

**To:** Amy Meyer [Exemption 6]@earthlink.net]  
**Cc:** Neal Desai[ndesai@npca.org]  
**From:** Levitt, Howard  
**Sent:** Fri 2/7/2014 7:49:34 PM  
**Importance:** Normal  
**Subject:** Re: MarinJ: Marin official urges opposition to proposed federal park dog crackdown  
**Received:** Fri 2/7/2014 7:49:35 PM

Amy, here are some points to make ...

1. Park's plan is anything but a ban on dogs - in fact, it is considered by many to be overly dog-friendly. Many miles of trails and beaches are available for park users with dogs on leash, several areas are proposed for off-leash, voice control use, and there are areas of the park for people who do not want a dog encounter or where there are sensitive resources.
2. Park's plan attempts to provide for the desires of a wide spectrum of users - from those who want to enjoy the park with dogs off-leash, to those who don't want any dogs in the park - while also protecting park resources for the future.
3. All users are contending for the same prized areas of the parks - beaches, trails, and uplands.
4. It is speculative to say that dog owners would "stampede" to county parks.
5. Park is seeking substantive comments in order to refine the draft plan.

On Thu, Feb 6, 2014 at 7:57 PM, Amy Meyer [Exemption 6]@earthlink.net wrote:

Neal and Howard, help me answer this. I know Kate Sears and her father was an early GGNRA supporter.  
Amy

On Feb 6, 2014, at 5:28 PM, Neal Desai wrote:

fyi

## **Marin official urges opposition to proposed federal park dog crackdown**

By Nels Johnson  
Marin Independent Journal

Posted: 02/06/2014 03:20:42 PM PST

Supervisor Kate Sears is urging colleagues on the county board to oppose a controversial dog crackdown proposed for Golden Gate National Recreation Area lands for fear that policies under review would in effect bar dogs — forcing pet owners and their pets to stampede to county parks.

The National Park Service has asked for public comment by Feb. 18 about plans to bar off-leash dogs from most park recreational areas. Sears, who has a pet dog, Josie, said no data in an environmental analysis "supports a virtual ban on dogs in the GGNRA."

Sears added federal park planners should "seek compromises that allow for dogs in the GGNRA, both on leash and off leash, while still providing adequate protections for the natural environment."

The issue is especially important, she added, "because of the expected impacts to Marin County park and open space lands" and the Marin Municipal Water District watershed.

The county board reviews the issue at 10 a.m. Tuesday.

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Howard Levitt  
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Golden Gate National Parks

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