IN ORDER TO HAVE HEALTHY, HAPPY WELL-ADJUSTED DOGS IN OUR COMMUNITY - WHICH BENEFITS EVERYONE (YOU HAVE TO ONLY SEE THE SMILES ON PEOPLE WHO SEE MY DOG!!!) - WE NEED TO HAVE ACCESS TO THESE IMPORTANT AREAS. IT MEANS EVERYTHING TO THE DOGS. IT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITHOUT WHAT I AS AN OWNER WANT FOR MYSELF. IT HAS EVERYTHING TO DO WITH WHAT MY DOG NEEDS. PLEASE DON'T TAKE THAT AWAY.

REGARDS,

PETER HAMADY COMPANION TO 10 YEAR OLD ANATOLIAN SHEPHERD

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**Correspondence ID:** 257      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** -  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan,21,2011 17:26:30  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I respectfully request that dogs be kept on leashes in public recreation areas and that their access be limited. Dogs, especially when off leash wreak havoc on the environment.

---

**Correspondence ID:** 258      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** runcator@gmail.com  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan,21,2011 18:06:05  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I applaud the NPS GGNRA staff for conducting what appears to be a thorough and thoughtful process in the face of adversity.

I am a frequent park user and feel like dogs on leash on large trails is a good thing. I don't think ROLAs belong in a National park. That use is suitable at local parks set up for that use without significant natural and cultural resources. I am particularly concerned with the ROLA on Crissy beach. So many significant natural resources are nearby.

Thanks you, Mark

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**Correspondence ID:** 259      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** -  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan,21,2011 18:36:37  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am a dog-owning resident of Northern California writing to say that I am so disheartened to hear of your plans to make even MORE public lands illegal for off-leash dog use. Visiting such areas is a vital part of my life, for my family and my dog. Please do not eliminate any areas that are already legal for this. In fact, add more! Thank you for listening.

---

**Correspondence ID:** 260      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA

**Email:** USA  
**Outside Organization:** - Rising International Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan,21,2011 18:37:34  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** As a tax payer and dues payer of the parks system, I love to walk my dog in nature. It remains one of my joys to see animals outdoors.

I sincerely hope that dogs are not prevented from parks. It makes no sense to me. I also like to see dogs allowed to be off leash (like at Fort Funston). They are animals, it is nature, I always pick up the poop. So what is the problem?

pLEASE do not restrict any more areas from letting dogs walk and run.

Thank you

Jocelyn

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**Correspondence ID:** 261    **Project:** 11759    **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA

USA  
**Email:** cbu@mindspring.com  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Received:** Jan,21,2011 19:40:29  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** While I am sympathetic with the need for dogs to have room to run, I find it very unpleasant to smell or step in the 'poop' that is often left where they do. A dog that has its own place to run will choose a spot, usually, for its bathroom. Not going wherever, whenever. However, dogs do like to mark that they've been there? wherever that is and, all too often, it's where I'm walking. :( I truly think that spaces set aside for dogs to run, where owners are responsible for clean up and are the one's who are most affected, is the best solution. Obviously, that can't be every park and path. I have no problem with setting aside areas for the dogs? I'll respect their space and not intrude. I'd like the same from their owners and the dogs themselves.

---

**Correspondence ID:** 262    **Project:** 11759    **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA

**Email:**  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan,21,2011 19:48:37

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Please keep all publicly owned land open to dogs, preferably offleash.

---

**Correspondence ID:** 263    **Project:** 11759    **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA

USA  
**Email:** lbottarini@yahoo.com  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Received:** Jan,21,2011 19:51:12  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** This area has peacefully coexisted for years. Why do we need to make changes? The dogs are well behaved and the owners are respectful of the native species and plants. We need this to stay dog friendly.

---

**Correspondence ID:** 264      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS

**Name:** -

**Address:** - CA  
USA

**Email:** -

**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Received:** Jan,21,2011 21:16:46

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** To Whom it May Concern: I have read parts of your huge EIS and tried to understand the Executive Summary, which baffles me. I wonder if you are trying to obfuscate the real reasons for your extreme position regarding dogs. I live in Muir Beach and this has been a dog-friendly beach for many (40+) years. I have lived here for 16 years and can see the beach from my window. Most of the times I see dogs frolicking at the waters edge and swimming. They are having more fun than the people and they are far less destructive than the people also. If a dog wanders into the "new lands" area, it is the responsibility of their guardian to call them back....if that doesn't happen it is the person who is at fault since dog's can't read signs. On a nice weekend most of the playing in the creek mouth is by children who often build dams (mostly boys) across the endangered salmon habitat. After a big weekend there is also alot of trash that I pick up as do others in my community. I never saw a dog leave trash behind, unless you are talking about their feces and again, a responsible pet owner picks that up. There is definitely far more destructive behavior perpetrated on this area by humans than by dogs.

Muir Beach is a wonderful place to live - surrounded by open space and vast hiking trails....unfortunately we have only one trail (the coastal trail) where we can hike with our dogs and you want to take that away from us too. If I understand your position, the only place dogs would be allowed is on Pacific Way and the beach parking lot. Really, that is absurd. Muir Beach is a small beach that is dog-friendly. People who do not like dogs can go to one of the many beaches in the area that are already dog-free. Why would you want to take away the one beach left for people to recreate with their dogs. I thought Golden Gate Recreation Area was for recreating - and that means playing at the beach with your children and/or your pet. Children are far more noisy and destructive yet you wouldn't think of banning them....so why are you picking on dogs? Especially here in probably the most dog-friendly area of the country. From what I read in your EIS you are suggesting that people and their dogs go to Little Beach! This is ludicrous. The road to and from there (sunset way) is not equipped to handle any more traffic. It is basically a fire road and needs to remain that way. There is no parking and what little there is on the roadside is usually residential parking. There are no facilities at Little Beach and during the winter months the beach is pretty much unusable as the sand washes out and it becomes just another bit of rocky coastline.

I read that 99% of GGNRA land is already dog-free - that means 1% is available for people and their dogs. If this is in response to people not liking dogs I find it difficult to believe that the NPS could not let us keep the measly 1% that we have to enjoy our pets. I actually feel that this whole issue should be turned around and dogs should have more off-leash areas when there is such a minute portion of federal lands where they are welcome. What's with the bad attitude toward dogs? I hope that the NPS and the GGNRA can see the error of this plan and continue the status quo here at Muir Beach or, better yet, open more of the trails to people and their faithful companions.

---

**Correspondence ID:** 265      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS

**Name:** -

**Address:** - CA  
USA

**Email:** -

**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Received:** Jan,22,2011 10:04:36

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I live very close to the beach, and run or walk on Ocean Beach at least 3 times a week. I love seeing dogs playing and running around, and appreciate how many dog owners have good voice control of their dogs, and clean up after them with great care. Although I do not own a dog myself (allergies), I enjoy having friends with dogs come visit and often take them down to the beach for some doggy fun.

I also recognize that not everyone shares my comfort level with dogs, and that some might not be able to enjoy the beach as I do if dogs are allowed everywhere.

And I also love seeing the sweet snowy plover running with the waves. We are so fortunate to have a range of amazing and beautiful wildlife so nearby. On days when I don't want to leave my cozy house to get some exercise I remind myself that I might get to see plover or some of my other favorite shorebirds, which gets me out and down to the water.

I think the park service has shown great sensitivity to the many competing needs and interests at Ocean Beach. The preferred alternative plan allowing dogs off leash on the northern end of the park, and then allowing for an area with no dogs further south appears to strike a good balance. Although it might mean that people who live further south would have to walk or drive their dogs the short hop up to the northern parking lot they would retain a great nearby place to play and enjoy, while allowing for some much needed dog free zones.

At the moment, although there are intended to be leash-only areas I very rarely see any dogs on leash at ocean beach. I have even seen dog owners encouraging their dogs to chase the birds to get more exercise, not realizing how vulnerable the snowy plover are. I have also seen disagreements erupt between dog owners and beach visitors who are uncomfortable with naturally friendly and curious dogs. Perhaps if there are clearly designated dog zones and dog-free zones some of these tensions can be more easily resolved.

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**Correspondence ID:** 266      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** -  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan,22,2011 10:57:43  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I have a German Shorthaired Pointer who needs ample room to run off leash. It is extremely difficult to find beaches and parks where dogs are allowed off leash. The preferred alternatives for some of the areas restrict off leash areas even more. Please consider allowing more off leash areas for dogs who simply like to play fetch in an open area with other dogs.

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**Correspondence ID:** 267      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** -  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan,22,2011 12:29:27  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Dogs need a large area to run especially large dogs. By restricting the GGNRA to dogs on leash, that will force all dogs into dog parks which are far too small especially for large breeds. People that don't own dogs simply don't understand this point. The GGNRA is not a national wildlife preserve, it is a recreation area as it states in it's title.

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**Correspondence ID:** 268      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** jgarcia95003@gmail.com  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Received:** Jan,22,2011 00:00:00

**Correspondence** Web Form

**Type:**

**Correspondence:** There are more dog owners than ever. The state and national parks need our tax dollars more than ever. Limiting usage to people without their companion animals limits the money and support you will get from people. Not only that but dog owners are tax payers too and using dog owners as a scapegoat so you can make things "easier for you" is not going to work in the long run.

Dog owners will pay lobbyists for their right to be on tax payer property with their companions. We are very serious about maintaining our rights. Owning an animal is not a "one time deal" for the majority...it is a lifelong decision and we always will have them.

ATV's, mountain bikes, strollers, etc are all allowed but dogs on leash you want to prohibit? Dogs off leash during certain hours has somehow left you open to some sort of liability perhaps? Remember that WE OWN YOU and not the other way around

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**Correspondence ID:** 269      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS

**Name:** -

**Address:** - CA

USA

**Email:** -

**Outside** Unaffiliated Individual

**Organization:**

**Received:** Jan,22,2011 13:28:14

**Correspondence** Web Form

**Type:**

**Correspondence:** I understand the need to balance and protect natural resources- but a balance does not appear when there are few to zero areas for which dogs can run off-leash. Dog owners and dog walkers rely on these areas to ensure the sanity and safety of our dogs. If these resources become only for humans- our city parks with small dog-runs will be overburdened with dogs who are not properly exercised. Without exercise, like humans, dogs will not only be mentally challenged but curbing their natural instincts for exercise will make for complicated gatherings at dogs parks already overrun and burdened with human excrement and trash. I am speaking of the two parks (Duboce and Dolores) near my house where it is not safe for my dog to play with other dogs. Appropriate percentages of off-leash spaces helps the communities in the cities and other humans- there are already extremely large areas of the city and surroundings dedicated to only humans- cramming dogs into even smaller spaces because people want 100% all areas for people only is not sustainable or reasonable.

---

**Correspondence ID:** 270      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS

**Name:** -

**Address:** - CA

USA

**Email:** timsnye@comcast.net

**Outside** Unaffiliated Individual

**Organization:**

**Received:** Jan,22,2011 14:00:00

**Correspondence** Web Form

**Type:**

**Correspondence:** My animals are my family. They need to thrive by running and playing just as a child would. If they are not allowed to do so, just like a child, they will develop anxiety issues which may cause a collapse of the family environment. They poop, we clean it up. They do not venture in designated wild habitat areas. They are voice commanded. I would suggest dog owners need to buy a yearly "off leash" license. Possibly 100 dollars a year. The revenue would be tremendous and could be used for lots of things. I'm positive that dog owners would volunteer to help "police" those few dogs/owners that may need the rules explained. Please consider other possible options.

Thank you.

---

**Correspondence ID:** 271      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS

**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA

**Email:**  
**Outside** Unaffiliated Individual

**Organization:**  
**Received:** Jan,22,2011 14:21:12  
**Correspondence** Web Form

**Type:**

**Correspondence:** I am strongly against eliminating or further limiting access to GGNRA spaces for responsible dog owners and their pets. I pay taxes to use the areas just as others do, I abide by the laws set forth, my dog is well trained and under my full command at all times, I pick up after my dog. In contrast, parents that take their children to the GGNRA; I have witnessed many instances in which those people or their children do not abide by the laws--much less common courtesy to others who use the areas. I have personally witnessed dirty plastic diapers dumped on the ground or merely tossed into trash cans, infecting all open surfaces with fecal bacterial contamination where my dog's feces are completely picked up, securely bagged and disposed of properly immediately. On visits to the park, I see mostly candy wrappers and other trash from children and adults who do not bother to respectfully pick up after themselves. Most disturbingly, I have witnessed many instances in which careless adults have put children and other adults in danger by not supervising them properly. Put simply, if you expect me to leash my dog, the same should be asked of parents with children too young or knowledgeable or willing to behave appropriately. I am outraged that the GGNRA would consider putting me in a situation in which I would subsidize the recreation of only a segment of the population--in other words, financially support special interest populations. The right to the enjoyment of public property belongs to everyone, including responsible dog owners. The behavior of a few "bad apples"--in this case dog owners, who do not act responsibly--should not dictate the behavior and limit the rights of others. A more balanced approach would be to greatly increase the negative consequences (e.g hefty fines, impound property, possible incarceration) to punish those who do not abide by the laws and to deter others who might consider breaking the laws.

If you are going to eliminate GGNRA access for dogs then you should also eliminate access for children because they too are capable of taking full financial or social responsibility for their actions.

Finally, the GGNRA eliminating or further restricting access for supervised, well-mannered dogs is short-sided. In a city with fewer and fewer children and a growing population of upwardly mobile childless dog owners, the loss of revenue from responsible dog owners would be more significant that the GGNRA is neither willing to consider nor able to estimate. The GGNRA cannot afford to alienate the population that delivers the greatest amount of financial and other forms of support.

I urge the GGNRA to rethink the current plan.

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**Correspondence ID:** 272    **Project:** 11759    **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS

**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA

**Email:** bgmbjj@comcast.net  
**Outside** Unaffiliated Individual

**Organization:**  
**Received:** Jan,22,2011 14:54:43  
**Correspondence** Web Form

**Type:**

**Correspondence:** To whom it may concern, We are dog owners, tax payers, and home owners. This draft would restrict the off leash areas at Ft Funston and Crissy Field. Considering the hundreds of dogs that are at Ft. Funston or Crissy Field at any given moment during the day, this would be a disaster. Since I live in the Duboce Triangle, I know from first hand experience what limiting all dogs to a small space can do. Duboce Park has had a restricted area for off leash dogs for 2 years now and every time i take my dog there she gets covered in mud and becomes sick afterwards . I go to Ft. Funston and Crissy Field because of the wide open spaces and freedoms it affords allowing dogs to be dogs. My dog is never sick after playing at Ft. Funston or Crissy Field. My family has accepted the contained dog play areas in our neighborhood but please don't eliminate the privilege of largely unrestricted off leash play areas at Ft Funston or Crissy Field. I believe exercise is vital to healthy city dog living in San Francisco and having an off leash space such as Ft. Funston is critical to ensuring this.

Respectfully submitted, Barbara Maury Bonnie Johnson

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**Correspondence ID:** 273      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS

**Name:** -

**Address:** - CA  
USA

**Email:** dwwlaw@comcast.net

**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Received:** Jan,22,2011 00:00:00

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Many of the objectives of the proposed dog rules would be BEST achieved by simply closing the (all) park(s). That is, allowing no one to use the park(s) would avoid "conflict." Ditto for many of the other objectives. I own a small dog, and frankly would like many of the human users of most National Parks I've been to (with or without dog(s)) to be "on leash" or "prohibited," NOT their dog(s). [Indeed, I've some incidental experience to possibly prove that (a) owners, not dogs, should be licensed and (b) that people with dogs are more sensitive to "the environment" than the average visitor, and "for sure," tour bus folk.] I've no clue as to WHY you need to go thru this drill at this time (gotta be better things to occupy your time), but hopefully it isn't just a response to some squeaky wheels.

It seems that a win, win for you might be to "do" you "thing" within a few hundred yards of parking lots and let, indeed, encourage MORE "off leash" dog use "far away" from the "tourist" (bus) visitation points.

In any event, PLEASE log in a very, very, very, strong objection to MORE

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**Correspondence ID:** 274      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS

**Name:** -

**Address:** - CA  
USA

**Email:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Received:** Jan,22,2011 00:00:00

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** My previous statement was incomplete; please strike it from your record and replace it with the following statement.

I am strongly against eliminating or further limiting access to GGNRA spaces for responsible dog owners and their pets. I pay taxes to use the areas just as others do, I abide by the laws set forth, my dog is well trained and under my full command at all times, and I pick up after my dog. In contrast, I've observed parents with their children visiting the GGNRA and I've witnessed many instances in which those people or their children did not abide by the laws--much less show common courtesy to others who use the area. I have personally witnessed dirty plastic diapers dumped on the ground or merely tossed into trash cans, infecting all open surfaces with fecal bacterial contamination whereas my dog's feces are completely picked up, securely bagged and disposed of properly immediately. On visits to the park, I see mostly candy wrappers and other trash from children and adults who do not bother to respectfully pick up after themselves. Most disturbingly, I have witnessed many instances in which careless adults have put children and other adults in danger by not supervising children properly. Put simply, if you expect me to leash my dog, the same should be asked of parents with children too young, knowledgeable or willing to behave appropriately. I am outraged that the GGNRA would consider putting me in a situation in which I would subsidize the recreation of only a segment of the population--in other words, financially support special interest populations. The right to the enjoyment of public property belongs to everyone, including responsible dog owners. The behavior of a few "bad apples"--in this case dog owners, who do not act responsibly--should not dictate national policy nor limit the rights of others. A more balanced approach would be to greatly increase the negative consequences (e.g hefty fines, impound property, possible incarceration) to punish all who do not abide by the laws and to deter others who might consider breaking the laws. If you are going to eliminate GGNRA access for dogs then you should also eliminate access for children because they too are incapable of taking full financial or social responsibility for their actions. Finally, for the GGNRA to eliminate or further restrict access for supervised, well-mannered dogs is short-sided. In a city with fewer and fewer children and a growing population of upwardly mobile childless dog owners, the loss of revenue from visitors who also happen to be responsible dog owners would be more significant that the GGNRA is either willing to consider or able to estimate. The GGNRA can't

afford to alienate a large segment of the population that provides the greatest amount of financial support. I urge the GGNRA to rethink the current plan.

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**Correspondence ID:** 275      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** -  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan,22,2011 18:42:42  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** One of the best things about living in San Francisco is the unique opportunity dog owners have to enjoy the city's natural resources with their pets. Please don't take away off-leash dog walking privileges in the GGNRA. The quality of my life, and the lives of many Bay Area residents, will be greatly diminished if the proposed changes to the dog management plan are enacted.

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**Correspondence ID:** 276      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** jujuhercules@yahoo.com  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan,22,2011 19:19:08  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Please keep these spaces open (off-leash) to dogs. There are really no other options in the City where you can have an extended off-leash experience. It is important to the health of dogs and the health of the community to preserve access to those spaces.

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**Correspondence ID:** 277      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - OR  
USA  
**Email:** -  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan,22,2011 19:30:39  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Greetings,

The document is fine and a good start. In my opinion leashes required rules should be extended to all public parks areas without exception.

My reasoning is that the needs of guide dog users are being ignored entirely. With dogs roaming freely, the guide dog team can be endangered. Dogs like to test each other. The average unleashed dog has not been trained in the discipline it takes to be responsibly unleashed unless that dog is in a fenced dog park.

An unleashed dog rushing the guide dog team can make the guide dog skittish and afraid. That puts the guide dog team at risk. If the guide dog is more worried about being rushed by another dog, that guide is not doing its job and injury to both the guide dog and guide dog user could occur.

The risk to the guide dog team is only the beginning. The guide dog may be retrained, however the reinforcement training may not work. That means the \$70,000 guide dog is now useless and the guide dog user is left without a

guide all because of someone wanting to allow their dog to run loose.

Most people with pet dogs are not aware that there are state and federal laws governing distracting a guide dog. An unleashed dog charging the guide fits that criteria. Perhaps leash regulations will help prevent the unleashed dogs owner from paying for that very expensive guide dog.

I would urge changes to be made to these rules to account for guide dogs and guide dog users.

Regards,

Steve Lewis

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**Correspondence ID:** 278    **Project:** 11759    **Document:** 38106  
**Project Name:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** nnbaldwin@gmail.com  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan,22,2011 19:55:20  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Dear GGNRA -

I am writing to you to express my disappointment in the new proposed plan with respect to the new dog leash rules. I am a local San Francisco resident that uses Fort Funston on a daily basis. I respect the land and the other people who use it. I rarely encounter people who misuse the park and when I do it often results in a bit of intervention on my part. To be able to use Fort Funston as a place where my dog can run freely to release some much needed energy is such a great privilege. I know that places like this are rare near urban areas and I feel honored to live in a city that has such a bounty of natural beauty for access to nature lovers and dog lovers alike.

When I moved here in 2008 from the midwest Fort Funston was one of the first places I found to take my dog. Since then I have literally gone back almost every day. As the owner of a cattle dog that has a lot of energy, there really are no other places where I can take my dog to release some much accumulated energy. As a responsible dog owner, I know that when dogs don't get enough exercise they can get aggressive. Our walks at Fort Funston are an important part of her well being and my own. At the end of a long day working from home I find that a brisk walk through the park is just what we both need to feel the day's stresses are released. And on weekends my husband and I include Fort Funston as part of a regular exercise for us with our dog.

The new plan suggests the the area which would allow off leash activity would be limited to a small section near the parking lot and a stretch of beach. There are a few problems with this proposal. I'll start with the section by the parking lot - this would dramatically concentrate more off leash dogs into a smaller area thus leading to dog management. Dogs don't always like to be near other high energy dogs. Mine prefers wide open spaces and not necessarily large groups of dogs and activity. Furthermore, since the area is not fenced it may cause issues with dogs that run into the parking lot where there is traffic thus endangering the dog and drivers. Most people I know walk away from the lot before they unleash their dog but I fear that since they will not be able to go far they'll end up staying closer to the parking lot than is advised. The other issue with the proposed beach-only area for off leash activity is that it puts pressure on people to have to go down to the beach which does not always work. I for example don't often go to the beach because my dog will get wet. Some people worry that their dogs will get swept up in the waves or tide. Some hunting dogs cannot resist rolling in the dead birds, fish or seals that wash up on the beach nearly every day. And above all, the tides sometimes render the beach nearly impossible to use because of how narrow it can be.

In summary, I really believe that reducing the amount of options where people can exercise off leash with their dog just leads to more problems for dogs, dog owners, and the land. I would like to remind you that as a daily user of the park - the problems that I see are not nearly at the level of concern that warrant this stricter approach to land management. Naturally, I don't pretend that there are no irresponsible dog owners that visit the park. But those are far fewer than many people realize. I feel the new leash-laws at Fort Funston in particular are overcompensating for a few irresponsible owners and a few visitors who don't have enough experience with dogs and parks in general. Rather than managing to the least common denominator let's allow this park to remain leash free so that it

can be enjoyed by so many dog owners.

Thank you for the time you took to read this letter. I hope a more workable solution can be presented that will allow responsible residents and dog owners to remain users of the park and this great privilege.

Sincerely,

Natalia N. Baldwin

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**Correspondence ID:** 279      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project Name:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** -  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan,22,2011 21:42:40  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I'm writing to protest the overly restrictive elements of the preferred plan, particularly with respect to Fort Funston .The impacts of the proposed restrictions on my family's use of these resources would be moderate to major and adverse, to use your nomenclature.

One general comment is that GGNRA does not appear to take into account the negative impacts of restricting dogs on the alternative city and municipal parks.

A better alternative for Fort Funston would be: 1. ROLA on the beach, switching to on-leash during vulnerable periods for Bank Swallows. 2. On leash on the trails north of the beach access. 3. Improved demarcation and maintenance of trails to keep dogs off the vegetation.

I also request that you consider a dog license system with a reasonable annual fee that would allow dogs full use of the park and go into a fund used for restoration and mitigating adverse impacts.

Sincerely,

Matt Chanoff

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**Correspondence ID:** 280      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project Name:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** bacirelli@yahoo.com  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan,22,2011 22:25:54  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** As a regular user of Fort Funston with my three dogs spanning the last 25 years, I've seen the interest and use of the park increase dramatically over the decades. People flock to its beach, vistas, and open space to hike, lounge, and make memories. I go there most often to exercise and socialize my dog. Although I can accomplish some of this at a neighborhood park, I find my experience is greatly enhanced by the beautiful setting and the walking necessary to make the fantastic loop from the parking lot down to the trail junction near the Great Highway and the Coast Trail and back again. On the rare occasions I've seen dog-on-dog conflicts, owners and other people have quickly stepped forward to correct the situation, often educating the dog's owner on behavioral techniques in the process. Often the aggressor is the leashed dog since it's placed in an inferior position compared to the off-leash dogs. The better a dog--and its owner--is socialized, the fewer problems result. Restricting areas for the socialization of dogs and people is counterproductive. I can't overemphasize the importance of off-leash areas for dogs in the GGNRA. Clearly, Alternative A is our only option.

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**Correspondence ID:** 281      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** -  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan,22,2011 22:36:10  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** As a dog-owner, I feel the recommendations set forth in this proposal are an adequate compromise for all visitors to the GGNRA. I was left with the impression that dogs were banned in as few areas as possible, while maximized dog access through on-leash requirements. I believe on-leash regulations are in the best interest of all park visitors - it allows for dog-owners to enjoy their pet companions in our public lands while respecting non dog-owners and protecting the dogs themselves. Although all owners believe their pets are friendly and would never cause trouble, the truth is you can never be sure what unforeseen circumstances may cause a dog to act out of its usual behavior pattern. Moreover, one is never guaranteed of the responsibility and conscientiousness of OTHER dog owners or the temperament of their pet towards humans and pets alike. It is for this latter reason that I am cautious about taking my beloved dog into off-leash areas, and which brings me to my only recommendation for the new pet regulations in the GGNRA.

As ROLAs are to be permitted in some areas under the preferred alternatives, I would recommend the GGNRA follow the example of the City of Boulder, Colorado and establish a certification program for voice-control (i.e. off-leash dogs). The completion of such a certification program, and evidenced by a highly visible tag on the dogs' collars, would likely further reduce the potential for conflict between off-leash dogs and create a safer environment overall. In addition, it would provide visitors taking their dogs to ROLAs an extra sense of confidence that the other dogs (and their owners) have demonstrated the ability - and more importantly the willingness - to abide ROLA guidelines and regulations. Such a program would also allow park rangers and law enforcement officers to more easily enforce the rules of the ROLAs. Although the ROLAs will allow for separation between those visitors with and without dogs, it might also offer benefits to the latter group by reducing their concerns, causing fewer complaints and perhaps even encouraging visitors who might otherwise avoid the GGNRA.

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**Correspondence ID:** 282      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** -  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan,23,2011 00:00:17  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I wholeheartedly support the dog management plan. I often take my son to Crissy Field to play at the beach and practically every time we are there, a dog or dogs will come up to our picnic area and try to steal food or urinate on us and the owners do nothing. There is a sense of arrogance I get from the dog owners, they feel because the beach is a no leash area, we are there at our own risk. In fact, one dog owner did try and blame it on us for having a picnic in an area where dogs roam free. My son loves playing at Crissy Field, we spend almost all our vacation days there with his friends playing in the water, but the constant need to fend dogs from urinating or running through our picnic area is one experience I can definitely do without.

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**Correspondence ID:** 283      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** -  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Received:** Jan,23,2011 00:37:00

**Correspondence** Web Form

**Type:**

**Correspondence:** The dog is called "man's best friend" for a reason. As free citizens of a free society, all dog owners would be distressed if parks and beaches would become off limits to the faithful friends that share their lives. As tax paying, voting citizens, we eagerly share the beauties of the natural world with our canine friends. We ask that we not be driven off the land we love and support.

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**Correspondence ID:** 284      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS

**Name:** -

**Address:** - CA  
USA

**Email:**

**Outside** Unaffiliated Individual

**Organization:**

**Received:** Jan,23,2011 00:55:49

**Correspondence** Web Form

**Type:**

**Correspondence:** Dear Superintendent Dean,

I am writing to register my comments on the proposed changes for dog rules within the GGNRA. While I support reasonable and safe off-leash use of all of the GGNRA, I am specifically addressing the proposed "preferred" changes to Muir Beach and the adjoining Coastal Trail and Fire Road in the Marin Headlands. These new proposed "preferred" changes should not and must not be enacted. They are not what the public wants, they are a huge waste of resources, they are not supported by data, and they are poor and impractical policy. They attempt to "fix" problems that don't exist, and unfairly restrict the use of the park to a large segment of the public.

The park of Muir Beach exists within a community that has existed for over a 100 years, far longer than the Park Service's stewardship. This is a vibrant community full of families. Dogs are a part of many of those families. Dogs are a part of this community and the nearby surrounding communities and municipalities. While I acknowledge and appreciate that it is the existence of the park that protects the land around Muir Beach and preserves the open space, I feel the Park Service is overreaching. Muir Beach is not some remote pristine wilderness or wildlife refuge. This isn't Yellowstone or Glacier National Park. The GGNRA is effectively an URBAN park system for the Bay Area. These parks exist for the enjoyment and recreation of the public--a public that owns dogs. Our tax dollars support these parks FOR THAT PURPOSE. That's why the GGNRA was established. That should be the primary driving force of policy for the park.

Let's face facts. People do far more damage than dogs. And I don't see any drive to ban people from the GGNRA. I have had to, on MANY occasions, admonish adults for letting their children literally gouge away at the hillside and dunes, and letting them destroy or pull wildlife off of rocks. I am talking blatant, deliberate and somewhat viscous destruction of the flora and natural formations of the beach by ignorant people. I have pulled soiled diapers out of the sand. I have had to scold tourists for trudging under the ropes to shortcut through the estuary. My best friend's 3 year old son got 3rd degree burns on his feet because of hot stones not in a fire ring laying about in the sand. My dad had to distract my grandmother while two people had intercourse in the sand next to where my parents had set up their blanket with their children. Families play in the restored estuary on hot summer days, partly because Little Beach is inundated with nude people and they can't take their children there-even though the waters are calmer and it is their neighborhood beach. We tried to get the Park Service and the County to deal with that, but we were told very clearly that neither authority wants to police Little Beach to enforce existing law that prohibits nudity in Marin County. But I digress. As a very fortunate resident and DAILY user of the whole of Muir Beach, I can say unequivocally that it is the humans that cause most of the problems. And whatever problems dogs are perceived to be the cause of can be remedied by enforcing existing dog rules, by fine if necessary. The last thing that is needed in this time of economic crisis is some draconian policy that punishes responsible dog owners and that requires expensive and heavy-handed changes to the existing rules. Maybe those resources would be better utilized keeping the beach clean and free of REAL hazards like lewd behavior, ignorant beach goers, dirty diapers, broken glass and rogue burning embers. Those are the things that really threaten Muir Beach.

Muir Beach has NEVER been a no-dog experience and beach goers visiting Muir have no reason or special rights to think or expect that it should be otherwise. Our society is not dog-free. Why is that suddenly a priority or goal??? Why is the NPS trying to change Muir Beach to be something for a segment of society who doesn't, for the most part, even come to Muir??? In all my years of living in and coming to Muir Beach as a life long Marin resident, I have never once, ever had an incident on the beach with someone bummed out about my dog. Muir is mostly full of dog lovers, or new-comers who either like it or they don't. Go on YELP to see how many people love

Muir and how few people complain about the dogs. For those who want a completely dog-free beach experience, they can go to the park portion of Stinson Beach. It's big, wide, park-like and dog-free and way easier to patrol and enforce.

Why is there no suitable alternative/map for Muir Beach like having leashed dogs on the dry sand and then off leash and under voice control on the wet sand? Why are the alternatives for Muir Beach so all-or-nothing? It makes no sense to let dogs off leash at the lot, or even at the bridge, or on the path of dry sand that goes to the beach. Why not allow unleashed dogs down by the water, but leashed on dry sand? Dogs that don't stay engaged with their owners at the surf line would have to be leashed. This is what a "compromise" would look like. It would reinforce responsible dog ownership, and it would keep dogs away from the estuary, and away from people's blankets. The NPS presented no alternatives that offer any sort of reasonable compromise. Wedging a ROLA at the south end of the beach doesn't make sense because often there isn't even beach there. The whole point is to allow people to stroll and run with their dogs. The ROLA doesn't accomplish that.

To address the Park Services completely ridiculous assertion that dog owners and walkers can go to the little County-owned beach adjacent to the Park instead, let me put that notion to rest right now. Why is there no EIR or EIS for THAT proposal???? Little Beach is not accessible without crossing the main beach or driving along neighborhood private streets. Most of the time, the rocks are impassible because of surf and tides. There is NO PUBLIC PARKING WHATSOEVER on Sunset Way or Pacific Way. Both roads are private, with no shoulder parking and all spaces belong to homeowners. All lanes are fire lanes. Extra and illegally parked cars would create a hazard for the surrounding community in terms of blocking access to emergency vehicles. For those who would arrive on foot via the road, there are no amenities or services for Little Beach. No public trash cans. No toilets. Sometimes, there's not even a beach. Pushing people over to that beach for use with their dogs is not an acceptable or desirable solution or alternative. Formally stating and implementing such a plan (see NPS Preferred Alternative, page 2), without the proper studies for the impacts will be met with a vigorous and serious challenge by the surrounding community. The fact that this is a published statement in support of the "preferred" alternative for Muir Beach seems like sloppy environmental consulting at the very least, and a violation of law or code at the worst.

The other major issue of concern is the proposed changes to the Coastal Fire Road and Coastal single-track trails within the Marin Headlands system. These changes are unacceptable. As it is now, those are the ONLY remaining trails from Muir Beach that are open to dogs. There is virtually no other trail for people with dogs to use, and there must be a trail system for people with dogs! The Owl Trail is a no-no, as is the Heather Cutoff, the new Diaz Ridge Trail, the Redwood Creek Trail, the Coastal View Trail, and the Green Gulch trails. As a woman who likes to hike alone, this presents a serious safety concern. Without my dog, I do not feel comfortable hiking by myself. In addition, there is not a legal way for a person needing to walk, for whatever reason, between Muir Beach and Mill Valley. There is no reason to not be able to walk to or from Mill Valley with a dog. My car broke down one day, and I had a friend drop me off, along with my dog, at the top of the Miwok Fire Road so I could walk home. En route, I was stunned to learn that I had no legal way to do this, but continued to walk with my dog down Coyote Ridge until I safely reached home in Muir Beach. There is no scientifically supported reason to ban leashed dogs from these trails. I will continue to walk with my leashed dog for my own safety, whether the law changes or not. One of the members of the fire department out here in Muir laughed at me and said that I shouldn't worry about needing to take my dog illegally on the trail because I could just carry a loaded gun instead. We laughed over that sad irony. It's just flat out wrong, and the NPS needs to address this serious problem with the trails in the GGNRA. At the very least, the Coastal Trail and Fire Road MUST remain dog-friendly. Map 7A, with an additional dog-friendly access of the Coyote Ridge Trail to Miwok Fire Road is a no-brainer as the minimum way to go.

The GGNRA was established for the protection of our splendid open spaces, and the enjoyment and recreation of the public. Whatever changes the Park Service proposes must accommodate ALL of us. We all pay for the park. It belongs to everyone. This is our commons. And these are our dogs. We need to make it work for everyone. Any solution put forth by the GGNRA has to meet that minimum threshold. The "preferred" plans do not.

Thanks for your consideration and time,

Sincerely,

Laura Lovitt Pandapas Muir Beach, CA 94965

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**Correspondence ID:** 285    **Project:** 11759    **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -

**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** lorimckay2000@gmail.com  
**Outside** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Organization:**  
**Received:** Jan,23,2011 02:08:07  
**Correspondence** Web Form  
**Type:**  
**Correspondence:** As a San Francisco dog owner and off-leash enthusiast, I hope you will consider the following options:

1. Allow off-leash use at limited hours: before 10am and after 4pm
2. Limit dog walkers and the number of dogs allowed per person. When I see a walker with 10 dogs, 4 on leash, 6 off, I know there will be problems.
3. PLEASE consider the needs of dog owners in your plan. We love SF and its environs, 98% are very responsible owners and will happily comply with restrictions - - but don't take these amazing places away from us - give other plans a trial period but please - WORK WITH THE PEOPLE, FOR THE PEOPLE -

Thank you, Lori McKay San Francisco

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**Correspondence ID:** 286      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA

**Email:** susannahbananna@mac.com  
**Outside** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Organization:**  
**Received:** Jan,23,2011 08:03:29  
**Correspondence** Web Form  
**Type:**

**Correspondence:** I don't even own a dog, but think your proposal to limit dogs on park land is terrible. It's a joy to see the dogs run & play at Muir Beach. And dog ownership in Marin County is a big thing -- you are limiting access to people who want to enjoy the outdoors with their companions (their dogs) for what reason? How many more restrictions are you going to put on people? The dogs aren't hurting the beach. Maybe signs need to be bigger about cleaning up after their dogs, but honestly, I've never had an incident where I've found any dog poo on the beach. I don't think this is such a big deal.

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**Correspondence ID:** 287      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA

**Email:**  
**Outside** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Organization:**  
**Received:** Jan,23,2011 08:55:18  
**Correspondence** Web Form  
**Type:**

**Correspondence:** If you ban dog walking in SF and Muir etc. you are going to push all of those people on Stinson and Bolinas etc. Please allow private dog walking in SF and Muir etc. Ban commercial dog walking if you must.

Also I think there should be some sort of permit/license to walk your dog on these beaches with a test of the dog as to obedience.

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**Correspondence ID:** 288      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -

**Address:** - CA  
USA

**Email:** -  
**Outside** Unaffiliated Individual

**Organization:**  
**Received:** Jan,23,2011 08:56:36

**Correspondence** Web Form  
**Type:**

**Correspondence:** In your overall statement, you state that "The purpose of GGNRA is to offer national park experiences to a large and diverse urban population while preserving and interpreting its outstanding natural, historic, scenic, and recreational values."

So your large and diverse population doesn't include the thousands upon thousands of dog owners in the bay area, nor those same dog owners that appreciate the 'recreational value' of the park perhaps more than anyone else. As a long time resident dog-owner of the area, we've been running our dogs at Chrissy Field and Fort Funston for over 20 years. They are just the types of places where you can only go with dogs if you go off-leash. Clearly you do not own dogs or understand the ridiculousness of taking a dog to the beach on a leash. Running is what dogs do best and you want to take several of the best places for them to do that away.

Dog owners, for the most part, are respectful of their environment and other people and dogs. As long as bags are provided and trails clearly marked, there is very little impact on the surroundings.

As for conflicts, yes, there are some that set a bad example, by not restraining dogs that are clearly aggressive, but perhaps you could deal with that in PARTICULAR, rather than ban ALL dogs on the whole. Look at places like Pt. Isabel, where signs clearly state that aggressive dogs must be on leash. They are on leash, and if not, they get reported and don't come back. It works. The same goes for commercial dog walkers that have too many dogs for one person to control. Try limiting the number of dogs per person to whatever the county limit per household is - that way you don't have one person with 10 dogs that aren't necessarily under control.

Just reading your report made me furious. It is so unfair that you feel the need to take away several of the best places in the area to walk our dogs. Places where the ENTIRE FAMILY can go to appreciate the natural, historic, scenic, and recreational value of the parks. How many places do we have to go, where we can ALL go to spend the day together? Perhaps you think we ought to just ban dogs from our lives altogether? They are part of our FAMILY and should be allowed to go where we go as long as we pick up and control them. Children are allowed to go everywhere, make messes, destroy wildlife, and be completely out of control of the parents. Yet dogs, in your opinion, should stay home, on a leash, and be excluded from the family.

---

**Correspondence ID:** 289      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS

**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA

**Email:** jdavid76@comcast.net  
**Outside** Unaffiliated Individual

**Organization:**  
**Received:** Jan,23,2011 09:04:42

**Correspondence** Web Form  
**Type:**

**Correspondence:** It is quite clear that the Park Service wants to force more restrictive dog laws in these areas regardless of what the public wants. In the Bay Area (especially) there are always people who will complain about anything that is not exactly the way they would do it...hence, complaints by a few about the many well behaved and well controlled dogs in the various areas where more restrictions are being contemplated. And the Park Service is quite willing to go along as it will make their jobs easier...the majority of the public be damned. These restrictions are unnecessary and unwarranted. The existing rules have worked for a long time...but the Park Service continues to show its determination to have its way including the manner in which the public hearing process is being managed without an open microphone for speakers at the various locations. DAMN YOUR PLAN! DAMN THE PARK SERVICE.

---

**Correspondence ID:** 290      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS

**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA

**Email:** USA  
gaelenmag@hotmail.com  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan,23,2011 09:13:24  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am absolutely opposed to any restriction on access by off-leash dogs and their owners to GGNRA areas. San Francisco is a major city with thousands of dog owners, and our options for off-leash exercise and socialization (which is key to keeping dogs well-behaved) are limited. I am also appalled that the GGNRA is refusing to even hold public hearings on this issue. If the GGNRA does restrict access, I will certainly vote to elect officials who will reduce GGNRA funding as much as possible and replace current GGNRA officials with those who will better serve the public, and will encourage everyone I know to do the same.

---

**Correspondence ID:** 291     **Project:** 11759     **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** croquetiwin@yahoo.com  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan,23,2011 09:18:05  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Reducing the already minimal space where dogs can run off leash is simply unacceptable. Currently, dogs are allowed in approximately 1% of the GGNRA area. This is a ludicrously small percentage of space as it is. To reduce it even further is draconian. Dogs need plenty of space to run off leash, and dog owners are entitled to use the GGNRA. I would point out what should seem perfectly obvious, but apparently is not to some groups - that dogs and their human owners are as much a part of nature as any plants or birds, and have a right to enjoy the natural space around them. This plan must be reconsidered with the needs of dogs and their people in mind. Thank you.

---

**Correspondence ID:** 292     **Project:** 11759     **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** -  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan,23,2011 09:48:45  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** This would be DEVASTATING to the livelihood of our dogs. I simply cannot fathom the devastation this would cause to the animal population of san francisco and many our residents - PLEASE PLEASE PLEASE PLEASE PLEASE PLEASE reconsider.

---

**Correspondence ID:** 293     **Project:** 11759     **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** -  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan,23,2011 09:54:47  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing to voice my great concern over the proposed plan to ban dogs from Muir Beach. Let me first say that I am one of the thousands of "responsible" pet owners. My dog is trained, friendly, on-leash at all times, and picked-up after. It may sound silly to some, but my dog is family. He has been in my life for 10 years. Muir Beach has

been our place. In fact, I decided to move to the Washington neighborhood of the Presidio entirely because of him. We lived there so happily for years, and I passed on "nicer" housing options because the benefit to my dog was incomparable as was the beauty that surrounded us. Without being able to share the park with my dog, living in the park would never have crossed my mind.

In June, my fiance and I bought a place in Rockridge and we moved. Our dog has adjusted to the east bay, but it is the weekly trips back to Muir Beach that bring us all the most joy. It is hard to describe how special that place is to us, or the joy we derive from being able to spend time there together as a family unit. That is why, when it came time to choose a location for our wedding, Muir Beach was the natural choice. Our wedding will take place on Muir Beach in October and our beloved old dog, Redford, will be in the wedding. If the recommended policy is in effect by then, we will have to begin a new search for another beautiful spot. One where the threat of litigation does not lead to fear-based and discriminatory policies. One that we can cherish with our pet as well as our children in the years and decades ahead.

It breaks my heart to know that we may lose this place and have to move on. Who will refund our deposit at the Pelican Inn? The members of this committee? If environmental concerns are paramount, why should people continue to be allowed to disrupt natural habitat and leave waste on the beach?

It has long been our dream to buy one of those little homes perched on the cliff, but if Marin County adopts this brutal and reactionary policy, the spirit of fun, love and acceptance that has long-endured in this sacred place will be lost.

Sincerely, Khori Dastoor Oakland, CA

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**Correspondence ID:** 294      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** -  
**Outside Organization:** US Citizen Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan,23,2011 09:56:43  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I've lived in Muir Beach since 1973 with my various dogs and walked both the beaches here almost daily.

I WILL to continue to walk these beaches with my dogs running freely till the day I die. As far as I'm concerned, the NPS can fuck off out of Muir Beach and take its "dog plans" and its other crap with them. i have no intention of obeying any restriction on my right to walk my dogs on Muir Beach.

---

**Correspondence ID:** 295      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** howiemil@pacbell.net  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan,23,2011 09:59:02  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** The most important comment is that dog owners should clean up after their pets. Having owned 4 dogs in the past 40 years I found it necessary to be sure to clean up. I also clean up after dogs defecate on my lawn. Pets should always be under voice control.

With the large number of pets in San Francisco there needs to be space where dogs can run off leash.

---

**Correspondence ID:** 296      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** sanfransus@hotmail.com  
**Outside** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Organization:**  
**Received:** Jan,23,2011 10:07:27  
**Correspondence** Web Form  
**Type:**  
**Correspondence:** The preferred alternative plan for Ft Funston is not a fair compromise for off leash dogs. Off leash dogs need space for proper socialization. Walking dogs on leash on the paved paths does not allow for dog play. Many leashed dogs feel threatened. I physically can't walk on sand to the proposed off leash beach area easily. The proposed small sandy area isn't large enough for exercising myself or my dog. Enforce dog neutering laws especially in parks. Limit the number of dogs per person. Those are probably fair changes. We don't have enough large open spaces for dogs as it is. Humans can have the rest of the world. Leave Ft funston as it is.

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**Correspondence ID:** 297      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** -  
**Outside** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Organization:**  
**Received:** Jan,23,2011 10:13:23  
**Correspondence** Web Form  
**Type:**  
**Correspondence:** For the past decade, my wife and I have been regular visitors (at least once a week) to Crissy Field. Our use of the park is primarily to run, stroll, picnic and relax on the beach - particularly East Beach. We are not dog owners, but we love the mix of people and pets that this unique location brings together. My experience has been that the dog owners are a very responsible group and are attentive not only to their pets but the rights of non-pet owners to enjoy the park in their own ways.

I am opposed to the new proposal for Crissy Field. Specifically, I am opposed to imposing leash restrictions on dogs at East Beach. We enjoy the area as non-dog owners and find that the mix of people and pets using the area actually enhances our own recreational enjoyment of the park. We've spent countless hours on the beach and have never witnessed bad behavior on the part of pet owners. We urge you to revise the Crissy Field East Beach restrictions called for by this plan, to restore the rights of pet owners, and to preserve the opportunity for all these diverse groups to enjoy the area as they do today.

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**Correspondence ID:** 298      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:**  
**Outside** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Organization:**  
**Received:** Jan,23,2011 10:19:53  
**Correspondence** Web Form  
**Type:**  
**Correspondence:** Excellent work in the plan to protect wildlife and birds. Domestic cats and dogs are responsible for the demise of millions of birds every year.

While every dog and cat owner is very attached to their animal, dog and cat owners do not have the absolute right to impose their animals on wildlife, and people in public places that don't want to be bothered by off leash animals.

When a loose dog runs up to you, you have no idea whether it will ignore you, bite you, bite your child, or stick

it's nose in your crotch!

Birds at the beach naturally know that dogs are predators and they try to fly away. There are too many off leash dogs interfering with wildlife and people trying to enjoy the area.

Dogs are not people! Dogs are dogs!

Every dog owner believes that their particular dog is a good dog, and would never bother anyone.

Dog owners who think they have the right to take over every public area are selfish.

I strongly support the plan's restrictions on off leash dogs. Congratulations on being brave enough to make the right decision, despite a vocal and angry crowd of dog owners.

People who want their dogs to run free should buy a farm in the country; they should not force their animals to live in a congested urban area.

The violence of some "animal rights" activists causes me to withhold my full name out of fear. Sadly, some "animal rights" supporters think animal lives are more important than peoples' lives. They are wrong.

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**Correspondence ID:** 299    **Project:** 11759    **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** chucknew222@gmail.com  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan,23,2011 10:25:42  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I would like to express my support for the proposed new restrictions on off-leash dogs in the GGNRA. As a Sunset district San Francisco resident, I see first hand the frequent abuse of the park by dog owners. Too many owners allow their dogs to roam freely ( when supposedly under voice control or on leash), chasing shorebirds and defecating freely. These areas are PARKS, and are intended to protect, preserve and showcase our natural resources and beauty, not to serve as convenience areas for domesticated animals. Thank you for your courageous stand in the face of very vocal special interests.

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**Correspondence ID:** 300    **Project:** 11759    **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** JESTrobel@aol.com  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan,23,2011 10:33:37  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Dear GGNRA,

I whole-heartedly support restricting dogs in our federal parks. Our parks and beaches have become over-run with off-leash dogs who's owners ignore signs warning of sensitive habitat. I support protecting wildlife, wild birds and native plants. I was born and raised in San Francisco, a bird-watcher and I thank you for addressing this problem.

~Jeanine Strobel

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**Correspondence ID:** 301    **Project:** 11759    **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** tombabi@gmail.com  
**Outside** None Unaffiliated Individual  
**Organization:**  
**Received:** Jan,23,2011 10:38:03  
**Correspondence** Web Form  
**Type:**  
**Correspondence:** Dear GGNRA. I'm not a dog owner, nor lover, but I LIKE the dogs running around Crissy Field and the East Beach, Presidio, SF. The owner's are responsible, clean up is diligent. I'm a native. My wife and I walk to the bridge every weekend we're in town and have at least a decade before the Haas built the promenade. It's a beautiful, wonderful area. Let the dogs alone. (I must add I'm appalled at how "extensive" your study is because it indicates how expensive it must have been). Tom Mitchell

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**Correspondence ID:** 302      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** -  
**Outside** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Organization:**  
**Received:** Jan,23,2011 10:50:25  
**Correspondence** Web Form  
**Type:**  
**Correspondence:** There is not enough off leash areas already. The San Francisco Bay area is a dog friendly area which should remain that way. That means providing plenty of areas where dogs can roam off leash. If other people don't like dogs they can go to one of the many places they are banned. Its ridiculous to complain about dogs being off leash in a couple of areas when people who don't like dogs have the endless other choices. If I didn't like children i wouldn't go to a playground park. Am I being discriminated against because that park is not for me?

To address the other issue in terms of nature: While I am sensitive to the environmental aspects of the plan realize that humans represent the same (or worse) disruption to wildlife and yet are allowed free roam throughout our national parks. The solution is not an outright dog ban, but to put in rules that punish those who are irresponsible. Don't punish the vast majority who have good dogs, who clean up after them, and respect the rules.

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**Correspondence ID:** 303      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** excelsiorbeach@gmail.com  
**Outside** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Organization:**  
**Received:** Jan,23,2011 11:04:54  
**Correspondence** Web Form  
**Type:**  
**Correspondence:** I strongly feel that the issue here is not so much the person who comes out and enjoys the parks with their one leashed dog, perhaps taking fido off for a quick run or ball/frisbee chase. The issue here is almost 100 percent the professional dog walkers who have more then two dogs and at sometimes up to ten that are off leash with no voice control over them. I have one dog and sometimes she does not listen to me so there is NO way that a dog walker has control over a large number of dogs let alone how they would ever know where the dog is littering. How do I know this? I see it everyday as a worker in the Presidio and sometimes even while far away from a trail I or my co-workers step in it. This goes far beyond having these dog walkers buy a pricey permit because they will and then continue to do what their doing. The parks are for all people just not people with dogs. Would this be an issue in Yosemite or Yellowstone park? I don't think so.

Thank you. Jeff Wright

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**Correspondence** 304      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106

**ID:**  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** coreyhead@gmail.com  
**Outside**  
**Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan,23,2011 11:09:25  
**Correspondence**  
**Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** As an owner of two dogs, I frequent Ocean Beach with my dogs on a daily basis. I understand that the Snowy Plover protection area needs to be protected, however banning dogs completely from this area is extreme. We keep our dogs on leash and when there are plovers around, we give them a wide clearance when passing. We keep our dogs on leash in this area during the appropriate months. Your Plan A (Map 15-A) seems the most reasonable for Ocean Beach.

Note the third paragraph in this article: [http://articles.sfgate.com/2007-06-17/news/17250884\\_1\\_dog-hotels-dog-s-life-number-of-dog-licenses](http://articles.sfgate.com/2007-06-17/news/17250884_1_dog-hotels-dog-s-life-number-of-dog-licenses)

In a town where there are more dogs than children, I think it is important you remember who is using these areas the most. Daily, I see so many dogs on the beach and in fact it is actually unusual to see someone out there \*without\* a dog at their side. While I know some people let their dogs off leash when they shouldn't, penalizing those of us who follow the rules is not the answer. Banning dogs entirely is simply unacceptable. Enforce the current regulations, don't create new ones that don't allow anyone to be there at all with their dogs.

Most Sincerely, Corey Head Boomer Tippy

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**Correspondence ID:** 305    **Project:** 11759    **Document:** 38106  
**ID:**  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:**  
**Outside**  
**Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan,23,2011 11:17:26  
**Correspondence**  
**Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** To Whom it May Concern:

It's about time! My wife and our four small children have been driven away from one of the most remarkable waterfronts in the world due to a small but arrogant group of dog owners. I love dogs and I own a dog but I don't let her run around without a leash where small children are playing near the water. There are dozens of dog owners who treat Crissey Field and Rodeo Beach as their private dog park and it's not fair. Leash laws and requirements that owners pick up after their dogs are routinely ignored by park rangers.

It's a NATIONAL recreation area. These plans address areas that are not just for neighbors who think the world owes them a scenic dog run. This plan includes MANY areas where dog owners can let their animals loose and that alone is an extraordinary thing for a national recreation area - in almost every other place in the country, dogs are not even allowed.

Please don't let the dog owners continue to bully their way on to beaches whenever and wherever they please. This is NOT about DOGS - it's about the small number of people who own pets that want to do whatever they like vs the vast number of people (including dog owners!) who want to experience these amazing landscapes without stepping in dog sh\*t or being afraid for children who are especially vulnerable to uncontrolled dogs.

Owning a dog brings a series of responsibilities just like owning anything else. Please put this plan into place and ENFORCE the regulations so we can all get back to protecting and preserving these amazing places.

Thanks for listening,

Brendan Kelly San Francisco

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**Correspondence ID:** 306      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** vernaosborn@comcast.net  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan,23,2011 11:19:38  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am a small person, 75 years old, who greatly enjoys GGNRA. The sight of a large off-leash dog bounding toward me is truly scary. I like dogs and I have owned dogs, but with a strange dog I do not know what to expect and fear being knocked down or worse. Also, as a nature lover, I deeply resent the damage that dogs do to bird and plant habitats. I can see dogs on my city street any day; I go to GGNRA to see species that I cannot see at home. These species have as much right to survive as do domestic pets. I am deeply opposed to off-leash dogs in GGNRA and other public parks.

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**Correspondence ID:** 307      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** raquelc70@yahoo.com  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan,23,2011 11:57:04  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am concerned and disappointed that the NPS is considering banning off-leash access to dogs and their owners. We are fourth generation Marin residents, my husband works in the presidio and my family makes use of the many facilities and merchants in the area. We are also frequent visitors to the park and beach at Chrissy Field with our dog. In our many visits there I have never seen a dog fight or any conflict between dogs and people or animals. I have always been impressed by how many people use the park in different ways and all manage to get along. It is also one of few areas left where we can all go as a family with the dog off-leash. I recognize that concerns of fragile habitat can be valid, but I believe this concern has also sometimes, been used by the park service locally and historically as a way to remove what the park service might perceive as "undesirables" however, park use should be available to ALL citizens and in many different ways: walking, biking, water recreation and dog use. I think it is possible to continue to protect the snowy plovers and uphold the precedent of off-leash access. I believe that the 1979 Pet Policy should continue to be honored. The other reasons you list for the perceived need for this change is due to "a compliance-based management strategy to institute a range of park responses to non-compliance.." I think you can do this without the extreme and rash measures of banning off-leash access. I favor fines and expulsion of owners that abuse the rights of others. I don't feel that the park service should be abusing the rights of compliant dog owners and tax payers that use the park off-leash and respectfully. Thank you for your consideration regarding this issue.

---

**Correspondence ID:** 308      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** -  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan,23,2011 12:04:39  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Dear NPS, we support the preferred alternative. The NPS needs to control dogs so small children can enjoy park areas, especially Crissey Field. Also, I have been bitten recently by a dog and want to avoid areas with unleashed dogs. Thank you and good luck, William Ahern

---

**Correspondence ID:** 309      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS

**Name:** -

**Address:** - CA  
USA

**Email:** -

**Outside:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Organization:**

**Received:** Jan,23,2011 13:00:34

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Dogs off leash are a real problem in the GGNRA. I have personally seen dogs digging up wildlife in the GGNRA and harassing birds. I fully support more leash laws or banning dogs from certain areas (or from the whole park) to protect the wildlife. I also support leash laws or banning dogs from certain areas to create dog free space for people who are uncomfortable with dogs to enjoy. There are many parks/open spaces areas for Dogs outside of the GGNRA and the GGNRA could serve as a dog free area to enjoy and preserve nature. Please enforce these laws with tickets. The money from these tickets should go to paying for patrols and also towards park restoration.

---

**Correspondence ID:** 310      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS

**Name:** -

**Address:** - CA  
USA

**Email:** laurie.cohen@sbcglobal.net

**Outside:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Organization:**

**Received:** Jan,23,2011 13:08:14

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I have walked a dog in Marin and Crissy Field for the thirty-five years I've lived in Mill Valley. I am very much against closing parts of Crissy Field and Oakwood Valley Trail all of Muir Beach, and any of the other leashed or voice-control dog areas open in the GGNRA. On the Oakwood Valley Trail, which I walk at least four times per week, I have only witnessed one dog fight. The only other dog versus human negative interaction was a story (dog bit human) perpetuated by a ranger. He started this rumor to convince people who use the trail of the validity of closure, the last time GGNRA attempted to close Oakwood Valley Trail to dogs. Most dog owners are responsible for their dogs and pick up after their dogs. What I have noticed, especially in Oakwood Valley, is that after a weekend - when non-locals use the trail - is when dog feces litter is apparent. Another problem in all areas is that some professional dog walkers have more than five dogs in their care. (Not good for the dogs, the people or the environment!) Though not unusual in the human condition, a few irresponsible people create problems for the many. In response, the bureaucracy (in this case the Park Service) responds with punitive rules which do not address the real and specific problems and which do not truly address the multiple use aspect of the GGNRA. I believe there are solutions. They are far less expensive solutions for land management and people management: 1. Require and enforce people to CARRY leashes for their dogs, especially on high use days. Monitor for voice control adequacy. 2. Require and enforce people to clean up after their dogs, especially on high use days. 3. Limit professional dog walkers to three or four dogs per outing in all areas. 4. Add a fee onto dog licensure to pay for these services.

Finally, I want to note Peter Fimrite's 1/23/11 Chronicle article in which he says that the Park Service is trying to avoid protest from the "dog people" by setting its community meetings as "informational." This is the Park Service's political ploy to avoid confrontation from dog owners (read, NOT a community discussion.) Shameful!  
Sincerely, Laurie Cohen

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**Correspondence ID:** 311      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS

**Name:** -

**Address:** - CA  
USA

**Email:** lindacahill@lindacahill.com  
**Outside** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Organization:**  
**Received:** Jan,23,2011 13:19:24  
**Correspondence** Web Form  
**Type:**  
**Correspondence:** Bravo on finally giving the parks back to the people. I walk on Crissy Field every day. Children are expected to play in sand where thousands of dogs have pooped and peed. In the summer we do not get rain for 5 or 6 months and it is unhealthy and unsanitary to have kids playing in a dog toilet. We desperately need a section reserved for people who want to use a clean beach without dealing with dried dog urine. As far as the wildlife, most dog owners ignore the nesting plover sites and allow their dogs to run through the nesting areas. The fences have helped somewhat, but rangers could easily earn their salaries if they gave hefty tickets to offenders.

---

**Correspondence ID:** 312    **Project:** 11759    **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** felix 2468@horizoncable.com  
**Outside** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Organization:**  
**Received:** Jan,23,2011 13:27:35  
**Correspondence** Web Form  
**Type:**  
**Correspondence:** We, my wife and I, are in strong favor of keeping things as they are insofar as letting dogs and their owners enjoy some portions of the Bay Area National Parks.

We see no reason to further restrict dogs from our parks. Human beings with their noise and intrusive natures create considerably more havoc on the wild life living in these parks than dogs and some of the wild animals such as coyotes and foxes and badgers and raccoons also cause more havoc on the bird life in our parks than dogs. Drawing the line to exclude dogs from these parks appears unreasonable and unnecessarily restrictive and politically driven to satisfy the extreme elements in the conservation movement.

Thank you for your consideration of our point of view,

Jeff & Bonnie Felix

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**Correspondence ID:** 313    **Project:** 11759    **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:**  
**Outside** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Organization:**  
**Received:** Jan,23,2011 13:31:20  
**Correspondence** Web Form  
**Type:**  
**Correspondence:** LEAVE THE DOG POLICY ALONE.

I'm not a dog owner, but there is NOTHING wrong with the current situation. STOP TRYING TO RUIN SOMETHING THAT'S WORKING JUST FINE.

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**Correspondence ID:** 314    **Project:** 11759    **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:**  
**Outside** none Unaffiliated Individual  
**Organization:**

**Received:** Jan,23,2011 13:33:02

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Please do not keep us and our dogs from enjoying and exercising in Crissy Field, Ocean Beach and Fort Funston. I am 76 years old and I am so thankful that I am motivated to take my Lab mix to run and play in all the areas under consideration for restrictions.

This is not only about dog exercise and enjoyment; it is also about the joy it gives us to frolic, run, walk, throw balls and engage with so many wonderful dog owners who we have gotten to know over the years.

The pleasure this brings to me is immeasurable.

I am careful that my dog does not infringe on delicate areas of the parks.

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**Correspondence ID:** 315    **Project:** 11759    **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS

**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA

**Email:**  
**Outside:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Organization:**  
**Received:** Jan,23,2011 13:43:05  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Please reconsider the plan for Muir Beach. It makes no sense to allow dogs on-leash in the parking lot, then ban them from the beach. Why would I take my dog to Muir Beach to walk him around the parking lot on-leash? I take my dog to Muir Beach so he can run and play ball, he's a lab retriever. A dog playing on the beach should be allowed off-leash and under voice control like mine is. If you want to have a leash law in the parking lot, or on the trail to the beach, or anywhere near the fresh water marsh-like area, I can see that, but banning dogs from the beach for off-leash makes no sense. Your own report shows little to no impact on the area one way or the other. Please stop trying to regulate what does not need regulating.

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**Correspondence ID:** 316    **Project:** 11759    **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS

**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA

**Email:** lgeubelle@gmail.com  
**Outside:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Organization:**  
**Received:** Jan,23,2011 14:28:38  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Dear GGNRA-

I have been walking daily at Crissy Field with my dog/dogs for the last 13 years. We live near the Presidio, which we love, and we also enjoy outings to Stinson Beach, Muir Beach, and Fort Funston with our 2 labs and our 5 yr old son. I have never once taken for granted the beauty of our surroundings and the delicate eco-system it sustains. I feel so lucky to enjoy these areas with my dogs off leash. Dogs and humans and other species can co-exist with education and ticketing if dog waste is not picked up. No one likes to see dog poop left anywhere. I feel like it is not the dog walkers who leave it behind. All of the dog walkers I know are very responsible in controlling their dogs and picking up after their dogs. If there was a large fine attached to anyone leaving dog waste behind then hopefully people will think twice in not picking up.

Each morning at Crissy it is the dog people walking the beach and picking up trash left from other people. I believe there is far more damage from the human species on the GGRNA areas than the dogs. On any given day at Crissy there are many dogs enjoying what they crave and what they need, exercise off leash, and socialization. This definitely makes for happy dogs living in this wonderful city. I also love the fact that I can take my son to Crissy Field on a warm beach day along with our dogs. I truly do not know what they would do if they could not swim in the bay each day. They are so happy and so lucky to live where they are allowed to exercise off leash in a natural

environment. Please do not limit to an extreme as it appears in the draft, the off leash areas. We need this and our dogs need this. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Carolyn Geubelle

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**Correspondence ID:** 317    **Project:** 11759    **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:**  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan,23,2011 14:51:10  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I am writing to express my support for new regulations of off-leash dogs and dog walking businesses in the Golden Gate National Recreation Area. As a frequent walker in the Marin Headlands, Crissy Field, Muir Beach, Mt. Tam and Stinson Beach, my safety and enjoyment of the Park is frequently disrupted by numerous encounters with off-leash dogs. I am also concerned by the destruction of Park resources and wildlife by these large volumes of dogs.

On a regular basis I observe the following:

Off-leash dogs running in fenced off habitat restoration areas. Off-leash dogs running on and defecating on playing fields trails and beaches. Off-leash dogs flushing birds from underbrush and grassy areas. Off-leash dogs rolling and bathing in the fenced off wildlife habitat areas and streams and lagoons (especially painful for a birder to see!) Off-leash dogs chasing joggers Off-leash dogs running at, jumping on and barking at people in the Park Areas where heavy usage by dogs has destroyed vegetation Large quantities of uncollected dog feces

I recognize that many dog owners are responsible and show appropriate respect and consideration for other park users and park resources. However, for dogwalkers looking after 8 or more dogs (which I see regularly), it becomes physically impossible for even the most responsible person to adequately supervise their dogs. Unfortunately, many seem to be unconcerned with the impact their business is having on others and on park resources. Further, in some areas of the parks, even responsible dog walking is incompatible with the Park's mission of preserving habitat and wildlife and with the park visitors who are seeking a quiet place to view wildlife.

Given the mission of the Parks system to protect resources and provide a place for visitors to experience natural lands and wildlife, I support OPTION D as the best alternative. However, recognizing the GGNRA is fairly unique in its proximity to large urban areas, OPTION C of balanced use (hopefully combined with vigorous enforcement) would be an acceptable alternative.

Many thanks for your consideration and ongoing stewardship of one of the Bay Area's most beloved resources.

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**Correspondence ID:** 318    **Project:** 11759    **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - NV  
USA  
**Email:** yellowfrog@gbis.com  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan,23,2011 15:02:08  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Please restrict dogs. When a place has "gone to the dogs" it means it has gone to ruin. Don't let this happen. Dog owners have such gall; they act like it's a Constitutional right to own a dog. What a demanding group of people dog lovers are. Their dog comes first and to heck with everything else. That's their attitude.

The vast majority of dog owners do not pick up their dog's turds. And they think their dog is sooo wonderful that it can't possibly disturb others, or disturb wildlife.

They think dogs have a right to run free. I say, if they don't have a big enough yard for their dog, then they shouldn't own this species of pet. Or get a treadmill for it. Or walk it on a LEASH. This off-leash demand is nonsense and gall.

One final comment: dogs are an eyesore. A bunch of domestic dogs running around is UGLY.

Thank you.

---

**Correspondence ID:** 319      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106

**Project Name:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Address:** - CA  
USA

**Email Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Received:** Jan,23,2011 15:38:12  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Thank you for this opportunity to comment on the GGNRA Draft Dog Management Plan. We appreciate the park spokesman's acknowledgement of the need to "balance the needs of a hugh variety of users while also protecting natural resources."

We are in our 60's and have enjoyed walking/hiking all of our lives. Yet, there are increasingly limited areas where we can walk due to unleashed dogs that are not controlled well by the humans who brought them to the park areas. (I.e., this is not an anti-dog stance, but a realistic appraisal of increasingly unsafe situations caused by humans who do not take adequate responsibility for their dogs.) This is a liability issue as well as a health & safety issue. If the GGNRA does not get increasing complaints about injuries from dogs, it is because persons (esp., seniors such as ourselves) have avoided areas where we would otherwise have wished to walk, but can no longer do so because of threats against our health & safety. Some may say that it is only a few humans who do not walk/exercise their dogs safely & responsibly, but one dog running & jumping upon us viciously (nearly biting us on the neck) is enough to require us to return home and avoid that area in the future. That was not an isolated incident, and in fact happen even though we always walk away from any areas where there are dogs off-leash. Even when we see a dog on-leash, we usually walk off of a trail in order to give the dog full use of the trail and to avoid any conflict. We even thank the human beings for having their dog on a leash (while we are giving them the "right-of-way"). I.e., we are courteous & responsible ourselves, but find that increasingly that is not enough to prevent problems with dogs &/or their humans.

Once a plan is in effect, please have adequate signs to indicate the limitations & locations of either "leash only" or "no dog" areas, as well as contact information to report incidents. We have experienced humans who say that it is OK for their dogs to be unleashed, because they have seen other dogs unleashed, or because "he doesn't bite" or "he is a quiet dog" etc., only to see that dog become agitated when around increasing numbers of strangers, whether human or canine. On the other hand, we have experienced courteous dog-walkers who apologized when their dogs ran into us, and who have accepted our courteous reference to signs about dogs needing to be leashed, etc. For those responsible humans, sufficient numbers of signs would be helpful & informative; for the irresponsible humans, the signs will be helpful for other humans who wish to report incidents to the GGNRA administration.

Thank you.

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**Correspondence ID:** 320      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106

**Project Name:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Address:** - CA  
USA

**Email Outside:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Organization:****Received:** Jan,23,2011 16:10:19**Correspondence Type:** Web Form**Correspondence:** I strongly oppose NPS reduction of off-leash dog areas in the Park. I regret that the NPS is attempting to limit public hearings and to squelch public response. The long and detailed document produced by NPS is an attempt by overpaid, third-rate NPS administrators to obfuscate the issue.

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**Correspondence ID:** 321      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS**Name:** -**Address:** - CA  
USA**Email:** ruff\_ridersk9@yahoo.com**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual**Received:** Jan,23,2011 16:21:47**Correspondence Type:** Web Form**Correspondence:** To Whom It May Concern:

As a professional dog walker/trainer/and dog owner, I am very concerned about the proposed plan to close off these areas of the GGNRA to off leash dogs. I have walked my dogs at Fort Funston and Crissy Field for 10 years! I have seen my share of unfortunate incidents and encounters but overall think that it runs pretty smoothly on a daily basis. I agree with the fact that as professionals we need to be licensed and regulated. Although I think that 8 off leash dog per licensed professional is a little more reasonable, I am comfortable with the 6 dog limit. I feel it is imperative that we be able to use Fort Funston in the way that we are now. It is a huge open space and that makes it more manageable and safe for walking a pack of dogs. Why can't we as professionals pay a fee to use the park? That way the funds can be used to maintain the trails better, etc. I also feel that is a great way to "weed" out other dog walkers who aren't "professionals" and are irresponsible. Most of us take our careers seriously and count on it as our only source of income. I also would like to comment on the dog run idea at Funston. The reason I don't take my dogs to enclosed dog runs is because the heightened level of dog fight risk when in an enclosed area. I for see this being a HUGE issue at Fort Funston; not to mention the risk of dog fights rising tremendously there. I agree that we all need to responsible pet owners and pick up after our dogs and control them when off leash. That is why I feel permitting is imperative. Please don't take away this precious area for giving dogs what they need; true off leash areas to run and do what dogs do! Without these areas, we will be forced to push into city parks making them extremely over crowded and rise of incidence. Thank you for considering my opinion.

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**Correspondence ID:** 322      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS**Name:** -**Address:** - CA  
USA**Email:** abigail44@gmail.com**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual**Received:** Jan,23,2011 16:49:47**Correspondence Type:** Web Form**Correspondence:** As a nature lover, mother of a 4 months of son, and dog owner I'm often torn by my desire to balance the needs of all the creatures that love this city. I know there are people who are afraid of off leash dogs and nature that needs to be conserved. However, I'm concerned that if we loose the proposed off leash areas, we will create some unintended issues. Dogs without exercise are more likely to be anxious and possibly aggressive. Personally, I would be MUCH less likely to take my family to these locations if I wasn't able to allow my dog off leash and I fear we would all enjoy the outdoors much less. I adopted my dog specifically with the dream of spending weekend days outdoors with her, going for runs and generally living a healthy life. That has all come true but it will be a significant challenge and disruption to loose these spaces.

I'm also a social worker working with abused children. I work long hours and therefore have hired a caring and wonderful dog walker. She takes my pup to Fort Funston everyday. She takes good care of the dogs and of the park area. If my dog lost this as a daily routine, my life and my dog's life would be really challenging.

There are so many parks are beautiful spaces in SF and most of them are for people and children. These spaces are so essential for the health of our dogs. In my case, when my dog is happy, I'm happy!

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**Correspondence ID:** 323      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:**  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan,23,2011 17:15:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** San Francisco is known as a dog friendly city. The vast majority of dog owners cultivate a safe and sanitary environment by taking this responsibility seriously. We clean up after our dogs, leash dangerous dogs and train their dogs to be obedient. It is a delight to walk the parks of San Francisco and experience the wonderful community of dog owners and dogs. Off leash allows dogs to run in a game of fetch and to play with other dogs getting that much needed exercise. It is good for the dogs, their owners and the community. Don't take this away from us.

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**Correspondence ID:** 324      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** -  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan,23,2011 17:46:17  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing to express my opinion about proposed changes to dog management in the GGNRA. I am a dog owner living in San Francisco and I jog with my dog every weekend and most holiday mornings on Baker Beach (within walking distance of my home), and I sometimes walk my dog at Land's End, Crissy Field or Ocean Beach. I allow my dog to play off-leash at Baker Beach, Ocean Beach, and in the big field at Crissy Field. I feel that it is important for dogs to be able to run freely under the appropriate conditions (i.e. under voice control and where they are not disturbing wildlife). At the same time, I consider myself an environmentalist and I respect the views of those people who do not enjoy dogs, and I control my dog accordingly, as well as pick up his feces. In my experience, most other dog owners are respectful and do the same. I see far more trash from humans that is unsightly and dangerous for wildlife on the beach and in Crissy Field than I do dog feces.

Although dogs are not allowed off-leash in most national parks, I feel that the GGNRA is unusual in that it is within a large metropolitan area and so its use should be balanced to accommodate the needs of local residents and visitors. It will never be a real wilderness area on the scale of other national parks. While I support preserving habitat for wild animals where possible, including excluding dogs from those sensitive areas, I hope that you will also designate certain areas on the beach in particular where dogs will be allowed to run free under voice control.

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**Correspondence ID:** 325      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - DE  
USA  
**Email:** -  
**Outside Organization:** OUR CREATORS Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan,23,2011 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Dear people; I do not live near your park, but I will comment on the new governmental rules you are attempting to implament. Years ago, prior to MAMKIND living in the wilderness, all and I repeat "ALL" animals lived there.

Not until mankind came in was there a problem. Our Creator has a balance for all wildlifew and they are well taken care of by our Creator, whom is the best as people destroy what is best. If you would know that people steal the home for the animals instead of animals stealing the homes of human beings we all could enjoy what our Founding Fathers set this Country up for that our Creator let us have. I thank you for taking this into consideration and understand the birds are also protected by our Creator, not that much by mankind. I love nature, dogs, horses, deer, birds, and all animals, but not in a pen, or confined as you are looking to do by your lease law. Forget the law, and let the dog owners control there running are for exercise. Please STOP the idiotic governmental control which is dumb. My e-mail address is in this for you to keep me up-dated. I get my news on the Yahoo site of my computer. I am 61 years of age and I always watch the wildlife as well as the animals (some two legged animals also) I even place a 6'3" two legged man eaten dog back into jail. You can look it up on AMW.COM and read it, his name is Hornick, Scott Alan. This is the truth. Stop playing God.

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**Correspondence ID:** 326      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** faith.bolliger.ny@gmail.com  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan,23,2011 18:07:25  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** my dog and the public benefit hugely from being able to run free in the golden gate national recreation area. not only does it make my dog happier, healthier, and a better apartment dog. but it has many socialization benefits for other dogs and dog owners. further it benefits the public. i have had countless elderly, children and handicap persons enjoy the theraputic benefits of petting my dog and receiving his loving attention. san francisco as a whole benefits as a city for having caring pet owners and pets in public space.

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**Correspondence ID:** 327      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - PA  
USA  
**Email:** -  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan,23,2011 18:44:04  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I welcome the oppportunity to visit a dog-free park. Please do what you can to ensure that those of us who do not appreciate the mess and hassle that dogs and their owners bring to public places have a voice in these discussions.

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**Correspondence ID:** 328      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** -  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan,23,2011 19:56:04  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I have reviewed all the options for Fort Funston and Ocean Beach, the two areas where I regularly walk my two dogs. I vehemently support Option A, which allows me to keep my pets under voice control, and strongly protest all other options.

While my elderly dog no longer needs to run, and can walk sedately on leash, my younger dog can simply not be adequately exercised on leash. Part of the joy of living in such a beautiful location is that I can go to lovely coastal areas to exercise my pets and me. All the alternate proposals make that impossible. I simply don't have time to go

one place to exercise my dogs, and then pile them in the car and go to Ocean Beach or Fort Funston.

GGNRA is not a wilderness like Yellowstone or Yosemite, but is adjacent to a dense urban population. It is not appropriate to treat it as if it were wilderness. I am a backpacker, and would not dream of taking my dogs somewhere inappropriate, but leashing all dogs even on paved trails, as if they can do some environmental damage to asphalt or concrete, is just silly! In fact, it is so clearly silly, that it makes the whole plan suspect, as if it were written primarily to accommodate those who fear or dislike dogs.

This is not meeting the needs of dogs and dog owners even a little bit, much less halfway.

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**Correspondence ID:** 329      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** lisa@lesuss.com  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan.23,2011 20:12:47  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Blanketly closing these parks to dogs especially such staples as Chrissy Field and Fort Funston would have a devastating effect on this very dog-friendly and well dog-populated city. It's been my experience over the 7+ years that I have lived here and visited these areas, that citizens who visit these parks with their dogs do so with safety, consideration of others in the community and respect for the surrounding environment and plantlife as major priorities.

It is a fact that there are somewhere between 100,000-200,000 dogs living within the city of San Francisco. And it is also a fact that the dogs that do not receive enough exercise, enough socialization with other people and other dogs are much more prone to aggressive behavior. Therefore depriving dog owners in the city of places where they can respectfully and safely give their dogs the exercise and socialization they need not only diminishes the quality of life for these animals, but it also potentially creates an environment where dog bites, dog fighting and dog attacks are more likely to occur.

As a resident of the city of San Francisco and a dog owner myself, I STRONGLY URGE you to work with the dog-advocate community to develop a more workable solution than the one that is currently being proposed.

Thank you, Lisa Sussman

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**Correspondence ID:** 330      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:**  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan.23,2011 20:16:30  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Frank Dean,

As a regular visitor to Fort Funston I appose to the proposal changing the dog laws of the GGNRA and absolutely support alternative A. I understand the concern for environmental protection of our planet but disagree that the current laws would do as much environmental damage as proposed. I very rarely see dogs in the protected areas of Fort Funston. Dog owners I have seen have respect for the protected areas of the park. As for wildlife, I have never seen a dog chase or harass any native wild life on the beach at Fort Funston (or Ocean Beach). In regards to visitors, I have many times seen dogs and people without dogs enjoying the parks together. I spoke once to visitors from out of state that commented how lucky we were to have such a wonderful place for our dogs. I have seen small children and dogs of all sizes enjoying the same beach without any problems. Dog owners do pick up their

dog waste and there are group days for any waste that may have been missed. Finally, people have ruined areas of the park way more than dogs by defacing the Forts with graffiti.

I am personally very thankful that I have a place where my dog can run off leach. I am very respectful for the parks, as are other dog owners. Based on my experience with dogs and the parks I do not agree with the reasons for changing the law. There are so few places left for responsible dog owners to walk their dogs off leach. Please do not take away places where dogs can run free and enjoy our National parks just like everyone else.

Thank you for time

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**Correspondence ID:** 331      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** -  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan,23,2011 20:41:49  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** There are already too few options for dog owners to exercise their dogs and enjoy the outdoors with their dogs. Part of the reason we moved to Marin was to enjoy the outdoors with our dog. It's not fair to punish those who are responsible dog owners because of a few irresponsible people. Not all dogs do well in dog parks so being able to exercise them at the beaches and trails is key for dog owners. Please reconsider the proposed laws.

Tiffany DeFrance

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**Correspondence ID:** 332      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** -  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan,23,2011 20:44:50  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** i have been using crissy field for the last two years with my dog. I have always been respectful and so have the members of the community that I see at crissy field. The best thing to do is license the dogs for off-leash use and fine those that are not license.

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**Correspondence ID:** 333      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - MD  
USA  
**Email:** -  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan,23,2011 20:56:56  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I have read only the Executive Summary. In all of that I did not see any mention of what remains in places where dogs roam free or are walked on-leash or off. The main problem I see with dogs consists the remainder of their feces and the urine they spray. People and especially children can come in contact with these materials and get very ill. Where are regulations regard cleaning up after animals in public areas? There should be restraints on the presence of dogs on all government properties, especially beaches, playgrounds, picnic areas and other places where people may be sitting on the ground or playing in the dirt and/or sand. I so often see people walking their

dogs and then letting them off of leashes to go and find a place to defecate. Dog feces carries as much bacteria and illness-bearing material as human waste. We don't let people defecate anywhere they wish so why should we let dogs? Do your regulations address animal waste at all? You don't mention cats anywhere. Cats waste, in addition to the danger listed above, carries something that can cause miscarriage in pregnant women. Where are regulations regarding cats? My concern about waste from cats and dogs adds to my fear of dogs. I like dogs, but when I see dogs and packs of dogs running together, perhaps towards me, I become anxious. I believe that domestic animals should be kept on leash or tether unless on their owner's fenced property. Leash regulations are a must in public areas especially. We must maintain the pristine forests, beaches, trails, etc. We do sometimes see wild animal "scat" while hiking, but I just can't see that we must put up with cat and dog feces in our National Parks and National Recreation areas. I have a golden pass which allows me to enter national parks for free because I am a senior citizen. I often visit such areas. I have visited the Golden Gate National Recreation Area on every occasion when traveling to San Francisco. I will continue to do so and hope that I will find regulations in place and enforced.

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**Correspondence ID:** 334      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS

**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
 USA

**Email:** jane.matsui@yahoo.com  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Received:** Jan,23,2011 21:02:54

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** To: The GGNRA I have been living in San Francisco as a dog owner for 26 years. Along with the great weather, great food (although I do wish that more restaurants would accommodate well-behaved dogs) and beautiful surroundings, I have spent some of my most memorable days in the city walking my dog at Chrissy Field. I have a small terrier and he thrills at the sand and surf and Labradors fetching sticks from the ocean. We meet friends that we only see at the beach and the dogs play together without causing problems for families picnicing, Seniors walking or runners enjoying the water's edge. The people that bring their dogs to Chrissy Field are a conscientious group and I have never seen a dog owner that did not pick up poop. In fact, many times I have witnessed a dog owner offer a pickup bag to a possible offender with a suggestion that they clean up after their dog in the future. For the number of dogs that enjoy Chrissy Field one would think that dog litter would be a problem, but I can walk for an hour without seeing a pile of dog poop. The dog walkers that I meet are very protective of the space and do all that they can to keep it clean for everyone. I am very aware of the need to preserve nesting space for the Snowy Plover. I am a conservationist and work at The California Academy of Science. My dog and I have respected the nesting area near the pier and never go there off leash. Dogs and their owners need space to run and enjoy the coastline. Many of the reasons given for imposing leash laws, such as dog attacks to beachgoers and dog walkers not being responsible for picking up, are not realistic and do not reflect the what goes on at Chrissy Field each day. San Francisco is known as a city that welcomes 'Life' in many ways and having the space to let a dog run free should not be something one needs to forfeit when living here. Saint Francis, the Patron Saint of Animals will be proud when this debate has ended and dogs are able to enjoy the public spaces in our city. Thank you for the opportunity to address this issue. Jane Matsui

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**Correspondence ID:** 335      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS

**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
 USA

**Email:** catebaril@yahoo.com  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Received:** Jan,23,2011 21:25:51

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Dear Federal Government, while I am a law abiding citizen - I vote, pay taxes, am fairly active - I seem to be completely out of step with your current plans. And to my way of thinking, your current plans are out of way of thinking of most Californians.

I guess I'm ultimately unclear why the Federal government can create pet rules that are different than the cities or

counties where these parks are housed.

If San Francisco, or Marin is happy with supervised dogs running free, why do you get to set different more restrictive rules? and as citizens, that ultimately fund these parks, how do we get to vote?

I understand the process to work with local rules and legislature, but am baffled to learn the federal government can create rules that do not reflect local desires without having any process (beyond an email comment box) for locals to get involved.

we pay you - why don't we get to play a role in the rules that will ultimately govern our lives?

Put me down as one highly disappointed Californian pet owner. I wish there was a way to vote on your policies. I can't even see a way to vote you out of power, or to vote less funding for your controlling rules.

- Cate Baril

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**Correspondence ID:** 336      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** -  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan,23,2011 21:40:31  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** PLEASE keep ALL of Fort Funston as "off leash"! This is such a unique and wonderful area for dogs and their owners, restricting off-leash access would be such a disappointment.

Thank you for taking my comments into consideration.

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**Correspondence ID:** 337      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** -  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan,23,2011 22:52:26  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I have reviewed the maps and comments for preferred alternatives for all of the San Francisco GGNRA units. I believe that the preferred alternatives represent an equitable balance between those who prefer to bring dogs and those who don't. They also fulfill the mandate of the NPS to protect and preserve our wildlife and natural resources. I also believe that the preferred alternatives are realistic considering the limited amount of resources that can be used to enforce the adopted policy.

As a San Franciscan native, I personally have been dismayed by the ever-increasing use of both GGNRA lands as well as City parks by off lease dogs. I find it more and more difficult to have a "no-dog" experience within the City natural areas. When I was a child and young adult, I remember enjoying hiking through Fort Funston. Now I avoid it, as it is overrun with dogs. I think the NPS has done a fantastic job in designing Crissy Field. However, I can say in the days when it was mostly large asphalt air fields, at least I could take a peaceful walk on the beach without getting overrun by dogs. At this point, I am loath to bring my 5 year old daughter to East Beach, considering the density of big, uncontrolled dogs. Often one hears that since areas like Fort Funston are mostly used by dog-walkers, it should remain that way. However, this was not true years ago. I believe that the presence of so many dogs in areas like that have driven away those who find the experience greatly degraded.

Although City parks are not part of this discussion, the fact that leash laws are routinely ignored in City parks

makes having non-dog areas in the GGNRA even more important. For instance, even though Pine-Lake park has a large, attractive and conveniently located off-leash area, the rest of the park also has off-leash dogs running all over the place. I have yet to see any enforcement of leash laws in San Francisco parks.

Many of those who wish for a better balance than what exists now are members of families with children. I would guess that those who are most likely to show up to make comments at public events do not have child-care responsibilities. So, despite the fact that public meetings tend to be skewed towards those wanting more dog access, please remember that many, many people are counting on the NPS to bring everything back to a more equitable balance.

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**Correspondence ID:** 338     **Project:** 11759     **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** CalRanger@aol.com  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan,23,2011 23:21:05  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I support the plan and wish NPS well in its attempt to protect GGNRA.

Dogs need to be controlled to protect wildlife and visitors. Voice control means many things to many people and the bottom line is that voice control is ineffective in crucial situations. If a dog is to be allowed on NPS property it must be on a leash six feet or shorter with the other end of the leash held by a person at all times -- even service dogs. A loose dog accompanied by an owner is difficult to restrain when the dog is provoked, and a dog that has no obvious person connected is even more difficult to restrain or capture.

What will the NPS policy be if a dog is found harassing wildlife -- with or without its owner?

Good luck.

Miles Standish

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**Correspondence ID:** 339     **Project:** 11759     **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** -  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan,23,2011 23:39:47  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Dear GGNRA and folks reviewing the dog management plan: As a resident of San Francisco and a dog owner, it is shocking to me that we would be looking at passing a law that would restrict dogs from frequenting certain sites and running free in designated locations. Dogs are part of our households and have become part of our families. Does it really make sense to make it even harder for residents of San Francisco to allow their dogs to get exercise? We pay enough taxes here to be able to enjoy the beautiful beaches and woods of SF with our canine companions.

That said, if this is not feasible, I would propose a fee and registration for dogs to run offleash and frequent certain areas. This could allow regulation of which dogs are allowed to be offleash and would bring revenue to the city to care for any dog related expenses.

Best regards. Mom to an eight month old human baby and 2 year old canine mutt

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**Correspondence ID:** 340     **Project:** 11759     **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** minhnggia@hotmail.com  
**Outside** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Organization:**  
**Received:** Jan.23,2011 23:48:50  
**Correspondence** Web Form  
**Type:**  
**Correspondence:** I support your Dog Management Plan. I agree that it better fits the "natural, historic, scenic, and recreational values" of the Park's mission better than the anarchic and anti-social behavior I see today in the GGNRA. I would only argue against allowing the so-called ROLA access to national park space. While many owners and the animals are responsible and can be trust with voice-only controls on their dogs, other owners who see these off-leash animals will believe that there are no on-leash rules in effect.

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**Correspondence ID:** 341      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA

**Email:**  
**Outside** Unaffiliated Individual

**Organization:**  
**Received:** Jan.24,2011 00:00:08

**Correspondence** Web Form

**Type:**  
**Correspondence:** There are many flaws in this plan, but the most egregious is the idea to completely eliminate dogs from Ocean Beach south of the very northern end. Thousands of people walk their dogs responsibly on this 3 mile long beach, and it is ludicrous to propose that this wonderful place to walk your dog should suddenly become closed to dogs.

Many people like myself live in the Outer Sunset because of the proximity to Ocean Beach. One reason we love the beach is because it is a beautiful natural environment for dog walking. We respectfully abide by the leash regulations, and are some of the most frequent visitors to the beach. Who else is at the beach when there is terrible fog, wind and rain? I'll tell you: no one - which makes it an amazing escape.

The beach is basically my front yard, and the idea that I cannot responsibly walk my dog on leash on the dunes or sand is asinine. I pick up every piece of poop. I also pick up other trash, particularly glass, to protect all beach goers, both human and canine. My presence has an unequivocally positive effect on Ocean Beach, without doing harm to any bird or other person, so why do you seek to ban my canine friend and I?

The current regulations for OB are working fine, and the status quo is far preferable to the inane proposal from the NPS. And don't forget: San Francisco can take Ocean Beach back if you hinder the city's residents from their recreation. I promise you thousands of SF citizens who will take the issue to city hall if you try to implement these proposed rules.

Thank you for your consideration.

-Jake L.

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**Correspondence ID:** 342      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA

**Email:** jamie\_ross@mail.com  
**Outside** Unaffiliated Individual

**Organization:**  
**Received:** Jan.24,2011 01:15:30

**Correspondence** Web Form  
**Type:**

**Correspondence:** I find the proposed plan to be over-harsh and restrictive in an already overly restrictive plan where dogs are regulated to just 1% of our parks. The comments that some people don't like dogs is ridiculous in light of the fact that non-dog lovers have \*\*99%\*\* of the rest of the parks to enjoy. Why take the tiny bit that dog owners have left? We have so little as it is. And many of these areas i.e. Fort Funston are not and won't be nice areas (i.e. sewage runoff - ew)

With such a high population of dogs (and their owners) in ratio to children in SF, why squeeze them into an even smaller area? This will only further the dog-related issues by compressing all dogs into a small area. Small, confined dog play areas are known for increased rates of dog/dog aggression. Dogs need large areas to play. I rely on these open expanses to give my dog room to run AND avoid less socialized or pushy dogs. More dogs in a smaller area will not allow for this. Have you ever considered that a number of the problems you are trying to mitigate is due to the limited space (considering the dog population) that dogs have now to run in?

With regards to the confusion and people who don't like dogs, limiting the dog-friendly areas is not going to solve the issue. The problem is lack of clear signage. I can't tell you how many times I have gone out on adventures with my dog, researched which trails I can go on, on/off-leash and tried to memorize the maps online and then get there and can't figure it out so I do my best from my memory. If trails and areas were well-signed and obvious, then dogs could be and do what they are supposed to. And non-dog fans could easily avoid those areas. But you guys make it too confusing by not-providing the information when and where it is needed.

For example, there is a point at Fort Funston on the beach where it becomes state park and dogs are not allowed. Horse riders stay to this area because of the threatening dog incidents to their horses. But the owners don't know where the line is. And horse riders get hurt being chased by dogs whose owner don't understand where the line is. Being both a horse rider on this beach and a dog owner who walks my dog at Fort Funston, I know but I am the exception.

I can't imagine that the confusion is going to change with the new policy. Because you are not going to clearly sign...I didn't see that in the document. So dog owners are going to be in violation even more often for bigger \$\$\$ revenues for you from fines AND make a bigger case for how "irresponsible" dog owners are. SF dog owners in general are quite responsible but I often have trouble figuring out where I can and cannot go. So sometimes I just take the lead of what I see other dog owners doing.

I ask that you please reconsider the extreme reduction that you are proposing. If you are having increased dog/non-dog people incidents, then sign better - make it clear so we can all avoid each other. But don't take away the meager 1% that we have. We just need a beach or two to run on and a few decent trails where we can loop around. And if we need to be on leash for a portion of those trails, its okay but don't eliminate the ability to do decent hikes with our dogs entirely. It's one of the best things about nature and having a dog is hiking...far more than running about in one tiny portion of a beach.

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**Correspondence ID:** 343      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS

**Name:** -

**Address:** - NY  
CHE

**Email:** leetgaffigan@gmail.com

**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Received:** Jan,24,2011 01:38:15

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** As a former Bay Area resident I was dismayed to hear of plans to ban dogs from Muir Beach. I now live in Switzerland where it is understood that dogs are part of a family and they are welcomed everywhere except grocery stores. It's really an outrage to deprive dogs and their owners from taking part in the majestic beauty and restorative properties of the Muir Beach area. What will be next? I sincerely hope that this matter is given greater consideration for all dog lovers and owners in the Bay Area.

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**Correspondence ID:** 344      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS

**Name:** -

**Address:** - CA  
USA

**Email:** -  
**Outside** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Organization:**  
**Received:** Jan,24,2011 10:13:10  
**Correspondence** Web Form  
**Type:**  
**Correspondence:** Crissy Fields and Fort Funston must be kept for the enjoyment of off-leash dogs, their owners, and everyone else! With the dwindling space left for dogs to run free (as it is in their nature to do), we can't lose these beloved spot. Limiting their use is awful.

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**Correspondence ID:** 345      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA

**Email:** darrinallen1@mac.com  
**Outside** Unaffiliated Individual

**Organization:**  
**Received:** Jan,24,2011 11:43:09  
**Correspondence** Web Form

**Type:**  
**Correspondence:** As a past and future dog owner and freelance photographer I see the need for areas in which dogs and their owners feel free to run and get exercise. I also see the impact that dogs have on wild life both on and off leash. My opinion is this: It is necessary to keep dogs off the headlands completely leash or no leash. The impact to the natural environment, raptors, bobcats and coyotes and the small animals they feed on would forever change the attraction the Headlands bring as a natural feature. I had a number of photo shoots on the Marin headlands ruined due to dog owners having their pets in a "No Pets" area scare away all wildlife right in front of my lens. There are thousands of acres and hundreds of miles in the Bay Area designated as runs for dogs. Please keep dogs out of the Headlands. Owners will have to take the responsibility for owning their dog and caring for them in a way that does not force sharing the burden of pet ownership on the rest of those who would like to enjoy the Headlands in its natural state. The state in which it was reserved for.

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**Correspondence ID:** 346      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA

**Email:** -  
**Outside** Unaffiliated Individual

**Organization:**  
**Received:** Jan,24,2011 12:10:23  
**Correspondence** Web Form

**Type:**  
**Correspondence:** My family (including my dog) would be devastated to see the reduction of dog-friendly spaces as proposed in this plan.

To be fair, however, if that is the most sensitive natural habitat in need of special care, then so it should be.

But then help us find a way to establish an equivalent amount of space for permanent, fenced and significant off-leash dog parks in San Francisco and our surrounding areas.

Just as certain locations are designated for the protection of local flora and fauna, it only makes sense to set aside a number of large tracts dedicated to the health and well-being of our area's lively and loved, leashed and off-leash, canine population -- and the humans who want to be with them.

Thank you for your consideration.

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**Correspondence ID:** 347      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -

**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** -  
**Outside** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Organization:**  
**Received:** Jan,24,2011 12:49:52  
**Correspondence** Web Form  
**Type:**  
**Correspondence:** To Whom It May Concern:

I am unclear how my dog is more of an issue than the coyotes. She is on a leash or under voice control, being watched to make sure she stays on the trail, and we are picking up her waste. Further, she is socialized and obedient and certainly poses less of a risk to other people enjoying the area than a coyote would.

I am unclear why domesticated dogs are being banned in an area where wild dogs are part of the ecosystem, and I read the sections of the report which I thought might address that. I did not read the entire 2,400 page document, of course.

More regulations are only going to make things harder for the people who follow the rules, and the people who follow the rules have dogs that are far less dangerous to the environment and the other people enjoying the GGNRA than the coyotes. The people whose dogs are a problem now are just going to find places to run their dogs where they don't think they'll get "caught", and that would almost certainly be more destructive than what they're currently doing.

I cannot imagine why I, or any other dog owner, would go for a hike and enjoy the GGNRA without bringing my dog. If I do that, I will have to go for another long walk when I get home for my dog's wellbeing. Why would I go on a long walk and not bring her with me? If I can't take my dog on a hike, then there's not much reason for me to hike. I cannot be the only person who feels that way.

I hope the public outcry surrounding these changes will make a difference. I understand that some of these changes may be necessary, but I cannot imagine that all of them actually are.

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**Correspondence ID:** 348    **Project:** 11759    **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA

**Email:** brett.robertson@yahoo.com  
**Outside** Unaffiliated Individual

**Organization:**  
**Received:** Jan,24,2011 13:23:58  
**Correspondence** Web Form

**Type:**  
**Correspondence:** I am very disappointed and appalled by the proposed regulations regarding dogs in the GGNRA Draft Dog Management Plan. You are punishing ALL dog owners rather than the few irresponsible owners. Dogs need room to roam and to freely run off-leash. Dogs who get enough exercise tend to be well-behaved and happy. The ability for dogs to run on trails and on the beach is one of the best things about Marin. I have lived in Marin since 1986 and have never had an issue with an off-leash dog who is out of control or hurting wildlife. In addition, as a board member of bird research environmental organization, I am very concerned about bird populations and the protection of ecosystems. Nevertheless, I believe that dogs need freedom too. Please stop this Dog Management Plan and allow us to continue to enjoy the beauty of the GGNRA with our dogs off-leash.

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**Correspondence ID:** 349    **Project:** 11759    **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA

**Email:**  
**Outside** Unaffiliated Individual

**Organization:**  
**Received:** Jan,24,2011 13:27:22

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I am a senior with a large dog. The joy I experience walking on a beach with my dog free to jump in the surf and dig in the sand is beyond description. I often drive to Point Isabel in the East Bay to enjoy another off leash experience. The East Bay and San Francisco both have very large unfenced dog beaches. Marin does not have this.

A wonderful compromise would be to set aside a large beach with extending dunes and walks similar to Point Isabel or Fort, I think it is Funston, in SF where dogs are allowed to be off leash. Both of those areas are a delight. Dogs are usually well behaved. The areas are large enough to allow exercise for owner and dog.

My dog does not like dog parks. Actually they scare her. It's unnatural to have so many dogs together in a small space with nothing to do but interact there. Some dogs begin to bully. An open beach walk has wonderful smells to explore. Owners and dogs have a destination and purpose; we're on a walk. Dogs are generally courteous, happy and with their owner on an adventure. This experience is much more successful for everyone.

I walk my dog twice a day. A beach walk is a special walk for both of us, once or twice a month. I would love to have this experience close to home. If you close beaches to dogs I will also be deprived of this joy. I do not have time to take a third extra walk without my dog.

Hope you will consider my suggestion. Thank you, Corinne

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**Correspondence ID:** 350    **Project:** 11759    **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS

**Name:** -

**Address:** - CA  
USA

**Email:** -

**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Received:** Jan,24,2011 00:00:00

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Question: I apologize for not reading the entire 2400 page document but I hope someone at the GGNRA may be able to send me the data regarding the number and type of complaints/arrests re dog problems in the GGNRA. As dog owner, I often walk my dog in the areas under study and have never witnessed any problems except park police warning and ticketing dogs just for being off lead, not because they were being a nuisance or danger. I would like assurance that the GGNRA is not pursuing the extensive limitations they propose for a non-existent problem. Thanks you

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**Correspondence ID:** 351    **Project:** 11759    **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS

**Name:** -

**Address:** - CA  
USA

**Email:** ren@mindspring.com

**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Received:** Jan,24,2011 13:46:49

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Dogs already must be leashed in (or are completely banned from) the vast majority of local parkland, but the already scarce off-leash areas keep dwindling. Last year, we lost most of McLaren Park to a planned disc golf course. If this proposal goes through, the few off-leash areas left are bound to become over- crowded and unusable.

About 40% of US households own dog(s). This is a huge portion of our community that deserves the already miniscule number off-leash places available to take care of their dog properly. Dog owners of San Francisco are especially responsible and educated about managing their dog. I am in these parks for several hours every day, and I see owners in control of their dogs.

My dog needs exercise that he cannot get on leash. My dog runs 10-30 times the distance than I am able to run. He

also needs to play with other dogs to socialize and greet other dogs naturally, which requires being off leash. It would be impractical to have him on a leash.

On another note, dog owners are motivated to exercise with their dog, which improves the health of the owner and creates a higher quality of life for the owner as well as the dog.

LET 40% OF OUR RESPONSIBLE TAX PAYING COMMUNITY HAVE THE FEW THREADS OF SPACE LEFT TO EXERCISE AND ENJOY. THERE IS AN ENORMOUS AMOUNT OF SPACE LEFT OVER.

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**Correspondence ID:** 352      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** phold2@yahoo.com  
**Outside Organization:** Marin Audubon Society, MCL, Sierra Club, North Bay Hikers Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan,24,2011 14:01:07  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I fully support and encourage the directors to accept the dog management plan. I support this plan for two reasons:  
1. Protection of birdlife and habitat 2. Protection of recreational beaches for enjoyment by children and adults.

For the thirty two years that I have resided in Marin County, I and my family have enjoyed the beaches and recreational areas of GGNRA. Over the three decades dogs have increased their presence on beaches and trails. Dog owners do not observe rules or common decency about allowing their animals to defecate and urinate all over beaches, in the waters, and on the sand dunes and trails. It is no longer possible to walk barefoot on the beach without risking a very unpleasant experience.

In my observation, the majority of dog owners also do not respect leash laws in place to protect bird and animal life. Not just the common gull, but also sea birds, herons, and egrets are chased, frightened, and if they don't get away, mauled by dogs. Owners have been consistently disrespectful about the behavior of their dogs.

Law and regulation is a last resort when common respect and decency is not observed in the natural resource areas that we all share. Unfortunately dog owners do not pick up feces, nor do they attend to their dogs; on the contrary many feel that the animals are entitled to roam free, kill and maim, deposit their excrement, as well as threaten humans with their barking and aggressive behavior. This attitude and behavior will be apparent as the process goes forward in hearings.

Yesterday I took a beautiful walk on North Beach at Pt Reyes Seashore. It was a magnificent winter day. Dogs were numerous on the beach and I personally witnessed several dogs running unattended defecating in the sand and water and urinating all over the driftwood that we all use to sit on. Many large dogs ran by me, barking and being intimidating.

Two months ago at Abbott's Lagoon, I witnessed dogs running free, chasing the tiny shorebirds, barking and disturbing the peace of this pristine area. The owners were angry with me and personally insulting when I pointed out the rules concerning dogs at the Lagoon.

It is time that regulation and enforcement is needed to restore balance to the use of our pristine resources and habitat. Thank you for the opportunity to submit this comment. Good luck to you.

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**Correspondence ID:** 353      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** kate.reder@gmail.com  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan,24,2011 14:03:27

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** it would be a huge shame to restrict dogs from the coastal trail off of muir beach. this is an ideal spot for dogs, and i've never seen an owner not clean up for his/her dog. i would never come here if i couldn't bring my dog. he delights children on the trail. there has been no strong reason given for the exclusion of dogs. please do not restrict dogs from the only dog friendly trail for miles.

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**Correspondence ID:** 354      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106

**Project Name:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS

**Address:** -  
- CA  
USA

**Email:** -  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Received:** Jan,24,2011 14:40:16

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** As a San Francisco resident and dog owner who regularly uses portions of the GGNRA, both with and without my dog, I wish to comment on certain aspects of the Draft Dog Management Plan. My comments will be limited to the two areas I use most, FORT FUNSTON and OCEAN BEACH.

Preliminarily, I support any restriction on dogs which has as its primary focus the preservation of sensitive wildlife habitat, whether located in either of these two areas or elsewhere within GGNRA boundaries. In my view dog owners should be willing to prohibit dogs from interfering with any other species that may be nesting or otherwise present on park lands.

OCEAN BEACH: I object to any effort to restrict off-leash access to any part of Ocean Beach from the Cliff House south as far as Ulloa Street, at least, unless a specific area has been identified as sensitive wildlife habitat. As far as I am aware, no such area exists. I can conceive of no rational reason to limit access along this stretch of beach solely to on-leash dogs. There appear to be no environmental bases for such a limitation, and there certainly are no fragile resources of any cultural significance in this area.

In all of my experience spending time at the beach, whether with or without my dog, I have never witnessed any canine/human altercation which would suggest that there is any inordinate risk to human safety posed by maintaining the present off-leash policy. Of course, all dogs present on the beach should be under voice control and there is no question that dog owners must remain responsible for picking up after their dogs. Based upon my experiences and observations at Ocean Beach, at regular intervals over a period of years, I can conceive of no legitimate need or interest to restrict dog access in any way except in the case of specific areas of sensitive wildlife habitat.

FORT FUNSTON: For many of the same reasons I object to any effort to restrict off-leash dog access to any portion of Fort Funston that is not already off limits (i.e., fenced areas of sensitive habitat). The bases for my objection are the same as those set forth with respect to Ocean Beach. In addition, however, I wish to observe that, in contrast to Ocean Beach, which is widely used by dog owners and non-dog owners alike, Fort Funston's users are over 95% dog owners and it is the "go-to" place for dog owners seeking to exercise their pets off-leash in an extensive natural setting. Indeed, better than nine out of ten vehicles pulling into the Fort Funston parking lot unload one or more dogs in addition to people (and the other 5% are hang gliders who congregate in a specific location). As stated above, I support efforts to restrict all canine and human access to areas of Fort Funston that provide important wildlife habitat, but this can be achieved without requiring leash use. Depriving dog owners of a resource they have historically valued so thoroughly and so highly is an abuse of the planning process.

Each of these areas is without significant cultural resources and possess few, if any, sensitive habitats that are not already restricted. Human/canine altercations are, in my extensive experience of both areas, not a problem. Indeed, there are more dogs on any given day at Fort Funston than there are people, and I have never witnessed any notable dog vs. dog issues, let alone incidents involving humans and dogs. The fact that some people may harbor an irrational aversion to, or even fear of, dogs is in my opinion no basis at all, let alone a sufficient basis, for any on-leash restriction contemplated by any alternative set forth in the Draft Plan.

In summary, I object to the imposition of leash requirements at either Ocean Beach or Fort Funston except in limited specific areas known to be sensitive wildlife habitat. Thank you for considering my views.

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**Correspondence ID:** 355      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** -  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan,24,2011 14:43:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Dogs and dog walkers are out of control in GGNRA. They don't plan to abide by the reasonable new leash restrictions. There are a couple of ways I would suggest dealing with this. 1. Tickets for off leash activity in an on-leash area and tickets for dogs in a no dog area for \$500 2. If someone gets three tickets, their dog should be taken away and given to the spca. 3. If the person wants to contest the ticket, any other people involved in the incident (person who reported the dog an dog owner) should be allowed to testify.

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**Correspondence ID:** 356      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** -  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan,24,2011 14:43:09  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Please do not take away any hikes that currently allow dogs. If anything, we need to add more! Hiking with one's dog is a great way for individuals to get physical activity while also exercising their dogs. With so many beautiful places in the Bay Area, it would be a real shame to loose the opportunity to enjoy a beautiful hike with one's dog. I personally always want to take my dog with me when I go for a hike and only choose hiking trails that are dog-friendly. With the obesity epidemic on the rise in this nation, we should not limit the abiity for individuals to hike with their dogs. Without dog-friendly hiking trails, some people will resort to taking their dogs to dog parks for exercise which will not provide the dog owner with any exercise. Also, dogs need to walk as a pack for their mental well being (it's what they would do in nature). If dogs are just running around in a dog park, not walking with their pack (owners/family), then they can become agressive and misbehave. Please consider the health of your community and keep the trails dog-friendly!

---

**Correspondence ID:** 357      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** -  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan,24,2011 16:40:59  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** To whom it may concern:

Thank you for providing the oppportunity to comment on the GGNRA Draft Dog Management Plan.

Based upon periodic use and experiences at several of the selected National Park locations, and after review of the referenced draft, I respectfully request continued sensitivity to the needs and concerns of park visitors that may not care for domesticated pets, particularly dogs.

In my experience as a frequent park user, dogs are an attactive nuisance due to their uncontrolled behavior, and

often degrade the natural environment and park amenities due to deposited urine/excrement as well as physical destruction. In addition, dogs create considerable noise pollution which disrupts wildlife and the park experience for other visitors.

As mentioned in the draft report, I strongly support dog exclusions and/or prohibitions to designated parks or areas within parks. I believe these measures are appropriate as the attractive nuisances mentioned above are often acceptable to, and allowed by, the responsible party/the pet owner, without regard to other visitors and park rules.

Again, thank you for the consideration. I hope my comments are helpful. It is my belief that the Dog Management Plan is created and adopted to respect and enhance the enjoyment of both pet and non-pet park visitors for generations to come. If successful, this will provide the best possible experience for all visitors and will provide for the lasting benefit of all public recreation areas.

---

**Correspondence ID:** 358      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** paapk@nationwide.com  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan,24,2011 16:58:33  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** While I do not live in the bay area, I visit often. I have chosen San Francisco as a vacation destination several times specifically because of the many dog friendly locations. Even if I'm just passing through I always stop at Fort Funston for a lovely walk. I have never encountered any problems there.

My dogs are well behaved and under voice control. They do not wander off of designated paths and I am diligent in cleaning up after them. The ability to run loose and interact with other dogs and their owners is integral to their socialization and continued good behavior.

My town is one of the least dog friendly places in California and not a day goes by that it does not negatively impact our lifestyle. I am surprised that the GGNRA is considering such a drastic measure. Please reconsider.

---

**Correspondence ID:** 359      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** -  
**Outside Organization:** None Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan,24,2011 17:38:28  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** As a dog owner in San Francisco I'm concerned that we are not allowing enough areas to be off-leash dog friendly. Many breeds of dogs do not get their required exercise on leash which often leads to over-anxiety or aggression. It's important that we maintain as much off-leash dog friendly spaces as possible. I am in favor of leaving the restrictions where they are.

---

**Correspondence ID:** 360      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** -  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan,24,2011 19:13:19  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Keep dogs out of the GGNRA or at least insist on enforcing the leash laws.

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**Correspondence ID:** 361      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS

**Name:** -

**Address:** - CA  
USA

**Email:** jburket59@gmail.com

**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Received:** Jan,24,2011 19:50:38

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I have read over the proposed changes to the official policy regarding dogs in the GGNRA and there are three units within the proposal I wish to comment on, Stinson Beach, Crissy Field, and Baker Beach, as these are the three areas I use for exercising my dog. Regarding the changes in policy I don't have any strong disagreement with the new rules for Stinson Beach and Crissy Field, they seem to me to be reasonable, especially those concerning Crissy Field, as from my personal experience that is one of the more heavily used units in the GGNRA, and I have found some users, especially bicyclists, not very observant when it comes to looking out for dogs on the paths and the promenade. So it seems that there is a real need to separate dogs for off-leash activity to the Central Beach area and a designated off-leash play area in the central part of the Crissy Field Airfield, as stated in the preferred alternative proposal.

Now, regarding the preferred alternative proposal for the Baker Beach unit, I find the proposed changes to be most unacceptable, and feel that they will basically end the use of this area for recreational use by dog owners and their companion animals. Just so you know, this area is my favorite for taking my dog, who is a five year old female Parson Russell Terrier, weighting about 12lb., as it gives her plenty of space to chase and retrieve a ball, play in the surf, or simply walk unleashed by my side. I usually go there on weekdays, either early mornings or mid-afternoon, when this area is not crowded at all. There is always plenty of parking, it is a wide beach which provides for more than ample room for people who are there with their dogs and those who are not, and the physical location gives one a true break from the urban environment of San Francisco, with it's forested slopes, crashing surf, and magnificent views of the Golden Gate, the bridge, Lands End, and the Marin Headlands.

In reading over the preferred alternative proposal for Baker Beach it seems that dogs will be required to be on-leash in the parking lots and on the trails, which seems just fine to me, as that would provide for their safety when they are in the lots, and in sharing the narrower space on the trails other walkers/hikers. This sounds to me to be both a sound and reasonable policy. But then the proposal goes on to state that dogs will be excluded completely from the beach area starting at the north end of the north parking lot, which means that almost have the beach area will be off limits to dog owners and their companion animals. In addition, in the beach area south of this point to Lobos Creek, dogs will only be allowed to be on the beach if they are on leash. So, any use of this beach as a place where dogs can exercise by running and playing will be lost, which for my own dog, who is a terrier, is very important for her physical, and I would say, emotional well being.

In addition, I personally prefer to walk my dog, and allow her to play unleashed on the north end of Baker Beach, since this is the part of the beach which usually has far less people then the south end, which is where the proposal wants to restrict dogs. This just doesn't seem to make sense to me if your aim is to provide an area where people who are not comfortable, or who wish not to interact with dogs, can enjoy Baker Beach too. In the five years that I've been taking my dog to Baker Beach I have not witnessed any dogs bothering people on the beach. Yes, there's been the occasional checking out of picnic site on the beach, but dog owners seem to be very good at controlling their dogs in these situations. Also, I've not seen dogs invading the areas set aside for dune/native plant restoration at Baker Beach, which is more then I can say for some human visitors, who I've actually had occasion to point out to that they shouldn't be entering in those areas, even with the posted signs. Dog owners seem to be very good about removing pet waste from the beach, and I've never detected a problem with dog urine either. One last item of concern, that regarding native wildlife, yes, I've seen and had my own dogs chase after shore birds, but the birds are usually in flight before a dog gets any where near them, and once we've passed, they usually land again and resume their search for food along the shoreline. Even the ravens that seem to hang out at Baker Beach handle their contact with dogs with little fuss.

So in closing, it seems that a better way to set policy concerning dogs at Baker Beach would be to require that they be on-leash when in the parking lots and on the surrounding trails, but that on the beach it self things be left as they are, allowing dog owners and their companion animals full beach access, with them allowed to be off-leash and under voice control, as from my own personal experience over the past few years, this seems to be working just fine, and that way dog owners and their companion animals can continue to enjoy the recreational value at Baker Beach. Thank you for allowing me the chance to voice my opinion on this important matter.

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**Correspondence ID:** 362      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** -  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan,24,2011 21:26:36  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Dogs impact the environment a lot less than humans. Dogs do not leave bottles and cans, cigarette butts, and other trash scattered throughout the parks. If their people pick up their waste, then it is almost impossible to tell a dog has been there at all. At Fort Funston, people walking their dogs are the majority of park users especially in the winter. Banning them will result in a little used park waiting to be a haven for gangs and homeless people to hang out in.

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**Correspondence ID:** 363      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** ckatz@md2md.com  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan,24,2011 22:53:27  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I think that it's really sad that the few open spaces available for "off-leash" dog walking will be subject to the usual restraints of on leash/voice control. We often take our dog to Ft Funston occasionally to Crissy Field and she has the time of her life. I have noticed that other dog owners are respectful, pickup after their dogs and have never witnessed a dog fight. In fact I would go as far as to say, the canines at Ft Funston are very well behaved! I think its pitiful, that as a tax payer and law abiding citizen we cannot have a few places that we can go to where our dogs can be dogs and enjoy themselves and run/socialize with lots of empty space. There are lots of other public parks where people without dogs or who don't like dogs can go, so why choose Crissy Beach or Ft Funston? Go elsewhere! Dogs rule - leave Ft Funston and the few off-leash parks/beaches as they are.

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**Correspondence ID:** 364      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** -  
**Outside Organization:** Professional Dog Walker Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan,25,2011 00:10:46  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** To Whom it May Concern,

I'm sure you are going to read a thousand and one of these letters requesting that you NOT enforce more of an on-leash dog presence within SF's beaches and parks, however it would be unprofessional of me not to comment. I own and operate a small dog walking business in San Francisco. We enjoy walking our dogs within the Presidio (more specifically between Presidio Ave and Arguello Ave.) Chrissy Field/ Beach and Baker Beach. During our average group walks we will have approx. 7 dogs play off-leash. We are very prideful in training our dogs to respond to vocal obedience and recall. It is our number one goal to have our dogs enjoy the parks and beaches (as much as we do) and it is not fair to make a dog a prisoner of their own leash if they can obey their handler's voice commands. I understand if people are not comfortable around dogs being off-leash, however most dog owners are very respectful and will not let their dog be a nuisance or unruly. What I am most proud of within our city is the fact that San Francisco is one of the most dog-friendly city's in the world. Tourists for example are always so

fascinated by how dog's can socialize in an off-leash pack and follow their handler. There is so much to learn about dog's and since this is my profession I have the pleasure to learn more new things about what they can offer and what we can offer them each day. I vote against on-leash dogs (unless they are aggressive and/or unable to respond to a handler's vocal commands) within our parks and beaches and definitely not for more enclosed dog parks (which are at a rarity anyhow as this would just lead to more problems, ie. dog fights, unstimulated dogs, parking problems, and noise). I vote for more education for dog owners to handle their dogs on & off leash. I also respect the views for protecting forests and endangered species, however not at the expense of a friendly and trained dog who wants to enjoy being outside as much as we do. Please don't take away this right for them!

Feel free to share my comments and thoughts within any public forum.

Sincerely, Corey Vitale (& Voice of everydog that I walk and dog w/n SF) Professional "Off-Leash" Dog Walker

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**Correspondence ID:** 365    **Project:** 11759    **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** solodarling@yahoo.com  
**Outside Organization:** school teacher Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan,25,2011 09:30:15  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Please allow responsible dog owners to bring their dogs to play at the beach and in an area or specific times in some manner. Most are responsible, but ticket the nuts who don't clean up or bring bad mannered dogs out in public. A huge fine, like \$1,000.00 to pay for the park security and ticket givers. We do not have children and for some of us our pets are our babies. We do not deserve to keep our babies indoors and on cement all the time. They keep us mentally sane and caring for others also. Some go to nursing homes and children centers. Some people with children also should be ticketed for not being responsible parents. It comes down to training before the animal or child is old enough so they will model their parents GOOD behavior. If you do not allow pets to run in some place they will turn mean and aggressive and not be social animals. We could pay to bring our pets and children to a park and have certain times when they are less crowded for dogs perhaps or pay for the children to come to play at the park as those play areas are expensive to build, dogs don't need that much prebuilding. Thank you, a. darling

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**Correspondence ID:** 366    **Project:** 11759    **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** ljdogadv@aol.com  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan,25,2011 10:31:21  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I have been a dog owner and dog walker in San Francisco for 16 years now. There are some parts of this document that I do agree with but much of it I do not agree with for many reasons. I only take 6 to 7 dogs and am very respectful of other people coming up the trails or down the beach who might not like dogs. I always pick up after my dogs and always move to the side of the trail or away from the person coming up the trail that might not like dogs. In addition, I would never let my dogs run wildly through and off the trails after wildlife. I have seen a coyote and have quickly leashed my dogs walking away from his or her area. The coyote was not disturbed in anyway.

I feel like that dog walkers and dog owners can coexist in many of these park areas and beaches with no problem but yes should have some restrictions like not bothering other people. I believe the majority of people/dog owners are very respectful and responsible and there are a few that are not but majority are very responsible.

I also think that what the GGNRA is missing is the fact that the Presidio, Crissy Fields, Fort Funston, Marin Headlands etc are located in a city and urban area. I do not see dogs scaring off the animals but people. I remember way back when they banned dogs to an area of Crissy Fields for the birds to return and I have yet to see a bird

since so many kids and people run up and down that beach. I think what the GGNRA is missing is the fact that this is a National Park but it is in an urban area not like Yosemite. It is crazy to think that wild life will suddenly return because of getting rid of dog walking. I believe it is getting rid of people, bikes, motorcycles, streets etc.

I am grateful for the privately owned areas in Marin that allow dogs to go off leash. Matter of fact I have seen over and over a wonderful bob cat that coexists quit nicely with everyone on the trails..dogs, people, bikers etc. Many have seen him and we stay away from him as he does us.

I have a hard time swallowing alot of this document as there are thousands of dogs in the city that need a place to run and have fun with their owners. There are more dog owners in San Francisco and Marin than non dog owners and these people need a place to take their dogs to have fun and enjoy things as do the dogs but yes responsibly.

I have kids who love going to the beach with our dogs to play in the sand and run around with our family dogs. Please do not take that way from my kids who love all animals. I love all animals and have been raised to respect wild life as a dog owner and dog walker that is exactly what I do.

I think sure clean up some of the dog walkers that take 12 dogs or gather with other dog walkers so there are 16 dogs in one area...hate that but don't punish the rest of us who are responsible and respectful who only take well behaved dogs and respect others using the trails. There is a way to clean up dog walking but if you limit number of dogs per dog walker that will help but do not take away places to go or use. You will see a difference if you start with limiting dogs to each person but to do all of this at once is ridiculous and punishes all of us which is not fare.

Thank you for your time in reading this.

Lisa Gates

ps...my husband is a Phleger (as in Phleger acres) and his family are huge environemetalist hence the donation of pheleger acres to POST and then GGNRA. They are also huge dog lovers and would be very upset by this document. They are big believers (past Phlegers and present) in dogs coexisting nicely with the environment. My husband whose mother was Anne Phleger Gates (the bench at Crissy fields) and nephew of Atherton Phleger was very upset by this document and not happy at all.

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**Correspondence ID:** 367      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** sarah\_chisholm2000@yahoo.com  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan.25,2011 10:43:47  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Dear National Parks Service,

I am writing to comment on the EIS for dogs in GGNRA. I grew up in San Francisco, and return often. I have had many bad experiences with dogs in GGNRA, and I hope that you will have the courage to adopt a plan that protects the resources and visitors of GGNRA, despite the vocal minority of special interests (i.e., dog owners) who appear to be exerting pressure on you. (I saw the article in the SF Chronicle on 1/23/11.)

I went to your website and reviewed the EIS, and have the following comments:

1) You should ban dogs from all places where there are conflicts with natural resources. You should not fold/compromise by allowing dogs where natural resources may be impacted.

2) I do not like encountering dogs when i visit my national parks, including GGNRA. I don't like the barking, the poop, the chasing of wildlife, the digging, and especially having any dogs off leash. I don't like dogs running toward me, with owners yelling "FIDO COME," followed by "DON'T WORRY HE'S FRIENDLY." Usually, the dog doesn't obey, and the dog runs right up to strangers, either veering off at the last moment, or (worse) jumping on strangers, shoving it's nose in strangers' crotches, and/or licking or putting it's wet nose on strangers' hands, etc.

Fortunately, most dogs don't bite. But sometimes they do. My sister was bitten by one such dog, without any provocation, and the owner said simply (without any apology): "If i hadn't witnessed it myself, i never would have believed it." The bottom line is that dog owners are in DENIAL that others do not love their dogs, and do not want their dog running toward them, even if it is friendly. I don't like "friendly" dogs running toward me, licking or putting their wet noses on me, and/or sniffing my crotch, and we should not have to be subjected to such objectionable dog behavior in our national parks, including GGNRA.

3) I would prefer that dogs be banned entirely from GGNRA.

4) If a complete ban is not possible, i support Alternative D, to limit dogs to protect resources and protect visitors to the greatest extent that the Park Service is able.

5) If NPS lacks the political will to adopt Alternative D, then the "preferred alternative" would at least be a good improvement over the current situation, where dogs run wild and un-leashed throughout much of GGNRA.

The current situation is unacceptable to me, and i hope you will adopt (and enforce!!) a strong plan that at the very least keeps all dogs on leashes in GGNRA.

Thank you for considering my views.

Sarah Chisholm Tahoe City, CA

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**Correspondence ID:** 368      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project Name:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Address:** - WI  
USA  
**Email:** -  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan,25,2011 10:52:40  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Hi there, my name is Janine Marty. I live in WI, however, my brother is stationed in CA. I go to visit him, and his dog, often with my two dogs. We really enjoy catching up and taking walks together in the parks. Having the dogs remain off leash makes it so that we all can enjoy our time. I just love looking at the beautiful landscape and seeing the dogs enjoy their time as well. We are VERY in control of our dogs. They come immediately when are called and will remain on an off leash heal, if asked. All dogs have been to obedience school and none are of a "bully" mix. We love our dogs and they are a part of our family. Please keep the parks as an off leash dog area.

---

**Correspondence ID:** 369      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project Name:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Address:** - OH  
USA  
**Email:** -  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan,25,2011 12:00:11  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I visit GGNRA once a year or so--my parents live in California--and have on occasion had my dog there. A few quick comments:  
  
1. It's not clear from the language I read whether single dogs without permits will be allowed off leash in the ROLA.  
  
2. It's not clear from what I read whether visitors would be allowed to walk their dogs to Tennessee Beach.

3. I understand that no-dog zones would protect fish, frogs and birds, but I'm less clear on how they would protect butterflies. This probably reflects my own biological ignorance, though.

Incidentally, I've been going to GGNRA off and on since 1987 and it's absolutely one of my favorite places in the world.

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**Correspondence ID:** 370      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** -  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan,25,2011 14:00:39  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** As a responsible tax payer, registered voter and registered dog owner, I am appalled by this proposed plan. Currently only 1% of all the National Golden Gate Recreational Area allows dog access and now to propose limiting that by 90% is an outrage. I have heard your terribly misleading propaganda on the radio by your ignorant or purposely misleading representatives concerning the need to protect the general public from unwanted dog interaction. For those who do not want to interact with dogs, they have 99% of the rest of the NNGRA to enjoy. Many people who don't have the ability to keep dogs themselves, frequent these areas to interact. My dear friend who is in a wheelchair goes out to Fort Funston, just to see the dogs, and get out into nature. Many of the dogs will just sit next to her and let her pet them, this bring such great happiness. I plan to fight this until we get these draconian and malevolent changes repealed with the staff the proposed them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 371      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** -  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan,25,2011 14:37:33  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I believe that people come before plants when it comes to recreation. There are already too many restrictions on the use of the trails around Muir Beach. Now to take away the beach is not fair or right. I love seeing the dogs running free on the beach. I don't even have a dog and yet I feel that man's best friend should be allowed be with his friend to enjoy the outdoors, both beach and trail.

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**Correspondence ID:** 372      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** barbaran2323@gmail.com  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan,25,2011 14:56:57  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** What we need are more off leash priviledges for our dogs, not less. Thank you for your time - Barbara

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**Correspondence ID:** 373      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** swingisme2003@yahoo.com  
**Outside Organization:** Citizen, Property Owner & Tax Payer Unaffiliated Individual

**Organization:**

**Received:** Jan,25,2011 15:36:34

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** We are frequent users of Crissy Fields, Fort Funston & SF Ocean Beach.

Currently there are limited off leash options in San Francisco. The proposals are huge reductions and specifically for the under utilized beaches at Fort Funston and Crissy Fields. Did the elaborate survey reflect actual daily users timelines? Mon-Fri? Sat? Sun? Foggy days? Windy days? Special events? There's very low usage Mon-Fri.

My two off leash dogs are well behaved, and respectful. I often pick up trash. (plastic & glass bottles, cigarette butts, food & container wrappers) The human environmental damage impact outweighs the dogs.

The proposal limits the current practices and activities. Accessibility restriction would limit our ability to breathe, run and dream. Dream, the Haas Foundation core value and gift intent for Crissy Fields.

Please please, please, reconsider and revise the proposal.

Regards, Shirley and my dogs Buster and Moo Moo

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**Correspondence ID:** 374      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** 10-11design@sbcglobal.net  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan,25,2011 15:49:35  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Hello,

Thanks for the good work.

I just glanced at the proposal (maps) and the few places like Alta trail. Barbara and I are laughing at "Voice Control". It is either on leash or off leash. Voice control is good in dog shows and for Lassie who is perfect. Unless you have full time dog rangers (we like our police state), the dog walkers can shout dog names while all dogs are trampling nature and harassing people and leashed dogs. These people are clueless and go out with several different dog breeds (I have seen some with at least 10 dogs), that they can barely control. Many of them are petite women on their cell half paying attention. Dogs are excited protective and I know the bite of a German Sheppard... dogs are dogs and will act intuitively, are protective and do what dogs do... hunt for these yummy smells. My 12.5 years old Jax is great but he is only a dog... we have a few unstable people out there.

Few years back on some other trail, I could see one dog off trail happy hunting. The owner was pissed at me saying that we are under "Voice Control" area. My dog has never been off leash and the happy guy is fine. I make it and effort to be alone with Jax on these wonderful trails. I have been doing this since he was a puppy. We live in a very selfish and stupid society. So much entitlement and aggressive behavior. I have been told to leave Jax off leash like it was a revelation... They are spoiling it for the rest.

Very few nice people keep dog on leash... all these years running on trails I have seen dogs mostly off leash. I do remember the few people that are polite. I have to respect nature and the people that are afraid of dogs, trying to walk on these trails. We are not alone in the Universe.

I vote for no "Voice Control" and for people to take some courses in good manners and temper management. Good luck.

Have fun...

Rolando

---

**Correspondence ID:** 375      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** htondelli@yahoo.com  
**Outside Organization:** SFProDog Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan,25,2011 19:34:59  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Please reconsider the condensation or elimination of any off-leash dog areas. You must be aware of the high volume of usage. Where would you intend that activity to migrate to? Without the ability to run off a dogs' pent up energy they become less than ideal canine citizens. To take away this critical function would only result in a cascade into a downward spiral with negative effects on many various levels of the Bay area: unhappy dogs and unhappy owners PLUS you realize this impacts the livelihood of hundreds of people who walk dogs for their living. Your justifications are not worthwhile when viewed in context with the detrimental effects this plan would have

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**Correspondence ID:** 376      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** lbkaisersf@yahoo.com  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan,25,2011 20:57:32  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** The reason why San Francisco is so amazing, is that this city (and surrounding areas) allow responsible dog owners a place to bring their friendly dogs. We are respectful, courteous, and enjoy these parks and beaches as much as those without dogs. There is no sensible reason as to why we would not be allowed to continue having access to these specified areas. Please note, there are already many areas that are "off-limit" to off-leash dogs, so those who do not want to be around dogs have the opportunity to enjoy the parks as much as we do.

Please do not take away these few select areas that we deem precious. The dogs need areas to run free and tire themselves out...that is why they can live in apartment buildings without incident.

Regards, Lori

---

**Correspondence ID:** 377      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** -  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan,25,2011 21:40:36  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Gentle(wo)men: I would like to advocate for as wide as possible area for responsible off lease dog walking. I am old person who finds that my health and my dog's health improves when we can hike together but at our own speeds - not tethered to each other. I am fully supportive of an off-leash licensing program which could be run by animal control. Off leash licenses could be given to responsible dog owners. Responsible dog owners do the following: 1)license their dogs. 2) Have their dogs take all the required shots. 3)Have their dogs complete a certified (could be by animal control) obedience program. 4)Spay their dogs. 5) Dog owners could be required to carry liability insurance for their dogs. 7) Of course responsible dog owners pick up their dog waste. 6) Dog

owners would have to pay a fee to NPS for the privilege of walking dogs off leash. Those who have the license to walk off leash would have to carry proof of such licensing at all times. I think this would reward responsible dog owners. Too often we are always punished and restricted because of the actions of irresponsible dog owners. I agree that not ALL areas are for dogs. I do not actually see how dogs damage cultural resources. What can a dog do to a fort? Erosion does more than the dogs can ever do. Is there really some documentation about dog damage to cultural resources? You really do not say how the dogs damage such things. Also, I really think that people do way more damage to the environment than dogs. Dogs do not throw garbage and plastic litter all over the planet. As to dogs making more work for park personell: I personally have never seen a dog rescue. There have been plenty of people rescues, however. Also, I have never, EVER seen a park ranger removing dog waste. I hope you agree that restricting dog walking areas will necessarily make the area that is left to the dogs deteriorate. Any time an area has dense use be it by dogs or people that area is going to suffer. One dog per acre leaves a neglible impact but 100 dogs to an acre is a disaster. If the dogs are all shoved into smaller and smaller areas, that WILL destroy those areas. The San Francisco area is unique and wonderful because it does allow these great places for people to enjoy with their dogs. Please, don't take it away.

---

**Correspondence ID:** 378      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** -  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan,26,2011 00:06:57  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Why ban dogs from being off-leash. Like most government policy, it comes down to money. So why not require a usage fee for these areas. I'm sure most dog owners would be willing to pay \$15/ dog annually to use these areas. Just think, with 100,000+ registered dogs in SF alone, the revenue that would be generated to fill your pockets.

---

**Correspondence ID:** 379      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - FL  
USA  
**Email:** rhinesmith@webtv.net  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan,26,2011 01:33:58  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I visited Golden Gate park may years ago. I'd like to thik if i make it back there, dogs will NOT be barking all the time.. and trying to hump me.or catch suirrels etc. Dogs are a nuisance animal; they bother almost every living thing. around them. Most other animals do Not. Rabbits don't try to lick me. Dogs are such dependent, insecure beings. I do not like most dogs. Keep them out of MOST of the park! MAX

It's ok with me if they are given a 5 acre area..with tree buffer zone to muffle barking, to roam free...

---

**Correspondence ID:** 380      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** cal@calzecc.com  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan,26,2011 08:54:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** One of the true joys of dog owners' lives in San Francisco is to romp and play with our pets on the beach at Chrssy Field. Any time of any day,no matter what the weather, dogs and their owners can be seen enjoying the open space

without any detriment to wildlife or dogless walkers. It would be a tremendous loss to our community to change this arrangement.

---

**Correspondence ID:** 381      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** penny\_avril@yahoo.com  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan,26,2011 09:55:41  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I walk my dog off leash at Fort Funston, Crissy Fields and Rodeo Beach. Please so not remove this privilege. For a high energy dog, off leash areas are very important. She is very well behaved, under voice control, and never chases birds. I also have two small children and value them being around off leash dogs. There are already plenty of areas in San Francisco and Marin where dogs are either disallowed or must be on leash.

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**Correspondence ID:** 382      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** scott\_ireland@hotmail.com  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan,26,2011 09:56:46  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** As a dog owner and a park user I am in favor overall of alternative "C" in most cases. I feel that dogs should not be able to free run of park lands due to the possible destruction of natural nesting areas, harming of wildlife and unwanted attention to the public. We have a friendly dog and I have seen the affect of her approaching people while on leash range from joy to fear. I don't want small children or adults who are frightened by dogs to not enjoy the public lands due to free roaming animals. I feel that having the ROLAs would be the best solution for the safety and pleasure of park visitors. Please keep the Parks access open to as many of the two legged and four legged visitors as possible. I heard the discussion of the issue on KQED Forum radio show.

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**Correspondence ID:** 383      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** -  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan,26,2011 09:57:24  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** As a dog owner, I have always loved San Francisco for it being such an ideal "dog city," so I am really upset about the potential implications of this plan. Walking my dog off-leash means so much to me and even more to the health and well being of my dog. Most dog owners I know and observe are very respectful of their surroundings and very good at cleaning up after their dogs. I just want to point out that protecting our environment, respecting other people's preferences, and recreational dog-walking are NOT mutually exclusive.

This plan displays an anti-dog bias--if any of the final restrictions are disobeyed, the Park Service has the power to revoke all privileges of either on-leash or off-leash dog walking. This would be devastating to me, to many other dog owners, and to the health and wellness of the dogs of the Bay Area.

Please preserve our ability to walk our dogs at Crissy Field and Ft. Funston off leash!

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**Correspondence ID:** 384     **Project:** 11759     **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** scott\_ireland@hotmail.com  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan,26,2011 09:58:31  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** As a dog owner and a park user I am in favor overall of alternative "C" in most cases. I feel that dogs should not be able to have free run of park lands due to the possible destruction of natural nesting areas, harming of wildlife and unwanted attention to the public. We have a friendly dog and I have seen the affect of her approaching people while on leash range from joy to fear. I don't want small children or adults who are frightened by dogs to not enjoy the public lands due to free roaming animals. I feel that having the ROLAs would be the best solution for the safety and pleasure of park visitors. Please keep the Parks access open to as many of the two legged and four legged visitors as possible. I heard the discussion of the issue on KQED Forum radio show.

---

**Correspondence ID:** 385     **Project:** 11759     **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** ryanverzaal@gmail.com  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan,26,2011 10:14:22  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Please keep GGNRA areas off leash dog friendly

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**Correspondence ID:** 386     **Project:** 11759     **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** orrell.frank@gmail.com  
**Outside Organization:** Top Dog SF Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan,26,2011 10:51:30  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Please keep Fort Funston off-leash! People come from all over the bay area come to visit this beautiful park with their doggy friends. It is a haven for dogs and their owners alike. We beg you to keep it off leash!  
  
-Frank & Bali

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**Correspondence ID:** 387     **Project:** 11759     **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** -  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan,26,2011 11:28:51  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** The GGNRA should allow dogs off leash on its lands. As long as the owners/walkers are responsible and voice control the dogs, the impact on wildlife and other recreational users can be minimized.

---

**Correspondence ID:** 388      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** jpatraka@gmail.com  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan,26,2011 11:37:49  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** PLEASE, PLEASE let the dogs be !!!!! Dogs and their owners need exercise and should be able to utilize the GGNRA like everyone else. Of course we must clean up after our dogs and make sure they are well trained in order to have this privelege.

---

**Correspondence ID:** 389      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** -  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan,26,2011 11:37:57  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Off leash dog walking should be allowed in GGNRA areas, as long as walkers can voice control their dogs and their will be consistent enforcement if they can't.

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**Correspondence ID:** 390      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** -  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan,26,2011 11:38:04  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I submit that as long as people have their dogs under voice control, there should be no reason that dogs cannot run and play at Crissy Field. We have two dogs, a Dachshund who is under voice control and whom we do not leash. Our English Bulldog is kept on a leash, except once in a while on the beach. She is not under voice control, but follows us faithfully. It is vital for dogs to be able to socialize and act like dogs. Temple Grandin, the animal rights advocate, emphasizes this. In a lifetime of walking at Crissy Field, I have never stepped on a dog's mess, I have never been bothered by another dog. I am delighted to see dogs romping and having fun. I never see dogs interfering with the bird life. I think it is silly to have a city filled with dog lovers, owners and rescuers who treat their animals so well as to take them to Crissy. It is good for the owners and good for the dogs. Please keep it as it is at Crissy. Peggy Knickerbocker San Francisco native

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**Correspondence ID:** 391      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** soccerinsight@gmail.com  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan,26,2011 11:45:09

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** We have a 3 year old lab who loves to run and chase a ball. We find this exercise impossible while attached to a leash. Just as humans need exercise, so do dogs. Please keep responsible dog owners within the rights to run their dogs.

---

**Correspondence ID:** 392      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** Rich@selph.com  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan,26,2011 12:10:27  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Further restricting areas for off-leash dog exercise restricts quality of life for human beings in favor of questionably achievable goals. This is a solution in search of a significant problem.

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**Correspondence ID:** 393      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** -  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan,26,2011 12:12:12  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** The GGNRA draft dog management plan places undo restrictions on dog owners who must have open spaces such as the GGNRA to freely exercise their dogs. I currently walk my dog at Ft. Funston -- either on the beach or along the trails. As proposed, the trails would be off limits to off-leash dogs. When tides are high, there would be no safe place for leash-free exercise.

I appreciate the need to balance the natural environment and the non-dog uses of the park. However, this can be done without the broad-sweeping restrictions that the proposal calls for. Smaller off-limited or leash-only areas would be more feasible. As proposed, large congregations of dog owners and dog walkers are going to be battling for the small number of open spaces where dogs will be allowed off-leash. This can potential make the situation more dangerous for dogs and dog owners if a great number of dogs are confined to a small space.

I urge the GGNRA to reconsider the proposal and continue to allow dogs to play off-leash in the majority of GGNRA territory.

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**Correspondence ID:** 394      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** -  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan,26,2011 12:16:59  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I come from the East Coast where dogs are made to walk on leashes 24/7. It wasn't until I experienced walking with my dog off leash at Fort Funston that I realized how much more territorial and contentious dogs are when leashed. At Fort Funston I delight in the antics of the dogs running and playing together and marvel at the relaxed and joyous attitudes of dogs and owners. Given the shear numbers of folks and dogs who walk there, I am impressed by the responsibility and care they show for the surrounding environment. Unfortunately, there are a few

knuckleheads, and I'm always encouraged when I see them being scolded by more conscientious citizens. Whenever I have visitors from back home, the first place that I take them to is Fort Funston where we can walk, talk, and catch up while giggling at the antics of the various dogs. Afterwards, I am always thanked by my visitor for showing them a local place and activity that they would have missed if they had only chosen touristy types of activities. And each has gone away wishing for an area similar back home. Please don't erase these uniquely San Francisco hot spots.

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**Correspondence ID:** 395      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS

**Name:** -

**Address:** - CA  
USA

**Email:** ann@extremeconnection.net

**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Received:** Jan,26,2011 12:58:34

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I am very concerned about this proposal.

I live in Marin and value the right to walk my well behaved 5 yr old Airedale off leash in this beautiful landscape ~ without breaking any laws. I clean up after her, she doesn't chase cyclists, runners or children. We enjoy the trails every day and often go to the beach. There is no way she would be as healthy as she is if she was only exercised while on a leash. We occasionally go to dog parks, she can get exercise there..., but it doesn't do much for me.

It would greatly reduce the quality of our lives if we lose the freedom to walk together without the restraints of a leash. Who would take a dog to a beach on leash? That would just be mean if they couldn't run, enjoy the surf, a fetch a ball. Frankly, having my dog on a leash would be more dangerous to cyclists that speed by us if I'm on one side of the trail and she is on the other than if she is off leash. We try not to chose trails with a lot of bikes, especially on weekends. There are a million trails around here that don't allow dogs if a hiker, runner or someone with children would prefer not be around dogs off leash - they have plenty of options.

Of course people with aggressive, non-responsive dogs off leash is not a good thing for anyone - but you know, I can't remember the last time I experienced one out there...

Please don't implement laws that would reduce our quality of life in this beautiful area. It seems to me things are fine the way they are.

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**Correspondence ID:** 396      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS

**Name:** -

**Address:** - CA  
USA

**Email:** Susan@buddyrhodes.com

**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Received:** Jan,26,2011 14:40:09

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I am writing to comment on dogs at Chrissy Field. I have been regularly walking my dog there for 14 years. Before that I did not have a dog and I used to walk there and enjoy seeing the dogs with their owners enjoying the beautiful surroundings. There are doggie refuse bags provided, although I bring my own, and garbage cans available for the used bags.

I have always observed dog owners to be respectful of the environment within the GGNRA, and at Chrissy Field and its beach in particular. I have never stepped in dog poop there, and I have never seen it left lying about either. I do not see dogs and their owners on the beach that is signed as a no-dog beach for the protected birds. It has been my experience that dog-owners are respectful of the closed of native plant restoration areas and careful about

wildlife.

Basically, it seems entirely unnecessary to me to restrict dog use at Chrissy Field. There is enough room for everybody. I am a bird lover as well as a dog lover and an environmentalist. I love Chrissy Field and I hope that it can continue to be the recreation area I love so much, inclusive of dogs and their happy owners.

Susan Andrews San Francisco

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|                              |  |                 |       |                  |       |
|------------------------------|--|-----------------|-------|------------------|-------|
| <b>Correspondence ID:</b>    | 397  | <b>Project:</b> | 11759 | <b>Document:</b> | 38106 |
| <b>Project:</b>              | Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS   |                 |       |                  |       |
| <b>Name:</b>                 | -  |                 |       |                  |       |
| <b>Address:</b>              | - CA<br>USA  |                 |       |                  |       |
| <b>Email:</b>                | stephendrewes@gmail.com  |                 |       |                  |       |
| <b>Outside Organization:</b> | Unaffiliated Individual  |                 |       |                  |       |
| <b>Received:</b>             | Jan,26,2011 16:14:56   |                 |       |                  |       |
| <b>Correspondence Type:</b>  | Web Form   |                 |       |                  |       |
| <b>Correspondence:</b>       | This change in policy will make it impossible for me to continue to use and enjoy the GGNRA. I cannot imagine why the administration of the GGNRA would consider it desirable.If it's implemented, I will never consider a financial donation again. |                 |       |                  |       |

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|                              |   |                 |       |                  |       |
|------------------------------|---|-----------------|-------|------------------|-------|
| <b>Correspondence ID:</b>    | 398   | <b>Project:</b> | 11759 | <b>Document:</b> | 38106 |
| <b>Project:</b>              | Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  |                 |       |                  |       |
| <b>Name:</b>                 | -   |                 |       |                  |       |
| <b>Address:</b>              | - CA<br>USA   |                 |       |                  |       |
| <b>Email:</b>                | shawley@matpelbuilders.com  |                 |       |                  |       |
| <b>Outside Organization:</b> | Unaffiliated Individual   |                 |       |                  |       |
| <b>Received:</b>             | Jan,26,2011 16:25:43  |                 |       |                  |       |
| <b>Correspondence Type:</b>  | Web Form  |                 |       |                  |       |
| <b>Correspondence:</b>       | I am so anxious and vexed about the proposed changes. I have never understood how dogs are not part of nature. I have walked many dogs on Crissy Field and Fort Funston daily over 20 years without incident. Truly. It is a blessing. I am unclear why these restrictions are being suggested when we are all uniting in a lovely way. You may not have dogs, yourselves, so you may fail to understand that on-leash dogs cannot develop the social skills necessary to live among people and other dogs. I see dogs in the country where I grew up chained up and barking. So sad! This is what will become of dogs with no where to run. Then people will not adopt them. Then more will be gassed. Dogs - soulful creatures who literally keep so many of us going. I do not love dogs more than the natural life you strive to preserve. I love it all and think things are balanced now. Please do not feed hysteria about animals being dangerous, reckless, etc. In this world we need dogs more than ever before. |                 |       |                  |       |

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|                              |   |                 |       |                  |       |
|------------------------------|---|-----------------|-------|------------------|-------|
| <b>Correspondence ID:</b>    | 399   | <b>Project:</b> | 11759 | <b>Document:</b> | 38106 |
| <b>Project:</b>              | Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  |                 |       |                  |       |
| <b>Name:</b>                 | -   |                 |       |                  |       |
| <b>Address:</b>              | - CA<br>USA   |                 |       |                  |       |
| <b>Email:</b>                | -   |                 |       |                  |       |
| <b>Outside Organization:</b> | Unaffiliated Individual   |                 |       |                  |       |
| <b>Received:</b>             | Jan,26,2011 18:16:11  |                 |       |                  |       |
| <b>Correspondence Type:</b>  | Web Form  |                 |       |                  |       |
| <b>Correspondence:</b>       | There are over 100,000 dogs in San Francisco and they need somewhere to go. Fort Funston and the Presidio are wonderful places for dogs to run off leash. This is one reason San Francisco is beautiful and unique. By restricting off leash walking in the GGNRA this will destroy our neighborhood parks. There are just too many dogs and not enough parks already. Off leash dog walking is so valuable to us as San Franciscans. |                 |       |                  |       |

Catherine and Baron Ziegler

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**Correspondence ID:** 400      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** omnivorebooks@comcast.net  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan,26,2011 18:16:13  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I really understand how eroded the dunes are getting from overuse by dogs, but believe the impact on local parks, enclosed dog parks, and any other recreation area that allows dogs will cause much worse damage. Ft. Funston is my dog walk of choice, and I can say in 12 years of going there, I've stepped in dog poo only once - people are extremely considerate because it's where they like to play (and for dog-walkers, it's where they work). It seems like if you regulated the number of dogs allowed to be in one pack by posting one ranger in the parking lot, you'd cut down on much erosion and spend much less money paying rangers to be cops. Or, have us all pay \$5 to park - that would help your budget immensely, and that money could be put towards much-needed maintenance of trails, paths, and dunes. The off-leash rules in S.F. are one of the things that make this city unique and wonderful. There are fewer dog fights because there is so much space to roam and so much exercise to get. Ft. Funston, especially, would just become a homeless sleeping area without all of us dog walkers. Its use as an army fort was never disputed, so I think its use as a dog park should not be, either, Best,

Celia Sack

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**Correspondence ID:** 401      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** john\_bald1@yahoo.com  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan,26,2011 18:45:16  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I applaud your improvement efforts and agree with the proposed leashing of dogs. As a avid photography hobbyist, I have met with many people from Crissy field to Lincoln beach the let their dogs run wild and many leaving feces to step over. Thanks for trying to control a possible problem of people getting bitten and perhaps a future lawsuit by and injured person.

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**Correspondence ID:** 402      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** david@meckler.us  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan,26,2011 20:57:20  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am in total disagreement with the proposed dog maintenance plan. I believe that dogs should be able to run free at Crissy field and Ocean beach and that there should not be any restricitons in these areas.....how foolish can you be?

---

**Correspondence**      403      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106

GGNRA014553

**ID:**  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** benjaminsbayer@gmail.com  
**Outside**  
**Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan,26,2011 21:06:59  
**Correspondence**  
**Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** There are already too few dog-friendly areas. The problem isn't dogs or lack of leashes. The problem is bad owners and poor training. I would happily see a "canine good citizen" training requirement, but banning dogs entirely is extreme, fascist, and wrong.

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**Correspondence ID:** 404      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106

**ID:**  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** dbcorsbin@gmail.com  
**Outside**  
**Organization:** Public... I am just a member of the public Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan,26,2011 22:10:26  
**Correspondence**  
**Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Hello Committee,

I understand there is a discussion about removal of dogs from certain beach preserves. While I am not a dog owner (and never have been), I am a lover of the natural habitat along the beaches and in the bays of northern California.

I did recently visit both Fort Funston and Muir Beach with friends. In both cases, there were many people, dogs, horses, birds, and aquatic animals on my 2-3 mile beach hikes.

I was very impressed by the overall of the beach... I found only the natural ocean dropped kelp, sand dollars and crab shells... lots of birds and some horse manure. I was surprised that the relatively high proportion of dogs to horses didn't cause considerably more dog pollution. Certainly Fort Funston and Muir beach Dog owners managed the waste of their animals with perfect felicity in my several and extensive walks through those parks.

While I cannot say the same of the horse riders/owners on Funston beach, I did not find anything to be offensive or overly unnatural (out of place) on these beaches. In fact, I mentioned my surprise at the conscientiousness of the dog owners to the folks I was hiking with. In only one way did the presence of the dogs and horses on the beach (with their owners) detract from the overall setting... if I had been alone on the beach, my own private paradise would have been special.

However, we all share the open space and I understand that I cannot have my own private beach in California. Residents of these populated areas must be able to share the public resources without hurting them for others. This sharing is required of each and every one of the animals using the beach... wild or tame. Dogs and dog owners, citizens like me who don't have pets, Horse owners and riders, Birds, crabs, and wild animals can and do share the same space with little impact on each other.

I believe that we must be protectors of our planet, location, area, shared space. I believe that the use of these shared spaces needs to be open to all... otherwise, they are not shared spaces by definition. They must be shared with people who live with dogs, cats, horses, birds, and other humans.

If access needs to be regulated to preserve the space, then all of those categories should be eliminated. If dogs must go, then horses, people, domesticated birds, artificial birds (model airplanes, hang gliders, etc) should also be eliminated. However, I think that is unreasonable and unfair. If we eliminate those, we should eliminate the boaters on the water as well... surfers, Kayaks, boats, ships etc... very impractical and unrealistic. However, there is no reason to single out a particular class or a set of classes of beings... whether they are wild, tame, humans, boats or

types of users.

Sharing our environment is important. Protecting our environment is important. Balancing the two may be difficult but in my experience at both of the two beach environments mentioned did not show a problem... balance was maintained and protected by the very people who use and love those areas.

Please do not change the regulations relating to pets on the beaches. I don't believe this is a problem that needs to be fixed.

thank you

Dave Corbin

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**Correspondence ID:** 405      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project Name:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:**  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan,27,2011 07:44:09  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I'm a dog owner and walker upset about the changes in rules that have been in place for many years and have resulted in very few problems compared to the number of dogs in these areas.

Having small off leash areas connected by on-leash areas that used to be off leash is going to cause an enforcement headache for you because many people are just going to risk a ticket.

If you must restrict dogs, why not have it be time based, instead of area-based? Why not allow dogs in all the areas that have traditionally been allotted to them in the early morning and late afternoon, times not traditionally used by the average beach goer?

Or, alternatively, let us have Fort Funston and save your restrictions for Chrissy Field, which seems to have a much higher ratio of non-dog users than Fort Funston. (I can't speak to Marin as I don't go over there, but perhaps the same principle could be applied).

Thanks, Clare W.

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**Correspondence ID:** 406      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project Name:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:**  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan,27,2011 09:25:32  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I walk my dog regularly at Chrissy Field, the Presidio, and in a number of parks in San Francisco. Please do NOT take away our ability to enjoy the beauty of San Francisco, its parks, fields, etc. The residents and guests who enjoy San Francisco all love the ability to go to areas to let the dogs run, play and enjoy it.

Do NOT take away more of our pleasures. This will make San Francisco a less attractive place to live.

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**Correspondence ID:** 407      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
 USA  
**Email:**  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan,27,2011 10:32:08  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Dear Superintendent Dean,

As a person who has lived here their whole life (57 yrs) I have used every inch of our open space with the greatest of pleasure and do so on a daily basis. I have had dogs and horses most of my life and still do. I feel strongly that dogs should be able to enjoy the outdoors unleashed yet thoughtfully and on voice command. I can truly say I have never seen a problem though have heard of some. Instead of punishing the dogs that do behave on the trails why not set up a special license thru the Audubon Society or Humane Society. Dog owners could pay a small fee for a tag after they can prove their dog is under control by voice command. Dogs that can't pass have to be leashed. I respect our open space and want it protected but I don't think taking places away from dogs whos health and well being depend on getting out and having a sense of being free is the right thing to do.

Thank you for your time,

Jennifer

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**Correspondence ID:** 408      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
 USA  
**Email:** -  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan,27,2011 11:09:03  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** To protect the environment and pedestrians like me, please enforce leash requirements on Ocean Beach as described in the Preferred Alternative or Alternative E. Thank you.

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**Correspondence ID:** 409      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
 USA  
**Email:** -  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan,27,2011 13:22:10  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Please strongly consider Alternative A (No Change). I find all other Alternatives to be extremely restrictive with not enough benefit to the surrounding wildlife and other benefits cited in the documents.

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**Correspondence ID:** 410      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
 USA  
**Email:** -  
**Outside Organization:** self Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan,27,2011 13:54:27

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** No CHANGE.

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**Correspondence ID:** 411      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - AR

USA

**Email:** -

**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Received:** Jan,27,2011 14:55:18

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Every time I have been to Fort Funston, it appears there are more people there with dogs than without. I understand the concerns of those who fear dogs and of those who wish to preserve natural habitat, not withstanding the fact that dogs are a part of our habitat -- especially in San Francisco. Because of the very large population of dogs and dog owners in San Francisco, possibly a satisfactory solution would be to set aside one contiguous mile of beach for dogs. For my purposes and those of my dog, any beach within the city limits of San Francisco would suffice. There is a section near the southern end of the Fort Funston beach that almost nobody visits. Possibly this area could be designated as an off leash dog area.

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**Correspondence ID:** 412      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS

**Name:** -

**Address:** - CA

USA

**Email:** -

**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Received:** Jan,27,2011 16:56:24

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** it is so important to allow the dogs to be off leash on Chrissy Field. I am a native San Franciscan and am so sad that there are so few places for dogs to be of leash. Plus Chissy Field is so different now and such a more touristy place with so much more traffic. Chrissy Field seems liek the last place for the residents to go and take the whole family (including dogs). In my opinion, dogs are much more well behaved and less agressive without leashes. Thanks.

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**Correspondence ID:** 413      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS

**Name:** -

**Address:** - CA

USA

**Email:** -

**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Received:** Jan,27,2011 19:04:00

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I would like to see stricter and more leash laws as well as areas where dogs are not allowed. I would suggest that the majority of the land be dog free. (more than is outline in the EIS) The majority of dog owners I have interacted with have been rude and disobey these laws. Not only do they disobey the laws but they brag about how they get away with disobeying the laws. Dogs not only ruin nature by destroying native and non-native plants but also ruin the peace and tranquility of the park for other visitors. I also recently discovered that people with guide-dogs have not been able to enjoy the park due to attacks on the guide-dogs by other dogs. Because the laws are not enforced, disabled people are forced out of the parks. Please, protect this already discriminated against group. I urge the GGNRA to protect the wildlife and protect the park's visitors from dogs.

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**Correspondence ID:** 414      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** -  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan,27,2011 21:18:20  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** As a resident of El Granada since 1989, I have had the privilege and blessing of hiking the Rancho Corral de Tierra hills for 22 years now. In the course of those 22 years, I have always been accompanied by one my dogs: Brigit (in the earlier years) and Boomer, in the later years.

I can't begin to tell you the joy that I and my dogs have experienced in this WIDE open space. What I can tell you though, is that I have had the utmost respect and love for this land and have documented my respect via my photography. I encourage you to take a look at my website and see the images that I have taken along with my dogs. I think you'll begin to understand my passion for not only the land but what it has personally meant for me to have my dog with me while I hiked these trails:

<http://www.dianevarner.com/about.html> <http://www.dianevarner.com/galleries.html>  
<http://www.dianevarner.com/Boomer/index.html>

I consider the hills behind El Granada my backyard. Because of this sense of ownership, I have made it my mission to protect it as much as I possibly can. This protection has started with my dogs, making sure that they do NO HARM or DAMAGE to the wildlife or the environment.

During the many years that I have been hiking Rancho Corral de Tierra, I have seen more damage done by MAN than by dog. For instance, this past December (2010), I stopped a truck that was going up a muddy trail, creating deep tracks in the terrain. They told me that they worked for POST and were doing boundary work for the GGNRA sale. I politely asked them why they couldn't get out and hike rather than drive up and create damage to the trail??!!

I have also witnessed NUMEROUS hunters on the trails and even called POST in 2009 to let them know that there were men up there with guns. If for nothing else, I would prefer my dogs with me for safety!

Bottom line, I would be heartbroken if I was no longer able to take my dogs with me while hiking these hills. It would change my life and my love for this area that I live in and call HOME.

As a longtime resident of El Granada, I ask you to please consider allowing myself and others the continued enjoyment and enrichment of bringing our dogs along on our hikes in Rancho Corral de Tierra. I urge you to please choose Alternative E rather than a complete ban of dogs.

Thank you VERY much for your time and consideration.

Respectfully yours,

Diane Varner (in memory of Brigit and Boomer)

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**Correspondence ID:** 415    **Project:** 11759    **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** -  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan,28,2011 00:05:12  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Please keep with alternate A (no change). Any of the changes proposed would restrict dog owners greatly, however the benefits listed are few.

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**Correspondence ID:** 416      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** renodianetrip@yahoo.com  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan,28,2011 00:20:38  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Hi there, I just wanted to voice my opinion on the proposed ban for off leash areas. Please let the dogs remain off leash in the areas they already can. It's been my experience that dogs will behave less civil if they confined, much like people.  
  
Please please please don't fence them in.  
  
Sincerely, Diane Gentilini

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**Correspondence ID:** 417      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** siamesebygaffa@comcast.net  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan,28,2011 02:18:29  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Unlike most people likely commenting, I've read through the Dog Draft Management Plan, and have quite a few comments, both personal thoughts and practical comments on the proposal. I'll start with personal thoughts...  
  
As a dog owner, it's obviously in my interest to reject the majority of this proposal. Many of the areas proposed for on-leash or outright prohibiting dogs have long been frequented by dog owners and walkers. In the proposal, you claim to attempt to represent the community. However, dog owners ARE part of the community, and those who most frequent many of the parks with tighter restrictions proposed. This seems to be a point you've overlooked. The fact is, dog owners/walkers with dogs in tow are those who visit many GGNRA parks the most; many visit daily. The sense of community at many off-leash areas is very strong - many who visit, with their dogs, daily as their main means of socializing, conversing with friends (other dog owners who they see daily), etc... Tightening restrictions would destroy this sense of community, as people would no longer have familiar areas to meet with old friends as their dogs play. In the proposal, many of the Alternatives are decided with the interest of tourists and other visitors who may visit said parks for an hour of their life, so it just seems ridiculous that they'd be given priority (as part of the "community", which they're not) over individuals visit parks such as Crissy Field, Fort Funston, etc... on a regular basis. I think it's a reasonable statement to say that, in fact, you're proposing these restrictions at the expense of the community (of which dog owners, in a city/region with more dogs than children, are possibly the largest group). Don't even consider the argument that "dogs deserve rights, too", but rather consider the argument that tax-paying members of the community deserve the right to visit parks in the way they enjoy most (in this case, with their dogs).  
  
There have been anecdotal mentions of complaints from picnickers, etc... about dogs "ruining" their experience. This very well may be true, but I assure you it's rare. Most dog owners, myself included, are very responsible and wouldn't allow their dogs to do such a thing. If you personally go to any current off-leash area, you'd be hard-pressed to find even 1 example of dogs disturbing others on an average day. Regardless, this is largely moot; if someone decides to have a picnic in an off-leash dog area, it's equally (if not moreso) their responsibility if it's "ruined", just as it would be my fault if I were to have a picnic in a baseball field and get hit by a baseball. Off-leash dog areas are designated for that purpose, and should be respected as that, just as sports fields, childrens' playgrounds, etc... are designated for their purpose and should be respected as such.  
  
Likewise, most areas of GGNRA already require dogs to be leashed, or prohibit dogs entirely. Those which

prohibit dogs include all or most trails in the following: Muir Woods, Marin Headlands, North Baker Beach (below the Presidio Bluffs), etc... Most other areas require dogs to be leashed, leaving off-leash areas already few. If someone were to want to have a picnic without being disturbed by dogs, they already have many options. Therefore, choosing to picnic at an off-leash area (which are already relatively few) and complaining that dogs are off-leash is no less disrespectful of the community and park policy than dog owners taking their dogs to an area in which people picnic and allowing them off-leash. It may not be illegal, but it is disrespectful, pure and simple.

As a large proponent of wildlife and habitat preservation, I'm also very unnerved by your claims of "sensitive habitat" as rationale for tighter restrictions. Considering the recent development funded by GGNRA, there seems to be a contradiction. Recent developments at Lands End, Mori Point, and several other parks have ripped up vegetation that has been there for generations (no, not native, but plants that were brought by settlers in the 18th and 19th centuries, which wildlife has adapted to since) in exchange for paved walkways and "quaint" planted areas. From personal experience, I can say that raccoons, foxes, etc... that once were plentiful in the area (never in danger from dogs) have all but disappeared since development commenced. Rob Hill has gone from a beautiful eucalyptus patch to what frankly looks like any generic rest area at the side of Highway 80, coyotes in the southern Presidio, near the Arguello gate, are notably distressed and displaced from recent construction, etc... Likewise, as a dog owner, I've personally rescued many birds, during the oil spill and after, which I encountered due to walking my dog on the beach. I've personally rescued cormorants, seagulls, and many others (including other animals, notably frogs) - some I took to rescues, others I personally paid out of my own pocket to get them proper veterinary treatment and eventually release them back exactly where I found them. I have always been an avid lover of wildlife (and animals in general, my love of dogs being an extension of that) and habitat preservation as a whole, so I feel personally offended by this assertion. So, I feel that pitting dogs and habitat against each other is a fallacy; dogs do not destroy habitat... if anything, they're genetically closer to a few species of wildlife in GGNRA than humans are. Likewise, as with the picnic issue, most dog owners are respectful of sensitive habitat... the many shouldn't be punished for the few, especially in respect for the community. If some violate that respect, they should be punished, I wholeheartedly agree (I'll elaborate on that later). However, most don't.

To further elaborate on that, I'd like to directly address the issue of habitat destruction and degradation. Recently, in partnership with Trails Forever and The Presidio Trust, the GGNRA implemented a number of projects which have all but destroyed habitat at Lands End, Mori Point, and many other places. These "restoration" projects have effectively destroyed vegetation that has existed in the area for well over a century, replaced minor dirt paths with intrusive paved walkways, and displaced or killed any wildlife living in such areas. The area of Lands End closest to Sutro Baths was once dense forest - now, it's a paved walkway and constantly attended garden (note: volunteers may mean well, but wildlife obviously won't settle where people are constantly working). The same is true of many other places. In interest of sensitive habitat, it's deplorable that you'd cater to tourists who will visit for an hour or two of their lives above both wildlife habitat and the community (again, a very large portion of which being dog walkers), just to turn around and use "sensitive habitat" as a justification for tighter restrictions on the community (ie: those who visit regularly). Likewise, people are a far bigger environmental threat than dogs; trash cans and trash, parking lots and cars, paved areas, and encouraging heavier human traffic (ie: more trash, more cars) are undeniably more cumbersome and damaging to wildlife habitat than dogs.

On that note, I'd like to suggest that any truly sensitive habitat (the wildlife area at Crissy Field, etc...) be \*completely\* off limits to both dogs and humans (bird watchers can still view, via binoculars, from the promenade), in interest of truly preserving limited wildlife habitat. I honestly don't think shorebirds are less disturbed by people than by dogs. Essentially, if a habitat is so sensitive that dogs (under the current control laws) are a threat to that habitat, then so are people. Likewise, in interest of health concerns in other areas about dogs... I'd like to point out those concerns are scientifically unfounded, as I'm sure you're aware. According to the basics of zoonosis, dogs and dog feces pose no health risk to humans, except a small possibility of parasite infection should a dog have a notable infection (unlikely in a developed area with veterinary requirements, etc...) and then only if someone were to eat the feces. So, while it seems a popular complaint, it's moot (and there are already laws requiring clean-up, etc... which I'll elaborate on later).

Another of your "reasons" is to prevent user conflicts. This can be done simply by educating EVERYONE about current parks laws and rules, including respect for current uses and those who frequent certain areas (ie: inform picnickers that dogs are allowed off-leash in certain areas, and if they wish to avoid conflict, they should consider having their picnic at any of other plentiful options that disallow dogs or require they be leashed instead), rather than rewarding those who complain most at the expense of those members of the community who have come to frequent certain parks.

Another issue is that many of your Alternatives effectively seem to be at the expense of dog owners in favor of cyclists (it's noted specifically for the Marin Headlands and Fort Mason). First of all, cyclists are a far bigger threat than dogs - legally defined vehicles that crush any vegetation and animal in their path, at a speed preventing them from being able to quickly avoid any such obstacle. This seems like a clear threat to habit. Secondly, according to 36 CFR 4.2, National Parks adhere to state traffic laws. According to California law, bicycles are prohibited from

pedestrian walkways and pathways and only allowed on designated roadways. Therefore, the proposal is shafting dog walkers at the expense of people who are already breaking current laws, ie: currently illegal activity favored over currently legal activity. As a dog owner, I've very rarely been threatened by other dogs, but my dog and I are routinely put in danger by cyclists. So if public safety is truly an issue, shouldn't cyclists be a concern rather than a group whose rights outweigh that of dog owners?

In the proposal, you mention the cost implementing these restrictions will be approx 1.5 million dollars, with the largest expense being staffing officers to enforce the new laws. That's wonderful - jobs are needed. However, are new restrictions needed for those jobs to be implemented? As it is, there are many laws and regulations already in place to protect habitat, require dog waste clean-up, etc... So why not just hire more officers to enforce those pre-existing rules? Again, as someone personally interested in habitat protection and other environmental concerns, and as the owner of well-behaved dogs who don't violate these rules (and in interest of their safety from aggressive or out of control dogs), I fully support enforcement. However, as I've said, dog owners who allow their dogs to do such are in the minority, and the majority shouldn't be persecuted, especially if you already plan on staffing more people to enforce laws. So, by all means, hire more officers - but enforce currently existing laws when they're violated, which would protect habitat and send a message to irresponsible dog owners without negatively affecting responsible dog owners who are as much a part of the community as joggers, picnickers, etc... (and, in some ways, more a part of the community, or at least a larger segment, and the vast majority at parks such as Crissy Field, Fort Funston, etc...). As it is, options of those who wish to let their dog run, play off leash, and socialize with other dog owners is very limited (certainly a minority of GGNRA space), and further restricting that would only be detrimental to the community.

On another note, I would like to commend the proposal for limiting 3 dogs per person (6 with a permit). As a dog owner, I've at times been annoyed with commercial dog walkers who have more dogs than they control. I've personally had to keep dogs from eating things they shouldn't (note: the vast majority of these "things" have been left by people, not dogs), returning lost dogs to commercial dog walkers who didn't even realize they were missing, etc... I believe this is very much in line with my points above: don't persecute responsible dog owners and walkers who respect laws and habitat, but enforce accountability for the few irresponsible individuals.

Below is a list of alternatives to your "Alternatives" for a few key parks. These were done quickly (and I haven't included other parks that I felt required more debate) but I still feel they're valid and should be considered, and I will work further on my alternative proposal and send it at a later date. I will also be at both San Francisco meetings to voice my concerns. Thank you!

Muir Beach (proposed Alternative D): Current proposal prohibits dogs from Muir Beach, in interest of the lagoon. Instead, I propose off-leash dog walking on the southern end of the beach, nearest the cliffs (opposite end from the lagoon) and in the area (currently popular with nude sunbathers) below the houses at the far northern end. On leash only on the rest of the beach, and no dogs in the lagoon.

Marin Headlands (proposed Alternative C): The current GGNRA proposal bans dogs from the Coastal Trail, which is the only trail (away from the parking lot/traffic) that currently allows dogs. Instead, dogs should be allowed off-leash on the Coastal Trail, on leash on the other mentioned trails, and off leash on Rodeo Beach. It does not seem logical that the Coastal Trail should remain a bike trail (nebulous under state traffic laws, more detrimental to sensitive habitat than dogs) but disallow dogs.

Fort Mason (proposed Alternative B): The current proposal requires dogs to be leashed, in favor of tourists on rented bicycles. The Great Meadow is a popular area for members of the community to meet and let their dogs run. Therefore, in interest of the community, it should be an off-leash area (at least the southernmost part, away from the main service road). All other specify areas (Laguna Green, grass, service road, housing, etc...) on-leash only. It's illogical to give favor to cyclists, as legally they aren't supposed to be riding on pathways through the Great Meadow, anyway. This would provide a largely on-leash park (since it is multi-use and already very developed) with respect to the prime area currently used for off-leash dog walking. Cyclists should NOT get priority, as they're the ones currently violating the law and, being on legally defined vehicles, a bigger threat.

Crissy Field (proposed Plan C): Under the current proposal, dogs would be banned from East Beach and the Wildlife Protection Area, but Central Beach would remain off-leash. Crissy Field is perhaps the most popular beach in San Francisco for dog owners, and where the dog owner community (as part of the greater community) is most prevalent. Therefore, Central Beach should, in fact, remain off-leash. East Beach shouldn't ban dogs, but instead require they be on-leash east of the stream, off-leash starting west of the stream (the course changes, so this would be a changing boundary). This would allow families with both children and dogs to have the East Beach for picnics, etc... enabling them to have an undisturbed experience while still having their dog with them (on-leash), as it can be a hindrance for families with both children and dogs to find a place safe and accepting of both. However, those who are there with just dogs would, by default, naturally forgo East Beach in favor of Central Beach (few

would want their dog on-leash when an off-leash alternative is just steps away, so even allow leashed dogs on East Beach would provide a relatively dog-less experience for those who choose). The Wildlife Protection area should, in fact, prohibit dogs, but should also prohibit people (in interest of snowy plovers). There is no need for either dogs or people to be in such a sensitive habitat, especially with so much other beach available. Bird watchers can watch from the observation areas along the buildings and promenade. Therefore, the WPA should be designated as the wetlands - off limits to all visitors. Dogs leashed on the promenade is reasonable.

Baker Beach (proposed Alternative D): The current proposal is for dogs leashed on most trails, banned from North Baker Beach. Instead, dogs should be allowed off-leash on the trails and old battery nearest the parking lots, as they aren't sensitive habitat and not too high traffic. On leash in the picnic area and all other trails, as well as North Baker Beach (ie: not banned, but leashed). South Baker Beach, near the stream's run-off, should be designated as off-leash. This provides concern for habitat (leashed) without banning dogs, and encourages dog owners to walk their dogs on the southern portion, which would limit dogs in other areas (again, if the alternative is there, most dog walkers would prefer that area), as well as concern for picnic areas.

Lands End (proposed Alternative B): Proposed on-leash in all areas. Lands End is a disappointment... whereas for many parks, the proposal limits dog access for conservation reason, at Lands End it limits dog access in interest of developing/destroying what was once wildlife habitat. This is against the GGNRA's mission for many parks, which seems a conflict. Ideally, development would cease in favor of maintaining what's left of wildlife area (ie: in favor of conservation). However, since development surely won't cease, I suggest requiring dogs to be on leash in the parking lot and the Coastal Trail starting at Suro Bath/Suro Heights Park through the currently developed/paved portion of the Coastal Trail. Where the Coastal Trail becomes a dirt path, dogs should be allowed off-leash, as well as on all other minor trails (down the cliff, toward the beach). This provides a leashed area for the most heavily traveled/tourist-directed area of Lands End, minimizing dog traffic, but still provides dog owners with a large amount of area to walk dogs off-leash (and effectively keep them away from the more tourist-focused area), which I believe would achieve the objective of making the most accessible overlook area more inviting for tourists, but without imposing too much on regular members of the community who enjoy walking with their dog. I personally have rescued a cormorant from Lands End, which I wouldn't have had the chance to do if not for walking my dog there (which wouldn't be as fun if not off-leash, and therefore wouldn't visit).

Ocean Beach (proposed Alternative C): The current proposal requires dogs on leash throughout all of Ocean Beach, except south of Sloat where they're banned. Instead, I'd suggest North Ocean Beach (from the Cliff House to the dunes) require dogs be on leash, as this is the highest traffic area of the beach, and the most likely destination for tourists. The area along the dunes, which is less traveled, should be designated as off-leash. Again, it would effectively encourage dog owners to use that portion instead. South of Sloat should require dogs be leashed, perhaps banned during mating season (but only during mating season). This would ensure protection for plovers and convenience for tourists while still allowing dog walkers/owners a viable option for off-leash areas. The promenade should, of course, require dogs be on-leash in interest of their own safety. I'll also note I've personally rescued several wild animals at Ocean Beach, which I wouldn't have even come across if not for walking my dog off-leash (injuries caused by human trash and products, and once natural causes).

Fort Funston (proposed Alternative C): Current proposal recommends ROLA for North of the parking lot to the beach access trail, dogs banned from far north, leashed south. Instead, Fort Funston should remain as it is, with the exception that the beach north of the beach access trail adhere to the same restrictions and southern Ocean Beach (ie: dogs on leash, perhaps banned during plover mating season). Fort Funston is almost exclusively a dog park, and an oasis for dog lovers everywhere, and should rightfully, in interest of the community, remain so. However, perhaps requiring dogs be leashed within 100 feet of the parking lot, for everyone's safety, would be a reasonable change. If any park should be kept essentially as is and in favor of dog owners and walkers, it should be Fort Funston.

Mori Point: The current proposal recommends dogs be leashed in all areas. Mori Point, like Lands End, is another nebulous issue. The proposal claims it's in the interest of sensitive habitat, but for some time now the park has been under extreme development: vegetation destroyed, constant volunteer work, construction of a wooden walkway and stairs (hardly "natural"), etc... To claim dogs are a threat to sensitive habitat when people have been destroying it for some time is ridiculous, and Mori Point has seen some of the most human intervention and development recently. Instead, I propose dogs are allowed off-leash on the Coastal Trail, the trail leading from Bradford Way to the promenade, and Sharp Park Beach. All others, including the promenade, should require dogs be leashed (in interest of multi-use and any work being done). This allows sufficient multi-use areas while still allowing dog owners many off-leash opportunities, and protecting recent developments (not "sensitive habitat"... DEVELOPMENT). Please note: as a dog owner who allows his dog off-leash, I've rescued MANY wild animals at Mori Point (whose injuries were inflicted by humans' trash, oil, etc...).

Of course, with all of these you would still hire more staff to enforce clean-up laws, respect for off-trail habitat,

etc...

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**Correspondence ID:** 418    **Project:** 11759    **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS

**Name:** -

**Address:** - CA

USA

**Email:** faxon@gmail.com

**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Received:** Jan.28,2011 08:39:26

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I take my two dogs to Ft Funston every day, rain or shine. They get their exercise there, and, additionally, they socialize with other dogs every day. BOTH activities are vital for their well being and overall health. In addition, my daily activities are my only exercise and outdoor time. The rest of the day, I am indoors working.

Walking them on a leash would be difficult for me, since I have physical disabilities which limit the use of my wrists. My dogs are well trained, very friendly, and do not cause any problems. They thoroughly enjoy the other people and animals they see every day, and trot up to them and wag their tails.

Your new plan would entirely eliminate our use of the area I have utilized for over forty years. A tiny area near the hang gliders is totally inadequate, and the walk down to the beach and, moreover, UP again is impossible for me at my advanced age.

My doctor tells me that my daily exercise on the level area of Ft Funston is vital to my health. Your proposal eliminates that.

My dogs and I BOTH use the area. You should not eliminate the area my dogs need to run freely in. As I said, I cannot control two leashes, or even one, for a two hour walk. I spend two hours at Ft Funston EVERY day, rain or shine.

I would not be able to continue to do so if your ill advised plan goes into effect. I believe San Francisco deeded that land to you on the condition that the use remains the same. I object to your closure of an open space for dogs to run, as God intended.

I could say much more, but I wish to totally disagree with your "environmental" attitude to an area which has not been harmed in the least by my current use.

I demand much more open space for dogs to run, and could see you closing off, say, HALF of the park, but the WHOLE THING? That is totally unreasonable, and another example of government overreaching and dominating the public, instead of simply sitting back and letting the people do what the majority want to do.

On any weekend day, you see hundreds of people and dogs enjoying the area, and all of the dogs are able to run free. THAT is the way the area has always been, and that is the way it should remain. You can fence off some critical sections, but a huge area of iceplant and sand seems to be a totally available area to me. It's just sand, for goodness sake. Sand and iceplant. I don't see how my two dogs, or any number of other dogs, can possibly hurt sand and iceplant.

As far as people picnicking and such, there are PLENTY of parks where dogs are not allowed. Ft Funston is a DOG PARK. Always has been, and always should be. Give us a break. My old body can't conform to your environmental requirements to have my dogs tugging on a short leash for two hours every day.

Don't take away something which is not yours to take. Obviously, you are not aware of your promise to the people you made when San Francisco signed the land over to you. As a matter of fact, except for the daily collections of the trash, nobody needs the United States Government there at all. The people are doing fine at keeping things clean and controlled as it is. That day I saw horse mounted law enforcement cops trotting around for a day or two several months back, I was appalled. Who needs that? Nobody. The area is well regulated by the citizens, and we don't need bureaucrats messing with it.

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**Correspondence ID:** 419      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** -  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan,28,2011 10:08:38  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I OPPOSE the Draft Plan/Draft Environmental Impact Statement (Plan/DEIS) for Dog Management:

Reducing the off-leash area will make it more difficult for certain sections of the community to use the parks. The elderly, the disabled, and people with children rely on the wide open space for access and safety. Reducing the off-leash area at Fort Funston for example will concentrate dogs in a small area where those with mobility issues will not be able to walk safely.

A healthy community can only be achieved by keeping the off-leash rules as-is. If dogs are prohibited from getting exercise in these spaces it will affect their behavior. They need these outlets to keep them healthy. The result would be under-exercised and under-stimulated dogs that will have an effect on the city. Many dogs need to socialize in the wide-open space as-is now. Many dogs do not do well in small spaces. Small dogs need open space in order to get the exercise they need. Small dog parks can be dangerous for small dogs. There are predatory drift issues and simply the size difference alone can make for dangerous situations where dogs can get hurt in cramped dog parks. The open space provides the only safe alternative in this city.

It will overload other city parks in SF and Marin as dog owners are pushed out of the GGNRA off-leash area. This concentration of dogs in small spaces will lead to environmental problems and social issues.

I have made many friends from all walks of life at Fort Funston and other GGNRA off-leash areas. I would never have met these important friends if it were not for this land being off-leash. The proposed plan will shut off a community.

People who use this open space are a diverse group who encompass every social group in society. It is one of the few spaces where everyone is included. Many people who do not have dogs go to these spaces to enjoy the meeting dogs. People with strollers, walking aids, kids on bikes come to Fort Funston with their dogs as they have plenty of room to walk on the trails. This will no longer be possible under the proposed changes.

There are many places to go if you do not want to be around dogs or want to be around on-leash dogs only. Every section of the community has choices. Do not take our right to this open space away.

Dog owners are concerned about the environment. It is the dog walkers at Fort Funston that organize clean-ups and promote education and responsible dog guardianship.

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**Correspondence ID:** 420      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** liz.kanter@gmail.com  
**Outside Organization:** none Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan,28,2011 10:30:40  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Your preferred alternatives seem to be "no dogs." How is this inclusive? It appears to be exclusionary. You talk about "fear of dog bites," yet offer no evidence that this is a problem. While you talk about environmental concerns with dog waste there again there is no evidence that dog waste is polluting the waters of the state, and in fact if DNA were done, I think you would likely find the pollution, if any, would be from people and birds. Last, you talk about the enjoyment of the park but I would ask for whom? Certainly not dogs and their owners. Thank you, Liz Kanter,

dog owner

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**Correspondence ID:** 421      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** crking3@gmail.com  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan,28,2011 11:42:07  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Please consider an enclosed off-leash dog area, ideally with large and small dog sections, and keep the remainder of the park areas for on-leash use only. Sadly the actions of the few make off-leash dog use incompatible with high density mixed uses; no one should have fear of using the park. Yes the number of incidents is small statistically, but their impact and the cost of enforcement is great. Much easier to maintain a designated space. Trying to enforce "voice control" is ridiculously subjective. Every dog owner thinks their dog is under reasonable voice control, same as parents think of their kids.

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**Correspondence ID:** 422      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** mcgraw.ryan@gmail.com  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan,28,2011 11:58:17  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** No change.

Dear Sir or Madame:

When I moved to the Bay Area 2 years ago, a major selling factor was the "dog friendliness" and amazing off-leash parks. Without these parks, I would likely have chosen otherwise. It is reasonable to assume that you will hurt the local economy with this proposal, for comparatively little gain. A cursory review of market data for the pet industry in the Bay Area tends to show that the industry generates significant revenues, helping to stabilize marginal spending in a volatile economy.

Please do you part to keep the Bay Area a haven for responsible pet owners. Put a stop to these regulations with a firm hand. Protect our local economy, our local citizens and our local pets. Thank you.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

Ryan McGraw

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**Correspondence ID:** 423      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** -  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan,28,2011 12:33:57  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** No Change

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**Correspondence ID:** 424     **Project:** 11759     **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** yingst@hotmail.com  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan,28,2011 12:39:30  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** No Change.

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**Correspondence ID:** 425     **Project:** 11759     **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - NY  
USA  
**Email:**  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan,28,2011 12:39:38  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** No Change.

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**Correspondence ID:** 426     **Project:** 11759     **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** -  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan,28,2011 13:34:09  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** My name is Natalie Tondelli, and I am a graduate of the SF SPCA's Dog Training Academy. I am both pro-nature and pro-dog and I cherish the ability to enjoy and walk at Fort Funston and other areas on the GGNRA. I understand the need for their to be a comprise for the equal use of GGNRA lands for both dog people and non dog people. But I feel the proposed plan on the table now is unrealistic and unmanageable for all the thousands of SF Bay area dogs and their owners. San Francisco is such a special place because we are allowed the opportunity to enjoy such wonderful parks and scenery of the GGNRA, especially with out four legged family members. I have enjoyed taking my dogs to many of the off leash areas in the GGNRA for nearly a decade. Because SF is such a dog friendly city, is the reason I continue to rescue dogs and train them (as well as train their owners). The off leash access provided by the GGNRA has been so beneficial to the success and lives of these types of dogs who otherwise would not be able to find a home. Responsible dog owners have used the GGNRA for over 20 years and it has been so critical to the health and balance of such a densely populated city and the dogs that inhabit it. If we were to loose the small off leash areas that we have currently, all SF dog walkers and owners would take over and invade the even smaller number of legal off leash SF City Parks. These displacements will inevitable cause more problems for SF residents and neighborhoods due to the lack of other options to exercise their dogs. It is because of the GGNRA and other open spaces that we are able to have balanced and well behaved dogs in such a densely populated city. It is vital for the sanity of both dogs, their owners, AND their neighbors that we continue to permit off leash access for people to exercise their dogs. I understand (and have witnessed myself) that not everyone is a responsible pet owner and there have been conflicts brewing over use of space and the sharing of nature/ trails/ beach/ wildlife/ etc. with non-dog people. So here are some suggestions and possible alternatives that have been brought up by other pro-dog people over the past few years: 1 Why not let the dog walkers, dog owners and pro dog people police themselves? By allowing people a permit, they are granted access to the GGNRA and the opportunity to run their dogs off leash? 2 Professional dog organizations and advocates are capable of organizing and CHARGING both business and individuals to use the land to exercise their dogs at. It is a luxury, and people get so much enjoyment from the GGNRA. And I am positive people will be more than happy to pay to be able to continue to use the land. 3 This will increase annual revenue for the GGNRA, and also allow responsible dog owners continued access to use the park. If people do not pay, or their dogs are unruly, aggressive or the owners are uncooperative with the standard policies, they lose their privilege of using the park. 4 If given permission from the GGNRA, why not allow pro-dog people the opportunity to fence off and dog proof restricted and sensitive habitat areas to reduce further eco- wildlife problems in the park? The park has limited and unsuccessful barriers now that people do not know where are the restricted areas and they do not keep dogs out of those areas. I hope

you take my letter seriously, and I hope that you will come to a balanced decision regarding the off leash policies of the GGNRA. I hope to be able to enjoy it in the future with my future children and my future dogs.

I would love to be a part of the committee or decision-making process. If I can help please let me know.

Thank you for your time,

Natalie Tondelli Top Dog SF 3150 Rivera St. San Francisco, CA 94116

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**Correspondence ID:** 427    **Project:** 11759    **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** petercaraher@yahoo.com  
**Outside Organization:** American Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan,28,2011 13:35:53  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Thank you to the GOGA for finally enacting some type of plan to manage dogs in the park. For too many years regular park visitors have been bullied by DOG OWNERS. For some reason they feel their pets are more important visitors to the park than people. What ever the plan, the most important thing for the GOGA to do is ENFORCE the rules. Dog owners need to be held accountable for the actions of their dogs where ever they are in the park. This is not about animal behavior, its about humans not following the rules. I wish you the best. Sincereley, Pete Caraher

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**Correspondence ID:** 428    **Project:** 11759    **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** none Unaffiliated Individual  
**Outside Organization:** none Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan,28,2011 14:27:44  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Reducing the number of areas where dogs can run off leash doesn't solve the problem. Protecting endangered plant and animal life is a priority, as well as making our parks accessible to all. However, even on leash, some dog owners still violate all the rules. Proper enforcement of the EXISTING structure is what is needed. Enforce clean-up rules, enforce the on-leash rule in the areas where it is currently required. Enforce that owners must have an off-leash dog under voice control. Currently none of this is being enforced, leading to complaints that make it seem as if shutting down off-leash areas will improve the situation. It will not!

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**Correspondence ID:** 429    **Project:** 11759    **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** dog owner Unaffiliated Individual  
**Outside Organization:** dog owner Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan,28,2011 15:27:05  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Why do dogs need to be restricted to a leash at Crissy Field. There's no reason why there can't be a specific area at Crissy Field specifically for dogs to run off leash. There's plenty of room to have part of Crissy field designated as an off leash area for dogs. San Fransico has plenty of dog owners and plenty of parents and both can co-exist at Crissy field. Making dogs stay on a leash at Crissy Field is completely extreme and unnecessary.

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**Correspondence ID:** 430      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS

**Name:** -

**Address:** - CA  
USA

**Email:** lizahr@gmail.com

**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Received:** Jan,28,2011 15:56:25

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Kudos for this plan to restrict off-leash dog use at many GGNRA beaches. As a mother of a 2-year old who has been chased, barked at and snarled at by dogs on local trails and beaches, I firmly believe dogs are dangerous animals that need to be kept under control -- and "voice control" means nothing when the owner is not even in sight or paying no attention. (When sunbathing, I have been trod upon, disturbed, and forced to move by packs of dogs running wild on Baker Beach and Ocean Beach when they were supposedly under "voice control".)

I am also a birder, and want our coastal dune habitat preserved for local native species that nest in the sand and dunes. Birds such as Western Snowy Plover are already in severe decline and nest destruction and harassment by dogs is a serious issue in Point Reyes and GGNRA.

I know the dog-rights crowd is very opposed to this plan and unleashing a torrent of criticism, but in fact, you have restored some critical balance to a situation where dogs have been allowed to run wild for years, at the expense of other park users, including wildlife, young children, and people who do not wish to be disturbed by dogs. Thank you for your efforts on this issue.

Unfortunately, my experience on Mt. Tam trails shows that even where leashes are required, many dog owners will disregard the rules. I hope that rangers and the public will step up to ensure that leash laws are strictly enforced.

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**Correspondence ID:** 431      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS

**Name:** -

**Address:** - CA  
USA

**Email:**  
**Outside Organization:** GG Parks Conservancy Unaffiliated Individual

**Received:** Jan,28,2011 16:23:30

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** These comments, which also reflect the views of my wife, are made in connection with GGNRA consideration of its policy towards dogs. We are very frequent visitors to the GGNRA and long-time members of the GG Parks Conservancy. We love to hike, ride our bikes and enjoy the beaches. Dogs significantly detract from our enjoyment of the park areas. Therefore, we support stringent regulations of dogs - they should be kept entirely out of most areas and, where they are allowed, they should be leashed at all times. The only situation where they should be allowed to run free is within a fenced off dog run area. Unleashed dogs are a safety risk, are bad for wildlife, defecate and urinate in areas used by the public, and are unwelcome by many park visitors.

About a year and half ago, (on "bike to work" day) I decided to ride my bike from Marin into work in SF. As I was riding through Crissy Field (on a designated bike path) an unleashed dog unexpectedly ran into my path, resulting in a serious accident, a call to 911 to summon an ambulance, and a trip to the ER. (I assume the Park has some record of this incident.) Fortunately, I was wearing my helmet and my worst injury was some cracked ribs, but my recovery took several months. Unleashed dogs present a substantial danger to bikers - I hardly know anyone who rides a bike who doesn't have a negative dog story to tell.

In addition, I have been bitten several times in my life - each time by an unleashed dog, and each time the owner said the same thing: "Gee, he's never done that before." (It is well known that dog bites are one of the most common forms of injury.) As a result of these incidents, I get very uncomfortable when approached by an

unleashed dog, and it doesn't make things any better when the owner says "he's friendly."

There is no question that some people can control their dogs by voice command. However, for every person who can exercise voice control over his/her dog, there are several who think they can but can't. In this respect dog owners are like drivers - every one thinks they're a good driver, but there is often a disconnect between people's self assessment and reality. Perhaps such people can control their dogs in the privacy of their own homes or yards, but when their dogs are placed in an area with wildlife, other dogs and people, they seem to be overcome by instincts and urges that quickly make them disobedient. And, regrettably, some dog owners just don't care that their dogs make others uncomfortable - they seem to think that if you don't like their dogs, well then tough luck.

Of course, dogs don't mix well with wildlife. Their natural instincts make them eager to chase and, thereby, harass birds and mammals. I have one friend who thinks it's "cute" to see her dogs chase squirrels - she actually encourages them to do it. Viewing of wildlife is a valuable and important part of the outdoor experience. It is important to protect the wildlife from being harassed - in my experience the native wildlife quickly abandons an area that is overrun by dogs.

A particular concern is with professional "dog walkers" who bring packs of unruly dogs to the park areas. There are no qualifications to be a dog walker and many of them appear to be incompetent. This activity should be prohibited or severely restricted. If allowed, dog walkers should be required to obtain a permit and proof of insurance. What's doubling annoying is that, from what I hear, most of the "dog walkers" do not report or pay taxes on their income - in other words they expect the rest of us taxpayers to provide them with free access to parks so they can make some tax free income.

It is regrettable that there are so many irresponsible dog owners, such that strict measures are required. Moreover, any policy that is adopted must be enforced.

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**Correspondence ID:** 432    **Project:** 11759    **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:**  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan,28,2011 17:24:52  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** No change! Dogs are part of our families that most need and enjoy the outdoors. There is no need to restrict well behaved dogs!

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**Correspondence ID:** 433    **Project:** 11759    **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** Belgic@COMCAST.net  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan,28,2011 22:52:31  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** No change in rules for dogs on beach

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**Correspondence ID:** 434    **Project:** 11759    **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:**  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan,29,2011 01:52:24  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:**

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**Correspondence ID:** 435      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA

**Email:**  
**Outside** Unaffiliated Individual

**Organization:**  
**Received:** Jan.29.2011 09:55:43

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I am a San Francisco resident and own 3 companion dogs. In San Francisco the dog-friendly parks are extremely limited, and finding access to open running space for dogs is difficult, save for the GGNRA. While I am fully on-board with conservation efforts, this plan to reduce dog accessibility to the GGNRA strikes me as an attempt against dog-owners, made by those who do not like dogs. I would like to see in large open areas that these public spaces remain dog-friendly so that our companions have open space to run.

My dogs are my children. They bring so much joy and vibrancy to my and my husband's life. To further restrict my ability to access the GGNRA with my dogs would be very saddening. Please keep the last 1% of the dog-friendly GGNRA accessible to all dog owners who visit the GGNRA.

What I would truly love to see are some fenced in areas within in the city where dogs can run. The park at Duboce Triangle would be great, except there are no fences in that high-vehicle-traffic area. Please keep the GGNRA available to us.

Thank you.

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**Correspondence ID:** 436      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA

**Email:** mmery@horizoncable.com  
**Outside** Unaffiliated Individual

**Organization:**  
**Received:** Jan.29.2011 10:36:50

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I am a long term resident of West Marin and hike frequently on NPS and GGNRA administered lands in West Marin. I am not a dog owner currently, although I have been in the past. In the last 10 years, the intrusiveness of dogs has increased significantly with the walking of dogs where they are not permitted and more dramatically walking dogs without leash where they are required. The dog owners often seem of the view that 'my dog is just fine' and raising the issue with them, however polite one tries to be, is very difficult and liable to result in a very defensive to actively hostile reaction. I have noted to several dog owners who have stated, in effect, "my dog would never bite anyone." Assumed, of course, is that the rules don't apply to them and even if they did, there is no harm. I stated on one occasion when raising the issue with the owner of a large dog, that if I had one of my younger grandchildren with me, the dog's muzzle would be at face height of the child and if the child had been with me, I would have filed a formal complaint against the dog owner. the dog was off leash in a prohibited area.

I am pleased that GGNRA is working through the process. Dog owners should have areas available for off leash recreation. And the ecological values of park lands, e.g., the Giacomini Marsh, should be honored.

Thanks

Michael Mery

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**Correspondence ID:** 437      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -

**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:**  
**Outside** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Organization:**  
**Received:** Jan,29,2011 12:06:01  
**Correspondence** Web Form  
**Type:**  
**Correspondence:** Dear GGRNA,

The open lands of Rancho Corral de Tierra is one the many reasons my family enjoys living in El Granada. We have lived here for over 10 years and walk our dog on the hills behind El Granada off leash since we adopted her 6 years ago. It is the last place on the coast where we can let her run off leash. The beaches either ban dogs altogether or require a leash. Other regional parks also ban dogs or require a leash as well. There are no places to take her and let her run off leash except in the Rancho Corral de Tierra space.

With all of these limitations where can dog owners go to walk their dogs besides the roads where cars an running up and down the street? We don't have many sidewalks in El Granada so you are forced to walk in the street. This is dangerous for both drivers, dog walkers and dogs.

Making walking a dog in the Rancho Corral Tierra a crime is a very extreme measure to levy against the residents and visitors using this open space. It is our neighborhood's local park and it is one of the few places outdoors that we can share with our dogs. Residents have been walking their dogs in this space for over 50 years and it is one of the reasons that we all enjoy living here with our dogs.

Considering the entire area of Rancho Corral, can't some space close to the neighborhoods be preserved for dog walkers? This land is not pristine as horses, bikes, people, motorcycles and sometimes even cars drive up on the lands close the neighborhoods.

Residents have been using this land for over 50 years and have been good stewards of the land under no formal directive from the county or state. We have raised funds for POST so that these lands could stay open and free of development. Yet GGNRA has not taken into consideration how the residents would like to use this open space. We are not being treated fairly by banning our dogs from this land.

The GGNRA Dog Management Plan for Rancho Corral is unfair and sets no space aside for dogs. There are off-leash areas allowed in Marin and San Francisco counties. Why can't we have this option for Rancho Corral?

Please consider the residents and our dogs when making your decision. It affects the well being of not only our dogs but their owners which are the tax payers and POST supporters who helped to keep these lands open and free from development.

Sincerely, Roxane Osborne El Granada resident

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**Correspondence ID:** 438      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA

**Email:**  
**Outside** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Organization:**

**Received:** Jan,29,2011 13:36:10  
**Correspondence** Web Form

**Type:**  
**Correspondence:** These policies are too restrictive, especially completely banning dogs from Muir beach and Stinson Beach.

I understand the reasons behind the preferred alternatives, but dogs - and their owners - have the same rights to recreate in public areas too. I was told by a park ranger that dogs were going to be banned from Muir beach because of environmental concerns, especially for the creek restoration.

A more reasonable solution would be to let the dogs be off leash on the southern part of the beach, and signage could be placed along the stream that specifically bans dogs from that area. Raising awareness with clearly posted signs is what is needed, not wholesale draconian measures that disenfranchise all dogs and their owners. This is what is proposed for Chrissy field, and there is no reason it cannot work on Luir and Stinson as well. Additionally, I might add that it can be a little crowded on weekends at Muir beach and that it might make sense to allow dogs off leash on weekends only in the mornings before 9 and after 5 pm.

Again, this kind of restriction can accommodate all users, instead of shutting out people with dogs who also deserve a piece of the publicly funded recreation options. And please do not ask dogs to stay on leashes on a beach - it just goes against the dogs' nature and is really inhumane.

Re: Stinson beach - I am not sure why they want the entire beach to be closed for dogs, but really, there needs to be an area for dogs, and an area that does not allow dogs. A compromise is a real solution, not this kind of one-way proposal that keeps dog owners from having reasonable access to public beaches. Yes, my dog likes trails also, but they LOVE the beach when we go there and it is obvious they are very happy - as am I - when we get to enjoy some beach time.

Dog owners pay taxes also, and should be accommodated on public lands. NPS, you've gone too dog-gone far on this one. Throw us a bone and let us have access to our public lands also. Don't shut out our dogs just because they can't vote or speak. I will speak on their behalf: "We love the beaches, and want to be able to keep going there."

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|                              |                                  |                 |       |                  |       |
|------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------|-------|------------------|-------|
| <b>Correspondence ID:</b>    | 439                              | <b>Project:</b> | 11759 | <b>Document:</b> | 38106 |
| <b>Project:</b>              | Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS   |                 |       |                  |       |
| <b>Name:</b>                 | -                                |                 |       |                  |       |
| <b>Address:</b>              | - CA<br>USA                      |                 |       |                  |       |
| <b>Email:</b>                |                                  |                 |       |                  |       |
| <b>Outside Organization:</b> | Unaffiliated Individual          |                 |       |                  |       |
| <b>Received:</b>             | Jan,29,2011 14:14:59             |                 |       |                  |       |
| <b>Correspondence Type:</b>  | Web Form                         |                 |       |                  |       |
| <b>Correspondence:</b>       | My name is Rusty and I am a dog. |                 |       |                  |       |

First of all, your Executive Summary was too confusing, even for my owner!

Here are my votes:

Homestead Valley: Alternative A

Stinson Beach: Where's the beach? - I got nothing!

Muir Beach: Alternative A - I will stay out of the creek; I like salmon too!

Rodeo Beach: Alternative A, or the preferred alternative would be OK, but better if I could walk the entire beach.

Chrissy Field: Alternative A

Baker Beach: Alternative A

Marin Headlands : Alternative A

Ocean Beach: ALternative A

These are my favorite places. PLEASE let me and my owners stay!

Here's a little song I howl sometimes:

Oh, give me a place, where us doggies can roam, Where the dogs and our owners can play, Where seldom is heard a discouraging word, And our poop is picked up each time.

Roam, roam on the beach Where the dogs and their owners can play, Where we leave the wildlife alone, And don't bury any bones, And act friendly to all on our way.

Thanks NPS!

Give me a home, where the dog and the people play!

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**Correspondence ID:** 440      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** -  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan,29,2011 14:30:11  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** To whom it may concern,

I am very disappointed to hear many of the local parks currently off-leash for dogs is considering discontinuing this practice. I often bring my dog to Fort Funston and find it to be one of the absolute best assets in the area. It is vast space that is safe, beautiful and wonderful place for dogs and their owners. Crissy Field is another area my dog and I frequent. I believe they represent some of the best San Francisco has to offer in terms of outdoor space, kind and friendly people and safe environments. I truly feel changing the current policy would be a disservice to the city and its residents and dogs. San Francisco is known to be a very dog-friendly city and it will likely lose much of this cache with these changes.

Please do not take these beautiful facilities away from my dog, myself and all of the other responsible pet owners to truly love these spaces.

Kind regards, Jennifer Lake

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**Correspondence ID:** 441      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** -  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan,29,2011 20:25:53  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Thank you for your work on this DEIS. I support the proposed alternative, with one major exception:

I am very disappointed that the proposed alternative does not require that all areas for off leash dogs be fenced or otherwise physically restricted. The foremost duty of the National Park Service in all units is to protect its units' resources. Off leash dogs that are not enclosed by physical barriers, whether natural or man-made, pose a serious threat to those resources. Dogs do not recognize human boundaries if those boundaries are not physically restricted, and off leash dogs will wander outside them. Once they do, there is a strong chance that they will negatively impact the park resources. Physically restricting off leash dog areas is the only way to ensure that dogs will not run off leash where they will negatively impact people, wildlife, and even leashed dogs.

Voice control does not exist in reality; it is nothing more than a myth perpetuated by off leash dog advocates for the purpose of convincing people that dogs should be allowed off leash because they can be controlled by voice commands. Nothing could be further from the truth. A dog that is chasing another animal or a person will continue to do so regardless of any training or voice command. We've all seen out-of-control dogs being yelled at by their owners many times, with the dogs totally ignoring the owners and continuing to do whatever they're doing.

I urge you in the strongest terms to add physical barriers to your preferred alternative. I would support the preferred alternative if you do so.

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**Correspondence ID:** 442      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** arnold4@pacbell.net  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan,30,2011 10:32:23  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am a frequent user of the GGNRA, hiking and biking throughout for years. I am fully supportive of the NPS to bring dogs under more restrictive controls. Here are experiences I have personally witnessed:

- o At Tennessee Valley entrance, where signs are posted at the entrance ("No pets") regular violation of the restrictions.
- o At TV, When I've told people dogs aren't allowed, they get rude.
- o At Rodeo Beach, I have asked dog owners to clean up their dog feces and they've refused. In one case, leaving dog feces in the surf near where children were in the water.
- o Throughout the headlands biking trails I have passed people walking multiple dogs off leash, while the dogs were running off trail.
- o I have witnessed dog fights: arguments between dog owners and other users.
- o At several entrances near parking lots, there are locations where dog owners think it's "ok" to let their dogs defecate as long as it is off trail. When I've pointed it out, they've responded, "I don't see a sign."

Good luck . Those of us following the rules are with you 100% and recognize the difficulty of accommodating the dog owner user groups to the GGNRA.

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**Correspondence ID:** 443      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** corabbott@aol.com  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan,30,2011 13:15:36  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Dear GGNRA, My dogs and I have used Ft. Funston, Stern Grove and Chrissy Field for 25 years. Within this time I have never experienced, or observed inappropriate use of these area. I also have not read in the newspaper any incidences of danger or misuse of these locations involving dogs. "If it's not broken why break it" I urgently wish to add my voice to this issue and request the 1979 plan remain. Respectfully, Coreen Abbott

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**Correspondence ID:** 444      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106

**ID:**  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** -  
**Outside** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Organization:**  
**Received:** Jan,30,2011 15:53:22  
**Correspondence** Web Form  
**Type:**  
**Correspondence:** Preferred alternative should be E, not D

I have been a responsible dog owner for 20 years and walking my dog in Rancho de Tierra lands for many years. There are very few people accessing this land and most are with their dogs. There is simple no one, on a percentage basis, to bother. Please do not over regulate land that is suppose to be for the good of us all.

A total ban on dogs is not acceptable (or a complete ban on dogs is extreme). Use this phrasing as opposed to specifying off leash, or on leash.

No scientific studies were done of Rancho lands to justify banning dogs.

Residents in the bordering neighborhoods of Rancho (Montara, Moss Beach and El Granada) have been walking their dogs on Rancho trails for decades.

Residents have been self-policing: In Montara, dog-waste management (disposal cans and pickup bags) is maintained by Montara Dog Group volunteers. Neither fenced or patrolled, trail conditions are excellent given their heavy use. Residents report improper or illegal activity to officials. Montara Dog Group has had a good working relationship with POST.

Tim

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**Correspondence** 445    **Project:** 11759    **Document:** 38106

**ID:**  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** -  
**Outside** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Organization:**  
**Received:** Jan,30,2011 17:49:38  
**Correspondence** Web Form  
**Type:**  
**Correspondence:**

I have lived in the Bay Area for a dozen years and enjoyed all of the GGNRA sites very much. Thank you for your attention to creating a mixed-use environment where all people and animals can enjoy themselves.

Two years ago, I rescued a dog from Mexico. We have lived in Moss Beach and in San Francisco together and enjoyed many GGNRA locations together (Muir Beach, Ocean Beach, Fort Funston, Chrissy Field, etc.) There are so many locations (especially State Parks) that are off limits to dogs and I am grateful to be able to take my dog to GGNRA areas.

I am especially grateful that we get to experience some of these areas with off-leash or voice-command. This provides an excellent environment for dogs to play and socialize in a way that is impossible while they are on leash. The dogs run up and down the beach together, tumbling in the sand - impossible on leash. We ensure that we pick up his waste and that our dog does not run up to strangers who do not wish to have his affection.

The closure of GGNRA areas to dogs - or even leash restrictions as presented in the Draft Dog Management Plan - would change the dynamic of GGNRA areas. There would be no spaces for dogs to play freely. There are so many places closed to dogs that visitors can choose if they do not want to interact with animals, but well-behaved dogs

deserve a chance to run and play with their owners and friends in these beautiful outdoor spaces.

Thank you for hearing my comment. I hope that you will choose NOT to change the dog management and pursue NO ACTION at this time that will constrain dog access.

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**Correspondence ID:** 446    **Project:** 11759    **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** wutsit2u@gmail.com  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan,30,2011 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Dogs that are well trained should not be on a leash.

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**Correspondence ID:** 447    **Project:** 11759    **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** -  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan,30,2011 20:00:30  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am both a dog owner and a member of the Audobon society. I completely support protecting vital bird habitat. There is only one Pacific flyway and we need to protect this vital habitat for migrating birds. It makes no sense to allow a species to disappear just to give our dogs places to run. In addition, while many dog owners are responsible, many are not. They do not pick up feces or keep dogs off fragile areas. They had a chance to show they could be good neighbors to the birds and they did not. Furthermore, I would like to see much better enforcement of violations.

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**Correspondence ID:** 448    **Project:** 11759    **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** -  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan,30,2011 22:50:13  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** My family has lived in San Francisco since 1974 and have gone to Fort Funston every 1-2 months since our children were infants. We have walked our dogs in the area for the same length of time. Our family has enjoyed this recreation area partly because the dogs are able to run and play with other animals. The animals are not aggressive - partly because they are able to run and not defend their owner.

As my husband and I work full time, we have employed a dog-walker who also takes dogs to this area. If we could not have access to this area, it would be very difficult to live in the city where we both work.

Please keep the area of Fort Funston open to dogs and their families, dog walkers and allow the animals to continue to enjoy the outside play off leash.

Thank you.

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**Correspondence ID:** 449    **Project:** 11759    **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** sad-c@pacbell.net  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan,30,2011 23:38:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:**

Hello, I am a 26 year local resident who has lived on the Coastside for 26 years. I currently live in Moss Beach. The Rancho Corral de Tierra has been my backyard growing up and is literally my back yard now, as I am typing this comment I can see where my backyard's mesh fence is allowing the wild grass and clover to take over my lawn. The loss of my manicured backyard comes invited because I prefer the spotty patches of clover with their yellow blooms and the various other grasses i don't know the names of. Since I have lived her I have had dogs, first with my parents while growing up and now as an adult with a child of my own. I take my Dog through the Rancho Corral De Tierra at least three times a week. I am owned by a 7 year old Pitbull Terrier that needs to run miles and miles. The area I call my backyard is very important to my dogs health and the pleasure I get while running her while enjoying the area. I enjoy hiking deep into the area and always feel safe with my dog because I know that she will help detour an praying mountain lion. I have read the GGNRA's plan for the Rancho Corral de Tierra area and feel that the best suited plan is alternative E. I truly feel that dogs who are under control, whether by voice or by leash, pose less a threat to the beautiful habitat we all enjoy than the horse riding community. In fact I am surprised to hear nothing about the impact that the Equestrians have on the trails. Thanks for allowing me a place to voice my concerns and opinions. As an active citizen of the area I enjoy being able to influence the way my home gets treated and defined, so please don't take away the right to run my dog in my backyard.

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**Correspondence ID:** 450      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - IL  
USA  
**Email:** -  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan,31,2011 08:32:07  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:**

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**Correspondence ID:** 451      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** -  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan,31,2011 10:08:53  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Please make NO CHANGES to the existing leash laws and dogwalking regulations. This will incur a huge hardship for both dog owners and dog care takers. Thank you for your consideration.

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**Correspondence ID:** 452      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** -  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan,31,2011 11:52:12  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Dear GGNRA,

There has been nothing that has given my dog Daisy more joy than running free at various GGNRA parks. We love nothing better than to pack up a lunch and head out to the beach for a day of running and playing in the sand and water. We meet other dogs there and they play together with such joyous abandon. It would break my heart if this activity ceased to exist. Every dog owner I have met has been courteous. I rarely find that owners do not clean up after their dogs. And if they don't, I do it for them, and have seen other dog owners do the same. There are so many other places for people to go if they don't like dogs. We dog owners have fewer and fewer places to take our dogs off leash. Please don't take this freedom away. It means so much to our dogs to have a place to run free.

Sincerely,

Debi Thiel

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**Correspondence ID:** 453    **Project:** 11759    **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** madeline@livinginmarin.com  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan,31,2011 13:58:34  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I don't agree on this, thanks. Madeline

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**Correspondence ID:** 454    **Project:** 11759    **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** toniamoore618@gmail.com  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan,31,2011 14:36:52  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I would be greatly saddened if you were to decrease the already limited amount of open space allowed to dogs and their owners in San Francisco. Please understand that the vast majority of dog owners here are law abiding and responsible. If there are concerns about irresponsible owners, they should be addressed through education and enforcement of current laws.

Off-leash recreation is critical to dog's good health, both physical and behavioral. Most dogs interact best with each other and with people when they have some freedom to move about as needed.

Please preserve the space and laws as they currently stand. Additional limits and restrictions will cause much more harm than good.

Thank you for your time.

Antonia Moore

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**Correspondence ID:** 455    **Project:** 11759    **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** rcernr@comcast.net  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan,31,2011 17:53:53  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Type:**

**Correspondence:** My wife and I are both in our eighties and we walk our 4 year old dog at Ft. Funston. We were at Ft. Funston this afternoon and spoke with a gentleman who appeared to be our age and walking his dog. We chatted briefly and he said if he was not there at Ft. Funston with his dog, he would be home in bed.

As we age, walking a dog - off-leash - is a wonderful way to maintain our vitality. We pick up after our dogs and to watch them play brings joy to all the people that I meet there.

If dogs were barred from off-leash walking, Ft. Funston would not be used to any extent and what happens when a large park is not fully, unrully gangs take possession. That is what happened to GG park several years ago.

Dogs off-leash have a way of communicating with each other that we "humans" should envy. They communicate very clearly to each other and I do not witness dog fights.

Please continue off-leash dog walking at all areas presently used at Ft. Funston

VTY

Tom Devine

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**Correspondence ID:** 456    **Project:** 11759    **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS

**Name:** -

**Address:** - CA  
USA

**Email:** -

**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Received:** Jan,31,2011 18:07:20

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** While I understand the growing needs to manage all types of foot traffic in these parks, the truth is I come here with my dog because it's a great place for both of us to enjoy the pleasures that come with these great spaces.

If bans went into effect, I would be less likely to come to the park and look for alternatives throughout the bay area or within the city. I feel restricting dogs from the current regulations would decrease attendance at these parks resulting in fewer advocates for when it comes time to really have to preserve/save these areas because of budget cuts, etc.

Thanks, Brian Mayer

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**Correspondence ID:** 457    **Project:** 11759    **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS

**Name:** -

**Address:** - CA  
USA

**Email:** -

**Outside Organization:** Tax Payer Unaffiliated Individual

**Received:** Jan,31,2011 18:32:25

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I SUGGEST YOU KEEP FORT FUNSTON AS IS.

On paper Ft.F seems like a wonderful place to visit, especially in summer. In reality it is a windy and often bleak stretch of coast frequently masked in fog. Unlike "Fair Weather Fans," dog owners use Fort Funston on a regular basis, in all conditions. I'd bet that more than 85% of the area's use is by TAX-PAYING dog owners. Without "Fort Fundog" off-lease access, dog owners are only going to redirect their energies to places like Stern Grove overtaxing these public places. The constant comings and goings of dog walkers keep the parking lot safe from

unseemly behavior. (and the homeless population out of the cypress.) I believe there is a simple alternative to these expensive proposals. Keep things as is but add large signs warning that Ft. Funston is an off-leash dog haven and fence off any sensitive areas.

If one wants only the view without the animals, there are many alternative stops along the coast. There are no beach alternatives for our pets.

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**Correspondence ID:** 458      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - MA  
USA  
**Email:**  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan,31,2011 22:06:11  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am dismayed and astonished by your process in a couple of respects: 1) it seems profoundly disrespectful of the needs of Bay Area residents and history of the GGNRA to propose moving to a future that allows no areas within the vast holdings where dogs can be under voice control rather than leashed. 2) Your proposed course of action is certain to be contentious and unenforceable. I strongly urge you to create some areas where dogs can be under voice control as it will make enforcement possible in other areas. I believe you can forge this path despite NPS doctrine. 3) Consider the leashes bring their own risks for mixed use (tripping, falling, etc) and consider technological solutions as part of this. I urge you to consider remote training collars for dogs as the equivalent of an electronic collar that can achieve the benefits of control but allow greater freedom of movement for dogs and avoid some of the risks of leashes. 4) In these difficult economic times it seems remarkable to me that you'd consider taking away so much community control in a manner that will create an increased enforcement burden for you over time. I strongly urge you to consider a more balanced approach. Take Muir Beach for example. Insistent that people have dogs on-leash in all wooded or planted areas but allow voice control on the beach itself. Generally speaking I think the "we'll be cool if you be cool" approach is the way to go and people will accept more restriction if you make a clear effort to better accept the needs of dog owners.

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**Correspondence ID:** 459      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** -  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Feb,01,2011 09:45:56  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** My view of the purpose and value of national recreation areas is first to conserve the natural environment and then to provide a quality experience and safe access to the broadest range our populace. Of the criteria used in developing the draft plan, those most important to me are environmental impact, safety, and visitor experience. Therefore I believe the alternative most appropriate is alternative D, providing maximum environmental protection and safety.

---

**Correspondence ID:** 460      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** ccstavolone@hotmail.com  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Feb,01,2011 11:59:01  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** No change.

---

**Correspondence ID:** 461      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** -  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Feb,01,2011 12:07:40  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** NO CHANGE

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**Correspondence ID:** 462      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA

**Email:** -  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Received:** Feb,01,2011 12:16:42  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I oppose the plan as it will restrict our family activities which includes our dog to very few places. We constantly visit Crissy fields, Muir Beach and the surrounding area when we go on hikes, or day trip to the beach with our kids and dog.

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**Correspondence ID:** 463      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA

**Email:** -  
**Outside Organization:** Montara Dog Blog Unaffiliated Individual

**Received:** Feb,01,2011 12:18:09  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Dear GGNRA,

I am writing to express my wishes that "Alternative A," which takes no further action in the matter titled "GGNRA Draft Dog Management Plan / Environmental Impact Statement" be enacted. As a resident and frequent visitor to several of the sites impacted by this plan, I am hopeful that my comments (which will be copied to our state members of Congress) will be considered in the matter that proposes banning dogs in the areas specified in this plan.

Many residents in the effected areas moved there specifically for access to local outdoor resources. In fact, my wife and I, who did not have a dog prior to moving to Moss Beach in 1999, were motivated to buy property in our community in the hope of getting a dog. We had previously lived in the East Bay, in a community that did not have access to more rural trails and recreation areas, and did not feel it was fair to a dog to raise them in a condominium complex, because their access to exercise would thus be limited. In Moss Beach, we can travel a mere 5 minutes and enjoy on- or off-leash walks with our active dog.

Indeed, if we had envisioned losing access to what are now GGNRA lands with our dog, we probably would not have moved to the area. In fact, we would not have gotten a dog either. He is an Australian Cattle Dog, and needs copious exercise. This is beneficial for us because our frequent hikes with the dog also helps us keep in shape and keeps the dog healthy and happy.

I strongly believe that limiting access to the GGNRA lands with dogs will actually increase dog related problems within the community. With no access to reasonable means for vigorous exercise, dogs become bored and more easily prone to agitation and aggression. Certainly our dog exhibits a greater level of misbehavior if healthy outlets for exercise are not available to him.

Walking in our neighborhood is generally unacceptable for us, because there is a lack of open space in which to run, and we must be quite careful of encounters with other people and their dogs in neighborhoods as many people are uncomfortable with animals on or near their immediate property. There are also neighborhood cats that are tempting to chase, and of course auto traffic, which is also a danger to the animals should they manage to break free of a leash should they become excited by something they see on a walk.

Furthermore, I don't see any advantage to banning dogs from the area regardless of our dog's needs. Environmental impact from dogs is surely minimal or nonexistent. Furthermore, impact from horses, who frequent many of these areas, is likely greater, as their owners never pick up after their animals, and they are larger, heavier, and presumably cause greater wear on the land.

In summary, I would like to push for "Alternative A" to pass. The other alternatives are unfair to people and dogs who moved to these areas in hopes of having a life with greater access to outdoor resources. Changing the level of access to these areas is also inappropriate since many of the dogs who frequent the areas are incredibly active and may actually become problematic or aggressive around other dogs and around people if they are not exercised adequately. Finally, the environmental impact of dogs is insignificant and certainly less than that of horses, which are not being banned.

It would be extremely unfortunate for a vocal minority of residents who do not like dogs to dictate to the rest of us what we can and cannot do with our pets.

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**Correspondence ID:** 464      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** -  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Feb,01,2011 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I strongly oppose the proposed plan. The recommended action would severely restrict the ability of responsible dog owners (and their pets) to use and enjoy what are already very limited recreation areas. Yet, there doesn't seem to be any factual support for why the recommended option was chosen beyond anecdotal reasoning.

If it's for employee safety, then how many employees have been injured? If it's for environmental reasons, then explain how dogs are the culprit, but surfers, tour buses full of tourists, horse riders, bikers and hikers aren't. If it's to reduce conflicts, then how many and how severe have those conflicts been? (I've been taking my dog to all of these places for a greater part of the last ten years and have rarely, if ever seen any major conflict.)

If, as you say, the number of dog owners has grown dramatically since the 90s, then your proposal will limit the ability of a huge proportion of the regular users of these areas, for very poorly supported reasons. If a small percentage of dogs are causing issues, then the answer is to cite the owners of those specific animals. Not to punish the thousands of responsible owners who frequent these areas.

This is a pet-owner-hostile dictate that seeks to act first and ask questions too late. I intend to do whatever I can to prevent this proposal from passing.

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**Correspondence ID:** 465      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:**  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Feb,01,2011 12:24:12  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** No change

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**Correspondence**      466      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106

**ID:**  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** -  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Feb,01,2011 12:24:51  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Regarding Muir Beach: Against Preferred Alternative D

The plan to remove all dog access to Muir Beach is not fair to those of us responsible pet owners who have enjoyed taking our dogs there for years. At the very least, alternatives B, C, or E should be implemented if the current usage has been determined to be unacceptable to the environment.

I have no issues with keeping my dog on a leash if it is necessary, but telling me I can't bring my dog is unfair. Humans do FAR more damage to this beach with littering than any dog.

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**Correspondence ID:** 467      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** ccstavalone@hotmail.com  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Feb,01,2011 12:26:05  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** no change.

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**Correspondence ID:** 468      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** -  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Feb,01,2011 12:35:48  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** We need to allow dogs to run freely so they can expend their energy in a happy joyful way. Please don't make us pent up our dogs. They deserve their freedom too.

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**Correspondence ID:** 469      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** -  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Feb,01,2011 12:53:34  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:**

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**Correspondence ID:** 470      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:**

**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Feb,01,2011 12:53:56  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** No Change

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**Correspondence ID:** 471      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project Name:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Address:** -  
- CA  
USA  
**Email:** marg@sokitomi.com  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Feb,01,2011 13:23:39  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Re: DMP-EIS for transfer of POST land, Rancho Corral de Tierra, to GGNRA

I request that the Alternative E be used, allowing dogs to be walked on the Rancho after its transfer to the GGNRA.

I have lived in Montara for 11 years and have been walking on the Rancho lands and on the McNee State Park since I moved here, accompanied by my dogs for the last ten years. We walk there every day; in the past, we walked there twice a day. Now, we usually walk using leashes, but used to walk more often off-leash.

I have learned so much about the lands, seeing them through my dogs' eyes. Together, with our combined far-seeing eyes and far-scenting noses, we perceive far more wild animals that we would have seen alone. I've gained a deeper understanding of how dogs and humans came to live together.

My 7-year-old son is also learning to enjoy nature in this way, as he accompanies me on our walks on the Rancho lands. My son has joined us on our walks all his life. It would be very sad for all of us, if the Rancho became yet another place on the Coastside closed to dogs.

I am also concerned that people who now have access to McNee State Park by walking through the Rancho will have their access cut off. This will put further pressure on the few parking lots available on the south side of the park.

Of course, if dogs are not allowed on the Rancho, all of us who currently walk from our homes to walk with our dogs on the Rancho trails, would have to drive to other trails, a far less healthy alternative for the global environment as well.

Mountain lions are visible on the Rancho, coming very close to the human communities every 3 to 4 years. Is it possible that the dogs walking daily on the trails discourage the mountain lions from visiting more often?

Thank you for your attention.

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**Correspondence ID:** 472      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project Name:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Address:** -  
- CA  
USA  
**Email:**  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Feb,01,2011 13:24:22  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** As a retired person, and a life long resident of Novato, I have enjoyed walking and hiking, much of Marin County

and beyond, all my life. Here are some of my observations on dogs in the public...

Most dog owners say there is a small percentage of dog owners that are not responsible and give all dog owners a "bad name". My observation is that most dog owners are irresponsible and only follow the rules if there is someone of authority observing them. As an example, I hike Mount Burdell often, usually from the San Andreas trailhead. This is a popular place for dog owners to let their dogs run. When most dog owners arrive they open their vehicle and turn their dogs loose. With this found freedom the dogs usually take off and often the owners don't even watch where their dogs go. Often I have observed the dogs pooping everywhere, peeing on car tires, licking and jumping up on other hikers, attacking other dogs, etc. The area around the trailhead and the next 200 yards up the hill is a poop minefield. Some dog owners pick up after their dogs but not all that do, take the plastic bag with them. I guess their plan is to "pick it up on their way back". But the plastic bag is often still there the next time I hike. Other folks pile the plastic bags at the entrance gate so someone else can pick it up. There is usually a fresh sign at the gate stating that the dog owners "must pick up after their pet and remove it from the open space". If there is a Ranger there the compliance goes up, so they know the rules but chose to ignore them. One morning I saw an Open Space Ranger parked on a hillside fireroad and observing the area below with field glasses. When I got to him I asked what he was doing. He said he was doing a survey to see how many dog owners were in compliance with Open Space rules so they could decide if there needed to be more enforcement. I asked how the dog owners were doing, he said not very good. This survey may be available for you to have to use in making your decision on dog use in the GGNRA. Another blatant disregard for the law is at the San Rafael Farmers Market. With posted signs throughout the Market areas stating "No Dogs Allowed", there are often many dogs there because their owners think those rules don't apply to them.

"Dogs, if off leash, must be under voice control". Most dog owners think this means that the dog should be able to hear the owner if the owner screams. More often than not the dog is not under control and the dog does as it please. It is not the dog's fault, it is the owner that has not properly socialized or trained their dog to follow commands. Here again if there is someone of authority in view the leash suddenly appears.

I have witnessed dogs jump deer and chase them for long distances as the owner, if they see the dog, yell at the dog with no change of behavior. Bird dogs have a natural instinct to sense birds and flush them and often the dog owners think this is cute.

Small children seem to be a magnet for dogs. The dogs want to approach children and I have seen many times where the child is terrified of the dog all the while the owner is yelling "the dog is ok". The dog is not ok as far as the child is concerned. As an adult I don't want strange dogs approaching me. I have had dogs jump up on me when on a muddy fire road all the while the owner is yelling "the dog is ok". Well it was not ok for the dog to put it's muddy paws on me. Or a dog coming up and lick your hand, to me that is dog spit and I don't want it on my hand.

While hiking I have seen, and also have had, a large dog come up from behind me, with out hearing it, and have it startle me. Sometimes the owner thinks it is funny all the while saying "the dog is ok".

Another observance of lesser occurrence is dogs allowed to run in sensitive areas that are posted "no dogs allowed". The dogs are often running ahead of the owners and are into the sensitive areas before the owner even knows it.

In the January 15, 2011 Independent Journal Newspaper, center of the front page, is a picture and accompanying article about a gentleman walking 8 off leash dogs on Muir Beach in the GGNRA. It is hard to believe that this man has all eight of these dogs under voice control at all times. Not to mention that he picks up after all the mess these eight dogs create.

Upsetting is coming back from a walk to where you have set up to picnic at the beach and find that a dog has peed on your backpack.

Dogs are like members of the family for most dog owners and they get a lot of enjoyment from them. But they are animals and do not deserve to go everywhere their human owners can go. After having many encounters with off leash, poorly socialized dogs, my belief is that dogs should be on a leash anytime the dog is not on the dog owners property or in a dog park designed for running dogs off leash. They should not be off leash in common areas where other humans are.

If the GGNRA is going to allow dogs to run in some areas, I think there should be a fence designating where the dogs are allowed off leash as most dog owners "stretch" the boundaries.

Thank you for allowing input from the public.

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**Correspondence ID:** 473      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS

**Name:** -

**Address:** - CA  
USA

**Email:** michaelroberts@gmail.com

**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Received:** Feb,01,2011 13:37:41

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I applaud the National Park Service for completing this comprehensive proposal for dog management in the GGNRA. I was born in San Francisco and now live in Marin County and spend the vast majority of my free time on the trails and beaches in the GNRA. The lack of a clear dog policy in the park has damaged park resources, negatively impacted wildlife, and caused a great deal of conflict between park visitors.

I strongly support the GGNRA Draft Dog Management Plan's preferred alternatives in all 21 of the areas that were studied.

I'm a dog lover but I also love the native wild animals and plants that continue to survive in the GGNRA. The GGNRA Draft Dog Management Plan presents a balanced approach. The fact that the Bay Area is home to so many passionate dog owners should not mean that the NPS accepts the unreasonable demand that all areas of the park be open to dogs, or the unreasonable argument that the needs of dogs outweigh the needs of wildlife. The preferred alternatives strike the best possible approach by allowing dogs to run free in the areas where they are least likely to cause damage, allowing them to be leashed in more sensitive areas, and restricting them from areas that are critical sanctuaries for native species.

I became a father last year and my young son smiles at every dog he sees. He loves to be licked, nosed, and batted by wagging tails. But he also loves birds and has quickly learned that the best way to observe them is NOT to chase after them. I took great joy in pointing out a snowy plover to him recently. I'd like him to be able to do the same for his children. For that to happen, the preferred alternatives in the GGNRA Draft Dog Management Plan must be enacted.

Thank you, Michael Roberts

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**Correspondence ID:** 474      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS

**Name:** -

**Address:** - CA  
USA

**Email:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Received:** Feb,01,2011 14:35:49

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I believe that the use of the GGNR area would benefit from option C. It seems the most fair and balanced to everyone. The leash law should always be enforced. I believe that people should be able to use the GGNR to walk their dogs, but on leash always. My dog was attacked by a dog that was walking without a leash, on "voice control" and he had to be euthenized as a result of the severe injuries. Anyone walking their dog in public should be controlling it with a leash. The only exception should be a designated, enclosed dog park. To not use a leash is irresponsible, reckless, and immature. Everyone thinks that they "know" their dog and it's capabilities...this included the woman who owned the dog that killed mine. The truth is, we are never going to be 100% sure of any animal's behavior. Why not save the GGNR area's time and money from dog litigation so that they can use it to conserve and improve the existing parks for our future. They are trying to keep the parks going in a time where goverment/tax dollar funding is slim...why can't we all be adults and clip on the leash.

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**Correspondence ID:** 475      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:**  
**Outside** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Organization:**  
**Received:** Feb,01,2011 15:25:11  
**Correspondence** Web Form  
**Type:**  
**Correspondence:** I would like to know what problem we are trying to solve. if we are trying to protect wildlife Crissy Field is a good example of an area where dog owners respect the section that is set aside for birds. Why not make areas for dogs and areas for protected wildlife as necessary.

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**Correspondence ID:** 476    **Project:** 11759    **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** judi@jjonesresearch.com  
**Outside** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Organization:**  
**Received:** Feb,01,2011 16:29:11  
**Correspondence** Web Form  
**Type:**  
**Correspondence:** I appreciate all the work that has gone into this document and the concerns about managing wildlife while balancing the needs of dog owners. We live in Marin County and thoroughly enjoy being outdoors hiking with our dog and walking on the various beaches that are currently open to and available for dogs and their families. It is an experience that is healthy for dogs and human and contributes to less stress in a time when there is too much that adds stress to our lived. There are already many, many places in Marin County where it is not possible to walk or hike with a dog. The places that are available offer wonderful opportunities for personal health and wellbeing for both dog owners and non-dog owners.

I urge you to not change the rules and regulations in Marin County and keep the access as outlined in Alternative A (the current situation) in this area.

Dog owners who enjoy these special areas are largely responsible people who care about and respect the environment and the rights of others who are also enjoying these areas. It would be better to increase signage and educational outreach in these areas so that both people with dogs and those without dogs can be made aware of their responsibilities in these wonderful areas.

It would be a great loss to adults, children and their dogs to not be able to enjoy the freedom and relaxation of our wonderful beaches and trails if the preferred alternative is adopted.

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**Correspondence ID:** 477    **Project:** 11759    **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:**  
**Outside** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Organization:**  
**Received:** Feb,01,2011 17:28:27  
**Correspondence** Web Form  
**Type:**  
**Correspondence:** Hello, I would like to strongly urge you to set aside an area of the Ranch Tierra land in Montara for off leash dog walking. Not all of it. Maybe the area from the beach to Tamarind St., behind Farralone View School. People have been walking dogs there for decades, with few problems, and a local dog group self polices the area, including garbage cans and bags. You have stated you want all people to enjoy the area; bikes, horses, people. Does that include people walking dogs? If you designated just that area for off leash dog walking, wouldn't that protect all the other areas, and types of use? After all these years, with no problems, are you now going to exclude 1 group of people? Tom Moore

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**Correspondence ID:** 478      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** -  
**Outside Organization:** Montara Dog Group Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Feb,01,2011 17:45:40  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Dear Park Officials,

Concerning dog accessibility plans for Rancho Corral de Terra in Montara, California, I would like to voice my support for continuing to have both leashed AND off leash access to the trails. I have lived on the coast for 11 years and have walked extensively on the trail system during that time - mostly without a dog (and never was that a problem). We have only had a dog for 2 years. During those 11 years I have witnessed neighbors getting to know each other while walking - because of their dogs! I think banishing dogs from the parks completely will only serve to put up bigger barriers between people in the neighborhood. In a place here on the coast that has maintained its "small town" appeal, it seems excessively regulated to banish dogs from our parks. Let's make room for dog owners and non-dog owners alike to enjoy our natural resources.

Thank you for considering my opinion and look forward to supporting your positive response!

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**Correspondence ID:** 479      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** -  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Feb,01,2011 17:46:50  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I support the dog management plan proposed for Muir Beach.

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**Correspondence ID:** 480      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** lktaylorf@mac.com  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Feb,01,2011 17:47:57  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I moved to San Francisco almost 10 years ago from the mid-west. I've known that I wanted to move to San Francisco for almost 10 years prior to moving here. Two of my favorite places to visit was Fort Funston and Ocean Beach where I always found locals with their dogs. Every visit I found myself stopping by both areas if even for a short time to watch the action knowing one day I would be a part of it. This was fairly influential on my decision to move to San Francisco.

When I did finally move here I started my own consulting business and found myself traveling to Southern California more often than I was actually in San Francisco. When I was finally home and I wanted to feel connected to the City I would spend my Sunday morning at Chrissy Field, Fort Funston, or Ocean Beach again watching the human-canine interaction. There is no where in the world quite like these three areas and it makes San Francisco truly special to have such places.

Now, obviously, I am a dog lover, but I spent many a weekend morning at all three of these places. I never had a bad experience with a dog or a dog owner. In 2009 I finally was at a place in my life where I could get a dog. Since

then I have spent even more time at each of these places and again have never had a bad experience with a dog or a dog owner. I also spend a lot of time in fenced in dog runs. There I have had numerous bad encounters with dogs and dog owners. I have encountered dogs who do not respond to their owner's voice commands. I have witnessed dog fights when the parks are too packed with dogs and the crazy energy drives the frustrated dogs into a frenzy. And I have also found myself playing with dog or two who seemed to have no owner; owners will actually drop their dog off at the enclosed park and spend their time in their car listening to music or talking on their mobile phone. So, yes, I do agree that there are many irresponsible dog owners in San Francisco. However, I would argue that the less responsible of an owner you are the less likely you take your dog to one of the large off-leash GGNRAs. The dog owners who are attracted to the off-leash areas are there to share an experience with their dog. Yes, I am sure that there are irresponsible dog owners who frequent the GGNRA. However, why would you punish all of the responsible dog owners just to control a handful of irresponsible dog owners?

It may be a little presumptuous of me, but I have a hunch I spend more time in one of the GGNRA areas than most San Franciscans. I would actually wager a guess that dog owners frequent Chrissy Field and Fort Funston more often than other residents. The more Bay Area residents visit these beautiful areas the more they will want to protect them. I would also guess dog owners are more likely to support the efforts put forth by GGNRA. When areas are reasonably put off-limits to protect wildlife I would respect that as do most of the other law-abiding rule following dog owners. I want these areas maintained and beautiful for generations to come. There just has to be a reasonable balance between conservation and recreation. I think one key to remember is within the name itself GGNRA - Golden Gate National Recreational Area. These are Recreational Areas near one of the most densely populated urban areas in the US. The NPS needs to work with the City's residents to establish the best use of these areas not dictate the use as though they were in some remote less accessible location.

The NPS has already increasingly limited the areas of the GGNRA where voice control off-leash. Please do not limit them any further. The GGNRA has vast amounts of land where no dogs at all are permitted. I have yet to see anything put forward by the GGNRA which would provide reason to limit them further at Chrissy Field or Fort Funston. Please leave these two areas as they are. If there are portions of these areas which need to be protected, protect them reasonably and allow the residents who have been using some of these areas for decades to continue using them as they have.

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**Correspondence ID:** 481      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS

**Name:** -

**Address:** - CA  
USA

**Email:** miss415@ymail.com

**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Received:** Feb,01,2011 21:57:37

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** After recently becoming \*certified as a dog walker through Dog Tec Dog Walking Academy, I strongly urge GGNRA to REQUIRE that dog walkers walking dogs off leash be certified. I do not work as a dog walker -yet- nor have I ever, but I went through the training because I want to be a professional dog walker who knows how to handle a small pack of dogs properly.

As a dog owner myself, I am constantly angered by the lack of professionalism and unsafe practices I see happening with many dog walkers. I recently interviewed with a very successful dog walker of 8 years and was appalled by his practices which are commonplace in San Francisco. There should also be a limit of 6 dogs maximum per pack. Safe dog walking demands technical skill, in-depth knowledge of everything from dog behavior and pack management to canine first aid and trail etiquette.

Before taking such a drastic measure as requiring all dogs to be on leash, consider a far better solution such as certification. I am certain that adopting such a requirement would drastically enhance quality of professionals who must respectfully share the trails, beaches and parks with other people and dogs, with safety as a primary concern.

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**Correspondence ID:** 482      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS

**Name:** -

**Address:** - CA  
USA

**Email:** -  
**Outside** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Organization:**  
**Received:** Feb,01,2011 22:43:43  
**Correspondence** Web Form  
**Type:**  
**Correspondence:** I support the National Park Service's preferred option for dog management in GGNRA. Arrogant dog owners with unruly dogs have taken over public lands throughout California, to the detriment of wildlife, endangered species, and park visitors. My personal preferred alternative is to allow no dogs in GGNRA lands, or, barring that, option D, which is the most protective alternative listed in the Dog Management Plan. Given the well-organized and vocal dog owners groups, however, it is unlikely that a "no dogs" alternative is in the offing. Therefore, I support the NPS Preferred Option as the best practical alternative.

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**Correspondence ID:** 483      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** 1966jab@yahoo.com  
**Outside** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Organization:**  
**Received:** Feb,02,2011 03:12:00  
**Correspondence** Web Form  
**Type:**  
**Correspondence:** Please keep Fort Funston as a dog-friendly/leash-free space. I am a responsible dog owner and my favorite thing is to walk at Fort Funston with my two dogs. Thank you Jenn Bowman

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**Correspondence ID:** 484      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** susan@verlanderdesign.com  
**Outside** Montara Dog Group Unaffiliated Individual  
**Organization:**  
**Received:** Feb,02,2011 10:50:15  
**Correspondence** Web Form  
**Type:**  
**Correspondence:** I am writing to protest the impact of the GGNRA Dog Management Plan/EIS on Rancho Corral de Tierra (the 4200+ acres of open space from north of Montara to El Granada.) As a member of Montara Dog Group, I am requesting your consideration and support on this issue.

Rancho Corral de Tierra was not a part of GGNRA when this report was prepared, so it falls under the category of "New Lands." Many (five) recommendations are available regarding the issue of sharing trails with dog owners, however the report finds in favor of Alternative D (no dogs allowed) because the property is a new GGNRA acquisition.

I request that Alternative E be the preferred alternative. Alternative E states that "New lands begin as 36 CFR 2.15 (dogs allowed on 6 ft leash) and new lands with existing off leash use before acquisition may also be considered for voice and sight control in the future." This alternative is much less restrictive than GGNRA's current preferred alternative, Alternative D.

I currently walk my dog once a day, on leash, and off leash when it is safe to do so, and have done this for the last 8 years. My neighbors have been walking their dogs on Rancho trails for decades. We are respectful of equestrians, cyclists, as well as walkers without dogs whom we meet on the trails, and leash our dogs when it is appropriate. Dog-waste management (disposal cans and pickup bags) is maintained by Montara Dog Group volunteers. Rancho supports a mix of users that works. We currently share trails, get along, and self-police. Rancho could be a model for what's being done right and how disparate user groups can co-exist.

No scientific studies have been done of Rancho lands to justify banning dogs. Neither fenced or patrolled, trail conditions are excellent given their heavy use. A complete ban on dogs is extreme. GGNRA's preferred alternative

for the Rancho is not truly multi-use. Even though hiking, mountain biking, and horseback riding will be allowed, no area is set aside for dog walking. Creative, multi-use solutions have not been considered. For example, locations in Washington state and Santa Cruz set aside early morning hours for off leash dog walking; then starting at a posted time, all dogs are required to be leashed.

Off-leash options areas are allowed in Marin and San Francisco counties, Rodeo Beach, Crissy Field, & Fort Funston. No off-leash options areas are offered in San Mateo county GGNRA lands.

The preferred GGNRA alternative will have a negative impact on our community's lifestyle and culture. Residents have socialized with their dogs in this area for the last 50 years. We have no community center or public park. Montara residents will be forced to drive to small parking lots at McNee Ranch or Montara Beach, and cross busy Highway 1 with their dogs, in order to access McNee Ranch, formerly a 10 minute walk through Rancho. Even more dangerous, Montara residents may elect to walk along Hwy 1 for 1/4 mile ( there is virtually no shoulder on this stretch of highway) to get to McNee Ranch. A man walking his dog along this route was recently hit by a car and severely injured. His dog was killed. If dogs are banned from Rancho, hundreds of dogs will have to be walked on narrow rural streets with no sidewalks.

I believe this restrictive approach is not justified and request your attention and support in addressing this unfair, patently easy, blanket approach to mandated use of Rancho lands. Our voices should matter, and in a democracy, community input should help shape policies.

I thank you for your consideration and look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Susan Verlander Montara Resident and Dog Owner

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|                              |  |                 |       |                  |       |
|------------------------------|--|-----------------|-------|------------------|-------|
| <b>Correspondence ID:</b>    | 485  | <b>Project:</b> | 11759 | <b>Document:</b> | 38106 |
| <b>Project:</b>              | Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS   |                 |       |                  |       |
| <b>Name:</b>                 | -  |                 |       |                  |       |
| <b>Address:</b>              | - CA<br>USA  |                 |       |                  |       |
| <b>Email:</b>                | -  |                 |       |                  |       |
| <b>Outside Organization:</b> | Unaffiliated Individual  |                 |       |                  |       |
| <b>Received:</b>             | Feb,02,2011 10:51:33   |                 |       |                  |       |
| <b>Correspondence Type:</b>  | Web Form   |                 |       |                  |       |
| <b>Correspondence:</b>       | I have been hiking the Miwok and Coyote Ridge Trails for over 20 years and during that time I have seen a major increase in dogs off leash, both in "leash only" and "no dog" areas. The biggest violators, in my book, are the owners that allow their dogs to run off leash on the Coyote Ridge Trail, which is a "no dog" area. This happens on a regular, daily basis. The dog owners who live in the surrounding neighborhood that borders the GGNRA use the park as their own private backyard and ignore the rules, even though signs are posted everywhere. The rules are not for them, thank you very much. I have been jumped by dogs who are off leash, I have witnessed encounters between dogs and mountain lions/bobcats...believe me, the dog loses that battle, and I have seen them running rampant, running through brush, chasing rabbits, and digging up mole/vole holes. AND, not a park ranger in sight. Ever. Where is the enforcement? Rangers on mountain bikes on any sunny Saturday or Sunday afternoon would be easy pickings for citations and (hefty) fines. I fault the park rangers as much as the dog owners. There needs to be better enforcement because I do not see the attitudes of the dog owners changing. |                 |       |                  |       |

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|                              |                                |                 |       |                  |       |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------|-------|------------------|-------|
| <b>Correspondence ID:</b>    | 486                            | <b>Project:</b> | 11759 | <b>Document:</b> | 38106 |
| <b>Project:</b>              | Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS |                 |       |                  |       |
| <b>Name:</b>                 | -                              |                 |       |                  |       |
| <b>Address:</b>              | - CA<br>USA                    |                 |       |                  |       |
| <b>Email:</b>                | -                              |                 |       |                  |       |
| <b>Outside Organization:</b> | Unaffiliated Individual        |                 |       |                  |       |
| <b>Received:</b>             | Feb,02,2011 11:39:57           |                 |       |                  |       |
| <b>Correspondence Type:</b>  | Web Form                       |                 |       |                  |       |

**Type:**

**Correspondence:** Please, please, please keep Muir Beach and other areas dog-friendly!

We recently moved here from Minnesota where our dogs couldn't be outside for almost 4 months out of the year. MN also has incredibly strict leash laws, etc. so our dogs could only go to dog parks to play and socialize. One of the reasons we were so excited to move back west was because of the great opportunities for us to be outside all year round with our pups!

We go to Muir Beach at least once a week and always have an amazing time meeting other dogs and dog owners, residents, kids and the elderly. Everyone shares the beach and there is mutual respect between non-dog people and dog people. I see dog owners with their dogs under control, cleaning up after them and most importantly, having fun with them!

The preferred alternative D is the most restrictive of all! California is known to be extremely dog-friendly and this option would be a complete reversal of what everyone who lives here has come to know.

PLEASE KEEP MUIR BEACH DOG FRIENDLY!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

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**Correspondence ID:** 487      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS

**Name:** -

**Address:** - CA  
USA

**Email:** glennafae@comcast.net

**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Received:** Feb,02,2011 13:20:18

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Dear GGNRA, I am greatly dismayed that an area I have hiked with my dogs off leash since 1976 is now being considered as a leash only or no dog area. I'm referring to the area behind Coral Reef in El Granada. Over the years, on the coast and in the Bay Area, dogs have been banned or required to be leashed in areas that were once free areas to us dog owners. These include the state beaches, the schools, the parks, the ball fields. On the coast, the only areas remaining for dog walking, hiking and exercise off leash have been a few of the bluffs and the hills. The area GGNRA is now considering is not easily accessible to the public, mostly a neighborhood, locally known area. It has very steep hills, often overgrown trails and a lot of it requires a good pair of legs and lungs. I really don't foresee an upsurge in use. Restricting or banning dogs would, in effect, take away the privileges of the most prevalent use of this area for the past 30-40 years since I've lived on the coast. All of us locals walk our dogs and give them a chance to run free in this area daily. When I lived in this neighborhood in 1985-1995, I walked my dogs twice daily there. It's quiet and well protected from the neighborhood, roads and highway. Dog walkers do not harm anyone there. Most people just don't go there. It's too tough of a climb. Over the years, I've run mostly into other dog walkers, very nice people with well behaved dogs just out for exercise. When I've spotted hunters, where they don't belong, or off road motorcycles, when they are forbidden, or homeless building encampments, I have reported these things to the local sheriff for investigation. Dog walkers, like myself, take care of this area and don't want it vandalized or set on fire by sparks from motorcycles or campfires by homeless. If you take this away from us dog walkers, and make it ridiculously restrictive by requiring leashes when the area is huge and wide open with nothing or nobody to harm, where can we now go? What is left to us? The quality of life on the coast will be diminished for so many of us. In a time and era that appears to be unfriendly to dogs, it devastating to those of us who survive because of our pets and the exercise we get with them and the pleasure we take in them running without a six foot leash to find ourselves banned from yet another open space. We can't walk beaches anymore. We can't walk anywhere except down Main Street with all the traffic and shoppers, on a leash with our pooper scooper bags! I urge the GGNRA to allow the traditional uses of this area to continue; and, at least, give it a chance to work. I've run into horseback riders before without any problems. It seems so drastic and unnecessary a step to just shut down the area to us dog walkers. If we can't walk our dogs there, then, in effect, we can no longer use this space. Few people have the energy to walk their dogs on leashes where allowed and then go for a big hike afterwards. It just wouldn't be fair to a lot of people, including the neighborhood and the locals. Plus, the area is remote and having one's dog along feels safer. It's been an off leash area for the past 40 or more years since I've been hiking that area, and I've yet to know or hear of any problems with the dogs or their owners there. I think it's important to assess each and every open space that the GGNRA operates on the basis of it former uses, its uniqueness and not impose severe restrictions that will only harm so many outdoor people who love the area and are dog owners.

Thank you for your deliberate and fair consideration of this issue!!!!

Sincerely,

Glenna Lombardi Dog Walker of Many Years Proud Supporter of Animal Rights The Humane Society The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals

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**Correspondence ID:** 488    **Project:** 11759    **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** -  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Feb,02,2011 13:44:59  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Please keep Muir Beach open to dogs. It is a magical place for families and their canines to enjoy the majesty of our area.

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**Correspondence ID:** 489    **Project:** 11759    **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** mjvande@pacbell.net  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Feb,02,2011 14:32:39  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I feel sorry for dogs, who cannot possibly have a truly doggy life in a city (nor can humans have a truly human life in a city). But there is a general principle behind democracy: the weak must be protected from the strong, in order for justice to prevail. In this case, the weak are our native wildlife (plants, as well as animals). The wildlife MUST be given top priority, because they can't protect themselves from us, nor from our artificially subsidized pets. Our subsidized pets have no place in our wildlife habitat, including our natural parks. Ideally, wildlife should be left alone, or they won't survive.

There ought to be areas of habitat that are off-limits to all humans. Human access to wildlife habitat should be kept to a minimum. The same goes for pets, which are exotic species that don't belong there. AT A MINIMUM, dogs should always be required to be on leash, held in check by their owner. Otherwise, REGARDLESS OF WHAT THE DOG OWNERS PROFESS, dogs will obey their natural instincts and chase the wildlife.

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**Correspondence ID:** 490    **Project:** 11759    **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** hojo312@hotmail.com  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Feb,02,2011 14:32:53  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Dear Sir: I do not own a dog so I have no axe to grind. However I would like to note the situation on the Tennessee Valley Trail from the horse ranch to the ocean. I have walked and run this trail for over 30 years (I am in my 77th year) when there used to be cattle all the way to the sea. It has never made sense to me that dogs are prohibited on this section of the trail and yet permitted on the pacific coast trails which are infinitely more harmful to wildlife than the T.V. trail. The Tennessee Valley Trail could not be busier on occasions than Times Square, with cars,

trucks, horses and people all using this trail. For heavens sake where is the harm to wildlife on this trail with leashed dogs as compared to the pacific coast trail which in many cases travels a narrow rural area where there is a lot of wildlife. I have over the years written letters to the chief ranger on this subject without any effect at all. Since I work for Alameda County I am well aware of the inertia of bureaucracy at effecting change however reasonable the arguments may be, I really do not expect any result from this letter, but hope springs eternal.

Sincerely

Howard Johnson A.I.A. R.I.B.A.

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**Correspondence ID:** 491      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project Name:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:**  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Feb,02,2011 14:48:27  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I'm a San Francisco homeowner and dog owner. I see the devastation that large numbers of dogs are having on our city parks and GGNRA areas. I have visited Fort Funston, Sutro Heights, Crissy Field, Baker Beach and Ocean Beach with my dog over the last 18 months. There are simply too many dogs for too little space in the city. I believe that anything more than sensible restrictions in ecologically sensitive areas will simply make the problem worse in the remaining areas, increasing the number of conflicts, requiring additional personnel to patrol and remediate these effects. Further, in these tough economic times, many people have taken up the occupation of "dog walker". Those residents that can afford to pay dog walking services (myself not included) are stimulating this occupation that is providing a livelyhood for many. Some of these dog walkers are very responsible, others are not. Therefore, I would recommend a new solution as follows: 1. Designate and completely restrict areas that are truly environmentally threatened 2. Keep current policies in place in other areas - there's no staff/money to enforce changes 3. Charge an entry fee for all GGNRA parks where dogs are allowed, \$1 per dog up to 3 dogs, then \$2 for each additional. (walkers are getting \$25 - 35 per dog, this is a tax deductible cost of doing buisness) 4. Create jobs for underprivlged youth supplemented by court ordered community service to collect entry fees, work as 'doggie valet', and work on environmental remediation efforts. Fort Funston alone could generate thousands of dollars per day.

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**Correspondence ID:** 492      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project Name:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:**  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Feb,02,2011 14:57:47  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Hello,

My girlfriend and I regularly walk our dog at Fort Funston. This is a great off leash area for dogs, and I feel it should remain this way.

First, there does not seem to be a huge public demand for Fort Funston to be dog free. Virtually everyone there is there with a dog (maybe a few runners, but most of them are with a dog as well). I have never seen anyone their act disrespectfully and virtually everyone is responsible when it comes to cleaning up after their pets.

There are very few safe places to take our dog. Dogs, to many of us are akin to a member of the family. There are already lots of places in San Francisco where kids and families can run around and play together. Fort Funston is one of three places in San Francisco where I feel safe letting our dog off leash (Stern Grove and a park at 8th and Lake are the others). It also provides the people of Daly City, who also have surprisingly few safe dog parks with a

place to exercise their furry friends.

Thanks,

Rory Dowd

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**Correspondence ID:** 493      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS

**Name:** -

**Address:** - CA  
USA

**Email:** -

**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Received:** Feb,02,2011 15:24:53

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** It is important to me that Fort Funston remains as it is. There is no other place where we can take our dog for a walk off leash. There are many other beautiful places in the Bay area for people to take walks and enjoy nature without dogs, but Fort Funston is one of the few places where we and bring our dogs and let them run free.

Our dog is a part of our family and it is important that there is a place for her to enjoy a little freedom.

---

**Correspondence ID:** 494      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS

**Name:** -

**Address:** - CA  
USA

**Email:** -

**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Received:** Feb,02,2011 15:56:14

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Contrary to the opinions of conservationists, dog owners do their part for the environment. I go to Rodeo Beach about five days a week where I meet other dog owners. While the dogs enjoy the exercise and each others' company, a friend and I pick up trash. I calculate that over the course of a year, we remove about half a ton of trash from the beach, mainly plastic that can cause marine and avian creatures sickness and sometimes death. Besides turning a beauty spot into an eyesore.

Our efforts make the beach a more beautiful experience for everyone, dog owner or not. I realize that the main part of Rodeo Beach is not on the list for closure to dogs, but closing the south part of the beach makes no sense. Especially in the early morning, the south beach is almost solely used by dog owners. When the tide is low enough to permit access to the southernmost part of the beach, we focus our clean-up efforts there, sometimes filling our garbage bags to overflowing with all kinds of trash. And the dogs love running on the wide open stretches of sand.

In all the years I've been enjoying Rodeo Beach's southern extension, I have only seen dogs and humans getting along just fine. So even if it meant restricting the access time - say, Dogs Allowed from Sunrise to 11 am - that would make much more sense than an outright ban. And a total ban would probably inhibit our trips to Rodeo Beach, reducing the number of trash pickups. Not a good thing for the environment.

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**Correspondence ID:** 495      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS

**Name:** -

**Address:** - CA  
USA

**Email:** ralf223@yahoo.com

**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Received:** Feb,02,2011 17:39:42  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I'm writing to support Alternative D in the areas under discussion. Though seemingly "balanced", the multiple use alternative has too many areas open to dogs on leash. Since leash rules in the GGNRA are currently completely ignored and unenforcable, the "balanced" alternative throws much of the area open to uncontrolled dogs.

Dogs currently affect the visitor experience in the GGNRA more than most other impacts. In certain areas - such as the beaches along Chrissy Field - there is an almost constant interruption to visitors by unleashed dogs not trained to voice. This area is essentially denied to any quiet uses of the beach.

As well, the GGNRA is supposed to protect natural values as well as allow for public use. Ground-nesting birds and marine mammals are being extirpated from most of this stretch of coast, and dogs play a major part in that impact.

Please consider that the GGNRA, as America's largest urban protected natural area, is too valuable to simply sacrifice as a dog toilet and playground. Thank you for considering my opinion.

---

**Correspondence ID:** 496      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA

USA  
**Email:** kayvaan@hotmail.com  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Received:** Feb,02,2011 18:03:14  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I strongly support the proposed plan. I am a dog owner and I think that dogs should only be off leash in designated areas. Personally, I would take it a step further and require that dogs ONLY be allowed off-leash in FENCED OFF areas. But I think this proposed plan is a good compromise.

People should not have dogs if they are not willing to take the proper steps to make sure the dog does not adversely impact our environment or fellow citizens. People should understand what breeds of dogs require a lot of running and if they want a dog that needs lots of exercise and running they should be understand that they will need to take their dogs to very specific places to run off leash.

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**Correspondence ID:** 497      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA

USA  
**Email:** Lbreisky@yahoo.com  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Received:** Feb,02,2011 19:04:13  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Please keep the GGNRA dog-friendly. Dogs are an important part of American families and communities.

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**Correspondence ID:** 498      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA

USA  
**Email:** -  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Received:** Feb,02,2011 19:42:16  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** The off leash areas in San Francisco, especially Fort Funston provide critical outlet for exercising and socializing

dogs in the Bay Area. I have driven across the country with my dogs and not encountered anything like Fort Funston. With two large sporting dogs, it is very difficult to keep them adequately exercised without acres of space for them to roam off leash. Fenced areas, even one acre of land are not enough. They are intelligent animals who get bored just as humans do of roaming the same small area day after day. San Francisco off-leash areas need to be maintained exactly as they are if they are not expanded. They also provide important opportunities for pet owners to socialize.

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**Correspondence ID:** 499      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** Glennwilliam@msn.com  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Feb,02,2011 20:01:37  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I think that making laws after laws after laws is beginning to take a toll on people's freedoms. This is not sensible legislation and hurts the very animals that we all adore.

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**Correspondence ID:** 500      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** -  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Feb,02,2011 20:04:32  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** This is a first for me. I don't often get involved, I don't often protest, and this is my first comment on the mess that is about to happen.

This makes me very sad. I am (was) a big supporter of the Park Service. I participate in beach cleanups, vote whenever funds for parks are involved, and have always felt privileged to live where we are blessed with wonderful urban parks.

I am a regular at Fort Funston, as are thousands of others. Relegating responsible dog owners to the meager area in this report will hurt the land within the park as it will be overrun. Dogs will go somewhere, so it will hurt other city parks and urban areas. Lastly, it will hurt the Park Service.

So much money and effort was spent against a clear public will, which could have been sorely used to pay for more rangers (or give them a decent wage) and improvements.

Yes, I will protest...supporting lawsuits and political candidates.

Yes, I will vote...the National Park Service seems like they have too much money, if \$900K can be squandered like this.

No, I will no longer support you guys. This is a nicely organized railroad attempt which will cause myself, and many others, to think differently. This makes me very sad.

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**Correspondence ID:** 501      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA

**Email:**  
**Outside** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Organization:**  
**Received:** Feb,02,2011 22:23:38  
**Correspondence** Web Form  
**Type:**

**Correspondence:** I am a San Francisco resident and frequent visitor to the GGNRA, most frequently the Presidio. Other parts of the GGNRA that I visit on regular basis are Ocean Beach and Fort Mason. I support the general direction of the proposed policy change, because it would improve visitor safety and reduce user conflicts. The policy is also finely tailored, and responsive to the individual circumstances and priorities in dozens of specific locations across the GGNRA.

This policy change is important to me because of some of the problems I have experienced in the park. I visit the park to take part in programs and experience the natural environment. I consider these programs as a vital part of my life, and important to my overall health and enjoyment of life. However, when these programs occur in certain areas, there are sometimes large packs of dogs running off leash. The dogs sometimes approach me and jump on me, and interrupt what I'm doing. Sometimes it takes some time before the guardians arrive to get the dogs away. The dog guardians walk about yelling the names of the dogs, attempting to keep them under voice control. Sometimes, when walking through an area of the park, I have stepped in dog feces left behind by the dogs' guardians. All of these occurrences are detrimental to the overall experience. They also place me in conflict with the dog guardians, a situation that I would prefer to avoid.

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**Correspondence ID:** 502    **Project:** 11759    **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA

**Email:**  
**Outside** known Unaffiliated Individual  
**Organization:**  
**Received:** Feb,03,2011 05:16:56  
**Correspondence** Web Form  
**Type:**  
**Correspondence:** Hi,

I feel this is unfair to the general public who have enjoyed Fort Funston for over two decades to be able to take their dogs to an authorized No Leash park. I also feel it is UNFAIR to the Professional Dog Walker and their clients who utilize both these services. WHY THE CHANGE NOW?. If you make an enclosed dog park at Ft Funston you will Definately have Major dog fights!!. Dog like people don't like to be pend up and stressed out!! this causes dog fights!!. DOGS need to be able to run free under Voice control which would cause NO friction between dogs. DOGS have rights too!! DON'T TAKE AWAY DOGS FREEDOM TOO!!

DON'T MORE AMERICANS TO BECOME UNEMPLOYED!!

Thank you

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**Correspondence ID:** 503    **Project:** 11759    **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA

**Email:**  
**Outside** Protector of the Environment Unaffiliated Individual  
**Organization:**  
**Received:** Feb,03,2011 10:13:02  
**Correspondence** Web Form  
**Type:**  
**Correspondence:** Dear Mr. Superintendent:

My wife and I strongly oppose any changes to further restrict dogs from areas of the GGNRA. It's unfortunate that NPS has already wasted thousands of dollars and hundreds of staff hours on a flawed study and EIS statement.

President Theodore Roosevelt was a champion of our National Park System and he would be ashamed of the direction that the GGNRA is headed by further restricting areas of the park to people and pets. What you need to understand is that by restricting dogs you are restricting people, too. This simple fact is not in the report--because the outcome was predetermined by individuals who fail to understand and or recognize the serious impact it has on the park.

If the NPS wants support including funding from the public it should "wake up." The NPS is desperately under funded and faces more cutbacks in 2011-12. If this EIS and its recommendations are implemented you should expect less funding, support, and resentment from the public. Yes, the people behind the study will be happy because it has the potential to generate more revenue from it. President Theodore Roosevelt would have fired those in NPS who would even consider the utility of this report because of its absurdity. The GGNRA has wasted enough time and money on this matter. Drop it now! ReFocus on the improvements that EVERYONE can benefit from and you will see your budget increase, volunteerism, and support. Lastly, Abraham Lincoln said new laws/regulations are nothing but good advice, if not enforced. Fact, the NPS and GGNRA do not have the resources or public support to enforce new regulations.

Regards,

Nick Torres

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|                             |   |                 |       |                  |       |
|-----------------------------|---|-----------------|-------|------------------|-------|
| <b>Correspondence ID:</b>   | 504   | <b>Project:</b> | 11759 | <b>Document:</b> | 38106 |
| <b>Project Name:</b>        | Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  |                 |       |                  |       |
| <b>Address:</b>             | - CA<br>USA   |                 |       |                  |       |
| <b>Email:</b>               | Unaffiliated Individual   |                 |       |                  |       |
| <b>Organization:</b>        |   |                 |       |                  |       |
| <b>Received:</b>            | Feb,03,2011 11:17:44  |                 |       |                  |       |
| <b>Correspondence Type:</b> | Web Form  |                 |       |                  |       |
| <b>Correspondence:</b>      | I am writing to express my concern about the new GGNRA Dog Management /Environmental Impact Statement (DMP-EIS) plan to exclude all dogs from "New Lands" which would apply to POST's Rancho Corral de Tierra property. I am requesting that this land be managed under Alternative E (allows dogs) rather than Alternative D (bans all dogs). I live in Montara and have been walking my dog in the open space next to Montara and Farallone View School for many years. It is a wonderful community of hikers/walkers, mountain bikers, equestrians and dogs who for decades have shared the land and treated each other with respect and courtesy. There is a dog group that manages dog poop stations and has developed guidelines for owners who walk with their dogs off-leash. For the decades of use and the large number of people who access it (including dog walkers), it is a testament to the care and concern of the community that the land, water shed and wildlife are remarkable well kept and thriving. I was very upset to see that GGNRA has decided, without inputs from the local community (other than one meeting at Farallone View where the majority of the people spoke overwhelmingly in favor of allowing dog access), to ban all dogs from the property. In my opinion, this is not only unjust to the local community and doesn't support the established mixed use (targeting for exclusion just one group), but is not founded on research or analysis. Does it make sense, and is it safe, to force dog owners who want to access McNee State Park to either drive, trying to find parking on the highway, or walk half a mile on Highway 1, rather than walk across the old railroad grade or old roadway and trail from Montara? Are the pads of dog's feet more damaging to the terrain than horse's hoofs, hiker's boots or mountain bike's tires? My husband was a "volunteer of the year" for POST for his many hours of analysis of plant communities on various POST properties. He has led groups on the Rancho and ironically, he and other volunteers often brought their dogs with them. Aren't there many options available for this property, from defining areas where dogs can't go, to areas where dogs must be on leash (like McNee), to areas designated for dogs under voice control? Please reconsider your decision to ban dogs because, with this ban, you ban thousands of people from this land as well. This is counter to the idea of GGNRA and to POST's mission to preserve land for the community for multiple uses. Most of GGNRA land (and State and County parks as well) do not allow dogs. Given the unique nature of GGNRA's urban/park interface, the Rancho, with its established successful mixed use model, would be an ideal place to continue to allow dogs. It is important to have some percent of the park open to dog owners who make up a large portion of the local population. GGNRA is not only for the pleasure of overseas and out-of-state visitors but for the local community who support and care for it. Regards, Shelly Smith Montara, CA |                 |       |                  |       |

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|                           |                                |                 |       |                  |       |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------|-------|------------------|-------|
| <b>Correspondence ID:</b> | 505                            | <b>Project:</b> | 11759 | <b>Document:</b> | 38106 |
| <b>Project Name:</b>      | Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS |                 |       |                  |       |
| <b>Address:</b>           | -                              |                 |       |                  |       |

**Address:** - CA  
USA

**Email:** -  
**Outside** Unaffiliated Individual

**Organization:**  
**Received:** Feb,03,2011 12:16:26

**Correspondence** Web Form  
**Type:**

**Correspondence:** I would like to vehemently oppose any of the proposed restrictions to off-leash dog walking areas in the GGNRA. I have read a good portion of the DEIS and feel it is an anti-dog manifesto disguised as an environmental issue. This is a National RECREATION Area, not a National Park. Specifically Fort Funston and Crissy Field are not pristine natural areas... heck, they're former sites of military encampments in a densely populated city environment. The current dog walking area was promised to us in the 1979 Pet Policy when the park was transferred from the City to the the GGNRA, and there is no legitimate reason to renege on this agreement. This is not about dogs having more rights than people... this is about people with dogs having rights. 1% of the total area of the GGNRA is a very small but precious patch to us... and i oppose ANY reclamation of this land... and i will take to the streets to protest any attempt to do so.

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**Correspondence ID:** 506    **Project:** 11759    **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS

**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA

**Email:** -  
**Outside** Unaffiliated Individual

**Organization:**  
**Received:** Feb,03,2011 12:42:06

**Correspondence** Web Form  
**Type:**

**Correspondence:** I am a Guide Dog user as is my daughter and several of our friends. When we go to any beach, either regulated by GOGA or San Francisco Maritime NHP, we have had some problems with dogs off leash. Our dogs are never left to run off leash, one because they are working dogs, and two, because it is unsafe not only for them but for us as well. It is very disconcerting when you have a dog, who is not on leash, running up to your dog, sometimes causing trouble, or just wanting to play, and distracting our dogs when they are trying to work. I have had several dogs lunge, growl, and snap at my guide dog, even those who are on leash, and it makes me very upset that their handlers don't seem to care. I am an employee of San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park, so spend some time at the Aquatic Park Beach and have has several run-ins with people who refuse, either to keep the dogs off the beach, or who are just letting them run around with paying much attention to what they are or are not doing. Having a good plan, which is safe for all, is something I look forward to.

Remember, wherever the public is allowed to walk, so are people who use service dogs.

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**Correspondence ID:** 507    **Project:** 11759    **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS

**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA

**Email:** JacquieRossiter@gmail.com  
**Outside** Soceity Dogs Unaffiliated Individual

**Organization:**  
**Received:** Feb,03,2011 17:08:34

**Correspondence** Web Form  
**Type:**

**Correspondence:** Please keep these areas so dogs can run around off leach. A healthy dog needs to get its energy out and play just like kids and there are very few safe places that you can take your dog to enjoy the outdoors and run as it is. Thank you for your understanding.

Jacquie Rossiter

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**Correspondence ID:** 508    **Project:** 11759    **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS

**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
 USA  
**Email:** -  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Feb,03,2011 18:19:31  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I like dogs and have a dog of my own and for several years have enjoyed walking the grounds of Rancho Corral de Tierra in Montara (I've lived here 20 years). However, I consider myself a responsible dog owner and keep my dog on a leash at all times. This is NOT the case for many others though (particularly the "professional dog walkers" that typically have packs of 3-7 dogs with them at a time). There have been many, many times when my dog and I have been approached by loose dogs and although my dog is friendly, it is the other dog(s) that sense something in her and react in an aggressive manner. Often, the owner is nowhere near or calling the dog without any effect. Fortunately, we have avoided any serious injury, but it is frustrating to have my dog on a leash and controlled when it is the other dog that is off leash and the aggressor.

I also have a horse and enjoy riding in those same fields. Again, while mounted, I have been approached/charged by many dogs off-leash and their attitudes can vary from curious to aggressive because some have never seen a horse before. Several times, I have been swarmed by packs of dogs (again from the "professional dog walkers") who had no control over the dogs, but because my horse knew dogs and stayed calm, we were OK until she eventually called the dogs off.

It is frustrating and sometimes scary to be put in these situations where dogs are loose and out of control, but I don't want to exclude dogs from Rancho Corral de Tierra entirely. It seems to me that the best compromise is to have all dogs on leashes to make it safer for all of us - other dog walkers, equestrians, kids, etc. and perhaps stronger restrictions on these "professional dog walkers" that have packs of dogs with them. 4-7 dogs on that many leashes with one person is still not safe since the person can easily be overpowered. It may also be necessary to have someone out there regularly enforcing the use of the leashes because many of these dog walkers will not comply.

**Correspondence ID:** 509      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
 USA  
**Email:** -  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Feb,03,2011 19:42:46  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** As a homeowner since 1986 at 1878 Great Highway, I have seen the return of the snowy plover and an increase of dogs at the beach between Lincoln & Sloat. I am at the beach 3 times a week picking up trash and enjoying the ocean. My concern is the dogs off leash that run after the shore birds and the amount of bags of dog poop left where the owner dropped it. If your recommendations include prohibiting all dogs on all beaches, I will agree.  
 Elizabeth Foree

**Correspondence ID:** 510      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
 USA  
**Email:** -  
**Outside Organization:** taxpayer and home owner Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Feb,03,2011 21:26:52  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I live across the street (Great Hwy) from the beach and am VERY glad for these changes as proposed by the Dog Management Plan. I have owned dogs over the years and mine were NEVER left to roam neighborhoods without

being on a leash at ALL times. It's a safety issue. I'm sure dog owners (some) will be up in arms about their dogs "rights" - which is an insane idea from my point of view. As the dogs on the beach (or rather their owners) have stifled my right to walk safely along the beach without being barked at, snapped at, sniffed at and jumped on as their inconsiderate owners say, "Oh he/she won't bite!" Not to mention the dog shit I have to watch for. The problem, of course, are the owners. I have even had dog owners yell and give me the finger when I've asked them to please keep their dog on a leash and under control. I just hope there are enough reasonable people to make sure these changes go through. Of course enforcement will always be an issue and difficult, as there are "rules" already in place that aren't followed - which means "new" and more rules in the hopes of dog owners following them.

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**Correspondence ID:** 511      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** -  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Feb,03,2011 22:46:04  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I disagree with any proposal that would restrict off-leash dog walking for dogs that are under voice control. Fort Funston is a wonderful place to bring a dog; I ask you not to change that.

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**Correspondence ID:** 512      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** -  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Feb,04,2011 09:18:58  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Dear Frank Dean,

I have waded through this document, and like many others, I'm a little surprised how harsh it is toward dog owners and dogs in general. Certainly dogs can have a negative impact on the GGNRA environment, but this must be weighed against numerous dog owners who live in this city and love to exercise their animals in a natural environment. The recommendations here seem unbelievably harsh and simply anti-dog. An example of this is the Park Service's power to revoke all privileges on on-leash or off-leash walking if any of the restrictions are disobeyed. I can't imagine in any other instance that this would be acceptable to any citizen and tax-paying individual.

We give a lot of money to the GGNRA, to the William Kent Society, to Trails Forever. We attend meetings about the future of Doyle Drive and what's going on in our Presidio. One, but only one, of the reasons we do this is because we have a dog who loves the East Beach and it gives her and us great pleasure to exercise her in this beautiful environment. We use this area frequently for hikes and walks without the dog, too. The GGNRA is San Francisco's own treasure, and we must accommodate all the people who live here, not just the few that are the loudest or most obnoxious (I'm speaking of dog owners too, by the way). Please accept this recommendation to revise this proposal to make it more palatable to the dog owners, and avoid an all-out war of "us vs. them." We give money so everyone can enjoy this national treasure, dog owners and non-dog owners alike; don't cut out the latter just because it may be a little more inconvenient for the rangers and the environmentalists. I am certain we can come to an accommodation that everyone can accept, not just special interests.

Yours sincerely,

Courtney Weaver (415) 668-2222

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**Correspondence ID:** 513      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA

**Email:**  
**Outside** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Organization:**

**Received:** Feb,04,2011 09:53:56

**Correspondence** Web Form

**Type:**

**Correspondence:** I commend the National Park Service for developing a plan to protect GGNRA sensitive natural habitat while allowing visitors and local residents ample opportunity to enjoy this magnificent park. I know that the Park Service will receive complaints from professional dog walkers and individuals who do not want any limits placed on where they can let dogs run unleashed. They are a well-organized and vocal group who will make their demands heard. Please know they do not represent those of us who value the National Parks for what they were intended to be-a place to conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wild life therein and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations. San Francisco has 17 off-leash areas where dogs can run unfettered. That certainly should be enough. People have always wanted to use the parks for their own selfish desires-whether sheepherders in the high alpine meadows of Yosemite or snowmobiles in Yellowstone. We need the Park Service to take a firm stance in preserving these precious acres for future generations. Thank you.

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**Correspondence ID:** 514      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS

**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA

**Email:** -  
**Outside** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Organization:**

**Received:** Feb,04,2011 10:08:00

**Correspondence** Web Form

**Type:**

**Correspondence:** I disagree with the GGNRA Dog Management Plan because it is over restrictive and limits a very important dog walking area for tax payers who have dogs. There are hundreds or miles of National Parks and Ocean land for others to use and its unfair to restrict an already small area of off-leash dog walking for the many people who currently enjoy it with their dogs.

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**Correspondence ID:** 515      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS

**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA

**Email:** bersons@pacbell.net  
**Outside** Unaffiliated Individual

**Organization:**

**Received:** Feb,04,2011 12:35:51

**Correspondence** Web Form

**Type:**

**Correspondence:** I am very blessed. Every morning my dog and I get up and before work, go hiking in the Marin Headlands, Crissy Field, or Muir Beach. Every day I see something that takes my breathe away. I feel safe out there alone walking as I have my dog with me. I have friends who hike with us as my dog makes them feel safe. I do not believe my dog would know how to protect me, but people walking towards me do not know that. It can be very scary to be out in the middle of nowhere and see a stranger walking towards you. My dog is either on leash or voice command. I have never encountered another dog that is aggressive nor seen dogs chasing wildlife. There are always rabbits, birds and coyotes. Every owner I meet out there is responsible and picks-up after their dog. I have given bags to people who forgotten them. We have helped other hikers who are lost or hurt. I climbed down and helped a woman who slipped off a hillside. I have called 911 when I heard a domestic dispute in a home in Tam Valley. I always give at least one set of tourists on bikes directions to Golden Gate bridge from Crissy Field (you should consider adding sign posts). My dog and I do not harm the paths by leaving big horse prints, horse manure or bike ruts. I consider myself to be a responsible user of the parks. I volunteer to remove invasive plants and try to keep our beautiful parks pristine. If I was unable to take my dogs I would not hike in these beautiful lands. Many people I have met in the last few weeks agree that we would not be on the trails without our dogs. If you ban dogs I believe

you will lose more than half the hikers on the trails. Please don't take away this beautiful privilege from us.

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**Correspondence ID:** 516      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:**  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Feb,04,2011 16:24:37  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I support Alternative A, no change to dog walking requirements. I do not have a dog, but I appreciate how hard it is for dog owners to find spaces where their dogs can run. I take frequent hikes at some of the areas affected by this proposed change, and I enjoy the mixed human-dog environment. Any inconvenience to me is outweighed in my estimation by the benefit.

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**Correspondence ID:** 517      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:**  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Feb,04,2011 16:44:16  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I walk my dog (often off leash) in various city parks as well as the GGNRA, usually Ft Funston and Chrissy Field. The cleanliness and concern of dog owners who bring their dogs to GGNRA by far surpasses those who use the SF city parks.

I am constantly stepping in and around dog waste in parks because dog owners see those spaces primarily as their dogs' toilets. However, the GGNRA is different in that it is used for exercise and enjoyment, and dog owners appreciate the pristine land that we are privileged to call our home. At Ft Funston this morning, I saw a dog owner picking up another dog's waste. People care about that space and allowing dogs there, off-leash and on, will encourage its use and appreciation. It will be a sad day when Ft Funston is deserted because people can no longer bring their dogs there. I assure you that will happen.

If conservation and restricting dogs to certain areas is of the utmost importance, perhaps it is just a matter of signage. There are so many broken fences along the upper part of Funston that it is difficult to tell where dogs are allowed and where they are not. As a first step, clearer rules and signs are needed.

I urge you to consider the voices of perhaps the majority of users of the GGNRA and allow off-leash and dog-friendly areas to remain as they are.

Thank you

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**Correspondence ID:** 518      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** salliecosby@yahoo.com  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Feb,04,2011 18:05:28  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I am a dog owner and use Crissy Field to exercise her quite often. I think that carving up that area into on-leash and off-leash areas would wreck the space and create more confusion. To that end, I think that the alternative map, Map 10A, is preferable. There aren't many off-leash areas like Crissy Field, with its large area and easy accessibility. This latter point is especially helpful for elderly dog owners and people with babies or children (like me). And what is so special about Crissy Field anyway? It is an old airstrip in the middle of a Superfund site. The dunes and marshes are already protected by fencing; the beaches are already seasonally protected for bird nesting. What do you hope to achieve for wildlife (the purported reason) by carving up Crissy Field itself? Preserving the weeds? Protecting the huge population of pocket gophers?

I can't help but feel that you are picking on dogs in particular and using them as scapegoats for the many human users of Crissy Field who treat the area irresponsibly, not just dog owners. I would like to see you impose (or enforce existing) rules about setting off rockets and flying kites, both of which often land in the dunes or on other people.

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**Correspondence ID:** 519      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS

**Name:** -

**Address:** - CA  
USA

**Email:** -

**Outside Organization:** Marin Co Veterinary Medical Association Unaffiliated Individual

**Received:** Feb,04,2011 19:41:03

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Hello, I write to you to register my strong opinion of allowing dogs to be off leash, including at Muir beach, Crissy fields and Fort Funston. Dog off-leash areas are critical to both dogs and their owners' health and well-being. A fenced in area at a park is not a replacement for running along a beautiful beach and playing in the waves and sand - for both our dogs and their humans. The wildlife are among my patients as well and I have a deep concern for them and the environment. I don't believe dogs do a significant degree of damage to wildlife and I do think having this huge group of people (dog owners) caring about the beaches is critical. We need the people to have an interest so they will take of the land. Thank you for your consideration,

Amy Allen, DVM, Dip ACVIM

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**Correspondence ID:** 520      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS

**Name:** -

**Address:** - CA  
USA

**Email:** -

**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Received:** Feb,04,2011 19:46:22

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** My family walks through these areas with our dog every weekend and my parents hike every single day. We are careful to keep our puppy on the path, provide bags for any feces, and respect other hikers along, of course, with the wildlife. Hiking with our dog provides us with the opportunity to appreciate the beautiful place we live and the reason why we continue to support the National Park Service as much as possible. If we could not bring our dogs on these hikes, we would hardly have the opportunity to visit them. Please take this into consideration!

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**Correspondence ID:** 521      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS

**Name:** -

**Address:** - CA  
USA

**Email:** -

**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Received:** Feb,05,2011 11:48:40

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I believe that dogs should be restricted in all national parks and recreation areas, including Golden Gate. I have a friend who took a picture of an off leash dog chasing a snowy plover. If you allow dogs access in all areas, you would be ignoring the needs of others, such as birdwatchers, hikers and parties who just want to commune with nature. Dogs might be ok in certain less sensitive areas if they are ON LEASH.

I am frustrated with the dog lobby here in San Francisco. Their dogs seem to have more rights to parks than children. They are irresponsible, their dogs leave feces, destroy habitat, and annoy visitors without dogs. Then they resort to mob behavior when it is suggested that their dogs need to be under control.

One other concern: if dog people are allowed free rein in GGNRA, then they will begin to demand it in all the other national parks. It also opens the way for other special interests to demand their so called "rights" to these national treasures, such as off road vehicles, jet skiers, etc.

Thank you for setting out more reasonable rules that protect wildlife and protect the visitor experience in national parks and recreation areas.

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**Correspondence ID:** 522    **Project:** 11759    **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** v\_campos@mac.com  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Feb,05,2011 13:15:22  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I love going to the dog parks with my dog, please do not allow this to happen! Virginia.

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**Correspondence ID:** 523    **Project:** 11759    **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** peggyklock@comcast.net  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Feb,05,2011 13:37:49  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I would like to voice support for Alternative A in your dog management plan. I feel that as a hard working tax payer,I have a right to enjoy the areas in the GGNRA with my dogs. I realize that every dog owner has the responsibility to train and control their dogs so that they can be part of the social life of a park. It is the people who don't take this responsibility that should have their dogs on a leash. Please don't punish the many who are in the right for those few who are in the wrong. I have lived here my entire life, almost 60 years. I have walked dogs since I was a kid with my Dad who lived here all of his 84 years. I can't think of a healthier lifestyle than "getting the dogs out". What is good for our dogs, "man's best friend", is good for us. I refuse to believe that the few are going to be allowed to manipulate the GGNRA into a decision that would be so unfair to so many. I think that the portion of your plan that is so important is the educating of the dog walkers as to how vital it is to be a responsible, respectful dog owner. Thank you for considering everyone's point of view. Peggy Klock

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**Correspondence ID:** 524    **Project:** 11759    **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** -  
**Outside Organization:** Montara Dog Group Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Feb,05,2011 13:53:07  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Type:**

**Correspondence:** To Whom It May Concern, I am writing regarding the GGNRA DMP-EIS to voice my strong concern over the language as it affects especially 'New Lands', specifically Rancho Corral de Tierra. I'm also concerned over the potential restrictions on other areas in the GGNRA throughout the Bay Area. I have been a resident and dog owner since 1987 first in Marin then in San Mateo County. I have always enjoyed finding areas where my dogs can run free under voice and sight control. This allows them to socialize freely, exercise and achieve a healthy balance essential to their well-being. I am a responsible owner ? my dogs get leashed if anyone has a concern or appears fearful, and I always carry bags to clean up after them. For the last 20 years I've lived immediately adjacent to Rancho, on an access road that is used by many dog owners every day heading to the lands. Montara has always been dog heaven, and it is not right to change a decades-old practice merely because it is easier for GGNRA. The local dog group has improved the area, providing poop bag receptacles and bins which has made the area much healthier. Horse-riders, other walkers and even mountain bikers all co-exist here without any major issues, except of course when the bikers ride too fast and without heed to people or pets, and somehow it's always our fault! My understanding is that currently dogs are permitted on less than 1% of GGNRA lands ? at least leave us that much please! Alternative E should be the preferred alternative for new lands that have been used for dog-walking in the past ? a total ban on dogs is unacceptable. There are very few places left in San Mateo County to take them ? 'dog parks' are sterile manmade environments with little space and little to interest an eager dog. So few beaches in the Bay Area are open to them anymore ? it's so frustrating for responsible owners like me to be denied access to so many areas with our pets. I'm not able to take them twice a day to Fort Funston, which I understand may well also be severely restricted under the proposed plan. Muir Beach is another area I go to occasionally, I would hate to see that restricted. If necessary have specific times when off-leash is permitted, so locals without dogs or who are fearful may know when they can walk without concern. But don't cut off my one method of exercise and pleasure with my dog completely, I don't want to be a federal criminal!! At least recognize that your blanket statements regarding all new lands to be off-limits to dogs is draconian and completely ignores the efforts of responsible concerned dog-owners such as the Montara Dog Group which have improved the area and provided a wonderful experience to those of us with canine companions. Sincerely,

Grant Weiss, MD 700 Farallone Ave/PO Box 370051 Montara, CA 94037

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**Correspondence ID:** 525    **Project:** 11759    **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS

**Name:** -

**Address:** - CA  
USA

**Email:** jmsanfran@gmail.com

**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Received:** Feb.05,2011 16:00:03

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I am writing about the upcoming takeover of Rancho Corral de Tierra open space preserve (currently operated by POST, Peninsula Open Space Trust) by GGNRA, Golden Gate National Recreational Area. This land is 4200+ acres of open space from north of Montara to El Granada on the costal portion of the San Francisco Bay Area Peninsula (between Half Moon Bay and Pacifica). I have two concerns that I would like to voice and ask for your help to get my voice heard.

First ? I would like Rancho Corral de Tierra to stay exactly how it is with NO unnecessary management or development.

Second ? I would like to continue to be able to walk my dog on the trails.

Rancho is an open space preserve ? that means there is no development, no signs, no portable bathrooms, etc. From the beginning of time we, the community, have not needed management to 'help' us use its natural undeveloped lands. We do not need GGNRA to make any changes. I live within a few houses of the Coral Reef Avenue proposed trailhead. I understand GGNRA intends to funnel traffic to this trailhead, establish a parking area, as well as install signs and portable restrooms. As a neighbor I have major objections. Coral Reef Avenue is the one access road to the Clipper Ridge development and they do not deserve excess traffic and parking along their residential street. Nearby streets also do not deserve this traffic. As a property owner on a private road, we will individually incur the cost to repair and upkeep our street when it is damaged by extra usage for those coming to the trailhead. Currently the majority of people who use Rancho are neighbors who are on a walk from their homes and have an invested interest in our community. We do not need an excess of outside people flooding the area and walking at such close proximity to our homes that our privacy and security is legitimately challenged. It is obvious the reasons why nearby neighbors do not want permanent portable restrooms within the vicinity of our homes. We are all

getting by superbly without any of these additions and we are able enjoy Rancho without them. There is no need for change.

Without spending taxpayer dollars and years developing a Dog Management Plan, the community has already established our own protocol on how we utilize Rancho lands with respect to dogs. The person who chooses to live on the coastside is typically more inclined to utilize the undeveloped beaches and hills in our everyday life. It seems that that same type of person likes to enjoy the outdoors with their dogs. This community has an incredible dog presence. We already have established our Dog Management Plan and it says that dogs are welcomed and they are just as important as the human citizens of the coastside. This continues to work and there is no need to modify our welcoming of dogs to the coastside's beautiful beaches and hills. To ban dogs on Rancho will only be an exercise in government futility. It is simply not the way our community works, and how our community works should be an incredible factor in how GGNRA 'manages' our land.

GGNRA should simply leave Rancho exactly how it is today. Since I know GGNRA will never let this be the case, I suggest that we establish a buffer zone. I would like to see that within 1 mile of residentially developed property lines there will be absolutely no change whatsoever. This means no signage, no modifications, and no restrictions of dogs. This zone is probably the most used portion of land for the community. Since the community is doing just fine with this land exactly how it is ? let's keep it this way. The compromise is to let the community have our incredibly small portion of land to use how we have already established works for us, and let GGNRA do what they need for the portion of land that is less used. I realize the political game is in full force so with that I request, at least, that Alternative E is adopted for Rancho so that 'new lands with existing off leash use before acquisition may also be considered for voice and sight control in the future.'

Finally, I am astonished at how GGNRA is not involving or listening to the community. I am a property owner with a SHARED property line with Rancho Corral de Tierra and I also live a few houses from the proposed Coral Reef Avenue trailhead. I have never been contacted for my input or for notification of GGNRA's plans for Rancho. I have attended public meetings put on by GGNRA and they are a complete farce. It was so evident that GGNRA has their own agenda and the input of the community is of no concern or will our voice affect the predetermined path GGNRA has decided to forge. I write this letter in desperation that you will help our community's voice be heard. Please help us keep Rancho Corral de Tierra exactly how it is today without any changes that are not needed by, or asked from, our community.

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**Correspondence ID:** 526      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS

**Name:** -

**Address:** - CA

USA

**Email:** nancydwagner@comcast.net

**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Received:** Feb,05,2011 16:00:41

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Please do not change or limit the off leash dog area in SF - GGNRA. There are so many place where people who don't have dog can go to play and enjoy the parks, hiking trails and beaches that are OFF limits to families with dog, and this proposal to take away the recreation opportunities for those of us with dogs is just not right, and penalizes the happy dogs and their owners who have come to know these places as places they can run and play without problems. By limiting the off leash areas, the GGNRA is just going to create problems as more people will be forced to take their dogs to run and play in congested areas that people who prefer not to be around dogs now frequent. There are so many dog owners in the Bay Area that have been enjoying taking walks with their dogs at Fort Funston and other off leash areas in the GGNRA, and there has hardly been any issues with allowing the citizens and their canine companions to spend time outdoors in these areas, limiting the off leash areas at a time where more and more people are owning dogs and living in the Bay Area is just contrary to the RECREATION area's goals, and puts undue hardship on the majority of the people who currently use these spaces to spend their leisure time and enjoy the outdoors with their family, friends, and yes, their dogs.

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**Correspondence ID:** 527      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS

**Name:** -

**Address:** - CA

USA

**Email:**

**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Received:** Feb,05,2011 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Put the dogs on a leash and their ugly owners, especially Nancy Walker.

---

**Correspondence ID:** 528      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** polskatata@yahoo.com  
**Outside Organization:** Golden Gate Audubon Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Feb,05,2011 16:30:50  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I find "Alternative D" as the only acceptable one of the proposals.

This is based on a decade of experience both working and recreating in the GGNRA and seeing the first hand effects that off-leash dog use, commercial dog walking and simply allowing dogs into sensitive natural areas has on the resources protect therein. I consider the adoption of ANY one of the other alternatives as an abysmal failure on the part of the GGNRA .

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**Correspondence ID:** 529      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** coriamiller@gmail.com  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Feb,05,2011 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** As a dog owner who enjoys Muir Beach with my golden retriever, Duke, and many of his friends, I think it would be a tragedy if we were not allowed there anymore. Many of us love our dogs the way that we love all nature, and work hard to ensure that our dogs, like ourselves, leave no impact on the beach and the surrounding area. Beaches should be fun for the whole family, and that includes those furry members as well.

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**Correspondence ID:** 530      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** robsnavely@att.net  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Feb,06,2011 00:12:45  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Hello,

I am a current San Francisco resident who grew up in this city and have lived here for the majority of my life. I believe one of the many things that makes our city great is the beautiful parks and scenic locations that the residents and visitors can freely enjoy.

San Francisco is also an extremely pet/dog friendly city which creates a great environment for dogs and their owners to enjoy those locations even more. Of course, I am one of those dog owners, and Fort Funston is hands down the best place to walk my dog. I know many, many people (dog owners or not) who agree with that.

I was shocked and in disbelief when I heard of the news that there were plans of possibly requiring dogs to be

leashed at Fort Funston and many other great locations that are currently off-leash. I think it would be tantamount to a sin if suddenly all the people who currently enjoy walking their dogs off-leash at Fort Funston have that privilege suddenly taken away. I also know many people who make their living walking dogs at Fort Funston. Requiring them to keep their dogs on-leash could potentially put them out of work or at the very least, dramatically reduce their income due the fewer number of dogs they could walk.

PLEASE LET THE DOG OWNERS OF THE SF BAY AREA WALK THEIR PETS OFF-LEASH

Thank You, Rob Snavely

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**Correspondence ID:** 531      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:**  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Feb,06,2011 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** What is this ordinance leaning toward? Nazi Germany? What about banning kids from parks since they litter and trash some of the parks around the city with broken glass bottles and plastic snack pouches? Is that in the GGNRA's future plans?

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**Correspondence ID:** 532      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** umcknight@gmail.com  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Feb,06,2011 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Please keep the Bay Area dog friendly.

S.F.'s off leash restrictions have already turned ordinary citizens into criminals. Decreasing off-leash areas, or dog parks in general, will not change dog owners behavior - many of us have well trained, well behaved dogs which physically require strenuous exercise multiple times per day which they simply cannot get on-leash. Denying them that exercise amounts to cruelty.

If you implement a policy that turns tens of thousands of San Franciscan tax payers and law-abiding citizens into defacto criminals, what have you actually accomplished and what does it say about your plan?

Already it is the norm to ignore off-leash dog laws throughout the city, to the extent that police literally apologize when they are on rare occasion forced to enforce them.

Creating mass civil disobedience by decreasing tax paying citizen's rights to public land use, and exposing them to what will be a sporadic, uneven and potentially discriminatory application of the law by pushing for a rule which simply is not logical or enforceable, will be largely ignored by law enforcement (other than at what even currently amounts to their personal discretion) and goes against the ethos of the city, hardly qualifies as good governance or a well considered use of our taxes.

Sincerely,

Ulrik McKnight

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**Correspondence ID:** 533      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA

**Email:** -  
**Outside:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Organization:**  
**Received:** Feb,06,2011 10:33:54  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Since the proposed changes address less than 1% of the GGNRA area, the status quo should be preserved in order to facilitate a decent off-leash to dog area ratio. With any further restrictions more canines would be crammed into smaller spaces.

With over 300,000 registered dogs in San Francisco, there is a huge need for this space! What study has been done when the off-leash dog areas are increased? (more happy owners and canines, less congestion, more wildlife breeding, less infractions, less enforcement costs)

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**Correspondence ID:** 534      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA

**Email:** -  
**Outside:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Organization:**  
**Received:** Feb,06,2011 16:59:50  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** The Draft Dog Management Plan represents a disaster for dog owners in the bay area, effectively banning them from any meaningful interaction with the California coastline. I STRONGLY URGE you to DISMISS the draft policy and instead maintain the current policy or EXPAND the places to which dogs may enter. The banning of dogs in public parks is an act of scape goating environmental problems on animals instead of considering the real and damaging effect of human civilization. Moreover, the banning of dogs is a capitulation to fear that is not reality based. Yes, many people are frightened of dogs, but this unsubstantiated fear does not necessitate action. Such action would amount to profiling an entire species based upon the misdeeds of a minority membership. Said misdeeds are marginal, and pale in comparison with the number of humans attacked by other humans. To say that all dogs much be leashed (or banned) because a small number have been problems utilizes the same flawed logic that would rationalize detainment of all arabs within our country because a small number of arabs were responsible for the 9-11 attack. The vast majority of dogs are happy creatures that spread joy to all they meet. They enrich our communities and encourage conversation among persons who would otherwise pass one another without a word exchanged. THIS IS INVALUABLE in creating community.

---

**Correspondence ID:** 535      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA

**Email:** jennifer.greger@gmail.com  
**Outside:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Organization:**  
**Received:** Feb,06,2011 19:00:44  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** As a dog owner in the Bay Area we love Fort Funston and drive the 45 + min drive there to enjoy time with our furry family member. Sometimes we don't always go down to the beach so it's nice to have the trails on the bluff as off leash so our Stella can roam and enjoy time off leash as well. There are so few areas in the Bay Area that dogs can enjoy off leash with their owners. All the times we have been there we've never seen anyone with out of control dogs. You see lots of families and everyone seems to pick up after their furry family member. It would truly be a shame for you to change anything about the park at this point. Even to just parts being leashed areas seems to ruin why it is a main attraction for so many dog lovers around the Bay Area. If you read reviews on Yelp

there are people who go there that don't even have dogs just to get in their dog fix. There are so many other beaches in the area that dogs aren't even allowed on please don't take away or limit this amazing place.

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**Correspondence ID:** 536      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** -  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Feb,07,2011 00:21:08  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** My concern is that so many Big Dogs are not on leash in the GGNRA. I ,almost, was attacked by a grey female pit dog once, while running on Ocean Beach, between Vicente and the Western edge of the Golden Gate Park. I did report it to the police at the station on the 24th ave. between Taraval and Santiago. I would like to see more enforcement of the leash law in the GGNRA. Sometimes weeks could go by without seeing a ranger. I would like the leash law not too be too onerous on Rangers, so that they must issue citations only to dogs that could cause damage. I have no problems with small dogs not being off leash, but big dogs that could cause damage to the body must be under leash. Unfortunately many of us don't understand how to react to big dogs trying to sniff us or just being curious. The onus is on the dog owner to keep them under leash. Thank you Nafiss Griffis

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**Correspondence ID:** 537      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** bzspitz@aol.com  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Feb,07,2011 10:19:44  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am the author of two local trail guides, "Tamalpais Trails," and "Open Spaces, Lands of the Marin County Open Space District," and have been leading hikes and running in GGNRA and adjacent parklands for nearly 40 years. Decades ago, reckless and illegal bicycling was the #1 menace to the parkland and its visitors. But over recent years, the proliferation of off-leash dogs, where permitted and not, has become the greatest problem. Literally hundreds of times, dogs have jumped on me while I run or hike. I consider this a serious invasion of privacy. I have also been tripped, or dangerously nearly so, numerous times. I regularly see dogs chase rabbits and other wildlife. Whether they catch the animals or not, surely they wreak havoc on their lives and breeding. Professional dog walkers run their commercial business free of charge on GGNRA and other public lands, passing the cost on to other users. The sheer number of dogs and dog walkers overwhelms many trails and trailheads. And when rules and laws are so flagrantly broken, as dog owners--more than anyone else--so brazenly do, no one can really feel safe in the open space. I applaud the GGNRA draft plan's efforts to restore reason and science to this out-of-control off-leash dog problem. Other jurisdictions--my town of San Anselmo just one example--have wilted in the face of aggressive opposition by dog owners. Please, do what is right for the land, for its natural denizens, and for the peaceful, passive, law-abiding citizen users. Do not retreat from this plan, which already represents an enormous compromise from the restrictions other national parks impose. Thank you.

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**Correspondence ID:** 538      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** benjgraves@gmail.com  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Feb,07,2011 10:24:32  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** As a resident of the Capehart Housing (located in Fort Berry of the Marin Headlands) I strongly support

Alternative A or E for the Marin Headlands Trails. Due to increased traffic and construction in the park, roads have become dangerous places to walk with a dog. Since the elimination of the speed bumps in Capehart (between McCoullough and Menges St) motorists routinely travel over 40 mph through our neighborhood. For this reason I and the other dog owners in Capehart would like to preserve on-leash dog access to especially the Julian Fire Road so that we have more options for walking our dogs in the park. Residents in neighboring areas, such as Sausalito and Mill Valley, are able to safely walk dogs on residential streets, but since our roads provide the only access to Rodeo Beach, they become extremely crowded and dangerous on the weekends. We have few safe options for walking dogs in our neighborhood and access to the trails in the upper Rodeo Valley would provide safe opportunity for us and our pets.

**Correspondence ID:** 539      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS

**Name:** -

**Address:** - CA  
USA

**Email:** karlrules@hotmail.com

**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Received:** Feb,07,2011 11:26:38

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Dear Sir/Madam: I used to live in Daly City (10+ years) from the mid-80's to late 90's. I took my then dog to Fort Funston (FF) on a frequent basis. I was a young man and the regular exercise kept both my dog and I fit. My beloved dog lived to 19 years old and I am currently in VERY good shape for a 40-year old. I moved from Daly City some time ago, but still return to Fort Funston with my two Weimaraners at least once a week. We go to FF for the nature, fresh air, safe surroundings, and to socialize with other outdoor enthusiasts (sportsmen, dog owners, dogs, joggers/walkers). I have noticed how wonderful the mood is there and how responsible the folks are that take their dogs to FF. Of course you have a few issues/spats between dogs (mostly due to their owners), but it is far fewer than the altercations outside of FF that I witness between humans on a daily basis in road rage or assaults, thefts, fights, etc. I heard somewhere recently that there is 1 dog for every 4 residents in San Francisco. That is a lot of people with a lot of dogs. These owners hire professional dog walkers to run their beloved pets so that they stay healthy and reduce waste pollution in the city. I am not a dog walker, but I believe these new restrictions on places such as Fort Funston will do more harm than good. Let's keep pets healthy, owners happy, pollution down and safe some money by keeping things at the parks the way they are. Thank you.

**Correspondence ID:** 540      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS

**Name:** -

**Address:** - CA  
USA

**Email:** esgeo@stanford.edu

**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Received:** Feb,07,2011 12:53:00

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Hello and thank you for the opportunity to voice my opinion about dogs at GGNRA. My wife and I (and our two dogs) moved here to the Bay Area last June. We are very grateful to live in such an incredible place, and are especially impressed by the conservation efforts in such an urban area- both by government and not-for-profit organizations such as Open Space Trusts. Both of us are former National Park Service employees (SEKI, GUMO, and BUFF for I, and GRCA, BAND, and NOCA for her), so we understand concerns about resources, visitor protection, and public perception. Presently, I am a PhD student (geology) at Stanford and my wife is a GIS Analyst in the private sector.

That being said, we visited Fort Funston with our dogs yesterday (Sunday, Feb 6) for the first time. It was truly the greatest place we have taken our dogs since moving to California (the playas around Death Valley are a close second, however.) I am not sure what the specific language of the EIS states, but I would like to offer my advice:

The ability to bring dogs and allow them to walk/run leashless on the stretch of beach from the Fort Funston parking area south is fantastic. In my opinion it is a cultural highlight of the Bay Area, in that dogs and their owners are given both freedom and responsibility beyond the norm- and a very special environment is thus created. I strongly oppose any changes to the current language that allows the present environment at Fort Funston with

respect to allowing dogs off leashes and having significant stretches of coastline for this sort of recreation.

That being said, I understand concerns about commercial use of the land (by dog walkers, etc) and think there needs to be a commercial permit process that could help fund maintenance/infrastructure. Additionally, I would not be opposed to a small fee for use (as long as an annual pass was available) to help with infrastructure needs.

Thank you for your time.

Respectfully,

Eric S Gottlieb

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**Correspondence ID:** 541      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** -  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Feb,07,2011 14:17:42  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Sunday was amazing it was 73 degrees on Stinson Beach at 10 am. My husband, dog and I walked from Stinson to Bolinas Lagoon along the beach. There were so many people and dogs. Everyone had a smile on their face.

I did not see any dogs fighting, invading personal property or chasing wild life. I could not see any any dog poop on the beach. My informal nonscientific survey estimated that about 50% of the people had dogs. None of us would come to the beach for a walk without our dogs. How can you remove so many peoples privilege to enjoy nature.

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**Correspondence ID:** 542      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** kathyklestoff@gmail.com  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Feb,07,2011 14:31:49  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Please keep the dog walking areas of the Bay Area free! You are all missing the point! Too much regulation leads to more problems, more lawsuits and more conflicts, because you will always have someone that over steps the regulations! If your intent is to put in place rules that will be broken so you can issue tickets or fines in order to raise revenue I say shame on you! We use the Fort Funston and Crissy Fields areas daily with our dog and have never encountered any problems. Yes, all dog owners need to be responsible for their pets, and the majority of them are. Just as all drivers need to obey rules, but some drivers don't! Please leave the law as it is now, the "no action" alternative is just fine. The purpose of walking or running with your dog is to experience a brief moment of freedom - to interact with others that are enjoying their moment of freedom too. Leave well enough alone!

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**Correspondence ID:** 543      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** rhest@yaho.com  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Received:** Feb,07,2011 15:30:21  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Re: Rancho Corral de Tierra - Draft Dog Management Plan

I am a 15 year resident and homeowner of Montara who has walked my dogs in the open space for nearly all of those years. My dogs are walked on the trails; 50% on leash, 50% off leash, but always controllable by voice commands. My dogs have never caused an issue nor have I experienced an issue with other dogs. And, I always pick up after them ? on or off trail.

Montara is unincorporated so there are limited street lights and no sidewalks or designated crossings on Highway 1. Closing the open space to dog walking is not only unpopular, it is unsafe. There have been three dogs struck and killed by cars in the past several years, one walking near the road in front of his owner's house, the other being walked by his owner on leash (both on 4th Street). Only 3 weeks ago, a man and his dog were struck trying to cross Highway 1 in Montara ? the dog was killed.

Closing this space to dog walking eliminates any safe opportunity for dog walking in the community. Closing this space to dog walking will force me and many neighbors to walk their pets up and down residential streets (no sidewalks), many times in the dark (few streetlights). This would create unsafe conditions for the dog walkers, the dogs, and the car drivers (as most of us are).

I strongly suggest the GGNRA come up with a shared solution, i.e., dog walking hours, dogs on leash hours, dogs off leash hours, people only; some creative way to share the beauty of the space and the opportunity for healthy exercise for those with dogs, without dogs, and new visitors.

Many of us moved here specifically for the open space, the beauty and the opportunity to enjoy it unencumbered by regulation. Please work with the community to develop an alternative to eliminating dogs completely in the open space.

Thank you for your consideration and attention to this matter.

Robin Hesterberg

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**Correspondence ID:** 544      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** -  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Feb,07,2011 15:32:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Dear GGNRA,

I urge you to maintain the current status of off leash areas in the GGNRA. If any other group was utilizing this area for peaceful recreation like we dog guardians are you wouldn't be considering lessening our access--you would increase it or find ways to accomodate the tax payers who are using the land. People walking with their dogs--enjoying the beauty of our city are and will continue to be an ally for responsible land stewardship. We would rather work with you.

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**Correspondence ID:** 545      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - VA  
USA  
**Email:**  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Feb,07,2011 17:06:07  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** No change.

---

**Correspondence ID:** 546      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS

**Name:** -

**Address:** - CA  
USA

**Email:** andysparks@hotmail.com

**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Received:** Feb,07,2011 18:19:21

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I grew up in San Francisco two blocks from the Presidio on Broderick street and further have volunteered in the Marin Headlands for the last 4 years. My comment is that off-leash dog walking needs to be severely restricted in the GGNRA. The majority of dog owners I have come across pay little regard for the rules and allow their dogs to run wild and trample native plants, invade the space of other users in the park and chase wild birds. I think that voice-control does not exist in reality as an excited dog off leash will always prefer to chase a bird over returning to its owner. I further have concerns about the amount of dog excrement I have found all over the park and on the beach where children play. I love dogs and have had several german shepherds. At the same time I understand that we need to preserve our important natural resources. Therefore, this plan should go as far as possible to restrict nearly all areas of the GGNRA to either prohibit dogs or to make dog owners walk their dogs on leashes.

I think that the GGNRA needs to increase enforcement of currently existing regulations as well as these proposed regulations. The GGNRA and City of San Francisco could earn a lot of money to pay to preserve the park from the income that would come from leash violation fines.

---

**Correspondence ID:** 547      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS

**Name:** -

**Address:** - CA  
USA

**Email:** -

**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Received:** Feb,07,2011 19:37:15

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I appreciate the opportunity to comment. Thank you.

In part I see this document the result of the lack of regional management. That is, as more and more agencies listen to their lawyers and restrict dog use, less and less land is available for the walking of dogs. So, now GGNRA must protect itself as more and more people have been finding the only 'freedom' to be had is on certain GGNRA lands, that they in fact own (in a manner of speaking).

I will speak just of the Alta Ave-Oakwood valley area. What you have for Oakwood Valley is consistent with current regulations, other than now allowing leashed dogs on the stretch between fire road and Alta. I think this is a good decision. However, your plan doesn't seem to discuss Oakwood Valley Trail, though I admit I've not read the whole thing. I would hope that dogs are allowed on OVT, as they seem to be now.

I am a wildlife ecologist (mostly specializing in birds), have worked for conservation non-profits as well as ecological consulting firms, have lived in Marin County for 40 years and at end of Alta Ave (Donahue) for 15 years. I have contributed 100+ hours per year to habitat restoration on Alta (weed removal) for the past 5 years. I have walked my dog, or had my dog accompany my weed removal, about twice per day on Alta Ave, more or less, on days when I'm present (mostly). I note that the DEIS states lots of 'could's and 'maybe's in terms of impacts from dogs. I don't see alot of data in the DEIS. Well, I do know about dogs vs snowy plovers but we're not talking snowy plovers at Alta.

Along Alta, in the past 15 years, I have seen mountain lions 3 times, coyotes every few weeks, and I know of where bobcats have dens in two places. I have seen the increase in ground nesting birds with the arrival of coyotes several years ago and the resulting disappearance of feral cats. Dogs haven't affected any of this. Positive actions,

like exotic weed removal, has made a huge impact on return of native flowers. Please provide more funding to the Park Restoration program, that is if you're serious about wanting to see an increase in the 'wild' experience of park users. I don't see further restriction on dogs as being positive toward restoring this area.

My surveys indicate that 2/3 of persons using Alta do so with dogs, mostly off leash, if you don't include the joggers and bikers. If you include them, then its 50%. In fact, so high is the association of people with dogs, that my dog expects to see another dog when he sees a person. A lot of commercial dog walkers use Alta, and my survey does not include them. They are, however, very responsible, and I have never had any problems with them. In particular, they clean up the dog poo, including that left by less conscientious persons. The Park no doubt, sensitive to its lawyers, pays attention to the negatives received from people who want it all. I'm sure they have complained about the dogs in general, and the dog walkers in particular. If those people need a wilderness experience, then they should go to PRNS and its wilderness areas, or areas where dogs are already excluded. That's my definition of 'multiple use'. GGNRA is a wonderful urban park and should allow all kinds of recreation, including humans' interactions, positive ones, with their dogs.

Thanks for listening.

---

**Correspondence ID:** 548      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** -  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Feb,08,2011 08:34:41  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am opposed to the changes in leash laws pertaining to NPS lands in San Francisco.

---

**Correspondence ID:** 549      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** eallen20@hotmail.com  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Feb,08,2011 09:22:47  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I own two large dogs who need at least one hour of exercise a day. I take them to Fort Funston every single day - sometimes twice a day. I am a responsible dog owner - I pick up after my dogs, ensure that they are not destructive (digging, chewing, etc.), not aggressive (to other dogs or humans), and that they don't enter restricted areas. In my experience, all of the visitors to Fort Funston (with minimal exception) exhibit the same level of responsibility as I do. There is rarely an incident between dogs - and when there is, the owners act responsibly. I rarely encounter piles of dog waste on or off the trails, and when I do - I pick it up.

There are very few areas in San Francisco where dogs can run off leash, and taking these few areas away will have a wide reaching negative impact. The already overcrowded, small, and poorly maintained "dog parks" will only worsen. Dogs will suffer - they will not get the level of exercise that they need to maintain a healthy lifestyle. Visitors to Fort Funston will decrease dramatically - I would estimate that over 95% of the daily visitors are dog owners.

Everyone should be able to access and enjoy Fort Funston and the other areas in question - whether or not they are a dog owner. For those who don't want to be surrounded by dogs - use one of the MANY parks where off leash dogs are not allowed - there are far more of these areas than the limited off leash areas.

---

**Correspondence ID:** 550      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA

**Email:** erin.tresmontan@gmail.com  
**Outside**  
**Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Feb,08,2011 09:41:05  
**Correspondence**  
**Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** This would be a very sad change to San Francisco, San Mateo, and Marin Counties. Having these designated areas for dogs to be off leash has been a very safe and fair way to allow dogs and their owners to get the exercise and socialization they need to thrive. By limiting these areas as it is being suggested, it will severely limit the amount of space needed for many large and energetic dogs to burn off energy and get the exercise they need. It would be a travesty to the mentioned counties to slash the areas dogs are allowed off leashes. Please re-consider making these changes, as taking away these open areas will be devastating to both the dogs and the dog owners.

---

**Correspondence ID:** 551      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA

USA

**Email:** -  
**Outside** Unaffiliated Individual

**Organization:**  
**Received:** Feb,08,2011 12:04:36  
**Correspondence**  
**Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I don't support this proposal at all. While I think it is fine to make certain designated areas a dog free zone, moving to uniform dog free is too much. For example, the eastern part the beach on Chrissy field could be made dog free, while the western part would be a place where dogs are allowed to play.

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**Correspondence ID:** 552      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA

USA

**Email:** loren\_quags@yahoo.com  
**Outside** Unaffiliated Individual

**Organization:**  
**Received:** Feb,08,2011 12:19:04  
**Correspondence**  
**Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I was shocked to learn that further reductions were being proposed in the open space where dogs are allowed. As it stands there are only a few trails and open space areas available for dogs which provide multiple social and physiological benefits to members of this community.

We had 1 year between dogs and it was amazing to me to learn how much more exercise and walking I did while having a dog vrs when I did not. Every day I walk my dog on the oakwood trail after dropping my kids off from school, or on the homestead trail in my neighbor hood. The ONLY people I encounter are other dog walking individuals whose dogs are able to visit with eachother, get great exercise, experience the open outdoors AND allow their owners the same benefits. I have lost 7 pounds in the past 6 months simply by virtue of taking my dog for a daily walk or hike and I have met some new friends along the way. On weekends, we take the kids and the dogs on certain dog approved trails and we all enjoy our family outings. It would not be the same without our pooch and he deserves to be able to join us on these outings. He cant come to the mall, cant come to many sporting events and cant come to school. There has to remain some places where families can enjoy their pets together and use the outdoors in good health. Being in Tam Valley there are few, if any sidewalks so street walking is not a great option. Additionally, my lab would not be well exercised if only kept on a leash. If I were to simply go to the disgusting dog park, not only would I not get any exercise myself, but I would not be able to take advantage of the gorgeous paths and wooded areas that I feel in love and caused me to move here. Also, the polluted water at the dog park would surely sicken my dog.

People who are not keen on dogs have hundreds of park trails to walk on as it stands. let the bird watchers and non dog lovers use those trails but give us some space that we can enjoy with out loved ones as well. Fine those who are not responsible but dont let a few bad eggs spoil it for the rest of us who rely on these areas for our health and pure enjoyment.

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**Correspondence ID:** 553      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** jfl615@gmail.com  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Feb,08,2011 12:20:04  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** We are running out of p[laces to allow dogs to hike and relax with their owners. It's unfair to the responsible dog owners to continue banning dogs from all the parks.

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**Correspondence ID:** 554      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** cchoulos@yahoo.com  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Feb,08,2011 12:43:21  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am outraged with the new anti-dog plan. Where do you expect people to go with their dogs? Dogs are called man's best friend for a reason. The idea that the GGNRA says it wants to clarify the rules is a bunch of horse manure. Your agency has given dog owners, who by the way are tax payers, less than 1 percent of the land to use. Now you are trying to take even more away? SHAME ON YOU! It won't work. You will see. People will rise up and show that we're not going to take it!

---

**Correspondence ID:** 555      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** j\_lavine@hotmail.com  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Feb,08,2011 13:24:07  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I never knew Marin to be unfriendly to dogs. As a matter of fact, we moved to Marin in 2004 because it is known to be friendly to dogs and kids...now I find NEITHER to be true. If you pass this measure, I will guarantee that people will move out of this area, which will cause the housing market to drop. Why have wooded areas if you can't take your dog with you on a hike? Unfortunately for us, there are a few dog and children haters that live in the area and try to use their power for their own "personal" agenda. Please take into account the numerous people that live here and have pets. Even if I didn't have a dog that likes to go on the trails, I would still feel very firmly that dogs should be allowed on the trails. Please keep the trails open to people, dogs and kids... we all live here together peacefully.  
  
Thank you

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**Correspondence ID:** 556      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** -

**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Received:** Feb,08,2011 14:34:00

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** It was so hard for me to hear recently that there was a drafted plan restricting where we can take dogs off-leash or even restricting where we can take dogs at all.

I am a responsible dog owner and mother that loves taking our eager 2 year old lab to all the corners of San Francisco where he can play, run freely, swim, chase, explore and soak in the sun (and of course fog!). He's a trained lab who comes when he's called. We pick up after him regardless of where he goes. We don't let him walk in the areas that have been marked for preservation. We love going to Crissy Field, Ft Funston, Lake Merced...

Our dog also has a dog walker that walks him three times a week and takes him to Ft Funston to do what he loves and takes him off-leash. When he first started getting walked by them, they kept him on leash to train and ensure his recall was up to snuff before they let him walk with all the others. We're at work all day, and for him to have this outlet and use his energy outside, is so wonderful. I love sitting at my desk during the day and knowing he's going to be picked up and have the time of his life with all of his dog friends and really get to use all of the energy he has bottled up. If you take this away, his walks will just be a bathroom break. Rather than a 2 hour romp, it might just be an around the block bit of air before he goes back in.

Our dog is part of the family, and for him to have this experience outside in such a beautiful city is invaluable to us. I strongly believe dogs and wildlife can co-exist, that dog owners can be responsible to pick up after their dogs, control their dogs, and that people, dogs and environment can all be a part of the same outdoor space and respect it at the same time.

San Francisco is such a dog-lover city - I hate to see it go down this path and be so dog-unfriendly....

---

**Correspondence ID:** 557      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106

**Project Name:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS

**Address:** -

- CA  
USA

**Email:** -

**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Received:** Feb,08,2011 15:13:55

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Regarding your Dog Management plan, I have several comments:

1. First, in an era of budget shortfalls and cutbacks, the amount of time, effort and resources which you have misallocated to an issue as miniscule as this, both astounds and enrages me, from my own perspective as a tax payer.
2. That said, and under the circumstances of continued fiscal shortfalls for your budget, you and your organization would be best off in allowing the status quo to prevail...
3. Obviously given your mandate to meddle and your complete unaccountability to the residents of the city of San Francisco, that's not going to be the case.
4. So, I must request, that you NOT CHANGE any of the dog policies regarding Ocean Beach or what you call the Snowy Plover Protection area. This is an urban area of your park. As such dog owners have the right and the obligation to exercise their dogs in such an area. Your efforts to further restrict dog management policies to disallow dogs, or disallow off leash areas would challenge that basic right and be harmful to both individuals and our animals. Please dont do it.

There are plenty of places where the plovers can go to do whatever it is they do, or where individuals who have problems with on leash dogs can go. It is not a problem. LEAVE US ALONE!!!

**Correspondence ID:** 558      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA

**Email:** -  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Received:** Feb,08,2011 16:10:51

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I own one dog and truly enjoy spending time with her in the outdoors, including Muir Beach. I understand and respect how fragile the eco-system is at Muir Beach and act accordingly. I would never let my dog harm any other living being and clean up after here whenever we are out. I would be very disappointed if that beach was no longer accessible to my dog. I would be willing to volunteer my time if this would in some way insure access for my dog at Muir Beach.

---

**Correspondence ID:** 559      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS

**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA

**Email:** -  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Received:** Feb,08,2011 17:44:45

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Dogs and beaches go together. Don't ban dogs on the beach!

---

**Correspondence ID:** 560      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA

**Email:** bob.kahn@gmail.com  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Received:** Feb,08,2011 18:46:26

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Fort Funston has been a treasure for taking our dog where she can run with other dogs in a natural environment. The vast majority of people who walk the trails and on the beach are dog owners. I have never seen owners allowing their dogs to go into restricted areas where there is vegetation growing. While I am sure there are some violators, even with new rules there will be violations. I understand that there must be rules in this park, but is there a problem currently that requires that you be more restrictive than at present.

---

**Correspondence ID:** 561      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA

**Email:** richardson034@gmail.com  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Received:** Feb,08,2011 19:14:50

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Dear Superintendent,

RE: Appendix F

Thank you for the opportunity to make a comment.

I am a native to the bay area and live in San Francisco.

I'm making a comment today bc I happen to be off work, working on an independent project, and I went to Crissy Field, East Beach where I brought my lunch. Much to my surprise, while I was there, over an hour, 3 different Prof Dog Walkers (DW) came by with more than 6 dogs each. I have pictures. I counted 8 and 9 with two DW. One of them left 5 dogs in the car, while walking the 8 dogs.

I called the NPS line and inquired bc it seemed excessive. The dispatch line was helpful and directed me here.

I am surprised and disappointed by a number of the proposed terms in Appendix F:

- I believe the NPS land is for the US citizens to enjoy not for commercial use - therefore, I think the proposal as it stands is too lenient - I believe 6 dogs per DW is too many. 4 max is much more acceptable. - Again, I don't think the NPS land should be allowed for commercial use for DW. My preference would be none. My taxes are going to supporting their business on public land. - this is different than let's say a 10K run - this benefits a large number of individuals - DW are the only ones to benefit from their business while using public land

Times: I'd like to propose the following for Commercial Dog Walkers: Midweek: 9 - 12 and 1 - 5. Weekend: 11 - 12 and 1 - 3.

Costs: I hope the cost of the permit includes wear and tear by their use, cost of dog poop bags, costs for enforcement, and for the disposal of the dog poop they leave behind. Today, as I ate lunch, and NPS service truck came by collecting trash and had to pick up one of those nice blue dog poop bags.

Enforcement / Revocation: Are you serious? this is way too lenient. This isn't major league baseball where every agrees that 3 warnings for steroid use is a joke!

I propose: - 1st warning with fines at a level at which that will provide a deterrent. - 2nd warning 3 month revocation - 3rd warning permanent revocation - revocation can occur at any time depending on the offense.

In addition, Parking: - DWers shouldn't be allowed to park in front space stalls. they should have to park in the back of the parking lot since they are there for commercial use. - convenient and close parking stalls / spots should be saved for personal users of NPS land.

I personally find dog walkers use of public land annoying and a nuisance for the general population. I think they should find other locations to run their business than on community property.

Can I also suggest that you allow for picture attachments to the comment section. I have pictures of the events from today.

Thank you very much for your time. Best Regards Matt Richardson, PT, DPT UCSB - Bio Sci - 1994 Duke - DPT - 2004

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**Correspondence ID:** 562    **Project:** 11759    **Document:** 38106

**Project Name:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS

**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA

**Email:** eaberger@gmail.com  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Received:** Feb,08,2011 21:46:52

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Dear GGNRA, Please keep the beaches open for dogs. As a city dweller it is vital to our community to have public areas that are dog friendly. Most of the dog parks have in my area have proven to be dangerous for many dogs and not a healthy environment for stability. If the wildlife is threatened it is important that we preserve essential

breeding areas with proper fencing and signs. As far as dog waste goes. We should all be responsible for removal regardless of its location. Littering is illegal. (And that should include horse feces as well.) San Francisco and the Bay Area is revered as the country's most dog friendly destination. Lets try to keep it that way so we don't loose our community. Thank You, Elizabeth Berger

---

**Correspondence ID:** 563    **Project:** 11759    **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS

**Name:** -

**Address:** - CA  
USA

**Email:** -

**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Received:** Feb,09,2011 13:03:15

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I am a SF native and over the years have seen the number of dogs increase while the number of children has decreased. I have also seen the number of restrictions placed on dogs and their owners increase. While I do have children and am not a dog owner, it seems unfair to so severely restrict dog owners from public recreation areas. Yes, some dog owners are irresponsible, most are not. The same holds true for parents! When citizens use public multi-use recreation areas they should expect to see other people, families, environments and yes, animals including dogs. A more appropriate plan would call for great fines and enforcement of reasonable restrictions. More visible enforcement of pet waste clean up with large fines would eliminate the #1 problem with irresponsible dog owners. More visible enforcement would also encourage higher compliance with leash laws, increasing safety. The proposed plan with severe restrictions is estimated to cost over \$1million, more visible enforcement of current rules would not cost more than that. Don't deny people recreational experiences with their beloved pets, just make sure they follow the rules.

---

**Correspondence ID:** 564    **Project:** 11759    **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS

**Name:** -

**Address:** - CA  
USA

**Email:** -

**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Received:** Feb,09,2011 13:33:30

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** This would be a very sad change to San Francisco, San Mateo, and Marin Counties. Having these designated areas for dogs to be off leash has been a very safe and fair way to allow dogs and their owners to get the exercise and socialization they need to thrive. By limiting these areas as it is being suggested, it will severely limit the amount of space needed for many large and energetic dogs to burn off energy and get the exercise they need. It would be a travesty to the mentioned counties to slash the areas dogs are allowed off leashes. Please re-consider making these changes, as taking away these open areas will be devastating to both the dogs and the dog owners. This would be a very sad change to San Francisco, San Mateo, and Marin Counties. Having these designated areas for dogs to be off leash has been a very safe and fair way to allow dogs and their owners to get the exercise and socialization they need to thrive. By limiting these areas as it is being suggested, it will severely limit the amount of space needed for many large and energetic dogs to burn off energy and get the exercise they need. It would be a travesty to the mentioned counties to slash the areas dogs are allowed off leashes. Please re-consider making these changes, as taking away these open areas will be devastating to both the dogs and the dog owners.

---

**Correspondence ID:** 565    **Project:** 11759    **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS

**Name:** -

**Address:** - CA  
USA

**Email:** -

**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Received:** Feb,09,2011 16:34:19

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Type:**

**Correspondence:** Although I may disagree, I understand the argument for less off-leash dog areas. Sites like Crissy Field are often overrun with dogs, making a picnic on the beach quite difficult. However, there are plenty of spots in San Francisco for a quiet picnic. There are less spots for dog owners to enjoy playing with their loved ones in wide open spaces.

Regardless, what frightens me about this discussion is that FENCED IN DOG PARKS ARE NOT THE ANSWER.

1. Dogs are territorial, and marking off territory for one to dominate is a really bad idea and will certainly result in a few bad dogs reigning. 2. All dog owners know that the best way to avoid dog conflicts is to "keep moving." In a fenced in dog park, there is no way to keep walking. 3. Dogs run and frolic less when confined. Dogs like to explore, smell different smells, and generally look around. The fenced in dog areas which now exist around the City do not contain the variety of terrain and smells that come with taking a long walk.

Furthermore, it is unclear that those who seek to limit off leash areas understand the importance of off leash walking. Like children, many dogs have a lot of energy to expend. Dog owners prefer that that energy be let out by allowing the dogs to run (like recess for children during school) instead of by acting out and eating furniture (just as children do with too much energy).

So please, while I recognize that there are some spots which attract a lot of dogs, and that further partitioning may be necessary, I urge you to consider the reasons why fenced in dog parks are no solution at all. Instead, delineating further on leash only areas is the best compromise.

---

**Correspondence ID:** 566      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** -  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Feb,09,2011 17:34:31  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** It is absurd to outlaw dogs from the GGNRA for it is not the dogs which are the problem but the owners of the dogs, people. Dog owners who are uneducated about the potential destruction which dogs could cause are at fault. Furthermore, I can guarantee that people, with or without dogs, cause far more harm than any number of pets can do.

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**Correspondence ID:** 567      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** -  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Feb,09,2011 17:43:31  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Please keep off leash dog walking in the GGNRA and do not impose further restrictions.

As a long-time resident and member of the San Francisco community, I strongly support maintaining current and providing additional leash-free areas in San Francisco and its surrounding communities. One of the things that makes San Francisco such a wonderful place to live is that it balances between being a major metropolitan area offering the best of city life, but it also provides access to great neighborhoods, nature and the outdoors. Restricting access to these areas by certain members of the community is discriminatory, intolerant and downright unfriendly.

Off leash dog walking supports responsible dog ownership. Dogs need sufficient exercise and socialization multiple times a day every day. With that said, responsible dog ownership obviously includes keeping dogs under

voice control at all times and picking up dog waste. The few individuals that do not currently exercise responsible dog ownership will likely continue to offend even in light of increased restrictions. In my personal experience, most dog owners DO act responsibly and are likely to police themselves by confronting individuals that do not follow responsible or acceptable behaviors. I would rather see greater deterrents in place to focus on offenders (such as increased fines for not picking up dog waste) rather than imposing restrictions that punish everyone.

Northern San Francisco (Marina, Cow Hollow, Russian Hill) is noticeably an area heavily populated by dogs and but lacking off leash dog parks. One of the few places that has been traditionally used for off leash recreation for many years is Crissy Field. Crissy Field should certainly retain the status quo and continue to fulfill this needed purpose. Fort Mason should also legalize off leash dog walking. So called "environmentalists" have argued the environmental impact that this would have on this park; however, I find these arguments weak as this is clearly a manicured urban park. Fort Mason lends itself well both geographically and functionally as an off leash dog walking option in an area that currently does not provide its surrounding neighborhoods with a dog friendly park. Overall, the community has clearly demonstrated that it needs off leash dog parks and areas of recreation. I have enjoyed spending quality off leash time with my dog at Crissy Field for many years, and have appreciated this right so much that I have been moved to "give back" by volunteering my free time to do landscaping work at Crissy Field. I am sensitive to my environment but do realize that dogs and their people are part of that environment. We need to keep the GGNRA accessible to all, not just special interest groups, and this includes not discriminating against dogs and their owners.

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**Correspondence ID:** 568      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** smokeysf@gmail.com  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Feb,09,2011 19:49:01  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I have been walking my dogs at Fort Funston for over 15 years. I think the current dog situation is wonderful and do not want there to be any changes.

There are many places to access the ocean without dogs, there needs to be places to access with dogs.

Should the GGNRA committee try and restrict dog access I will do whatever I can through protesting and pushing my supervisors to take back control of the areas given to the GGNRA.

Sincerely

Lance Martin

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**Correspondence ID:** 569      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** ISI.SantaCruz@gmail.com  
**Outside Organization:** Lighthouse Field Beach Rescue Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Feb,09,2011 20:01:02  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Off leash dog use is not compatible with general public use of a park. Off-leash dog use is only safe in a fenced-in area where it does not interfere with public use of a park. Dogs are annoying and dangerous and damaging to an environmentally sensitive area.

My family has endured 15 years of off-leash dog walking in our local West Cliff Drive and Lighthouse Field State Beach area. We have experienced many dog owners who feel that their dogs off-leash freedom is more important

than public safety of my children, or anyone other public users of the public area.

Because our area is popular for dog walking, and the lax enforcement by (understaffed) city or State rangers, many dog owners just assume its ok and not bothering anyone to let their dogs run free.

But many people are bothered by dogs, and sometimes dog bites and injuries due to dogs being off leash do occur. After 10 years of our city allowing dogs off-leash here in limited hours, the city proposedg that, "because our experiment worked so well" to make it an all-day off-leash area.

I then attended city government meetings to protest this, having had many bad experiences with dogs and their owners here. A local group of citizens formed, Lighthouse Field Beach Rescue to protest this. For 15 years we have struggled to inform local and state government agencies that off-leash is a dangerous policy in such a public area. OFten we were not heard due to the high number of dog off-leash proponents, organized through "Friends of Lighthouse Field" But we have held our ground in this issue and finally filed, and won, a lawsuit versus the City of Santa Cruz to prevent their turning LHFSB into an all-day off-leash area.

Please do not allow off-leash dog use except in a posted, fenced in area, or you will attract many users who are allowing dangerous and offensive behaviour that drives other humans and wildlife users out of the park.

Thank you for your consideration

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**Correspondence ID:** 570      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** -  
**Outside Organization:** Sierra Club Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Feb,09,2011 23:26:12  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Please institute the strictest controls on dogs. Dogs are deleterious to wildlife and plant life.

---

**Correspondence ID:** 571      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** -  
**Outside Organization:** dog companion/ enjoyer if Crissy Field Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Feb,10,2011 03:22:20  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** "only 1% of GGNRA is open to people with dogs as it is"

Greetings, please leave the dog areas the way they are now. & have the horse owner/riders please pick up their animal waste, as the dog owners do now, ew.

I was part of the original bunch of dog owners that dealt w/ you folks when the Presidio/Crissy Field 1st became public, & figured out how to make all parties happy & using the beach to it's fullest extent.

We dog folks are out there EVERYDay, rain, fog, wind, or Sun. & the parents w/kids are mostly only out on warm sunny days. Who has a better feel for whats happening out there?

again, please, lets leave well enough alone, & the snowy plovers are going to get on the best they can, w/ or w/o our help. Thanks, Lenny

---

**Correspondence ID:** 572      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -

**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:**  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Feb,10,2011 10:00:06  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** No Change.

---

**Correspondence ID:** 573      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA

**Email:**  
**Outside Organization:** Citizen & Property Tax Payer Unaffiliated Individual

**Received:** Feb,10,2011 10:13:45  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** We (myself & 2 dogs) are respectful and frequent users of Crissy Fields, Fort Funston and Marin Headlands. The exercise benefits health & social well beings. We have connected with other recreational users, both human and dog, and have developed community relationships.

I reviewed the EIS draft and preferred plan. The following statements from your report are not accurate:

Appendix K: Past Present & Future: "Failed Snowy Plover clutches failed to high mercury level" Mercury from the ocean? From humans? What is the corolation of dogs being off leash?

K-1 "Crissy Fields restoration involved 18 acres of tidal marsh. This increased dog walking" Oddly omitted the human usage of picnics and child building sandcastles, wading and swimming in the estuary.

Page 1569 Cost Impact of \$1.5 million. Are these current costs or projected? Has the current roles and practices been reviewed? Who would pay for the increases?

Appendix G Law Enforcement Data: Totals for 2007 was 1535 incidents. Totals for was 2008 889 icidents. Obvious heavy numbers for "off leash" and minor numbers or no incidents of enviromental protection. Incidents decreased by almost 50% in 2008. How and why did these numbers decrease? Most importantly what is the ratio of these incidents to the total usage? Is it less than 1 percent?

I oppose and request no changes be made with current guidelines.

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**Correspondence ID:** 574      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA

**Email:** -  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Received:** Feb,10,2011 11:54:42  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** This would be a very sad change to San Francisco, San Mateo, and Marin Counties. Having these designated areas for dogs to be off leash has been a very safe and fair way to allow dogs and their owners to get the exercise and socialization they need to thrive. By limiting these areas as it is being suggested, it will severely limit the amount of space needed for many large and energetic dogs to burn off energy and get the exercise they need. It would be a travesty to the mentioned counties to slash the areas dogs are allowed off leashes. Please re-consider making these changes, as taking away these open areas will be devastating to both the dogs and the dog owners. This would be a very sad change to San Francisco, San Mateo, and Marin Counties. Having these designated areas for dogs to be off leash has been a very safe and fair way to allow dogs and their owners to get the exercise and socialization they

need to thrive. By limiting these areas as it is being suggested, it will severely limit the amount of space needed for many large and energetic dogs to burn off energy and get the exercise they need. It would be a travesty to the mentioned counties to slash the areas dogs are allowed off leashes. Please re-consider making these changes, as taking away these open areas will be devastating to both the dogs and the dog owners.

---

**Correspondence ID:** 575      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106

**Project Name:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS

**Address:** -  
- CA  
USA

**Email:** -  
**Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Received:** Feb,10,2011 14:39:58

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I am writing to comment on the policy towards dogs in the GGNRA. The policy overview in the document strikes me as correct; you are working to balance many competing interests. I write in order to represent one of those interests.

I have never liked dogs. I didn't grow up with dogs in our family. I was bitten in a scary incident as a child that left me very wary of animals. When I see a dog, I feel myself get tense. My discomfort with dogs was validated earlier this year when I went for a walk in my Portola Valley neighborhood on a public path by a neighbor's house, and their dog - off leash and with no owner in sight - came barreling down the driveway onto the public path and proceeded to bite me in the ankle. The bite drew blood, and it is clear that I will have a scar .... and, as you can imagine, I was terrified!

One of my great passions is hiking. To me, experiencing our fabulous bay area on foot is one of the great privileges of living here. I've been a board member of POST for several years (and a longtime donor), where I volunteer my time in order to continue to protect more land for future generations. I marvel at the magnificent job our public agencies, with the support of private philanthropy, have done in making this landscape available to all of us. By far, my favorite weekend activity is to hit the trails.

Recently, my husband and I went to McNee Ranch State Park, where we went to climb to Montara Mountain. I know this is a state park, and not GGNRA, but the same situation applies. Over the course of a near three hour hike, we saw many other hikers, the vast majority with dogs. Only one of these dog owners had their dog on a leash. Every other dog owner was walking with the dog off leash. As I walked along, the dogs often would run up to me to explore, and I would reflexively cower. Owners would reassure me - "don't worry; he wouldn't hurt anyone!" and I had to point out that I had just been bitten by a dog, making me very nervous around dogs, and that just because they are confident in the dog doesn't mean that I was. And, by the way, there is a leash law. Honestly, these owners just didn't care that their dogs made me visibly uncomfortable.

I felt that my experience of the mountain had been ruined. Indeed, I felt like I was in a video game, watching around every corner to see when next I would find myself confronted by a dog off leash, as if being attacked by asteroids.

To be honest, my preference would be to ban dogs altogether from our parks. However, I do understand how important dogs are to many people, and the great pleasure they take in having their dog accompany them on the trails. To me, the requirement that a dog is on leash is a reasonable compromise between dog owners and dog dislikers. While I don't love a dog on leash when I encounter him, at least I do not feel threatened. If we must have a place where dogs go off leash, let's have a specific place, well sign-posted, such that people like me can simply avoid it.

If you establish rules that open our parks to off-leash dogs, I strongly believe that you have tipped the balance too far towards one interest group. Dog owners simply are not good at understanding the possible threat of their dogs, or the impact on other people. I deserve to hike these hills without anxiety and without fearing confrontation with defensive dog owners. It simply isn't fair that dog owners get more say on this subject.

Moreover, I'd love for you to figure out some way to police the dog rules. I know budgets are tight, but rangers issuing citations strikes me as a revenue opportunity! Let's have a great big fee for getting caught with an off-leash dog. If you send a ranger to Montara mountain some weekend, you will easily pay for his or her time. At the very

least, I feel there should be better signs at trail heads saying that dogs are required to be on leash (and, by the way, that owners must carry out dog waste, which is a separate, but related, matter).

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**Correspondence ID:** 576      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS

**Name:** -

**Address:** - CA  
USA

**Email:** -

**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Received:** Feb,10,2011 16:54:33

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** As a 25 year resident of southern marin county and a dog owner for as many years, I believe it is unacceptable that the GGNRA would consider prohibiting dogs and/or off-leash dogs from the few remaining trails in this area. We as residents are willing to take full responsibility for keeping our dogs under voice command and carry a leash at all times while traveling on these trails and roads or enjoying the beaches. Southern marin is a unique area in that we have the GGNRA in our backyard and within walking distance from our homes. As a woman and daily hiker it is a matter of safety when hiking alone that my dog is with me. Dogs keep would be attackers away, whether animal or human.

Dogs are allowed on less than 1% of park trails and roads and beaches in and around the GGNRA. Consider increasing the cost of a violation ticket from \$200.00 to \$1,000.00.

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**Correspondence ID:** 577      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS

**Name:** -

**Address:** - CA  
USA

**Email:** -

**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Received:** Feb,10,2011 16:57:41

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Dear GGNRA:

I commend you for taking the bold step in making these proposals. I am tired of dog poop and dog owners who feel they have priority over people without dogs. It's difficult to enjoy these beautiful open spaces when they are overrun with dogs. There needs to be a balance and your proposals provide that. Thank you.

Lilian Lynch

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**Correspondence ID:** 578      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS

**Name:** -

**Address:** - CA  
USA

**Email:** allaboutpaws@sbcglobal.net

**Outside Organization:** San Francisco Professional Dog Walkers Association Unaffiliated Individual

**Received:** Feb,10,2011 19:53:34

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I am an African American Lesbian who uses off-leash dog areas in the GGNRA daily. I have been walking my dog off-leash at Crissy Feild for 6 years. I am a local resident in Sausalito, Ca. Dogs that are not adequately exercised can develop behavior problems such as barking, destroying property in the home, etc. Behavior problems are one of the primary reasons that people surrender dogs at shelters. San Francisco has a "No Kill" goal that no potentially adoptable animal in a city shelter (SF Animal Care and Control, SF/SPCA, Pets Unlimited). Representatives of the

SF/SPCA have said that the Preferred Alternative will make it harder for the SF/SPCA to perform their mission to reduce surrenders to city shelters and make San Francisco a truly No Kill city. Off-leash play decreases the likelihood of dog aggression in dogs. In comments to the SF Animal Control and Welfare Commission on 2/8/07, Jean Donaldson, then head of the Dog Training Program at the SF/SPCA and a nationally recognized author on dog behavior said: "There is not only no evidence that allowing dogs off-leash for play opportunities increases the incidence of aggression, to a person, every reputable expert in the field of dog behavior in the United States is of the opinion that it is likely that off-leash access decreases the likelihood of aggression." She also said: "Interestingly, it could very well be that the safest dogs are those that attend off-leash dog parks." And she said: "There is no research demonstrating that dog parks or off-leash play contributes to any kind of aggression, including dog-dog aggression." The Preferred Alternative condemns every dog owners for the actions of a very few irresponsible owners. According to the GGNRA's own statistics, 94% of dogs do not chase birds (and most of those who did chased seagulls). Yet, all people with dogs will be excluded from a majority of Ocean Beach to "protect" birds. Focus enforcement on people who do not keep their dog from chasing birds rather than on excluding all people with dogs. The Preferred Alternative severely restricts recreational access for people with dogs, a fundamental violation of the reason the GGNRA was created. In the legislation that created it, the reason for the creation of the GGNRA is listed as "the maintenance of needed recreational open space." Off-leash dog walking is among the recreational activities listed as traditionally occurring in the land that was to become the GGNRA. There is no off-leash access in San Mateo County in the Preferred Alternative and that must be changed. The Compliance-Based Management Strategy must go. This poison pill that will allow the GGNRA to change the status of off-leash areas to on-leash or no dogs without additional public comment if there is not 100% compliance with the new restrictions will not work. The change would be permanent. A management plan should not come with a built-in nuclear option, which is what this is. It allows a relatively few bad players to undermine and destroy a traditional recreational use of the area. No number of responsible dog owners will stop what will become the inexorable removal of all off-leash access in the GGNRA if this strategy remains part of the plan. Tens or hundreds of thousands of hours of incident-free dog walking will not matter. There should be (and are) penalties for bad actors and these should be enforced. But the vast majority of people who do not act badly should not be penalized for the bad actions of a few. This strategy is unfair because off-leash status can be changed in only one direction (toward more restriction). It circumvents the legal requirement that management changes that are either significant or controversial must have a public process before they can be made. Critical information about how compliance will be determined ? by volunteers biased against dogs? by surveillance cameras? ? is not included in the DEIS.

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**Correspondence ID:** 579      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:**  
**Outside Organization:** Fellow Feathers Hang Gliding club Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Feb,10,2011 19:53:51  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I support the dog management plan and very much like permitting for more than three dogs

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**Correspondence ID:** 580      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** -  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Feb,10,2011 22:50:35  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I was born in San Francisco and have been visiting Fort Funston with my dogs for 15 years. I cherish the time that I spend with my dogs there. There is no place on earth comparable to Fort Funston. At least 95% of the people walking the trails and on the beach have dogs and I have never had an incident with any of them.

On the few occasions that I have tried to exercise my dogs in enclosed dog parks they have been harassed and attacked by other dogs. Many dogs can be aggressive on leash and making all the foot paths leash only can only lead more problems.

Please do not take away the best part of my city.

The Preferred Alternative severely restricts recreational access for people with dogs, a fundamental violation of the reason the GGNRA was created.

Save Fort Funston!

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**Correspondence ID:** 581      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** -  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Feb,11,2011 08:37:52  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Please keep the parks free for dogs. Thank you

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**Correspondence ID:** 582      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** gailmorey@mac.com  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Feb,11,2011 09:34:52  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Please do not further reduce the available area that dog owners have to let their dogs run and play off leash. Dog owners are finding it increasingly difficult to find open spaces where their pets can exercise. This activity is just as rewarding for the owner as for the animal. Please continue to allow us to take our pets to these areas that we enjoy so much.

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**Correspondence ID:** 583      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** Riegelmayern@hotmail.com  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Feb,11,2011 12:54:35  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** The dog regulations should be consistent with congressional law set forth in 36 CFR 2.15 (a)(2). Leashes must be used. A Superintendent can only close areas to pets under 36 CFR 2.15 (a)(1), not allow off leash areas. Please be consistent with the rest of the National Park areas.

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**Correspondence ID:** 584      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** -  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Feb,11,2011 15:25:01  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am a 36 year old resident of the Marina District for over 10 years. I have been utilized some of the designated areas to walk and play with my dog for over two years. We especially enjoy using the green space at Bay and Cervantes. There is plenty of room to roam and to be able to share with others and not bother those playing

football/soccer or just relaxing.

I believe the proposed changes to off-leash laws represented in your document have several issues. Primarily, the Preferred Alternative area is way to limited. The restricted area would be insufficient for the dogs/owners. This would likely lead to conflicts as there would not be sufficient space. Restricting space would cause more issues than the unsubstantiated risks the document cites. I also believe this is a one-sided view - there is no provision for enlarging the off-leash areas and instead focuses on restrictions. There is limited space currently for dogs to play and the thought should be how to secure what is currently available and where else dogs should be allowed. I hope you reconsider these plans and think of the benefit to dogs and owners of being able to have sufficient areas is important.

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**Correspondence ID:** 585      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - WA  
USA  
**Email:** -  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Feb,11,2011 18:06:24  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this plan.

I support Alternative D, with the exception that I would allow commercial dog walking, with permit etc as spelled out in the preferred alternative. I also support this alternative because it is the environmentally preferred alternative.

I could support Alternative B, which seems to place a lot of emphasis on leashed dogs, and I feel like this is a reasonable solution IF and only IF the vast majority of your law enforcement staff (the people on the ground) felt confident that it was feasible for law enforcement to actually get dog owners to comply. I would like to know what level of involvement field-based law enforcement had in developing the alternatives and how realistic they believe the preferred alternative to be. In every place I have ever walked where there is a "leash law" it seems that the majority of dog owners are ignoring it. I fully support the concept of a compliance-based management strategy, wherein lack of compliance means a permanent change to a more restrictive management classification. Again, if I thought this was enforceable, I would support it. The enforcement records indicate that most non-compliance with dog-owners resulted in a warning rather than a citation. Warnings don't produce the same results that citations do, so I would hope that any enforcement strategy would allow a window of adjustment wherein warnings are issued (maybe a year), but then go to an all-citation based policy. Otherwise dog owners will not comply, and the experiences of other visitors and the resources will continue to be ruined.

Also, it is the very rare dog who is truly under "voice control", especially when animals or birds are involved (not the fault of the dogs--it is their nature), so I support the least amount of ROLAs possible, and support locating ROLAs only in areas with minimal or no wildlife. Non-dog walkers will avoid these areas, so they should not be in the middle of a main thoroughfare.

Thanks again for all the hard work and effort that has gone into this plan, and for allowing all Americans the opportunity to comment on the management of our national treasures. I do not live in San Francisco but I absolutely love visiting the area and have been to many of the beaches, parks, and walks listed in the plan. I also highly value the resources and the recreation that GGNRA protects. I am sure you will receive lots of comments from local dog owners, but I just want you to know that others have a stake, too.

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**Correspondence ID:** 586      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** cindylwu@gmail.com  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Feb,11,2011 18:36:43

**Correspondence** Web Form

**Type:**

**Correspondence:** I am writing to express my concerns with the dog management plan being proposal for Golden Gate National Recreation Area. I have been a resident of San Francisco for 8 years, the most recent year and a half as a responsible dog owner. My issues with the dog management plan:

- There are many conscientious pet owners in SF that will be severely punished by this plan, why wouldn't you instead institute a plan that addresses those owners who are not responsible (i.e. don't control their aggressive dogs, don't clean up after them, etc.)

- I work full-time during the week and my dog enjoys a long dog walk with a group of 8-10 other dogs led by a passionate dog walker whose business would be jeopardized by the plan due to restrictions on the number of dogs he can have out with him as well as having a limited area to play (they currently go to Fort Funston every day to play).

If my dog is well behaved and I consistently pick up after him, I do not understand why our access to public parks should be so limited as proposed in the dog management plan.

---

**Correspondence ID:** 587      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS

**Name:** -

**Address:** - CA  
USA

**Email:** mel@melbarti.com

**Outside** Unaffiliated Individual

**Organization:**

**Received:** Feb,12,2011 12:03:48

**Correspondence** Web Form

**Type:**

**Correspondence:** I strongly oppose the proposed plan. The recommended action would severely restrict the ability of responsible dog owners (and their pets) to use and enjoy what are already very limited recreation areas. Yet, there doesn't seem to be any factual support for why the recommended option was chosen beyond anecdotal reasoning.

If it's for employee safety, then how many employees have been injured? If it's for environmental reasons, then explain how dogs are the culprit, but surfers, tour buses full of tourists, horse riders, bikers and hikers aren't. If it's to reduce conflicts, then how many and how severe have those conflicts been? (I've been taking my dog to all of these places for a greater part of the last ten years and have rarely, if ever seen any major conflict.)

If, as you say, the number of dog owners has grown dramatically since the 90s, then your proposal will limit the ability of a huge proportion of the regular users of these areas, for very poorly supported reasons. If a small percentage of dogs are causing issues, then the answer is to cite the owners of those specific animals. Not to punish the thousands of responsible owners who frequent these areas.

This is a pet-owner-hostile dictate that seeks to act first and ask questions too late. I intend to do whatever I can to prevent this proposal from passing.

Melanie Barti

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**Correspondence ID:** 588      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS

**Name:** -

**Address:** - CA  
USA

**Email:** comments.outgoing@third-era.net

**Outside** Unaffiliated Individual

**Organization:**

**Received:** Feb,12,2011 17:48:30

**Correspondence** Web Form

**Type:**

**Correspondence:** I strongly urge you to restrict access by dogs as much as possible in sensitive wildlife areas. I run at Ocean Beach

three mornings a week, and though the area is clearly marked as being for dogs on leash only, it has been my observation that over half of the dogs I see are not leashed, or at least the end of the leash is not being held by anyone. They run uncontrolled and have several times interrupted my run and caused me alarm. Their owners sometimes attempt to recall them, usually ignored by the dogs.

I believe the presence of so many dogs has been the cause of there being no birds visible on the beach other than sandpipers.

Thank you for your attention to these remarks.

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**Correspondence ID:** 589      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** gayle.ing@att.net  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Feb,12,2011 19:59:36  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** As a dog owner in San Francisco, I am a regular and responsible user of the beaches at Fort Funston and Crissy Field.

Living in San Francisco is truly a wonderful city-living experience. An experience that I have been fortunate to have had for 33 years.

However, as a resident with a canine companion, there are so few places where it is acceptable for a dog to be off-leash. The City's dog parks attempt to meet this need, but falls short with the sheer number of dogs at each park.

Discovering the beaches at Crissy Field and Fort Funston was pure nirvana. Walking at the beach with my dog, rain or shine, is such a joy. To see her happy and free, bounding in and out of the water, lifts my spirits and makes me smile, no matter what else is going on in my life. We particularly relish the solace at the far southern area of beach at Fort Funston.

I don't know how we would replace this time together should these areas change to prohibit dogs off-leash. Getting in a car to cross a bridge, adding to pollution and traffic back-ups, not to mention stressful driving, would not be a great choice.

Please don't change the off-leash rules at Fort Funston and Crissy Field.

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**Correspondence ID:** 590      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** -  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Feb,13,2011 13:21:59  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I have just come back from my weekly walk at Fort Funston with the my 3 dogs. Given the numbers of people out there with their dogs I cannot believe there is any justification for limiting access. It is obvious that we need more room not less.

I am a 30+ year resident of San Francisco. I own a home. I pay my taxes. I work in San Francisco, my employer pays taxes. I register my dogs -their licenses go to support facilities in SF. Walking my dogs is my recreation. It is

in your charter to provide recreation for the people in the Bay Area.

I can understand with growing populations that you need to revisit your usage policies. But creating a 2400 page document for a policy that affects only 1% of the land you oversee seems misguided. I would think that being in the Bay Area you would have the same core values that those of us that live here have. We are a community, we want to meet the needs of each other, we care and we love our animals that now out number the children.

Alternative plans that I would like to see explore turn Fort Funston into a world-class dog-friendly park. Don't limit the space, instead make it a showcase. A park that others in the country would turn to for guidance in "dog management". Bring in other organizations to help.

- Tap into the California Academy of Sciences and Recology to create a dog poop to methane energy generator. - Tap into corporate dollars to help offset the costs of maintaining the park. The "pet economy" is sized at 41 BILLION dollars. Let sponsors contribute. Subaru, Toyota gets it - our park service needs a new model. And if it's not allowed in your charter, then maybe it's time to reevaluate or turn the land over to someone else.

For the spaces outside of Funston you should consider designated dog times. I've stopped going to Chrissy Field unless its before 8am. Just too many people. The "development" made it a destination area for families and less desirable for those of us seeking solace, time with nature and our dogs.

The "compliance" rule in the charter that says all designated areas can be revoked if you feel like not enough people comply (note the word "feel) does not meet the needs of the greater public and needs to be removed. You cannot take away my car if others speed down my street. It's the same line of thinking.

I truly hope a new alternative is drafted. We have an opportunity to become a model to the rest of the country vs creating division in our community and distrust of our Park services.

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|                              |                                |                 |       |                  |       |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------|-------|------------------|-------|
| <b>Correspondence ID:</b>    | 591                            | <b>Project:</b> | 11759 | <b>Document:</b> | 38106 |
| <b>Project:</b>              | Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS |                 |       |                  |       |
| <b>Name:</b>                 | -                              |                 |       |                  |       |
| <b>Address:</b>              | - CA<br>USA                    |                 |       |                  |       |
| <b>Email:</b>                | stevejalves@yahoo.com          |                 |       |                  |       |
| <b>Outside Organization:</b> | Unaffiliated Individual        |                 |       |                  |       |
| <b>Received:</b>             | Feb,13,2011 16:40:33           |                 |       |                  |       |
| <b>Correspondence Type:</b>  | Web Form                       |                 |       |                  |       |
| <b>Correspondence:</b>       | GGNRA,                         |                 |       |                  |       |

As resident of Fairway Park (neighborhood adjacent to Mori Point), Sierra Club member for more than 20 years, former Youth Conservation Core member, concerned citizen and responsible dog owner, I am compelled to comment on the ill-conceived preferred dog policy for Mori Point as outlined on your website.

As many of my neighbors, part of my decision on choosing to live in Fairway Park was based on the proximity to open space, now GGNRA, Mori Point. I have walked my dog here on leash for 9 years, collected trash and reported illegal activity on this land to authorities on several occasions. These incidents have included off road vehicles and a dog attack by an uncontrolled, off leash dog. As encouraged by multiple GGNRA signs, I consider myself a steward of this land and most of my neighbors act in the same way. Fairway Park, by my most recent estimate, includes more than 40 dog owners many of whom frequently use Mori Point to walk their dogs. Unfortunately, I now feel my use of this space is threatened by a preferred policy which restricts on leash dogs to 2 trails passing through the space only. This policy is very confusing based on the environmental reviews on your website which state little to no impact on habitat by leashed dogs. Further confusing this preferred policy is the fact that trails which allow dogs on leash are all within 100-200 feet of trails which prohibit dogs even though they share the same watersheds and natural features.

Mori Point is bordered by the old quarry, Fairway Park neighborhood, Sharp Park Golf Course and beach promenade making it a multi-use recreational area, not a wilderness area. Restricting leashed dogs within Mori Point will likely not be well-accepted, making the regulation a difficult one to enforce. The enforcement plan of going to even more restrictive policy based on compliance rate of less than 75% is backward. If a regulation is not

acceptable to a large percentage of people using the space, it is the regulation, not the people who are misguided. If dog policy is seen as inappropriate by many users, the land and habitat could be further damaged by people using the space during off hours.

I trust the GGNRA will take the above into thoughtful consideration when developing dog policy. I look forward to many more years of using this space with my dog and continuing to work with GGNRA to make this a safe place for people and animals while continuing to protect the habitat as all of these are possible.

Sincerely, Steve Alves

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**Correspondence ID:** 592      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** -  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Feb,13,2011 16:43:27  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** We live close enough to drive over to the city on weekends. It's nice to bring the dogs and let them run on the beach. I especially feel sorry for dogs that live in the city, they need the beach to have space to run and play since they don't have a lot of areas like this at home (probably). Also, San Diego has a nice dog beach that is popular and used by many. I think everyone should be responsible pet owners and pick up after their dogs. There's miles and miles of beach for people to use, let the dogs have this one:)

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**Correspondence ID:** 593      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** -  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Feb,13,2011 18:09:26  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing about the proposal to ban dogs and limit off leash activity at the Golden Gate National Recreation Area. The proposal will deny thousands of people in the Bay Area the ability to use these parks for recreation if this proposal passes. My family heads to Fort Funston at least once a week to enjoy the beach and trails with our dog. The parking lot at Fort Funston is jam packed on the weekends, where will these people go if they are turned away from using the park? Where does Frank Dean of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area expect people in the SF Bay Area to go instead? We still will need to exercise and socialize our dogs, and these off leash areas at the GGNRA have provided us a place to do just that. There just aren't enough spaces in the Bay Area that are open to people with dogs and taking away this vital and greatly appreciated recreation area is gong to contribute to new problems. Without a valid environmental impact report indicating that the current usage is having a negative impact on the GGNRA, there's no reason this proposal should be accepted. The proposal fails to consider how it will impact City parks and playground if people are forced off GGNRA land. It's just makes no sense to change the policy now, with more and more people living in the Bay Area and coming to the GGNRA with their dogs. Walking them on leashes around City streets is fine, but they need to run free with other dogs, and more importantly their OWNERS need spaces where they can go and enjoy their leisure time and bring the family. Please can you help stop the Golden Gate National Recreation Area from implementing it's plan to deny families like our access to the parks in the Bay Area? Thank you.

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**Correspondence ID:** 594      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** -  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Received:** Feb,13,2011 20:49:26  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Please keep the rules as they are - our city dogs need a place to run and play

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**Correspondence ID:** 595      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS

**Name:** -

**Address:** - CA  
USA

**Email:** -

**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Received:** Feb,13,2011 21:29:04

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Dear Frank Dean, I am a healthy and responsible 75-year-old single woman with two well-behaved dogs. I live in Mill Valley. My principal source of exercise is walking my dogs off leash twice a day. I have never been to the dog park, it doesn't suit the needs of my dogs or myself for exercise. The DEIS provides me with more questions than answers. 7 Where's the science? The DEIS feels like a draconian measure imposed from On High.

7 What documentation do you have that dogs off leash degrade the environment? If you do have documentation, what are your numbers -- # of problem dogs vs. non-problem dogs? And what mitigation systems have you considered?

7 Have you considered addressing your enforcement resources at the problem situations rather than the needs of the majority of responsible dog owners?

7 Is this a political thing? Why else would you have come up with such a restrictive and undemocratic option (it would seem that responsible dog owners are in the majority on this issue).

7 On what observed basis do you propose these restrictions on the use of public open space?

The East Bay Park system seems to have a workable off-leash plan in place that has worked for many years. Colorado gives special licenses to well-behaved dogs. Why is Marin so hostile to dogs? I hope we can find a workable solution. Margaret Harding 443 LaVerne Ave. Mill Valley Mfh10@comcast.net

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**Correspondence ID:** 596      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS

**Name:** -

**Address:** - CA  
USA

**Email:** -

**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Received:** Feb,13,2011 21:53:46

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** It is important to adhere to option A. Dogs are an integral part of life in San Francisco. Its part of what makes San Francisco and the Bay Area so special. People need their dogs and they need an expanse of natural space to enjoy and exercise their dogs. We can't afford to have children here - is there any wonder so many people have dogs. It is unthinkable that dogs would have to be on a leash as Chrissy Field. I walk there everyday and never witness any problems. If an owner doesn't clean up their dog's waste there are five people who will point it out to the owner. Professional dog walkers are another story. They have too many dogs at one time to take care of and they go into the airstrip where there are few people. In a sense they are running a concession on public land. There are other alternatives - control them! Don't punish all the people trying to get a little enjoyment in life because of them. As for individuals supervising their own animal, I don't see how its any different than bringing your child with you. I have been a non dog owner for most of my life. I believe that even non-dog owners benefit from the interaction of people and animals at Chrissy Field and other areas. Having a natural place to freely interact with animals is critical to the quality of life that is so important to living in the Bay Area. Do not allow any other option than A to be in force.

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**Correspondence ID:** 597      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS

**Name:** -

**Address:** - CA  
USA

**Email:** ruppert@tetrahedra.com

**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Received:** Feb,13,2011 23:22:41

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:**

I consider myself a reasonable-minded dog owner, parent, and long-time citizen of San Francisco.

I have taken my dog, on- and off-leash, all around the city, including Fort Funston, Chrissy Field, and numerous dog parks. I have also spend time with my kids and family and friends all over the city.

My honest opinion is that many of these areas have been overrun by dogs, and are quite gross and unpleasant places--for anybody but a dog. My dog, and other dogs, deserve good outdoor spaces, and I love to see her run and enjoy the outdoors. But in Fort Funston, one of the most beautiful spots in San Francisco, it is impossible to avoid dogs. And dog poop. Same thing in many parts of Chrissy Field. Overwhelmed by dogs. It is irrelevant that most of the dogs and dog owners are well-behaved. These public spaces, many of them National Parks, have become dog playgrounds.

I believe that some limited, fenced portions of GGNRA should remain accessible to off-leash dogs. That is fair, appropriate, and pragmatic. Dogs need space. People need space. And wildlife needs space.

Furthermore, I believe I speak on behalf of the great majority of San Francisco residents, as well as tourists and other visitors. Most have neither the time nor the focused passions held by dog owners and dog professionals regarding this issue.

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**Correspondence ID:** 598      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS

**Name:** -

**Address:** - CA  
USA

**Email:** -

**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Received:** Feb,14,2011 10:25:01

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:**

My dog and I are frequent users of Crissy Field and Fort Funston. Although I am aware of some of the problems that have arisen due to off-leash dogs in these areas, I have personally never experienced them. The main reason, I believe, is that I go to these sites around sunrise, long before they are crowded and before professional dogwalkers arrive. My experience is that each place has a very regular and dedicated group of early arriverers. Because of the early hour and the low density of users, problems are extremely rare.

I urge those making this decision to consider the following:

1. Clearly posted guidelines help park users and enforcement personnel. When I first got a dog and began going to these parks, I found it very confusing that there were no posted guidelines for dogs and owners.

2. The patterns of use at these parks vary during the day. Please allow continued use of existing off-leash areas at these parks during low use hours, e.g. from opening until 8:30 am and for an hour or two before closing time. The more stringent regulations should apply during higher-intensity use since there is much higher potential for conflict.

3. Make and enforce guidelines for the number of dogs allowed per walker. It is reasonable that "professional" dog walkers, who are, after all, making commercial use of the parks for their own profit, should be held to a strict

standard, perhaps including some kind of registration/licensing requirement, with the provision that violations could result in losing their license.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Jan Elizabeth

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**Correspondence ID:** 599    **Project:** 11759    **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:**  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Feb,14,2011 10:41:02  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I would like to maximize the opportunity for walking dogs under voice control. The plan is too strict.

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**Correspondence ID:** 600    **Project:** 11759    **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** -  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Feb,14,2011 12:05:12  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** This email is in support of OFF LEASH recreation for dogs (and their owners) in the Golden Gate National RECREATION Area. Until recently, the areas outlined for off-leash recreation in the GGNRA included all or part of: Ocean Beach Fort Funston Burton Beach Baker Beach Crissy Field and Beach West Pacific Avenue Rodeo Beach Oakwood Valley Muir Beach. These recreation areas are extremely important to the people of the San Francisco Bay Area as well as the visitors to the San Francisco Bay Area. Adequate space to recreate one's self (as well as our pets, companions, and/or service animals) is crucial to our, the People's, right and need to the pursuit of happiness. Currently, there exist no reasons (pertaining to safety, ecology, or otherwise) which should merit revision to the long standing policies concerning dogs, leashes, their owners, and the Golden Gate National RECREATION Area. Please give my views and needs, as well as the views of a great many San Franciscans and dog owners the world over, the respect our views and needs deserve. To do otherwise is to transcend our rights to enjoy our public lands. Most Sincerely, Christopher D. Raleigh

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**Correspondence ID:** 601    **Project:** 11759    **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** mshawsf@gmail.com  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Feb,14,2011 12:07:21  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** The proposed GGNRA dog leash regulation is far too restrictive. As a native of San Francisco and a dog owner I am saddened by the lack of vision this proposal brings to the table. 1 in 3 San Franciscans owns a dog and the impact upon our city would be great if off leash recreation were limited as proposed. Imagine all of the dogs overwhelming the city parks!! We need the national recreation areas and our dogs need the space to run and play. Please reconsider your proposal - police the bad seeds but allow the overwhelming majority of good dogs and good dog owners to enjoy OUR parks.

Sincerely, Mike Shaw

**Correspondence ID:** 602      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS

**Name:** -

**Address:** - CA  
USA

**Email:** knowltons4@att.net

**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Received:** Feb,14,2011 12:13:15

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I have spent over 30 years enjoying the GGNRA - a priceless resource for the Bay Area. I have participated as a runner, hiker, biker and dog owner.

I believe the current rules adequately address the needs of all participants. The vast majority of GGNRA users are respectful of everyone's right to enjoy this wonderful resource.

The new rules for dog owners are not necessary - most dog owners are very conscientious of others rights not to be impacted by their pets.

There is always a small group from every user group that doesn't follow the rules but that is not a reason to punish the majority with new overly restrictive rules for dog owners.

Thanks you, Tim.

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**Correspondence ID:** 603      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS

**Name:** -

**Address:** - CA  
USA

**Email:** scodubru@yahoo.com

**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Received:** Feb,14,2011 12:43:04

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Dear Sir or Madam,

I have been a long time resident of the city of San Francisco for the past 24 years and have to say that the proposed legislation to limit the current off leash dog policy for the GGNRA is very disturbing.

I have frequented many of the Park's dog management areas of concern over my lengthy residence in San Francisco and have never experienced or encountered any troubling issues between dogs, dog owners and the multitude of people enjoying the GGNRA park lands. I have biked, hiked, jogged and walked extensively throughout the GGNRA parks in the City and feel the current off leash dog policy is essential to maintaining the much needed open space areas for all San Francisco residents and their pets.

I feel that the push to limit the off leash dog walking areas in the GGNRA listed locations is an attempt by a few special interest groups looking to secure certain park lands for their individualized/ special interest use only. An example of one of these groups would be the "hand gliders" using the Fort Funston area for their sport specific activities.

I realize that certain dog owners are negligent in their control and command over their dogs and should be held accountable for any negative actions caused by their irresponsibility. To reduce the current off leash dog walking area by nearly 75% for all of the dog owners who are responsible and looking to enjoy the GGNRA parks to their fullest extent is not a justifiable response to the problems that exist with the current off leash dog walking policy.

The amount of money proposed to enforce the new policy is simply ridiculous given the cash constraints plaguing most government agencies. San Francisco has always been a friend to its citizens who own dogs by providing

ample areas within its borders for dogs and their owners to enjoy and experience some degree of off leash freedom. I strongly encourage any member of the GGNRA board attempting to rule on this decision to go to Fort Funston on a pleasant San Francisco weekend to see for themselves how many people are enjoying the park both with and without their dogs.

Please keep the current off leash dog walking areas available for dogs and their owners to enjoy the GGNRA. Please let San Francisco stand for a place that values its diverse population and will continue to be one of the few dog friendly major cities in the United States that will continue to preserve the precious few areas that remain designated for the use of all of their residents (dogs included).

Thank you for your time.

Kind regards,

Scott Bruner 738 Joost Avenue San Francisco, CA 94127

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**Correspondence ID:** 604    **Project:** 11759    **Document:** 38106  
**Project Name:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Address:** -  
- CA  
USA  
**Email:** lagiraffe@aol.com  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Feb,14,2011 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** As a home owner in San Francisco, we have always paid our taxes. As with many dog owners in SF, we have a very small yard and depend on public spaces for exercising our dog. Inasmuch as I understand that SF is a city with about one dog for every 4 citizens, I believe that dog owners and dog walkers have proven to be very sensitive and respectful of public spaces. I hardly ever come across abandoned dog poop or viewed altercations between dogs. We pay taxes, we clean up after our dogs, we restrain our dogs on sidewalks, etc. WE HAVE WELL BEHAVED DOGS THAT ARE COMPENSATED BY THE OCCASIONAL RUN AT THE BEACH, THE SWIM TO GO FETCH THE BALL. PLEASE DON'T TAKE THAT AWAY FROM OUR DOGS. They are our best friends, they are the only ones we know who offer us unconditional love. They are a very important part of our lives. They deserve to not only be represented but also deserve to be compensated for their good behavior as good citizen. They do not pay taxes but they do make your dog owning taxpayers happier people.

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**Correspondence ID:** 605    **Project:** 11759    **Document:** 38106  
**Project Name:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Address:** -  
- CA  
USA  
**Email:** -  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Feb,14,2011 18:57:11  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Dear Frank Dean, I am a healthy and responsible 75-year-old single woman with two well-behaved dogs. I live in Mill Valley. My principal source of exercise is walking my dogs off leash twice a day. I have never been to the dog park, it doesn't suit the needs of my dogs or myself for exercise. The DEIS provides me with more questions than answers. 7 Where's the science? The DEIS feels like a draconian measure imposed from On High.

7 What documentation do you have that dogs off leash degrade the environment? If you do have documentation, what are your numbers -- # of problem dogs vs. non-problem dogs? And what mitigation systems have you considered?

7 Have you considered addressing your enforcement resources at the problem situations rather than the needs of

the majority of responsible dog owners?

7 Is this a political thing? Why else would you have come up with such a restrictive and undemocratic option (it would seem that responsible dog owners are in the majority on this issue).

7 On what observed basis do you propose these restrictions on the use of public open space?

The East Bay Park system seems to have a workable off-leash plan in place that has worked for many years. Colorado gives special licenses to well-behaved dogs. Why is Marin so hostile to dogs? I hope we can find a workable solution. Margaret Harding 443 LaVerne Ave. Mill Valley Mfh10@comcast.net

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**Correspondence ID:** 606      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS

**Name:** -

**Address:** - CA  
USA

**Email:** -

**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Received:** Feb,14,2011 22:55:13

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I have been a resident of San Francisco for 17 years and enjoying the GGNRA off-leash dog areas for the past 6 years. I go to either Fort Funston or Crissy Field at least 2-3 times every week with my Golden Retriever. These trips to run and swim are truly special occasions for both of us and by far the happiest times for my dog.

I have serious concerns about the GGNRA's off-leash proposal, particularly, the "poison pill" of the Compliance-based Management Strategy. A management plan should not come with a built-in nuclear option, which is what this is. This strategy is fundamentally unfair and unbalanced since it -

? Allows the off-leash status to be changed in only one direction (toward more restriction) with no possibility of increased access in the future.

? Circumvents the legal requirement that management changes that are either significant or controversial must have a public process before they can be made.

? Omits critical information about how compliance will be determined, allowing room for misunderstanding and misinterpretation.

? Permits the GGNRA to change the status of off-leash areas to on-leash or no dogs without additional public comment if there is not 100% compliance with the new restrictions.

? Makes the change permanent. While there should be, and are, enforced penalties for bad actors, the vast majority of people who do not act badly should not be penalized for the bad actions of a few. No number of responsible dog owners will stop what will become the inevitable removal of all off-leash access in the GGNRA if this strategy remains part of the plan. This component MUST be removed from the proposal.

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**Correspondence ID:** 607      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS

**Name:** -

**Address:** - NV  
USA

**Email:** -

**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Received:** Feb,15,2011 10:00:25

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Fort Funston & like areas that currently allow off leash areas for dogs should not be changed. This unique

recreational area for people & dogs is renown for the freedom of off leash for human & animal interaction & recreation. Dogs are not endangering the areas for flora/fauna. This is an area that is used for residents & non residents alike - these areas invite people to really get off their butts & go explore the outdoors with their often times best companions - their beloved dogs.

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**Correspondence ID:** 608      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** -  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Feb,15,2011 10:58:43  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** This proposal is ridiculous and in violation of the promises that the federal government made in regards to providing significant access for dogs in our parks here in San Francisco when your organization was made. I've called my district supervisor and asked her to come out against this extremely restrictive and unnecessary policy change.

I hope that in the future you can put my hard-earned tax money to better use and stop wasting our time.

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**Correspondence ID:** 609      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** -  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Feb,15,2011 11:10:59  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** This would be a very sad change to San Francisco, San Mateo, and Marin Counties. Having these designated areas for dogs to be off leash has been a very safe and fair way to allow dogs and their owners to get the exercise and socialization they need to thrive. By limiting these areas as it is being suggested, it will severely limit the amount of space needed for many large and energetic dogs to burn off energy and get the exercise they need. It would be a travesty to the mentioned counties to slash the areas dogs are allowed off leashes. Please re-consider making these changes, as taking away these open areas will be devastating to both the dogs and the dog owners.

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**Correspondence ID:** 610      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** jen-ggnradogs@toma.to  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Feb,15,2011 11:17:07  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing to support stricter leash laws for dogs in the Golden Gate National Recreation Area. The GGNRA is a national treasure that should be enjoyed by all and we should use this precious resource to protect the wildlife that finds habitat there. Dog walking is a legitimate recreational pastime, just like many others, but it should not take precedence over other forms of recreation at the GGNRA. No one should ever have to worry about being bitten or knocked over by someone's pet when they visit the GGNRA. Visitors to the GGNRA should be able to find some peace and calm and not have to be vigilant about dogs running at them. Pets should not be put at risk to run into traffic or other hazards. The wildlife in GGNRA should not be harassed by domesticated pets.

Some recreational activities, like walking, birding, or sitting and reading, have very few impacts and we let them

occur almost anywhere. Others, like mountain biking or golf, have much greater impacts on other people and natural areas and we rightfully regulate where they can occur. In my opinion, letting dogs run off-leash is one of these impactful recreation activities that should be limited to specific areas where I can choose not to go. Just as I wouldn't choose to go have a picnic on a golf course where I would need to be constantly vigilant to flying golf balls, I would not choose to visit an off-leash dog area where I would have to constantly be vigilant to curious and rambunctious dogs.

Therefore, I think that off-leash dog recreation should be limited to a few sites that do not infringe on the other uses of the GGNRA and I would strongly support Alternative D in the Environmental Impact Statement. Alternative B has its merits, as I believe consistent policies across national park areas will make so everyone knows what to expect and how to act when visiting. No matter which alternative is chosen I strongly support strict enforcement so that all may continue to enjoy the amazing natural areas of the GGNRA.

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**Correspondence ID:** 611      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** rosalina.verbrugge@ucsfmedctr.org  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Feb,15,2011 11:53:52  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am a homeowner in San Francisco. I have served my county as a teacher's aid, teacher and social worker for more than 20 years. Being able to walk my dogs in the county's beautiful parks has been a way to renew myself so as to be able to go on contributing thru my work to the community. For so many people, dogs are a way to enjoy and treasure nature and to be personally invested in preserving the wildness and beauty of our parks. How about charging a monthly fee for an off leash dog-walking permit? This would create needed revenue for upkeep of the parks. I would be glad to pay a fee to be able to continue to use the parks with my dogs.

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**Correspondence ID:** 612      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** Palmer, Bernice  
**Address:** 1499 Sutter St.  
Apt. 314 San Francisco, CA 94109  
USA  
**Email:** -  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Feb,08,2011 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Letter  
**Correspondence:** Frank Dean, General Superintendant Golden Gate National Recreation Area Bldg. 201 Fort Mason, San Francisco, CA 94123

Dear Mr Dean,

The "dog situation" has become horrible for many of the older population and children (more dogs than children in San Francisco).

I can no longer enjoy walking on ocean beach. Twice I have been attacked by unleashed dogs, and bitten once. No longer are there the seabirds there used to be. Barking, aggressive unleashed dogs are everywhere. Their owners are defensive and often nasty if I tell them to leash their dogs, or move away.

Crissy Field is like a mine field for me. Everywhere are barking aggressive dogs -- often 3 or 4 on a leash. I can no longer bring my grandchildren there, they become too frightened and often are jumped upon by dogs.

The only place I feel safe and comfortable is the Botanical Gardens with its wonderful sign: "No Dogs Allowed".

Your Dog Management Plan can't come soon enough for me. Please don't be intimidated by the raucous dog owners who aren't too different from gun owners.

I'm looking forward to the day I can walk on the beach, Golden Gate Park, Chrissy Field etc. and not be intimidated by barking aggressive dogs and often their equally belligerent owners.

Please do not "water down your" Plan because of pressure from dog owners. They will flood meetings (as before), bringing their dogs and their demands.

Good Luck

Berenice Palmer

---

**Correspondence ID:** 613     **Project:** 11759     **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** Rubenstein, Steve  
**Address:** 75 Gaviota Way San Francisco, CA 94127  
USA  
**Email:** -  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan,18,2011 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Letter  
**Correspondence:** Dear Sup. Dean,

The GGNRA is an urban park, where off-leash dog walking by responsible pet owners has always been allowed. To change a long-established past practice is unfair.

If the GGNRA cannot abide by the terms under which San Francisco ceded its lands, then the GGNRA should turn the lands back over to San Francisco.

I strongly object to your new dog management plan.

Steve Rubenstein

---

**Correspondence ID:** 614     **Project:** 11759     **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** Smith, James  
**Address:** 327 Melrose Avenue Mill Valley, CA 94941  
USA  
**Email:** -  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan,28,2011 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Letter  
**Correspondence:** Superintendent:

The signs of dogs running free on our beaches is so life enhancing. And the dogs have a terrific time, too.

Why alter such a win-win arrangement?

Best,

James Smith (and Bingo)

---

**Correspondence ID:** 615     **Project:** 11759     **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** Fox, Pauline

**Address:** unknown San Francisco, CA 00000  
USA  
**Email:** -  
**Outside** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Organization:**  
**Received:** Feb,02,2011 00:00:00  
**Correspondence** Letter  
**Type:**  
**Correspondence:** Dear Superintendent Dean,

Dogs have always been allowed at Fort Funston off leash. Changing the rules isn't fair. You can expect massive civil disobedience.

Sincerely,

Pauline Fox San Francisco

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**Correspondence ID:** 616      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** Roe, Ken  
**Address:** 3325 Saint Moritz Ct. Redding, CA 96002  
USA  
**Email:** -  
**Outside** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Organization:**  
**Received:** Feb,07,2011 00:00:00  
**Correspondence** Letter  
**Type:**  
**Correspondence:** Dear Superintendent Dean,

My ancestors settled in Sonoma/Marin coastal areas in 1850. Throughout my life, I and my family have loved the region; exploring the unique setting long before Point Reyes + Golden Gate became national gems. The ecological variety of such chosen space should be protected for its uniqueness.

I have witnessed loose dogs tear up flower fields, trash shorebird nests, + even chase a yearling black-tail deer over a cliff to its death. I experienced a grandchild being knocked over on a beach, by a rampaging mongrel. Dogs should be leashed + more importantly, prohibited from sensitive bio-diversities.

Sincerely,

Ken Roe

---

**Correspondence ID:** 617      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** Talbot, Kecia  
**Address:** PO Box 1501 Ross, CA 94957-1501  
USA  
**Email:** -  
**Outside** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Organization:**  
**Received:** Feb,04,2011 00:00:00  
**Correspondence** Letter  
**Type:**  
**Correspondence:** Dear Superintendent Dean,

Regarding the proposed dog rules, please keep in mind that the GGNRA serves an urban area populated by people and dogs, both of whom like to access the beaches and parks. The GGNRA is different than other national parks in this way. Please do not impose undue limits on dogs and their people.

Thank you,

Kecia Talbot

415 492 2215

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**Correspondence ID:** 618      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** Lau, Seik Yee  
**Address:** 1867 10th Ave San Francisco, CA 04122  
USA  
**Email:** -  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Feb,09,2011 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Letter  
**Correspondence:** Dear Mr. Dean

Please do not chance the GGNRC to a leash park.

It is not a case of dog against human, as some people put it. It's for dog owners and non-dog owners, and FUTURE dog owners.

A lot of people won't even go outdoors if it hadn't been for their dogs. The parks are there for the dogs to romp around, and for dog owners to exercise WITH their pets.

It is also very much for people who don't own dogs but would like to enjoy dog company. These are people for one reason or another cannot have a dog/cannot afford it, don't have the space or time, work too long hours. They go to these leash free parks to enjoy man's best friends.

As for the very small percentage of naughty dogs or irresponsible dog owners, it's like punishing every adult male because there are a few rapists lurking around in our society.

If there are issues need to be address, dog owners will be happy to chip in their part to make it work.

Please keep the dogs parks leash free, for human and for dogs. Sincerely,

Seik Yee Lau

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**Correspondence ID:** 619      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** Keeney, Robert  
**Address:** 2994 Washington Street San Francisco, CA 94115  
USA  
**Email:** -  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Feb,09,2011 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Letter  
**Correspondence:** Frank Dean Superintendent GGNRA Fort Mason, Building 201 San Francisco, CA 94123-0022

Dear Mr. Dean,

San Francisco shares its name with Saint Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of animals. Restricting the freedom of pets at Baker Beach, or any of the otehr GGNRA sites, would seem unfitting. Residents of Sea Cliff and neighboring areas of the City have been taking their dogs to Baker Beach and recreating for 40+ years, and we

believe that the 1979 pet policy should be grandfathered into the current dog management plan. Traditional usage should play a crucial factor when drafting new policy, Baker Beach is a low conflict, moderate usage site.

The contiguous beach, China Beach, has a no dog restriction. I have been advised there are no endangered birds and no sensitive nesting habitat at Baker. Those whose dogs use the beach have been careful to keep their dogs off the fenced salt grass area. This ten-acre site has no snowy plovers. I consider myself an environmentalist, and there is no natural resource that is being damaged or destroyed at Baker. The dogs are running on sand. The dog owners pick up the trash on the beach and are not interfering with family activities (in comparison to the nude men running around at the far end of the beach). That overt behavior seems more disturbing to children than any dog. I have seen illegal camping with tents and fires, pot smoking, discarded cigarette butts and alcohol bottles (some broken and dangerous) at the beach which are cleaned up by dog owners.

There is a low level of visitor activity in the early hours when many people walk with their dogs on the beach in the early morning (especially as it is usually foggy). The only other people there are the occasional fisherman or surfers. How are dogs improper? Private dog owners are respectful of visitors, use voice control and generally avoid the beach at peak picnic/sunbathing hours.

The City has more pets than children. There is a valid fair argument for dogs recreating off leash on the GGNRA. Where will all the local residents go? In addition to practicing good dog etiquette, they are good stewards of Baker Beach, Many clean up after high traffic weekends and party nights. One dog owner even facilitated the recovery of a drowning victim early one January morning. Baker has dangerous riptides..

I do not understand why dogs are singled out as a high profile controversy when natural resources are impacted in GGNRA by fireworks, Blue Angels, cargo ships spewing oil, cruise ships polluting the Bay, etc.

The key word in GGNRA is recreation. Walking with their dogs is how many get exercise and fresh air. It is a great tragedy that in the name of the National Park Service you would take away that privilege. San Francisco is a special case where these dog walking areas have become an integral part of the local and visitor experience.

Respectfully yours.

Robelt Keeney

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**Correspondence ID:** 620      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project Name:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** ketabonita@yahoo.com  
**Outside Organization:** Self Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Feb,15,2011 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Dear GGNRA

I oppose Section 2 of H.R. 6305, a bill introduced in Congress by Nancy Pelosi, that will change the name of the Golden Gate National Recreational Area (GGNRA) to the "Golden Gate National Parks." While this seems innocuous, it is not. The GGNRA was created by Congress in 1972 to: "provide for the maintenance of needed recreational open space necessary for urban environment and planning." For decades, recreation and habitat restoration co-existed without conflicts. In recent years, however, GGNRA staff have instituted policies that have closed large areas of land to recreational uses, in direct opposition to the recreation mandates contained in the legislation that created the GGNRA. If the name change passes, GGNRA staff will claim that, by that action, Congress has authorized the overturning of the enabling legislation and removed the original protections for recreational access. Without these protections, GGNRA staff will be free to severely restrict -- if not outright ban -- access throughout the GGNRA to ALL recreational users.

The GGNRA controls 61% of the open space in San Francisco, including all of the beaches. The GGNRA is San Francisco's backyard, and provides much needed recreational open space for Bay Area residents. San Francisco is the second densest city in the US, and a tremendous need for recreational open space exists. For decades, the

GGNRA has helped provide that. If the name change is passed, however, that access will be lost.

Please oppose the name change for the GGNRA, and remove Section 2 from H.R. 6305.

Sincerely,

Tracy Jung Dog lover, dog owner, and VOTER

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**Correspondence ID:** 621      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** Hatch, Deborah Anne  
**Address:** 205 26th Avenue San Francisco, CA 94121  
USA  
**Email:** -  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Feb,03,2011 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Letter  
**Correspondence:** Frank Dean Superintendent GGNRA Fort Mason, Building 201 San Francisco, CA 94123-0022

Dear Mr. Dean,

San Francisco shares its name with St. Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of animals. Restricting the freedom of pets at Baker Beach, or any of the other GGNRA sites, would seem unfitting. Residents of Sea Cliff have been taking their dogs to Baker Beach and recreating for 40+ years and, we believe that the 1979 pet policy should be grandfathered into the current dog management plan. Traditional usage should play a crucial factor when drafting the new policy. Baker Beach is a low conflict, moderate usage site.

The contiguous beach, China Beach has a no dog restriction. I personally have spoken to a NOAA bird population field surveyor at Baker Beach, and he assured me that there were no endangered birds and no sensitive nesting habitat at Baker. We have been careful to keep our dogs off the fenced salt grass area. This ten-acre site has no snowy plovers. I consider myself an environmentalist, and there is no natural resource that is being damaged or destroyed at Baker. The dogs are running on sand. The dog owners pick up the trash on the beach and are not interfering with family activities in comparison to the nude men running around at the far end of the beach. That overt behavior seems more disturbing to children than any dog. I have seen illegal camping with tents and fires, pot smoking, cigarette butts and alcohol bottles (some broken and dangerous) that we clean up. When I have come across a dead or injured sea lion or seal, I have called the Marine Mammal Center. During the oil spillage crisis, we did our part to pitch in.

There is a low level of visitor activity in the early hours when I walk with my dog on the beach at dawn (especially as it is usually foggy). The only other people there are the occasional fisherman or surfers. How are dogs improper? Private dog owners are respectful of visitors, use voice control and generally avoid the beach at peak picnic/sunbathing hours. The city has more pets than children. There is a valid fair argument for dogs recreating off leash on the GGNRA. Where will all the local residents go? In addition for practicing good dog etiquette, we are good stewards of Baker Beach. Many of us clean up after high traffic weekends and party nights. One dog owner facilitated the recovery of a drowning victim early one January morning. Baker has dangerous riptides and we have all tried to warn young swimmers. The Baker Beach dog group is self policing. If a dog exhibits inappropriate behavior the other dog owners step in.

I do not understand why dogs are singled out as a high profile controversy when natural resources are impacted in GGNRA by fireworks, Blue Angels, cargo ships spewing oil, cruise ships polluting the Bay, etc.

The key word in GGNRA is recreation. Walking with my dog is how I and many others get exercise and fresh air. It is a great tragedy that in the name of the National Park Service you would take away that privilege. San Francisco is a special case where these dog walking areas have become an integral part of the local and visitor experience.

Respectfully yours,

Deborah Hatch

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**Correspondence ID:** 622      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** -  
**Outside Organization:** SELF Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Feb,15,2011 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Dear

I oppose Section 2 of H.R. 6305, a bill introduced in Congress by Nancy Pelosi, that will change the name of the Golden Gate National Recreational Area (GGNRA) to the "Golden Gate National Parks." While this seems innocuous, it is not. The GGNRA was created by Congress in 1972 to: "provide for the maintenance of needed recreational open space necessary for urban environment and planning." For decades, recreation and habitat restoration co-existed without conflicts. In recent years, however, GGNRA staff have instituted policies that have closed large areas of land to recreational uses, in direct opposition to the recreation mandates contained in the legislation that created the GGNRA. If the name change passes, GGNRA staff will claim that, by that action, Congress has authorized the overturning of the enabling legislation and removed the original protections for recreational access. Without these protections, GGNRA staff will be free to severely restrict -- if not outright ban -- access throughout the GGNRA to ALL recreational users.

The GGNRA controls 61% of the open space in San Francisco, including all of the beaches. The GGNRA is San Francisco's backyard, and provides much needed recreational open space for Bay Area residents. San Francisco is the second densest city in the US, and a tremendous need for recreational open space exists. For decades, the GGNRA has helped provide that. If the name change is passed, however, that access will be lost.

Please oppose the name change for the GGNRA, and remove Section 2 from H.R. 6305.

Sincerely,

Tracy jung; Dog owner, Dog Lover, and VOTER

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**Correspondence ID:** 623      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** -  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Feb,15,2011 13:52:32  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I support further restricting off leash access to dogs in the parks. I own a dog but I am concerned that the dogs are damaging to wildlife habitats.

---

**Correspondence ID:** 624      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** -  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Feb,15,2011 13:55:17

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** To Whom It May Concern: I am writing to express concerns about the current version of the GGNRA Draft Dog Management Plan / Environmental Impact Statement. I am a dog owner living in San Francisco. I had never visited the GGNRA before my wife and I got our dog nearly two years ago. Since then, the availability of off-leash areas in the GGNRA has improved our physical health through outdoor exercise, improved our appreciation of the city and the environment, and allowed us access to a rich and welcoming community of fellow dog-owners.

After reading about the proposed plan, I developed many concerns about the way in which the document was written and the information on which its conclusions are based as well as the potential ramifications of its implementation. Specifically, the document's suggestions for alternative locations for off-leash dog-walking suggests the authors did not fully research alternative locations as some suggested locations are currently not designated off-leash areas. Further, the cited scientific research does not consider numerous additional studies that reached dramatically different conclusions about the impact of off-leash dogs on the environment.

Along those lines, my personal experiences in the GGNRA have revealed dog-owners and dog-walkers to be among the most environmentally conscious people in the city. Virtually all people who use the GGNRA value it very highly and take every measure to protect it and all of its inhabitants. Combined with evidence that off-leash recreation has little to no negative environmental effect, I am forced to conclude that the costs of restricting off-leash recreation far outweigh the benefits.

Finally, and most-concerning, the document is written in such a way that once enacted, further restrictions of public use of the space can be added without public comment based on little or no evidence.

The access to off-leash recreation is of critical importance to my family and me as well as thousands of other dog-owners who live in and around San Francisco. While I recognize that there are areas in which restrictions of these activities make sense, the precedent set by this document is that areas that have been designated for off-leash recreation for decades can suddenly be labeled as restricted with little or no reason or public discourse. Additionally, given the number of dog-owners in the San Francisco area and the demonstrated benefits of off-leash recreation and socialization both to dogs and their owners, the cost of such restrictions to the city and its residents has the potential to be dramatic. Public health and happiness will be severely affected and there is likely to be overcrowding in other areas of the city that will be overwhelmed by the sudden influx of dogs and dog-owners who will continue to seek areas that allow off-leash recreation.

While the protection of our environment is a key concern of mine, the GGNRA Draft Dog Management Plan / Environmental Impact Statement does little to nothing to accomplish protection while simultaneously adding the potential for significant downgrades to public health, civic pride, and public discourse.

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**Correspondence ID:** 625      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** McBarnette, Elayne Sara  
**Address:** 1831 9th Ave #2 San Francisco, CA 94122  
USA  
**Email:** -  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Feb,02,2011 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Letter  
**Correspondence:** Mr. Frank Dean General Superintendent Golden Gate National Recreation Area Building 201 Fort Mason San Francisco, CA 94123-0022

Subject: Support for Restricting Off-leash Dog Walking in San Francisco Parks

Dear Mr. Dean,

I whole heartedly agree with restricting off-leash dogs in public parks to designated enclosed dog area.

I like dogs, but my experience has been that owners allow them to encroach into other people's space. When asked to please call or hold your dog, a typical response is "it's okay, he doesn't bite" and then the owner doesn't do it.

The problem is that sometimes a dog takes a threatening stance, even if it doesn't go as far as biting. Sometimes the person making the request has fear issues, or has another animal with them that may have kennel cough, or not have all its shots, or even be dog reactive.

Also, I've seen dogs trip runners or even lunge at them. I've seen them sniffing people who are trying to sun bathe or snatching picnic food. I've experienced dog owners playing fetch inconsiderately by throwing the ball too close to me and their dog running across my things.

And nothing pisses me off more than seeing my 75 year old mother frozen in fear and trembling because her phobia is triggered by a dog coming up to her, all the while hearing the owner blithely saying "it's ok, he's friendly." No, it is NOT OK. I want them to hold their damn dogs away from my mother. She has a right to our parks and at her age needs the exercise more than ever.

Thank you for your attention. I appreciate all that you do for our parks.

Sincerely, Elayne Sara McBarnette

---

**Correspondence ID:** 626      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** Lapis, Nika  
**Address:** 2245 Woodside Ln., #7 Sacramento, CA 95825  
USA  
**Email:** -  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Feb,02,2011 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Letter  
**Correspondence:** Frank Dean, General Superintendent Golden Gate National Recreation Area Fort Mason, Building 201 San Francisco, CA 94123-0022

Re: Concerns with Allowing Off-Leash Dogs under the Preferred Alternative

Mr. Dean,

As a long-time user of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area and a dog owner, would like to express my strong concerns about the proposal to allow dogs to roam leash- free. The preferred alternative, as written, allows national park land to be used for an intensive recreational use that is inconsistent with conservation and would result in public safety hazards and limitations on the broad community's enjoyment of the public parks, as well as limiting equal access for disabled communities and communities of color.

Most seriously, the proposal to let dogs go off-leash would have a significant impact on our efforts to preserve wildlife and habitat of the GGNRA. Dogs can cause extreme damage to the volunteer-driven restoration efforts across the parks. In Crissy Field, for instance, the off leash dogs have been a serious obstacle in the restoration efforts and have been detrimental to efforts to protect native species. Studies have shown that some native species, such as the Snowy Plover, refuse to nest in an area where dogs have been for up to 2 weeks following the presence of a dog. Although not always visible, this policy would have significant and irreversible impact on a species in decline.

The National Parks are "Parks for All Forever," and allowing a use that significantly degrades the landscapes, prevents use by a majority of visitors, and causes irreparable harm to the flora and fauna is inconsistent with this vision and should not be allowed.

Nika Lapis

---

**Correspondence ID:** 627      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** Davainis, Sheila M  
**Address:** 138 Edison Avenue Corte Madera, CA 94925

**Email:** USA  
**Outside Organization:** - Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Feb,01,2011 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Letter  
**Correspondence:** Frank Dean, General Superintendent Golden Gate National Recreation Area Fort Mason, Bldg. 201 San Francisco, CA 94123-0022

Off leash dogs at Muir Beach

Sir,

It is a JOY to watch the dogs play at Muir Beach. All sizes, all breeds, free as the wind, they bound with such infectious exuberance. One marvels at their energy and laughs at their antics as they romp. The 'water dogs' splash into the waves. Camaraderie, if the word can be used to canines, is paramount. The beach is too much fun to go off hunting wildlife and except for the water-loving dogs, most do not really want to jump into the unknown, cold depths of the creek or lagoon where the waterfowl ply. Forbidding off-leash dogs on the approaches to the beach, if you like, would seem to take care of any possible canine miscreants on the way to and from the beach. I think the gulls on the beach can take care of themselves.

Why deprive the dogs of a free and wonderful place to romp? Why rob the owners of the pleasure of watching them and those who are not owners but enjoy the spectacle too? Why, most of all, subordinate the enjoyment of the majority to the peevishness of the dog-disliking minority or the exaggerated zealousness of the protectors of wildlife? Most of us, dog owners or not, appreciate the presence of wildlife and will ensure it remains safe.

So, please, CANCEL your plans to impose a leash law and save places like Muir Beach from the stifling rules of urbanization.

Yours truly,

Sheila M. Davainis

Copy: Marin I.J.

---

**Correspondence ID:** 628    **Project:** 11759    **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** Blair, Gavin M  
**Address:** 13 Birch Ave. Corte Madera, CA 94925  
USA  
**Email:** -  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan,31,2011 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Letter  
**Correspondence:** Frank Dean General Superintendent, Golden Gate National Recreation Area Fort Mason, Building 201 San Francisco 94123-0022

RE: Rodeo Beach & Marin Headlands (dog walking proposals)

Dear Mr. Dean:

I understand about the GGNRA's (Park) concern about public safety, protecting the Park's land, and the need for balance activates of the Park's land and resources. However, as in most public recreational areas, the majority of people are law bidding and conscientious. Although, there are a few people "at times" who do not respect the privileges of public open space land (lack of proper dog control, littering, ect.).

Living in Marin County, I go to Rodeo Beach and run in the Marin Headlands at least once a week with my dogs and have been doing so for the past 20 plus years. Never have I seen a bad, aggressive, or disorderly dog. "If" there is someone with a dog, the dog is playing and having a good time without troubling anyone. Furthermore, every dog owner I've encountered has always been nice, responsible, and cleans-up after their pets. As for Rodeo Beach, off lease dogs are a part of the beach. People know and expect to see a dog running along the shore and frolicking in the surf. Everyone, adults and children, enjoying seeing a happy dog(s) playing at the beach.

Solution: Rodeo Beach & Marin Headlands My suggestion for Rodeo Beach and the Marin Headlands (it is where I frequent and am most familiar) is to continue to allow dogs to be off lease and under voice control. However, if an owner is not responsible in adhering to the concerns/rules of the Park, then they should be ticketed and fined at a high monetary penalty to serve as a deterrent.

Having your dog off lease at Rodeo Beach (especially when the beach is 95% of the time vacant except for maybe a small handful of people) is a very special place for dogs and their owners. Please don't let the majority of us good citizens suffer and be penalized for the improper actions of a small few.

Thank you for your time.

Best Regards,

Gavin M. Blair

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|                              |   |                 |       |                  |       |
|------------------------------|---|-----------------|-------|------------------|-------|
| <b>Correspondence ID:</b>    | 629   | <b>Project:</b> | 11759 | <b>Document:</b> | 38106 |
| <b>Project:</b>              | Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  |                 |       |                  |       |
| <b>Name:</b>                 | Bauschard, Laura  |                 |       |                  |       |
| <b>Address:</b>              | 2918 Octavia St. San Francisco, CA 94123<br>USA   |                 |       |                  |       |
| <b>Email:</b>                | -   |                 |       |                  |       |
| <b>Outside Organization:</b> | Unaffiliated Individual   |                 |       |                  |       |
| <b>Received:</b>             | Jan,27,2011 00:00:00  |                 |       |                  |       |
| <b>Correspondence Type:</b>  | Letter  |                 |       |                  |       |
| <b>Correspondence:</b>       | Mr. Frank Dean General Superintendent Golden Gate National Recreation Area Building 201 Fort Mason, San Francisco, CA 94123-0022. |                 |       |                  |       |

Dear Mr. Dean,

Please allow the dog leash laws and dog-walking laws in the Golden Gate National Recreation Area to remain status quo. "Alternative A: No Action" will be the absolute best outcome for all parties involved.

Dog ownership is proven to help people's mental and emotional states. Almost equally important is the benefit to humans of walking their dogs outside, and allowing those dogs to get real exercise by running around off-leash. It does not provide enough exercise to most dogs to be walked on-leash all the time.

It is of critical importance to the health of our dogs that they be allowed to run off leash for a certain amount of time, every single day. Many San Franciscans, including myself, own condominiums which have no yards and no outside space. During the work day, we hire dog walkers to provide exercise and stimulation to our dogs, who otherwise would be home and confined in small quarters during the day.

Mr. Dean, please allow Fort Funston to remain as it is; open to dog walkers, dog owners, sky- gliders, horseback riders, etc.

Please allow Crissy Field to remain as it is.

The idea of Muir Beach forbidding dogs to be off-leash entirely would be a tragedy for people who live nearby.

These parks are TREASURES that make living in San Francisco special.

Please do not cause every dog owner to be punished for the actions of the very few.

Please allow dog walkers to continue doing their jobs, walking up to 8 dogs at a time, on leash. The idea of banning commercial dog walking is completely devastating to me. If commercial dog walking is limited and/or banned completely, many of us will have to move out of San Francisco to an outlying area where we would be able to afford houses with fenced-in back yards.

I hope and pray that the proposed GGNRA dog management plan results in everything remaining status quo; "Alternative A: No Action."

Thank you for your consideration. Sincerely,

Laura Bauschard

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**Correspondence ID:** 630    **Project:** 11759    **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** Beth\_Rattner@yahoo.com  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Feb,15,2011 15:54:38  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** In weighing the pros and cons of the GGNRA's proposed plan, one has to consider how the presence of dogs is any different than humans. Humans leave trash on the beach, can terrorize or harm wildlife, and can hurt other humans. Many don't, but some do. Similarly, most dogs and dog owners leave nothing but footprints on the beach. Thus, the question should not be "dogs or no dogs" but rather a question of impact.

What the GGNRA is better suited to do is keep the beaches safe by requiring all humans and dog owners to obey the rules. Should there be a violation, then action can be taken against a single individual, instead of changing the beautiful social dynamic of dogs running along the beach.

Please leave the beaches with unrestricted access to dogs and people of all ages, alike. It is one of the main reasons we love living here.

Thanks, Beth

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**Correspondence ID:** 631    **Project:** 11759    **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** -  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Feb,15,2011 16:40:13  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Dog owners responses to this EIS shows why these changes are so needed. They feel they are entitled to land above others. They don't care about other individuals and don't care about the environment. They not only threaten individual but bribe city officials to be on their side and manipulate media for their personal gain. They don't care about being fair but rather only care about themselves and their dogs. This kind of behavior is intolerable. I believe that since the GGNRA is national park land, there should be NO dog off leash areas. Why should bay area national park land be any different than any other part of the country? Every square inch of other bay area land is treated as off leash. It would be nice to have an enforced leash refuge for people who are not comfortable with dogs. This would also maintain the beauty and environment for many generations to come.

If the GGNRA does decide to keep off leash areas, they should be muzzle requirements that are enforced. The maximum fine for breaking leash rules or muzzle rules should be \$1000 (minimum\$200). There should also be a fine for harrassment of people who do not like their off leash dogs in on leash/no dog areas. This maximum fine for breaking leash rules and harassment should be \$5,000 (minimum \$500.) Finally commercial dog walkers should be required to have a permit (\$500/month) to walk dogs in the GGNRA. They should also be required to wear identifying clothes such as a shirt with the dog walking company name or their own name if they are self-employed.

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**Correspondence ID:** 632      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS

**Name:** -

**Address:** - CT  
USA

**Email:** -

**Outside:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Organization:**

**Received:** Feb,15,2011 16:53:13

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Our National Parks have policies about dogs for a reason. People DO NOT obey the rules that we have about a number of issues: approaching wildlife, feeding wildlife, staying on trails,etc. San Francisco is a city, I believe, that has more dogs than children. The GGNRA is used daily by professional dog walkers, some walking as many as 10 dogs at a time, often more than once a day. It is impossible to believe that these dogs are under voice control by someone other than their owners. The role of the NPS to protect our natural resources, IN THEIR NATURAL STATE, for ALL people to use and enjoy. Having to dodge dog feces left by owners who do NOT use designated areas and who fail to clean up after their pets or be harrassed by multiple dogs "off leash" should not be an issue for visitors and regular users of the park. There should NOT be ANY "off leash" areas in ANY property under NPS control. GGNRA should not be any different than any other National Park, nor any other urban NPS facilities.

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**Correspondence ID:** 633      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS

**Name:** -

**Address:** - CA  
USA

**Email:** kiranmalavade@comcast.net

**Outside:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Organization:**

**Received:** Feb,15,2011 16:57:54

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I strongly urge you to keep the existing off leash policy at Fort Funston. This has been a historically important haven for all the dog owners and their companions, and having the space there encourages dog owners not to let their dogs off leash in other areas throughout San Francisco. In addition, owners who use dog walking services would not have a place to go, and those businesses would suffer.

I consider myself a nature lover, and I don't advocate for dogs at the cost of other wildlife, so I do understand that there needs to be a compromise so that we can not lose areas where beautiful birds and ocean animals live. Of course we want that too. I believe that allowing the area at Fort Funston to remain as it has been since 1979 is within that compromise.

Personally I would be in favor of keeping all of Ocean Beach north of Sloat as on leash only (in other words, losing the area north of Stairwell 21), rather than lose Fort Funston.

Thank you for taking the time to read this, and consider my comment as a taxpayer and homeowner from the outer sunset district of San Francisco.

Sincerely, Kiran Malavade

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**Correspondence ID:** 634      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106

**ID:**  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:**  
**Outside** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Organization:**  
**Received:** Feb,15,2011 16:59:44  
**Correspondence** Web Form  
**Type:**  
**Correspondence:** I strongly oppose eliminating offleash access as you have proposed. One condition of your deal with San Francisco was that existing recreational uses be preserved. You tried to throttle San Franciscans ten years ago, and you are trying again now, hoping that people might have forgotten your previous perfidy.

I have written to the SF Supervisors asking them to oppose this land grab of yours as well, and I have urged them to hold public hearings on the topic of reclaiming the land from the GGNRA due to exactly such treachery as this. Even in a good cause, it is folly to insist on having every last particle of beach cut off from one of the main user groups, and it is disingenuous folly to think that your actions will not have citywide impact.

I will continue to oppose this plan and will continue to encourage my neighbors, my friends, and my elected representatives to oppose your plan.

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**Correspondence ID:** 635    **Project:** 11759    **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** -  
**Outside** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Organization:**  
**Received:** Feb,15,2011 17:22:19  
**Correspondence** Web Form  
**Type:**  
**Correspondence:** I will not bore you with an overly verbose letter. I can only specifically speak to the proposed recommendation for Fort Funston, as it is the only area I use frequently.

> I would not consider Fort Funston a multi-purpose area. It is "the dog beach". Yes it is also used by Hang Gliders and occasional toy planes and kites, but it is all about the dogs on the ground. > I walk my dog (well, she runs and plays with other dogs, but I walk) at Fort Funston weekly, sometimes twice a week. I have never seen any dog or person bitten. I have never seen anyone who is noticeably upset by the fact that there are dogs at "the dog beach". > There is \*NO\* alternative to Fort Funston for a dog to get adequate exercise in or around San Francisco (that I know of). Dogs cannot get adequate exercise when on lease, as they move much faster than humans. > A fast majority of the land >99% managed by GGNRA is already off limits to dogs. Why does it have to be >99.9%? > These areas have been socially designated dog runs for decades, even before the areas came under the management of the GGNRA.

Finally, I find the disconnect between the language of the document and the actual maps to be a bit odd. When I read your proposal descriptions, they sounded reasonable, but the maps shocked me. How can you justify destroying a recreational area that is being so heavily used and bringing so much joy to people and pets? How can this be the preferred option?

In short, at least for Fort Funston, I am heavily in favor of option A, and will do everything I can to pressure the city government of San Francisco to oppose these recommendations. They go way, way too far.

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**Correspondence ID:** 636    **Project:** 11759    **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** -

**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Feb,15,2011 18:28:11  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Hi All,

I hope in your consideration of the Dog Management Plan for Ranch Corral de Tierra on the Coast of San Mateo County you will consider Alternative E: "New lands begin as 36 CFR 2.15 (dogs allowed on 6 ft leash) and new lands with existing off leash use before acquisition may also be considered for voice and sight control in the future."

I am a resident of El Granada. I moved to the beautiful San Mateo coast in 1993 from Mountain View, California. One of the reasons I moved here was the outdoor recreation opportunities. Another was that this is one of the few "dog-friendly" areas in the Bay Area. Being able to enjoy hiking and walking with my dogs is a very important part of my life, and allows me some stress relief.

Soon after I moved here, I discovered the trails behind my neighborhood that I could access from Almeria and Coral Reef Avenues in El Granada. I've spent many days every week for the last 18 years hiking these trails. As a woman, I don't think I would hike every day if I couldn't have my dogs with me. They not only provide companionship and a reason to get outside, but they also offer me safety.

In 18 years I have never had a bad experience due to my dogs or other's dogs in the Rancho Corral de Tierra lands. I would say that 19 out of 20 people who I meet on the trails have a dog with them. 9 out of 10 people walk their dogs off leash. As many people are aware, dogs often behave better off leash. They do not feel as protective, and are more friendly toward other dogs and people. I've also seen very little evidence of dogs on the trails - very few piles of "poop", as the people around here are very conscientious about picking up after their dogs. I also do not see damage from dogs or the dog walkers. While I support both mountain biking and horse riding in Rancho Corral de Tierra - as I also am an avid bike rider and horsewoman, the reality is that both horses and bikes do more damage than dogs.

I've been to other areas that allow dogs in parkland, both on and off leash: The East Bay Regional Parks and parks in Carmel Valley. Again, it seems to work very well.

My suggestion would be to allow dogs on all of the Rancho Corral de Tierra trail system. If you do enforce a leash law, I would recommend it only during peak-usage, for example, on weekends from 10 AM to 4 PM in Winter, and 10 AM to 6 PM in Summer. On weekdays, allow off leash dog walking, if dogs are under voice command.

I believe the San Mateo Coast is the best place to live on the planet. It is uncrowded, we have wonderful weather, spectacular scenery, lovely people and open space. Please allow us to continue to enjoy this with our beloved canine companions!

Lori Rhodes Morris

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**Correspondence ID:** 637      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project Name:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** -  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Feb,15,2011 20:01:17  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I have lived in San Francisco for 17 years and for the past 6 years have enjoyed the GGNRA off-leash dog areas with my dog. We go to Fort Funston or Crissy Field at least 2-3 times every week ? these trips are critical for the health and well being of my dog and myself.

I feel that the Preferred Alternative outlined in your proposal is overly restrictive, unbalanced and unfair.

The Preferred Alternative is not balanced. The Preferred Alternative allows dogs to be off-leash on even less land that provided for in the 1979 Pet Policy, including no off-leash anywhere on GGNRA land in San Mateo County. By denying the possibility of off-leash on any new lands that come into the GGNRA in the future, the Preferred Alternative will ensure there is no balance between recreation and protection of natural resources in the future. One-third of San Francisco households have dogs but they can currently exercise and enjoy time with these companions on less than 1% of GGNRA land.

The Preferred Alternative severely restricts recreational access for people with dogs and is a fundamental violation of the reason the GGNRA was created. In the legislation that created it, the reason for the creation of the GGNRA is listed as "the maintenance of needed recreational open space". Off-leash dog walking is among the recreational activities listed as traditionally occurring on the land that was to become the GGNRA. This new proposal is in direct violation of the GGNRA's original purpose.

The Preferred Alternative unfairly mandates that any new land that comes into the GGNRA cannot have dogs either on- or off-leash. This restriction goes against the recreational mandate that was a founding reason for the GGNRA. It is unfair, unneeded, and denies the traditional recreational activity of off-leash dog walking that has existed on many of these lands for decades. If new land is added to the GGNRA in the future, dogs must be allowed access both on and off-leash.

A different and more balance proposal that equally takes into consideration EVERYONE who uses the GGNRA must be created to replace this unfair proposal.

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**Correspondence ID:** 638      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** sarahelux@yahoo.com  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Feb,15,2011 21:19:55  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I support protection of ecologically sensitive areas through leash laws. South Rodeo and Muir Beaches (and others under review) should not be banned to dogs; leash laws, even if seasonal, are effective and dogs on leash do not impact sensitive areas any more so than humans.

Additional consideration should be made to provide humans and their canines as many appropriate off-leash spaces as possible. Complaints other than environmental matters should be dealt with through other channels; dog guardians should be responsible and held accountable for having their canine companions under voice control, cleaning up after them, and obeying rules and regulations. The many should not be punished for the transgressions a few, rather, the few should be held accountable.

The bay area and its beaches are known for being magical places for humans and their animal companions. Please don't change that. Banning dogs is no way to use taxpayer's funds responsibly, nor to set an example that humans and their animal companions CAN interact with the environment in a sustainable manner. A ban is an over-simplified attempt that fails at creating a sustainable future where humans are cultivated as environmental stewards: we can coexist sustainably WITH our canine companions. Better stewardship, not bans, please.

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**Correspondence ID:** 639      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** alissafr@gmail.com  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Received:** Feb,15,2011 22:02:13  
**Correspondence** Web Form

**Type:**  
**Correspondence:** I write as a Marin resident and frequent visitor to the GGNRA (generally at least once a week). I found out about the Draft Dog Management Plan (DDMP) from the Marin Humane Society, where my dog Rocky has volunteered as a therapy dog. My wife and I walk Rocky often at Rodeo Beach and the Marin Headlands trails, and we also occasionally visit Stinson Beach (on our way through to Dog Beach), Ocean Beach, and Fort Funston. I strongly oppose the DDMP's recommendations for these areas and request that the 1979 Pet Policy remain in effect.

During my many visits to these sites, I have not observed any of the problems described in the DDMP as having arisen since the 1990s -- no conflicts between visitors and dogs, no need for staff to rescue dogs or owners, no staff cleaning up dog waste. I'm not saying these things don't happen, but I've never observed them. Before these allegations are used to help formulate a change in policy, we deserve to have some data collected and presented. Is this really a problem? My only interaction with the staff was when a ranger erroneously instructed us to put Rocky on leash while on Rodeo Beach (we complied -- not worth escalating a conflict).

Instead of presenting real data on these problems, the DDMP presents the results of a telephone survey taken primarily of people who do not visit the GGNRA. Should dogs be allowed off leash? That might sound scary in the abstract, even though the happy, prancing dogs at the beach would seem not the slightest bit intimidating in person (in canine?). Many visitors are delighted to pet Rocky and get kisses in return (he understands "go say hi" and is under voice control).

Here in Marin, the GGNRA constitutes a large part of local open space. Off-leash options are limited, much more so than in the neighboring East Bay, for example. So few of the hikes in my Hiking in Marin guidebook allow dogs off leash. How I would love to be able to take Rocky to see more of Point Reyes!

In summary, I request that you reject the DDMP's recommendations for changes to the 1979 Pet Policy, at least as far as it relates to Rodeo Beach and the Marin Headlands trails, Stinson Beach, Ocean Beach, and Fort Funston.

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**Correspondence ID:** 640      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS

**Name:** -

**Address:** - CA  
USA

**Email:** -

**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Received:** Feb,16,2011 00:42:32

**Correspondence** Web Form

**Type:**

**Correspondence:** As person who was born and raised in the SF Bay Area and having lived in Fairfax for the last 28 years, I have been frustrated and upset by the ongoing plans to limit dogs and what they can and cannot do in public areas that I love and use and my tax dollars and donations support. I grew up with pets my whole life and dogs were members of my family, as they are of many people. The idea of being outside and active in the fresh air out in nature is a joy to both humans and dogs alike. As a woman, I also have felt safe with my dogs by my side whether I am at a park, open space, walking through my neighborhood or sitting on my couch. This feeling of safety is something most men do not have to consider most of the time. As far as staff and public safety goes, the vast majority of dogs are not dangerous or aggressive. You don't kick all the kids out of school because of a few bullies. And anyone who works out in nature with the park service cannot expect to be working in a controlled, completely safe environment, anyway. It is not possible.

I take my dogs off leash regularly on property off of mine that goes through 4 different "owners/stewards". And in the last couple of years, the Marin Open Space District made leashes required in one area I have had my dogs off leash for almost 3 decades! My dogs are on the trails and fireroads 99% of the time, do not harass wildlife and if they have not been ready to eliminate in my backyard before leaving on a hike, I bury any dog waste (rather than pollute with plastic bags, stopping the waste from naturally breaking down and adding to the landfills). Only people that live in the neighborhood use the area and there are not that many dogs at all but someone "on high" decided it was time to suddenly change the law. Do most people follow it? No, because it is ridiculous. I see more raccoon scats from the night before and people's used tissues/toilet paper littered around than dog waste. And these enforcement officers lie in wait and get a charge out of giving someone a completely overpriced ticket. I have been spared so far but have heard stories from others on the trails and now hike with a bit of nervousness in the

background of what should be an enjoyable experience.

Bottom line is that I cannot hike or walk or run as fast as my dogs. They need to fully stretch their legs and let it all out. Nor do I feel the need like they do to stop and smell something or explore a spot for a while or play chase with each other or enjoy greeting and playing with other dogs they meet. I cannot move that fast or that way nor is my brain hardwired to operate in a way that makes certain things fun and interesting in the way it is for dogs. The joy they have in running and playing full out is something they never get to experience in their bodies or spirits when they are on a leash. Having a dog on a leash out in nature is like taking a kid to a park and putting him or her on a leash and restricting their movements and play. It is not natural for them or for dogs. I feel sorry for the dogs that live in apartments in the city and are walked on a leash 2x a day to relieve themselves...some life.

I am a huge supporter of environmental and animal rights. I do support seasonal protection in areas of nesting, for example, by limiting availability to dogs and humans. Most of the wildlife that a dog might chase or bother are creatures (prey) that have a history of that being done to them by mountain lions, bears, hawks, coyotes, wolves, bobcats, etc. that are no longer here or are few in number (thanks to us humans). It is the dog owners responsibility to stop any harassing behavior right away, of course, but it is not out of the range of many species to be harassed by some other (or several) creatures (because they are a prey species), and many are harassed less overall because their natural predators are few or gone. The bigger problem is loss of habitat by human encroachment rather than off leash dogs.

As far as people fearing dogs, that is their problem to make a choice to work on and get over or not. But don't limit what my dogs do because someone has an issue they are not willing to address. That is like saying let's level out the hills or move the trails far from the cliff edges because a park visitor is afraid of heights. There are plenty of places to go where dogs are not allowed at all or only on leash and those places keep on being added to so if they refuse to work on their fears, go to those places. There are lots of them. As a dog owner, I know, believe me. I wish I could take my dogs (even on leash) on the Bear Valley Trail to Arch Rock in Point Reyes. I just hiked that 2 weeks ago. Everything cannot be made to appease the few on either side or either end of the spectrum. For those who have dogs, however, we are the ones that continue to have to be the ones that compromise and the areas we can have our dogs continue to dwindle. Some people do not like children running, screaming, crying, disturbing wildlife, throwing things, littering, hitting trees with sticks, trampling or picking wildflowers, etc. They spoil some people's experience of nature but do those people expect to outlaw children so their experience is more to their liking? No, they have to learn to deal with it and let it go. And what about horses? They do more damage to trails with their hooves and pollute with their waste but I don't expect them to be outlawed, either. We need to be more accommodating, tolerant and accepting of each other.

The one beach I do take my dogs is Stinson Beach. If you want to see humans and dogs off leash having the time of their lives and coexisting really well, go to the north end on the private property section of the beach and see it in action. There are people of all ages playing volleyball, jogging, napping, sunning, eating, playing in the water, looking for shells, surfing, making sand castles, etc. while dogs (and on a sunny day lots of them) run, wrestle, fetch, chase, play, dig, swim, etc. AND IT ALL WORKS!!!! Little toddlers to older folks do just fine and the dogs just love totally being free and themselves. It is a joy for me and my dogs every time I go and I just love seeing humans and dogs loving being at the beach. It can and does work. There are not user conflicts, problems with the natural processes or issues with visitor safety and it will be there for future generations. If you outlaw dogs from the Stinson Beach parking lots, picnic areas and beach area you control, you will create more problems for the private land owners and neighborhoods because it will force visitors to put more pressure on them to be able to enjoy the beach. Many more will lose than win.

Again, in the park I see more damage, disrespect to nature, the environment and wildlife, litter, unacceptable behavior, and problems for park staff due to HUMANS, not dogs. More human pressure and presence in the park with less resources to deal with the pressure causes park degradation. Focus more on these issues and stop making dogs the scapegoat. Please be reasonable and tolerant and do not take away the off leash areas or stop dogs from coming at all. Protect the sensitive species and areas from dogs AND humans as needed and the parks will do just fine. Thank you for your balanced and fair consideration.

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|------------------------------|---|-----------------|-------|------------------|-------|
| <b>Correspondence ID:</b>    | 641   | <b>Project:</b> | 11759 | <b>Document:</b> | 38106 |
| <b>Project:</b>              | Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS                  |                 |       |                  |       |
| <b>Name:</b>                 | Schultz, Judith                                 |                 |       |                  |       |
| <b>Address:</b>              | 2741 Bush Street San Francisco, CA 94115<br>USA |                 |       |                  |       |
| <b>Email:</b>                | -   |                 |       |                  |       |
| <b>Outside Organization:</b> | Unaffiliated Individual                         |                 |       |                  |       |

**Received:** Jan,25,2011 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Letter  
**Correspondence:** Mr. Frank Dean, General Superintendent, GGNRA Building 201, Fort Mason San Francisco, CA 94123-0022

Dear Mr. Dean:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the GGNRA Dog Management Plan and Draft EIS. I am writing to request that the plan be revised to include more areas that allow off-leash dog-walking.

I have walked my two dogs at Crissy Field beaches from the east parking lot to the snowy plover fence around sunrise each morning (average 5 days/week) for over six years. At that time of day, there are very few people on the beach not walking dogs; most people without dogs at that time are running, walking, or cycling on the path. The dogs I encounter are often off-leash, well-behaved, and with responsible owners who pick up their dogs' feces. I feel strongly that continuing to allow off-leash dog walking in the areas currently permitted, and on-leash walking (except for snowy plover and other sensitive habitat) is the most reasonable, balanced approach for management.

I understand that more people without dogs use Crissy Field and the beach, especially on warm, sunny days and weekends, and that there are some dog owners who are not as responsible in controlling their dogs as the vast majority I have experienced there. However, restricting dog activity at Crissy Field and throughout the GGNRA as severely as currently proposed is, in my opinion, not a balanced or reasonable management plan. I have not observed nor heard about a level of compromised safety or degradation of either the environment or visitor experience. In fact, the people walking their dogs in the mornings are extremely appreciative of the environment and care for it very well. As I walk my dogs, I pick up beach trash every day, as do several others, especially in winter, when an appalling amount of plastic, Styrofoam, and other trash washes up on the beach daily.

If further control of dog activity in the GGNRA is warranted related to visitor experience, I would suggest that off-leash dog walking could be limited during certain peak-human use times, for example, between 10:00 am and 4:00 pm on weekends. However, the severe restrictions currently proposed in the "Preferred Alternative" plan, again, do not seem warranted.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Judith Schultz

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**Correspondence ID:** 642    **Project:** 11759    **Document:** 38106  
**Project Name:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Address:** Reed, John T  
491 Chestnut Street, #3 San Francisco, CA 94133  
USA  
**Email:** -  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan,21,2011 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Letter  
**Correspondence:** The Superintendent, GGNRA Building 201, Fort Mason San Francisco, CA 94123

Dear Sir/Madam:

When writing my Christmas letter this year I had to search very hard for something uplifting to say in these dark times. Attached is a major paragraph of what I came up with in that letter ' something that always lifted my spirits that I wanted to pass on:

"There is a vast list of wonders in this city, but my most favorite place is the trail along the coast of SF Bay at Crissey Field (formally part of the US Army Presidio). You can just sit on a bench and watch a promenade of all sorts of people walking along this beautiful trail (that follows the Bay past the Golden Gate Bride and winding out to the Pacific Ocean for about 8 miles). You'll see lot's of people Wind Surfing and Para Sailing out in the Bay out

past Alcatraz and the Golden Gate Bridge. I've always loved Seagulls, but the pre-historic looking flocks of Pelicans that fly by are a sight to behold.

Many small children enthralled by the beach. Lot's of dog's who have been cooped up in small apartments are running with great joy along the beach, meeting up with other dogs and then dashing into the water to catch a ball. Total Happiness! While all of this is going on you'll see huge ships - sometimes a Cruise ship - coming into or leaving San Francisco Bay. When the weather is really magical - and it often is - you'll take in all of these sights as the fog rolls in like cotton candy over the Golden Gate Bridge and snakes along the bay and over Alcatraz. Truly spectacular!

I don't own a dog, but I so much enjoy watching them enjoy their nature freely and joyfully in this beautiful space. Please don't take that away from them or me.

Sincerely,

John T. Reed

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|                              |  |                 |       |                  |       |
|------------------------------|--|-----------------|-------|------------------|-------|
| <b>Correspondence ID:</b>    | 643  | <b>Project:</b> | 11759 | <b>Document:</b> | 38106 |
| <b>Project:</b>              | Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS               |                 |       |                  |       |
| <b>Name:</b>                 | Asaro, Barbara                               |                 |       |                  |       |
| <b>Address:</b>              | 2536 Sherwood Dr. San Bruno, CA 94066<br>USA |                 |       |                  |       |
| <b>Email:</b>                | -  |                 |       |                  |       |
| <b>Outside Organization:</b> | Unaffiliated Individual                      |                 |       |                  |       |
| <b>Received:</b>             | Jan,20,2011 00:00:00                         |                 |       |                  |       |
| <b>Correspondence Type:</b>  | Letter                                       |                 |       |                  |       |
| <b>Correspondence:</b>       | Frank Dean,                                  |                 |       |                  |       |

I am writing this letter on behalf of myself and all the other dog and animal lovers in California. My name is Barbara. I am 63 years young, middle class, and have a passion for animals + the environment.

Ft. Funston has been one of my favorite places to visit, for over 30 years. I have fond memories of all the dogs I've taken there. It distresses me to think that more of it will be closed off to people with dogs. Many of my spaces have been closed because of housing or in the case of Sharp Park pond the endangered frog. My dogs swam in that pond many times over 30 years and I'm sure the frog was there then too. Now they don't have anywhere to swim because the ocean has a riptide.

Animals are my passion, not just dogs. THE new is always filled with 2,000 shore birds killed from Costco Busan oil spill, Sea lion blinded, wolves killed from helicopters, mustangs slaughtered after BLM sells them at auction, mountain lion killed because it was near a school and animals killed by cars. The list goes on and on. Pets and wild animlas have no voice. We must speak for them.

Please keep more space open for people with dogs. Tourists can go anywhere and have a good time, but pet owners (taxpayers) will get tickets if not following the law. Our areas are getting smaller and smaller. Habitat is being sold for housing and there are alot of animal protection agencies (fish + game, environmental defense fund etc.) to speak for the wild animals, but not many for pet owners. Dogs need to run not walk. They have the DNA of wolves.

The caveman domesticated the wolf because it could help him find food and for protection. We use dogs in the same way, police, service avalanche, etc. They are man's best friend and deserve a place to play.

We are all on the planet together and we need to work together for the benefit of every living thing!

Sincerely,

Barbara Asaro

P.S. Think of the world we would have if everyone had the personality of a dog\_\_\_ loving, forgiving, happy and always happy to see you.

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**Correspondence ID:** 644      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** Ginter, Catherine  
**Address:** 155 Salada Ave. Pacifica, CA 94044  
USA  
**Email:** -  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan,19,2011 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Letter  
**Correspondence:** To the G.G.N.R.A.,

To whom it may concern,

Please don't restrict the places our dogs can roam free. They just love to be with the other dogs, it makes them so happy, and I feel that when the dogs can be off leash, (at least for a while) they can learn how to be not so territorial or aggressive in some cases.

Most dogs only get "so much" fun in there lives. They are dependent on us for everything, when and where the eat, sleep, play etc. When they can be off leash for awhile, they are free! and happy. And I can say that most of the people who bring there dogs to these open areas are very, very responsible pet owners or walkers. There are very few confrontations, and everybody there is very grateful to be there.

My husband and I recently took our dog to a confined "dog park" and we found that there was so much more aggression between the dogs. May be it's because they and too confined, and feel that they area belongs to them, like doggie domain.

Thank you for reading my letter, please consider all that is at steak.

Yours truly,

Catherine Ginter, Pacifica resident

P.S. We live in Pacifica (and you know what that means) Quite frequently "after" our walk-run in "Fort Funston" (thats where we like to go) we go to San Francisco for lunch or shopping (with our dog) and that helps the city of S.F. too.

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**Correspondence ID:** 645      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** Certo, Nicholas J  
**Address:** 43 Molino Ave. Mill Valley, CA 94941  
USA  
**Email:** -  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan,19,2011 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Letter  
**Correspondence:** Superintendent Dean Golden Gate National Recreation Area Attn: ANPR, Bldg. 201 San Francisco, CA, 94123

Dear Superintendent Dean:

I am writing to publically comment on the proposed rule for PET MANAGEMENT IN GOLDEN GATE NATIONAL RECREATION AREA. I have lived in Mill Valley, CA with my wife and two children for 19 years. When we moved to the San Francisco Bay Area in 1992, we chose Mill Valley as the place to live and raise our

family specifically because of its close proximity to GGNRA, Mt. Tamalpais and Stinson Beach. During that time we have had three dogs, consecutively. As one died of natural causes, we would eventually get another; in part because dogs add a pleasant element to a family, in part because Marin County is so dog-friendly, and in large part because of easy access to GGNRC and the ability to exercise with our dogs.

For 19 years we have explored the various paths up and down Mt. Tamalpais and the surrounding area with our dogs. On some paths we have used a leash and on others, where permitted, we have not. Over time, the leash rule has encouraged us to use only paths that allow dogs off-leash. There are two distinct advantages of such a leash rule: (a) you can exercise with your dog without the owner and dog being restricted by a leash; (b) such paths generally are chosen by other pet owners who are familiar with and tolerant of dogs which minimizes unnecessary conflicts.

Similarly, when we first arrived, we visited all the local beaches (i.e., Muir, Rodeo, Ft. Baker, Stinson, etc.). However, over time we selectively chose the section of Stinson Beach where dogs were allowed off leash (i.e., the northern end). We chose this because we could relax and enjoy walks along the beach among other families who also had dogs and children, and, as such, were familiar with and tolerant of families with pets.

I believe that you need to understand and seriously consider the context in which you are proposing your new plan to severely restrict pet access to GGNRA. As I mentioned above, Marin County is very dog tolerant. I have lived in five other states, including Washington, DC and Northern Virginia, and I can say from considerable experience that there are more dogs per capita in this relatively small county than anywhere else I have lived. As a testament to this fact most retail stores, including higher end department stores, such as Nordstrom's, allow dogs in their business locations.

As a former federal official, I understand your need to balance the concerns of all citizens. I was a GS-13 in the Carter Administration and worked as an SES-I in the first Bush Administration. However, the restrictiveness of your ANPR for PET MANAGEMENT IN GOLDEN GATE NATIONAL RECREATION AREA is not balanced and does not reflect the values of the community in which GGNRA is located. In my considered judgment, the current rules which allow dog and non-dog areas, leash and non-leash areas, are much more balanced and more closely reflect the values of the community in which GGNRA is located. I urge you to eliminate or amend your proposed rules.

Sincerely,

Nicholas J. Certo

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|                              |   |                 |       |                  |       |
|------------------------------|---|-----------------|-------|------------------|-------|
| <b>Correspondence ID:</b>    | 646   | <b>Project:</b> | 11759 | <b>Document:</b> | 38106 |
| <b>Project:</b>              | Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  |                 |       |                  |       |
| <b>Name:</b>                 | Ballinger, Charles  |                 |       |                  |       |
| <b>Address:</b>              | P.O. Box 1922 Mill Valley, CA 94942<br>USA  |                 |       |                  |       |
| <b>Email:</b>                | -   |                 |       |                  |       |
| <b>Outside Organization:</b> | Unaffiliated Individual   |                 |       |                  |       |
| <b>Received:</b>             | Jan,19,2011 00:00:00  |                 |       |                  |       |
| <b>Correspondence Type:</b>  | Letter  |                 |       |                  |       |
| <b>Correspondence:</b>       | Frank Dean, Superintendent GGNRA Building 201 Fort Mason, San Francisco, CA 94123 |                 |       |                  |       |

Dear Mr. Dean,

I oppose the proposed dog restrictions in Marin County. The Audubon Society does not represent the interests of most resident taxpayers and it certainly doesn't represent our country's pet owners. The GGNRA should respect taxpayers' interests before the objections of a bird group that would likely exclude people from the parks if they could.

Our society faces a never-ending onslaught of new restrictions that decrease - not increase - our quality of life. Progress isn't measured by the thickness of the rule book.

Before I moved to California 27 years ago, I saw this process occur in New Jersey. First, they outlawed dogs on

the beach and then they imposed beach tag fees for visitors. My dog died, but I moved to California to get away from a seashore ruined by over-regulation.

Recreation areas belong to tax paying citizens. Let them enjoy it without further restrictions.

Charles Ballinger Mill Valley 415-381-1989

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**Correspondence ID:** 647      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** Blumberg, Peter  
**Address:** 2536 Greenwich Street San Francisco, CA 94123  
USA  
**Email:** -  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan,19,2011 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Letter  
**Correspondence:** Frank Dean, General Superintendent Golden Gate National Recreation Area, Building 201, Fort Mason, San Francisco, CA94123-0022.

Dear Sir,

The proposed Dog Management Draft Plan has caused a great degree of consternation among all the many people that we have spoken to who use Crissy Field as a recreation area, whether for walking dogs or just enjoying a stroll along the beach. For all of us living in an urban environment the privilege of having an escape like Crissy Field is something to be treasured.

It seems to me that the time, money and effort that has gone into this 2,400 page report could have been spent on many more worthwhile issues. By all means, environmentally sensitive areas and endangered wildlife should be protected, but in the case of Crissy Field this has already been taken care of, and the new regulations are clearly over zealous. Limiting off leash dog walking to the small central beach area will not only be completely unsatisfactory to dog owners, but will certainly cause more environmental damage in that restricted area.

The issue is one of responsible dog management and well behaved dogs, under voice control, off leash are no more of a nuisance than 10 dogs on leash with a dog walker or for that matter a dozen or so visitors in a group cycling down the path.

The Crissy Field area was specifically designed to allow people with or without dogs to roam freely on all the non sensitive unfenced areas. I have no idea how you plan to enforce your new regulations, but common sense would dictate that only irresponsible dog behavior or any other disturbance of park visitors enjoyment should be punished.

Sincerely

Peter Blumberg

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**Correspondence ID:** 648      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** Fredricks, John  
**Address:** 2836 Noriega San Francisco, CA 94116  
USA  
**Email:** -  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan,18,2011 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Letter  
**Correspondence:** Mr. Dean,

As a dog owner and lover of the free (America!) I want to express my concern for keeping some areas of San Francisco open to let dogs run and play. We are losing more of our rights as citizens each day and now it seems as if it is also affecting our beloved pets. Please keep the areas dog friendly with unleashed dogs and don't put a number limit and any more restrictions.

I use a dog walker three times a week and the amount of happiness it brings me when my dog comes back is irreplaceable.

Please help keep the system from interfering with our happiness and freedom!

Sincerely,

John Fredricks

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|                              |  |                 |       |                  |       |
|------------------------------|--|-----------------|-------|------------------|-------|
| <b>Correspondence ID:</b>    | 649  | <b>Project:</b> | 11759 | <b>Document:</b> | 38106 |
| <b>Project:</b>              | Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS   |                 |       |                  |       |
| <b>Name:</b>                 | Allen, Robert  |                 |       |                  |       |
| <b>Address:</b>              | 301 Caledonia Street Sausalito, CA 94965<br>USA                            |                 |       |                  |       |
| <b>Email:</b>                | -  |                 |       |                  |       |
| <b>Outside Organization:</b> | Unaffiliated Individual  |                 |       |                  |       |
| <b>Received:</b>             | Jan,18,2011 00:00:00   |                 |       |                  |       |
| <b>Correspondence Type:</b>  | Letter   |                 |       |                  |       |
| <b>Correspondence:</b>       | Mr. Frank Dean GGNRA Building 201, Fort Mason San Francisco, CA 94123-0022 |                 |       |                  |       |

Re. Banning Dogs from Muir Beach

Dear Mr. Dean,

Banning dogs at Muir Beach is a bad idea. (Federal plans would ban dogs, SF Chronicle, Jan 13, 2011) Who really comes up with these ill conceived and costly plans? It surely isn't someone who lives in Muir Beach. It's likely some bureaucrat sitting in an office in Washington that doesn't even know where Muir Beach is. When was the last time you visited Muir Beach? If you lived here, wouldn't you like to walk your dog on the beach?

I'm a 25 year resident of Muir Beach, a member of the Muir Beach Volunteer Fire Dept. for 22 years, and EMT. I have never responded to Muir Beach for an emergency caused by a dog. Dogs may poop, but they don't drink alcohol, break bottles, litter, carry weapons, start fires, drown or fall off cliffs. If you, as the park superintendent, really want to make Muir Beach a better place, you should ban people. Let the dogs have the beach. The people can sit in their cars and litter the parking lot.

I think that the excuse that some how dogs effect the environment or chase or scare birds is a smokescreen. In 25 years I've never seen a dog catch a bird. At most they chase away the seagulls and crows that are scavenging the trash and vomit left by humans. Is the park service going to ban horses? Equestrians never clean up after their animals. Are you planning to ban fires? Ban alcohol? Are you planning to enforce littering laws? Are you planning to clean the disgusting port-potties once in awhile? In other words, is the park service planning to do something that really matters, or just this petty bureaucratic crap that disrupts our lives?

In addition, I have always felt much better, when my wife and children are out enjoying the beach and trails, that they have our dog with them for safety. Our dog would only lick the would-be bad guy to death, but he wouldn't know that in advance. Women and children should be allowed to have this benign level of protection and companionship wherever they go in our parks. If you have a wife or child I believe you would agree. The bad guys carry weapons, but at least we have man's best friend at our side.

Thank you for your time and consideration in regards to this upcoming decision.

Best Regards,

Robert Allen, MBVFD, Muir Beach, 415-331-2800

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**Correspondence ID:** 650      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** Thompson, Gene  
**Address:** 1556 Great Hwy, apt 101 San Francisco, CA 94122  
USA  
**Email:** -  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Feb,04,2011 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Letter  
**Correspondence:** RE: GGNRA Draft Dog Management Plan

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

Dear Superintendent Frank Dean,

I live on the Great Highway between Kirkham and Lawton. I walk on the beach frequently. The entrances to the beach near my house are all clearly marked as Snowy Plover protection areas. The signs clearly state that dogs must be on leashes. Nevertheless, of the many, many dogs that I see on the beach, almost none are on leashes. I see them frequently chasing the birds, including the Snowy Plover. I sometimes ask owners whose dogs I see chasing the Plover if they are aware of the restriction and they always answer "yes". These owners knowingly disregard this restriction. I believe this occurs so frequently because this law is not adequately enforced.

I feel that protecting the Snowy Plover is more important than allowing dog owners to run their dogs unleashed. I hope that the GGNRA will give dog owners notice that if they continue to disregard the law, dogs will be entirely prohibited on Ocean Beach.

I also feel that fines should be increased to pay for better enforcement.

Sincerely,

Gene Thompson

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**Correspondence ID:** 651      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** travishails@Hotmail.com  
**Outside Organization:** Golden Gate Audubon Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Feb,16,2011 08:20:38  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I frequently walk and birdwatch in many parks, National, State, Regional, and

City. I have some mobility issues, but mostly fear being knocked over by large,

off-leash dogs. I usually walk with a stick for balance.

Although I understand the companionship dogs offer, I do not feel that dogs and

wildlife belong together. Besides chasing the wildlife, these domesticated wolves

must, by their scent alone, be stressful on wildlife.

Many parks require "Voice Control". This is a widely used rule, but it is unenforcable. 1) At a minimum, it should cause the dog to stop instantly any current behavior, and if so directed (i.e. "COME"), should cause the dog to return to its owner/handler. 2) It should control the dog's behavior, not allowing the dog to chase wildlife, dig, or approach other visitors who do not desire such attention.

Personally, I often ask a handler to "Please call your dog". After calling to the animal with no effect, the response is "He/she won't bother you!" This really is confrontational. If I say it is bothering me, I am a Grinch, a dog-hater, somewhat less than human. I usually repeat "Call your dog", but it doesn't get results.

Either the handler refuses, or cannot get the dog to respond.

Voice control, if enacted, will need a very clear definition, and enforcement will be extremely difficult. Personally, I consider off-leash with voice control to be the same as dogs running wild.

Any variation from National Park rules, i.e.

"<http://www.nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/pets.htm>" will undermine those rules.

What is permitted in GGNRA should be permitted in all National Parks, and so more dogs will be off-leash in Yosemite and other parks and monuments.

Service Dogs - In the last few years, mostly in Marin County, this has become a standard response. "It is a Service Dog". I fully understand and appreciate "Seeing Eye" dogs, any I suppose Hearing Dogs, and dogs attending a person in a wheel-chair. But when the handler is on the phone, the dog is running free, what is the service? I've asked, and always get the same response "I'm uncomfortable discussing that with strangers". Who came up with that line and distributed it to every dog owner in Marin County?

Signage - Signs stating the dog rules must be prominently displayed, and be

unambiguous. For example, in Jack London State Park (CA), the sign at the trailhead reads "No Dogs Allowed on Trails". We saw dogs, but they were running through the woods, not on the trails. Cezar Chavez Park (City of Berkeley, CA) the signs say "Dogs must be on-leash in vicinity of this sign" So how far away from sign is out of vicinity. Dimond Park (City of Oakland, CA) has a sign "No Dogs Allowed" next to a sign "Owners must pick up after their dogs". Which sign is correct? Do professional dog-walkers have to pick up the dog litter?

Enforcement - Most dog owners know that even if caught violating the rules, they will only get a verbal warning. In most parks, gardeners, maintenance workers, naturalists, etc. will not speak to dog owners violating the park rules. These employees often like dogs, and approach the dogs to pet them. This gives tacit approval to the violations. I understand the reasoning behind not having these people enforcing the rules, but to not speak to the owners does give approval. Whatever rules you choose, the ability to enforce them must be considered. Therefore, these rules must be clear and concise. If you are going to allow "Voice Control", then a handler must demonstrate, if called to do so, that his/her pet will respond correctly even when distractions occur. A dog off-leash has to return to its owner regardless of distractions. Instantly, not after it has greeted me.

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**Correspondence ID:** 652      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** Denney, Carol  
**Address:** 1970 San Pablo Avenue #4 Berkeley, CA 94702  
USA  
**Email:** -  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan,26,2011 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Letter  
**Correspondence:** Frank Dean, General Superintendent Golden Gate National Recreation Area, Building 201 Fort Mason, San Francisco, CA 94123-0022

Dear Mr. Dean,

I'm writing in strong support of the Golden Gate National Recreational Area's need to curtail the impact of dogs on our valuable shared recreational resources (Alternative D).

It's true that dog owners are a very vocal, very organized group, unlike most pedestrians, families, and other users of parklands. I believe that is part of the problem.

Once an area becomes conventionally used as an off-leash dog area, people with children, people with physical frailties, and people who wish quieter, more contemplative settings avoid the area entirely. This certainly reduces the conflict between different kinds of users, but only because people with vulnerable children or who are vulnerable themselves to getting knocked over by racing, fighting dogs no longer have access to the park in question. There can appear to be fewer conflicts because vulnerable people have to quit coming.

I worked for years as a senior advocate, and watched as beach after beach, park after park became unusable to seniors because of the sheer volume of unleashed dogs. One of my clients suffered a hip fracture when tripped by a dog running by with an attached leash, and spent her next six months in painful rehabilitation therapy. Her inability to move and live independently was costly physically, financially, and emotionally. She died within a year and a half of the accident.

In addition, the Bay Area is lucky to have an exceptional minority of people who deeply appreciate migratory birdlife and rare plant species, and I count myself among that group. Affected wildlife can't participate in fora or write letters, but need space to rest and thrive as certainly as the rest of us.

Our beaches and parklands are greatly diminished as wildlife is forced to retreat further from natural areas. Our lives are diminished by our inability to see the full measure of our natural world.

Please adopt the most protective option for our vulnerable parks, people, and wildlife. Responsible dog owners will celebrate this effort along with the rest of us.

Thank you,

Carol Denney (volunteer with the state and national parks)

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| <b>Correspondence ID:</b>    | 653   | <b>Project:</b> | 11759 | <b>Document:</b> | 38106 |
| <b>Project:</b>              | Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  |                 |       |                  |       |
| <b>Name:</b>                 | Finn, Jeffrey S   |                 |       |                  |       |
| <b>Address:</b>              | 375 Catalina Blvd Apt 102 San Rafael, CA 94901<br>USA   |                 |       |                  |       |
| <b>Email:</b>                | -   |                 |       |                  |       |
| <b>Outside Organization:</b> | Unaffiliated Individual   |                 |       |                  |       |
| <b>Received:</b>             | Jan,14,2011 00:00:00  |                 |       |                  |       |
| <b>Correspondence Type:</b>  | Letter  |                 |       |                  |       |
| <b>Correspondence:</b>       | Superintendent Frank Dean, Golden Gate National Recreation Area, Building 201, Fort Mason, San Francisco, CA 94123-0022 |                 |       |                  |       |

Hello, I am in favor of the preferred alternative in the proposed dog management plan especially were it prohibits dogs on or off-leash at East Beach at Crissy Field.

The problem is out of control with Dogs chasing wildlife, poop everywhere, digging wholes, peeing on personal property, biting and knocking people over.

Also I am disappointed with that lack of enforcement of the current rules; specifically keeping Dogs out of the out door shower and bathroom at Crissy field.

Sincerely

Jeffrey Finn

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**Correspondence ID:** 654      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** Fallon, Howard  
**Address:** 333-27th Street San Francisco, CA 94131  
USA  
**Email:** -  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan,18,2011 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Letter  
**Correspondence:** Superintendent Frank Dean, Golden Gate National Recreation Area, Building 201, Fort Mason, San Francisco, CA 94123-0022

I support the management plan for canines on Golden Gate National Recreation Area land - a proposal that would require dogs to be leashed in many areas where they once ran free and would ban them entirely from other areas.

As a 35 year San Francisco resident I've seen our city overrun by the canine obsession. Back before the Bush Administration destroyed our economy through wars of adventure, folks use to think about buying homes and settling down or spending their capital on glorious vacations. Now that no one has any disposable income, everyone's getting a dog to placate their loss of the American Dream. I see dogs off leash in commercial corridors, on MUNI, in coffee bars, in restaurants, etc. I see dog feces on every block of our city. I'm a taxpayer, property owner, registered voter, and I'm fighting back. These animals must be reigned in!

Howard Fallon

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**Correspondence ID:** 655      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** Elsner, Nancy  
**Address:** 2275-19th Avenue, #8 San Francisco, CA 94116-1867  
USA  
**Email:** -  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan,18,2011 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Letter  
**Correspondence:** Mr. Frank Dean, General Superintendent Golden Gate National Recreation Area Fort Mason, Building 201 San Francisco, CA 94123-0022

Dear Mr. Dean:

I wholeheartily approve of the Plan proposed by the National Park Service on the Management of Dogs on Federal lands in San Francisco and the Bay Area.

A few years ago I was bitten by an off-leash dog in an unprovoked attack on Ocean Beach in San Francisco. I have given up walking on Ocean Beach, Funston Park and Crissy Field because of the danger of free running off-leash dogs.

There is no city in Europe which allows off-leash dogs. Cities also require clean up by owners of dog feces in streets and parks.

Walkers are not organized like dog owners but we are a significant user of streets and parks. Stick by the rules and regulations of the National Park Service which are there for good reason.

Sincerely,

Nancy Elsner

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**Correspondence ID:** 656      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** Moss, Miriam  
**Address:** 830 Congo Street San Francisco, CA 94131  
USA  
**Email:** -  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan,19,2011 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Letter  
**Correspondence:** Frank Dean General Superintendent of the Golden. Gate National Recreation. Area Building 201 Fort Mason, San Francisco CA 94123-002

Dear Superintendent Dean,

I would like to take this opportunity to completely support limiting off-leash dogs within the GGNRA. In fact if it were up to me there would be no dogs allowed inside the GGNRA even on a leash.

Due to years of organized groups of dog owners who have politically bullied the public and political leaders alike into believing that off-leash dog use is a legitimate form of recreation there is no where to go for a peaceful walk in any park. They have silenced anyone who dares object by using intimidating tactics. Anyone who complained that our rights to a respite from the daily living of an urban setting was conflicting with their desires to use every square inch of any place they want as dog toilets and exercise areas as their god given right is labeled a "dog hater".

You do not have to be a "dog hater" to realize that not everywhere is appropriate for off-leash dogs. Dogs often cause erosion, and upset the balance of nature and conflict with how others which to use a common space. It is often not compatible to have dogs running loose when it bothers others who want to use the same area.

Dog owners are the first to complain if bicycle riders or horseback riders want to use the trails.

Those of us who wish to use the GGNRA without having to put up with the conflicting use of limited space, unsafe running by their dogs, noisy barking and lack of respect by dog owners for the natural environment we want our rights upheld to enjoy the GGNRA.

Use of this property should not be dominated by off-leash dogs, and their needs, as is currently the case. This public space belongs to all of us and it is about time that the rest of us got to use what our taxes have paid for without being made uncomfortable or kept out entirely by a single user group.

Sincerely, Miriam Moss

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**Correspondence ID:** 657      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** j\_stoughton@yahoo.com  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Feb,16,2011 08:59:01  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I, and everyone I know, loudly and enthusiastically applaud any decision to better regulate dogs and dog owners in these areas. But Baker Beach should ALSO be included in this regulation. Dogs there are out of control.

Dogs are out of control in the parks. Throw down a blanket or a towel and within minutes an unleashed dog is running over it and trying to eat your food. I was at Baker Beach last weekend (down the street from my house) and I literally stepped on dog poo TWICE! This is unacceptable. Dogs should be on leashes. Do let them roam free causes waste and poses a potential danger to others.

Dog advocates have historically contended that dog owners are "responsible and pick up after their dogs and keep their dogs in check from annoying others". This is patently not true. Any reasonable person who sits for even a short amount of time at Crissy Field, Baker Beach, Ocean Beach, et al will quickly see that some dog owners do not pick up after their dogs at all or keep them off of other park visitors. The reality is that even a small percentage of owners who exhibit this behavior ruins it for everyone.

Dog owners are organized, but their loud opposition to this does not mean that they are in the majority. Most City residents favor more regulation and better enforcement for dog owners.

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**Correspondence ID:** 658      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** Guldman, Sandra and Thomas  
**Address:** 40 Quisisana Drive Kentfield, CA 94904  
USA  
**Email:** -  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan,20,2011 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Letter  
**Correspondence:** Frank Dean General Superintendent Golden Gate National Recreation Area Building 201, Fort Mason San Francisco CA 94123-0022

RE: Dog Management Plan/DEIS

Dear Mr. Dean,

We appreciate being given the opportunity to comment on the GGNRA Dog Management Plan and DEIS.

We have long believed that unconstrained dog access to the GGNRA is inappropriate for the mission of protecting and encouraging native flora and fauna, and often very unpleasant for other recreational users of the GGNRA. Many dog owners suffer from the delusion that their pets, regardless of their behavior, are always lovable and that their attentions are welcome. Wrong. Most owners further believe that anyone trying to fend off their pets will be placated if assured that "he won't bite" or "she's just friendly." Though being marked with muddy paw prints from a non-biting dog is better than being muddied and bitten, it is still not an experience one goes to the GGNRA to enjoy.

Your January 2011 Newsletter makes reference to "on-leash and/or voice-control," perpetuating one of the most cherished illusions of many dog owners. That is the belief that voice-control actually works. There are some rare, highly trained dogs (guide dogs for the blind, K-9 Corps animals, possibly bomb sniffers) that do respond consistently to voice commands. However, the lovable family pet tearing around the GGNRA is virtually always utterly oblivious to voice commands, most of all when having fun jumping on unenthusiastic strangers or chasing wildlife. We urge that you require all dogs in areas where they are not explicitly allowed to be off-leash, to be always on-leash. If some dog owners are insistent that their animals can be fully controlled by voice commands, they should be required to demonstrate this by testing, under realistic conditions. (The owners of dogs should bear the full cost of the tests, and dogs that pass should be required to carry some form of identification, renewable annually for a fee.) The going-in assumption should be that voice-control does not work unless contrary proof is provided.

We could find no mention of requiring dog owners to pick up their pets' feces. Dog owners may enjoy the squish of dog droppings underfoot, and its rich aroma, but most other people don't. Why should anyone be forced to put up with dogs fouling the GGNRA?

Finally, we would like to say how much we welcome your statements to the effect that dog policies shall be

enforced. That will involve both effort and expense, but without consistent, active enforcement, no dog policies are worth discussing. The Marin Municipal Water District (MMWD) has fairly strict dog restraint policies (to protect public health and water quality, non-controversial goals) but they are weakly enforced. As a result, most dog owners appear to consider these policies to be optional, not mandatory, and elect not to follow them. When MMWD rangers do catch off-leash dogs, they nearly always offer earnest, sensible advice to the offending owner. This amounts to voice- control for owners, and is, predictably, ineffective. If GGNRA is going to have dog policies, they must be enforced, which will require adequate staff and a willingness to levy fines, high enough to get the owners' attention. This will certainly create an uproar. Are you ready to face that?

Controlling dogs ranks only second to controlling firearms in the outrage it provokes. We are very lucky that the Founding Fathers did not mention dogs in the Constitution.) Just raising the highly appropriate and timely issues you are addressing is courageous. We admire you and hope that your efforts will be successful.

Sincerely,

Sandra Guldman, Thomas Guldman

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**Correspondence ID:** 659      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** Cantini, Mary  
**Address:** 1730 Broderick Street, Apt 6 San Francisco, CA 94115  
USA  
**Email:** -  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan,21,2011 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Letter  
**Correspondence:** General Superintendent Frank Dean Golden Gate National Recreation Area Building 201 Fort Mason San Francisco CA 94123-0022

Dear Superintendent Dean:

I am writing regarding my concern about dogs in our national park.

I am a Golden Gate National Park supporter, user and lover. I swim at Aquatic Park in San Francisco? I walk, run and bird at Crissy Field several times per week, and I volunteer at Ocean beach once a month. During daylight savings time I like to head over to the Marin Headlands after work.

I am a charter Golden Gate Keeper, my donation is small, but it is monthly and will keep coming as long as I am living.

I like dogs, but feel that dogs should not have free run of our park.

Recently an unleashed hunting type dog named Dexter was in the lagoon at Crissy harassing birds. The owner was trying unsuccessfully to call the dog out, but the dog had a target and was going for it. Most dog owners are responsible, but there are just too many dogs at Crissy Field.

I have had this experience at Aquatic Park, which is signed "No Pets on Beach". I witnessed a dog killing a western gull last summer. The dog's owner was upset about this, but there was just nothing that he could do to stop the dog.

Dogs run out of control at Ocean Beach and Rodeo Beach, and are often in the lagoon at Rodeo, which is signed "no dogs". Dogs are unleashed and not under voice control on the Miwok/Bobcat trail in the Marin Headlands. I recently, for the first time, saw a dog on Tennessee Valley Trail.

Our parks are not for dog recreation. We should all respect the beautiful place we have.

Dogs need to run, but it should not be in our national park. They need designated dog parks, away from wildlife

and from humans that do not want to interact with dogs at play.

Please keep our park for the native plants and animals. I am worried that dog owners have already taken so much with their disregard of signed areas, and that if given more, there will be no place that is dog free.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Mary Cantini

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**Correspondence ID:** 660    **Project:** 11759    **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** Carpenter, Ed.D., Russell K  
**Address:** 2139 43rd Avenue San Francisco, CA 94116  
USA  
**Email:** -  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan,24,2011 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Letter  
**Correspondence:** Dear Mr. Dean:

Greetings.

Thank you for the opportunity to express my comments on the proposed dogplan.

I live half a dozen blocks from Ocean Beach in San Francisco, near Rivera Street. enjoy going to the beach for leisure and recreation.

Generally speaking, some dogowners are very considerate of others. However, many allow their animals to run rampant, both on the beach and on the sidewalks, ignoring posted signage, and frightening children, birds, and some adults. Many of the dogowners are scofflaws, just like many bicyclists ignore traffic laws in the city.

The careless owners also ignore the requirements to pick up excrement from their pets. These animals are hazardous to humans and deleterious to the environment, which is very fragile at best. Consider, for example, the recent erosion of Ocean Beach over the past few years, destroying portions of The Great Highway. Also, there are rare species of birds in the area, like the snowy plover and others.

I support a ban on dogwalking, off-leash, on fragile portions of the beaches in San Francisco, particularly Ocean Beach, plus Crissy Field, Fort Funston, and other locations, and an outright ban of dogs on the particularly vulnerable areas. The owners often complain their animals need to get exercise off leash. I say let them do so in their private yards, not in public space. Also, there are portions of Golden Gate Park where the dogs can be walked.

Sincerely,

Russell K. Carpenter, Ed.D.

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**Correspondence ID:** 661    **Project:** 11759    **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** N/A, N/A  
**Address:** N/A N/A, UN N/A  
USA  
**Email:** -  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan,26,2011 00:00:00

**Correspondence Type:** Letter  
**Correspondence:** Frank Dean, Supt. GGNRA Bldg. 201 Ft. Mason, SF 94123

Dear Sir:

I live in Pacifica and am sick and tired of dogs having more "rights" than people.

There need to be more places where dogs are not allowed off leash in Pacifica!! This idea of making hiking trails dog friendly is not a good idea!

I have been out walking in Pacifica, in various places and have had strangers' dogs come up and sniff me -- even when I've sat on the benches on the cliffs (by Nick's) that overlook the ocean trying to get in a peaceful mood only to find these annoying offleash strangers' dogs pestering me! Keep the dogs and dog parks away from where people walk. And insist that all dogs everywhere be on leash!

Save money. Avoid lawsuits. Keep dogs on leash! Keep dogs off Mori Point and other pretty hiking areas (unless on leash).

Sincerely

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**Correspondence ID:** 662    **Project:** 11759    **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** Gedt, MD, Elaine  
**Address:** 554 48th Ave San Francisco, CA 94121  
USA  
**Email:** -  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan,20,2011 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Letter  
**Correspondence:** Frank Dean General Superintendent Bldg 20 Fort Mason SF CA 94123

Re: not enforcemnt of present leash law at Sutro Park Proposed new law for Sutro Park

Dear Park Planning/dog planning,

I live across the street from Sutro Park at the above addresss and have watched the dog owners overrun + ruin the foliage and ability of older people/children/adults to enjoy the park. I have called numerous times to ask the law be enforced to keep the dogs on a lease with minimal help. The signs are deformed or broken and the dog owners feel it is their park. My elderly mother was afraid to walk in the park as are many other older people for fear of the dogs that are running wild. I have seen the dogs run in front of children and bike riders with resultant injury.

The park is for all to enjoy not just the dog owners. I also see dog walkers coming and emptying out their vans with many dogs and letting them run wild. The park is small and beautiful and should not be a dog park because much of it already has turned into shit due to the dogs, constant clawing, defecating/urinating and digging. There shouldn't be explicit dog parks for this.

Thank you, Elaine Gedt MD 518-9457

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**Correspondence ID:** 663    **Project:** 11759    **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** -  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Organization:**  
**Received:** Feb,16,2011 10:06:07  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am dog owner living along the Great Hwy.

1. I would like the Great Hwy dunes area open for off leash walking. The May-July off leash allowance seems unnecessary (what are the statistics of the snowy plover recovery??- I have never seen one) . What I do wonder is why the Ocean Beach area by the Cliff House is an off leash area. That is the area where people park and enjoy the beach. The area between Lincoln & Sloat is not as populated with people w/o dogs. Why not make that area off leash? That way the open beach can be used by folks w/o dogs.

2. I would like Fort Funston to remain open to off leash dog walking. I go there 1-3 times a month and have never seen an incident where the dogs/people did not get along.

3. If you don't provide areas for dogs and their owners to enjoy - I believe you will have more complaints from citizens who will be walking their dogs on the streets. If you know dogs - they are much more friendly off leash when they approach other dogs.

4. I believe responsible dog owners are aware if their dogs are voice controlled - they leash them when necessary. If you allow voice control along the Great Hwy, that would be a good thing.

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**Correspondence ID:** 664      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** Lee, Ken  
**Address:** 315 Corbett Ave Apt 2 San Francisco, CA 94114-1884  
USA  
**Email:** -  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan,18,2011 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Letter  
**Correspondence:** Hi Mr. Dean,

Many thanks for taking another look at changing the dog policy at the G. Gate NRA site.

As a native of SF, I love dogs but feel the G.G. NRA parks are not "people friendly".

I support your "Preferred Alterantive" for the 21 areas, but would add to have dogs on-leash at all 21 areas at all times. Many people come from cultures in which dogs are not pets and can be frightened by dogs.

Thank You,

Ken Lee

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**Correspondence ID:** 665      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** Thurber, Rick E  
**Address:** 205 Upper Terrace San Francisco, CA 94117  
USA  
**Email:** -  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Jan,26,2011 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Letter  
**Correspondence:** Mr. Frank Dean General Superintendent Golden Gate National Recreation Area Building 201, Fort Mason San Francisco, CA 94123-0022

Re: Dog Management Plan

For years we have hiked the Bay Area parklands. Our keen appreciation and sense of responsibility makes it effortless to adhere to codes and regulations at each particular park. Presently we do not bring our small dog "Jimmy" to many areas in the GGNRA where dogs are allowed off leash simply because we detest seeing the 'ANYTHING GOES' mentality where too many dog owners allow their pets to have their way abusing, misusing, and damaging terrain, flora and fauna. Then too we resent the lack of enforcement by park officials. The accumulated effect of misuse and neglect are painfully apparent to all who care about the planet.

What about those of us who come to visit the GGNRA seeking only to enjoy an experience of being in harmony with the non-manmade world? Having acquired the quality of engaging nature on its own terms, we are open to peace and serenity beyond expression. Being emotionally one with our surroundings, we naturally treat it with utmost care and respect. Seeing misuse and neglect, and the prevailing sense of disorder is an intensely aching experience, which is why we wholeheartedly support the Dog Management Plan as well as unblemished enforcement. An intelligent approach to park management is to prohibit unlicensed dogs and unconditionally cite those violating park regulations. Let violators pay the citation or appear before a judge to explain why they have rights that exceed the rights of other living things.

This is our individual problem; it is not some speculative problem that doesn't concern each park visitor. If as human beings we do not know how to care for the earth, which includes our urban environment, if we are merely concerned with ourselves, we shall further desecrate our planet; for what is done or left undone in the short run determines the long run. Will we continue to sanction misuse merely because we have 'good' excuses? How degraded are we willing to allow things to become before action is taken to reverse the trend and restore sound practices? The easy excuse is a lack of money or resources when in fact it is a lack of responsibility and determination that is critically important. How long will we remain inept? What legitimacy do Park officials have when they sustain misuse through neglect? Sound policies, maintenance and enforcement are needed now!

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**Correspondence ID:** 666      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** Chariton, Laura  
**Address:** 446 Panoramic Hwy. Mill Valley, CA 94941  
USA  
**Email:** -  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Feb.02,2011 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Letter  
**Correspondence:** Frank Dean, General Superintendent, Golden Gate National Recreation Area, Building 201, Fort Mason, San Francisco, CA 94123-0022.

RE: Dog Owner wanting More Restrictions for ESA T/E species.

Dear Mr. Dean;

I am commenting on a very difficult issue. I am a frequent dog-owner, user of Muir Beach, Stinson and Rodeo where I walk my dog on the legal trails for dogs. One of the reasons I go to the beach is to clean it. I have cleaned Muir, Stinson, Pirates Cove and Rodeo hundreds of times. A salmon ecologist and restoration expert, I have the utmost concern for cleaning up dog excrement and keeping my dog out of the creeks isolated to the shoreline and minimally impacting wildlife.

This is my behavior, because I am educated about the environment, species and habitat concerns, and cultural concerns. However, when I come to the beaches and walk on the trails, many of the rules are not observed by others. Dogs are off leash where they shouldn't be. They are in the Big Lagoon often, Redwood Creek and the riparian zone where they can impact salmonid and frog species recovery. Dogs run after shorebirds, which are disappearing at an alarming rate. Though I have observed all regulations, cleaned up after my dog, (he doesn't chase anything) and kept him leashed in restricted areas, I cannot condone the further permitting of dogs on Muir Beach. It has gotten too impacting. However if dogs continue to be allowed at these beaches, the responsibility lies on Park Service to provide better education and clarity about where and why dogs are restricted. With budget constraints, this is a difficult outreach and requires hyper-vigilance. Many times, I have talked to folks who have

allowed their dogs into these restricted areas .to explain the reasons. Sometimes met with anger, sometimes with shock about their own ignorance..... most people want to do the right thing. In this exact same vein, people without dogs have done damage to the sealed mouth of Big Lagoon, breaching it in summer and invading the sensitive dunes. Having lost our intrinsic ability to respect natural systems, it falls on the parks to propagate stewardship whether there are dogs there or not.

The human caused damage is just as significant. I know, I have cleaned enormous quantities of trash from the beaches, oiled debris from Cosco Busan, witnessed kids slathered with sunscreen playing in the lagoons, found birds strangled by fishing line, probably the very birds I worked to save at the International Bird Rescue and Research Center. I have found sea lions and seals with bullet holes, hundreds of carcasses of pelagic and shorebirds, watched people leave piles of garbage and food behind impacting wildlife and other beachgoers and the cf burning toxic materials, such as plastics, to create bon fires on the beach. Leave no trace use is a joke. I would just as quickly ban people as dogs.

Do what you need to do to save the birds, amphibians, marine mammals and sahnonids. You have my support as a friend of many NPS Park employees and great --- respect for what tasks you have. Me and my dog will just have to go somewhere else. Having a top predator as a pet is what it is. We are out of balance and need a return to such. However, it saddens me to think that those among us who respect the rules must pay for those that have not. This is a failure of education and a lack of respect for nature. For the wild animals struggling to survive in our world I would give it up.

Sincerely,

Laura Chariton 415-388-7060

P.S. If dogs are banned I probably won't be cleaning beaches as much

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|                              |   |                 |       |                  |       |
|------------------------------|---|-----------------|-------|------------------|-------|
| <b>Correspondence ID:</b>    | 667   | <b>Project:</b> | 11759 | <b>Document:</b> | 38106 |
| <b>Project:</b>              | Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  |                 |       |                  |       |
| <b>Name:</b>                 | -   |                 |       |                  |       |
| <b>Address:</b>              | - CA<br>USA   |                 |       |                  |       |
| <b>Email:</b>                | -   |                 |       |                  |       |
| <b>Outside Organization:</b> | CNPS/GGAS Unaffiliated Individual   |                 |       |                  |       |
| <b>Received:</b>             | Feb,16,2011 10:47:21  |                 |       |                  |       |
| <b>Correspondence Type:</b>  | Web Form  |                 |       |                  |       |
| <b>Correspondence:</b>       | My only comment is that the GGNRA dog policy should conform to the dog policy in the other national parks(dogs restricted to a small area and on a leash). I long ago quit visiting Fort Funston due to the excessive amount of dogs running loose there. I also do not visit Ocean Beach for the same reason. In turn, I stopped my financial support of the GGNPA years ago as the GGNRA,in San Francisco, has turned in to one big "dog park." As a taxpayer, I feel I should have the right to go to the park(that I help pay for) and not be bothered by dogs that chase birds and cause environmental damage. |                 |       |                  |       |

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| <b>Correspondence ID:</b>    | 668  | <b>Project:</b> | 11759 | <b>Document:</b> | 38106 |
| <b>Project:</b>              | Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS                                     |                 |       |                  |       |
| <b>Name:</b>                 | Conroy BS, CST, Leah   |                 |       |                  |       |
| <b>Address:</b>              | 515 Beaumont Blvd. Pacifica, CA 94044<br>USA                       |                 |       |                  |       |
| <b>Email:</b>                | -  |                 |       |                  |       |
| <b>Outside Organization:</b> | Unaffiliated Individual  |                 |       |                  |       |
| <b>Received:</b>             | Jan,25,2011 00:00:00   |                 |       |                  |       |
| <b>Correspondence Type:</b>  | Letter   |                 |       |                  |       |
| <b>Correspondence:</b>       | Frank Dean, Superintendent GGNRA Bldg. 201 Ft. Mason, SF, CA 94123 |                 |       |                  |       |

Dear Superintendent Dean;

I strongly feel that the GGNRA 2400-page report on dog effects upon our recreation areas and their recommendations for future use is a waste of tax-payer funds toward an unprogressive goal: eliminating or limiting dog-friendly spaces for respectful, appreciative, dog-owning citizens. Shame on GGNRA for using taxes for such a purpose! Take a long, hard look at the joy these open GGNRA spaces currently provide to residents. Some of my friends, young and old, recently remarked that their off-leash time with their dog(s) was the most anticipated, pleasurable time they had all day.

Recall, that many areas in the hands of GGNRA were pioneered by dog owners who were not so picky about where they exercised themselves and their pets. Many GGNRA-held lands once privately owned, were also neglected. Fort Funston for instance, was filled with dark, military bunkers where homeless and party seekers spent their early mornings. Dog walkers exercised and thrived with these colorful, strange people without complaint. It is wonderful, open spaces like, Fort Funston and Mori. Point (once an old farm with dilapidated buildings, rotten tires and motorcycle trail wounds) where so many citizens of San Mateo and SF have exercised their adopted pets for decades. Heads-up GGNRA, the people your recreation areas serve live in the BAY AREA. Most of us don't have the time or money to have kids and if we did, we still live in cramped apartments or small, urban dwellings with a pet. We need open space to thrive! Thanks for accepting the guardian stance, many private landowners granted you, while offering lands for local recreation.

Sights you will see at GGNRA grounds: 1. Thousands of happy, socialized urban dwellers, including, people and pets 2. Expansive, untended lands put to beautiful use by regular visitors and residents 3. TONS of iceplant 4. No Garbage; frequent organized clean-up sessions 5. Remains of bunkers, missile sites with noticeable cement bags, blocks and unnatural military deposits. 6. Flimsy, dirty portable latrines serving thousands of visitors every week 7. Unnaturally high numbers of Ravens and Crows eating from "easy" garbage cans (a persistent threat to the Bank Swallow Colony) 8. Swallows flying for bugs in spring and summer 9. Great horned owls in the Cypress Grove 10. Centipedes searching for prey across the sand 11. Hanggliders, surfers and "flyers" enjoying the space with their area enthusiasts Maybe the thousands of visitors should be asking what kindness have you offered users of your precious GGNRA land lately? Have you tried to decrease the number of predators (crows and ravens) of the swallow broods?

Sights you will not likely see at GGNRA grounds: 1. Dogs fighting (unless leashed and hostile to free roaming dogs) 2. Regular wild life (not a single snowy plover) 3. Clean, comfortable bathrooms 4. Rangers

You couldn't dream up such a splendid use of urban/suburban space. These activities are worthy of a National Geographic article, describing how fabulous lands contribute to healthy lives of Bay Area residents.

Exploiters of GGNRA are/have been predominately, dog owners. Please respect our desire to have open spaces for our pet's and our own well-being. Historically, from Mori Point to Rodeo Beach, we accepted inhospitality, in exchange for dog and human peace. 20 years later, you should rejoice in our creative sense to make these places serene. Dog walkers are the ONLY citizens I witness cleaning the beaches. We also provide a constant, educated eye on wildlife and important events, while walking our pets off leash. (Ask the Marine Mammal Society who their "typical" caller of distressed wildlife might be).

Please take the time to respectfully consider the People of Marin, SF and San Mateo who own dogs and need open, off-leash space to exercise themselves and their pets. These lands are our only refuge from the urbanization around us. We desperately need to escape (as much as our dogs), from stress.

Respectfully, Leah Conroy BS, CST Surgical Technologist (Stanford Medical) Former Research Scientist (Novartis) Pacifica resident for 20 years CA resident for 28 years

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|                             |  |                 |       |                  |       |
|-----------------------------|--|-----------------|-------|------------------|-------|
| <b>Correspondence ID:</b>   | 669  | <b>Project:</b> | 11759 | <b>Document:</b> | 38106 |
| <b>Project Name:</b>        | Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS   |                 |       |                  |       |
| <b>Address:</b>             | - CA<br>USA  |                 |       |                  |       |
| <b>Email:</b>               | Humans Tired of Tyranny By Dog Owners Unaffiliated Individual  |                 |       |                  |       |
| <b>Organization:</b>        | Feb,16,2011 11:22:37   |                 |       |                  |       |
| <b>Received:</b>            | Web Form   |                 |       |                  |       |
| <b>Correspondence Type:</b> | I visited Crissy Field with my son once when he was a toddler, 15 years ago, and we were both terrified of the |                 |       |                  |       |

packs of off leash dogs jumping on us. We never went back again, just as we never went back to Ocean Beach for the same reason. My son might as well have grown up in Kansas for all that he got to enjoy the ocean here in San Francisco.

I am really glad that GGNRA is finally taking steps to balance the needs of the environment and people who are not dog fanatics with those of the dog owners' whose sense of entitlement knows no bounds. It is too late for my son to have memories of playing at the beach as a child, but maybe other children will be able to go to the beach without fear.

I hope that you will choose the alternative that best preserves the environment and the rights of people who have had enough dogs, thank you.

Whichever alternative is most restrictive for dogs is the one that I favor.

---

**Correspondence ID:** 670    **Project:** 11759    **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:**  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Feb,16,2011 11:49:40  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Restricting off-leash areas in public parks such as Crissy Field is necessary for a number of reasons: environmental, safety (especially to children) and public health. While the majority of dog owners are reasonable and pick up after their dogs, many don't care or simply can't control their own pets. Our children play in these parks. Why should they have to endure the potential dog-bite or frequent dog-doo? I am a dog owner. I leash my dog in the street, as I know that many people are afraid of dogs. Should we really restrict the use and enjoyment of public parks by taxpaying individuals for the sake of dogs? Dogwalkers should be required to get a license: it allows for greater control and also will generate revenue for the City. Thanks.

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**Correspondence ID:** 671    **Project:** 11759    **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:**  
**Outside Organization:** Fellow Feathers Hang Gliding Club Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Feb,16,2011 12:06:29  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** In the Dog Management Plan for Fort Funston, I support Preferred Alternative C, with a physical barrier to limit dog wandering.

I have been flying hang gliders for 10 years, 7 of them at Fort Funston. I have served on the board of the club as President, Vice-President and Technology Officer.

Hang gliding at Fort Funston is a huge draw for both pilots and visitors. We have hosted fliers from all over the world, all of whom have been drawn here by its pristine beauty, its view of the ocean wildlife from above, its proximity to San Francisco, its historic role in the evolution of hang gliding, and other reasons. Thousands of people each year are drawn to enjoy this treasure because they can watch a sport that lives in legend but is difficult for the average person to see in action.

When dogs attack pilots on launch or landing, it threatens the site for everyone. Pilots don't want to come, and visitors don't want to go anywhere near the attack zone. I don't exaggerate here - landings, already the most dangerous part of aviation, become life threatening when there's a hostile distraction going for your leg on the final

approach. It's not fun.

Alternative C is a good compromise that allows flying to continue while co-existing peacefully. I would ask that you separate the off-leash dog walking from the other areas and that you erect a barrier to keep the dogs from wandering into areas where they shouldn't be.

Best regards,

Daniel Pifko

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**Correspondence ID:** 672    **Project:** 11759    **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS

**Name:** -

**Address:** - CA  
USA

**Email:**

**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Received:** Feb,16,2011 12:12:33

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I am in favor of a plan that balances the needs of all users of GGNRA, both dog-walkers and non-dog-walkers. I like to walk my dog on leash in GGNRA sites, especially Land's End and Fort Funston, and I would like the opportunity to allow him to go off leash. But I also recognize the need to restrict dog-walking from some area of the parks, in order to preserve the parks for everyone. The devil is in the details. Here's a sentence that needs further clarification: "on-leash and/or voice-control dog walking in certain, specific areas of the park where impacts to sensitive resources and visitor experience were minimal, ? no dogs in areas of the park where impacts were unacceptable and could not be mitigated,"

We need to see a map of the specific areas in question. Also, since enforcement is likely to be a major issue, we need to know that there will be fences or other structures that clearly indicate where off-leash is permitted, and where it is not permitted.

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**Correspondence ID:** 673    **Project:** 11759    **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS

**Name:** -

**Address:** - CA  
USA

**Email:**

**Outside Organization:** Private citizen Unaffiliated Individual

**Received:** Feb,16,2011 12:13:16

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I am writing to voice my desire that no changes be made in the "Leash Laws" that are current and already too restrictive in the GGNRA. We've had dogs in our home since 1970. We've spent thousands of dollars making purchases for them. Our taxes on those purchases contribute to the GGNRA. Dog walkers currently have enough restrictions. Adding more restrictions will cause many dog walkers to abandon San Francisco. These dog walkers also pay taxes and spend money in San Francisco.

Finally, restricting dog walkers to leash laws will force them to abandon the GGNRA and use more dog-friendly areas in San Francisco. This will place an unfair burden on the City Parks and Recreation Department. Thank you, R.J. Ovanin

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**Correspondence ID:** 674    **Project:** 11759    **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS

**Name:** -

**Address:** - CA  
USA

**Email:** dtmathm@att.net  
**Outside**  
**Organization:** N/A Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Feb,16,2011 13:04:26  
**Correspondence**  
**Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Re: GGNRA Draft Dog Management Plan / EIS

Thanks for the opportunity to review the draft document. Appreciate the time & consideration you've put into it. After reviewing the options/alternatives presented, I would strongly support alternate B - maintaining an "on-leash only policy consistent with the rest of the National Park System.

Its the simplest and most direct way to balance all the differing voices. Big dogs annoy my wife and other small dogs when running free. All dogs pose some form of threat to indiginous wild life & plants - whether large or small. The best way to contain the potential for damage / unintended consequences and still allow access for dogs is to require all to be "on-leash." There's no reason whatsoever to acknowledge or create a special category for San Francisco; just stay with the system-wide standard. It will save confusion in the long run.

---

**Correspondence ID:** 675      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA

**Email:** -  
**Outside**  
**Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Received:** Feb,16,2011 13:11:25  
**Correspondence**  
**Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I write in favor of your proposals regarding dogs in the national park. Unleashed dog areas in any public park are rendered pretty much unuseable for any other park visitors. The damage to the vegetation and animal waste from dogs ruin the park for the vast majority of park users. I simply want to voice my strong approval of your proposals and believe that my views represent the "silent majority" of park visitors.

I live a few blocks from Ocean Beach and visit the recreation area several times each week.

Thanks for your consideration.

Steve Connacher

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**Correspondence ID:** 676      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA

**Email:** cameronscot@gmail.com  
**Outside**  
**Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Received:** Feb,16,2011 13:34:41  
**Correspondence**  
**Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I am a staunch environmentalist who believes in protecting pristine wilderness. I am also a dog lover and owner. I am writing to ask that you increase or, at the very least, leave as is the areas in which dogs are allowed in the GGNRA. Specifically, Ft. Funston, which is not remotely pristine wilderness, must be kept as an off-leash dog area. Dogs \*need\* to run and to socialize off-leash; these are some of their most basic instinctive behaviors. For the same reasons, Muir Beach and Ocean Beach should also remain dog-friendly.

People who don't enjoy off-leash dogs have 99% of the GGNRA to enjoy without worrying about dogs.

I would also like to suggest that the PAVED road to Tennessee Valley Beach allow leashed dogs. Clearly, there is

no ecological issue.

Furthermore, there is not a single loop trail in the Headlands area that allows dogs, despite one loop that I have hiked made up almost entirely of fire roads. The logical solution is to create non-pristine areas where dogs are allowed, so that pristine nature is protected and those who don't like dogs can easily avoid them.

Dog owners will happily abide by the rules if the rules are clear and reasonable. Barring dogs from a long-standing dog park and from paved roads is NOT reasonable or necessary.

Roughly 1 in 8 San Franciscans owns a dog. Dogs-lovers are not a small special-interest group. And dogs themselves help humans in countless ways every day, from providing services to connecting us with the natural world. The GGNRA cannot continue to pretend that dogs are merely nuisance that will go away if not allowed on its lands. Some dog owners and walkers will crowd into city parks, as the Chronicle reports, where those who don't like dogs can't avoid them. Others will throw up their hands and take their dogs with them on hikes into fragile wild lands.

The solution is a clear one: Don't shut dog owners out when you make your rules. Find places where we can go and we will happily adhere.

---

**Correspondence ID:** 677      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS

**Name:** -

**Address:** - CA

USA

**Email:** stevenandrew@earthlink.net

**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Received:** Feb,16,2011 14:58:10

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I am opposed to the proposal to make drastic changes to off-leash dog-walking in the 1% of GGNRA land that is currently used by dog walkers, both individual and commercial. Specifically I refer to the following areas: Ocean Beach, Fort Funston, Crissy Field, Baker Beach, Lands End, Fort Mason, and Fort Miley in San Francisco; and Rodeo Beach, Muir Beach, and various trails in Marin.

These areas are not wilderness, nor should they be. They are open lands that should be available to be enjoyed by the public, including people who want their dogs to have a place to run and play. There is plenty of pristine landscape up and down the coast that should remain intact, but disallowing off-leash dog walking in the above-mentioned areas will only create overcrowding and overuse in the few off-leash parks that would remain. Alternatively, dog walkers would be forced to look for other areas, which are currently pristine and undeveloped. Dogs are not going away, and people will find a place to let their dogs play freely.

Furthermore, I am a tax-paying citizen without children, but I do own a dog and responsibly walk him off-leash in appropriate areas. There is very little that I see as a direct benefit of my tax dollars since I don't have children who attend public school. Having an off-leash place to enjoy nature with my dog is one of the few things I enjoy as a result of my tax dollars. I will be very unhappy if this is taken away from me and my fellow dog owners.

Recently, many public decisions have gone against responsible dog owners, not the least of which is a severe curtailment of usage of Sunnyside Park in San Francisco. This park was converted to almost exclusive use as a playground, in spite of there being a large group of devoted and responsible dog owners who developed a wonderful sense of community through playing with their dogs at this park.

Frankly, I'm tired of getting squeezed out. People with dogs deserve open spaces to enjoy with their pets as much as children deserve a playground.

Sincerely,

Steven Kacsmar

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**Correspondence ID:** 678      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106

**ID:**  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** lawyer.melanie@gmail.com  
**Outside**  
**Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Feb,16,2011 15:12:48  
**Correspondence**  
**Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:**

I would like to comment on proposed dog access changes to two beach locations, Ft. Funston and Rodeo. I live in Concord, California. There are no off-leash dog areas here. We have a dog park, but it is small and has no trees. My dogs won't even run there. Mt. Diablo State Park trails are completely closed to dogs (even on a leash). So every weekend, we take our dogs either to Ft. Funston or Rodeo Beach to get some exercise. A nice off-leash dog area is extremely important to my family. It seems like dogs are already prohibited from going almost anywhere, so I love and greatly appreciate the few places that we can currently take them.

Please consider charging each dog a yearly "park entry fee" that would cover all Bay Area dog accessible beaches. That fee could help pay for maintenance and other dog-related expenses. As it is, I have to drive over one hour to get to a decent off-leash park. Please do not take these wonderful beaches away from my family and me!

Ft. Funston: The off-leash area would be limited to the beach between the two parking lot beach entrances. This is a TINY area compared to what is allowed now. With the dogs spread out as they are now, the area is very enjoyable. With all of the dogs concentrated into one very small beach area, I can foresee problems. Add to that the influx of dogs from other closed areas, and I can see it being a real problem.

Please keep this entire area open to dogs. You could still preserve the current dune areas that are isolated with fences. I think that it is better to maintain a few really nice dog beach areas, so that people will continue to use them. Restricting every beach is asking for people to break the law. If people still have several really nice dog areas, they will go there and leave the other beaches to the people who do not like dogs.

As I said above, you could either charge a yearly fee for each dog that would allow them entrance into all Bay Area beach parks, or else charge a day use fee per car that enters this park. I would GLADLY pay either, and would be happy to support an activity that I love so much.

Rodeo Beach: I think that the planners got this beach plan backwards. It makes more sense to me to have a small section of beach near the parking lot that only allows leashed dogs and then allow unleashed dogs on the central and southern ends of the beach. I would prefer the entire beach to continue to have dog access. As with Ft. Funston, I would gladly pay an entry fee. This is the only beach in the area that allows dogs. Please allow a few beaches to remain dog-friendly. Then people without dogs can choose to go to one of the many dog-free or leashed-dog beaches.

Thank you.

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**Correspondence ID:** 679      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** -  
**Outside**  
**Organization:** Potrero Hill Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Feb,16,2011 17:03:24  
**Correspondence**  
**Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** GGNRA Dog Planning Commission:

I am concerned about proposals to limit voice-control dog walking in Crissy Field, Ocean Beach, Fort Funston and other parks in the Bay Area.

Dog walking is very important to me. When I walk my dogs, I can get out and enjoy Nature. Neighbors get together when we walk our dogs and this provides an important form of community bonding.

I am very concerned about protecting the environment. I am very conscientious about picking up after my dogs. I am concerned about protecting the tall trees and plants that grow where I walk my dogs. I am also concerned about protecting the birds and small animals nearby, as are my neighbors.

Having people walking their dogs in a park adds to the safety of the park. Desperate people who are intent on doing harm to others have often kept away from the areas where we walk our dogs, because we are there. Some men were stealing purses from women with small children in a nearby park, because dogs and dog walkers did not go there. Dogs and dog walkers can be a deterrent to crime.

Last night an old man slipped and fell on the wet sidewalk. Because I was there walking my dogs, I was available to help him stand up. Dogs and dog walkers can add safety to an area.

Please endorse Alternative A (no action) so that the current dog walking practices can continue.

---

**Correspondence ID:** 680      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** bernardodriscoll@gmail.com  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Feb,16,2011 17:41:03  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing about the dog rules for Chrissy Field and it's beaches. The huge increase in dogs over the past five years has been truly amazing and the destruction these dogs cause to the delicate vegetation is very concerning. Furthermore I am very concerned with the large number of dogs urinating on the beach and some minority of owners burying their dogs feces in the sand as I have seen on a few occasions. These activities are very dangerous to children playing on the beach and I would encourage you to designate special beach areas for dogs to roam leash free and the main part of the beach(1)by Anita rock and (2)west of the old Coast Guard Station, dog free.

Thank you.

Bernard O'Driscoll San Francisco

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**Correspondence ID:** 681      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** Jessyburke3@gmail.com  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Feb,16,2011 18:13:12  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** As a owner of a well trained 15 pound dog that is taken by a responsible dog walker to the beaches every day, and often time taken by myself or someone else close to the dog on weekends, I would like to say I disagree with this act. I think it is very important to have off leash areas that dogs can enjoy in order to get their energy out in an effective manner. I do believe owners and dog walkers need to take responsibility for their dogs and be sure that dogs that are not safe off leash are kept on leash, but for those dogs that are well behaved I do not see a need to change the off leash areas. Dogs are one things that define this city and I do not think that should be taken away! It is going to cause tramedouse problems for the people that take care of our loving pooches every day if we restrict the areas the dogs can go.

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**Correspondence ID:** 682    **Project:** 11759    **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** -  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Feb,16,2011 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I live in San Francisco and pay property taxes. My dog is my companion and he needs a place to be free. Please do not take the resources away from us.

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**Correspondence ID:** 683    **Project:** 11759    **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** -  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Feb,16,2011 18:37:06  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Please keep chrissy field open to off leash dog play! I've gone there just about every saturday with my now 14-year-old dog, and 99% of the time have seen no issues with the dogs/dog owners and non-dog people. I'm not sure where the call for change is coming from, but if i was to guess based on typical SF politics it's from a very vocal super-minority.

Couple points: - most dog owners go in the AM, when there are few non-dog people there (typically a 1-10 ratio of non dog/dog people. - at least in Chrissy field, the dog owners are very good about picking up the poop - The only time it gets a bit crowded is on the handful of weekend days (3-4 a year, if we're lucky) when its actually warm enough to sit on the beach! Even then, most dog owners move the dogs down closer to the GG and there are no issues. - If there actually are real incidents (like a dog biting someone, etc) then those should be dealt with strongly and on an individual basis. do not punish the majority of responsible dogs/dog owners!

My Saturday mornings at Chrissy are at the very top of the list of why i love (and live in, pay property taxes in, etc) San Francisco!

thanks!

---

**Correspondence ID:** 684    **Project:** 11759    **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** -  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Feb,16,2011 19:43:06  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** As residents of San Francisco for almost 2 decades, my family and I have enjoyed the GGNRA off-leash dog areas for many years. We go to Fort Funston about 3 days every week ? sometimes more. These visits for exercise and fun are essential to a balanced life for all of us.

The proposed changes to the GGNRA's off-leash dog proposal are very concerning to me. Dogs need exercise everyday. For dogs to be healthy and well behaved they have to regularly run off-leash and we need places that are

safe and big enough for them to get this critical exercise.

The proposed changes ? especially to Fort Funston where we generally go ? seem illogical and arbitrary. I think they will be challenging to implement and open to a huge amount of confusion and potential unintended non-compliance. This leads to my second concern with the Compliance-based Management Strategy component of the proposal that allows the GGNRA to change the status of off-leash areas to on-leash or no dogs without additional public comment if there is not 100% compliance with the new restrictions.

The fact that the GGNRA can unilaterally circumvent the legal requirement that management changes that are either significant or controversial must have a public process before they can be made is also deeply troubling. There needs to be a protocol to address potential updates to the off-leash dog status in an open, public and inclusive way.

The GGNRA and federal government are stewards for the American people. These organizations must work equally and fairly with ALL constituents. They may not act unilaterally to further a partisan agenda but rather must act in the interest of everyone. The Preferred Alternative expressed here is not fair and equal and needs to be reconsidered.

---

**Correspondence ID:** 685      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** -  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Feb,16,2011 20:20:36  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I think that this proposed plan is an absolutely horrible idea. What makes San Francisco, especially Baker Beach, Chrissy Field and the Presidio, so great, is the ability to share the beautiful places with our favorite furry pets. Dog owners are, as a majority, respectful people, and with the threat of losing these spaces to share with our dogs, would be willing to make necessary changes in order to keep these places free to walk with our dogs. Please DO NOT PASS THIS PLAN!!!

---

**Correspondence ID:** 686      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** -  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Feb,16,2011 20:32:47  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I was be greatly disappointed if access to our parks and beaches for dogs was further limited. San Francisco is an amazing city, partly because of the presence of dogs. Eliminating that would change the vibe and livelihood of the city. Please reconsider closing our beaches and parks to dog.

---

**Correspondence ID:** 687      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** -  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Feb,16,2011 20:58:43  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Type:**

**Correspondence:** Please do not limit the amount of off-leash park space in San Francisco or the general Bay Area. There is currently limited off-leash availability, and further limiting the space will only result in overcrowding of the remaining space. In addition, exercise and play time are important for dog health, mental well-being and social adjustment. Requiring dogs to remain on leash limits their ability to run and play freely and get adequate exercise. Furthermore, SF and Bay Area dog owners are extremely conscious about cleaning up after their pets and ensuring that their dogs do not bother or interrupt other park/beach users.

---

**Correspondence ID:** 688      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS

**Name:** -

**Address:** - CA  
USA

**Email:** -

**Outside:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Organization:**

**Received:** Feb,16,2011 21:41:59

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I'm a taxpayer, a dog owner, and I vote. I oppose the theft of the use of public lands from the dog owners of San Francisco and the Bay Area. This isn't pristine wilderness we're talking about - these are public beaches, former Army bases, etc. Let us, and our well-behaved dog, continue to use OUR LAND.

---

**Correspondence ID:** 689      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS

**Name:** -

**Address:** - CA  
USA

**Email:** fiascosf@yahoo.com

**Outside:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Organization:**

**Received:** Feb,16,2011 21:46:27

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** In addition to being one of the most beautiful spots on Earth. the San Francisco Bay Area is a top destination for people of all races, religions and backgrounds to move to because of it's tolerance for diversity. People in this area are educated, open-minded and accepting. We love our planet and do more than most to ensure it will survive us.

We also love out pets. We live here because we can enjoy our pets in the beauty of our surroundings without feeling like criminals. For the most part, pet-owners in the Bay Area are responsible and considerate of our non-pet owning neighbors. We are respectful of native wildlife and their habitats in the area. We're a responsible an self-policing group who understand the need to share this beautiful spot we call home.

Why are we being punished by the implementation of this plan? Who is benefitting from this plan? What are the major complaints against dogs in the current off-leash areas.

This is a bad idea...it can do nothing but harm this area and it's attractiveness to visitors.

---

**Correspondence ID:** 690      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS

**Name:** -

**Address:** - CA  
USA

**Email:** mikedahlin1@gmail.com

**Outside:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Organization:**

**Received:** Feb,16,2011 22:59:03

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I love Funston, because where else can I go on a 3-mile run with my dogs surrounded by such beauty! Of course,

to be able to continue running with my dogs, they would need off-leash privilege on the paths I run with them on, as shown on the Funston Map 16-A.

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**Correspondence ID:** 691      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** -  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Feb,17,2011 01:07:51  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** If there is uncertainty regarding where dogs are allowed off lease, education and better signs are the solution, not restricting areas that make San Francisco what it is. As a dog owner, I'm responsible and know where my dog is allowed off leash, it's often the other visitors that have no idea and wonder why dogs are running around off leash. I don't put blame on them completely since there is no obvious sign usually informing visitors.

Please don't make the suburbs more pet friendly than the lovely city of San Francisco.

---

**Correspondence ID:** 692      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** N/A, N/A  
**Address:** N/A San Francisco , CA N/A  
USA  
**Email:** -  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Feb,14,2011 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Letter  
**Correspondence:** Dear Gentle People - Please do not exclude our pets & us from the Public Parks. Reduced work weeks, higher taxes & fees etc etc - leave us no pleasure except to hitch a ride to the park with the only thing I have left to love my dog. I walk to my (???) 2 miles a day to (???) 4.00 to eat. I don't have a car(?) and my neighbor gives me a ride to the park once a week. Leave us some joy

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**Correspondence ID:** 693      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** charlie.gulick@gmail.com  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Feb,17,2011 10:00:06  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Dear Sir/Madame, Your proposals are a complete breach of the rights of a significant proportion of the Bay Area population, Dog and their owners. Mandatory leash only or outright dog bans in the extremely limited off-leash areas are cruel and unusual punishment of our canine friends who require free running to remain healthy.

Dog owners show more respect to the limited area where they currently can take their pets than most of the population. We use these spaces daily and show consistent concern that all people and pets have equal respect for each other for both safety and enjoyment. Less than 5% of our public lands are open to dogs for off leash exercise (ABSOLUTELY mandatory for a health dog). To ask these small parcels available remain so is an absurdly small ask for tax paying residents.

The ALTA Trail above Marin City is used by 100s of people and dogs every single day for exercise. How dare you suggest this should be leash only. I walk this trail everyday and 99% of the people out there are dog owners with

their pets.

That you suppressed the demands to off a LANDSLIDE majority for some angry 2 or 3 dog haters is a complete breach of your responsibilities to the majority of tax payers enjoying this and other spaces.

Your proposals are misguided, and appear to be based upon hatred and ignorance a small set off angry racists.

---

**Correspondence ID:** 694    **Project:** 11759    **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS

**Name:** -

**Address:** - CA  
USA

**Email:** -

**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Received:** Feb,17,2011 10:30:15

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Off leash dogs are out of control in San Francisco and in general in the bay area. I support the proposed leash law changes to protect the wildlife and people. Further, I suggest that the following steps need to take place:

1. The current leash laws and the proposed leash laws must be enforced. Park police should ticket any dog walker with a dog off leash. Also, civilians will call to report leash violations and the violators should get heavy fines. These fines should increase (double) with each violation. First violation \$50, second \$100, third \$200, fourth \$400, fifth \$800, sixth \$1600, seventh - 2 year ban from the park and \$10,000 fine for each violation of this ban.

2. All dog walkers should have to obtain a permit to have their dogs off leash (suggest having fenced off areas for this). Once they have this permit, their dog will wear a specific collar or something to identify them as permitted. To get a permit, a dog must pass a rigorous voice control test. This would mean simulating (or you could do it in the park) distractions and background noise. This test should be required annually and should cost \$3,455 a year. The dog must also be up to date on all vaccinations to qualify for a permit and have no record of aggressive behavior. This fine for having a dog off leash without a permit should be \$10,000.

3. All professional dog walkers should be required to have a permit to walk their dogs off leash or on leash. The must pay per dog. If they wish to get a permit to walk 2 dogs this means they pay \$3,455x2 a year. If they wish to walk 4 dogs (should be the max), this means they pay \$3,455x4 a year. Could consider increasing the cost given that they are a business. Also if the park decides that they want to let commercial dog walkers have more than 4 dogs, the cost for each additional dog over 4 should be \$4982 an extra dog.

4. Dog owners whose dogs are witnessed to be destroying the environment (digging in the park, going off trail, chasing birds/animals etc) should be subject to a \$5000 fine. These dogs may be seen by park officials or they may be reported to park officials by civilians. If they wish to contest the fine, they must show up in court on the date they are assigned.

5. If dog walkers are unable to abide by these rules within 6 months of their implementation, dogs should be banned from the GGNRA all together. There are plenty of city parks that don't enforce leash laws. (even though they should)

Thank you for considering these suggestions.

---

**Correspondence ID:** 695    **Project:** 11759    **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS

**Name:** -

**Address:** - CA  
USA

**Email:** -

**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Received:** Feb,17,2011 11:10:45

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Web Form

**Type:**

**Correspondence:** "Where conflicting interests must be reconciled, the question will always be decided from the standpoint of the greatest good of the greatest number in the long run." Gifford Pinchot, Chief Forester, 1905

Fort Funston: Off-leash dog walking should remain as is.

I believe the use of this public land should be decided on the Utilitarian principle based on Pinchot's quotation above.

I am all for conservation. As a matter of fact, I highly recommend the US Forest Service Centennial film The Greatest Good. It is the epic story of the struggle to manage our nation's resources.

If you have ever been to Fort Funston on a weekend, then you have seen the overwhelming number of our citizens and their dogs who utilize this off-leash area. I estimate thousands weekly, although since there is no sign-in, I don't know if anyone has a true count of the usage. Based on that fact alone, I believe the land is being used for the greatest number of Bay Area tax payers.

Yes, it's nice to know the history of the land but without the dog community this area would be sorely underutilized.

Others besides dog walkers use this multi-purpose area without discrimination: Hang gliders, model airplane flyers, kids learning to ride bikes and scooters, parents with strollers, seniors and those in wheelchairs. My personal experience, at the park several times a week, is that everyone gets along just fine.

I don't believe that having dogs off-leash causes any measurable threat to the environment or to other's rights.

Over the years there have been many discussions regarding habitat restoration, permanent restroom facilities, as well as the protection and public usage of Fort Funston. Sadly, the federal government has no money to fund projects.

I was very disappointed in Californian's in the last election when proposition 21 was defeated. For a meager \$18 vehicle fee increase, most California vehicles would have gotten free admission and parking at state parks and beaches. Obviously, the value of our parks was not a priority to the 57% of the population who voted NO on this measure.

That being said; those of us who use Fort Funston for recreation to walk and run with our dogs know what a treasure we have and greatly appreciate this area and all the citizens who use it. We take great pride, care and concern over this space.

Donna Abbott & Roxie, the black lab hound - San Francisco, California

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**Correspondence ID:** 696    **Project:** 11759    **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS

**Name:** -

**Address:** - CA  
USA

**Email:** russ\_pritchett@yahoo.com

**Outside Organization:** Montara Dog Group Unaffiliated Individual

**Received:** Feb,17,2011 11:42:10

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** My name is Russ Pritchett, a resident of Montara for 14 years, the San Mateo coast for over 20 years, and a member of the Montara Dog Group. I am a frequent user of the Rancho Corral de Tierra (Rancho) open space on the Northern boundary of Montara that is to be incorporated into the GGNRA. My primary use of the open space is for daily exercise with my family (including my dog): hiking; mountain biking; dog training; and, dog fetch games.

The Dog Management Plan treats the Rancho as New Lands, proposing a management system (Alternative D) that bans all dogs from the open space. I am writing to express my opinion that Alternative E of the Dog Management

Plan should be considered as the default option for "New Lands" and specifically for the Rancho Corral de Tierra.

Alternative D for New Lands fails to recognize that in an urban recreation area, such as the GGNRA, New Lands will inevitably be adjacent to suburban areas where residents have long established dog walking practices. By default, New Lands are considered pristine wildlife areas worthy of most stringent environmental controls, regardless of location or history. With Alternative D, off-leash dog walking will not be considered under any circumstances. This alternative is not flexible or adaptable to unique situations that will inevitably arise with New Lands. Further, Alternative D uses a "closed unless open approach" that is the more stringent than the dog management approach used in "319 other NPS sites" across the country. Alternative E, on the other hand, allows dog walking in a manner that is consistent with other National Park Service (NPS) locations across the country and leaves open the possibility of off-leash dog walking in areas with well established practices. Alternative D is draconian, inflexible, and completely fails to accommodate many existing users of New Lands.

The reality of implementing Alternative D in the Rancho is that a majority of the Montara open space users will become federal criminals if they continue practices that have been followed for years. Members of the Montara Dog Group, in the future to be known as the dog-walking criminals, have voluntarily established and maintained dog waste cans at six locations on Rancho lands, bounded on the north by McNee Ranch State park and the south by Montara. It should be noted that human-generated trash also ends up in these cans. Members who fail to clean up after their dogs are routinely called out by others who desire trails that are trash free (dog generated or otherwise). Additionally, recommended dog-walking practices have been established and posted on the Montara Dog Group website. These practices show respect for other users of the open space, whether they be dog walkers, joggers, bikers, or equestrian users. Are these the actions of criminals?

One public meeting was held in Montara by the NPS to solicit input for the incorporation of the Rancho into the GGNRA. A large contingent of dog walkers from the Montara Dog Group attended and presented a petition to NPS representatives that summarized our desires that existing off-leash practices be considered in a small fraction of the land that encompass the entire Rancho. This land is not a pristine, wildlife area. It has been previously used for agricultural purposes, slated for track home development, and was also targeted for the Devil's Slide bypass highway project. As instructed by NPS representatives, many individual comments were submitted in writing on small, post-it notes. We were told these comments would be kept in a record and considered in formulation of a plan. Park service representatives replied that no official responses could be made until the Dog Management Plan was released. Further meetings were promised; yet, no meetings have occurred. Apparently the official NPS response has been to lump the Rancho in the New Lands category and ban dog access with Alternative D, essentially ignoring the input of a large percentage of the local community that regularly uses the Rancho. Why has the input from the local dog walking community been ignored?

Although the NPS officials were unwilling to negotiate dog-walking usage of the Rancho with members of the local dog-walking community, they were willing to negotiate with other user groups prior to the incorporation of the Rancho into the GGNRA. A local equestrian group was concerned with the possible relocation of the stables located on the Rancho and with continued use of the Rancho lands. As should be the case, this groups' concerns were heard by NPS officials, and an agreement was successfully reached. If the NPS was willing to work with one user group, why was input from the local dog walking community disregarded? The dog walking community expects similar consideration and respect from the new stewards of the Rancho land, the NPS.

Alternative D will have a negative impact on the safety of local residents attempting to responsibly exercise their dogs. Montara is within unincorporated San Mateo County: there are no public parks within our boundaries; there are no sidewalks on local streets. A large number of Montara residents exercise their dogs on Rancho land because it is adjacent to our town and it is safe. Last year, a local residents' dog was hit by a car while being walked on-leash on a local street. In January 2011, a local resident and dog were both hit by a car on Highway 1. In short, there is not a safe alternative to the Rancho for exercising dogs in Montara.

As mentioned, Montara residents exercise their dogs on Rancho land. Our family has been fortunate to socialize our dog from the age of 4 months with other dogs and people on the Rancho. I am certain that if our dog was confined in a small yard or indoors all day without access to Rancho lands, she would exhibit traits that people detest in dogs (aggressive behavior and incessant barking are two examples). Alternative D will have a negative impact on the ability of local residents to properly socialize & train their dogs.

The benefits our family has received from our dog has gone beyond the stereotypical characterization of "mans best friend." Since our dog requires regular exercise, we hike & bike more than we ever did before (with our dog, of course). We have lost weight and are healthier. Further as we have raised our dog, we have met more friends in Montara than in the previous 10 years we lived here. I know that I speak for many in our community when I say that the Dog Management Plan's preferred alternative for New Lands, Alternative D, will negate these positive aspects.

---

**Correspondence ID:** 697      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - NC  
USA  
**Email:** gjacobs9@triad.rr.com  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Feb,17,2011 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** While I no longer live in the Bay Area, I grew up there and still visit my family. Leash laws are very important to communities as a whole, however, if there is a dog park that allows a dog to "stretch its legs" and socialize with other dogs, leashes should be optional. It's not the dogs that are the problem/issue, it's the owners of the dogs. Owners are the ones who should be educated on keeping the space clean. It's no more than they would do at their own homes -- I hope.

---

**Correspondence ID:** 698      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** j2ssalisbury@gmail.com  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Feb,17,2011 12:03:05  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Regarding Mori Point dog walking. I'd like to suggest using two (2) areas for "off leash" walking. First site: Approximately 100 yards WEST from the Moose Lodge there is a small bowl (approx 3 acres) located between the service road/trail and upper hiking trail. That bowl would allow off leash dog walking away from the main park habitat/trails. Second site: Far west, adjacent to the beach, at the SOUTH end of the berm there is a small grove of Cypress trees (approx 1 acre). This site would require some fencing, but it would serve the off leash dog walking community well. Steve Salisbury 650-208-5370

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**Correspondence ID:** 699      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** karla@soulmatesanimalcare.com  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Feb,17,2011 12:45:46  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** To Whom it May Concern After reading the document i find it hard to believe that your group finds it effective to take away deemed recreational areas for people and their dogs. I frequent Crissy Fields and have a lovely time with my dog both on and off leash. I see other Guardians being very responsible for their dogs and for picking up after them and of course respecting on leash in the habitate guarded areas. We need to have out door areas to walk our dogs for so many reasons. It is heathy and safe in these areas. PLease dont take them away

---

**Correspondence ID:** 700      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** benbirgitta@earthlink.net  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Organization:**  
**Received:** Feb,17,2011 14:19:09  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** FORT FUNSTON

The picture of my kids running with our dog, my daughter's hair flying, the dog's tail spinning, is to me, a sight of extreme beauty, exhilaration and joy. It's a picture of happy childhood days. I seek out these off leash places to recapture this picture. Every time, I feel immense gratitude that this is still possible, in a world where children are getting increasingly nature deprived. We got our dog, my first, a couple of years ago from a shelter. It was immediately apparent that 'walking the dog' is a terribly inapt expression. Anyone who has seen a dog sprint, scamper, play and run for balls and twigs, realizes this in a split second. Dogs were made to run. Children were made to run. After discovering Fort Funston, we've called it 'Disneyland for dogs'. It is worth a special trip. As we approach our dog will whimper with excitement. There are always tons of dogs of all different breeds and sizes. On sunny weekends it is packed. An enormous amount of JOY, in people and dogs alike, is generated at Fort Funston. It would be a sad day if that JOY was killed by restrictions.

---

**Correspondence ID:** 701      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA

**Email:** -  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Received:** Feb,17,2011 14:41:44  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** This EIS is generally scientifically accurate but I don't think it clearly explains exactly how much damage that dogs do to crissy field, fort funston, the presidio, ocean beach and all the other areas in the SF GGNRA. Dogs get away with way more damage than is reported. In my experience, I see dogs off leash tearing up the land, going off trail and leaving their waste behind. Most dogs I see are not only off leash but off voice control and even worse out of sight control. While, I generally support the preferred alternative, I actually think stricter leash laws and more dog free zones would ensure that the environment is preserved for those who come after us.

In terms of the impact on humans, this is also way understated. Most adverse events due to dogs are not reported and thus go undocumented and unnoticed by the ggnra. Dog walkers with dogs off leash (and even on leash) adversely affect the experience of many many people. This has been a problem for the decades that I have been in San Francisco. I get into an argument with a rude dog walker daily who doesn't care that their dog is off trail and destroying native plants. Why do we ask volunteers to plant these if they are just going to be destroyed by dogs?

Dogs, people who are not comfortable with dogs and the environment can obviously not co-exist. The last several decades at least has proved this. Dogs have been dominating and ruining the park for the rest of us. I have seen dogs on a daily basis destroying the park that I and many other people would like to enjoy. I have observed dog walkers yell and threaten other people who express any concern or even mention that their dogs are off leash. This means that people who are not comfortable with dogs are currently not welcome in the park. This includes certain cultures that are in generally not comfortable with dogs. This includes certain racial minority group and also certain religious groups that can not interact with dogs. Additionally the blind and the disabled also use the parks less because of dogs. There needs to be more dog free zones for these groups.

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**Correspondence ID:** 702      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA

**Email:** hooligian@gmail.com  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Received:** Feb,17,2011 14:45:24  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** There are very few places in the city where dogs are allowed to run off leash. Fort Funston is a fantastic resource

for dog owners to be able to exercise their dogs in a natural environment without having to worry about car traffic and other dangers of the city. I'll admit that if this plan is implemented, I have no reason to go to the GGNRA. Taking this option away would remove one of the main reasons I love living in the Bay Area. I understand the need to reign in abuses, but this measure goes too far.

---

**Correspondence ID:** 703      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS

**Name:** -

**Address:** - CA  
USA

**Email:** varda@reportee.com

**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Received:** Feb,17,2011 00:00:00

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I am a resident and have a business in Foster City. I am also a dog owner who goes to Fort Funston at least twice a week for the unabashed joy and socialization both my dog and I enjoy while there. Often my son and husband join us and everyone is always amazed at how well the dogs and people interact together. My dog was an emaciated and frightened rescue who was very afraid of people and this regular interaction completely cured her.

We pay taxes, dog license fees and keep the areas we enjoy clean.

---

**Correspondence ID:** 704      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS

**Name:** -

**Address:** - CA  
USA

**Email:** dvdgzmn@yahoo.com

**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Received:** Feb,17,2011 16:14:40

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I take my two dogs to Ft Funston or Crissy Field at least once, usually twice a week, year round, so I am very interested in the proposed reductions of off-leash areas. I heard one of your representatives on the radio just after the draft plan was released. He used the word "balance" an awful lot, which I suppose means balancing the needs and desires of various park users. So are the plans for Funston and Crissy balanced?

Crissy Field. Yes, you got that one exactly right. There needs to be a section of beach where families can picnic or just lie on the sand without being annoyed by dogs . Some dog owners may not believe it, but even a perfectly friendly, curious dog can be an annoyance to some. East Beach is the logical place for this. Central Beach and the airfield might get a bit more crowded, but for such an urban park that's a really large off-leash area. And yes, the main trail should be on-leash. There's just too much traffic for dogs to be running loose.

Fort Funston. Not very balanced. The plan for the beach is fine, but your objective for the cliffs seems to be to reduce the off-leash area to a bare minimum. And to what end? Where is the imbalance you are trying to balance? Unlike Crissy Field, where many dogless people recreate in various ways and people with dogs are clearly a minority, the majority of people who use Funston go there with dogs (you may have better numbers, but it seems to me 2/3 to 3/4 of the people on any given day) and many of those without dogs are hang gliders and model plane fliers who don't use the trails at all. You want to cram all the dogs whose owners/walkers don't want to go down to the beach into a tiny area that looks to be about the same size as the airfield at Crissy, where the dog density is much less. That's not a dog walking space, it's an unfenced pen in which my dogs and I will be allowed to walk in circles along with a couple hundred other dogs until we all get bored and go home.

Call me cynical, but I think you must be getting brownie points from some bureaucrat in Washington for each acre of off leash area you eliminate so he can claim to have brought GGNRA more into compliance with Federal rules. Ok, so be it. My preferred alternative is "Ft. Funston ain't broken, so don't fix it", but you're going to do something, so here is a possible compromise: combine alternatives C and E. That would provide enough space to take a proper walk and would allow a mostly off-leash loop from the parking lot, down the sand ladder, up the Beach Access trail and back to the parking lot (my personal favorite route). This should include portions of the Horse trail that

probably hasn't seen a horse since WWII.

A final note: part of the Beach Access trail should be off-leash. This "trail" (most of it is a swale or wash) provides very poor footing and it can be a bit tricky going up or down even without an excited dog on a leash. Better to start the off-leash area where the trail widens and becomes steeper, about 50 feet from the paved trail.

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**Correspondence ID:** 705    **Project:** 11759    **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:**  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Feb,17,2011 17:42:34  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** After reading a good portion of this document, The executive summary and chapter 2 as recommended, it seems to me that the options provided are going to be quite difficult to enforce. I understand the concern with the large volume of dogs and dog walkers around versus the visitors, but why not have specific dog beaches and trails that are off leash and the rest would be completely off limits to dogs. That way visitors know that there will be no dogs in certain parks that they are visiting, and dog walkers/dog owners will know which trails and beaches they can take their dogs to. Crissy Field in particular seems quite difficult to enforce in terms of specific areas being on leash versus voice control, but right now if you want to make the snowy plover area completely off limits to dogs then do it. There is a huge beach and grassy area for dogs to enjoy (which they do the other 10 months out of the year when they can't go in the restricted conservation area) otherwise.

When I moved to this city, one of the main thing that attracted me here (as I own two dogs) was the beauty of being able to walk my dogs at Crissy field right by the Golden Gate bridge off leash! It has proven to be better for my dogs as they are better behaved than where we used to live as they have to be to be under voice control. Now that we live in Mill Valley, I know there are certain trails that dogs can only be on leash and I just don't go there. I only go where I know they can be off leash as it is more enjoyable for me and for them.

So if there are restrictions that need to me made due to wildlife concerns then don't allow dogs there. But don't make it harder on the people who actually have to enforce these laws by making each place a complicated series of laws per area. Also, to be able to explore the area with my dogs is a precious thing that I hold dear to living in this area. I hope that those of us with dogs will not be restricted to 2 or 3 trails and one beach, but can find many places to roam together.

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**Correspondence ID:** 706    **Project:** 11759    **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:**  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Feb,17,2011 18:32:44  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** This plan is garbage. The anti-dog plan is anti-family.

---

**Correspondence ID:** 707    **Project:** 11759    **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** juliaearl@mindspring.com  
**Outside Organization:** Soulmates Animal Care Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Feb,17,2011 19:44:52  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Dogs and their guardians should be able to continue to enjoy the GGNRA recreational areas.

---

**Correspondence ID:** 708    **Project:** 11759    **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:**  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Feb,17,2011 22:08:41  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Prohibiting off leash dogs at these locations is a terrible idea.

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**Correspondence ID:** 709      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** -  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Feb,17,2011 22:19:22  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** To Whom It May Concern:

Please do not ban dogs from Muir Beach and other park areas. But especially Muir Beach and Chrissy Field. This is what the Bay Area is about.

The people that come to Muir Beach with dogs are lovers of the beach. They treat it with respect. We have been to the beach countless times with Willy, our yellow lab. Nothing makes him happier than running along the beach with a ball. I often see other visitors of the beach watching him and his joy and, in turn, smiling. He does not go in the areas that are restricted to dogs. That's not a problem. In all the times we have been to Muir Beach, I have never seen a dog violating the rules. It's much more likely to see people throwing cigarettes and garbage onto the beach.

This is an important resource for dogs and their owners. Please do not take it away from us. I don't understand why dogs are being punished! Why don't we stop allowing the real damage-doers - people!

Please reconsider your extremely drastic dog cuts. Most dogs that come to the beach are good, well-loved dogs. We should not be treated like this.

Thank you, Kimberly

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**Correspondence ID:** 710      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** ericfain@gmail.com  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Feb,17,2011 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Having dogs on the beach is good for everyone.

---

**Correspondence ID:** 711      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** jsbirnie@yahoo.com  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Feb,18,2011 01:14:14

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I beg you to change the dog leash rules as they are today. There are barely enough spaces in SF for people to walk there dogs as is. I love going to Crissy Field and Fort Funston on the weekends and getting some fresh air. If anything, impose stricter laws on owners who don't pick up after their dogs- that is fair.

San Francisco is a great city. I've seen a huge flux of my friends moving b/c they had kids and its too expensive or unpractical. I would hate to see they taken a step further with no area for dog owners. I believe we are a big community, right. Are there not more dogs than kids in SF. Please keep this a great place to live

jonathan

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**Correspondence ID:** 712      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS

**Name:** -

**Address:** - CA  
USA

**Email:** alisonmail@comcast.net

**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Received:** Feb,18,2011 01:42:13

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:**

Off-leash dogs, people and children can and should coexist in our beautiful bay area environment. This has happened for the last 30 years and i insist this be allowed to continue. We are responsible dog caretakers, pay taxes and we have rights which we demand that you do not take away from us.

Off leash dogs are happier and better behaved when exercised. Humans need to enjoy this experience with their dogs. This is a much needed outlet for us all in a busy urban life. Without off leash access in the GGNRA areas the city parks will become overwhelmed and overused.

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**Correspondence ID:** 713      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS

**Name:** -

**Address:** - CA  
USA

**Email:** -

**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Received:** Feb,18,2011 09:55:13

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:**

Dear Sir or Madam,

PLEASE Do not further restrict Fort Funston and Land's End off-leash access!!!

While some of the proposals are OK, the Fort Funston restrictions I've seen go too far.

If Lands End is going to completely restrict dog access to one of the most beautiful dog walks in the city then you must at least allow greater off-leash access at Fort Funston. Being older I can not always walk all the way down to the beach at Fort Funston and need the large area available above the cliffs to walk my dogs.

Please save off-leash access for dogs in San Francisco. Dog walkers around my neighborhood in Bernal Heights make the neighborhood MUCH safer by patrolling our streets and parks. I'd hate to see these dog owners moving out of San Francisco because there is no access to a large area for an off-leash walk. If these dogs are forced out of San Francisco, then their owners will no longer be walking around our parks and streets making them safer.

Thanks, Michael Willingham

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**Correspondence ID:** 714      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:**  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Feb,18,2011 11:44:55  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** This would be a very sad change to San Francisco, San Mateo, and Marin Counties. Having these designated areas for dogs to be off leash has been a very safe and fair way to allow dogs and their owners to get the exercise and socialization they need to thrive. By limiting these areas as it is being suggested, it will severely limit the amount of space needed for many large and energetic dogs to burn off energy and get the exercise they need. It would be a travesty to the mentioned counties to slash the areas dogs are allowed off leashes. Please re-consider making these changes, as taking away these open areas will be devastating to both the dogs and the dog owners.

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**Correspondence ID:** 715      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:**  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Feb,18,2011 12:08:12  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I lived in San Francisco for over 20 years and now reside in Pacifica, but regularly use Fort Funston for it's off-leash dog allowance. I have a 5 year old well-trained yellow lab who is under both voice and hand signal control (yes, really - I spend a lot of time reinforcing his training, which is life-long). I always bring poop-bags with me (I use biodegradable poop bags from poopbags.com) and if I have left over bags I leave them in one of the kiosks for someone else to use. If I see a dog (not my own) leaving a mess and the owner is unaware, I point it out to them and/or pick it up myself. I try to be a good canine citizen (as does my canine). We love to come to Fort Funston to run and play in the surf and meet with other friendly dogs. Often, on cold and blustery San Francisco days (meaning more often than not, in other words) dog owners are the ONLY people in the Fort Funston area - everyone in sight has a dog with them. Therefore, if this area is dog restricted, I don't believe many people will use it (except for the hang gliders perhaps). This is an urban area - not some pristine wilderness - and has been a wonderful place for dogs and their human companions. Please do not take it away from us!

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**Correspondence ID:** 716      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** -  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Feb,18,2011 00:00:00  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** This DEIS is invalid because it fails to meet its legal obligation to take into consideration the negative effects the proposed changes would create for humans, their dogs and the surrounding environment (e.g. local parks). Further, the studies/science utilized to support allegations of damage to resources in the GGNRA are fatally flawed - the positive impacts are ignored and the negative impacts are unverified.

Therefore, I believe the 1979 Pet Policy should be implemented in its original form with no restrictions on off-leash recreation at Ocean Beach, and it should be institutionalized as a Section Seven Special Regulation. Further, I believe that all properties added subsequent to the 1979 Pet Policy and in the future should have historical off-leash

recreational usage allowed. This would accurately reflect the enabling legislation for this National Recreation Area which GGNRA management has held in disregard for quite some time. I also believe the GGNRA's inclusion of a Compliance-Based Management Strategy as well as the GGNRA's failure to commit to a Section Seven Special Regulation following this process indicates a lack of good faith and an intent to deceive the public as the GGNRA did following the implementation of the 1979 Pet Policy which the GGNRA later decried in Federal court as an "error".

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**Correspondence ID:** 717      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** -  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Feb,18,2011 12:12:28  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Please keep current regulations in force instead of changing to onerous rules that benefit no one or the park.  
Please keep our open space open for everyone - dog people too who enjoy the beauty of our open natural spaces.

---

**Correspondence ID:** 718      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** -  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Feb,18,2011 12:16:40  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** As a young man I worked as a seasonal ranger with the NPS and have always been an avid hiker. I was also an elementary teacher for a number of years, and always reveled in taking my students into the wilderness. Now as a grandfather with 5 grandchildren, I enjoy walking with them in our wonderful National Parks throughout northern California, and especially the newest system in what was the Presidio in San Francisco. Our National Park system was created to allow our citizens and our children to enjoy the natural wonders they contain - wild vegetation and extraordinary wildlife - in a setting that is in contrast to the urban environment that surrounds most of us daily. As a National Park, the Golden Gate Recreational Area is a very special case because it's so close to a densely populated urban area, and it allows our urban children the opportunity to experience a different reality from that which they see daily. If not for this special National Park, thousands of San Francisco's children will never have a real park experience - an esthetic experience that stands in stark contrast to their daily concrete urban existence. Dogs are a part of that urban, concrete life. Dogs have no place in a National Park. They disturb the wildlife, vegetation, and those of us who come to our Parks as a respite from the concrete world of the city.

Please keep our dogs and all pets out of our parks.

Dogs have no place in our National Park paradigm.

---

**Correspondence ID:** 719      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** michaelamooney@yahoo.com  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Feb,18,2011 12:39:24  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I support the alternative that does the most to exclude dogs whether on or off-leash from the GGNRA as much as

possible. I think that as part of the NPS, the GGNRA should first strive to preserve its natural resources. I have seen firsthand on many occasions how dogs will chase birds on the beach and in other places. I also do not like to see dogs on trails due to their droppings and how they may affect the wildlife in the area. Please limit dog use in the GGNRA as much as possible. Thank you.

---

**Correspondence ID:** 720      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** uconnolly@gmail.com  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Feb,18,2011 13:41:45  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** As a dog owner, I love taking my dog on the Miwok trail and to Muir Beach. Many days we hardly see anyone on the Miwok Trail and sometimes the only people at Muir Beach are people with dogs. If you have a well-behaved dog and clean up after your dog, there is no reason at all you should not be able to have your dogs off leash both of these places.

Most trails do not allow dogs. My dog is blind and very frightened by cars on the road. He needs a trail where he can run with me. I think it is really awful that you are considering these actions.

I am originally from the East Coast and one of the things I always LOVED about Northern California- long before I was a dog owner, was its more relaxed attitude and freedom about where dogs were allowed. Please don't become more restrictive! Our dogs are our best friends. We need natural beautiful places like Muir Beach and trails like the Miwok where we can let them roam and be dogs! Please don't take these freedoms away.

Sincerely, Ursula Connolly

---

**Correspondence ID:** 721      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** -  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Feb,18,2011 14:19:52  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Thank you for taking an exhaustive and comprehensive look at the impacts of user groups on our park lands. Please ensure that the lands, flora and fauna are protected for future generations. Preserving the GGNRA system should be the primary goal of the policy. Only responsible and low impact activities are consistent with that goal. The policy will be effective only if it is backed up with thorough education and enforcement.

---

**Correspondence ID:** 722      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** -  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Feb,18,2011 14:21:46  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

I support Alternative D because it offers the most protection to natural and cultural resources and visitors wanting a safe and most dog-free experience.

I lived in San Francisco for over 20 years and now visit frequently, including walking in many of the areas covered in the proposal in both San Francisco and Marin.

I stopped walking in the Crissy Field area because of the dog problem. I have been scared by aggressive dogs and their combative/defensive owners. Being able to have a dog-free or dog-limited (on leash only) experience would be wonderful. One of the many reasons for enjoying these beautiful places is to find a peaceful refuge from the stress of modern life. This is impossible under current circumstances.

Ideally, I would like to see dogs banned. However, at least they should be restricted to small fenced areas reserved only for dogs. Also, no matter what, dogs should always be leashed.

---

**Correspondence ID:** 723      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS

**Name:** -

**Address:** - CA  
USA

**Email:** markm@thechrismlightpros.com

**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Received:** Feb,18,2011 16:40:22

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence :** I agree whole heartedly with Sally Stephens, chair of San Francisco Dog Owners Group. Where She has concisely stated that "the park was never meant to be a "pristine wilderness," but instead was created as a multi-use natural resource for a dense urban population." These parks are on the fringes of highly urbanised zones. The impact of human activity on native wild life is going to be inevitable whether they are walking their pets or not.

Has any one actually completed any comprehensive studies covering the impact of off leash dog walking on wildlife and natural habitat? It seems that a few wellfunded organisations have come to wield influence that is ultimately going to effect the freedom of Bay Area residents. The National Park Service U.S. Department of the Interior Inventory and Monitoring Program Research Project Summary August 2008 details numbers of off leash dogs and "bird chasing events". Whatever a bird chasing event is..... Is that where a dog runs down the beach and birds take flight? What about patrol vehicles, equestrians, dogs, joggers, and kite flyers. Do birds take flight when these potential disturbances are present....? More than likely this would be the case. If the birds had a serious problem with the human disturbance they would pick an area of the beach that is less trafficked. Or pick a beach that is hardly trafficked at all.

[http://science.nature.nps.gov/im/units/sfan/vital\\_signs/snowy\\_plover/docs/GOGA\\_Plover%20Monitoring%20Brief.pdf](http://science.nature.nps.gov/im/units/sfan/vital_signs/snowy_plover/docs/GOGA_Plover%20Monitoring%20Brief.pdf)

Included in the text of the report is a statement "that habitat loss and degradation due to development, beach recreation, and encroachment by non-native vegetation have contributed to a decline in Snow Plover numbers..... " That indicates to me that there are a broad number of factors that are at play here. The Graphical evidence provided in the report also provides no direct correlation that unleashed dogs and Snowy Plover numbers are related.....? It seems that information concerning exactly why numbers of native wildlife are falling is woefully inadequate. Until comprehensive studies are completed it would be premature to place all the blame on one potential disruption.

How have dogs become the number one issue? It seems incredibly single minded to focus specifically on Dogs as the main reason any of the negative impacts of intense urbanisation have occurred in the GGNRA. I would like to voice my concern to the current policies of the GGNRA with regard to Dog Management. I would also propose that restricting this segment of the Bay Areas population is a little bit one sided and will be a detriment to future generations. The ability of children and people being able to interact with their pets in the natural environment helps with development, confidence and appreciation of the outdoors.

---

**Correspondence ID:** 724      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS

**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** -  
**Outside** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Organization:**  
**Received:** Feb,18,2011 17:51:29  
**Correspondence** Web Form  
**Type:**  
**Correspondence:** This proposed legislation is more than upsetting not only as a dog parent who takes great joy in bringing my pet to these parks, but also as a concerned citizen. San Francisco is one of the most dog-friendly destinations in the entire United States and one of the most iconic. Taking away the ability to have your pet roam freely at these parks, which the plan does not even justify sufficiently, will most assuredly have a trickle down effect through the entire local economy. From tourism to licensed and certified dog walking businesses, to pet stores and veterinary hospitals, this unnecessary legislation will have an economic impact that has not been thought through

---

**Correspondence ID:** 725      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** kirsten@treais.com  
**Outside** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Organization:**  
**Received:** Feb,18,2011 18:02:17  
**Correspondence** Web Form  
**Type:**  
**Correspondence:** I am a very considerate dog owner and feel that we need places where dogs can roam free. Life is ment to be diversified and if you take dogs off beaches and open space you take away the joy for all dog owners.

---

**Correspondence ID:** 726      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** shute\_guanaco@yahoo.com  
**Outside** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Organization:**  
**Received:** Feb,18,2011 18:07:55  
**Correspondence** Web Form  
**Type:**  
**Correspondence:** While the protection of park patrons and designated environmental areas are important, severely restricting the options of dog owners is detrimental to the community at large. GGNRA parks are one of the few open areas that dog owners can let their dogs off their leash, ensuring an active lifestyle for the animal. Denying dog owners the ability to walk their dogs off leash will critically curtail the available areas where dogs can receive much needed exercise and play. One possibility is increasing the penalties for infractions on existing dog-leash restrictions, as well as ensuring protected environmental areas are off-limits.

Thank you.

---

**Correspondence ID:** 727      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** -  
**Outside** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Organization:**  
**Received:** Feb,18,2011 18:48:06  
**Correspondence** Web Form  
**Type:**

**Correspondence:** I support the alternatives that are the most protective to the wildlife and for human safety. I have human safety concerns about dogs off leash. I am one of the many victims of dog bites. I want to see on leash requirement as well as muzzle requirements everywhere for this reason. No human should be banned from a part of the park because dangerous animals are allowed to run free.

Here are some of the stats quoted from <http://www.dogbitelaw.com/PAGES/statistics.html>): 1. 2% of americans are bitten by a dog annually. I would guess that most people have been bitten in their lives given that over a 50 year period, I don't think it is the same 2% getting bitten - (Sacks JJ, Kresnow M, Houston B. Dog bites: how big a problem? Injury Prev 1996;2:52-4.) Keep in mind that i myself have been bitten twice but only reported it once, so I would assume that 2% is a vast underestimation.

2. 1 out of 6 dog bites requires medical treatment

3. Getting bitten by a dog is the fifth most frequent cause of visits to emergency rooms caused by activities common among children. (See Weiss HB, Friedman DI, Coben JH. Incidence of dog bite injuries treated in emergency departments, JAMA 1998;279:53)

4. An American has a one in 50 chance of being bitten by a dog each year. (CDC.) (pretty high compared to other things we would consider risky)

5. The trend for fatal dog bites as well as dog bites in general has been rising yearly since the 80's.

6. "Dog attack victims in the US suffer over \$1 billion in monetary losses every year. ("Take the bite out of man's best friend." State Farm Times, 1998;3(5):2.) That \$1 billion estimate might be low -- an article in the Journal of the American Medical Association reported that, in 1995, State Farm paid \$70 million on 11,000 claims and estimated that the total annual insurance cost for dog bites was about \$2 billion. (Voelker R. "Dog bites recognized as public health problem." JAMA 1997;277:278,280.)"

7. "According to the Insurance Information Institute, dog bites cost insurers \$412 million in 2009."

So, contrary to dog owners phrase "don't worry he's friendly," I worry a lot! The stress of being around dogs raises people's blood pressure and adversely affects their health. It raises mine. It also affects my mental health. I want to go to the park to relax but instead it worsen my mental health. Many I have talked to that have been bitten by dogs in the past exhibit signs of PTSD and the dog owner and dog's enjoyment comes at the price of the well-being of human being.

---

**Correspondence ID:** 728    **Project:** 11759    **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS

**Name:** -

**Address:** - CA

USA

**Email:** mikedahlin1@gmail.com

**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Received:** Feb,18,2011 00:00:00

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I have been on a pilgrimage to see most National Parks and recently saw Yellowstone, Bryce, Zion and Arches, but realize that I have the best park back at home in Fort Funston. I like to join the crew on the first Saturday of the month to help collect trash and keep Funston clean. I discovered Funston because I walk my dogs there.

---

**Correspondence ID:** 729    **Project:** 11759    **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS

**Name:** -

**Address:** - CA

USA

**Email:**

**Outside Organization:** San Francisco Resident Unaffiliated Individual

**Received:** Feb,19,2011 00:20:54

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Please do not move forward with the proposal to limit the off-leash accessible areas in California.

As a respectful dog owner who strives to provide a healthy, satisfying life for my animal, I urge the National Park Service not to restrict off-leash dog areas in California. In addition to the positive effects they have on the physical quality of life of the animals and their owners, the area's off-leash dog parks strengthen the community by uniting residents in a casual, social setting that encourages interaction and dialog.

---

**Correspondence ID:** 730      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS

**Name:** -

**Address:** - CA  
USA

**Email:** -

**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Received:** Feb,19,2011 15:07:46

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** As a San Francisco resident and dog owner, I am ABSOLUTELY OPPOSED to your new regulations, that will force most of us, law abiding dog owners to walk and run in other places, on the streets, creating a hazard for ourselves, our beloved dogs and to the traffic in general. This is an attempt to over regulate our lives and curb our freedom and is totally unjustified!!!

---

**Correspondence ID:** 731      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS

**Name:** -

**Address:** - CA  
USA

**Email:** marilynghymes@gmail.com

**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Received:** Feb,19,2011 15:30:40

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I have 2 kids and A lovely dog.. please do not limit the already limited places I can go with all 3!!

---

**Correspondence ID:** 732      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS

**Name:** -

**Address:** - CA  
USA

**Email:** -

**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Received:** Feb,19,2011 15:34:26

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I support your rules limiting dogs running free. Dogs should be either leashed or excluded from multiple areas where they now run free, despite existing rules. Ocean beach in San Francisco is too full of dogs running wild, frightening off birds, children, the elderly and anyone who is not big, strong and totally alert. Crissy Field beach is full of dried dog poop and it is impossible to walk there without getting knocked over or having to make a major detour around dogs. My right to peaceful use of my limited free time in these beautiful areas is constantly infringed upon by dogs. I am not going to these places in order to spend my energy to avoid, walk around, protect myself from or step in the poop of dogs. I am trying to enjoy nature and my life. I do not wish to, nor should I have to spend time asserting my rights to dog owners nor should I have to listen to rude talk or a long sad story about their trouble with doggy diarrhea when I point out that they are not cleaning up after their dogs. I love to walk on the beach and be outside and as I grow older the dog issue has become more and more problematic. I do believe you are representing a silent majority by making reasonable rules about this.

Thank you, Teresa Palmer

**Correspondence ID:** 733      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA

**Email:** -  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Received:** Feb,19,2011 16:33:11  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I would clearly prefer alternative D which offers the most control of dog walkers and the most protection of wildlife and non-dog walkers. Although having dogs in our parks is a problem, the bigger problem is with the dog owners and walkers. Dogs can be trained in some degree, but apparently dog walkers cannot be trained. After all, they are the ones that claim confusion about where it is allowable or not. So, if this alternative (D) seems to be confusing, perhaps it would be best to simply ban dogs in all the Federal Park areas. The dogs won't care, as long as they get to be outside. The dog walkers may claim that their park experience will be affected, but they are free to enjoy their dogs elsewhere.

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**Correspondence ID:** 734      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA

**Email:** dcofog3@att.net  
**Outside Organization:** Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy Unaffiliated Individual

**Received:** Feb,19,2011 17:42:25  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** As a responsible dog owner, I would like to have continued access for my dog in the GGNRA, especially at Lands End, Fort Funston, Sweeney Ridge, Mori Point, and, Pedro Point.

I understand the impacts of dogs on wildlife and agree that dogs should be leashed in most places, but please don't completely outlaw the dogs. The "R" in GGNRA means Recreation.--It is not a National Park.

I feel that a portion of the beaches at Fort Funston and Ocean Beach should be open to off-leash use, with all other sites open to on-leash use.

Thank you for your attention.

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**Correspondence ID:** 735      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA

**Email:** stevedaane@aol.com  
**Outside Organization:** Physician Unaffiliated Individual

**Received:** Feb,20,2011 10:12:59  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I treat 100 dog bites a year in my job as Division Chief of Plastic Surgery at Oakland Children's Hospital. I've treated dog bite injuries in children from Stinson Beach and Mill Valley as well as from all over the Bay Area. I live in Mill Valley and we have dogs and children. I'm in favor of the new tighter restrictions because a sizeable portion of dog owners ignore the rules with regard to leashes and voice control at Stinson or in the NPS put children in danger of sudden, severe injuries. I can attest that while dog owners vigilantly maintain that their dogs would never bite, these injuries do happen unexpectedly and can be catastrophic. There are so many other places besides the NPS for dog owners to walk in Marin and all over the bay area. From my perspective treating an average of two dog bites a week for over 10 years and from living both at Stinson Beach and Mill Valley, dogs and people aren't coexisting well at Stinson and in the NPS and therefore restrictions are necessary and overdue. Please

contact me if necessary. Thank you, Stephen Daane, M.D.

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**Correspondence ID:** 736      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS

**Name:** -

**Address:** - CA  
USA

**Email:** laurenwilson13@gmail.com

**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Received:** Feb,20,2011 12:35:29

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** One of the things that makes San Francisco unique is its dog-friendly spaces. When I first got my dog Mango, a rescue, I was thrilled to find I could take my best friend with me to enjoy San Francisco's beauty- Crissy Field, Baker Beach, and Ocean Beach are 3 of our favorite weekend excursions. I can enjoy a walk looking at the beautiful scenery, and Mango gets to expel energy, socialize with other dogs, and smell all the scents. She gets to enjoy being a dog.

If the Dog Management Plan goes into effect, we lose a community. The dog owners in this city are, in general, a friendly group of people who enjoy getting to know each other and each others' dogs. Our dogs start playing together, and we start a conversation. Part of the reason I love San Francisco so much is because I feel bonded to the people, many of whom I've met while walking on the beach. Without dogs, I never would have met any of them.

I consider myself a responsible pet owner, and I am impressed with the other owners I see as well. I never see dog feces lying about, and the dogs are all under voice control. This morning I saw a boot camp group working out in the midst of several dogs, and the dogs were not approaching the people at all, as their owners kept them away from the group. Our dogs do not have heartworm or fleas, as we take them to the vet and keep them up to date on medication. They are just there to enjoy the space, not to have any negative impact on the environment.

Please do not create uptight regulations that prohibit our enjoyment of our city and all it has to offer. Please keep the 1979 Pet Policy in effect. Please keep San Francisco unique in this way, that we may experience the beauty of this place with our furry friends, who also have a deep appreciation for it. Thank you, Lauren Rolfe

---

**Correspondence ID:** 737      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS

**Name:** -

**Address:** - CA  
USA

**Email:** ehbenedict@earthlink.net

**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Received:** Feb,20,2011 14:42:58

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** One of the joys of going to the Big Beach in Muir Beach is watching the dogs of our community at play. This is a joy that brings happiness to all concerned -- four and two legged. We live in a tiny village in a rural setting there is absolutely no need to restrict out pets in this way. I've lived here for over eight years and have never seen dog feces left by their owners for others to deal with. Our dog owners are responsible. Please do not punish their pets with unwarranted restrictions.

Thank you for your attention. Elizabeth Benedict 17 Ahab Drive Muir Beach

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**Correspondence ID:** 738      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS

**Name:** -

**Address:** - CA  
USA

**Email:** wilburlo@gmail.com

**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Feb,20,2011 14:58:20  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Dear Sir/Ma'am,

I am a local resident of San Francisco and I regularly visit Lands End, Ocean Beach 4+ times a week with my dog. To keep my disability (chronic health condition) under control regular exercise is required.

I am not happy with the plans provided. While, I respect everyone's right to enjoy the scenic scenery, the GGNRA seems bent on giving off leash dog walkers a choice between, barely anything and nothing at all. The "Compliance-Based Management Strategy" is non-sense, if people don't obey the law then allow the GGNRA to ban off leash areas without public comment? Whatever happened to enforcing the law?

In addition, the forcing of all new areas given to the GGNRA to be on leash or no-dog at all, is slowly forcing all off leash walking of dogs to well.. nothing. As the GGNRA obtains more land for the public trust, the land should not be discriminated against dog owners from the get go!

By large and large, I haven't seen any problems with dogs, and for the problems that exist (poop), focusing GGNRA resources on ticketing those people who don't pick up, is better than these countless documents!

Regards,

-daniel

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**Correspondence ID:** 739      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS

**Name:** -

**Address:** - CA  
USA

**Email:** -

**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Received:** Feb,20,2011 19:15:56

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I am very much opposed to any restrictions of dog access to Muir Beach. I have been taking my dog there for years and never had any difficulties or witnessed any affect to wildlife. Off leash on the beach works very well with rarely an incident. Please do not take this off leash dog access away.

---

**Correspondence ID:** 740      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS

**Name:** -

**Address:** - CA  
USA

**Email:** -

**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Received:** Feb,20,2011 20:51:46

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** As a long-time resident of San Francisco, I enjoying going to Fort Funston with my dog 2-3 times each week. This is the only place where she can run safely off-leash and get the exercise she needs. I am concerned that the changes being proposed will significantly affect the quality of life for both my dog and my family.

The new, proposed off-leash areas at Fort Funston seem unnecessarily strict and arbitrary. The plan at this location is confusing and illogical and has the potential to create a lot of unintentional non-compliance because it is so confusing.

This is particularly concerning since the Compliance-based Management Strategy component of the proposal allows the GGNRA to change the status of off-leash areas to on-leash or no dogs without additional public comment if there is not 100% compliance with the new restrictions. The fact that the GGNRA can unilaterally circumvent the legal requirement to have a public hearing for any future changes is seriously concerning ? it is not the way we do things in America!

At Fort Funston, open areas that are basically uninhabited sand dunes (like the area to the east of the "beach access" path or the area between the parking lot and the water fountain) should not be closed down to off-leash use. There is no reason why these open areas that are perfect for dogs to run in should be restricted.

Today the park was full of people with dogs off-leash, hang gliders and other visitors happily and safely enjoying the park together. There is no need to change the current situation at all! The new proposal will seriously, negatively affect the ability of U.S. citizens who have dogs to access and enjoy GGNRA parkland with their dogs.

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**Correspondence ID:** 741      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** -  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Feb,20,2011 20:55:46  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Please keep Fort Funston open as-is for dogs. I have not seen a happier place on earth for dogs and their owners. This is crucial to the well-being of many in the SF Bay Area and the proposed changes would have no documented impact on potential benefit to wildlife at all. I'm appalled that this even came up as an option.

Thank you.

If you want to charge per dog that enters the area I'm fine with that. That's how important this space is to us.

---

**Correspondence ID:** 742      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** Sara.schwab@ucsfmedctr.org  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Feb,22,2011 08:06:24  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** February 22, 2011

To whom it may concern,

I'm writing in support of the preservation for dog walking access throughout the Golden Gate National Recreation Area. I urge you to keep the parks open for dogs.

When you're considering the Environmental Impact Statement for dog management, please consider that animals have a wonderful impact on human lives. Studies show that we live longer and happier lives when we have a loving relationship with an animal. Part of that love is walking through a nice park. The majority of dog owners are responsible people, please do not restrict access because of a few irresponsible people.

Thanks for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Sara Schwab, San Francisco Resident

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**Correspondence ID:** 743      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** Sara.schwab@ucsfmedctr.org  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Feb,22,2011 08:13:39  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** February 22, 2011

To whom it may concern,

I'm writing in support of the preservation for dog walking access throughout the Golden Gate National Recreation Area. I urge you to keep the parks open for dogs.

When you're considering the Environmental Impact Statement for dog management, please consider that animals have a wonderful impact on human lives. Studies show that we live longer and happier lives when we have a loving relationship with an animal. Part of that love is walking through a nice park. The majority of dog owners are responsible people, please do not restrict access because of a few irresponsible people.

Thanks for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Sara Schwab, San Francisco Resident

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**Correspondence ID:** 744      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** adybwad@gmail.com  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Feb,22,2011 08:41:04  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** It seems to me that voice control for dogs on Muir Beach has worked. And, if it works, don't "fix" it. Muir Beach is a neighborhood beach and the neighbors control their dogs.

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**Correspondence ID:** 745      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** -  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Feb,22,2011 09:44:44  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** re: Sweeney Ridge As the environmental impact on continuing to allow dogs would be minor to moderate, please

support option A - no change to this area. There are very few scenic hikes in San Mateo County that my family can take with our dog - PLEASE DO NOT BAN DOGS FROM SWEENEY RIDGE!

PS I heard about this website, and the opportunity to comment, through the sign posted at the entrance to Sweeney Ridge at Fassler Ave in Pacifica.

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**Correspondence ID:** 746      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** -  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Feb,22,2011 10:00:46  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** The Crissy Field dog beach is an important and enjoyable part of our lives. We bring our Golden Retriever puppy to the beach and he is in dog heaven. We've never had or even seen any significant problems with other dogs or people. I understand some people may enjoy an area of the beach where dogs are not running free. I support East Beach being on-leash and Central Beach being off-leash, as well as the promenade and walking trails being on-leash.  
  
Thank you, Kara Scoggins 415-439-3325

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**Correspondence ID:** 747      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** -  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Feb,22,2011 10:03:24  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am writing to comment on the proposed plan for dog management. It is a shame that in an area where people and their dogs are a high priority that the government is considering reducing a major part of recreation that is unique to this region. My husband and I have been taking our dogs to Ft. Funston for many years, and it is evident that those that go there have a true respect for the area as well as for their dogs. The dogs have not had a negative impact on the landscape, and no scientific study has proven to the contrary. This area is well used because of the allowance of off leash usage, and freedom to enjoy nature with your dog. This area is not utilized by non dog walkers except for the hang gliders, and they co exist well together. This area would be a ghost town without the allowance of off leash walking as it currently stands. I hope you will not vote to destroy this natural beauty of man and beast.

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**Correspondence ID:** 748      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** -  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Feb,22,2011 10:48:24  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I can count on one hand the number of nearby trails/beaches that I can take my dog with me today, with the number of off-leash possibilities even smaller. This new proposal will do away with almost all of them- Homestead, Stinson Beach and Oakwood Valley. Where will I be able to take my dog?

I am a responsible dog owner- I clean up after my dog and she stays on the trail with me, even when off leash. Her impact on the trails and environment is no more and I would say even less than mine. Horses and even mountain bikers have a far greater impact on the trails and environment than dogs, yet they are allowed on almost all the trails and even beaches(!) in Marin.

I don't think it is fair to make a blanket sweep and ban dogs from almost all of GGNRA owned space when the dog access rights are already limited to start.

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**Correspondence ID:** 749      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106

**Project Name:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS

**Address:** -  
- CA  
USA

**Email:**  
**Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Received:** Feb,22,2011 12:22:53

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I strongly support your efforts to control dogs in all National Parks, including the GGNRA. We live close to Miagra Ridge, Sweeney Ridge, Mori Point, and Fort Funston and walk in all these areas. We frequently see dogs off-leash, chasing wildlife and pooping where owners don't pick up after them. I urge you to adopt the strongest plan, probably Alternative D, to protect people, wildlife, soil, and the serenity of the Parks' surroundings.

Please consider the following factors:

1. Dogs do NOT have a "right" to wander off-leash. Owners have a "responsibility" to ensure that their dogs do not pose a threat to people, other dogs, wildlife, and to the environment.
2. Many owners ignore posted dog restrictions. About a third of dog walkers we see on our daily walks do not keep their dogs on a leash, even when we remind them of the leash law.
3. Owners underestimate the danger their dogs pose to people, especially children. Off-leash dogs can be hazardous to strangers, even if they seem docile around people they are accustomed to.
4. Voice command restrictions are NOT an acceptable alternative to a leash because dogs may not obey voice commands when they are stressed by strangers or other dogs. On many occasions, we have seen dogs ignore their owner's commands and continue to chase wildlife--or wander about, sniffing for something to chase.
5. The "default" for all park areas should be NO DOGS ALLOWED EXCEPT IN DESIGNATED AREAS.
6. Given the horrible state of our National and State Parks funding, it is very difficult for Park staff (and even volunteers) to enforce any dog restrictions. This problem should make it even more important to allow dogs only in the safest areas.
7. The fines for violation of dog restrictions should escalate quickly after the first offense. Scofflaws will no doubt flout any restrictions; heavy fines are the only deterrent to these people.
8. Certain breeds proven dangerous to people such as pit bulls should NOT be permitted on any Park property without a leash AND muzzle. The fines for violation should be heavy, including impoundment of the dog.
9. Since the Pacific Coast is part of the migratory route of many birds, restrictions on dogs should also take into consideration the locations where these birds nest, feed, or stopover. Dogs should not be allowed in these areas.

Please do not cave in to a strident, vocal minority of people who insist on inflicting their dogs on Park visitors and property. The national and state parks are owned by ALL people; no small subgroup has a "right" to insist on

special privileges.

Please adopt the strictest dog restrictions so that our parks remain as special, protected places that we can all enjoy and hand to our descendents in great condition.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this important Dog Plan initiative.

Bruce Mussell 3871 Pacific Hts Bl San Bruno CA 94066

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**Correspondence ID:** 750    **Project:** 11759    **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:**  
**Outside:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Organization:**  
**Received:** Feb,22,2011 12:26:57  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I would like to comment on the dog management plan. I am particularly concerned about Chrissy Field in San Francisco. Also the other walking/biking paths throughout the Golden Gate Area. I favor restricting as large an area as possible along the coast to no dogs allowed. I found that on a recent visit that the presence of dogs was very disruptive to a normal walk along the path and very disruptive when we walked on the beach. Dogs were everywhere and I noticed over 1/2 of them were off leashes and running in packs of 3-4 dogs. It was threatening to children and walkers along the path. Dogs were everywhere and no one was picking solid waste after their dogs. I found it to be very disgusting to be surrounded by dog feces and urine and finding dogs pushing their noses into your body. Owners seemed oblivious to the behavior of their dogs and it significantly diminished the experience of being near the bay. Any restriction that can be done to keep dogs away from these National Parks that all citizens support would be an improvement. Reading the documents the preferred alternatives seem to be as good as you can get, although I would prefer even greater restrictions (banning dogs from all National Parks).

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**Correspondence ID:** 751    **Project:** 11759    **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:**  
**Outside:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Organization:**  
**Received:** Feb,22,2011 18:45:30  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am a frequent visitor to all your parks for 55 years already!!! Keep the dog policy as it is - free roaming or on leashes. Dogs are part of our families and they pay TAXES, also. Europe is much more linient in all those areas.....

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**Correspondence ID:** 752    **Project:** 11759    **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** -  
**Outside:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Organization:**  
**Received:** Feb,22,2011 21:31:04  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** The plan for Mori Point seems very inconsistent. According to the maps (which are very hard to decipher), Bootleggers Steps would be closed to dogs completely. Trails at the top of Mori Point would also be closed to

dogs. I can see no reason for these restrictions. Bootleggers Steps are man made (earth moved, vegetation removed, wildlife disturbed in the process) and a dog using them would cause no additional harm. I climb those steps every weekend with my dog and closing those steps to our use would negatively impact my experience. I have lived in Pacifica for almost 30 years and have been walking Mori Point trails before they were sacred NPS trails, for the same period. I actually think I would prefer to go back to the days when you had to dodge cars and dirt bikes driving off road, they at least shared the space. Take a look around and see how many dog walkers, most of whom are locals, use Mori Point. We are the major users of the area and you are denying us the use of our backyard.

On the topic of dog waste, why don't horseback riders have to pick up their animal's waste? I run into piles of horse manure regularly and somehow, apparently, that causes no harm to vegetation, water quality or natural wildlife. I think fairness is needed here. All domestic animal waste is to be removed by the animal's owner in NPS space.

You note that dogs barking could disturb birds and other wildlife. How about children chasing birds, digging holes, screaming loudly. Apparently that has no impact on wildlife. Spend a little time on a weekend and you will soon see the impact of children on the natural landscape. Watch gulls and other seabirds frantically fly as they get chased from area to area. And you mention dogs could trample on snakes, again, how about horses, or bikes. Apparently humans chasing wildlife, trampling vegetation, leaving trash and waste, is just the cost of doing business, but dogs are apparently the root of all evil. Have you seen the state of some of the trails due to bike use? Some of the wetter areas are almost completely eroded, with deep ruts from bike tires. Again, apparently the cost of doing business. I think you have picked the dog as your scapegoat for what you somehow believe are the problems within the GGNRA. You will find that you are mistaken, unfortunately probably not before you close every bit of GGNRA space to dog walkers.

Please change the plan for Mori Point to allow use of all trails and Bootleggers Steps to dog walkers

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|                              |                                |                 |       |                  |       |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------|-------|------------------|-------|
| <b>Correspondence ID:</b>    | 753                            | <b>Project:</b> | 11759 | <b>Document:</b> | 38106 |
| <b>Project:</b>              | Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS |                 |       |                  |       |
| <b>Name:</b>                 | -                              |                 |       |                  |       |
| <b>Address:</b>              | - CA<br>USA                    |                 |       |                  |       |
| <b>Email:</b>                | Jylisowski@yahoo.com           |                 |       |                  |       |
| <b>Outside Organization:</b> | Unaffiliated Individual        |                 |       |                  |       |
| <b>Received:</b>             | Feb,22,2011 22:08:32           |                 |       |                  |       |
| <b>Correspondence Type:</b>  | Web Form                       |                 |       |                  |       |
| <b>Correspondence:</b>       | to the nps.gov:                |                 |       |                  |       |

i am highly concerned regarding the fort funston off leash laws being evaluated as well as the other open spaces currently allowing dogs either on leash or off for dog owners, walkers, and caretakers to enjoy.

fort funston is an off leash adventure dog park that i bring my personal dog, wyatt, and other clients dogs to run free in a safe environment; allowing them to run for approximately 20-45 minutes, while maintaining recall via voice control, remaining in a segregated pack, and exercising diligence,

my concerns if the park closes are as follows:

- 1) if the park(s) chooses to restrict off leash dog enjoyment, i foresee more dogs possibly becoming:
  - a) aggressive, due to lack of routine 20-45 minutes of running free, off leash. case studies show that dogs who do not get proper exercise routinely can become aggressive, anxious, hyperactive, and destructive; both to themselves, their owners, other dogs, and property (i.e. digging and other extreme anxiety behaviours).
  - b) escaping from yards, (due to above mentioned)
  - c) excessive barking a/or (due to above mentioned)
  - d) excessive damage to owner's a/or (due to above mentioned)

e) affect/become neighbors problems. (due to above mentioned)

f) abnormal incoming shelter rates and animals who may be aggressive or difficult to handle a/or adopt out due to lack of exercise, socialization, and healthy group play monitored by a dog care professional a/or the owners.

g) dog owners who are unable to provide exercise for their dogs who are doing the responsible thing by paying for a service to pick up and drop off their dogs and bringing them to funston will no longer have this option available for their dogs and will have further frustrations and concerns of their dogs pent up energy. some owners may surrender their dogs in order to have a better life for their dogs, and this may result in increased shelter rates and may reverse the no kill policy at some shelters to becoming kill shelters, a/or moving the dog via transport to a kill shelter for euthanasia, resulting in an increased city, county, a/or state budget that cities, counties and the state already are lacking.

h) wildlife adjustment. deer, skunk, raccoons, rats, other rodents, feral cats, cougars, bobcats, coyotes, and even snakes may re-enter current "dog zones" due to less fear of encountering both dogs and humans. these can be represented as signs of a healthier eco-system. however, the reintroduction of wildlife can become an endangerment to park visitors and eventually become a great tragedy and loss for not only park visitors, but also for wildlife. dogs have managed to keep wildlife at "bay" in most areas of highly traffic off leash dog use areas. if the park system elects to close off specific areas to re-habilitate the ecology, wildlife will eventually re-enter these areas and may cause more problems. deer may become a hazard in areas where once there were no signs. deer may cross roads, injure motorists; resulting in fatalities, both in humans and the deer population.

cougars may encroach these new deer populated areas, resulting in more cougar sightings, accidental attacks on humans or pets (primarily small pets and small children), eventually contributing to fish and game obligated to destroy our precious california mountain lion population.

coyotes and bobcats may follow suit and become entangled in an urban wildlife management crisis that is denied in the documentation provided in the nps proposal for eco restoration and management, resulting in even more damage to our current wildlife endangered already from urban sprawl.

being a responsible dog owner and dog care provider, i hope that fort funston and the additional nps parks will come to a compromise where both dog owners and lovers can continue to safely allow their dogs off leash, while maintaining a healthy balance in our eco systems, communities and neighborhoods.

without the off leash Privileges we currently are fortunate to experience, i fear the above mentioned concerns will occur within a 2-5 year time frame. as a tax payer, supporter of public lands, and a registered voter, i propose there be alternatives to allow the continued enjoyment of the nps areas for our dogs to run free.

alternatives:

a) implement a dog permit for professional dog walkers and maybe owners who would like to continue to walk their dogs off leash at the nps park areas. these permits can come in the form of day permits (purchased online and printable), at an nps kiosk (much like a parking validation at self service parking lots), or annually, or monthly. the east bay has an excellent dog permit program in existence.

b) implement a citation fee for dog owners not carrying the permit, exceeding dogs per person ratio, and valid dog tags (rabies) and licenses for county of residence.

c) implement a voice control recall policy based on the honor system. (dog owners watch a short video online or at a local library, nps kiosk, station, city hall portraying voice control protocols). owners watch the video, agree that their dog abides by the recall system protocol, and pays annual fee (video will have ot be watch annually before registration can be completed and fees paid) . dogs would be required to wear a voice control tag in addition to rabies and animal license or a citation, warning or actual will be given. boulder, colorado has a voice control/recall video and the program has been successful.

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**Correspondence ID:** 754    **Project:** 11759    **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA

**Email:** andrewnaraway@gmail.com  
**Outside** Unaffiliated Individual

**Organization:**

**Received:** Feb,22,2011 22:50:40

**Correspondence** Web Form

**Type:**

**Correspondence:** Dear Superintendent. I emigrated from Europe 25 years ago where dogs are allowed in all parks and beaches. I lived in SF ever since. I have survived the 89 Loma Prieta earthquake, divorce, 2 businesses failing, serious illness, the dot bomb and now the Great Recession, but only just. Part of my recovery process throughout all these tragedies has been for me to walk my dogs at the beach, mostly at Baker beach but also at Fort Funston at least twice a week over the last 15 years. That is at least 2,600 visits to the GGNRA. The pleasure, exercise and stress relief I get from taking my voice-controlled dogs has literally saved my life.

For those walks which I depend upon for exercise for me and my dog, to be threatened to be taken away is horrifying for me. Once you rule that dogs can only be off leash in certain parts of the beach, or not at all, then chaos will reign. The plan has to stay at its 1979 agreement for one simple reason: human health benefits! You work for us, the American taxpayer, we pay taxes, we vote and we can ask for and get access to OUR public lands with OUR (trained) best friends. The off leash areas only represents 1% of the entire GGNRA and the people who are pushing for the restrictions have no understanding of what these restrictions will do to certain people, including me.

Also, the Compliance Based Management Strategy is BLATANTLY unfair and remains a nuclear weapon in your arsenal. Certainly punish those dog owners who flout the law and who do not clean up after their dogs, but to ban ALL dogs after conceivably just one incident, is unconscionable. Maybe in the Soviet Union, but not in America sir.

Furthermore, the Preferred Alternative severely restricts recreational access for people with dogs, a fundamental violation of the reason the GGNRA was created. In the legislation that created it, the reason for the creation of the GGNRA is listed as "the maintenance of needed recreational open space." Off-leash dog walking is among the recreational activities listed as traditionally occurring in the land that was to become the GGNRA. There is no off-leash access in San Mateo County in the Preferred Alternative and that must be changed.

Lastly, I believe the DEIS does not adequately address the environmental and social impact of forcing large numbers of people and dogs into much smaller areas. Reducing the amount of area available for off-leash will significantly degrade the park experience for people with dogs. It will increase conflicts. Even more importantly, the DEIS does not address the environmental and social impact on small, neighborhood parks in cities like San Francisco next to the GGNRA. That is why I have written and telephoned my District Supervisor Mark Farrell and will be cc'ing him and Senators Boxer and Congresswoman Pelosi.

Please do NOT turn us into a Middle East dictatorship!

Andy Norway District 2 San Francisco

cc: Mark Farrell. Senator Boxer Congresswoman Pelosi

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**Correspondence ID:** 755      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS

**Name:** -

**Address:** - CA  
USA

**Email:**

**Outside** Unaffiliated Individual

**Organization:**

**Received:** Feb,23,2011 09:37:01

**Correspondence** Web Form

**Type:**

**Correspondence:** I agree with the options chosen for Milo and Milagra Ridges. This is where I dog walk and I always keep my dog on leash. Thank you for keeping the areas open for dogs and I believe in these areas that on leash is best. Thank you.

---

**Correspondence** 756      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106

**ID:**  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** btpmc72@gmail.com  
**Outside Organization:** Montara Dog Group Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Feb,23,2011 10:34:53  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Dear GGNRA members

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the GGNRA Dog Management Plan as it relates to the Rancho Corral de Tierra property in Montara.

I am a member of the Montara Dog Group and I strongly oppose the plan to ban all dogs from Rancho Corral. The GGNRA's current plan is unreasonable and unjust and will have a significant negative impact on my family's quality of life.

My family currently uses Ranch Corral to walk our Labrador Retrievers. We walk there at least twice a day and sometimes more. We generally walk our dogs off leash in Rancho as they are on voice and hand command, however, we always have their leashes in hand and either put them on or make them sit/stay should we approach people who have dogs on leash, a cyclist, a horse, etc. As unbelievable as it may seem everyone that uses the area shows the same respect ? it is a truly unique community in that sense.

We have been using Rancho Corral to walk our dogs for close to 4 years. During this entire time the people who use this land with us - either to walk their dogs, ride their horses, cycle or just go for a walk ? have gotten along swimmingly. We have all been respectful of each others use of the land and of the land itself. Certainly as a community we have come together and have done what needed to be done in order to ensure we respect the beautiful land of Rancho Corral as well as to ensure that all those who use it respect each other. The waste can management (for which my husband is one of the volunteers) is one of the many actions the dog community has taken.

Use of the open space is critical to the health and well being of my dogs and my family ? small backyards which are common in CA are prohibitive to exercise and walking on the street doesn't provide the same amount of exercise, pleasure or safety measures for the dogs or the people walking the dogs. Rancho Corral provides the perfect opportunity for dogs and their owners to get the exercise they need in a safe environment. It also allows for social interaction for owners and their dogs which is critical to the mental well being of both. We have met such wonderful people and neighbors through walking our dogs at Rancho which has enhanced our day to day living and allowed us to feel safe and secure in our community. All of this is truly invaluable.

To not allow dogs in Ranch Corral is preposterous - GGNRA absolutely needs to be respectful of the residents in an around Montara that have used this land for 50 plus years with respect for the land and each other and with little or no incident. I imagine it would be more then difficult to find a community that has banded together with such vigor and success. My family specifically moved to Montara for access to this green space so removing my right to enjoy it as I do now is unreasonable and prejudiced. Additionally, although before my time, I know that the community historically fought to preserve the land and defeat planned developments and freeways in order to allow the enjoyment that people and dogs have there today. If it were not for the community's passion, efforts and success it might be that there would be a Rancho Corral today.

Furthermore GGRNA's proposal to ban all dogs from the land does not show equitable treatment as dogs are permitted on other GGNRA lands ? some of which endorse leash free activity. In addition the GGNRA's process for planning land use for Rancho Corral has not been forthright ? there was one local meeting to discuss the proposal and it is quite evident from the GGNRA's current plan that the multitude of feedback provided by attendees at that meeting as it relates to dog walking was not acknowledged ? basically a lip service was provided by GGNRA to the local residents.

I am requesting that the GGNRA implement Alternative E for Rancho Corral. The community has supported a scenario similar to Alternative E for countless years proving that it is a successful model - so not only is there no reason to change it, changing it is immoderate.

Regards, Brenna Turner Resident of Montara CA btpmc72@gmail.com

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**Correspondence ID:** 757      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project Name:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** btpmc@att.net  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Feb,23,2011 10:37:46  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Dear GGNRA members

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the GGNRA Dog Management Plan as it relates to the Rancho Corral de Tierra property in Montara.

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Use of the open space is critical to the health and well being of my dogs and my family ? small backyards which are common in CA are prohibitive to exercise and walking on the street doesn't provide the same amount of exercise, pleasure or safety measures for the dogs or the people walking the dogs. Rancho Corral provides the perfect opportunity for dogs and their owners to get the exercise they need in a safe environment. It also allows for social interaction for owners and their dogs which is critical to the mental well being of both. We have met such wonderful people and neighbors through walking our dogs at Rancho which has enhanced our day to day living and allowed us to feel safe and secure in our community. All of this is truly invaluable.

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Furthermore GGRNA's proposal to ban all dogs from the land does not show equitable treatment as dogs are permitted on other GGNRA lands ? some of which endorse leash free activity. In addition the GGNRA's process for planning land use for Rancho Corral has not been forthright ? there was one local meeting to discuss the proposal and it is quite evident from the GGNRA's current plan that the multitude of feedback provided by attendees at that meeting as it relates to dog walking was not acknowledged ? basically a lip service was provided by GGNRA to the local residents.

I am requesting that the GGNRA implement Alternative E for Rancho Corral. The community has supported a scenario similar to Alternative E for countless years proving that it is a successful model - so not only is there no

GGNRA014720

reason to change it, changing it is immoderate.

Regards, Paul Turner Resident of Montara CA btpmc@att.net

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**Correspondence ID:** 758      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** -  
**Outside Organization:** Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Feb,23,2011 11:44:30  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** My comments concern Chrissy Field, an area I frequently enjoy walking and bringing visitors. It is a special place because it offers a mix of natural beauty, easy accessibility and the pleasure of watching people and dogs enjoying all the activities this area offers. Although I do not have a dog myself, part of the pleasure of Chrissy Field is watching a wonderful variety dogs happily play on the beach and in the water. I understand the necessity of a leash regulation on the paths. It appears to be generally complied with. However, it would be an unnecessary restriction to enforce leash laws on the beach. Up until now, families and dogs have happily co-existed here and the quality of enjoyment would be considerably diminished if that privilege would be restricted. Thank you for your consideration.

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**Correspondence ID:** 759      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** tooxshort@yahoo.com  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Feb,23,2011 13:14:28  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** It was disheartening to hear that GGNRA plans to remove what is already such minimal space that is available for off leash dog walking in the Bay Area, Fort Funston in particular. I am not a San Francisco resident. However, I often make the drive out there so that I can provide THE BEST outlet for my dog to run free because there is NO other off leash dog walking area like Funston in the Bay Area. It's actually one thing that impresses me about the City of SF. I don't live in a major city and the dog parks we have are small, fenced off dirt areas. Funston has sand dunes that dogs can run and roll around in. There are trails that allow for a hiking experience. A lot of my friends even come from the East Bay (Fremont, Hayward, Oakland, etc.) on a regular basis because they don't have an area like Funston either. The other day I met dog owners who came all the way from Santa Cruz, and they are regulars. It's their weekend trip! I've been going to Funston for the last couple years with my dog and it's always been such a peaceful, relaxing and fun experience. It is truly a special place, and not only for dogs but for bikers, hikers, and children.

My uncle used to bring my cousins and me to Funston when I was young (when our family didn't have dogs). This was back when the bunkers weren't boarded up yet and people could still walk through them. The environment was NOTHING like the way it is now. It used to be so much dirtier and a lot of homeless people walking around and camping in the bunkers. Drug dealers did their business in plain view. It definitely was not as safe as it is now. I clearly remember my uncle telling my cousins and me, "I do not want you guys coming here unless you are with an adult!" So I was pleasantly surprised when I returned to Funston with my dog as an adult.

I was hesitant when my friend told me that it's the best off leash dog walking place. In my head, I was only remembering how unsafe it used to be. But when I arrived and saw all the dogs running free and people socializing and having a good time, I fell in love with the place! I was amazed how clean it was, not just garbage, but of dog waste. I was expecting dog waste to be everywhere but it wasn't. Dog walkers/owners at Funston are VERY responsible. It has been very rare in these past few years I've been going to see a walker not pick up after the dog. And if they don't, someone will make it noticed to the owner and provide a bag for cleanup. I know that dog owners and dog groups in the area often do their part and organize volunteer clean up days at Funston. I am very

impressed about how clean dog owners/walkers have kept the park!

I agree that it's very important to keep our land clean and preserve land and animals that are truly endangered! However, it's not solely dogs that "litter and damage the parks." Humans are the biggest culprits. It's the human that doesn't clean up after dogs and humans climb and trample through restricted areas too! Just the other day at Funston, there was a female walking WITHOUT a dog but she wasn't on the pavement or the trails. She was walking through a roped off area. She wasn't even trying to go after a dog, just walking through the plants. So does that mean GGNRA is eventually going to stop humans from attending the parks? I highly doubt that would happen.

The barriers that GGNRA have put up at Funston to block off land/plants for preservation are highly ineffective. They are basically wooden posts with rope. Often, these posts and ropes are buried in sand because of the constant changing and windy weather. And the ropes will not prevent dogs and humans from crossing them (just like the lady I mentioned earlier). I feel GGNRA should put a little more effort and funding into more effective barriers if they are truly concerned about preserving plant life.

GGNRA has stated that dog barking effects the "soundscapes" of Funston. Honestly, considering the number of dogs at Funston at a given time, there is hardly any barking at all. I hear more of the highway traffic off the Great Highway and Skyline Boulevard than I do dog barks! Not to mention the TWO shooting ranges (SFPD and skeet) across the street at Lake Merced. Constant gunshots are going off every time I'm at Funston. Is GGNRA going to propose moving those two ranges? They should if they are arguing that the soundscapes are being disturbed and need to be preserved. Last week on two different days, SFPD and Bomb Squad had to detonate things at the beach. I heard AND felt the explosion. That sure affects the soundscapes. And not to mention the loud, low-flying news helicopter!!

How about the hang gliders, parachuters and horses? Hang gliders and parachuters fly low. Doesn't that affect the birds and animals living there? I don't see many horse riders at Funston but I know there are horse trails open to them. I know for a fact that horses do go through the area though because I will find HUGE PILES of horse waste sitting on the floor. Horse riders don't clean up after their horses, so what is GGNRA plan on doing about that?

This proposal would take away a great thing from dogs with responsible owners. Yes, there are fenced in dog runs but they're often too small and too dirty. I honestly believe that most dog owners who take their dogs to these types of places can't control their dogs. That's why they have to be in a fenced off or enclosed area. I feel that my dog is a lot safer and better off at Funston! And I do believe that the irresponsible off leash owners will flock to numerous other parks in the city and possibly cause disturbances there if we take away the current off leash parks. If Funston and other GGNRA off leash dog walking areas remain open and available, it will help prevent future problems in areas where off leash dog walking is not allowed! I truly hope and wish that this proposal that GGNRA came up with will not go through because I can foresee much greater problems and issues than what we have now!

It's going to be a difficult task to preserve anything and everything and satisfy everyone and everything at the same time. I hope there will be a day where humans, animals and plant life can coexist without having things being taken away from one of them.

---

**Correspondence ID:** 760    **Project:** 11759    **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS

**Name:** -

**Address:** - CA

USA

**Email:** spenjacobson@gmail.com

**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Received:** Feb,23,2011 13:28:37

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Thank you for working so hard to provide safe, clean and conflict free usage of our beautiful trails. Marin County is home to thousands of dogs, owners and animal lovers and there must be some spaces to take dogs on trails. I strongly support measures to keep dogs allowed on trails but enforce better clean-up of poop!! I live close to the Oakwood Trail. I believe the use of the trail by a large amount of dog walkers with multiple dogs puts a strain on the trails. Walkers with more than 3 dogs often have more dogs than can reasonably be safe under voice control. They are not as focused on the individual animals and may leave feces on the trail as well. These large packs are often threatening to other dogs with owners and cause concern to walkers with children or walkers seeking a quiet time on the trail. Please keep off-leash/voice control permitted but potentially enforce a dog/person ratio rule. THANK YOU for offering your time on this matter and taking comments!!

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**Correspondence ID:** 761      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** bc3855@yahoo.com  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Feb,23,2011 14:34:06  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Please help preserve off leash and dog-walking access in local recreation areas. There are too few places already. Please vote to help to preserve the historical existence of recreational uses for dogs. Thank you.

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**Correspondence ID:** 762      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** -  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Feb,23,2011 14:53:09  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** My dog and I were out walking the Miwok trail this morning. I have always been upset that a lot of the trails were restricted to equestrians. I feel this is so unfair, instead of reducing these restrictions you are planning to increase them. I would like to share some observations.

1\ Mount Tam just announced that they had an increase in the amount of bird life. The MMWD has the most lenient dog walking rules and this has not hurt the wild life in any way.

2\ Most dog owners are polite and take care of their dogs. I am sure there are a few who are not, I can't remember running into any. I have run into a few ruse bikers and horse riders. None of these groups should be banned due to a few bad apples.

3\ It is fun to go up early into the wilderness. I would however not feel safe out there without my dog. I don't think he would do anything if I was attacked but would be attackers don't know this.

4\ Roosevelt started the public park system during the great depression. We are once again in a time of hard economic times. Depriving people of the rejuvenating feel of the open space now just seems so wrong.

5\ Taking my children out into nature has built there love of open spaces. If you restrict who may participate in these spaces you will hamper me in passing this love onto my grandchildren.

6\ The majority of open space users I see (I hike a lot in the Marin headlands, Crissy fields and Stinson Beach) are dog walking hikers. Equestrians leave large piles of manure in the middle of trails, deep hoof prints when it is wet, bikers leave large ruts in the trails. Dogs tread lightly.

Please don't take this away from us and the dogs we love.

Karen

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**Correspondence ID:** 763      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA

USA  
**Email:** -  
**Outside** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Organization:**  
**Received:** Feb,23,2011 15:07:16  
**Correspondence** Web Form  
**Type:**  
**Correspondence:** Please continue to allow off-leash dog walking in the GGNRA. I wholeheartedly support requiring dog owners to clean up after their pets and keep their pets under voice control. However, I don't believe dogs should be required to be on leash, especially at Fort Funston and Crissy Field. 99% of dog owners are completely responsible. Dogs need to be able to run free for their health and exercise. There is very little space to do this in SF. Thanks.

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**Correspondence ID:** 764    **Project:** 11759    **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA

**Email:** marianeprice@gmail.com  
**Outside** Unaffiliated Individual

**Organization:**  
**Received:** Feb,23,2011 16:26:21  
**Correspondence** Web Form

**Type:**  
**Correspondence:** I just returned from walking on Crissy Field - and saw 4 packs of dogs, ostensibly with a dog walker, but running free without leads. One pack had 6 large dogs. There is no way one person in charge of six dogs running free on the beach can be able to keep her eyes on each dog all the time and make sure all faeces are collected. This is a public health nuisance - quite apart from the random behavior of the dogs intimidating small children and those of us who are wary of dogs. Unleashed dogs run freely over picnic blankets, through sandcastle construction, after the balls of children playing.

Dogs should, ideally, have places to run freely, but their presence on Crissy Field contradicts the tremendous job done in the last 2 decades of returning the edge of the Bay to more natural conditions. Unleashed dogs do not fit with the environmental thrust of reclaiming the habitat.

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**Correspondence ID:** 765    **Project:** 11759    **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA

**Email:** sayarnell@earthlink.net  
**Outside** Unaffiliated Individual

**Organization:**  
**Received:** Feb,23,2011 19:29:55  
**Correspondence** Web Form

**Type:**  
**Correspondence:** Please please allow us to run our dogs in spaces other than designated dog parks! Don't take these areas away - we NEED them!

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**Correspondence ID:** 766    **Project:** 11759    **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA

**Email:**  
**Outside** Unaffiliated Individual

**Organization:**  
**Received:** Feb,23,2011 22:16:59  
**Correspondence** Web Form

**Type:**  
**Correspondence:** Please, please, please do not move forward with the preferred alternatives.

I am a reasonably new dog owner, having adopted my yellow lab in October 2009, but a lifelong dog lover. As I

read through the summary of considered and preferred alternatives, I couldn't help but feel sad -- sad for myself and my dog, of course, but also for my children, who get so much joy out of running down Muir Beach or Chrissy Field with our dog while throwing a ball to her, and out of hiking on the Oakwood loop near our house in Mill Valley. It also made me feel sad for the tens of thousands of responsible dog owners and walkers whose daily lives and options for where to take their dogs will be severely impacted if the preferred alternatives are implemented.

I know that many people have put a great deal of time and thought into evaluating the alternatives, which I do appreciate. I also certainly don't approve of dogs threatening children or wildlife or any other creatures who cannot defend themselves. However, as a responsible dog owner who keeps my dog on leash or under voice control, picks up after my dog, doesn't let my dog wander or chase birds, etc., I feel that the preferred alternatives selected are unduly and overly restrictive. My understanding is that dogs are currently only allowed on 1% of GGNRA land and that this will significantly reduce the areas where dogs are allowed at all and almost eliminate areas where dogs are allowed to play off leash. In my opinion this is tragic and unnecessary. My hope is that if changes do in fact need to be made (and I'm not sure they do) that alternatives closer to A or E can be re-examined. As a side note, I do wonder, whether other alternatives, such as allowing dogs off-leash at certain times or on certain days were considered.

Thanks for the opportunity to comment. I truly hope you will reconsider the preferred alternatives - for me and for many of the dog lovers I know they are really not alternatives at all.

Sincerely,

Julie Smith

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**Correspondence ID:** 767    **Project:** 11759    **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** leclark@ix.netcom.com  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Feb,23,2011 22:34:16  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments

My family has a 15 year old dog. He is a member of our family and should have the opportunity to visit beaches and park as long as he is meeting the rules. We live near Muir Beach- he has been going to this beach for over 11 years. Our community- the USA consist of all peoples and their pets. To restrict pets from all public areas and beaches is wrong and I am sorry the GGNRA which I have support in many, many ways my past 20 years in SF and Marin is purposing such an unrealistic measure!

I request that dogs be permitted on beaches - at tide level off leash and on leash at all other currently permitted areas!

Thank you,

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**Correspondence ID:** 768    **Project:** 11759    **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** joanie@baysideentertainment.com  
**Outside Organization:** Keep Muir Beach Dog Friendly Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Feb,24,2011 13:16:50  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** As concerned citizens, we oppose the dog ban on Muir Beach for reasons outlined on our website:

www.keepmuirbeachdogfriendly.com We would like to better understand why this preferred alternative takes such a radical departure from the historically dog-friendly status of Muir Beach. Is it new environmental concerns? Concerns over non dog owners? We feel that, by enforcing existing rules for ALL visitors, the best interests of everyone could be served.

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**Correspondence ID:** 769      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS

**Name:** -

**Address:** - CA  
USA

**Email:** -

**Outside Organization:** self Unaffiliated Individual

**Received:** Feb,24,2011 14:52:32

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I am very disappointed that the GGNRA wants to severely limit off leach dog walk areas. Dogs need to run to stay healthy and happy. These parks are Federal so everyone should be able to enjoy. The majority of Dog owners do pick up their dog's poop. Fort Funston has a group that actually has volunteers who pick up missed poop in the park. If you limit the areas you are talking about it will put more of a strain on other parks. The majority of time I walk my dogs at Fort Funston and everyone gets along and enjoys the walks. If we can't continue to walk our dogs in the same areas the dog owners will have decreased activity and start gaining weight! We already have an obesity problem. The park would be empty if it wasn't used by the dogs and their companions. There has to be other solutions but to take away from the free space we now have to enjoy with our dogs.

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**Correspondence ID:** 770      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS

**Name:** -

**Address:** - CA  
USA

**Email:**

**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Received:** Feb,24,2011 15:32:07

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I am deeply disappointed in the proposed plan to restrict the use of our public parks and beaches. I pay my real estate taxes and am a responsible dog owner. Many of the proposed plans are not realistic. Dogs require safe spaces to run and be exercised. I agree that dog owners should be responsible and clean up after their animals, however, restricting dogs to confined spaces close to parking lots puts their welfare at greater risk. Part of the reason I live in Marin is to enjoy our parks and recreation areas with my dog. It is important for both of our health and welfare to be able to enjoy the outdoors, exercise, and enjoy the beauty of the area we live in. I do not have children, yet my tax dollars go to the upkeep and improvement of the schools in Mill Valley and the County. It is only appropriate that I be able to use our National Parks and beaches for recreation with my dog.

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**Correspondence ID:** 771      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS

**Name:** -

**Address:** - CA  
USA

**Email:** pksmalley@comcast.net

**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Received:** Feb,24,2011 15:56:57

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** 2/24/11 RE: GGNRA Proposed Dog Management Plan Dear NPS,

First, I want to thank you for the thorough and informative treatment of this important issue. My comments will be limited to plans affecting the South Rodeo Beach area. As a resident of San Francisco and then Berkeley since 1963, I have visited this cove on countless occasions as a beach goer, fisherman, hiker and dog owner. One of the

cove's main attractions for me has been its secluded location, accessible only by a medium difficult trail from behind, and only at low tide from Rodeo Beach proper. This seclusion offers ideal conditions for dogs to play and swim as the human population is never very great, and the cove is small, allowing visual and voice contact with dogs from any place and to any place on the beach. Also, dogs are not as tempted to harass the birdlife because the birds found there are mostly in the water; the beach is steep and wading birds do not find it useful for feeding as they do on a broad shallow shingle such as Rodeo or Muir beaches. All in all, I have found this to be one of the most dog-friendly places in the entire bay area, and certainly the best beach.

I am concerned, therefore, as to the reasons for further restricting dogs in this particular portion of the GGNRA. It appears that a great deal of thought has been devoted to other areas, and there has been a lot of public input over the issues of places like Chrissy Field and Fort Funston. But I don't see why South Rodeo Beach, possibly the least visited of all the sites, should have been included in the plans to increase dog management. If there are specific reasons behind this part of the plan, I might look favorably on a change of rules, but I have not seen any mentioned.

In conclusion, my request is that you consider treating South Rodeo Beach the same way you would other voice-controlled areas in the plan.

Thank you,

Peter Smalley

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**Correspondence ID:** 772      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS

**Name:** -

**Address:** - CA

USA

**Email:** joanesq93@gmail.com

**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Received:** Feb,24,2011 16:50:27

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I am both a park service volunteer and a dog owner. As such, I am sensitive to the environmental impacts of both people and dogs and the responsibility to keep my pet out of restricted areas and off the berms. I pick up not only bits of plastic and styrofoam, cigarette butts, abandoned toys, miscellaneous trash but also pet droppings from my own dog as well as others while on my walks and on my volunteer work days. Although we have walked several trails in the GGNRA, we walk every day on the east end of Crissy Field, along the promenade and on Central Beach.

I must commend the Draft for being comprehensive and for the efforts to take into account the various areas and different needs of the numerous areas affected. However, I do believe that some of the recommendations of the Plan are naively conceived, to wit: - early in the morning, except for a sanctioned triathlon or the like, I have never seen anyone using East Beach other than those with dogs. I would guess that before 9:00 a.m. there are no beach-goers and that dogs off-leash would not intimidate anyone. I do agree that attempting to sun or play in the sand would be difficult with dogs running around, but before and after certain hours would be a more reasonable control to accommodate those who do not want to have dogs around. - a designation "east of the eastern-most path and west of the western-most path" on Chrissy Field is silly and to my mind hardly the clearly designated areas to which park personnel can refer people. Are those who are dog-adverse really going to use the small areas designated as dog-free? The field is a large open space and most dogs don't stop when a paved path crosses their running area. I can only imagine that this delimitation is designed to aggravate enforcement personnel, those who are afraid of dogs and pet owners alike. - a word about enforcement. The compliance-based management strategy is by definition too vague. How will the total number of dogs be determined without some kind of license or permit that also designates how often the dog uses the area? Most of the time I am exercising, I never see park personnel. If I walk my dog daily for an hour along the promenade and some out-of-town visitor has their dog off-leash in the same area, will that count as 1 violation out of 8 "dog uses", will it be 50% of the dogs on the path at that time, or will there be some accommodation for the length of time I have been in compliance and the de minimus time the visitor is not compliant? And for those who object to dogs being in the space they feel should be dog free (but has been designated ROLA), will there be an easing of restrictions if there is less than 75% compliance with the dog-adverse being in a ROLA area?

I have read the letters from tourists who want to experience the beauty of this area without dogs. On some level, I

can appreciate that accommodating the dog-adverse who will be positively impacted by all of the plans except A over the pet-owner who is minimally adversely impacted by all plans except A may be a good idea. But, will those who object to dogs on-leash coming up suddenly around the bend of a narrow trail, or off-leash in the middle of Chrissy Field be cited for not being in a dog-free area? I hope that as much effort goes into educating the dog-adverse to their advantage as to compliance of pet-owners with the new restrictions.

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**Correspondence ID:** 773      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** -  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Feb,24,2011 17:51:47  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** My wife and I are frequent users of the Crissy Field area since it is near our home, and although we no longer have a dog, we do occasionally have our daughter's dog accompany us on our visits to Crissy Field. Although I do appreciate the potential need to separate dogs from some areas, given the usage in the area during the week, I don't believe that you need to adopt an absolute no-dog zone for the East Beach area. It is a very convenient spot for us to park and we have not observed a problem between dogs and people, even with small children using this area, especially during off-peak usage periods. I suggest that if there has to be a no-dog area, that you limit the period to the weekends and holidays, during the peak hours periods - perhaps from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm.

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**Correspondence ID:** 774      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** -  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Feb,24,2011 17:55:37  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I wish to support the DEIS alternative of increased restriction for dogs within the GGNRA, both on and off leash. As a birder/naturalist using the GGNRA since its inception in the 70s I have witnessed an explosion of off-leash dogs on trails, particularly within Marin County. The shortage of rangers to enforce leash laws, coupled with the staggering increase in recreational hikers with dogs has led to a dramatic decrease in abundance of birds within the GGNRA as measured by national audubon's christmas bird count numbers, and personal records. The specter of dogs running freely through the underbrush has resulted in a "bird-free zone" within at least 40' of most trails. It is rare to see a dog actually on leash. The usual sight is a dog running free, with the owner carrying a leash in-hand. Tennessee Valley trails are particularly abused, with owners claiming not to see the signs, or saying of their dogs "they never catch the birds". Harrassment of birds during any season disrupts feeding, breeding, and resting behavior, and deprives them of habitat critical to maintain population numbers critical to a diverse avi-fauna. Rocky Mountain National Park has resorted to volunteers with radios and cell phones stationed near entrances to turn back scoff-law pet owners. While I empathize with pet owners over the shortage of space to recreate with their dogs, they must understand the consequences of inappropriate use, and creat alternative dog runs in space intended for that use. John Comstock

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**Correspondence ID:** 775      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** burr.jay@gmail.com  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Feb,24,2011 18:22:09  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I support the Preferred Alternative for Muir Beach, i.e. dogs on leash in parking area, dogs prohibited on beach

and wildlife recovery areas.

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**Correspondence ID:** 776    **Project:** 11759    **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** -  
**Outside Organization:** Homestead Valley Association and Neighbors Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Feb,24,2011 20:19:41  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I submit that residents should be allowed to have dogs off leash.

We'll deal with this issue when and if it becomes a problem, after all the really serious problems in life.

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**Correspondence ID:** 777    **Project:** 11759    **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** -  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Feb,25,2011 10:50:16  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I think that existing regulations regarding dog walking are already overly restrictive. I don't want to see additional constraints on this activity.

---

**Correspondence ID:** 778    **Project:** 11759    **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** dolmstead@w3partnersllc.com  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Feb,25,2011 11:06:35  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I completely oppose the changes that either require dogs to be leashed or prohibited from being on public lands. With open space, beaches, parks and trails being overly restrictive already for dog owners/dogs, if this is allowed to pass it will only get more restrictive and before you know it, we won't even be able to walk our dogs down public sidewalks! Seriously! Pet ownership should be encouraged as a way of removing feral cats and dogs from our communities, showing a little heart, and helping the economy. Therefore, as conscientious as we are about our dogs public behavior and our clean up habits, the few loud voices that want EVERYTHING their way are winning the battle and dogs will be banned nearly everywhere if we dog owners don't voice our objection to such restrictive ordinances. Shame on you if you capitulate. Sincerely, Diane

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**Correspondence ID:** 779    **Project:** 11759    **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** johnacomstock@comcast.net  
**Outside Organization:** National Audubon Society Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Feb,25,2011 12:23:47  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Dog policy within GGNRA is in critical need of revision, and enforcement. Inevitable small percentage of scofflaw dog owners (majority obey rules) has resulted in: --Reduction in diversity of birds and other animals seen by

naturalists. For example, see Peter Banks; Biology Letters, Dec, 22, 2007 3(6) 611-613, documenting up to 40% measured reduction in birds along trails used by dogs. --On daily nature walks, I have personally noted a reduction in threatened, endangered, and special status species within Marin Headlands, and Oakwood valley trails. Species of concern are ground dwelling birds (California Quail, California Towhee, Fox Sparrow, Swamp Sparrow, Virginia Rail, as well as species requiring secluded habitat and specialized cover, such as Long-eared Owl and Rufous-Crowned sparrow. --Along upper reaches of Alta trail professional dog walkers are seriously disturbing habitat of Mission Blue Butterfly by allowing dogs to roam freely. --In areas signed for "Dogs on Leash" the majority of owners simply carry a leash to deploy should they spot a ranger. When reminded of the rule, many are hostile, or simply say "Yeah, right..." indicating scorn for any vestige of enforcement. --Rocky Mountain National Park currently employs volunteer "rangers" with cell phones and/or walkie talkies to inform non-compliant dog owners of the law, and to call in a ranger for a citation if they do not turn back. --At Tennessee Valley beach, where I lead the Christmas Bird count for Southern Marin Audubon, I see several dogs being walked on or off leash despite the new large "No Pet" signs. The culture of disobeying the signs seems to have become the common practice among this minority of scofflaw owners. --I urge that an increased level of restriction be adopted, and ENFORCED by the method used in Rocky Mt. NP, realizing that ranger resources are stretched thin. Sincerely  
John Comstock

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**Correspondence ID:** 780      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS

**Name:** -

**Address:** - CA  
USA

**Email:** -

**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Received:** Feb,25,2011 14:35:54

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** My name is Mike Greenfield. I am longtime resident of the Bay Area who currently resides in the Outer Sunset. I am a committed environmentalist, attorney with a background in environmental law, former Park Ranger/Naturalist at Sequoia National Park, and am an avid supporter of policies designed to protect the natural environment. Being a surfer and a dog owner, I typically visit Ocean Beach and/or the area surrounding Land's End several times a week, which I believe may perhaps provide me a sound perspective from which to address issues pertaining to the USNPS's misguided management proposals for the GGNRA. In short, the proposed restrictions regarding where dogs shall be allowed within the GGNRA are ill-conceived and absurd. From the onset, the NPS has had a very clear notion of precisely the sort of policy that it wished to implement and since assuming management of the areas in question, has been doggedly (no pun intended) working backwards in an extremely transparent attempt to discover a sound basis for the policies that it had already agreed to adopt without first doing the necessary due diligence. As a result, this process has now become a sham, since the policy was decided at the onset and as with most things the NPS does, no amount of logic is bound to get in the way of these policies being implemented. As I understand it, the stated rational for essentially banning dogs throughout the GGNRA is: 1. The enact a deleterious impact upon the environment; 2. Their presence is unwanted and unappreciated by visitors to the area that do not like dogs; and 3. Because this is simply the policy that the NPS has adopted and implemented in all of the other mismanaged properties that it has been charged with administering. I will now address each of these points in order.

There is absolutely no question that dogs do exact an impact upon any environment and most certainly upon that which exists within the GGNRA. Everything in this world presents an impact upon the environment. The question however is what the impact is and how great is the degree of harm that this impact represents. This is precisely where the reasoning behind the NPS's proposals lack cogency. While it is impossible to state what the actual impact of dogs may be (since there exists no credible data upon which any such statements could rely), it is nevertheless remains an absolutely incontrovertible fact that humans have and continue to present an infinitely greater negative impact upon the environment than do dogs. I find it astounding that while the adverse impact of dog's is routinely touted as an accepted basis upon which to deny virtually all off-leash privileges within the GGNRA (and other areas), there is nary even the slightest bit of actual evidence offered in support of these claims. The proverbial "elephant in the room" is that NO empirical evidence in support of the predetermined findings and/or claims regarding the environmental impact posed by off-leash dogs actually exists. This statement applies equally to proffered necessity of banning dogs in order to protect and assist in the recovery of the endangered snowy plover populations. Again there exists no empirical evidence to support the assertions that dogs pose any legitimate threat to the future existence of this or any other species existing within the GGNRA. Claims of the snowy plover's demise being in any way tied to the activities of off-leash dogs are both disingenuous, spurious and completely overstated to say the least. It has long been settled that the compromised status of this species is attributable to anthropogenic habitat destruction. The widespread decimation of sand dunes, estuaries and other wetland systems (all of which are critical to the propagation of the snowy plover), represents the long established cause of the

species' currently low population numbers. Sand Dunes have been paved over and trampled; and wetlands drained, filled, paved over and otherwise destroyed not by dogs, but by humans, which are interestingly allowed unrestricted access to all remaining critical habitat. In my numerous ventures within the GGNRA I have on multiple occasions witnessed the presence of both foxes and coyotes within the littoral zone. I am aware of no plans to limit their access within the GGNRA, nor to limit access to raccoons, skunks, crows and seagulls, all of which exist within the immediate area and are known to consume eggs as part of their natural diet. I suspect that there are no efforts being made to eradicate these species from the area because the threat that these natural predators may present to threatened plover populations (and other species) is considered to be nominal at most. So then, I wonder how it is that domesticated dogs, which generally lack the ability to constructively harness their natural foraging instincts are presumed to present such a significant threat to this environment, when all of these natural born killers are presumably non-issues. Furthermore, if not for the widespread destruction of coastal environment by humans, the numbers of all these species (save the crows, whose numbers have been unnaturally enhanced by the existence of human fodder) would exist in far greater numbers than they do at present. I mention this to point out that the plovers have always had to deal with a certain degree of stress and mortality at the hands of natural predators, which in turn helped to ensure that the population remained strong. This is not to insinuate that humans and their dogs should go out of their way to harass the birds in an effort to assume this role, but rather merely to mention that they have evolved in a manner which allows them to survive such non-threats. Again, the plover's threatened status is a product of habit destruction, NOT from dogs. In a society that has long been governed by forces that have adamantly opposed any application of the precautionary principle, we are now being asked (by a branch of this government no less) to accept that the NPS's rationale for eliminating the existence of off-leash dog sites is principally tied to the imagined potential of dogs to harm the environment. In other words, since it is currently impossible to say what harm dogs may present, the NPS has determined that it is necessary to eliminate dogs as to ensure that they cannot pose any harm, real or imagined. Mind you, there are again no such limitations being imposed to restrict the access of what is unquestionably the world's most destructive species: humans. Of course the reality is that all of these stated justifications for banning dogs are nothing more than a pretext for doing what the NPS had long since decided that it was going to do: eliminate all off-leash zones within the GGNRA. As to the concern over dog feces being left on the beach by irresponsible dog owners that fail to clean up after their pets, while it is an unfortunate fact that there do exist some idiots that presumably find it acceptable to leave their dogs crap, in my experience they represent an overwhelming exception rather than the rule. The vast majority of dog owners that visit the GGNRA with their pets are extremely conscientious about cleaning up after their dogs. I do not possess any data on matter, however I would confidently insist that the percentage of dog owners leaving crap on the beach is extremely small in comparison to the non-dog owners who visit the beach and depart without cleaning after themselves, leaving a trail of litter in their wake. I will discuss this issue in further below. In short, all claims regarding the environmental impact of dogs in the GGNRA are overblown and have been based on little more than conjecture and the otherwise unsupported opinions that together form a rather tenuous basis upon which to base the enactment of policies that will ultimately affect the people who most often use the areas in question in a decidedly detrimental fashion. In terms of prohibiting off-leash dogs in the GGNRA on account of wishing to respect the interests of those visitors that do not like dogs and do not wish to encounter them within the area, I am confused as to why this minority interest should supersede that of the majority. Ocean Beach stands out as one of only a few public beaches in the entire state that do allow dogs to roam off-leash, which means that those not wishing to encounter dogs have numerous alternatives to visiting Ocean Beach, whereas the same cannot be said for dog owners, who have no other options for letting their dogs run freely and get the exercise they need (Note: fenced in off-leash dog park (crap piles), do not provide either the space or the terrain required). I am at the beach nearly every day, regardless of the weather, which incidentally, is usually pretty lousy in terms of beach conditions. On most days, virtually the only people at the beach are dog owners (with their dogs), surfers, the occasional jogger, a few kids drinking and smoking dope, and perhaps a random couple that might be better served in a motel room. Ocean Beach does NOT adhere to the vision of the prototypical California beach. It is rarely warm, sunny and conducive to "beach days." This is worth noting in terms of analyzing who it is that actually uses the lands that you are targeting with these needlessly restrictive new measures. On the handful of beach days that do occur within the city, Ocean Beach is of course inundated with the people coming out to enjoy the weather. Following any of these days, the beach is left in a total state of disarray: trash, bottles, and other assorted crap strewn from one end of the beach to the other, which stands in stark contrast to the dog walkers who are generally excellent about picking up after themselves, their dogs, and in the wake of the messes left behind by the constituency that you are clearly most interested in appeasing, the trash of others. Furthermore, in my experience, those that don't like dogs appear to be in an overwhelming minority. I have a very friendly dog, he likes to greet just about everyone. As such, I am very conscientious about making sure that he is not a nuisance. It is extremely rare that we encounter someone that is clearly made uncomfortable by his presence, and when it does occur it is never an issue, we simply move on and the person is left in peace. I am not sure why we need to be so over-protective of these people (who may or may not actually exist). Quite honestly, I regularly encounter lots of people and situations in this world that I am not particularly excited about, and when it happens, I extricate myself from the situation as to eliminate the annoyance. For what it is worth, I would much happier if all of the idiots who come to the beach and trash it, throwing cigarette butts, beer bottles and whatever else they bring strewn around (and incidentally trampling the areas most sensitive to the plight of the snowy plover) were restricted from accessing the GGNRA, but this does not appear to be a concern of the NPS. For my part, I understand that in living within a large metropolitan area I must accept the reality of having to encounter many such annoyances. I think it is unfair and entirely unreasonable to attempt to create a safe-haven for one minor constituency at the expense of a

much broader one. It is not as though we are talking about a wild pack of pit bulls attacking people on the beach. Most of the dogs out there are extremely well behaved and are with owners that are generally very considerate of whoever else is on the beach. If there is somebody that has an irrational fear of dogs, they should either get over it, or visit any one of the countless alternatives to Ocean Beach, where dogs are not allowed. Irrational fears should not be granted a higher priority than those which are rational. Ocean Beach has long been a bastion for dog owners in the city, many of which have acquired particular species of dogs (that require extensive exercise) with the availability of Ocean Beach and other areas within the GGNRA in mind. It is impossible to effectively exercise many species of dogs without giving them access to large spaces in which they can run off leash. Imposing a leash requirement is akin to banning dogs outright, insomuch as the reason that most dog owners take their dogs to the beach is so that they can get exercise (leash = no exercise). To now restrict access to these places will adversely affect the health of the a large number of dogs in the region which will in turn also negatively affect their owners. It does seem unreasonable to make such a drastic change in the rules at a time when so many residents have come to depend on being able to exercise their dogs within this area. There are countless options for visitors who would prefer to not encounter dogs.

It is an utter absurdity that the NPS is touting the fact that the GGNRA is the only park managed by the NPS that currently allows off-leash dog areas as a rationale for why the rule should be changed. This is a circular argument that at its core lacks any sort of reasoning (good or bad). Since the GGNRA is wholly unique from all other properties within the park system, it would seem to make perfect sense that some management policies would differ as well. Implementing within the GGNRA a catch-all policy that may make sense in other places, simply for the stated reason that this is what you have done in other places, is itself far from a credible rationale. The GGNRA is unlike any other property within the NPS and therefore deserves to be managed differently, and it may be worth pointing out that indeed, in most regards it is. For instance the Presidio is the only property within the Parks holdings that has been set up to be self-sustaining. This is such a radical departure from what is done in all of the other parklands, that under the same rationale being used to justify the proposed dog policies it should not have been allowed. Further it is worth looking at the geography of the GGNRA. It is within a huge metropolitan area and operates as much more of a local park than a National Park in terms of who uses it. While San Francisco may be a destination attraction, it would be a stretch to suggest that the GGNRA is itself. Certainly tourists visiting the city do venture into parts of the GGNRA, but these areas are generally limited, and constitute only small part of the typical visitor to San Francisco's itinerary. Additionally, none of these visitors are paying any sort of entrance fee to visit GGNRA, because again, it is being managed differently than all other parklands. So why then does the NPS find it necessary to maintain a uniform management policy in this one narrowly defined area (dogs) when so much of how the GGNRA is operated already marks a huge departure from the NPS's normal procedures. The GGNRA is essentially a city park. The vast majority of its visitors are local residents. This stands in sharp contrast to every other property managed by the NPS, all of which are primarily tourist attractions. As such, rather than insisting upon the implementation of policies drafted with totally different context in mind, the NPS should be considering the historical usage of the property and the wishes of the locals. These lands have historically been open to use of dogs off-leash. Residents have come to depend upon these places and the vast majority of people who visit them seem to find the setup perfectly acceptable. It is unreasonable to implement policies designed to serve only the interests of a small minority ? at the expense of the majority, who is then left with no suitable alternatives. Why the hell should a small band of hypochondriacally minded bird lovers (with totally lacking in scientific evidence) be able to dictate the policy for the masses (yes we all know who is behind it) Furthermore, in closing these lands to dogs, you will produce a trickledown effect that will detrimentally effect city parks and other areas that dog-owners will then be forced to use en masse. In conclusion, the suggested adverse impacts that dogs have on the environment are grossly overstated and are presented without any scientific data to back up the claims. Further, there are numerous alternatives locations that people who are uncomfortable with dogs can visit, while there will be no such alternatives for dog owners, once dogs are banned from GGNRA. Lastly, the GGNRA is wholly unlike all other properties managed by the NPS and thusly deserve a policy that is designed to effectively serve the needs of the majority of those who regularly use it. I implore you not to eliminate the off-leash sites as you have proposed.

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**Correspondence ID:** 781      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** -  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Feb,25,2011 14:47:31  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Please restrict dogs to on-leash only North of Stairwell 21 at Ocean Beach.

I am a long-time resident of the outer Richmond District of San Francisco. I am on the beach, or walking along the sea wall with my wife, most days in the year. Off-leash dogs are a nuisance and can detract from the enjoyment of the beach experience.

Most dogs are under the control of their owners when off-leash and know how to behave but many do not. My wife, like many people, is afraid of dogs and is made very uncomfortable when dogs come up to her. Dogs off-leash annoy and often threaten me when I am out picking up litter on the beach. Why should our enjoyment and use of Ocean Beach be curtailed by these off-leash dogs?

It would be ideal if there were no dogs at all allowed on Ocean Beach North of Stair well 21. This is the part of the beach most used visitors and locals, and dogs do nothing but detract from the beach-going experience for most non-dog owners. Dog excrement and urine can also pose a serious health hazard to both beach-goers and surfers as anything deposited along the shoreline will pollute the ocean.

Dogs should not take precedence over people.

Thank you for taking my comments.

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**Correspondence ID:** 782    **Project:** 11759    **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** hadleyadavis@gmail.com  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Feb,25,2011 15:21:29  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Hello,

I am writing to formally protest the GGNRA Draft Dog Management Plan. It is already extremely difficult to find hiking trails where dogs are allowed without this ordinance passing. If the GGNRA Draft Dog Management Plan passes, I will have to hold my dog's leash when I go to Muir Beach-- which is one of my favorite places. Please block this from passing.

Thank you, Hadley

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**Correspondence ID:** 783    **Project:** 11759    **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** margiblunt@yahoo.com  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Feb,25,2011 15:27:49  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I am opposed to the proposed regulations which limit dog's off-leash activities and areas. Dog ownership, off-leash dog activities and protecting the environment are not mutually exclusive. Responsible dog owners need the off-leash areas to exercise their animals and they can happily share these areas with other people. In stead of punishing all dog owners for the actions of a few people who cannot control their dogs, please focus only on those bad owners. Most dog owners are very responsible and care deeply about the environment. PLEASE OPPOSE THIS PLAN AND ANY PLAN WHICH ATTEMPTS TO RESTRICT DOGS IN THE GGNRA.

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**Correspondence ID:** 784    **Project:** 11759    **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS

**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA

**Email:**  
**Outside** Unaffiliated Individual

**Organization:**  
**Received:** Feb,25,2011 15:45:56  
**Correspondence** Web Form

**Type:**  
**Correspondence:** I support dogs ON leash in all areas of the GGNRA. There is an issue that has not been considered and that is liability. There should be no off leash areas that are not fenced off or otherwise clearly marked off as off leash areas. If this is not done, the GGNRA could be held liable for an injury/adverse event due to off leash dogs. In off leash areas, a person who is injured will have a difficult time holding the owner liable given the assumption of risk. If one goes into an off leash dog area, you are assuming the risks that go along with this, like dog bites or decreased mental health due to off leash dogs. Therefore the dog owner is generally not held liable for these events in these areas. Should the victim argue that they did not know that it was an off leash area (due to poor signage or not fenced off area), the dog owner is still not liable but rather the entity that sanctioned the area an off leash area may be held liable. While still difficult to argue, this would be the avenue a person would be advised to follow. The way to prevent people from injury and/or adversely affected mental health is to have fenced off areas with clear signs. However, I argue that creating a space that is off leash excludes certain groups and is a discriminatory practice. Since the park is asking that people accept the risk of being attacked by dogs, this area is off limits to people who are not comfortable with dogs and certain minority groups that can not interact with dogs (for example strict muslims). Parks should have clear rules posted in every off leash area that among other things should require voice control (which would help with making the dog owner liable). I also suggest that young children not be allowed in off leash areas given their higher risk of being bitten and/or scared. Therefore these areas should be a very small percentage of the GGNRA and should not prevent people from enjoying the majority of the park.

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**Correspondence ID:** 785      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS

**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA

**Email:** -  
**Outside** Unaffiliated Individual

**Organization:**  
**Received:** Feb,25,2011 16:26:15  
**Correspondence** Web Form

**Type:**  
**Correspondence:** I am not particularly pro or anti dog. However an incident last weekend confirmed by opinion that all dogs should be on leash at all times when in public areas. I don't have a dog, so I don't know where on and off leash areas are, but after the incident I found out I was actually in an on leash area of the GGNRA. I was walking and I heard someone calling out the name "Leon". I came across a woman up a hill, calling to her dog. The dog was circling two young girls about age 8 or 9. They looked terrified and had their arms up in the air and kept backing away from the dog. The dog continued to follow them and did not look friendly. The dog was clearly not responding to the owner who then reluctantly descended the hill. Even when she got closer the dog would not responding but luckily she was able to grab the dog by its collar and pull it away from the girls. The dog let out one last loud bark and the girls jumped. The woman did not apologize to the girls or even make eye contact with them. The young girls of course didn't complain to this adult and just seemed relieved for the ordeal to be over. I felt guilty that I just watched because the dog could have bitten one of the girls. I regret not intervening to get the dog away from the girls sooner, but I realized that I was also afraid of the dog. Still, no excuse. I also regret not saying anything to the owner. Hopefully sharing this story does some good and prevents this from happening to other children.

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**Correspondence ID:** 786      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS

**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA

**Email:** -  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Received:** Feb,25,2011 17:58:44

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Please keep the current laws and rules regarding dogs. They work!

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**Correspondence** 787      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106

**ID:**  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** -  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Feb,25,2011 18:58:11  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am so sad as a 10-year dog-owner resident in San Francisco that there are still people out there that want no dogs anywhere. I have travelled the country with my pet and on our travels most people we met were very unhappy about the recreational options for their pets and they experienced more pet aggression. They were jealous of our wonderful options in the bay area.

My pet was trained off-leash at Fort Funston and is amazingly well-behaved and obedient. She learned these great behaviors and to be extremely well-socialized (and a much better pet and companion as a result) from being able to recreate off-leash in Marin, Crissy, and the amazing dog-friendly areas that we are so lucky to have in the bay area.

In other parts of the country they are not so lucky. They have strict leash laws, dog pens, and have increased dog fighting, dog aggression, dog misbehaviors (due to lack of great exercise and socialization), and dog illness (due to disgusting pens.) Dogs recreate in parks next to small children and have many more run-ins with people due to the simple fact -- they cannot properly exercise.

As a dog owner for the past 10-years I have witnessed that a well exercised dog is a calmer, happier, and a better adjusted pet that will be better in the community within which it resides.

Crissy and Funston are special places. When my dog goes there or on long hikes in Marin - she is so happy. I often hike with my friends without pets who love my dogs' companionship on the trip. She often keeps us going. She is a member of our crew. Most dog owners love their pets and they are a member of the family. If they cannot recreate with them it is like saying you cannot recreate with your child or you cannot wind-surf (with your gear) at Crissy. It is plain all out unfair.

We are citizens too with a right to recreate in GGNRA sites too. I have seen happy dogs--and responsible owners who stay in the "known" areas to recreate with their pets responsibly. Most owners are super respectful of this so that we can all enjoy this "common space."

There are a lot of dog pens in east bay -- and I have personally witnessed dog fights, etc there. I was horrified. Also, the dogs just do not get the real exercise like they do at Funston, Crissy, or Rodeo. I have seen no fights at Funston EVER. Dogs are just too happy -- also as an owner I am happy too -- I get a great hike in or a bit of beach time -- because I recreate with my pet. I have a right to recreate with my pet.

On-leash for the entire walk at a place like Funston is a joke. The dogs love the hills near the parking lots -- they run fast and burn off the "energy". They love the paths on the way to the beach. They love the patch of beach and they play -- it is a joy to watch these animals have such fun and joy. As owners, we relax too. We see the beautiful San Francisco in the backdrop while we climb paths. We stay out of the areas that are blocked off for the habitats, and keep to the well worn paths on the back part of the main 2 mile path. I do not think that this is asking too much of GGNRA -- a fantastic special place for owners with their pets to recreate -- when there are literally tens of thousands of GGNRA acres to share.

I feel that if we outlaw animals on the "patch of space" at Funston, the small stretch of off-leash beach at Crissy, the off leash "patch" at Stinson and the allowable open spaces in Marin -- what is next -- outlawing PET ownership entirely? For the past 10 years I have seen harmony in these big spaces. At Funston the families who fear dogs go off to the other side, the windsurfers too. Why is this even a problem? There is already so little space for owners and their pets to recreate in SF yet there is so much GGNRA space -- whats the deal?

Bottom line -- we pet owners have rights too. And those rights include our pets. We should be able to recreate with our pets just like parents recreate with children and cyclers - cycle all over the place. Why are we singled out -- we deserve voice control/off leash recreation areas that are not small pens that will not nearly suffice.

We are the most progressive and cool city to live in with pets in the entire US -- possibly the world. My friends who visit envy us. Are we being realistic to change this model that works to a "police state" against dogs. This is really horrible and unfair that dogs are singled out and that they and their pet owner citizens will have no rights to recreate and enjoy our state parks.

Times are tough. We are hard working citizens too who pay lots of taxes in this country that support things -- not to mention GGNRA. The land is public and it is only fair to for us all to respect one another and the recreational needs of all citizens not just a singled out group because some people "dislike dogs."

The change to the harmony we presently have is unfair -- due to one groups politics. We have rights too. And I believe that dog owner/taxpayers will fight this one at the polls and with our tax dollars...so lets try to work this out.

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**Correspondence ID:** 788      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:**  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Feb,25,2011 19:04:35  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** The recommended alternative D is basically NO DOGS ALLOWED.

Reviewing Appendix G: Law Enforcement Data a total of four violations were reported for all of 2007.

Why change when the current policy works.

Thank you.

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**Correspondence ID:** 789      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** -  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Feb,25,2011 19:34:31  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I applaud the Park Service's work in constructing this plan and feel that it is a balanced approach that will allow citizens with dogs reasonable access while protecting park resources as well as citizens who don't want their park experience to be impacted by dogs.

Thank you.

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**Correspondence ID:** 790      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** -  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Feb,25,2011 19:48:37  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Very happy you are doing this assessment and opening comments to the public.

My comments address Upper and Lower Fort Mason.

We run through this area everyday and have done so for years. The current circumstance has been Heaven. That is, Alternative-A, dogs on leash at all times is the preferred choice. No dogs in the garden. The later police enforcement, with tickets being given, quickly got things under control. It was a model circumstance of good administration.

Briefly, the principal issue with dogs in this park is what you denote in your pdf as Visitor Experience and Safety.

For quite a long time dogs roamed the park as owners stood in a huddle in the meadow. This caused all sorts of problems. The owners were not monitoring their dogs and as to be expected, the dogs which were most troublesome were never under voice control. My wife and myself were entering the park from the east path near the community garden and a pit bull came charging over the hill toward us barking and snarling. When we shouted NO the owner, seen only later, as she was over the hill, called her dog back weakly. It took quite a while for the dog to decide to stop its snarling. When I called out to the owner to keep her dog on a leash she exhibited what I would call a Marjorie Knoller reaction: amused indifference. I regret to say that other experiences I won't recount now confirmed that there are a number of such irresponsible owners in any aggregate. It is not the dogs, it is the owners.

Just a few bad owners but a big risk for the public. You must keep the dogs on leash in this area. There is tremendous pressure from a minority of dog owners who see their dogs as extensions of their entitled egos to allow their dogs free reign and to heck with the public. This is unacceptable in a public space.

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**Correspondence ID:** 791      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA

USA  
**Email:** sfdeucemaster@yahoo.com  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Received:** Feb,25,2011 20:24:10  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I am furious at the proposed restrictions on dogs in the parks and on the beaches. Areas such as The Presidio, Ocean Beach, and Fort Funston are located in one of the most dense cities in the country. For every eight people in San Francisco there is at least one dog. There are more dogs than children in San Francisco and there-for it is a necessary to have areas in which dogs can roam and play freely. Do you have a dog? If so is it athletic? Athletic dogs can never get the necessary exercise on leash. We live in an urban environment and parks within the environment should at least have designated areas for dogs to play and roam freely while under the supervision of their owner. This whole issue is a complete waste of the government's time and money. It's a waste of my time and money because I pay your salary with my tax dollars. Enough is enough. Too much damn bureaucracy. What ever happens, nothing will change any how. We, the residences of San Francisco will letting our dogs enjoy life on leash wherever we please.

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**Correspondence ID:** 792      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA

USA  
**Email:** brrgr@hotmai.com  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Received:** Feb,25,2011 20:33:59  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** To Whom it May Concern,

Please keep as many public parks in the Bay Area as dog friendly as possible. I walk my dogs everyday at Ocean

Beach and I have never seen any problems occur because of dogs running free. Close to 100% of the dogs that I have seen there are extremely well behaved and respond to their owners voice commands. All owners carry poop bags and promptly pick up all poops. Dogs will stay out of protected bird sanctuaries if they are clearly marked.

I beg of you to respect the rights of dogs to run free and get the exercise they need.

Thank you for taking the time to read my letter.

Sincerely,

Karen Tuttle

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**Correspondence ID:** 793      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS

**Name:** -

**Address:** - CA  
USA

**Email:** -

**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Received:** Feb,26,2011 10:22:17

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** Being a long term resident of both Ocean Beach and Baker Beach in San Francisco I am shocked, appalled and despondent at the "preferred" option to change the rules for the GGNRA.

In addition to being a dog owner I am a staunch "environmentalist" and go out of my way to clean up the beach and do what I can to make everyone's experience on the beach great. Just so you know I am concerned about the environmental impact of dogs and people on our beaches.

The draconian proposed new rules would be a serious impediment for any responsible dog owners who want to walk their families (that includes their dogs) on the beach, spend the day at the beach or just enjoy the GGNRA.

These rules would make people like myself want to move away from where I have lived for many, many years. I have a six month old son and I love to take him to the beach to explore and show him what we have come to love about this area.

If I am prevented from bringing our dog to any of the places we frequent so much now, it would seriously change our lives.

There are plenty of responsible dog owners that use and enjoy these beaches and to make this change is unwarranted and ridiculous.

Maybe you are simply trying to raise more revenue with writing tickets because through ignorance or choice people are still going to bring their dogs to the beach. Regardless of the motivation, this preferred new rule is absurd and a travesty for responsible dog owners.

I implore you not to adopt these rules. I could not be more impassioned that you are wrong plain and simple.

This is the wrong choice and should not be adopted.

Sincerely, Sean P. Joyce

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**Correspondence ID:** 794      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS

**Name:** -

**Address:** - CA

**Email:** USA  
**Outside** -  
**Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Feb,26,2011 10:47:01  
**Correspondence** Web Form  
**Type:**  
**Correspondence:** I'm a bit stunned that you all are considering the total ban of dogs on our beaches. I was born and raised in Marin and after many years of traveling the US and living in several States and many cities within those States I have come to greatly appreciate the way in which folks in The SF Bay Area celebrate our dog friends. This runs absolutely against all of this.

PLEASE RECONSIDER THIS. Please.

Brigham Thompson

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**Correspondence ID:** 795    **Project:** 11759    **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** katie1z@yahoo.com  
**Outside** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Organization:**  
**Received:** Feb,26,2011 17:03:17  
**Correspondence** Web Form  
**Type:**  
**Correspondence:** In 1979, the GGNRA formulated its original pet policy, after extensive public hearings. The pet policy stated that dogs could be off-leash in a mere 1 percent of GGNRA lands. As the size of the GGNRA has increased over the years, the acreage in which off-leash recreation is allowed has actually decreased.

Now the GGNRA wants to severely curtail off-leash access to the park, even to the 1 percent. Dog owners are residents too. We would also like to be able to use the park for recreational purposes, which was its original charter. Somewhere along the way, GGNRA seems to have lost sight of its mission and of any sense of public accountability. How else can we explain the unilateral decisions they are making without consulting the public?

It will have an very negative impact on the dog-loving residents of the Bay Area to further close off GGNRA to dogs. We are residents and taxpayers too-please don't take away our 1 percent.

Thanks,

Katherine McCormick

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**Correspondence ID:** 796    **Project:** 11759    **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** -  
**Outside** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Organization:**  
**Received:** Feb,26,2011 18:45:05  
**Correspondence** Web Form  
**Type:**  
**Correspondence:** To Whom it may concern: I am a daily user of the Marin Headlands, Crissy Filed, and Baker Beach. I would like to support alternative A in all these locations. All three of theses area are essential for dog/human combo exercise and recreation. I find the vast majority of dog walkers -professional or personal, respectful, friendly, and obedient to voice control or leashed areas. In fact, many dog owners walk along with garbage bags and pick up trash. This is a service to the GGNRA and staff. Please keep the existing off leash areas open and available to dogs and their responsible owners. Thank You, Jennifer C

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**Correspondence ID:** 797      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** integratedfitpro@yahoo.com  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Feb,26,2011 19:48:53  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** To Whom it May Concern:

My husband and I currently have 3 dogs and live in Millbrae. Unfortunately, the dog parks in San Mateo County do not have much space and do not allow access to any water. Almost every weekend we take our dogs to Fort Funston or Crissy Field. We also enjoy day trips to other large off-leash dog parks around the Bay Area.

Considering how densely populated the Bay Area has become and the therefore lack of large open spaces not only for our dogs but also to commune with nature, it would be a huge mistake to take away the only parks dog owners have left to let our dogs run, socialize and play freely. There are plenty of protected parks and areas left. For instance Crystal Springs near the reservoir is a phenomenal trail near the water, but does not allow dogs. Please do not limit the little areas we have left for our beloved dogs as they need places to be themselves and have fun too.

Thank you, Lindy Cestone Figone

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**Correspondence ID:** 798      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** kelly.dennehy@redshift.com  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Feb,26,2011 20:52:24  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** First, thank you for the opportunity to comment on this plan. As a dog owner, I appreciate and welcome those opportunities where my dogs can peacefully roam off-leash in the beautiful parks we have in San Francisco. I am also mindful that these parks are for the enjoyment of everyone - not just my dogs - and so make every effort to ensure they are not a nuisance and are safe for others to be around - especially children. And that is actually what I see more often than not in other dog owners too: going to the park in the early hours, staying to areas less frequented by families, etc. So - I marvel to see that the plan as put forth is as restrictive as it is - effectively eliminating any off-leash areas for dogs. As I understand it - the reason behind this plan is that there have been "some" dogs - no actual numbers given - that have been a problem. That there is so little real evidence to support this measure is a real problem. I can't emphasize that enough. The other aspects to this that I find troubling are: First, the solution that has been presented is an "either/or" as if there were no other alternatives or steps that could be put in effect to address the issue. Second, if there is a problem I have to believe it's less than a 1% problem - and you don't solve that kind of problem in this manner. A tiered penalty with enforced behavioral schooling is a much more effective means of addressing problem dogs and their owners. This plan as written should not go forth. Thank you for your time and attention, KD

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**Correspondence ID:** 799      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** katloug@yahoo.com  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Received:** Feb,26,2011 21:56:32

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** I agree with most of the changes, although I would like to see more restrictions on dogs in grassy areas. How will this be enforced? Currently, my visits to Sutro Heights Park and the Airfield at Crissy Field are often ruined by off-leash dogs. How will a change in the law actually be enforced?

Overall, I support the changes for the areas we frequent.

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**Correspondence ID:** 800      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS

**Name:** -

**Address:** - CA

USA

**Email:** -

**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Received:** Feb,27,2011 00:32:46

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** My wife and I own 3 dogs and enjoy taking them out to dog parks that allow them to run free, and exercise in a large open space with access to open water for swimming. Since there aren't very many places in the Bay Area that allow for this, it seems ridiculous and unfair to our companions that you are considering drastically limiting our access/ability to continue doing this. There are enough restricted/protected areas in the Bay Area- I don't think that restricting access to these relatively small areas is going to make a difference in affecting these local natural ecosystems.

Please don't take this away from us and our loved ones.

---

**Correspondence ID:** 801      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS

**Name:** -

**Address:** - CA

USA

**Email:** compusailr@aol.com

**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual

**Received:** Feb,27,2011 02:19:15

**Correspondence Type:** Web Form

**Correspondence:** It's estimated there are over 100,000 dogs and dog owners in San Francisco, alone, and over 1,000,000 in the greater Bay Area. While only a small fraction walk in the GGRA parks and beaches at any one time, this population should have rights to access these lands and have an appropriate portion of each set aside for that purpose. It is not too much to ask that two beaches be available to this population, specifically Crissy Field and Muir Beach.

Much has been made of the environmental harm and dangers that dogs pose in these areas. Inconsiderate owners who don't pick up after their pets, disturbances to wildlife, the potential for aggressive dogs biting humans or fighting other dogs. While it is true that any of these may happen, their occurrences are rare and have been grossly exaggerated. My experience in the parks and beaches is that the participating dog owners are self-regulating and self-policing. Aggressive dogs are not tolerated. Waste receptacles are provided and used. Owners respect the sensitive, off-limits zones to preserve wild-life habitat.

In my experience, a greater threat to the environment comes with non-dog owners who leave litter on the beach and don't remain on the pathways. Should not, then, all people be banned from the parks and beaches, by the logic of a dog ban?

---

**Correspondence ID:** 802      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS

**Name:** -

**Address:** - CA  
USA

**Email:** -  
**Outside** Unaffiliated Individual

**Organization:**  
**Received:** Feb,27,2011 09:45:18

**Correspondence** Web Form  
**Type:**

**Correspondence:** I have been walking my dog at Crissy Field for the past 4 years (she's 5 now) and it's her favorite place to walk. She loves playing with the other dogs and she gets a lot of exercise running in and out of the ocean. After 45 minutes on the beach I have a very content dog. Without access to Crissy Field she would miss out on important socialization and the exercise. There are fewer and fewer places I can walk my dog off leash and she needs a lot of exercise. Without this we'll be confined to dog parks which are not nearly as much fun for her. The public does not seem bothered by the dogs at Crissy Field as we, for the most part, gather in one area. Anyone wishing to sit or play on the beach merely does so a little further down the beach.

It would be a real tragedy to lose the GGNRA as a place we can watch our dogs run and play. Please keep it open to off leash dogs.

Thank you, Elizabeth Harvey

---

**Correspondence ID:** 803      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS

**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA

**Email:** jackhuntington@comcast.net  
**Outside** Unaffiliated Individual

**Organization:**  
**Received:** Feb,27,2011 11:15:14

**Correspondence** Web Form  
**Type:**

**Correspondence:** I have lived in San Francisco since 1980 and have used GGNRA Fort Funston, Ocean Beach to walk my dog for years. I want these places to remain dog friendly in the future. Thanks, Jack Huntington

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**Correspondence ID:** 804      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS

**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA

**Email:** -  
**Outside** Sierra club Unaffiliated Individual

**Organization:**  
**Received:** Feb,27,2011 12:00:22

**Correspondence** Web Form  
**Type:**

**Correspondence:** I am a frequent user of the GGNRA. I hike frequently in various parts of the park. I visit the Point Bonita Lighthouse, Tennessee Beach, Black sand Beach, Rodeo Beach and other less-known parts of the GGNRA. I do not own a dog and do not plan to own one.

One of the great pleasures of the GGNRA is the near complete absence of regulation. It is a place where people are free to enjoy one of the most beautiful places in the world with very little restriction. I can understand how permitting dogs in a place like Yosemite N.P. would cause countless problems, let us not forget that GGNRA is almost an urban park.

In more than 33 years of visits, I have personally NEVER encountered a problem caused by the presence of dogs - leashed or unleashed - within the GGNRA. With plenty of signs for guidelines, I have found dog owners to be extremely responsible. If a large-scale problem ever arises, we could THEN re-visit the rules of the park.

Keep the dogs free; they are a pleasant addition to this beautiful park.

---

**Correspondence ID:** 805      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** ssleamaker@yahoo.com  
**Outside Organization:** GGNP conservancy Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Feb,27,2011 14:36:04  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I am in favor of the proposed alternatives as stated in the document. They seem reasonable and aim to meet all needs. I am not a dog owner at the moment but enjoy them. I walk at Lands End frequently where most dogs seem to be off-leash even though there are posted signs to be "on-leash". ( Actually, the bicycles on the trail are much more of a hazard) As with current regulations, enforcement is rare. The document does not address this issue as far as I could see. So my question is: Why go to all this trouble and expense to set new regulations if there will not be the staff to enforce them??

---

**Correspondence ID:** 806      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** w112ns@yahoo.com  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Feb,27,2011 15:11:47  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** Thank you for your work on this topic.

In general I do not endorse off-leash access for dogs in GGNRA.

I would like to note by objection to the proposed ROLA areas at Crissy Field which is a heavily used area by children and others. A permit managed off-leash area would present a visual approval of off leash activity and enforcement would be confusing.

The GGNRA Presidio has sufficient unused playing fields which are not generally populated and which could be converted to open dog run areas.

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**Correspondence ID:** 807      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:**  
**Outside Organization:** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Received:** Feb,27,2011 15:42:40  
**Correspondence Type:** Web Form  
**Correspondence:** I oppose strongly the proposed changes to off leash dog activities at Fort Funston and other areas in San Francisco. Off leash dog access should be increased, not restricted. Time and again the courts have ruled against the GGNRA's manipulation of rules requiring off-leash dog activity. Restricting access for off-leash dogs also violates the original agreement when Fort Funston and other lands in San Francisco were given to what is now the GGNRA.

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**Correspondence ID:** 808      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** -  
**Outside** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Organization:**  
**Received:** Feb,27,2011 15:46:41  
**Correspondence** Web Form  
**Type:**  
**Correspondence:** The GGNRA's Dog Management Plan is wrong, and should be defeated. A tiny percentage of land of the GGNRA is available for off-leash dog walking, and off-leash dogs do not affect in any meaningful way the management of other areas in the GGNRA.

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**Correspondence ID:** 809      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** -  
**Outside** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Organization:**  
**Received:** Feb,27,2011 17:05:13  
**Correspondence** Web Form  
**Type:**  
**Correspondence:** I think you are on the right track for a solution to this issue with your preferred alternative that works to balance the visitor uses on GGNRA lands. Although I would prefer that on park lands, dogs be on leash, I understand that would be a political non-starter these days. Thus providing a number of areas, including some significant beach areas, where dogs can be off leash (but firmly under voice control per the new rule) and yet separate from other users - for the most part - is a good compromise. I will really appreciate knowing for sure where I can go to experience park lands without people's pets. Dogs are pretty much ubiquitous in the Bay Area; it's a treat to be able to put some distance between oneself and urban-ness so I really value the Bay Areas park lands. Additionally, I was injured by an overly active dog and am wary around them - guarding against another knock down that could put me back in the emergency room. Another reason why I prefer trails that are dog-less. Finally, I also agree with the concept of flexible management; if this user group consistently violates regulations, it should absolutely be curtailed - especially in this case when a unit of the National Park system is pushing the envelope in trying to accommodate a use that is prohibited in all other national park units. Hopefully the responsible dog walkers will exert peer pressure to encourage others to follow whatever final rule comes out of this process.

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**Correspondence ID:** 810      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA  
**Email:** -  
**Outside** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Organization:**  
**Received:** Feb,27,2011 17:05:18  
**Correspondence** Web Form  
**Type:**  
**Correspondence:** Please keep the dog parks dog friendly. Off leash areas are hard to find as is. SF is such a great dog city. We work full time to pay the bills and want a dog. Off leash dog walkers are great. Our dog gets more exercise then we do.  
  
I get that some people abuse the off leash areas but they are a minority. Permits and rules can solve these problems without out right bans.

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**Correspondence ID:** 811      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106  
**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA

**Email:**  
**Outside** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Organization:**  
**Received:** Feb,28,2011 00:17:49  
**Correspondence** Web Form  
**Type:**

**Correspondence:** we have 2 dogs that are cattle dogs,which means that they are full of energy and needs to run and play every day.we do not have many dog parks near by where we can bring them for their exercise.you want to implement the leash law for dogs .it will take away so much joy and happiness .if you are human and ever observe dogs running along the beach or chasing the tennis balls you will see pure joy in them.they don't ask for much nor do dog people.we just want what dogs should be entitle to.a little bit of supervised freedom.put your selfs in their shoes or paws,would you not want a little freedom to run and joy in your life?please reconsider this.you can judge a country and it's people by the way they treat their animals.

Nancy Yeeting

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**Correspondence ID:** 812      **Project:** 11759      **Document:** 38106

**Project:** Dog Management Draft Plan/DEIS  
**Name:** -  
**Address:** - CA  
USA

**Email:** -  
**Outside** Unaffiliated Individual  
**Organization:**  
**Received:** Feb,28,2011 08:52:15  
**Correspondence** Web Form  
**Type:**

**Correspondence:** It always amazes me that when there are unbearable problems in our state, our representatives find the most ridiculous, restrictive and mean-spirited things on which to legislate. There is not much reason that I can see for this, your latest attempt at control, but be assured this will not stand without a fight! We the people are getting used to having to fight. You really dont want an angry, hungry, nothing-to-lose citizenry on your hands. Pay attention.

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Marti Leicester  
09/03/2004 05:26 PM  
PDT

To: Karen Taylor-Goodrich/WASO/NPS@NPS  
cc: Chris Powell/GOGA/NPS@NPS  
Subject: GOGA Reg Neg and misc.

Hi Karen - the GOGA staff just provided a briefing for Jon Jarvis on the Reg Neg for dogs off-leash at GOGA. They have received a recommendation from the neutrals doing the assessment that going ahead with the reg neg process is a viable option. They are working on a pretty tight timeline and have a briefing scheduled with Director Mainella on Sept.,20 in WASO. I believe the time is 2-3 pm. Chris Powell, lead on this process for the park, will be contacting you to see if you will be able to attend the briefing. Other WASO invitees will include Jake Hoogland, Chick Fagan, and Kym Hall. From the park will be Chris Powell and Brian O'Neill. Jon suggested they also set up a briefing for Craig Manson. Hope you will be able to make it. Jon plans to pre-brief the Director at the NLC meeting.

I have various things to catch up on with you so will give you a call after Labor Day. One question: what dates might be good for you for a status call re: GOGA Bridge Security in Sept. ? Once I get your availability I will set up the call with me, Scott and the park. Talk to you soon. Thanks!

Marti Leicester  
1111 Jackson Street, Ste. 700  
Oakland, CA 94607  
510-817-1327 (W)  
510-817-1485 (FAX)  
415-515-8377 (cell)

Karen Taylor Goodrich  
Assoc. Director Visitor + Res. Prot  
(202) 565-1020  
1849 C St.  
MS - 3122

**Reg-Neg DRAFT Base Maps – January 10, 2005**  
**Notes**

**Changes made in second set of draft parkwide maps:**

- Areas closed to dogs (or to travel generally) designated as “Prohibited”; these are all closures defined by GOGA compendium–Section 1.5, from both Closures and Public Use Limits and from Section 2.15, Pets
- 1979 Pet Policy areas overlay shown, delineating areas as either “voice control”, “on-leash” or “Advanced dog training area” per the policy
- Lands within authorized boundaries but not managed by GGNRA shaded gray
- Special Ecological Areas(SEA) removed

**Notes:**

- San Mateo lands were not shown on this set of maps since they were not managed by GOGA at the time of the 1979 Pet Policy.
- Further information can and will be shown on the site specific maps which are blow ups of all areas in GOGA which are primary dogwalking areas. For those maps, for use in the planning process, SEA and T and E habitat will be noted, as well as the information shown on the parkwide maps listed above.
- Input from the Reg-Neg NEPA team at EQD –
  - starting point for NEPA seen as the baseline – what is going on today
  - both processes would look at a range of alternatives, one of which could be the 79 Pet Policy
  - parameters/sideboards must be policy or resource driven reasons – so areas prohibited by compendium are reasonable areas to preclude from consideration
  - using 79 Pet Policy as a starting point not supported by any resource analysis

**Recommendation:**

- These maps be used as the basis for establishing sideboards for the process, with the understanding that NEPA will further analyze the issue

# **GOLDEN GATE NATIONAL RECREATION AREA**

## **Off-Leash Dog Management**

### **Rulemaking/NEPA Costs and Funding**

#### First Phases of Negotiated Rulemaking

- Cost estimate is approximately \$75,000 to contract with US Institute, for their management services which will include hiring a convener to identify stakeholder groups, assess probability of success and to identify stakeholder group representatives for rulemaking committee.
- Environmental Quality Division has IA with the U.S. Institute for use in ECR agreement seeking processes. As of 10/14/03, have received assurance from Chief of Env. Quality Division that \$75,000 would be available for these first phases of the process.

#### Remaining Phases of Negotiated Rulemaking

- Cost estimate is approximately \$280,000 for convener to design remainder of process, assist in convening of committee, and for facilitator to conduct negotiated rulemaking meetings and their associated tasks. Source for these funds not yet identified.
- Additional funding needed for GOGA staff and consultant support for negotiated rulemaking process (estimated at \$60,000 per year). Source for these funds not yet identified.

#### NEPA Process

- The Environmental Quality Division has a source of funds for environmental impact analysis for projects such as this. Funding amount cannot exceed \$500,000 and must be expended within 3 years.
- PMIS 91339 has been submitted requesting funding in FY05 - \$498,450.
- Feedback from Environmental Quality Division as of 10/14/03 is that they will fund some, or possibly all, of the total cost.



# United States Department of the Interior

## NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Golden Gate National Recreation Area  
Fort Mason Bldg. 201  
San Francisco, California 94123

December 11, 2013

Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi  
90 7<sup>th</sup> Street  
San Francisco, California 94103

Dear Congresswoman Pelosi:

Thank you for your December 2, 2013 letter in which you urge the National Park Service to further expand the public comment period on the Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for dog management at Golden Gate National Recreation Area.

As you know, we had extended the original 90-day comment period an additional 5 weeks, to January 11, 2014, in order to account for the 16-day federal government shutdown and to move the deadline beyond the upcoming holiday season. This extension has been viewed as reasonable by most park constituents, but we understand that a group of your constituents have requested that the deadline be extended again by an additional 31 days, to February 17, 2013 (President's Day). While we feel this additional extension is not warranted, we will nevertheless extend the deadline to February 18, 2014 in deference to your request.

The ongoing 12-year process to arrive at a workable rule for dog management in the park has been very challenging, as you are aware. Our task is to develop a plan that is clear and easily understood, reflects the desires of the broad range of interests, and is consistent with our mandate to both provide appropriate and safe visitor experiences and protect resources into the future. We have employed what has been among the most open, transparent, and publicly-engaged process ever undertaken by the National Park Service.

The proposed plan formally acknowledges that dog walking is a legitimate and important recreational use of the park. That draft plan, now undergoing a second public review, includes a preferred alternative that, if implemented, would result in seven distinct areas for off-leash dog use under voice control, as well as many more areas where dogs would be welcomed on-leash. The proposed off-leash areas are in locations that are most highly prized by the full spectrum of park users, including those who favor off-leash dog use as well as those who prefer to have a park experience that does not include dogs.

We have deeply appreciated your support over the years on all issues facing the park. With this issue, park users of every perspective are seeking a conclusion to the long dog management planning effort. We look forward to your support for the final rule that emerges from the process.

Sincerely,

Frank Dean  
General Superintendent

## **Interim Compendium Amendment**

The NPS is planning to issue an interim compendium amendment requiring commercial dog walkers in San Francisco and Marin counties to obtain a permit if walking more than three dogs on GGNRA lands. This interim change is being considered in light of the City of San Francisco's 2012 ordinance requiring commercial dog walkers to obtain a permit, which would limit them to no more than eight dogs, and the Presidio Trust's proposed rule requiring commercial dog walkers on Presidio lands to have a San Francisco commercial dog walking permit and abide by all the permit conditions, including the maximum of eight dogs. GGNRA's proposed interim amendment is not part of the dog management plan/EIS, and would remain in place only until a final rule, which would address commercial dog walking, is issued. This proposed interim change is being evaluated in this Draft Dog Management Plan / Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (plan/SEIS) as a reasonably foreseeable cumulative effect. If issued, this change may cause adverse effects on nearby dog walking areas if commercial dog walkers who want to walk more than six dogs choose to go to areas outside GGNRA. However, given that nearby jurisdictions that allow commercial dog walking require permits, and limit the maximum number of dogs per dog walker to either six or eight dogs, there may be little effect on other areas. Without this proposed interim action, GGNRA lands, where there is currently no permit required and no limit on the number of dogs walked by commercial dog walkers, would be more likely to be adversely impacted, as commercial dog walkers wanting to walk more than six to eight dogs would likely increase on GGNRA lands. If GGNRA does issue an interim compendium change prior to the final rule, it will likely preserve the current distribution of commercial dog walking, although the number of dogs per commercial dog walker would be reduced for those currently walking more than six dogs at a time on GGNRA lands. While the redistributive effect of requiring permits for commercial dog walkers is somewhat speculative, an interim compendium amendment is more likely to preserve the current visitor experience, or possibly improve it by reducing the number of dogs per commercial dog walker. (pg 353)

Therefore, the commercial dog walking limits proposed under this draft plan/SEIS, being lower than the maximum number of dogs allowed in San Francisco and, potentially in Area B of the Presidio, would possibly result in the movement of commercial dog walkers in San Francisco from GGNRA lands to other nearby dog walking areas, although the Presidio Trust may consider lowering their commercial dog walking limit to the limit proposed by GGNRA once the new GGNRA dog management regulation is in place. Additionally, the NPS is planning to implement an interim compendium agreement that would require that commercial dog walkers at GGNRA sites obtain a permit to walk more than three dogs, with a limit of six dogs. This would alleviate any movement of commercial dog walkers to GGNRA as a result of increased restrictions under San Francisco's recent ordinance and Presidio's proposed rule, but may possibly increase impacts at the Presidio and other dog walking areas in proximity to the GGNRA. Thus under alternatives B through F, the GGNRA proposed rule may result in additional impacts on natural resources, visitor use and experience, and park operations at nearby dog walking areas in San Francisco. (pg 355)

The proposed GGNRA interim compendium amendment would require that commercial dog walkers in San Francisco and Marin counties obtain a permit to walk more than three dogs at GGNRA sites, and would limit commercial dog walkers to no more than six dogs. This would have beneficial impacts on natural resources at GGNRA sites. The proposed interim compendium amendment would reduce overcrowding, lessening dog disturbance on natural resources. Although the proposed interim compendium amendment is directly related to dog management and would have overall beneficial cumulative impacts, these impacts are not expected to be great enough to alter the intensity of the expected impacts from the implementation of the alternatives on natural resources. (pg. 389-390)

The proposed GGNRA interim compendium amendment would require that commercial dog walkers in San Francisco and Marin counties obtain a permit to walk more than three dogs, with a maximum of six dogs, at GGNRA sites. This would have beneficial impacts on natural resources at GGNRA sites. The proposed interim compendium amendment would reduce overcrowding, lessening dog disturbance on natural resources. Although the proposed action is directly related to dog management and would have overall beneficial cumulative impacts, these impacts are not expected to be great enough to alter the intensity of the expected impacts from the implementation of the alternatives on natural resources. (pg. 557)

Overall, cumulative impacts of other park projects and actions to cultural resources include benefits primarily related to preservation and enhancement efforts. The proposed GGNRA interim compendium amendment would require commercial dog walkers in San Francisco and Marin counties to obtain a permit to walk more than three dogs at GGNRA sites, with a limit of six dogs. This would have beneficial impacts on cultural resources in the park. (pg 1028)

Cumulative effects to cultural resources resulting from other park projects and actions are similar to those described under alternative A. The proposed GGNRA interim compendium amendment would have beneficial impacts on cultural resources in the park. Cumulative adverse impacts from other park projects and actions range from negligible to possibly moderate and are related to ground disturbance (transportation, construction activities), impacts to views and vistas associated with cultural landscapes, and historic structure demolition. However, impacts to cultural resources under the no-action alternative are not expected to contribute to these adverse cumulative impacts. (pg 1033)

Overall, cumulative impacts of other park projects and actions to cultural resources include benefits primarily related to preservation and enhancement efforts. The proposed GGNRA interim compendium amendment would require commercial dog walkers in San Francisco and Marin counties to obtain a permit to walk more than three dogs at GGNRA sites, and would be limited to no more than six dogs. This would have beneficial impacts on cultural resources in the park. Cumulative adverse impacts from other park projects and actions range from negligible to possibly moderate and are related to ground disturbance (transportation, construction activities), impacts to views and vistas associated with cultural landscapes, and historic structure demolition. However, impacts to cultural resources under the preferred alternative are not expected to contribute to these adverse cumulative impacts. (pg 1048)

The proposed GGNRA interim compendium amendment would require commercial dog walkers in San Francisco and Marin counties to obtain a permit to walk more than three dogs with a limit of six dogs. By reducing congestion and overcrowding, the amendment would have beneficial impacts on visitors who prefer dogs. It would also have beneficial impacts on visitors who prefer not to have dogs at the park. Although this proposed amendment may have adverse impacts on commercial dog walkers who want to walk more than six dogs at GGNRA, commercial dog walking use is considered low at Stinson Beach. When the impacts associated with alternative A of the dog management plan are combined with the negligible and beneficial impacts from the projects discussed above, cumulative impacts to visitor use and experience would be beneficial for visitors who would prefer dogs at the park and negligible for visitors who do not prefer dogs at the park. (pg. 1062)

The proposed GGNRA interim compendium amendment would require commercial dog walkers in San Francisco and Marin counties to obtain a permit to walk more than three dogs at GGNRA sites, with a limit of six dogs. By reducing congestion and overcrowding, the amendment would have beneficial impacts on visitors who prefer dogs. It would also have beneficial impacts on visitors who prefer not to have dogs at the park. Although this proposed amendment may have adverse impacts on commercial dog walkers who want to walk more than three dogs at GGNRA, commercial dog walking use is considered low at Homestead Valley.

Overall, when the beneficial impacts from the improved trail access and proposed interim compendium are combined with the lack of impacts to visitors who would prefer to walk dogs at the park under alternative A, there would be beneficial cumulative impacts to these visitors. The beneficial cumulative impacts resulting from the projects mentioned above are not expected to be great enough to alter the intensity of impact on visitors who would prefer not to have dog walking at the park from long-term, minor, and adverse under alternative A, resulting in negligible cumulative impacts to these visitors. (pg.1068 – Homestead Valley alt A)

The proposed GGNRA interim compendium amendment would require commercial dog walkers in San Francisco and Marin counties to obtain a permit to walk more than three dogs at GGNRA sites with a limit of six dogs. By reducing congestion and overcrowding, the amendment would have beneficial impacts on visitors who prefer dogs. It would also have beneficial impacts on visitors who prefer not to have dogs at the park. Although this proposed amendment may have adverse impacts on commercial dog walkers who want to walk more than three dogs at GGNRA, commercial dog walking use is considered low at Homestead Valley.

Cumulatively, the benefit of the proposed interim compendium and improved access to Homestead Valley a low use area used primarily by the neighboring residents, is not expected to be measurable and would not alter the intensity of the expected impacts from the implementation of alternative F for either user group: negligible for visitors who would prefer to prefer to have dog walking and beneficial for those visitors who would prefer not to have dog walking at the site. (pg. 1072 Homestead Valley alt F)

#### **Cumulative Impacts (Alta Trail Alt A).**

There is only one known project or action that has had, is currently having, or will have effects on visitor use and experience in the vicinity of this park site. The proposed GGNRA interim compendium amendment would require commercial dog walkers in San Francisco and Marin counties to obtain a permit to walk more than three dogs at GGNRA sites, with a limit of six dogs. By reducing congestion and overcrowding, the amendment would have beneficial impacts on visitors who prefer dogs. It would also have beneficial impacts on visitors who prefer not to have dogs at the park. This proposed amendment may have adverse impacts on commercial dog walkers who want to walk more than three dogs at GGNRA, particularly as commercial dog walking use is considered high at Alta Trail. The cumulative impacts to visitors overall from the proposed interim compendium agreement are anticipated to be negligible. (pg. 1073)

When the negligible cumulative impacts of the proposed interim compendium amendment are combined with the lack of impacts to visitors who prefer to walk their dogs at the park, there would be no impact on the visitor use and experience for visitors who would prefer to walk dogs at the park under alternative A, and a negligible cumulative impact on this user group. Impacts on the visitor use and experience of visitors who would prefer not to have dog walking at the park would be long term, moderate, and adverse, and cumulative impacts would also be long term, moderate adverse under alternative A. (pg. 1074)

**Cumulative Impacts.** (Alta Trail Alt F)

There is only one known project or action that has had, is currently having, or will have effects on visitor use and experience in the vicinity of this park site. The proposed GGNRA interim compendium amendment would require commercial dog walkers in San Francisco and Marin counties to obtain a permit to walk more than three dogs at GGNRA sites, with a limit of six dogs. By reducing congestion and overcrowding, the amendment would have beneficial impacts on visitors who prefer dogs. It would also have beneficial impacts on visitors who prefer not to have dogs at the park. This proposed amendment may have adverse impacts on commercial dog walkers who want to walk more than three dogs at GGNRA, particularly because commercial dog walking use is considered high at Alta Trail. The cumulative impacts to visitors overall from the proposed interim compendium agreement are anticipated to be negligible.

When the negligible cumulative impacts of the proposed interim compendium amendment are combined with long-term minor to moderate adverse impacts to visitors who prefer to walk their dogs at the park, there would be a long-term minor to moderate adverse cumulative impact on this user group. Impacts on the visitor use and experience of visitors who would prefer not to have dog walking at the park would be beneficial under alternative F

**Cumulative Impacts.** There is only one known project or action that has had, is currently having, or will have effects on visitor use and experience in the vicinity of this park site. The proposed GGNRA interim compendium amendment would require commercial dog walkers in San Francisco and Marin counties to obtain a permit to walk more than three dogs at GGNRA sites, with a limit of six dogs. By reducing congestion and overcrowding, the amendment would have beneficial impacts on visitors who prefer dogs. It would also have beneficial impacts on visitors who prefer not to have dogs at the park. Although this proposed amendment may have adverse impacts on commercial dog walkers who want to walk more than three dogs at GGNRA, commercial dog walking use is considered low at Oakwood Valley.

There would be no impact on the visitor use and experience of visitors who would prefer to walk dogs at the park under alternative A, and long term, minor, and adverse to visitors who would prefer not to have dog walking at the park under alternative A. The cumulative impacts associated with the proposed interim compendium agreement are not expected to be great enough to alter the intensity of the expected impacts from the implementation of alternative A for either user group. Therefore, cumulative impacts would be negligible for visitors who would prefer to walk dogs, and long-term, minor, adverse for visitors who would prefer not to have dog walking at the park. (pg. 1079 – Oakwood Valley alt A)

**Cumulative Impacts.** There is only one known project or action that has had, is currently having, or will have effects on visitor use and experience in the vicinity of this park site. The proposed GGNRA interim compendium amendment would require commercial dog walkers in San Francisco and Marin counties to obtain a permit to walk more than three dogs at GGNRA sites, with a limit of six dogs. By reducing congestion and overcrowding, the amendment would have beneficial impacts on visitors who prefer dogs. It would also have beneficial impacts on visitors who prefer not to have dogs at the park. Although this proposed amendment may have adverse impacts on commercial dog walkers who want to walk more than three dogs at GGNRA, commercial dog walking use is considered low at Oakwood Valley.

Under alternative F, there would be long-term moderate adverse impacts on the visitor use and experience of visitors who would prefer to walk dogs at the park, and beneficial impacts to visitors who would prefer not to have dog walking at the park. The cumulative impacts associated with the proposed interim

compendium agreement are not expected to be great enough to alter the intensity of the expected impacts from the implementation of the preferred alternative for either user group. Therefore, under alternative F cumulative impacts would be long-term, moderate, and adverse for visitors who would prefer to walk dogs, and beneficial for visitors who would prefer not to have dog walking at the park. (pg. 1084 Oakwood alt F)

Steve – am stopping here. This language will repeat throughout Marin and SF sites – will continue if more site specific info is needed.

11/21/13 - Shirwin



Photos by Katie Meek / The Chronicle

**CJ Miller, a professional dog walker, greets Gunga at Crissy Field. A new S.F. law requires dog walkers to carry permits, follow safety regulations and walk eight or fewer dogs at a time.**

## ANIMALS

# Dog walkers heel to new regulations

By Kale Williams

Professional dog walkers in San Francisco are on a shorter leash after new regulations took effect earlier this month. The new law requires dog walkers to obtain a license, limits the number of dogs that can be walked at one time to eight and requires a vehicle inspection and an approval of any vehicle used to transport dogs for commercial walking.

So far, the Recreation and Park Department, which is primarily responsible for the enforcement of the new rules, has been educating dog walkers on the new law, but that will soon change because unlicensed dog walkers can be fined.

"Most dog walkers do a phenomenal job, but some don't," which is



**Finley waits for a treat from Angela Gardner at Crissy Field's East Beach.**

why the legislation is needed, said Supervisor Scott Wiener, who authored the law. The department of Animal Care and Control is responsible for issuing permits, which cost \$240 for the first year and \$100 for yearly renewal thereafter.

*Dog walking continues* **ON PAGE A014755**

# New law regulates dog walking

*Dog walking from page C1*

New dog walkers will be required to complete 20 hours of training before they can apply for a permit.

Additionally, Animal Care and Control makes sure that operators carry a minimum of \$1 million in liability insurance.

To date, 56 dog walkers have completed the entire process and obtained their licenses and Animal Care and Control has inspected 137 vehicles.

Angela Gardner, spokeswoman for the San Francisco Professional Dog Walkers Association, estimates that the city has roughly 300 professional dog walkers, but notes that the new permitting process will help to get a much more accurate count.

However, enforcement of the new law could be a matter of being in the right place at the right time.

The San Francisco Public Utilities Commission and Police Department will assist in enforcing the law, but the primary responsibility falls on the Recreation and Park Department, which has 11 full-time park patrol officers and three supervisors.

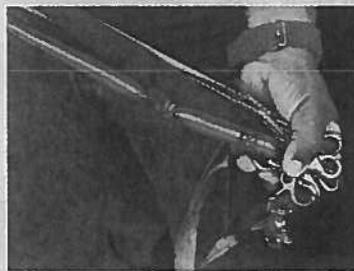
"Anywhere from two to four officers will be on duty at any one time, patrolling 220 parks citywide, 24 hours a day," said Elton Pon, spokesman for the Recreation and Park Department. "Enforcement of the new law will be one of many park regulations our park patrol officers enforce on a daily basis."

Pon explained that the department will soon be adding six more officers to patrol the parks and that they are work-



Photos by Katie Meek / The Chronicle

**Angela Gardner, spokeswoman for the S.F. Professional Dog Walkers Association, walks eight dogs at Crissy Field. New regulations limit the number of dogs that can be walked at a time to eight.**



**Angela Gardner said the eight-dog walking cap is a good compromise: Managing more can be hard and any fewer could affect income.**

ing to educate the public on the new laws.

Dog walkers found to be in violation of the rules will be subject to a fine up to \$50 for

their first offense, with fines climbing up to \$500 for multiple infractions within a 12-month period.

In a city like San Francisco, where dogs outnumber children and backyards are few and far between, dog walkers play a crucial role. But, like all new legislation, there were some sticking points, according to Wiener.

"The most intense discussions were over the number of dogs. A lot of other jurisdictions max out at six, but San Francisco has a huge population of dog owners and many of them don't have yards," he said. "Because those numbers are so significant, it made sense to be less

restrictive."

Most dog walkers agreed that the limit of eight dogs per walker represented a good compromise, according to Gardner.

"If it was less than that it would start to impact people's ability to make a living, but if you are walking more than eight dogs it can be hard to manage," she said.

"Our industry needs to be regulated," Gardner said. "Not everyone with a leash and a car should be allowed to be a dog walker."

*Kale Williams is a San Francisco Chronicle staff writer. E-mail: [kwilliams@sfchronicle.com](mailto:kwilliams@sfchronicle.com) Twitter: @shortleafkale*

## NOT FOR DISTRIBUTION

San Mateo Group  
Meeting summary re: Signage & Trail Use Designations at Rancho

May 17, 2010

1. Nancy began with: identifying trails, trailheads and appropriate signage. Sarah emphasized the importance of regulatory signs in place, saying it is better to establish rules than revise them after the fact.
2. A discussion ensued about when and how to designate trails. We need to have trails designated on January 1<sup>st</sup>. Should we designate bikes to be on fire roads? **Nancy said Planning division would take the lead and work with Natural Resources to develop trails and use map.** Sue offered a group of Public Information Contacts (PICs) to be out on site and George offers to work with them. Discussion continued as to how many users will use site in the early stages.

August 17, 2010

3. **Signs:** Keith Stegall presented a Google Maps based map and data layer, showing the GPSed location and content of every sign in the park. The online site allows easy access by both NPS and Conservancy staff, and can be viewed as a detailed spreadsheet including date of installation, type of sign, signpost, FMSS location #, current condition of signs and posts. This spreadsheet allows park managers to create funding requests by facility or location. The spreadsheet should be a good tool for LE staff to check location and status of signs. Reports from field staff to Keith can be used to update information such as damage.  
**ACTION ITEM:** Steve G., Keith, Susie B, Brian Aviles, GIS support, LE were identified as the group to focus on the strategy and tasks related to signs for Rancho including scope and budget, location and content including regulatory info and a timeline for regulatory process (bike rulemaking and compendium changes) and a map of assets.

September 23, 2010

4. Discussion about difference between interior signage that is separate from boundary and entry signage. Not much will be signed for interior other than replacing current POST signs and maybe some wayfinding. Further discussion about bikes on trails, and whether to sign or not. Daphne suggested something interim. Brian suggested waiting until there is more familiarity with trails to determine which ones would be good for bikes. Nancy suggested to decide one way or another for each trail. Steve suggested signs that note a "transition phase" continuing past use as-is since there are no identified current issues around bikes. Aaron suggested that trails remain closed to bikes "by policy" but not signed or enforced until details are worked out. Question arose about opening trails to bikes where there are rickety bridges. Steve pointed out the importance of having the four access points to the area reference each other.

**ACTION ITEM:** Keith, Susie and Steve will present to project review after site visit of the trail loops and determine if a bike sign needs to be placed on trails already being signed. This info can be on the kiosk. Where trails are closed to bikes, can remain silent and only deal with issues as they arise.

October 28, 2010

5. **Because RCDT came into park during Dog Management Plan, the initial dog regulations will follow CFR 2.15: allowing leashed dogs. Leashed dog icon will be on the initial signs. When dog plan is complete (2012 or 2013), park will reexamine RCDT dog policy.**

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November 18, 2010

6. Bikes on Rancho: Team decided that we will allow bikes and will initiate bike designation for Ocean View Farms and Coral Reef, but not take action for the rest of RCDT yet. Steve G., George & Keith will determine which routes will be designated in the interim and then Trails will work toward a broader plan
7. **Marybeth and Kim need to get new dog and bike regulations for RCDT into federal register and confirm all Fed Register requirements.**
8. Kim and Keith should coordinate signs to be consistent with compendium and each other.
9. George will facilitate a pad map including trailheads, trails, equestrian operations language, designated trails and regulations for our website. Map is to be labeled "interim"

December 16, 2010

10. LE needs to get new dog and bike regulations for RCDT into federal register and confirm all Fed Register requirements

January 27, 2011

11. **Regarding determining sensitive natural areas and appropriate dog regulations, Daphne recommends we proceed with 2.15 (leashed dogs) until completion of a full NR review before proceeding with dog planning process at Rancho.**

February 24, 2011

12. Hilary and Craig are working with the county on an easement map for San Pedro Mountain Road. Shirwin and Marybeth will work with the county on regs on San Pedro Mountain Road.

March 24, 2011

13. Susie has temporary sign templates and is waiting for language revisions.

May 26, 2011

14. Interim Trails Plan: **we discussed the need for an interim trail designation plan that would consider condition and suitability of existing trails and make recommendations for in interim trails designation plan.**

ACTION: Brian Aviles, Steve Griswold, Susie Bennett, Pat Kocer, a rep from LE will meet, review resource information, look at trails in the field as needed and make recommendations to:

- a. identify the primary routes that would be designated as the temporary trail system
  - b. identify any trails that would need to be closed to dogs on leash in the short term**
  - c. identify any trails that would need to be closed to bikes/horses**
  - d. identify any trails that should be closed, or not signed or mapped as designated trails
- A published rule/regulation within 90-120 days of NPS ownership is the goal.

July 28, 2011

15. **Interim Trail Recommendations (Nancy/Steve Griswold): The group presented the recommendations for interim trails and the regulations proposed, pending some additional**

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**discussions with Moss Beach Ranch and Ember Ridge re: the proposals in their area and some more field work to be coordinated by Susie Bennett.**

Susie will also coordinate resolution of additional short term trail/LE needs such as “dogs on leash” signs at most park entrances, gates, barriers etc. (with Pat Kocer, LE, )

August 25, 2011

16. Sign Plan (Keith): Julie and Rob La Porte of the sign shop visited Ocean View Farms to review set up for sign plan. Signs are for pedestrians, bikes and horses and are informational and interpretive. Trail signs will be will not focus on Coral Reef and Ocean View entrances, due to neighbor concerns, but will be placed at appropriate spots. **The signs will include dog regulations and other regulatory symbols. Regulatory language will be settled as soon as possible.** Kevin suggests installing plastic NPS boundary signs, as they're cheap and easily replaceable, while we wait for more permanent boundary signs.
17. Interim Trails Plan: The group assigned to make recommendations for interim trails and regulations gave an update on progress and next steps ACTION: Susie Bennett will coordinate the follow-up meeting with the equestrian operators and a wrap-up meeting(s) with the trails group to complete this task.

December 1, 2011

18. Kevin indicated that the Compendium will need to be updated for Rancho, specifically to include a map of the property and **clear language about trail use for dogs, equestrians, biking and hiking.**

**Decision Making Process – CDW (Draft Not For Public Distribution)**

**Two Categorical Exclusion Decision Making Approaches:**

| <p align="center"><b>Approach 1:<br/>Streamlined – Public Comment</b></p>   | <p align="center"><b>Approach 2:<br/>Max Public Review and Comment</b><br/>(Follows EA Public Review and Comment Process)</p>   |
|---|---|
| <p><u>Step 1:</u> Send out Proposed Action (and impact assessment) to all interested/affected public.</p>   | <p><u>Step 1:</u> Scoping – Send out Proposed Action to all interested / affected public to provide issues/concerns for consideration. (30 days)</p>  |
| <p><u>Step 2:</u> Seek Public Review and Comment (30 days)</p>  | <p><u>Step 2:</u> Based on Scoping – Come out with revised proposal (if applicable) along with additional back-up information (basically a synthesize mini-EA (what we refer to as a super CE, aka SCE) with impact assessment, response to comments, etc...)</p> |
| <p><u>Step 3:</u> Issue Decision Document</p> <p>** Decision Document will contain all information asked for in 36CFR 1.5(c)</p>                              | <p><u>Step 3:</u> Allow review and comment on final Proposed Action SCE (30 days)</p>   |
|   | <p><u>Step 4:</u> Decision Document (w errata if applicable)</p> <p>** Decision Document will contain all information asked for in 36CFR 1.5(c)</p>   |
| <p align="center"><b><u>Compendium<sup>1</sup></u></b></p> <p align="center"><b>Implement 36 CFR 1.7 (Public Notice) Procedures to Implement Decision</b></p> |   |

<sup>1</sup> Compendium v. Rulemaking: 36CFR 1.5(b) Except in emergency situations, a closure, designation, use or activity restriction or condition, or the termination or relaxation of such, which is of a nature, magnitude and duration that will result in a significant alteration in the public use pattern of the park area, adversely affect the park’s natural, aesthetic, scenic or cultural values, require a long-term or significant modification in the resource management objectives of the unit, or is of a highly controversial nature, shall be published as rulemaking in the FEDERAL REGISTER.

## **OVERVIEW OF THE SUPPLEMENTAL EIS FOR DOG MANAGEMENT IN GGNRA**

The Draft Dog Management Plan/Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) follows the 2011 Draft EIS that generated 4700 comment letters. As a result of the evaluation of those public comments, and the need to incorporate site specific analysis for a new GGNRA site, the NPS determined that a Supplemental EIS was warranted.

Key changes between the 2013 Supplemental EIS and the 2011 Draft EIS:

- Addition of new data – including analysis of 11 years of LE data and results of a survey assessing the potential for redistribution and resulting impacts on neighboring lands
- Consideration of additional research – addressing impacts to user groups/wildlife/vegetation
- Some changes to the impacts analysis as a result of additional data and research
- Changes to the management strategy to accentuate monitoring and eliminate automatic triggers
- Evaluation of fencing as a tool to manage dog impacts
- Changes to the preferred alternative at several sites
- Site specific alternatives and analysis for Rancho Corral de Tierra, which was not part of the park when the Draft EIS was developed.

## **COMMENTING ON THE SUPPLEMENTAL EIS**

The Supplemental EIS was released for comment on September 6, 2013 for a 90-day public comment period. After the 16-day government shutdown, the comment period was extended until January 11, 2013.

There are two ways to submit comments:

Online at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/dogplan> (submit by midnight Mountain Time, 11 p.m. Pacific)

By mail to Superintendent, GGNRA, Bldg. 201, Ft. Mason, San Francisco, 94123,  
Attn: Dog Management

JACKIE SPEIER  
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TASK FORCE  
Vice Chair

June 19, 2013

The Honorable Sally Jewell  
Office of the Secretary  
United States Department of the Interior  
1849 C Street, N.W.  
Washington DC 20240

Dear Secretary Jewell:

I am writing to express concerns regarding the potential impact of newly adopted dog walking prohibitions within Rancho Corral de Tierra ("Rancho") on the forthcoming supplemental dog management environmental impact statement ("SEIS") for Golden Gate National Recreation Area ("GGNRA"). As GGNRA prepares to release the SEIS, I respectfully request that you work with GGNRA to ensure a fair evaluation of the property.

As you know, ownership of the 3,858-acre Rancho Park transferred from the Peninsula Open Space Trust to GGNRA in December 2011. For decades prior to the acquisition, my constituents utilized the land for recreational purposes, including off-leash dog walking, hiking and equestrian use, while maintaining the environmental integrity of the property. In contrast to this historical use, shortly following acquisition GGNRA prohibited dogs from 80% of the land and required dogs to be leashed on the remaining 20%.

While I appreciate that GGNRA management is charged with the important responsibility of preserving the environmental sustainability of the land, I am concerned that this recent policy shift fails to strike the right balance between environmental conservation and recreation, which was emphasized in the GGNRA founding charter. Procedurally, the ban on dog walking in 80% of the park changes the anticipated "no action" or baseline scenario for the SEIS. I understand that any alternative to status quo would be measured as compared to an 80% ban scenario, not the decades-long history of off-leash dog walking in Rancho. My constituents are concerned that a modified baseline would create a fundamental error in the SEIS by distorting the analysis of recreational impacts.

In addition, I am concerned with the potential costs that may be associated with correcting the baseline following, rather than prior to, the release of the SEIS. If this issue is not properly addressed, GGNRA could be required to significantly modify its SEIS, raising the possibility of a third round of public comment, and delaying this process even

# Summary of Comments on Speier to Jewell\_6.19.13.pdf

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Page: 1

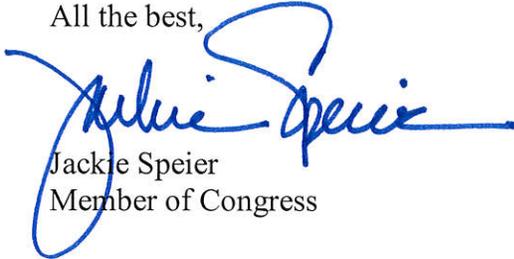
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-  Number: 1      Author: shirwinsmith      Subject: Sticky Note      Date: 6/24/2013 1:50:35 PM  
Use was not legal - private land AND under San Mateo law which requires leashes anywhere dog is not physically restrained (as in fenced yard).
-  Number: 2      Author: shirwinsmith      Subject: Sticky Note      Date: 6/24/2013 1:51:16 PM  
This is only an interim action.
-  Number: 3      Author: shirwinsmith      Subject: Sticky Note      Date: 6/24/2013 1:53:00 PM  
We want to be sure to address this thoroughly and correctly. Could/should we really measure our future actions against status that occurred illegally under another owner?

further. My constituents have also raised concerns that that the current off-leash prohibition may be in violation of the National Environmental Policy Act because it was enacted without public input.

For these reasons, I respectfully request that you work with GGNRA management to ensure a complete and correct baseline analysis is undertaken before the SEIS release this summer.

All the best,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jackie Speier". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and "S".

Jackie Speier  
Member of Congress

Cc:

Jon Jarvis, Director, National Park Service  
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This page contains no comments

Threatened and Endangered Species Resources Concern Statements and Potential Responses:

*TE2010 - Threatened and Endangered Species: Affected Environment*

**Concern ID:** 30405

**CONCERN STATEMENT:** Commenters acknowledge that they have observed that dog owners encourage/allow their dogs to chase after snowy plovers or commenters agree that off-leash dogs present a threat to the snowy plover. Commenters urge the park to protect listed species at GGNRA; some commenters state that protecting listed species is a mission of GGNRA.

**Response:** As stated and acknowledged in the plan/EIS, there have been multiple instances at GGNRA where dogs have flushed or chased shorebirds or snowy plovers at Ocean Beach and Crissy Field as documented in NPS monitoring reports by Park Natural Resources Division (NPS 2008e; Hatch et al. 2006, 12; Hatch et al. 2007, 4-6; Hatch et al. 2008, 2-4) and impacts to snowy plovers as a result of dogs are described in detail in the plan/EIS. The GGNRA mission statement (abbreviated version) does include the preservation of natural resources, which includes the protection of listed species: “The mission of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area is the preservation, unimpaired, of the natural and cultural resources, and scenic and recreation values, of the park for present and future generations to enjoy.”

In the plan/EIS, areas closed to dogs have been specifically described for certain sensitive areas to protect listed species and their habitat; the preferred alternatives in the plan/EIS for most sites at GGRNA do limit the access of dogs to areas in GGRNA. Specifically, the SPPA at Ocean Beach will change from allowing dogs seasonally to not allowing dogs at all to protect the snowy plover and other shorebirds; the WPA at Crissy Field will change from allowing dogs seasonally to not allowing dogs at all to protect the snowy plover and other shorebirds, dogs will no longer be allowed on the beach at Fort Funston north of the Beach Access Trail to protect the bank swallows; and dogs will be required to be on leash at Muir Beach instead of off leash as currently allowed. In addition, trails throughout the park would generally be closed to dog walking since there is a higher likelihood of impacts to adjacent resources, including listed species, and on other park users.

**Concern ID:** 30407

**CONCERN STATEMENT:** Commenters do not agree that dogs are affecting the bank swallow at Fort Funston; some commenters believe that human or other disturbances impact the bank swallows at Fort Funston (hang gliders, natural impacts).

**Response:** It has been stated in the plan/EIS that “It is important to note that dogs are viewed as a contributing factor to impacts associated with wildlife, and the total elimination of dogs in the park would not eliminate effects on wildlife, because visitors without dogs would continue to visit the park and use the trails/roads at GGNRA. Disturbance by all manner of visitors and any associated recreation equipment as well as by dogs has occurred and currently occurs in GGNRA as an existing condition. However, visitors with dogs could impact natural resources such as wildlife [and listed species] to a greater extent than visitors without dogs.”

Potential impacts to bank swallows and their habitat have been described in the plan/EIS using “best professional judgment of park staff, experts in the field, recovery plans and actions for listed species, ongoing data collection for other projects, and other supporting literature (as cited in the text).” Also stated in the plan/EIS, there is documentation “by park personnel that people and dogs access the bluff tops and even gain access to the beach from the trails above the bluff area.....and during the monthly bird surveys at Fort Funston, dogs were recorded in restricted areas, and on many occasions, both dogs and humans were observed inside the restricted areas (USGS 2004).....resulting in some local disturbances to the bank swallow colony, and there have been numerous recent instances where hazardous conditions/pet rescues have occurred at Fort Funston, which result in further disturbance to the colony during the breeding season.”

**Concern ID:** 30408

**CONCERN STATEMENT:** Commenters do not agree that the CA red-legged frog or the SF garter snake [at Mori Point] is being affected by dogs.

**Response:** It has been stated in the plan/EIS that “It is important to note that dogs are viewed as a contributing factor to impacts associated with wildlife [and listed species], and the total elimination of dogs in the park would not eliminate effects on wildlife [and listed species], because visitors without dogs would continue to visit the park and use the trails/roads at GGNRA. Disturbance by all manner of visitors and any associated recreation equipment as well as by dogs has occurred and currently occurs in GGNRA as an existing condition. However, visitors with dogs could impact natural resources such as wildlife [and listed species] to a greater extent than visitors without dogs.”

Potential impacts to the CA red-legged frog and SF garter snake and their habitats have been described in the plan/EIS using the law enforcement (LE) data (includes leash law violations and warnings, citations, and reports taken on dog bites/attacks, dog rescues, and pet waste removal violations) in combination with “best professional judgment of park staff, experts in the field, recovery plans and actions for listed species, ongoing data collection for other projects, and other supporting literature (as cited in the text).” Also stated in the plan/EIS, when there is “no published documentation that dogs have either directly or indirectly affected” listed species at GGRNA sites, a range of impacts is presented to encompass possible effects to the species itself and to potential or existing habitat due to the sensitivity of listed species, and generally will range from negligible to adverse impacts. If dog use at the site precludes restoration or recovery of a listed species, this is also viewed as a potential impact.

**Concern ID:** 30409

**CONCERN STATEMENT:** Listed Plants: it has been suggested that since the SF *Lessingia* is not present at Fort Funston there should be no impacts to this plant by dogs; it has been suggested that dogs do not impact/trample lupine plants, the plants are do not exist at certain sites, and/or that impacts are not evidence-based.

**Response:** It has been stated in the plan/EIS that “It is important to note that dogs are viewed as a contributing factor to impacts associated with wildlife [and listed species], and the total elimination of dogs in the park would not eliminate effects on wildlife [and listed species], because visitors without dogs would continue to visit the park and use the trails/roads at GGNRA. Disturbance by all manner of visitors and any associated recreation equipment as well as by dogs has occurred and currently occurs in GGNRA as an existing condition. However, visitors with dogs could impact natural resources such as wildlife [and listed species] to a greater extent than visitors without dogs.”

Potential impacts to listed plant species and their habitats have been described in the plan/EIS using the law enforcement (LE) data (includes leash law violations and warnings, citations, and reports taken on dog bites/attacks, dog rescues, and pet waste removal violations) in combination with “best professional judgment of park staff, experts in the field, recovery plans and actions for listed species, ongoing data collection for other projects, and other supporting literature (as cited in the text).” Also stated in the plan/EIS, when there is “no published documentation that dogs have either directly or indirectly affected” listed species at GGRNA sites, a range of impacts is presented to encompass possible effects to the species itself and to potential or existing habitat due to the sensitivity of listed species, and generally will range from negligible to adverse impacts. If dog use at the site precludes restoration or recovery of a listed species as occurs with SF *Lessingia*, this is also viewed as a potential impact.

**Concern ID:** 30410

**CONCERN STATEMENT:** Commenters suggest that in urban areas like GGNRA, it is not necessarily appropriate to try and re-introduce listed species.

**Response:** The GGNRA mission statement (abbreviated version) does include the preservation of natural resources, which includes the protection of listed species: “The mission of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area is the preservation, unimpaired, of the natural and cultural resources, and scenic and recreation values, of the park for present and future generations to enjoy.” Therefore, although GGRNA is located in an urban area, the mission

includes both preservation of natural resources and recreation; a balance to both of these resources has been presented in the plan/EIS.

The reintroduction of listed wildlife or plant species may not be appropriate in certain areas of GGNRA, but if historical populations were once found at the park, if remnant habitat exists at the park, if current habitat could support listed species through restoration, and/or if the Recovery Plan for a particular listed species suggests/requires reintroduction, the park will consider reintroducing listed species at GGNRA.

**Concern ID:** 30411

**CONCERN STATEMENT:** It is believed that the majority of people walking dogs at GGNRA are responsible and protecting listed species at GGRNA.

For representative quotes, please see Concern 30388 (TE4000), Comment 209585.

**Response:** The Park does not doubt that many visitors at GGNRA are both responsible and do not affect listed species. However, as stated and acknowledged in the plan/EIS, there have been multiple instances at GGNRA where dogs disturbed listed species and have flushed or chased snowy plovers (a listed species) at Ocean Beach and Crissy Field as documented in NPS monitoring reports by Park Natural Resources Division (NPS 2008e; Hatch et al. 2006, 12; Hatch et al. 2007, 4-6; Hatch et al. 2008, 2-4). Potential impacts to listed plant species and their habitats have been described in the plan/EIS using the law enforcement (LE) data (includes leash law violations and warnings, citations, and reports taken on dog bites/attacks, dog rescues, and pet waste removal violations) in combination with “best professional judgment of park staff, experts in the field, recovery plans and actions for listed species, ongoing data collection for other projects, and other supporting literature (as cited in the text).”

**Concern ID:** 30412

**CONCERN STATEMENT:** Commenters do not agree that dogs are affecting the snowy plover [at Ocean Beach]; some commenters have been suggested that other disturbances (not just dogs) affect the snowy plover [at Ocean Beach].

**Response:** It has been stated in the plan/EIS that “It is important to note that dogs are viewed as a contributing factor to impacts associated with wildlife [and listed species], and the total elimination of dogs in the park would not eliminate effects on wildlife [and listed species], because visitors without dogs would continue to visit the park and use the trails/roads at GGNRA. Disturbance by all manner of visitors and any associated recreation equipment as well as by dogs has occurred and currently occurs in GGNRA as an existing condition. However, visitors with dogs could impact natural resources such as wildlife [and listed species] to a greater extent than visitors without dogs.”

As stated and acknowledged in the plan/EIS, there have been multiple instances at GGNRA where dogs have flushed or chased shorebirds or snowy plovers at Ocean Beach and Crissy Field as documented in NPS monitoring reports by Park Natural Resources Division (NPS 2008e; Hatch et al. 2006, 12; Hatch et al. 2007, 4-6; Hatch et al. 2008, 2-4)

**Concern ID:** 30413

**CONCERN STATEMENT:** It has been observed that dogs adversely affect vegetation in MBB habitat at Oakwood Valley and Alta Avenue.

**Response:** Adverse impacts to Mission blue butterfly habitat as a result of dogs have been described for the Alta Trail site as well as Oakwood Valley. As stated in the plan/EIS, “there is mapped mission blue butterfly habitat in the grassy hillsides between the Alta Trail and Oakwood Valley Fire Road, where social trails have connected the fire roads; these social trails are closed, but still experience use by both visitors and dogs (Merkle 2010b, 1). These grassy hillsides adjacent to Alta Trail (mapped mission blue butterfly habitat) are a favorite use area for commercial dog walkers, and fencing has been erected to exclude dogs from mission blue butterfly habitat (Merkle 2010b, 1). Therefore, the social trails in mission blue butterfly habitat that are used by dog walkers, particularly commercial dog walkers with voice controlled dogs, are potentially susceptible to physical disturbance by dogs.”

**Concern ID:** 30414

**CONCERN STATEMENT:** Commenters do not think seasonal closures adequately protect listed species at GGNRA and other measures should be taken to protect listed species.

**Response:** Time of use restrictions, including seasonal restrictions, can be difficult to enforce and is not a preferred management method. This management concept will still remain an option for dog management in the future, but seasonal closures are no longer part of the Preferred Alternative at any of the GGNRA sites (with the exception of the bank swallow seasonal closures at Fort Funston). For example, the SPPA at Ocean Beach will change from allowing dogs seasonally to not allowing dogs at all to protect the snowy plover and other shorebirds; the WPA at Crissy Field will change from allowing dogs seasonally to not allowing dogs at all to protect the snowy plover and other shorebirds, and dogs will no longer be allowed on the beach at Fort Funston north of the Beach Access Trail to protect the bank swallows (the seasonal closure would still be in effect).

**Concern ID:** 30415

**CONCERN STATEMENT:** Commenters do not agree with how the existing conditions (affected environment) and how dogs affect listed species have been described in the DEIS.

**Response:** It has been stated in the plan/EIS that “It is important to note that dogs are viewed as a contributing factor to impacts associated with wildlife [and listed species], and the total elimination of dogs in the park would not eliminate effects on wildlife [and listed species], because visitors without dogs would continue to visit the park and use the trails/roads at GGNRA. Disturbance by all manner of visitors and any associated recreation equipment as well as by dogs has occurred and currently occurs in GGNRA as an existing condition. However, visitors with dogs could impact natural resources such as wildlife [and listed species] to a greater extent than visitors without dogs.”

Potential impacts to listed species and their habitats have been described in the plan/EIS using the law enforcement (LE) data (includes leash law violations and warnings, citations, and reports taken on dog bites/attacks, dog rescues, and pet waste removal violations) in combination with “best professional judgment of park staff, experts in the field, recovery plans and actions for listed species, ongoing data collection for other projects, and other supporting literature (as cited in the text).” NPS observations and anecdotal evidence at GGNRA are also included and described by site, when available, and used in the impacts analysis. Also stated in the plan/EIS, when there is “no published documentation that dogs have either directly or indirectly affected” listed species at GGNRA sites, a range of impacts is presented to encompass possible effects to the species itself and to potential or existing habitat due to the sensitivity of listed species, and generally will range from negligible to adverse impacts. If dog use at the site precludes restoration or recovery of a listed species, this is also viewed as a potential impact. Impacts on special-status species were assessed in terms of changes in the amount and connectivity of special-status species habitat, integrity of the habitat (including past disturbance) and populations, and the potential for increased/decreased disturbance and number of individuals.

**Concern ID:** 30416

**CONCERN STATEMENT:** Commenters have observed or believe that dogs generally impact listed species at GGNRA.

**Response:** Potential impacts to listed species and their habitats have been described in the plan/EIS. These impacts were determined using the law enforcement (LE) data (includes leash law violations and warnings, citations, and reports taken on dog bites/attacks, dog rescues, and pet waste removal violations) in combination with “best professional judgment of park staff, experts in the field, recovery plans and actions for listed species, ongoing data collection for other projects, and other supporting literature (as cited in the text).” NPS observations and anecdotal evidence at GGNRA are also included and described by site, when available, and used in the impacts analysis. Also stated in the plan/EIS, when there is “no published documentation that dogs have either directly or indirectly affected” listed species at GGNRA sites, a range of impacts is presented to encompass possible effects to the species itself and to potential or existing habitat due to the sensitivity of listed species, and generally will range from negligible to adverse impacts. If dog use at the site precludes restoration or recovery of a listed species, this is also viewed as a potential impact. Impacts on special-status species were assessed in terms of changes in the amount and connectivity of special-status species habitat, integrity of the habitat (including past disturbance) and populations, and the potential for increased/decreased disturbance and number of individuals.

**Concern ID:** 30417

**CONCERN STATEMENT:** It has been suggested that off-leash recreation should be limited or enclosed to protect listed species at GGNRA.

**Response:** In this plan/EIS, areas closed to dogs have been developed and off-leash areas have been limited specifically to protect listed species and potential habitat at GGNRA. Some sensitive areas such as beaches have fences proposed to protect listed species and other beaches have restrictions that do not allow dogs. One of the main objective stated in the plan/EIS is to protect native wildlife and their habitat (including sensitive species and their habitat, and federally or state listed, unique, or rare species) from detrimental effects of dog use, including harassment or disturbance by dogs. The preferred alternatives in the plan/EIS for most sites at GGNRA do limit the access of dogs to areas in GGNRA, including having less off-leash dog areas. In addition, trails throughout the park generally would be closed to dog walking since there is a higher likelihood of impacts to adjacent resources and wildlife on other park users. For example, the SPPA at Ocean Beach will change from allowing dogs seasonally to not allowing dogs at all to protect the snowy plover and other shorebirds; the WPA at Crissy Field will change from allowing dogs seasonally to not allowing dogs at all to protect the snowy plover and other shorebirds, dogs will no longer be allowed on the beach at Fort Funston north of the Beach Access Trail to protect the bank swallows; and dogs will be required to be on leash at Muir Beach instead of off leash as currently allowed. Fences are appropriate and have been proposed in some locations such as between the ROLA and East Beach at Crissy Field and along the lagoon at Muir Beach to protect wildlife and habitat, but at some GGNRA sites they are not proposed because fences detract from the visitor experience at the park.

**Concern ID:** 30418

**CONCERN STATEMENT:** A commenter has noted that dogs can impact salmonid and frog species in the Big Lagoon and Redwood Creek.

For representative quotes, please see Concern 29245 (MB1100), Comment 181557.

**Response:** As stated in the plan/EIS, the park has closed the lagoon and Redwood Creek to visitors, “although it has been observed that these closures have been violated and dogs have accessed Redwood Creek; three incidents were recorded for dogs in a closed area in 2007/2008.” The fence along the beach side of lower Redwood Creek and the lagoon discourages visitors from accessing the water, but does not physically exclude dogs or visitors from this area. Impacts to listed salmonids as a result of the violation of these closures by dogs have been described in the plan/EIS at the Muir Beach site.

**Concern ID:** 31393

**CONCERN STATEMENT:** Commenters noted that the report did not account for historic species range of the Western Snowy Plover in the Presidio, and did not include scientific studies indicating this portion of the species area. Commenters also provided references of nesting by the Plover in San Francisco.

**Response:** NPS – should we look into this study and include this information?

**Concern ID:** 31814

**CONCERN STATEMENT:** Commenters believed there that dog recreation was not having an impact on the Mission Blue Butterfly [at Sweeney Ridge/Cattle Hill].

**Response:** When listed species or potential habitat is present at a GGNRA site, the site has moderate or high use by dogwalkers, and violations have occurred at the site, impacts are generally described as adverse to listed species. For example, the mission blue butterfly is known to occur along the Notch Trail at Sweeney Ridge and the host plants are known to occur in other areas at Sweeney Ridge (USFWS 1995, 3). Under current conditions, the Notch Trail is closed to dogs and on-leash dog walking is allowed on all other trails at Sweeney Ridge, including Mori Ridge Trail, Sweeney Ridge Trail, Sneath Lane, and Baquiano Trail. Sweeney Ridge/Cattle Hill has documented low to moderate use by dog walkers, and 55 leash law violations occurred in 2007/2008 (table 9). As a result of the moderate use of the site by dogwalkers, the violations that have occurred at the site, and the presence of mission

blue butterfly host plants at the site, adverse impacts on the mission blue butterfly at Sweeney Ridge would occur through damage to host plants and habitat in the trail beds and adjacent areas as a result of dogs.

Recent habitat surveys indicate that mission blue butterfly host plants are not present at Cattle Hill and, therefore, no impacts to the mission blue butterfly at Cattle Hill would occur because suitable habitat has not been documented at this site to date (NRM Environmental Consulting 2007, 2).

**Concern ID:** 31831

**CONCERN STATEMENT:** There is no evidence indicating the presence of Hickmans potentilla in the GGNRA. It should be removed from discussion of special status species.

**Response:** Even though there are no mapped occurrences of this plant at either the Mori Point or Pedro Point Headlands (Fritzke 2010c), suitable habitat to support Hickman’s potentilla occurs at both Mori Point and the Pedro Point Headlands (URS Corporation 2010, figure 19) and, therefore, this species is included in the impacts analysis. When listed species or potential habitat is present at a GGNRA site, this site has moderate or high use by dogwalkers, and violations have occurred at the site, impacts are generally described as adverse to listed species. As a result of the high use of the site by dogwalkers, the violations that have occurred at the site, and the presence of suitable habitat at the site, adverse impacts on Hickman’s potentilla at either Mori Point or Pedro Point Headlands would occur through trampling, digging, or dog waste while traversing the site and accessing unfenced seasonally wet areas where suitable habitat occurs.

#### ***TE4000 - Threatened and Endangered Species: Impact Of Proposal And Alternatives***

**Concern ID:** 30382

**CONCERN STATEMENT:** Commenters support Alternative A because they do not agree with the impacts analysis for listed species at GGNRA.

**Response:** Potential impacts to listed species and their habitats have been described in the plan/EIS for the action alternatives and the No Action Alternative (Alternative A). These impacts were determined using the law enforcement (LE) data (includes leash law violations and warnings, citations, and reports taken on dog bites/attacks, dog rescues, and pet waste removal violations) in combination with “best professional judgment of park staff, experts in the field, recovery plans and actions for listed species, ongoing data collection for other projects, and other supporting literature (as cited in the text).” NPS observations and anecdotal evidence at GGNRA are also included and described by site, when available, and used in the impacts analysis. Also stated in the plan/EIS, when there is “no published documentation that dogs have either directly or indirectly affected” listed species at GGNRA sites, a range of impacts is presented to encompass possible effects to the species itself and to potential or existing habitat due to the sensitivity of listed species, and generally will range from negligible to adverse impacts. If dog use at the site precludes restoration or recovery of a listed species, this is also viewed as a potential impact. Impacts on special-status species were assessed in terms of changes in the amount and connectivity of special-status species habitat, integrity of the habitat (including past disturbance) and populations, and the potential for increased/decreased disturbance and number of individuals.

**Concern ID:** 30383

**CONCERN STATEMENT:** Commenters support the Preferred Alternative because it would protect listed species at GGNRA.

**Response:** GGNRA has sought to provide a mix of visitor uses and experiences throughout the 22 areas addressed by the plan/EIS, and therefore, many of the preferred alternatives for the sites would continue to allow on-leash dog walking, off-leash dog walking, and/or no dog experiences at each of the sites.

In the plan/EIS, areas closed to dogs have been specifically described for certain sensitive areas to protect listed species and their habitat; the preferred alternatives in the plan/EIS for most sites at GGNRA do limit the access of dogs to areas in GGNRA. Specifically, the SPPA at Ocean Beach will change from allowing dogs seasonally to not allowing dogs at all to protect the snowy plover and other shorebirds; the WPA at Crissy Field will change from allowing dogs seasonally to not allowing dogs at all to protect the snowy plover and other shorebirds, dogs will no

longer be allowed on the beach at Fort Funston north of the Beach Access Trail to protect the bank swallows; and dogs will be required to be on leash at Muir Beach instead of off leash as currently allowed. In addition, trails throughout the park would generally be closed to dog walking since there is a higher likelihood of impacts to adjacent resources, including listed species, and on other park users.

**Concern ID:** 30384

**CONCERN STATEMENT:** Alternative D is supported because it provides the most protection for listed species (including the SF lessingia at Fort Funston; the snowy plover at Ocean Beach; the snowy plover at Crissy Field; the MBB at Oakwood Valley/Alta Ave.); some commenters also believe that the compliance rates should be higher than 75%.

**Response:** Comment noted.

**Concern ID:** 30385

**CONCERN STATEMENT:** It has been suggested that the DEIS does not provide an alternative that will adequately protect listed species (such as the snowy plover) and/or do not agree with the seasonal restrictions.

**Response:** In the plan/EIS, areas closed to dogs have been specifically described for certain sensitive areas to protect listed species and their habitat; the preferred alternatives in the plan/EIS for most sites at GGRNA do limit the access of dogs to areas in GGRNA. Seasonal restrictions can be difficult for visitors to understand and difficult for the Park to enforce. This management concept will still remain an option for dog management in the future, but seasonal closures are no longer part of the Preferred Alternative at any of the GGNRA sites (with the exception of the bank swallow seasonal closures at Fort Funston). For example, the SPPA at Ocean Beach will change from allowing dogs seasonally to not allowing dogs at all to protect the snowy plover and other shorebirds; the WPA at Crissy Field will change from allowing dogs seasonally to not allowing dogs at all to protect the snowy plover and other shorebirds, and dogs will no longer be allowed on the beach at Fort Funston north of the Beach Access Trail to protect the bank swallows (the seasonal closure would still be in effect). In addition, dogs will be required to be on leash at Muir Beach instead of off leash as currently allowed and trails throughout the park would generally be closed to dog walking since there is a higher likelihood of impacts to adjacent resources, including listed species, and on other park users.

**Concern ID:** 30386

**CONCERN STATEMENT:** It has been suggested that the proposed DEIS does not establish reasoning for the benefits to listed species as a result of stricter dog management.

**Response:** Need NPS input for response

**Concern ID:** 30388

**CONCERN STATEMENT:** In general, commenters do not agree with the impacts analysis of listed species (snowy plover, bank swallow) at GGRNA as a result of dogs in the DEIS because there is no scientific evidence connecting dog-related activities with the stated impacts.

**Response:** Potential impacts to listed species and their habitats have been described in the plan/EIS for the action alternatives and the No Action Alternative (Alternative A). These impacts were determined using the law enforcement (LE) data (includes leash law violations and warnings, citations, and reports taken on dog bites/attacks, dog rescues, and pet waste removal violations) in combination with “best professional judgment of park staff, experts in the field, recovery plans and actions for listed species, ongoing data collection for other projects, and other supporting literature (as cited in the text).” NPS observations and anecdotal evidence at GGNRA are also included and described by site, when available, and used in the impacts analysis. Also stated in the plan/EIS, when there is “no published documentation that dogs have either directly or indirectly affected” listed species at GGRNA sites, a range of impacts is presented to encompass possible effects to the species itself and to potential or existing habitat due to the sensitivity of listed species, and generally will range from negligible to adverse impacts. If dog

use at the site precludes restoration or recovery of a listed species, this is also viewed as a potential impact. Impacts on special-status species were assessed in terms of changes in the amount and connectivity of special-status species habitat, integrity of the habitat (including past disturbance) and populations, and the potential for increased/decreased disturbance and number of individuals.

**Concern ID:** 30390

**CONCERN STATEMENT:** In general, commenters do not agree with the impacts analysis of the snowy plover as a result of dogs because other impacts such as natural predators, human disturbance, horses, ATVs, etc. are also present at the park.

**Response:** As the commenters note, other uses also impact resources at GGNRA, however, this plan/EIS addresses dog management, not other visitor uses. It has been stated in the plan/EIS that “It is important to note that dogs are viewed as a contributing factor to impacts associated with wildlife, and the total elimination of dogs in the park would not eliminate effects on wildlife, because visitors without dogs would continue to visit the park and use the trails/roads at GGNRA. Disturbance by all manner of visitors and any associated recreation equipment as well as by dogs has occurred and currently occurs in GGNRA as an existing condition. However, visitors with dogs could impact natural resources such as wildlife [and listed species] to a greater extent than visitors without dogs.”

As stated and acknowledged in the plan/EIS, there have been multiple instances at GGNRA where dogs have flushed or chased shorebirds or snowy plovers at Ocean Beach and Crissy Field as documented in NPS monitoring reports by Park Natural Resources Division (NPS 2008e; Hatch et al. 2006, 12; Hatch et al. 2007, 4-6; Hatch et al. 2008, 2-4) and impacts to snowy plovers as a result of dogs are described in detail in the plan/EIS.

**Concern ID:** 30391

**CONCERN STATEMENT:** Commenters do not agree with the impacts analysis for the MBB at Sweeney Ridge and believes that dogs do not affect this species.

**Response:** When listed species or potential habitat is present at a GGNRA site, the site has moderate or high use by dogwalkers, and violations have occurred at the site, impacts are generally described as adverse to listed species. For example, the mission blue butterfly is known to occur along the Notch Trail at Sweeney Ridge and the host plants are known to occur in other areas at Sweeney Ridge (USFWS 1995, 3). Under current conditions, the Notch Trail is closed to dogs and on-leash dog walking is allowed on all other trails at Sweeney Ridge, including Mori Ridge Trail, Sweeney Ridge Trail, Sneath Lane, and Baquiano Trail. Sweeney Ridge/Cattle Hill has documented low to moderate use by dog walkers, and 55 leash law violations occurred in 2007/2008 (table 9). As a result of the moderate use of the site by dogwalkers, the violations that have occurred at the site, and the presence of mission blue butterfly host plants at the site, adverse impacts on the mission blue butterfly at Sweeney Ridge would occur through damage to host plants and habitat in the trail beds and adjacent areas as a result of dogs.

**Concern ID:** 30393

**CONCERN STATEMENT:** Commenters do not agree that off-leash dogs disturb the bank swallows at Fort Funston and/or that other disturbances affect the bank swallow (crows/ravens, natural occurrences), or that effective signage/fences can mitigate for potential impacts.

**Response:** It has been stated in the plan/EIS that “It is important to note that dogs are viewed as a contributing factor to impacts associated with wildlife, and the total elimination of dogs in the park would not eliminate effects on wildlife, because visitors without dogs would continue to visit the park and use the trails/roads at GGNRA. Disturbance by all manner of visitors and any associated recreation equipment as well as by dogs has occurred and currently occurs in GGNRA as an existing condition. However, visitors with dogs could impact natural resources such as wildlife [and listed species] to a greater extent than visitors without dogs.”

Potential impacts to bank swallows and their habitat have been described in the plan/EIS using “best professional judgment of park staff, experts in the field, recovery plans and actions for listed species, ongoing data collection for other projects, and other supporting literature (as cited in the text).” Also stated in the plan/EIS, there is documentation “by park personnel that people and dogs access the bluff tops and even gain access to the beach from the trails above the bluff area.....and during the monthly bird surveys at Fort Funston, dogs were recorded in

restricted areas, and on many occasions, both dogs and humans were observed inside the restricted areas (USGS 2004). . . . resulting in some local disturbances to the bank swallow colony, and there have been numerous recent instances where hazardous conditions/pet rescues have occurred at Fort Funston, which result in further disturbance to the colony during the breeding season.”

**Concern ID:** 30394

**CONCERN STATEMENT:** Commenters do not agree that off-leash dogs will affect the western snowy plover [effective signage is appropriate mitigation at the Crissy Field and Ocean Beach].

**Response:** As stated and acknowledged in the plan/EIS, there have been multiple instances at GGNRA where dogs have flushed or chased shorebirds or snowy plovers at Ocean Beach and Crissy Field as documented in NPS monitoring reports by Park Natural Resources Division (NPS 2008e; Hatch et al. 2006, 12; Hatch et al. 2007, 4-6; Hatch et al. 2008, 2-4) and impacts to snowy plovers as a result of dogs are described in detail in the plan/EIS.

**Concern ID:** 30395

**CONCERN STATEMENT:** It has been suggested that since the SF *Lessingia* is not present at Fort Funston there should be no impacts to this plant or that effective fencing could protect listed plant species at Fort Funston.

**Response:** It has been stated in the plan/EIS that “It is important to note that dogs are viewed as a contributing factor to impacts associated with wildlife [and listed species], and the total elimination of dogs in the park would not eliminate effects on wildlife [and listed species], because visitors without dogs would continue to visit the park and use the trails/roads at GGNRA. Disturbance by all manner of visitors and any associated recreation equipment as well as by dogs has occurred and currently occurs in GGNRA as an existing condition. However, visitors with dogs could impact natural resources such as wildlife [and listed species] to a greater extent than visitors without dogs.”

Potential impacts to listed plant species and their habitats have been described in the plan/EIS using the law enforcement (LE) data (includes leash law violations and warnings, citations, and reports taken on dog bites/attacks, dog rescues, and pet waste removal violations) in combination with “best professional judgment of park staff, experts in the field, recovery plans and actions for listed species, ongoing data collection for other projects, and other supporting literature (as cited in the text).” Also stated in the plan/EIS, when there is “no published documentation that dogs have either directly or indirectly affected” listed species at GGRNA sites, a range of impacts is presented to encompass possible effects to the species itself and to potential or existing habitat due to the sensitivity of listed species, and generally will range from negligible to adverse impacts. If dog use at the site precludes restoration or recovery of a listed species as occurs with SF *Lessingia*, this is also viewed as a potential impact.

**Concern ID:** 30397

**CONCERN STATEMENT:** Commenters have requested that off-leash dogs be prohibited/limited (in the park or in certain areas that support listed species), ROLAs should be enclosed, or leashes should be required to protect listed species at GGNRA.

**Response:** In this plan/EIS, areas closed to dogs have been specified and off-leash areas have been limited specifically to protect listed species and potential habitat at GGNRA. Some sensitive areas such as beaches have fences proposed to protect listed species and other beaches have restrictions that do not allow dogs. One of the main objective stated in the plan/EIS is to protect native wildlife and their habitat (including sensitive species and their habitat, and federally or state listed, unique, or rare species) from detrimental effects of dog use, including harassment or disturbance by dogs. The preferred alternatives in the plan/EIS for most sites at GGRNA do limit the access of dogs to areas in GGRNA, including having less off-leash dog areas. In addition, trails throughout the park generally would be closed to dog walking since there is a higher likelihood of impacts to adjacent resources and wildlife on other park users. For example, the SPPA at Ocean Beach will change from allowing dogs seasonally to not allowing dogs at all to protect the snowy plover and other shorebirds; the WPA at Crissy Field will change from

allowing dogs seasonally to not allowing dogs at all to protect the snowy plover and other shorebirds, dogs will no longer be allowed on the beach at Fort Funston north of the Beach Access Trail to protect the bank swallows; and dogs will be required to be on leash at Muir Beach instead of off leash as currently allowed. Fences are appropriate and have been proposed in some locations such as between the ROLA and East Beach at Crissy Field and along the lagoon at Muir Beach to protect wildlife and habitat, but at some GGNRA sites they are not proposed because fences detract from the visitor experience at the park.

30398

**Concern ID:**

**CONCERN STATEMENT:** Commenters do not agree with the impacts analysis for either the CA red-legged frog or the SF garter snake at Mori Point.

**Response:** It has been stated in the plan/EIS that “It is important to note that dogs are viewed as a contributing factor to impacts associated with wildlife [and listed species], and the total elimination of dogs in the park would not eliminate effects on wildlife [and listed species], because visitors without dogs would continue to visit the park and use the trails/roads at GGNRA. Disturbance by all manner of visitors and any associated recreation equipment as well as by dogs has occurred and currently occurs in GGNRA as an existing condition. However, visitors with dogs could impact natural resources such as wildlife [and listed species] to a greater extent than visitors without dogs.”

Potential impacts to the CA red-legged frog and SF garter snake and their habitats have been described in the plan/EIS using the law enforcement (LE) data (includes leash law violations and warnings, citations, and reports taken on dog bites/attacks, dog rescues, and pet waste removal violations) in combination with “best professional judgment of park staff, experts in the field, recovery plans and actions for listed species, ongoing data collection for other projects, and other supporting literature (as cited in the text).” Also stated in the plan/EIS, when there is “no published documentation that dogs have either directly or indirectly affected” listed species at GGRNA sites, a range of impacts is presented to encompass possible effects to the species itself and to potential or existing habitat due to the sensitivity of listed species, and generally will range from negligible to adverse impacts. If dog use at the site precludes restoration or recovery of a listed species, this is also viewed as a potential impact.

**Concern ID:** 30400

**CONCERN STATEMENT:** Some commenters have stated it is the park's mission to protect listed species at GGNRA and that a compliance rate of 75% is too low.

**Response:** The GGNRA mission statement (abbreviated version) does include the preservation of natural resources, which includes the protection of listed species: “The mission of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area is the preservation, unimpaired, of the natural and cultural resources, and scenic and recreation values, of the park for present and future generations to enjoy.”

In the plan/EIS, areas closed to dogs have been specifically described for certain sensitive areas to protect listed species and their habitat; the preferred alternatives in the plan/EIS for most sites at GGRNA do limit the access of dogs to areas in GGRNA. Specifically, the SPPA at Ocean Beach will change from allowing dogs seasonally to not allowing dogs at all to protect the snowy plover and other shorebirds; the WPA at Crissy Field will change from allowing dogs seasonally to not allowing dogs at all to protect the snowy plover and other shorebirds, dogs will no longer be allowed on the beach at Fort Funston north of the Beach Access Trail to protect the bank swallows; and dogs will be required to be on leash at Muir Beach instead of off leash as currently allowed. In addition, trails throughout the park would generally be closed to dog walking since there is a higher likelihood of impacts to adjacent resources, including listed species, and on other park users.

Vegetation and Riparian Areas Concern Statements and Potential Responses:

**VR2010 - Vegetation and Riparian Areas: Affected Environment**

**Concern ID:** 29620

**CONCERN STATEMENT:** Dogs are often seen impacting flora and riparian areas through digging, urinating and defecating, and trampling of plants in areas where dogs are not permitted. Dogs negatively impact native plant species, which are fragile when recently planted.

**Response:** As stated in the plan/EIS, potential impacts to vegetation would occur as a result of disturbance by dogs through trampling, digging, or dog waste, and nutrient addition. Many of the Preferred Alternatives would either prohibit or limit dog access at the park, which would likely reduce or eliminate dog waste and nutrient additions to the soil and vegetation. It is assumed that future management alternatives with leash control and/or voice and sight control would reduce dog waste and nutrient addition in comparison to current voice-control restrictions because owners would be in closer contact with their dogs and presumably would be more likely to comply with cleanup regulations.

**Concern ID:** 29621

**CONCERN STATEMENT:** There are many areas with fragile newly planted native vegetation. When dogs run unleashed through these areas, they impact the ability of this planted vegetation to grow.

**Response:** Under the preferred alternatives, areas closed to dogs have been specifically developed to protect wildlife as well as native vegetation. Sensitive areas such as the lagoon at Muir Beach are closed to dogs, some sites have fences proposed to protect wildlife or vegetation, and other sensitive areas such as beaches have restrictions that do not allow dogs. One of the main objectives stated in the plan/EIS is to protect native wildlife and their habitat (including vegetation) from detrimental effects of dog use. The preferred alternative in the plan/EIS for most sites at GGRNA does limit the access of dogs to areas in GGRNA. In addition, trails throughout the park would generally be closed to dog walking since there is a higher likelihood of impacts to adjacent resources such as wildlife and vegetation as well as other park users. Concentrating dog use in ROLAs, creating areas closed to dogs in sensitive habitats, and not allowing dogs on trails would protect wildlife and native vegetation at GGRNA.

**Concern ID:** 29622

**CONCERN STATEMENT:** Impacts to vegetation and riparian areas are vastly overstated in the plan. The vegetation present at many sites in the GGRNA is non-native. Dogs are well-behaved and under the control of their owners, who respect fenced off areas and native plantings.

**Response:** Potential impacts to vegetation have been described in the plan/EIS using the law enforcement (LE) data (includes leash law violations and warnings, citations, and reports taken on dog bites/attacks, dog rescues, and pet waste removal violations) in combination with “best professional judgment of park staff, experts in the field, ongoing data collection for other projects, and other supporting literature (as cited in the text).” NPS observations and anecdotal evidence at GGRNA are also included and described by site, when available, and used in the impacts analysis. Data on frequency of disturbance of closed areas (specific habitat types, such as creeks, lagoons, and cliffs) in a particular park site, if available, have been incorporated with relevant scientific literature to predict the impact of dog management activities on vegetation. Where data on the frequency of disturbance are not available, information from park staff and visitors on the relative intensity of use by visitors and the relative number of dogs both on and off leash has been used to predict impacts.

**Concern ID:** 29623

**CONCERN STATEMENT:** People and other natural factors have a much greater impact on vegetation and riparian areas than dogs. Families, events, non-native species, and the elements all impact vegetation in the parks, not just dogs.

**Response:** As the commenters note, other uses also impact resources at GGNRA, however, this plan/EIS addresses dog management, not other visitor uses. It has been stated in the plan/EIS that “It is important to note that dogs are viewed as a contributing factor to impacts associated with wildlife, and the total elimination of dogs in the park would not eliminate effects on wildlife, because visitors without dogs would continue to visit the park and use the trails/roads at GGNRA. Disturbance by all manner of visitors and any associated recreation equipment as well as by dogs has occurred and currently occurs in GGNRA as an existing condition. However, visitors with dogs could impact natural resources such as wildlife [and listed species] to a greater extent than visitors without dogs.” Disturbance by all manner of visitors and any associated recreation equipment as well as by dogs has occurred and currently occurs in GGNRA as an existing condition. However, visitors with dogs could impact natural resources such as vegetation to a greater extent than visitors without dogs.

**VR4000 - Vegetation And Riparian Areas: Impact Of Proposal And Alternatives**

**Concern ID:** 29625

**CONCERN STATEMENT:** Concentrating dogs into smaller spaces will result in greater impacts to vegetation within these restricted spaces. These areas will receive more wear and tear as a result.

For additional representative quotes, please see Concern 29507 (GR4000), Comment 192048

**Response:** Under the preferred alternatives, the locations of ROLAs were specifically developed in areas that have already been disturbed, in areas with low wildlife activity, and were not located in habitat restoration areas. Concentrating dog use in ROLAs, creating areas closed to dogs in sensitive habitats, and not allowing dogs on trails would in general protect sensitive vegetation at GGNRA.

**Concern ID:** 29626

**CONCERN STATEMENT:** Measures restricting dogs are necessary to protect the native vegetation found in the GGNRA. These areas should not be subject to the impacts of dogs and humans for their protection

**Response:** Under the preferred alternatives, areas closed to dogs have been specifically developed to protect wildlife as well as native vegetation. Sensitive areas such as the lagoon at Muir Beach are closed to dogs, some sites have fences proposed to protect wildlife or vegetation, and other sensitive areas such as beaches have restrictions that do not allow dogs. One of the main objectives stated in the plan/EIS is to protect native wildlife and their habitat (including vegetation) from detrimental effects of dog use. The preferred alternative in the plan/EIS for most sites at GGNRA does limit the access of dogs to areas in GGNRA. Specifically, the SPPA at Ocean Beach will change from allowing dogs seasonally to not allowing dogs at all; the WPA at Crissy Field will change from allowing dogs seasonally to not allowing dogs at all, dogs will no longer be allowed on the beach at Fort Funston north of the Beach Access Trail; and dogs will be required to be on leash at Muir Beach instead of off leash as currently allowed. In addition, trails throughout the park would generally be closed to dog walking since there is a higher likelihood of impacts to adjacent resources such as wildlife and vegetation as well as other park users. Concentrating dog use in

ROLAs, creating areas closed to dogs in sensitive habitats, and not allowing dogs on trails would protect wildlife and native vegetation at GGNRA.

**Concern ID:** 29627

**CONCERN STATEMENT:** Marshes, dunes, and other fragile vegetated habitats are often full of dogs. It is important to both remove dogs from this area to protect vegetation and wildlife habitat. In many cases, commenters noted that the preferred alternative would still have impacts on flora, and suggested that alternative D be chosen instead.

For representative quotes, please see Concern 29475 (CF1400), Comment 203616; Concern 29238 (OV1300), Comment 209388; Concern 29238 (RB1300), Comment 209389; Concern 29458 (CF1200), Comment 209391; Concern 29424 (FF1200), Comment 209393

**Response:** Under the preferred alternatives, areas closed to dogs have been specifically developed to protect wildlife and wildlife habitat, including sensitive vegetation. Sensitive areas such as the lagoon at Muir Beach are closed to dogs, some sites have fences proposed to protect wildlife or vegetation, and other sensitive areas such as beaches that support shorebirds have restrictions that do not allow dogs. One of the main objectives stated in the plan/EIS is to protect native wildlife and their habitat (including sensitive vegetation) from detrimental effects of dog use. The preferred alternative in the plan/EIS for most sites at GGRNA does limit the access of dogs to areas in GGRNA. Specifically, the SPPA at Ocean Beach will change from allowing dogs seasonally to not allowing dogs at all to protect the snowy plover and other shorebirds; the WPA at Crissy Field will change from allowing dogs seasonally to not allowing dogs at all to protect the snowy plover and other shorebirds, dogs will no longer be allowed on the beach at Fort Funston north of the Beach Access Trail to protect the bank swallows; and dogs will be required to be on leash at Muir Beach instead of off leash as currently allowed. The locations of ROLAs were specifically developed in areas that have already been disturbed, in areas with low wildlife activity, and were not located in habitat restoration areas. In addition, trails throughout the park would generally be closed to dog walking since there is a higher likelihood of impacts to adjacent resources such as wildlife and vegetation as well as other park users. Concentrating dog use in ROLAs, creating areas closed to dogs in sensitive habitats, and not allowing dogs on trails would protect wildlife and sensitive vegetation at GGNRA.

**Concern ID:** 29628

**CONCERN STATEMENT:** Some areas do not contain endangered plants, so there is no need to ban off leash dog walking. The removal of ice plant and other habitat restoration projects have negative impacts by causing more sand to blow around in areas where this occurs.

**Response:** Two of the goals of GGNRA dog management planning were to allow dog walking while providing a variety of visitor uses and experiences throughout the 22 areas addressed by the plan/EIS. Therefore, many of the preferred alternatives would continue to allow on-leash dog walking, off-leash dog walking, and would provide a no dog experience throughout the sites. Off-leash dogwalking is not being banned at GGNRA and many of the preferred alternatives provide for off-leash dogwalking activities. The NPS acknowledges that while habitat restoration projects may indeed have some short-term adverse impacts through soil disturbance, the long-term benefits of removing non-native plant species far outweighs the short-term effects.

**Draft Memorandum**  
**October 30, 2006**

**To: Sarah Bransom**  
**Program Manager**

**From: Thomas Flanagan**  
**EQD Intern**

**Subject: The Effectiveness of Voice Control: A review of the related literature**

Per a request by the Golden Gate National Recreation Area Dog Management technical subcommittee, I have prepared a review of readily available literature on the subject of effectiveness of voice control of dogs under certain situations relevant to this project.

In the last decade, a number of cities, including Santa Cruz, California; Seattle, Washington; and Boulder, Colorado have opened select city parks and open space to off-leash dogs under voice-control. Although the definitions of voice control used by such municipalities differ, they typically require for the dog to be under the complete and immediate control of the guardian at all times. Some require the dog to physically be within sight or a specified distance of the guardian (City of Santa Cruz, 2006; Seattle Parks and Recreation, 2006; City of Boulder, 2006).

The increasing number of municipalities allowing for off-leash recreation implies a belief that dogs can be effectively controlled by voice. However, a review of relevant literature reveals that there is disagreement among parks managers and dog experts on whether or not dogs can in fact be effectively controlled by voice in an off-leash recreational setting.

Handy (2001) argued that voice control is an inadequate and unreliable method of restraint and should not be permitted. Because dogs are animals with basic predatory, sexual, and territorial defense drives, only the physical restraint provided by a leash can,

according to Handy, ensure control over a dog in the event that such a drive is triggered. Foster (2006) summarized an argument against off-leash dogs made by California State Parks. According to California State Park's position, stated in its Operations Manual, only the physical restraint of dogs can ensure that a dog will not harass and injure humans and wildlife.

Those that argue that voice control can be effectively maintained in the off-leash setting typically acknowledge the concerns of voice control detractors, but claim that risks can be mitigated in the off-leash setting. Researchers from the University of California, Davis (2004) suggested strategies including clearly posted rules and a limit of three off-leash dogs per guardian as ways to promote effective voice control. Scriggins and Murray (2000) claimed that off-leash programs can be successful provided the municipality offers users appropriate levels of instruction, signage, and publicity regarding the program. During a pilot study of off-leash areas in Townsville, Australia, Scriggins and Murray conducted a survey of users. Results indicated that in the minds of guardians, voice control was indeed effective. The researchers asked users to rate the obedience of their dogs to voice commands. At one site, 84% of users rated their dogs as "always obedient" or "most times obedient" while under voice control. At a second site, 78% of users rated their dogs as "always obedient" or "most times obedient."

According to King and Long (2004), when voice control does break down, it is typically the fault of the guardian. They claimed that two key limiting factors to maintaining voice control are the guardian's level of knowledge and attentiveness. They claimed that many guardians do not pay adequate attention to their dogs in the off-leash setting, or do not have an idea of what constitutes proper behavior or good play. Such

deficits in attention and knowledge limit the guardian's ability to maintain voice control. According to their argument, a well-trained and attentive owner can, in most circumstances, effectively maintain voice control in a well-designed off-leash area. They conceded that break-downs in voice control can occur that are not the fault of the guardian. Dogs in off-leash settings occasionally become so excited in the course of play that they are unable to calm down, regardless of the degree to which the guardian can typically maintain voice control. In other words, even with the most skilled and conscientious guardian, voice control cannot be maintained at all times in all situations.

Although the topic of voice control and off-leash dog recreation is the subject of a variety of published books and articles, a review of the scientific literature yielded no empirical studies that specifically address the question of whether voice control can be effectively maintained in the off-leash recreational setting. There are, however, empirical studies that address topics relevant to the issue of voice control. Specifically, the literature addresses the topics of moderators of dog responsiveness to verbal commands, behavior of off-leash dogs towards humans, and behavior of off-leash dogs towards other animals.

Fukuzawa *et al* (2004) investigated the impact of non-verbal variables on the responsiveness of dogs to verbal commands. They found that dogs were less likely to respond to verbal commands if the dog was not within the line of sight of the person giving the command. Viranyi *et al* (2004) also performed research on the response of dogs to non-verbal variables, specifically visual range and attention. In an experiment employing dogs and their guardians, the researchers found that dogs who consistently obeyed verbal commands while under the direct gaze of their guardians were less likely

to obey in situations where the guardian faced away from or was visibly separated from the dog. They concluded that dogs are capable of recognizing and differentiating levels of human attention. Although neither study was designed to examine off-leash recreation, the results imply that a guardian's ability to maintain voice control in an off-leash recreational setting will decrease if guardian and dog are not within sight of one another, or if the guardian is not paying attention to the dog.

Vas *et al* (2005) examined the response of off-leash dogs to unfamiliar humans. They found that dog response to an approaching unfamiliar human changed based on the tenor of the approach. Dogs approached in a friendly manner (meaning the human walked towards the dog at a normal pace, talked to the dog, and petted it) tended to act passively to the situation. Conversely, dogs approached in threatening manner (meaning the human moved slowly and haltingly towards the dog, stared into its eyes, and made no verbal contact) reacted with aggression or avoidance. Again, the study was not designed to examine off-leash recreational settings. However, the results of the study suggest that some elements of dog behavior may be beyond the control of the guardian in an off-leash setting where unfamiliar humans are present.

Lafferty (2002) studied the impact of dog recreation, among other forms of human-related activity, on shorebirds in Southern California. He found that dogs were a more common source of disturbance to birds than humans, likely because birds identify dogs, but not humans, as predators. Among dogs, off-leash dogs were more likely to disturb dogs than leashed dogs, and off-leash dogs typically impacted a greater number of birds per disturbance. Although Lafferty did not directly address the effectiveness of voice control in his study, he did label off-leash recreation a high impact activity, and

suggested reducing frequency of off-leash dogs as a way to mitigate disturbance to shorebirds.

There is no clear consensus on the question of whether or not voice control can be effectively maintained in the off-leash recreational setting. Some park managers and animal experts claim that physical restraint is the only effective means of control. Others claim that with clear rules and proper levels of guardian education, voice control can be largely effective. Although the scientific literature refers to issues pertinent to voice control, there unfortunately exist no empirical studies directly aimed at testing the degree to which voice control is effective.

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A72 (GOGA-CP)

Martha Walters, Crissy Field Dog Group  
Bill Bechtell, Montara Dog Group  
P.O. Box 475372  
San Francisco, California 94147

Dear Martha and Bill:

This is in response to your July 23, 2013 letter in which you again expressed your concern over the No Action alternative that will appear in the upcoming Supplemental EIS for the Dog Management Plan at Golden Gate.

As you know, we disagree with the premise of your argument on what constitutes the No Action alternative, as we described in our July 3, 2013 response to Congresswoman Speier. However, the historic use of Rancho Corral de Tierra for dog walking prior to acquisition by Golden Gate does factor into the impacts analysis through cumulative impacts, which include past actions.

We will be publishing the Supplemental EIS soon, and encourage your thorough review and comment on the No Action issue and any others at that time.

Sincerely,

Frank Dean  
General Superintendent

Copies to:  
Congresswoman Jackie Speier  
Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi  
Senator Dianne Feinstein  
Senator Barbara Boxer  
Congressman Jared Huffman  
Jon Jarvis, Director, NPS  
Christine Lehanertz, Regional Director, NPS Pacific West Region  
Supervisor Scott Wiener  
Dr. Jennifer Scarlett, San Francisco SPCA  
Nancy McKenny, Marin Humane Society  
Ken White, Peninsula Humane Society  
Rebecca Katz, San Francisco Animal Care and Control

Wildlife Resources Concern Statements and Potential Responses:

***WH2010 - Wildlife and Wildlife Habitat: Affected Environment***

**Concern ID:** 30481

**CONCERN**

**STATEMENT:**

Dogs chase wildlife in the GGNRA, including shorebirds and rabbits. Dogs also harass marine mammals. Dogs also dig into burrows, tear up vegetation important to species, and affect the smells of the park for wildlife. Even if the dogs do not catch the wildlife, they cause wildlife stress, which can lead to less breeding, smaller fat reserves, and other impacts that can lessen survival.

**Response:** It is true and stated in the plan/EIS that dog presence at a site and on-leash dogs would still be able to disturb wildlife and/or cause a flight response through their presence on the beach or other habitats and by lunging/barking at roosting, resting, and feeding wildlife. However, areas closed to dogs have been specifically developed in certain sensitive areas to protect wildlife and wildlife habitat; the preferred alternatives in the plan/EIS for most sites at GGRNA do limit the access of dogs to areas in GGRNA. Specifically, the SPPA at Ocean Beach will change from allowing dogs seasonally to not allowing dogs at all to protect the snowy plover and other shorebirds; the WPA at Crissy Field will change from allowing dogs seasonally to not allowing dogs at all to protect the snowy plover and other shorebirds, dogs will no longer be allowed on the beach at Fort Funston north of the Beach Access Trail to protect the bank swallows; and dogs will be required to be on leash at Muir Beach instead of off leash as currently allowed.

For sites that do allow dogs, on-leash dog walking restrictions would physically restrain dogs, reducing direct impacts on wildlife and wildlife habitat, and should also eliminate any potential chasing after wildlife. As stated in the plan/EIS, if dogs chase or pursue wildlife, injuries to wildlife could be sustained directly or indirectly as a result of accidents that occur during the chase rather than direct contact with the dog. Injuries sustained may result in death or may compromise the animal's ability to carry on other necessary life functions resulting in eventual death, or reduced reproductive success. Even if dogs do not catch, but only chase birds and other wildlife, the modification of normal behaviors such as feeding, nesting, grooming, resting can occur through repeated disturbance and wildlife may relocate from preferred habitat to other areas to avoid harassment, including the displacement of wildlife from public to private lands (Sime 1999, 8.4). However, when compliance is assumed (on-leash requirements are followed and dogs stay in designated ROLAs), the management alternatives would prohibit dogs from accessing wildlife habitats and would reduce or eliminate disturbance to wildlife from dogs chasing after wildlife, and barking at wildlife, as well as potential direct or indirect mortality as a result of dog/wildlife encounters. Prohibiting dogs from areas also prevents habitat degradation and loss of species that are sensitive to the presence of dogs.

**Concern ID:** 30482

**CONCERN**

**STATEMENT:**

Dogs scare away wildlife by chasing, barking, and even their scent, which alerts prey to a predator in the area. Dogs can find wildlife humans cannot see or smell, and their scent can deter wildlife from occupying an area. Many people who seek out wildlife watching opportunities have found that the presence of dogs significantly detracts from this experience. Many commenters noted that owners were either oblivious or actively ignoring the rules about wildlife.

**Response:** Two of the goals of GGNRA dog management planning were to allow dog walking while providing a variety of visitor uses and experiences throughout the 22 areas addressed by plan/EIS. Therefore, many of the preferred alternatives would continue to allow on-leash dog walking, off-leash dog walking, and a no dog experience throughout the sites. It is true that dog presences at a site and on-leash dogs would still be able to disturb wildlife and/or cause a flight response through their presence on the beach or other habitats and by lunging/barking at roosting, resting, and feeding wildlife. It is also possible that native carnivores may be avoiding trailheads where dog activity is concentrated (Lenth et al. 2008, 223) and that a ROLA may lead to avoidance of the surrounding area by wildlife due to the concentration of dogs and noise as well as the elevated amount of dog waste and scent marking. However, the locations of ROLAs were specifically developed in areas that have already been disturbed, in areas with low wildlife activity, and were not located in habitat restoration areas. In addition, areas closed to dogs have been specifically developed to protect wildlife and wildlife habitat, and would provide a no dog experience to

visitors who do not want to be in the vicinity of dogs. Also, trails throughout the park would generally be closed to dog walking since there is a higher likelihood of impacts to adjacent resources such as wildlife and on other park users. Concentrating dog use in ROLAs, creating areas closed to dogs in sensitive habitats, and not allowing dogs on trails would protect wildlife at GGNRA.

During implementation of the Dog Management Plan, GGNRA would establish a long-term public outreach campaign to help educate and inform the public about new dog walking regulations within the sites. These new dog walking regulations would be enforced by NPS to ensure compliance. New regulatory and interpretive signs would be developed for dog walking areas with consistent design and style that is clear and concise so the public can understand the regulations at each site.

**Concern ID:** 30483  
**CONCERN** Even when dogs chase birds and other wildlife, they rarely, if ever, catch them.  
**STATEMENT:** Some visitors felt that it was satisfying to watch the dogs playing with the birds on the beach, while others noted that dog owners were quick to stop the behavior if their dog was chasing birds.

**Response:** Under 36 CFR, Chapter I (National Park Service, Department Of The Interior), Part 2—(Resource Protection, Public Use and Recreation), Section 2.2 (Wildlife Protection), the following is illegal: “touching, teasing, frightening, or intentional disturbing of wildlife nesting, breeding, or other activities.” Therefore, it is illegal to allow dogs on the beach to “play” with birds, as this intentionally disturbs wildlife. As stated in the plan/EIS, if dogs chase or pursue wildlife, injuries to wildlife could be sustained directly or indirectly as a result of accidents that occur during the chase rather than direct contact with the dog. Injuries sustained may result in death or may compromise the animal’s ability to carry on other necessary life functions resulting in eventual death, or reduced reproductive success. Even if dogs do not catch, but only chase birds and other wildlife, the modification of normal behaviors such as feeding, nesting, grooming, resting can occur through repeated disturbance and wildlife may relocate from preferred habitat to other areas to avoid harassment, including the displacement of wildlife from public to private lands (Sime 1999, 8.4).

**Concern ID:** 30484  
**CONCERN** The statement that dogs affect wildlife is unfounded. This assertion should be  
**STATEMENT:** proven with site-specific examples in the EIS. The impacts of dogs need to be compared to the impacts of other user groups. The examples given of incidents with dogs and wildlife do not show a large impact, particularly when compared to other factors.

**Response:** As the commenters note, other uses also impact resources at GGNRA, however, this plan/EIS addresses dog management, not other visitor uses. It has been stated in the plan/EIS that “It is important to note that dogs are viewed as a contributing factor to impacts associated with wildlife. It has been stated in the plan/EIS that “It is important to note that dogs are viewed as a contributing factor to impacts associated with wildlife, and the total elimination of dogs in the park would not eliminate effects on wildlife, because visitors without dogs would continue to visit the park and use the trails/roads at GGNRA. Disturbance by all manner of visitors and any associated recreation equipment as well as by dogs has occurred and currently occurs in GGNRA as an existing condition. However, visitors with dogs could impact natural resources such as wildlife to a greater extent than visitors without dogs.”

A literature review was completed to document the impacts that dogs have on wildlife. This literature review was completed by a contractor outside of NPS and presents a summary of the literature available for documentation that dogs affect wildlife and documentation that dogs may not affect wildlife. Both views along with proper documentation were presented in the plan/EIS and were used in the impacts analysis for wildlife. In addition, knowledge and direct observations from NPS staff at the sites as well as Law Enforcement data collected by NPS were also used to determine impacts on wildlife. EA will add to this response after plan/EIS text is updated with new Literature Review Studies and new LE data

**Concern ID:** 30485

**CONCERN  
STATEMENT:**

If dogs were prohibited from some areas, it would give wildlife, particularly nesting shorebirds, a new place to repopulate, increasing the numbers of wildlife in the area. There are plenty of places dogs and their owners can go, but the wildlife does not have this choice. Dogs are not part of the natural ecosystem, and should be limited in their access to areas in the GGNRA to lessen their impact on wildlife.

**Response:** Two of the goals of GGNRA dog management planning were to allow dog walking while providing a variety of visitor uses and experiences throughout the 22 areas addressed by plan/EIS. Therefore, many of the preferred alternatives would continue to allow on-leash dog walking, off-leash dog walking, and a no dog experience throughout the sites. Areas closed to dogs have been specifically developed to protect wildlife and wildlife habitat, including listed species and critical habitat. Sensitive areas such as the lagoon at Muir Beach are closed to dogs, some sites have fences proposed to protect wildlife, and other sensitive areas such as beaches that support shorebirds have restrictions that do not allow dogs. One of the main objective stated in the plan/EIS is to protect native wildlife and their habitat (including sensitive species and their habitat, and federally or state listed, unique, or rare species) from detrimental effects of dog use, including harassment or disturbance by dogs. The preferred alternative in the plan/EIS for most sites at GGRNA does limit the access of dogs to areas in GGRNA. Specifically, the SPPA at Ocean Beach will change from allowing dogs seasonally to not allowing dogs at all to protect the snowy plover and other shorebirds; the WPA at Crissy Field will change from allowing dogs seasonally to not allowing dogs at all to protect the snowy plover and other shorebirds, dogs will no longer be allowed on the beach at Fort Funston north of the Beach Access Trail to protect the bank swallows; and dogs will be required to be on leash at Muir Beach instead of off leash as currently allowed.

**Concern ID:** 30486

**CONCERN  
STATEMENT:**

The invasion of the non-native ravens, crows, raccoons, and feral cats is impacting the native populations in the GGNRA, not dogs. These non-native species are taking over the habitat of native species, and destroying their eggs and nests of birds, leading to less survival.

**Response:** As the commenters note, natural resources within GGNRA are affected by other factors, however, this plan/EIS addresses dog management, and does not concentrate on the effects of invasive or non-native species, but does acknowledge their presence. It is stated in the plan/EIS that the presence of great horned owls reduces the chance that northern spotted owls (a special-status species) would be present and competition from other owls, corvids (ravens, crows, and jays) or other nest predators may depredate spotted owl nests, thus negatively affecting the northern spotted owl. Also stated in the plan/EIS is the fragmentation of existing habitat and the continued colonization of existing habitat by non-native species may represent the most important current threats to California red-legged frogs, a special-status species (NPS 2005a). Therefore, impacts to special-status species at GGNRA as a result of non-native species is acknowledged in the plan/EIS, but the park also believes that dogs have a negative impact on wildlife and special-status species as well.

**Concern ID:** 30487

**CONCERN  
STATEMENT:**

Many commenters said that they had never, or rarely seen an incident of dogs chasing wildlife, or disrupting wildlife, but did note extensive human-related stress to wildlife, particularly after events and warm days, when a lot of trash was left. Dogs do not scare wildlife, particularly any more so than many of the user groups in the GGNRA, including hang gliders, surfers, bikers, and nature watchers. In fact, dogs may actually benefit some wildlife, like birds, by scaring away feral cats from the GGNRA, a major predator of birds.

**Response:** It has been stated in the plan/EIS that “It is important to note that dogs are viewed as a contributing factor to impacts associated with wildlife, and the total elimination of dogs in the park would not eliminate effects on wildlife, because visitors without dogs would continue to visit the park and use the trails/roads at GGNRA. Disturbance by all manner of visitors and any associated recreation equipment as well as by dogs has occurred and currently occurs in GGNRA as an existing condition. However, visitors with dogs could impact natural resources such as wildlife to a greater extent than visitors without dogs.” This plan/EIS determines that dog presence at a site and on-leash dogs can disturb wildlife and/or cause a flight response through their presence on the beach or other habitats and by lunging/barking at roosting, resting, and feeding wildlife.

**Concern ID:** 30488

**CONCERN  
STATEMENT:**

Many of the areas where dogs would be restricted on the premise that dogs are impacting wildlife are currently doing well, despite the fact that dogs are present there. Wildlife has adjusted over time to dogs so they are no longer viewed as a threat, and dogs are not impacting wildlife. Dog walkers caring about beaches is important.

**Response:** This plan/EIS determines that dog presence at a site and on-leash dogs can still disturb wildlife and/or cause a flight response through their presence on the beach or other habitats and by lunging/barking at roosting, resting, and feeding wildlife. As stated in the plan/EIS, the park collects data regarding the frequency of disturbance to wildlife and habitats at GGNRA sites. Wildlife species and their habitats are currently being affected by dogs at this park, which has been documented by reports taken and warnings and citations issued (all referred to as incidents) related to dogs in closed areas and disturbing wildlife at GGNRA (NPS 2008c (appendix G)). As a result of the literature review conducted as part of this plan/EIS, it has generally been assumed that shorebirds and other wildlife using the beach would not use habitat on the beach during periods of activity with dogs or may avoid the area completely or habituate to these activities. Because of mobility, wildlife can usually avoid areas where dogs are present during peak activity (including ROLAs), or they may habituate to these activities, but the displacement of wildlife from high quality habitat and preferred habitat that is degraded by the presence of dogs would still indirectly affect wildlife. Off-leash dogs could disturb and/or harass the birds and wildlife in the ROLA, causing them to flush and return repeatedly. In addition, marine mammals that strand or haul-out within the ROLA could be disturbed by off-leash dogs that can bite, bark at, or clamber over marine animals.

**Concern ID:** 30489

**CONCERN  
STATEMENT:**

Birds and other wildlife have the rest of the California coast to make their home, while San Francisco needs a place to exercise a growing dog population. There are few areas for off-leash dog walking, and wildlife in the GGNRA should not be held above the need for recreational space in the GGNRA.

**Response:** Two of the goals of GGNRA dog management planning were to allow dog walking while providing a variety of visitor uses and experiences throughout the 22 areas addressed by plan/EIS. Therefore, many of the preferred alternatives would continue to allow on-leash dog walking, off-leash dog walking, and a no dog experience throughout the sites. In order to provide more off-leash dog walking areas at Fort Funston, an additional ROLA would be added to the preferred alternative. This ROLA would create an off-leash corridor extending from the previously proposed upland ROLA to and including the north beach access. Off-leash dog areas such as ROLAs are still part of the Preferred Alternative for many sites at GGRNA to allow visitors the opportunity to have recreational space with their dogs.

**Concern ID:** 30490

**CONCERN  
STATEMENT:**

Dog use of trails and beaches has had documented negative impacts on bird populations.

**Response:** Areas closed to dogs have been specifically developed to protect wildlife and wildlife habitat, including beaches and trails at GGNRA. One of the main objective stated in the plan/EIS is to protect native wildlife and their habitat (including sensitive species and their habitat, and federally or state listed, unique, or rare species) from detrimental effects of dog use, including harassment or disturbance by dogs. The preferred alternatives in the plan/EIS for most sites at GGRNA do limit the access of dogs to areas in GGRNA. Generally under the Preferred Alternatives, trails throughout the park would be closed to dog walking since there is a higher likelihood of impacts to adjacent resources and on other park users. Some sensitive areas such as beaches have fences proposed to protect wildlife and other beaches that support shorebirds have restrictions that do not allow dogs. Specifically, the SPPA at Ocean Beach will change from allowing dogs seasonally to not allowing dogs at all to protect the snowy plover and other shorebirds; the WPA at Crissy Field will change from allowing dogs seasonally to not allowing dogs at all to protect the snowy plover and other shorebirds, dogs will no longer be allowed on the beach at Fort Funston north of the Beach Access Trail to protect the bank swallows; and dogs will be required to be on leash at Muir Beach instead of off leash as currently allowed.

**Concern ID:** 30492

**CONCERN STATEMENT:** Dog waste can negatively alter soil chemistry and native ecosystems, which can impact species in the GGNRA that use olfactory cues, like butterflies.

For representative quotes, please see Concern 29620 (VR2010), Comment 206064 and Concern 30421 (VU2010), Comment 202973.

**Response:** As stated in the plan/EIS, potential impacts would occur as a result of disturbance by dogs through trampling, digging, or dog waste, and nutrient addition could also occur, but the majority of these impacts would be localized in a relatively small area. Many of the Preferred Alternatives would either prohibit or limit dog access at the park, which would likely reduce or eliminate dog waste and nutrient additions to the soil. It is assumed that future management alternatives with leash control and/or voice and sight control would reduce dog waste and nutrient addition in comparison to current voice-control restrictions because owners would be in closer contact with their dogs and presumably would be more likely to comply with cleanup regulations.

#### ***WH4000 - Wildlife And Wildlife Habitat: Impact Of Proposal And Alternatives***

**Concern ID:** 30493

**CONCERN STATEMENT:** Restrictions on beaches should be tight to protect wildlife, and surveys should be undertaken to make sure that beaches with seasonal wildlife have adequate protection. Allowing dogs off-leash on the beach in beach ROLAs would negatively impact wildlife, such as birds and marine mammals, which are sometimes harassed or chased by dogs.

**Response:** Areas closed to dogs have been specifically developed to protect wildlife and wildlife habitat, including beaches at GGNRA. Some sensitive areas such as beaches have fences proposed to protect wildlife and other beaches that support shorebirds have restrictions that do not allow dogs. One of the main objective stated in the plan/EIS is to protect native wildlife and their habitat (including sensitive species and their habitat, and federally or state listed, unique, or rare species) from detrimental effects of dog use, including harassment or disturbance by dogs. The preferred alternatives in the plan/EIS for most sites at GGRNA do limit the access of dogs to areas in GGRNA. Specifically, the SPPA at Ocean Beach will change from allowing dogs seasonally to not allowing dogs at all to protect the snowy plover and other shorebirds; the WPA at Crissy Field will change from allowing dogs seasonally to not allowing dogs at all to protect the snowy plover and other shorebirds, dogs will no longer be allowed on the beach at Fort Funston north of the Beach Access Trail to protect the bank swallows; and dogs will be required to be on leash at Muir Beach instead of off leash as currently allowed.

**Concern ID:** 30495

**CONCERN STATEMENT:** It has not been shown that removing dogs from the GGNRA will have a beneficial impact on wildlife in the park, which is already flourishing in the parks, despite the current presence of dogs. The current protections under alternative A are already protecting wildlife. One measure that would improve this would be to fix up signs and fencing in the park.

**Response:** Two of the goals of GGNRA dog management planning were to allow dog walking while providing a variety of visitor uses and experiences throughout the 22 areas addressed by plan/EIS. Therefore, many of the preferred alternatives would continue to allow on-leash dog walking, off-leash dog walking, and a no dog experience throughout the sites. As part of the Preferred Alternative at many sites, sensitive areas do have fences proposed to protect wildlife, including the lagoon at Rodeo Beach, the lagoon and fenced dune areas at Muir Beach, the eastern and western boundary of the Central Beach ROLA at Crissy Field, and fencing to protect the mission blue butterfly habitat would be added on an as-needed basis along the Alta Trail to the Oakwood Valley Fire Road. In addition, new regulatory and interpretive signs would be developed for dog walking areas with consistent design and style that is clear and concise so the public can understand the regulations at this site.

**Concern ID:** 30496

**CONCERN STATEMENT:** If impacts to wildlife from dogs are found to be present, they should be mitigated by having dogs on-leash or banning them in the areas where the wildlife is, not every area. Dogs need to be under control either on-leash, or under true voice control.

**RESPONSE:**

**Concern ID:** 30497

**CONCERN STATEMENT:** Having a fence on the Oakwood Valley trail would negatively impact wildlife by creating a barrier to movement, especially of smaller species.

**Response:** Under the Preferred Alternative, dogs are not allowed along Oakwood Valley trail and a fence is not being proposed. Overall, trails throughout the park would be closed to dog walking, including Oakwood Valley trail, since there is a higher likelihood of impacts to adjacent resources and on other park users. The Preferred Alternative at Oakwood Valley/Alta Trail has been changed: the ROLA along Oakwood Valley Fire Road is no longer being proposed. Because the ROLA will be removed from the Preferred Alternative, the double gates and fencing at Oakwood Valley Fire Road and Oakwood Valley trail would not be required. However, certain areas with sensitive habitat along Oakwood Valley Fire Road would be fenced, but the fencing would act as a visible barrier, and would not completely exclude dogs or other wildlife from the area.

**Concern ID:** 30498

**CONCERN STATEMENT:** Park rangers patrolling sites by car for non-compliance would have a much greater negative impact on wildlife than dogs.

**Response:** NEED NPS INPUT – WILL CARS BE USED TO PATROL FOR NON-COMPLIANCE?

**Concern ID:** 30499

**CONCERN STATEMENT:** The proposed plan is a fair and balanced plan, which will protect wildlife from unregulated dog-walking recreation. Even if only a few dogs harass wildlife, these few dogs can have a significant impact. It is reasonable to have off-leash areas limited to protect wildlife.

**Response:** Areas closed to dogs have been developed and off-leash areas have been limited specifically to protect wildlife and wildlife habitat at GGNRA. Some sensitive areas such as beaches have fences proposed to protect wildlife and other beaches that support shorebirds have restrictions that do not allow dogs. One of the main objective stated in the plan/EIS is to protect native wildlife and their habitat (including sensitive species and their habitat, and federally or state listed, unique, or rare species) from detrimental effects of dog use, including harassment or disturbance by dogs. The preferred alternatives in the plan/EIS for most sites at GGRNA do limit the access of dogs to areas in GGRNA, including having less off-leash dog areas. In addition, trails throughout the park generally would be closed to dog walking since there is a higher likelihood of impacts to adjacent resources and wildlife on other park users. For example, the SPPA at Ocean Beach will change from allowing dogs seasonally to not allowing dogs at all to protect the snowy plover and other shorebirds; the WPA at Crissy Field will change from allowing dogs seasonally to not allowing dogs at all to protect the snowy plover and other shorebirds, dogs will no longer be allowed on the beach at Fort Funston north of the Beach Access Trail to protect the bank swallows; and dogs will be required to be on leash at Muir Beach instead of off leash as currently allowed.

**Concern ID:** 30500

**CONCERN STATEMENT:** Removing dogs from areas where they previously have disturbed wildlife habitat, particularly nesting birds, may allow for a return of nesting and activity to these sites. Having restrictions on dogs may allow wildlife to return, and park visitors could then observe wildlife in these areas.

For additional representative quotes, please see Concern 29245 (MB1100), Comment 209140.

**Response:** Areas closed to dogs have been developed and off-leash areas have been limited specifically to protect wildlife and wildlife habitat at GGNRA. One of the main objective stated in the plan/EIS is to protect native wildlife and their habitat (including sensitive species and their habitat, and federally or state listed, unique, or rare species) from detrimental effects of dog use, including harassment or disturbance by dogs. The preferred alternatives in the plan/EIS for most sites at GGRNA do limit the access of dogs to areas in GGRNA, including having less off-leash dog areas. In addition, trails throughout the park generally would be closed to dog walking since there is a higher likelihood of impacts to adjacent resources and wildlife on other park users. It is likely that removing or limiting dogs from wildlife habitats that have been previously disturbed by dogs, including nesting birds, may allow for a return of wildlife activity and nesting, which could be enjoyed and experienced by park visitors.

**Concern ID:** 30501  
**CONCERN STATEMENT:** Wildlife will never be safely protected from dogs off-leash. By having areas where dogs are allowed off-leash, NPS is creating areas of potential habitat that wildlife will never inhabit due to the dogs.

**Response:** Two of the goals of GGNRA dog management planning were to allow dog walking while providing a variety of visitor uses and experiences throughout the 22 areas addressed by plan/EIS. Therefore, many of the preferred alternatives would continue to allow on-leash dog walking, off-leash dog walking, and a no dog experience throughout the sites. Areas closed to dogs have been specifically developed to protect wildlife and wildlife habitat, including listed species and critical habitat; similarly, on-leash dog areas have also been developed in areas where a leash restriction would protect wildlife and wildlife habitat. Fences are appropriate and have been proposed in some locations such as between the ROLA and East Beach at Crissy Field and along the lagoon at Muir Beach to protect wildlife and habitat. Off-leash areas have been developed in locations with less than favorable wildlife habitat to provide a mix of visitor uses and experiences at the sites within GGRNA.

**Concern ID:** 30502  
**CONCERN STATEMENT:** Some areas of the park should be entirely off-limits to dogs, for the protection of wildlife. Areas where dogs are allowed, particularly off-leash, should not be placed in areas with wildlife or wildlife habitat, particularly sensitive wildlife. Some commenters suggested that off-leash areas be fenced to provide better protection of wildlife.

**Response:** Two of the goals of GGNRA dog management planning were to allow dog walking while providing a variety of visitor uses and experiences throughout the 22 areas addressed by plan/EIS. Therefore, many of the preferred alternatives would continue to allow on-leash dog walking, off-leash dog walking, and a no dog experience throughout the sites. Areas closed to dogs have been specifically developed to protect wildlife and wildlife habitat, including listed species and critical habitat. Fences are appropriate and have been proposed in some locations such as between the ROLA and East Beach at Crissy Field and along the lagoon at Muir Beach to protect wildlife and habitat, but at some GGNRA sites they are not proposed because fences detract from the visitor experience at the park.

**Concern ID:** 30503  
**CONCERN STATEMENT:** If signs indicating areas of wildlife habitat were put up, dog owners would obey these rules. At present, it is hard to know what areas are protected.

**Response:** During implementation of the Dog Management Plan, GGNRA would establish a long-term public outreach campaign to help educate and inform the public about new dog walking regulations within the site. The park would develop a comprehensive dog management guide that would be available at visitor centers and contact stations. Outreach volunteers, such as Trail Keepers, and park staff would help educate and inform the public about the new dog management regulation. In addition, if funding allows, GGNRA would place ads in community newspapers and dog walking magazines to help inform the dog walking community of the new regulation. New regulatory and interpretive signs would be developed for dog walking areas with consistent design and style that is clear and concise so the public can understand the regulations at this site. If GGNRA sites support protected wildlife, the new signage would describe what species and what areas are protected with text and illustrations to educate the public.

**Concern ID:** 30504  
**CONCERN STATEMENT:** Restraining dogs on-leash in the GGNRA will assure the safety of both wildlife and dogs. While dogs disturb wildlife, wildlife also poses a threat to dogs from conflicts during interaction, parasites, and disease.

**Response:** Two of the goals of GGNRA dog management planning were to allow dog walking while providing a variety of visitor uses and experiences throughout the 22 areas addressed by plan/EIS. Therefore, many of the preferred alternatives would continue to allow on-leash dog walking, off-leash dog walking, and a no dog experience throughout the sites. Areas closed to dogs have been specifically developed to protect wildlife and wildlife habitat, including listed species and critical habitat. On-leash areas have also been developed because an on-leash restriction would not allow dogs to chase or disturb wildlife. On-leash restrictions would not allow dogs

and wildlife to interact and would therefore protect the dogs on the leash as well as wildlife from conflicts and exchanging parasites or diseases.

**Concern ID:** 30505  
**CONCERN STATEMENT:** Dogs should not be banned at Muir Beach to protect wildlife. Rather, Redwood Creek should be closed, even fenced, and areas where migrating birds nest should be closed on a seasonal basis.

For representative quotes, please see Concern (29248 (MB1200), Comment 203793.

**Response:** Under the Preferred Alternative, on-leash dog walking would be allowed in the parking lot and on the boardwalk. To allow more dog walking opportunities at this site, on-leash dog walking would be allowed on Muir Beach and fencing will be put in along the dunes and the lagoon to protect the resources. Time of use restrictions, including seasonal restrictions, can be difficult to enforce and is not a preferred management method. This management concept will still remain an option for dog management in the future, but seasonal closures are no longer part of the Preferred Alternative at any of the GGNRA sites (with the exception of the bank swallow seasonal closures at Fort Funston).

**Concern ID:** 30506  
**CONCERN STATEMENT:** The eastern portion of Crissy Airfield should be off-limits to dogs, in order to protect grassland bird species.

**Response:** Two of the goals of GGNRA dog management planning were to allow dog walking while providing a variety of visitor uses and experiences at Crissy Field. The preferred alternative would include a no dog experience along East Beach and within the WPA, on-leash dog walking opportunities along trails and the Airfield, as well as the Old Coast Guard Station; an off-leash dog walking experience would be provided within the western portion of the Airfield and along Central Beach. Although the Preferred Alternative for Crissy Field includes a ROLA on the western portion of the Airfield (14 acres), limiting the size of the ROLA on the Airfield allows an on-leash experience for visitors and a leash restriction (6 foot leash) for the eastern portion of the Airfield that would not allow dogs to chase wildlife, including grassland bird species.