

From: Amy Meyer a7w2m@ (b) (6)
Subject: Re: dogs
Date: December 9, 2013 at 4:09 PM
To: Shirwin Smith shirwin1@ (b) (6)

MA

Shirwin,

Thank you so much. it's a stronger letter. I will adjust its per the next paragraph.

I just got off the phone with Neal Desai. He feels these letters should be directed to the NPS with copies to Robert Edmonson. He feels it's better than seeming to ask Pelosi to take the letter back. It would be up to NPS then to forward them to the Pelosi office in support of whatever action Frank decides to take.

I just phoned you and you aren't in your office so am sending this on to you.

Amy

On Dec 9, 2013, at 3:16 PM, Shirwin Smith wrote:

Amy – some suggested changes in red, as requested. One thing...we are emphasizing the impacts to visitors more clearly in the SEIS – our much more comprehensive law enforcement data in the supplemental supports that.

Sorry this took so long.

Shirwin

On Dec 9, 2013, at 11:51 AM, Amy Meyer <a7w2m@ (b) (6)> wrote:

Dear Nancy,

I have read your December 2, 2013 letter sent to GGNRA Superintendent Frank Dean requesting that the park further extend the comment period on the Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) for dog management. At its current ending date on January 11, 2014, the review process will already have been extended to over four and a half months, well beyond the original 90-day comment period. Given the public input received and considered during the 2002 Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, the 2007–2008 Negotiated Rulemaking process and the 4.5 month comment period on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement, it is time to let it this phase of the process conclude. The two week government shutdown has already been met with an extension of over five weeks. Enough is enough.

The process of developing a dog management plan for Golden Gate National Recreation Area has taken over 12 years. During that time there have been continuing issues with unfortunate incidents of visitors (some with dogs on leash) who are harassed, injured and even attacked by unleashed dogs, damage to habitat and wildlife in popular areas of the park and expensive rescues of pets from cliffs. National Park regulations rightly permit only leashed dogs in very limited areas of the parks to protect park resources and visitors. It is time to end this degradation of our national park. There is no wildlife to be seen other than ravens at GGNRA's Fort Funston, the few remaining dunes are torn up daily by the dogs, there have been several cliff rescues of dogs each year, and my 7 year old grandson was confronted there by an out-of-control dog whose owner responded by calling him "a scaredy cat."

Relaxation of those National Park regulations in the early years of GGNRA has led to these unforeseen consequences of bad visitor experiences, causing some to no longer feel safe enough to visit their beloved local national park, park damage and rescue costs. The park has done a Management Plan, an EIS and now a Supplemental EIS. There have been thousands of hours and dollars spent on a very thorough process which has involved the public from the get-go. It is time to take back those areas that should not have any dogs at all or only dogs on leash, and leave those selected areas where there are not visitor or natural resource conflicts, or danger to pets, open to the off-leash enjoyment that some dog owners are seeking. Writing to you as a former San Francisco Recreation and Park Commissioner, I can attest that the "special rule-making" for GGNRA has been designed to take into account the long history of off-leash recreation in San Francisco.

Golden Gate National Recreation Area is a national park. We want it to be preserved and used as the very special place that it is.

Sincerely,

Amy Meyer

Shirwin, I would be sending a copy of this to Frank and you. Please strengthen if I left something out. Amy