

**From:** Chris Lehnertz <chris\_lehnertz@ (b) (6)>  
**Subject:** Fwd: Dogs  
**Date:** December 15, 2014 at 11:21 PM  
**To:** Chris Lehnertz <chris\_lehnertz@nps.gov>

---

LC

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Frank Dean <[frank\\_dean@nps.gov](mailto:frank_dean@nps.gov)>  
**Date:** December 15, 2014 at 1:20:28 PM PST  
**To:** Peggy O'Dell <[peggy\\_o'dell@nps.gov](mailto:peggy_o'dell@nps.gov)>  
**Cc:** Lehnertz Chris <[chris\\_lehnertz@ \(b\) \(6\)](mailto:chris_lehnertz@ (b) (6)>)>, Howard Levitt <[Howard\\_Levitt@nps.gov](mailto:Howard_Levitt@nps.gov)>  
**Subject:** Re: Dogs

Okay Peggy.

Howard, let's also call Jason Elliott in mayor's office to get some context about the meeting.

Frank

Frank Dean  
General Superintendent  
Golden Gate National Recreation Area  
201 Fort Mason  
San Francisco, CA 94123  
(415) 561-4720

On Dec 15, 2014, at 1:07 PM, Peggy O'Dell <[peggy\\_o'dell@nps.gov](mailto:peggy_o'dell@nps.gov)> wrote:

Need three sentences on where you are with dogs. Sally meeting with SF Mayor. Need by Thursday please. Thank you.

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** Peggy O'Dell peggy\_o'dell@nps.gov  
**Subject:** Dogs  
**Date:** December 15, 2014 at 2:08 PM  
**To:** Frank Dean frank\_dean@nps.gov  
**Cc:** Lehnertz Chris chris\_lehnertz@ (b) (6)

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Need three sentences on where you are with dogs. Sally meeting with SF Mayor. Need by Thursday please. Thank you.

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** Howard Levitt and Wendy Scheffers howandwen@ (b) (6)

**Subject:** Re: Last piece of dog management presentation to Dan Bernal

**Date:** July 13, 2015 at 4:53 PM

**To:** Amy Meyer a7w2m@ (b) (6), Neal Desai ndesai@npca.org, rebecca@ (b) (6)

**Cc:** chris\_lehnertz@ (b) (6)



Amy, Neal, and Becky:

Try this ...

1. Golden Gate petitioned the NPS regional and national directorate to be able to develop a GOGA-specific rule for dog management that both met the preservation and recreation mandates of an NPS site, and also acknowledged the then-30 year tradition of off-leash dog use in areas of the park, and park ownership of most of the beach areas in San Francisco and southern Marin. It is a significant stretch for NPS to even consider off-leash dog use.
2. Of 407 areas of the NPS, not one permits off leash dog use.
2. Unlike single-issue stakeholders, NPS is required to consider the desires of a broad array of park users.
3. The sites that are most contested in the park are those which are popular with all users - Fort Funston, Ocean Beach, Crissy Field, Rodeo Beach, and Muir Beach. Four of these areas have proposed off-leash areas. Others of the 22 areas originally evaluated for use zoning are also used and enjoyed by a broad spectrum of visitors.
4. NPS carefully assessed every area governed by the 1979 Pet Policy, and later added key San Mateo County sites that were not owned or managed by the park in 1979, to determine if there were any areas where dogs could be permitted off leash without threatening sensitive or threatened wildlife and plants, and which also permitted opportunities for those who want a dog-free experience. We identified 7 areas where we feel off leash dog use can occur.
5. In addition to the 7 proposed off leash areas, there are 21 areas (including some that also permit off leash) that propose on-leash dog walking.
6. Commercial dog walking is permitted in many park areas; NPS authority to permit this use is contested by several groups.

Howard

On Fri, Jul 10, 2015 at 4:42 PM, Amy Meyer <a7w2m@ (b) (6)> wrote:

Dear Chris,

Neal, Becky, and I have pulled together all but the last piece of paper for the meeting with Dan on Wednesday. They are 1) a shortened version of the preamble Howard sent us and 2) the chart he sent showing what neighboring agencies do. I found 3) the CFR citation and will provide Dan with a copy, highlighting sections 1 and 2..

Howard said he'd get on the paper that summarizes the relevant sections of the Dog Management Plan as soon as he returns on Monday. This has to be in bullet or other short form— it's my experience that Dan does not have the time to deal with anything of any length. He will simply want to know the essentials.

I need the paper by Tuesday morning because I want to send the 4 papers to Dan ahead of time and want him to be able to share them with the person he is including in our meeting from their Washington office. I also have to go over the paper with Neal and Becky before I use it.

I have to leave by 9:30 Monday morning for an event for the opening of the New Presidio Parkway. I will be back about noon. I leave for a doctors appointment at 2:15. Back near 4.

Best,

Amy

**From:** Amy Meyer a7w2m@ (b) (6)  
**Subject:** Last piece of dog management presentation to Dan Bernal  
**Date:** July 10, 2015 at 4:42 PM  
**To:** chris\_lehnertz@ (b) (6)  
**Cc:** Howard Levitt and Wendy Scheffers howandwen@ (b) (6)

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MA

Dear Chris,

Neal, Becky, and I have pulled together all but the last piece of paper for the meeting with Dan on Wednesday. They are 1) a shortened version of the preamble Howard sent us and 2) the chart he sent showing what neighboring agencies do. I found 3) the CFR citation and will provide Dan with a copy, highlighting sections 1 and 2..

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Best,

Amy



From: Chris Lehnertz chris\_lehnertz@ (b) (6)   
Subject: Re: Dog meeting with Dan Bernal  
Date: July 8, 2015 at 9:54 PM  
To: Amy Meyer a7w2m@ (b) (6)

LC

Hi Amy,

I will see what we can put together, and will call you to make sure I have it right. We can summarize what was in the supplemental EIS, which may be the best route to go.

Your message is right on target, that we were directed by a judge to go through a rule making, which could easily have been to simply adopt the regulation that applies to the other 406 national parks - Part 35 Section 2.15 of the Code of Federal Regulations. But, instead, GGNRA chose to promulgate a rule that is more liberal (weaker?) than what every other park in the nation implements. Some say that we are bending over backwards to make sure we provide off-leash experiences in five different locations in GGNRA when there are none in the entire rest of the nation.

Heard today that Representative Speier posted on Facebook that she introduced a dog management amendment that did not pass, but she would keep trying. I haven't seen it yet.

Thanks, talk to you soon.

Chris

On Jul 8, 2015, at 9:50 AM, Amy Meyer <a7w2m@ (b) (6)> wrote:

Dear Chris,

Neal, Becky, and I are meeting with Dan Bernal next Wednesday, 7/15, at 1 pm.

Howard supplied us with some good background information including underlying legislation and policy and also a chart showing what neighboring agencies are doing re: dogs.

We will summarize the nationwide dog regulations and describe why the situation here calls for the Special Rule.

What we don't have is what GGNRA is offering for dogs under the Special Rule. We would label what you tell us as a "final," going through the last stages of the approval process and expected to come out around mid-September.

One of the necessary matters to turn around is that GGNRA is not taking something away from dog owners but is giving them more than any other national park users in the country. The true comparison is with the usual NPS dog regulations. To receive this special benefit, sites have been well-justified so as not to set a precedent. That pushes back against "we're only getting 1%", but not defensively.

Can you get someone to send us the essential contents of the Special Rule (including, if possible, a map) that makes plain why certain areas have been chosen and examples of why many areas are inappropriate for on- or off-leash dogs.

Best regards,  
Amy

Neal just sent this, including Pelosi's letter to you, below:

I can also send an email to Howard's personal email asking him for how many meetings NPS has conducted over the years on this topic as a way to highlight the public engagement. The "listen to the community and diverse viewpoints" message is central to Pelosi's 4/1/15 letter to GGNRA (attached).

We want Pelosi's office to see that the NPS has listened to the community, but listening to someone and doing what they want you to do are two different things. And the science and policy doesn't support much of what the dog people want NPS to do

<Pelosi ltr re GGNRA dog 4.1.15.jpg>

NANCY PELOSI  
12TH DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA  
DEMOCRATIC LEADER  
285 PINE STREET, SUITE 500  
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94103

Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives

DETROIT OFFICE  
SAN FRANCISCO FEDERAL BUILDING  
90 FIFTH STREET  
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94103

GGNRA194691

April 1, 2015

Superintendent Christine Lehnertz  
Golden Gate National Recreation Area  
Building 201, Fort Mason  
San Francisco, CA 94123-0022

Dear Superintendent Lehnertz:

Congratulations on your appointment as Superintendent of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA). As you know, the GGNRA is one of our nation's greatest natural treasures – a crown jewel of the National Park System and America's most visited park unit. GGNRA offers residents of the Bay Area as well as visitors from around our country and the world the opportunity to connect with nature, enjoy outdoor recreational activity and experience our nation's history adjacent to a major urban center.

As former regional director for the Pacific West Region of the National Park Service, I have trust in your knowledge and understanding on the importance and diversity of passionate and deeply held views by my constituents on preserving abundant recreational activities, including off-leash dog walking.

In developing new dog management rules and implementing the recent General Management Plan, it is of the utmost importance that we recognize the need to achieve a working balance of natural, historic, scenic and recreational uses of GGNRA as envisioned by my predecessor Representative Phil Burton, who authored the legislation creating this national icon of our park system.

During this process, it is absolutely crucial that the concerns of those affected by the regulations are considered, consulted and incorporated. Your door must be open to diverse viewpoints, your actions must be transparent and your decisions must be clear, balanced and fair.

Congratulations, again, on your appointment as Golden Gate National Recreation Area Superintendent. I look forward to working with you in a constructive manner to ensure GGNRA remains a place of peaceful reflection, natural beauty and recreational opportunity well in the future.

best regards,

  
NANCY PELOSI  
Democratic Leader


**From:** Howard Levitt and Wendy Scheffers howandwen@ (b) (6)  
**Subject:** SF Chron article and reader comments  
**Date:** April 24, 2016 at 1:26 PM  
**To:** Chris Lehnertz chris\_lehnertz@ (b) (6)

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Chris, check out SF Gate for the Mighty Mutt March article and reader comment. Very revealing. Howard

<http://www.sfgate.com/bayarea/articleComments/Dogs-owners-unleash-protest-of-proposed-7305701.php>

**From:** Amy Meyer a7w2m@ (b) (6)   
**Subject:** Fwd: Connecticut Speech  
**Date:** December 22, 2015 at 12:03 PM  
**To:** Chris Lehnertz chris\_lehnertz@ (b) (6)

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MA

Begin forwarded message:  
Dear Chris,

Thank you for the informative conversation yesterday. I feel much better grounded on what we will be doing next month and beyond.

Here is the speech John sent me. I think it is good for some circumstances. However, I can understand where you and Greg came out in what it would be best for the Conservancy to do relative to the Dog Rule.

What particularly struck me in the conversation was how much it counts to get phone calls in to the congressional offices. When you get back, I want to review how we can best spread the word about that.

And I'll take you for a walk in that section of Ocean Beach!

Happy Holidays to you— I hope you have a great vacation!

Warm regards,  
Amy

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**From:** John Reynolds <jreynoldsparks@ (b) (6) >  
**Subject:** Fwd: Connecticut Speech  
**Date:** November 20, 2015 at 8:56:14 AM PST  
**To:** Amy Meyer <a7w2m@ (b) (6) >

Amy,

I thought you might enjoy the attached speech by Craig Obey. He was the highly effective head of NPCA's legislative affairs office for years, and a great conservationist.

J



Connecticut  
Friends...s.docx

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Amy Meyer  
[www.amywmeyer.com](http://www.amywmeyer.com)

**From:** Frank Dean frank\_dean@nps.gov

**Subject:** Re: Dogs

**Date:** December 15, 2014 at 2:20 PM

**To:** Peggy O'Dell peggy\_o'dell@nps.gov

**Cc:** Lehnertz Chris chris\_lehnertz@ (b) (6) , Howard Levitt Howard\_Levitt@nps.gov

DF

Okay Peggy.

Howard, let's also call Jason Elliott in mayor's office to get some context about the meeting.

Frank

Frank Dean  
General Superintendent  
Golden Gate National Recreation Area  
201 Fort Mason  
San Francisco, CA 94123  
(415) 561-4720

On Dec 15, 2014, at 1:07 PM, Peggy O'Dell <peggy\_o'dell@nps.gov> wrote:

Need three sentences on where you are with dogs. Sally meeting with SF Mayor. Need by Thursday please. Thank you.

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** Chris Lehnertz chris\_lehnertz@ (b) (6)  
**Subject:** Check out "Small Dog Beach Walk" by San Francisco Chronicle on Vimeo  
**Date:** December 8, 2015 at 7:02 AM  
**To:** Christine Lehnertz chris\_lehnertz@nps.gov

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Check out "Small Dog Beach Walk" by San Francisco Chronicle on Vimeo.

The video is available for your viewing pleasure at <https://vimeo.com/146946465>

If you like this video, make sure you share it, too!

Vimeo is filled with lots of amazing videos. See more at <https://vimeo.com>.

**From:** Chris Lehnertz chris\_lehnertz@ (b) (6)  
**Subject:** Leave your dog at home, please — High Country News  
**Date:** December 3, 2015 at 12:07 PM  
**To:** Christine Lehnertz chris\_lehnertz@nps.gov

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<http://www.hcn.org/articles/leave-your-dog-at-home-please>

**From:** Chris Lehnertz chris\_lehnertz@ (b) (6)  
**Subject:** Letter to Editor  
**Date:** October 27, 2015 at 12:47 PM  
**To:** Christine Lehnertz chris\_lehnertz@nps.gov

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LC

### **Save recreation**

Regarding "Ocean Beach fires may meet their match: permits" (Oct. 22), enjoying bonfires isn't the only type of recreation the National Park Service wants to restrict in the Bay Area. In the past, they've also gone after mountain biking. Now, they want to stop people from walking with their dogs at dozens of locations in Marin, San Francisco and San Mateo counties. The National Park Service refuses to acknowledge that an urban recreation area is different from a remote wilderness. They even removed recreation as a guiding principle from the management plan of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area.

Andrea Buffa, San Francisco



**From:** Amy Meyer a7w2m@ (b) (6)  
**Subject:** My meeting with Supervisor Sears  
**Date:** October 13, 2015 at 10:08 AM  
**To:** Chris Lehnertz chris\_lehnertz@ (b) (6)

---

MA

Dear Chris,

Kathrin Sears and I have known each other since her parents were early supporters of the GGNRA and she was in college. We actually met in Shanghai for a couple of days when she was a student there.

We had a long coffee on the deck at the Seahorse Restaurant in Sausalito on Saturday. Kate brought along her large mixed-breed dog, on a leash. Josie was entirely well-behaved.

Kate is departing for a 3 week trip this week and will be back November 9.

1) When she comes back from her trip, she will get Gordon Bennett and me together with Sausalito planning staff to work on "house camouflage" for a home planned on the west side of Wolfback Ridge Road.

2) Since I am totally out of date with the Sausalito City Council, she will introduce me to Ray Withey.

3) I gave her a good report of the TLC meeting on 10/4 (one of her aides was there) and told her she should let me know if/when I can be helpful in matters pertaining to the MOU for Muir Woods.

4) Kate did not understand that GGNRA is trying to give people a legal Special Regulation to enjoy their dogs, so as to replace the one that violates federal law and has been in use since 1979. She says she has to deal with dog-owning voters. But she did not realize we are trying to give the locals what no other national park permits, even though it feels to the dog owners as if something is being taken away from them.

Kate's big concern is the lack of loop trails. I said my understanding was it was because the potential trails crossed into the lands of other jurisdictions. (I later mentioned this to John Reynolds who is out here for the Trust this week. He asked if there was any opportunity for a small land trade. ???)

I also explained to Kate that all units of the NPS follow the same regulations. I followed up our conversation with an e-mail of the 3 background documents. Kate's reply indicated she "got it." I'm hopeful this understanding will help.

Warm regards,

Amy

**From:** Amy Meyer a7w2m@ (b) (6)  
**Subject:** A question for the solicitor?  
**Date:** October 1, 2015 at 3:16 PM  
**To:** Chris Lehnertz chris\_lehnertz@ (b) (6)

---

MA

Chris,

Thank you for the good meeting yesterday.

I wonder: The GGNRA has gone through the process ordered by Judge Alsop. The basis of the Special Rule lies in the Organic Act, the CFR section, and the GGNRA legislation, plus the specifics of our situation. If the let-dogs-run-free group says "We're not going to cooperate; we're going to court if the Special Rule is approved," does that mean we are doomed to wait another several years before we can go by the Special Rule?

Or, is there a way of structuring how the Special Rule is presented so if they sue, the dogs will be subject to the usual NPS regulations rather than continuing the 1979 policy while the Special Rule is tested in court?

Or, Jared Huffman was able to say the night of the presentation of the MOU in Mill Valley that if there were a suit it would only hold up carrying out the improvements for Muir Woods everyone wanted to accomplish. Does GGNRA have any leverage like that on the dog issues?

Best regards,

Amy

**From:** Chris Lehnertz chris\_lehnertz@ (b) (6)  
**Subject:** Dog friendly  
**Date:** September 7, 2015 at 3:29 PM  
**To:** Chris Lehnertz chris\_lehnertz@nps.gov

---



The most dog friendly national park in the Country.

Chris Lehnertz

**From:** Chris Lehnertz chris\_lehnertz@ (b) (6)  
**Subject:** Re: dog concern  
**Date:** August 25, 2015 at 8:02 PM  
**To:** Amy Meyer a7w2m@ (b) (6)

LC

Hi Amy,

1:30 would be perfect. I'll give you a call on the phone number you sent me.

Once you return from your trip, perhaps we could check calendars for a time to meet. We are working on our five year strategic plan, and while it's not a document we will take out for public comment, I would like to share a draft with you and get your thoughts.

Thanks much, I look forward to talking with you!

Chris

On Aug 24, 2015, at 8:08 AM, Amy Meyer <a7w2m@ (b) (6)> wrote:

Hi Chris,

I am available in that window. How about 1:30?

Thank you,  
Amy

On Aug 23, 2015, at 10:30 PM, Chris Lehnertz <chris\_lehnertz@ (b) (6)> wrote:

Hi Amy,

Really appreciate your email, it would be good to talk before you leave town. I'm visiting my Mom in Denver and will be returning to the office on Tuesday. I just opened up some time on my calendar on Wednesday afternoon from 1-3pm. Would you have availability in that window?

Look forward to finding something that works.

Thanks much!

Chris

On Aug 21, 2015, at 12:31 PM, Amy Meyer <a7w2m@ (b) (6)> wrote:

Dear Chris,

Our schedules are not coinciding well for a phone call. Janet said you are going out of town. I am leaving next Thursday for 10 days and I want to make sure you know my worry about the next dog management stages.

I heard that you met with Dan Bernal after Neal, Becky, and I did. I heard he was concerned that the new Dog Management Plan show changes from the earlier one. In a quick conversation with Howard shortly afterward he said there weren't any real changes.

This was a big warning bell to me regarding the need to keep Pelosi at least neutral. In my personal opinion, I think it will be very necessary to find whatever changes can possibly be shown. Changes would need to be featured in any press release at the time the plan comes out— at least in general.

I have been collecting names and starting to work with my "People" to get the necessary letters in when the Plan is released. Changes would be part of the response for some letters.

I'm home today, but have interviews from now until 2 pm. Perhaps you can call or send an e-mail before I leave.

Phone: (b) (6)

Best regards,  
Amy

Amy Meyer  
[www.amymeyer.com](http://www.amymeyer.com)

**From:** Chris Lehnertz chris\_lehnertz@ (b) (6)  
**Subject:** Re: dog concern  
**Date:** August 23, 2015 at 10:30 PM  
**To:** Amy Meyer a7w2m@ (b) (6)

LC

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Phone: (b) (6)

Best regards,  
Amy

**From:** Howard Levitt and Wendy Scheffers howandwen@ (b) (6)  
**Subject:** Re: Thank you for the meeting  
**Date:** July 21, 2015 at 11:27 PM  
**To:** BeckyE rebecca@ (b) (6)  
**Cc:** Neal Desai ndesai@npca.org, Amy Meyer a7w2m@ (b) (6)

---



Dear Becky, Amy, and Neal:

You're marvelous friends - thank you so much! These actions will be hugely important in the next phase, as the draft Rule is completed and released for comment. Let's stay in touch ... Howard

On Jul 21, 2015, at 10:42 AM, BeckyE wrote:

fyi . . .

-----Forwarded Message-----

**From:** BeckyE  
**Sent:** Jul 21, 2015 10:41 AM  
**To:** Dan Bernal  
**Cc:** Amy , Neal Desai , Becky Evans  
**Subject:** Thank you for the meeting

Dear Dan,

Thank you for meeting with us for an informative session about the pending GGNRA Dog Management Plan.

You told us that the Leader's Office is receiving many comments from opponents to the Plan.

- In the future, you will hear more from the stakeholders who support the Dog Management Plan.
- Our organizations will continue to educate the public with significant scientific and factual information supporting the balanced NPS decision-making as the misinformation campaign is waged by those that simply oppose regulation. We'll provide key points for your use, such as what we shared with you regarding debunking the "less than 1% of GGNRA for dog walking" claim.
- Our organizations will encourage a maximum comment period on the SEIS - from 60 to 90 days.
- The celebration of all forms of recreation as part of the NPS Centennial and seek people "without baggage?" is an excellent idea and we will explore possibilities to implement this suggestion.
- When the Plan process is done we'll seek ways to celebrate what is being permitted here and nowhere else.
- We'll assist the NPS in enlisting as many different stakeholders as possible to help implement the Plan.

Dan, thank you very much for your time and attention to this complex matter.

Best regards,

Amy Meyer  
Becky Evans



**From:** Amy Meyer a7w2m@ (b) (6)

**Subject:** San Mateo dog story

**Date:** July 15, 2015 at 8:25 AM

**To:** chris\_lehnertz@ (b) (6)

**Cc:** Howard Levitt and Wendy Scheffers howandwen@ (b) (6)

MA

Dear Chris,

Howard may also know this story. I heard it from Frank Dean.

I knew Dave Holland a little when he was the head of San Mateo County parks. He moved on to become Assistant County Manager and retired last year. A couple of years ago, Frank went to Dave about a 10 acre parcel of land that is within the GGNRA boundary but had not yet been acquired. Frank suggested that Dave allow it to become a dog park so that when it was acquired that would be an established use. Of course that would take off some of the dogs-run-free pressure in San Mateo County. Dave wouldn't cooperate.

I understand you are meeting with Dan Bernal right after Neal, Becky, and I do. I should be home from 2:30 until 5:15 should you wish to phone. (b) (6)

(The current San Mateo County Parks director is Marlene Finley and has a conservation background. She and Neal Desai were the only two speakers in a panel put together by Jackie Speier for a meeting about the GGNRA Dog Management Plan who dealt well with the issue.)

Best regards,

Amy



**From:** Amy Meyer a7w2m@ (b) (6) 

**Subject:** Information for our 7/14 dog meeting

**Date:** July 14, 2015 at 9:00 PM

**To:** Dan Bernal dan.bernal@mail.house.gov

**Cc:** Neal Desai ndesai@npca.org, Becky Evans rebecca@ (b) (6)

MA

Dear Dan,

Neal Desai, Becky Evans and I will be in your office at 1 p.m. tomorrow.

To introduce you to what we have to say and so you can pass on this information to the person from your D.C. office who will be on the line, here are 4 documents.

- 1) GGNRA Dog Management Preamble



Dog  
Manag...le.docx

- 2) Applicable section from the Code of Federal Regulations (see especially (1) and (2))



CFR 36 CFR  
2.15.docx

- 3) Neighboring agencies dog policies



Neighboring  
agenci...on.pdf

- 4) GGNRA Dog Management History



GGNRA Dog  
Manag...ry.docx

Best regards,

Amy

From: Amy Meyer a7w2m@ (b) (6)  
 Subject: Re: Last piece of dog management presentation to Dan Bernal  
 Date: July 13, 2015 at 5:03 PM  
 To: Howard Levitt and Wendy Scheffers howandwen@ (b) (6)  
 Cc: Neal Desai ndesai@npca.org, Becky Evans rebecca@ (b) (6), chris\_lehnertz@ (b) (6)

Thanks, Howard.

I know it was a strain to get this out on your first day back.

Will keep you and Chris posted when we have our packet together to send to Dan tomorrow.

Best,  
 Amy

On Jul 13, 2015, at 4:53 PM, Howard Levitt and Wendy Scheffers <howandwen@ (b) (6)> wrote:

Amy, Neal, and Becky:

Try this ...

1. Golden Gate petitioned the NPS regional and national directorate to be able to develop a GOGA-specific rule for dog management that both met the preservation and recreation mandates of an NPS site, and also acknowledged the then-30 year tradition of off-leash dog use in areas of the park, and park ownership of most of the beach areas in San Francisco and southern Marin. It is a significant stretch for NPS to even consider off-leash dog use.
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4. NPS carefully assessed every area governed by the 1979 Pet Policy, and later added key San Mateo County sites that were not owned or managed by the park in 1979, to determine if there were any areas where dogs could be permitted off leash without threatening sensitive or threatened wildlife and plants, and which also permitted opportunities for those who want a dog-free experience. We identified 7 areas where we feel off leash dog use can occur.
5. In addition to the 7 proposed off leash areas, there are 21 areas (including some that also permit off leash) that propose on-leash dog walking.
6. Commercial dog walking is permitted in many park areas; NPS authority to permit this use is contested by several groups.

Howard

On Fri, Jul 10, 2015 at 4:42 PM, Amy Meyer <a7w2m@ (b) (6)> wrote:

Dear Chris,

Neal, Becky, and I have pulled together all but the last piece of paper for the meeting with Dan on Wednesday. They are 1) a shortened version of the preamble Howard sent us and 2) the chart he sent showing what neighboring agencies do. I found 3) the CFR citation and will provide Dan with a copy, highlighting sections 1 and 2..

Howard said he'd get on the paper that summarizes the relevant sections of the Dog Management Plan as soon as he returns on Monday. This has to be in bullet or other short form—it's my experience that Dan does not have the time to deal with anything of any length. He will simply want to know the essentials.

I need the paper by Tuesday morning because I want to send the 4 papers to Dan ahead of time and want him to be able to share them with the person he is including in our meeting from their Washington office. I also have to go over the paper with Neal and Becky before I use it.

I have to leave by 9:30 Monday morning for an event for the opening of the New Presidio Parkway. I will be back about noon. I leave for a doctors appointment at 2:15. Back near 4.

Best,

Amy

Amy Meyer  
[www.amymeyer.com](http://www.amymeyer.com)

**From:** Amy Meyer a7w2m@ (b) (6)  
**Subject:** Fwd: Speier GGNRA dog amendment offered on House floor but out of order  
**Date:** July 10, 2015 at 5:05 PM  
**To:** chris\_lehnertz@ (b) (6)

---

Begin forwarded message:  
Chris,


By now I hope you have seen this Speier attempt. I view it as grandstanding since she knows the House rules. I hope that's what it was— but that doesn't mean she won't try something else.

Amy

**From:** Neal Desai <ndesai@npca.org>  
**Subject:** Speier GGNRA dog amendment offered on House floor but out of order  
**Date:** July 7, 2015 at 7:28:48 PM PDT  
**To:** "Amy Meyer (a7w2m@ (b) (6))" <a7w2m@ (b) (6)>, "BeckyE (rebecae@ (b) (6))" <rebecae@ (b) (6)>

Just FYI. Rep. Speier just offered this amendment (rider) on floor of House appropriations bill. Rep Calvert raised point of order as the amendment violated rule 21 of House rules. It is "out of order" but thought you should know about it. I've informed NPS and will keep you posted if anything else related comes up.

<http://repcloakroom.house.gov/uploadedfiles/intfy16speier.pdf>

From: Amy Meyer a7w2m@ (b) (6)   
 Subject: Dog meeting with Dan Bernal  
 Date: July 8, 2015 at 9:50 AM  
 To: chris\_lehnertz@ (b) (6)  
 Cc: Becky Evans rebecca@ (b) (6), Neal Desai ndesai@npca.org

Dear Chris,

Neal, Becky, and I are meeting with Dan Bernal next Wednesday, 7/15, at 1 pm.

Howard supplied us with some good background information including underlying legislation and policy and also a chart showing what neighboring agencies are doing re: dogs.

We will summarize the nationwide dog regulations and describe why the situation here calls for the Special Rule.

What we don't have is what GGNRA is offering for dogs under the Special Rule. We would label what you tell us as a "final," going through the last stages of the approval process and expected to come out around mid-September.

One of the necessary matters to turn around is that GGNRA is not taking something away from dog owners but is giving them more than any other national park users in the country. The true comparison is with the usual NPS dog regulations. To receive this special benefit, sites have been well-justified so as not to set a precedent. That pushes back against "we're only getting 1%", but not defensively.

Can you get someone to send us the essential contents of the Special Rule (including, if possible, a map) that makes plain why certain areas have been chosen and examples of why many areas are inappropriate for on- or off-leash dogs.

Best regards,  
 Amy

Neal just sent this, including Pelosi's letter to you, below:

I can also send an email to howard's personal email asking him for how many meetings NPS has conducted over the years on this topic as a way to highlight the public engagement. The "listen to the community and diverse viewpoints" message is central to Pelosi's 4/1/15 letter to GGNRA (attached).

We want Pelosi's office to see that the NPS has listened to the community, but listening to someone and doing what they want you to do are two different things. And the science and policy doesn't support much of what the dog people want NPS to do

NANCY PELOSI  
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 DEMOCRATIC LEADER  
 225 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
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 House of Representatives  
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DISTRICT OFFICE  
 SAN FRANCISCO FEDERAL BUILDING  
 90 FINE STREET  
 SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94103  
 (415) 398-4282  
 www.pelosi.house.gov

April 1, 2015

Superintendent Christine Lehnertz  
 Golden Gate National Recreation Area  
 Building 201, Fort Mason  
 San Francisco, CA 94123-0022

Dear Superintendent Lehnertz:

Congratulations on your appointment as Superintendent of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA). As you know, the GGNRA is one of our nation's greatest natural treasures – a

crown jewel of the National Park System and America's most visited park unit. GGNRA offers residents of the Bay Area as well as visitors from around our country and the world the opportunity to connect with nature, enjoy outdoor recreational activity and experience our nation's history adjacent to a major urban center.

As former regional director for the Pacific West Region of the National Park Service, I have trust in your knowledge and understanding on the importance and diversity of passionate and deeply held views by my constituents on preserving abundant recreational activities, including off-leash dog walking.

In developing new dog management rules and implementing the recent General Management Plan, it is of the utmost importance that we recognize the need to achieve a working balance of natural, historic, scenic and recreational uses of GGNRA as envisioned by my predecessor Representative Phil Burton, who authored the legislation creating this national icon of our park system.

During this process, it is absolutely crucial that the concerns of those affected by the regulations are considered, consulted and incorporated. Your door must be open to diverse viewpoints, your actions must be transparent and your decisions must be clear, balanced and fair.

Congratulations, again, on your appointment as Golden Gate National Recreation Area Superintendent. I look forward to working with you in a constructive manner to ensure GGNRA remains a place of peaceful reflection, natural beauty and recreational opportunity well in the future.

best regards,



NANCY PELOSI  
Democratic Leader

**From:** Phil Ginsburg pginsburg@ (b) (6)

**Subject:** dogs

**Date:** April 24, 2016 at 8:43 PM

**To:** Christine Lehnertz chris\_lehnertz@ (b) (6)

**Cc:** Staci White Staci.White@sfgov.org

---

GP

Chris,

I need to discuss dogs w you and/or Howard tomorrow. Staci can help us schedule time for a call.

Thanks,

Phil Ginsburg  
(sent from my iPhone)

**From:** Amy Meyer amy7w2m@ (b) (6)  
**Subject:** Re: Info: Dog walkers sue GGNRA  
**Date:** April 7, 2016 at 3:43 PM  
**To:** Mark Westlund mark.westlund@sierraclub.org  
**Cc:** Virginia Reinhart virginia.reinhart@sierraclub.org, Neal Desai ndesai@npca.org, Josh Sonnenfeld josh.sonnenfeld@sierraclub.org, Alan Carlton carltonal@ (b) (6), Michelle Myers michelle.myers@sierraclub.org, BeckyE rebecca@ (b) (6), Bernal, Dan Dan.Bernal@mail.house.gov  
**Bcc:** chris\_lehnertz@ (b) (6)

Please click on the red print "even Nancy Pelosi weighing in against it" and you will find that it is about Nancy getting the comment time on the proposed Special Rule extended for 30 days.

It concerns me that many people won't bother to click.

Amy

On Thu, Apr 7, 2016 at 2:56 PM, Mark Westlund <[mark.westlund@sierraclub.org](mailto:mark.westlund@sierraclub.org)> wrote:

[http://sfist.com/2016/04/07/dog\\_owners\\_get\\_serious\\_file\\_lawsuit.php](http://sfist.com/2016/04/07/dog_owners_get_serious_file_lawsuit.php)

### Dog Owners Get Serious, File Lawsuit Against National Park Service Over New Restrictions

BY **JAY BARMANN** IN **NEWS** ON APR 7, 2016 12:20 PM



Fort Funston. Photo: [Darwin Bell](#)

In the [ongoing drama](#) over new proposed dog rules in the Golden Gate National Recreation Area, several local dog-owner groups filed a federal lawsuit Tuesday seeking data from the National Park Service on the impact of dogs on the area. As [KRON 4](#) and [CBS 5 are reporting](#), angry dog owners who don't want to see the number of off-leash areas decrease along the SF and Marin coasts are looking to compel the government to show them some hard numbers before the period for public



comment on the proposed changes ends.

The group filing the suit goes by the name Save Our Recreation, and as an attorney representing them [tells the Chronicle](#), "It is apparent that NPS has purposefully blocked access to this information because it does not want the public to use the documents in connection with the public comment period for the proposed rule that, if implemented, would radically reduce a long-standing recreational use of the GGNRA."

The group, which serves as an umbrella organization for multiple local dog-owner groups, filed a Freedom of Information Act request for the same data back in November, but heard no response. Thus, the lawsuit.

The new rules, as detailed in February, would drastically reduce the number of off-leash areas for dogs — cutting the acreage where off-leash dog walking is allowed by more than half in popular spots like Fort Funston and Crissy Field — and banning dogs altogether in some spots.

Many, many people have spoken out against the plan, with [even Nancy Pelosi weighing in against it](#), because as we all know, anecdotally, there are more dogs than children in San Francisco. The new rules would effect a large swath of the coast though, not just in SF, as the GGNRA extends to Marin and down into San Mateo County as well.

The Park Service has previously said that the changes are trying to strike a balance of allowing dog owners and non-dog owners alike space to enjoy the beaches, and protecting habitats and the environment as well.

--  
[www.amywmeyer.com](http://www.amywmeyer.com)

From: Chris Lehnertz chris\_lehnertz@ (b) (6)  
Subject: Mmc  
Date: March 23, 2016 at 10:28 PM  
To: Christine Lehnertz chris\_lehnertz@nps.gov

---

LC

*"It's pup season! And that means you might encounter newborn harbor seal pups on local beaches. What should you do if you have one of these special meetings? What should you not do?"*

***You SHOULD...***

- Stay at least 100 feet away from the seal pup. This applies to dogs, too. Harbor seal pups do not have a strong immune system when they are first born. Contact with people and dogs very likely will compromise their health... and lead to their death. (Dramatic sounding, but that's the reality).*
- If you are so inclined, politely encourage other people to also stay away from the seal pup.*
- Call your local marine mammal rescue organization. (From Anchor Bay down to Morro Bay, including the SF Bay Area, call 415-289-SEAL. Other organizations rescue locally south of Morro Bay). Rescue organizations have people specially trained to evaluate and rescue harbor seal pups... if they need rescuing.*

***You SHOULD NOT...***

- Take... "Just one cute selfie!... I won't hurt it. I'll be really quiet and quick!" See the point above about the pup's immune system. Additionally, because a harbor seal pup is alone on a beach doesn't mean it's abandoned. Harbor seal pups are routinely left on beaches by their moms when they swim just offshore to forage. Mom knows exactly where she left her pup. Harbor seals are extremely skittish. If they see a person or dog in proximity to the pup, they will not go all "momma grizzly" and rush to defend their pup. They will instead abandon it. They will not return to the pup after you've taken that "one quick selfie" and left. The pup is now alone and will die. (Sounds harsh, yes. But again, it's reality).*
- Attempt to rescue the pup. In many cases, the pup is just fine. Its mom is just offshore (whether or not you can see her) and she knows where her pup is. Rescue organizations' rescue crews are trained to evaluate pups as to whether*

*they need rescue. They have special training and equipment to rescue pups safely.*

*- Take the pup home to feed it. Although ridiculously cute, harbor seal pups make ridiculously terrible pets. Once separated from its mom, a harbor seal pup needs a very special tube-fed diet, antibiotics, vitamins and round-the-clock care. (All that in addition to the fact that they're not house trained. Time to replace the bathtub!).*

*- Pour water on the pup. Harbor seal pups are not fish. They can spend hours, and even days, out of the water. Pouring water on a pup just makes them cold, and they then have to use their energy to warm themselves again."*

**From:** Chris Lehnertz chrleh@ (b) (6)  
**Subject:** City Visions: New Rules for Dogs in the GGNRA | KALW  
**Date:** March 21, 2016 at 11:27 PM  
**To:** Christine Lehnertz chris\_lehnertz@nps.gov

---



<http://kalw.org/post/city-visions-new-rules-dogs-ggnra>

**From:** Christine Lehnertz Chris\_Lehnertz@nps.gov  
**Subject:** Photos from Save Off-Leash Dog Walking Areas in the SF Bay Area's post in Mighty Mutt March  
**Date:** March 16, 2016 at 7:38 PM  
**To:** Me chris\_lehnertz@ (b) (6)

---



<https://m.facebook.com/saveoffleash/photos/gm.1697405263869041/1039477626109599/?type=3&source=44>

Chris Lehnertz, Superintendent  
Golden Gate National Recreation Area  
Muir Woods National Monument  
Fort Point National Historic Site  
201 Fort Mason  
San Francisco, CA 94123  
(w) [415-561-4720](tel:415-561-4720)  
(m) [415-652-8811](tel:415-652-8811)

**From:** Chris Lehnertz chris\_lehnertz@ (b) (6)  
**Subject:** MoveOn Petitions - Enforce existing laws on the San Mateo County Coast to protect us from off-leash dogs.  
**Date:** February 26, 2016 at 7:15 AM  
**To:** Christine Lehnertz chris\_lehnertz@nps.gov

---



<http://petitions.moveon.org/sign/enforce-existing-laws>

**From:** Amy Meyer amy7w2m@ (b) (6)  
**Subject:** Fwd: Out of Office: Dog Question for Chris Lehnertz on 9 am program  
**Date:** February 25, 2016 at 11:15 AM  
**To:** chris\_lehnertz@ (b) (6), Neal Desai ndesai@npca.org

---

MA

Dear Chris and Neal,

I thought both of you did a fine job this morning. You covered much ground as Michael Krasny kept a steady hand on moving things along.

Below is what came back to me from Forum. I had asked: Why would this Special Rule for dogs in the GGNRA actually GIVE special privileges to local dog walkers rather than taking something away from them? — but it wasn't used.

We'll keep moving along! Thank you,

Amy

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** Forum Mail <Forum@kqed.org>  
**Date:** Thu, Feb 25, 2016 at 8:50 AM  
**Subject:** Out of Office: Dog Question for Chris Lehnertz on 9 am program  
**To:** Amy Meyer <amy7w2m@ (b) (6)>

Thank you for emailing the Forum program. If this is a comment or question for a live show we will immediately send it to the segment producer/director and the host may read it on the air. If this is a show idea or show pitch, we appreciate your suggestion and we will consider it. Finally, if this is a general comment about the show or the host, we will forward it to the host and senior editor.

We wish that we could respond to every email individually, but due to the large volume of emails – and the demands on our small staff - this is unfortunately not possible. Thanks for listening!

--

[www.amywmeyer.com](http://www.amywmeyer.com)

**From:** Chris Lehnertz chris\_lehnertz@ (b) (6)  
**Subject:** Re: Out of Office: Dog Question for Chris Lehnertz on 9 am program  
**Date:** February 27, 2016 at 7:37 AM  
**To:** Amy Meyer amy7w2m@ (b) (6)  
**Cc:** Neal Desai ndesai@npca.org

LC

Thanks Amy. It was a great pleasure to sit next to Neal, and next to Andrea, and have a good chance to make our cases. Much more still left to say. My new mantra: "It's fair to share!"

:)

See you soon.

Chris

On Feb 25, 2016, at 10:15 AM, Amy Meyer <amy7w2m@ (b) (6)> wrote:

Dear Chris and Neal,

I thought both of you did a fine job this morning. You covered much ground as Michael Krasny kept a steady hand on moving things along.

Below is what came back to me from Forum. I had asked: Why would this Special Rule for dogs in the GGNRA actually GIVE special privileges to local dog walkers rather than taking something away from them? — but it wasn't used.

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--

[www.amywmeyer.com](http://www.amywmeyer.com)



**From:** Diane Dean [\(b\) \(6\)](mailto:milestonedean@(b) (6))

**Subject:** Re: Initial Thoughts

**Date:** May 4, 2014 at 3:12 PM

**To:** Howard Levitt and Wendy Scheffers [\(b\) \(6\)](mailto:howandwen@(b) (6))

DD

Howard, yes we should do our own letter. Probably before the editorial board meeting as we can't wait or guarantee what they will write. Perhaps later in the week, they will reinforce what we write.

On May 4, 2014, at 2:24 PM, Howard Levitt and Wendy Scheffers <[\(b\) \(6\)](mailto:howandwen@(b) (6))> wrote:

Frank, in addition to Amy, should we prepare a second response from NPS addressing Huey's twisting of our positions? If so, I'm glad to take the first crack at it. Also, I asked Amy if she thought we should get some of the other Rebels (Marty Rosen, Doug Ferguson, Gary Giacomini) to sign on to her letter. I will look at her letter later - out for a bike ride for the rest of the afternoon. Howard

On May 4, 2014, at 1:44 PM, Diane Dean wrote:

Greg,

Thanks for getting this started. We will need to address the recreation and dog issue as well- not a ban etc.

FYI- Huey was very cool to me at the Rebels premiere last year when I went out of my way to present him with a park ball cap due to it being his 80th birthday. I thanked him for all his great work and how grateful we were to be implementing that vision. He looked at me strangely. Little did I know... I still want to ask Doug Ferguson what he knows about this attitude- he has been very supportive and encouraging in my encounters with him.

BTW- at a public meeting at the Muir Woods Community Association last week, the audience was dubious about everything, including the new TLC. They wanted to know more and how they could "join". I said we would return and brief them about how they could get involved.

People are quick to go negative and wallow these days.

Frank

On May 4, 2014, at 1:14 PM, "Greg Moore" <[\(b\) \(6\)](mailto:mooregreg@(b) (6))> wrote:

Hi all,

Here is an initial attempt at a response. It is too long, of course, and I am not committed to the precise language and am completely open to what content is needed. I just thought I would get the ball rolling. This approach imagines Amy as the author.

I'm sure it could be condensed and made punchier.

Thanks all,

Greg

P.S. I am pretty much tied up tomorrow with the Presidio Gateway project and welcoming the participants for the upcoming charrette.

---

**From:** Howard Levitt and Wendy Scheffers [[\(b\) \(6\)](mailto:howandwen@(b) (6))]

**Sent:** Sunday, May 04, 2014 11:39 AM

**To:** Amy Meyer; Greg Moore; Greg Moore; frank and diane dean

**Cc:** Howard Levitt

**Subject:** Re: What's going on with Huey?

Dear Amy: Huey's way off the deep end, and this deeply offensive piece cannot stand uncontested. Below is a link to the Fimrite article. Maybe all of us can connect by phone today or tomorrow to consider a rejoinder and refutation of this malicious nonsense. Howard

<http://www.sfgate.com/default/article/Golden-Gate-National-Recreation-Area-proposes-5436978.php>

On May 4, 2014, at 10:59 AM, Amy Meyer wrote:

Dear Howard,

Greg Moore just sent this nasty screed by Huey against the Conservancy. I am trying to get my arms around what is going on and am working on what I can do to help.

Do you have the article electronically that Peter Fimrite did last week? I want to see it for context. Probably that has to wait until tomorrow, but please send it to me as soon as you can.

Thanks,  
Amy

## Marin Voice: Keep recreation in GGNRA

By Huey D. Johnson  
Guest op-ed column

Posted: 05/03/2014 06:45:00 PM PDT

SAN FRANCISCO is being highlighted nationally this year with 600 showings on the

nation's TV stations of the lovely film, "Rebels with a Cause."

Produced by Santa Rosa's KCRB and local filmmakers Nancy Kelly and Kenji Yamamoto, the documentary tells the story of the struggle to establish the Golden Gate National Recreation Area through the dreams of honorable politicians and the fast-moving land purchases made by small nonprofits that make up the GGNRA today.

That now-preserved recreation landscape includes 40 miles of seashore landscape reaching from Bolinas in the north, across the Golden Gate Bridge, to San Mateo County in the south. Its history goes back to post-World War II, when with the help of a cooperative Congress the federal government sought to ease urban pressure by providing recreation. Under Chairman Laurance Rockefeller, the Outdoor Recreation Review Commission hired hundreds of experts to study how recreation could improve our stressful urban condition.

Results included establishment of the Land and Water Conservation Fund. I recall the fund provided \$113 million. Without it there wouldn't be a GGNRA.

The GGNRA is intended especially for workers and retirees, those living in small apartments with no backyards and no place to walk their dogs. In light of the source and purpose of the LWCF money, the current political maneuvering to end dog walking is absurd. Owners can train, control and pick up after dogs. And there are already clear rules in place with respect to pets in the GGNRA that need to be enforced and supported.

As happens, a nonprofit Golden Gate National Park Conservancy has emerged that wants to limit public use of the GGNRA. This was never the intent or the purpose of the GGNRA. The principal activity of the national parks advocacy group is fundraising, and wealthy donors who are led to believe they are giving to an environmental cause have donated millions of dollars that is given to government.

This is a mistake.

Such groups have wonderful promise as a way of providing volunteers to assist GGNRA needs, but raising money for government isn't sensible. They are overdue in checking out the British National Trust, or the Friend of Austria's Vienna Woods. These two are marvelously successful and they don't send money to government.

Meanwhile, as the parks conservancy skims millions of dollars from San Francisco regional environmental giving, important environmental nonprofits are starving trying to compete with it to do their more important work. It's the efforts of Earth Justice, [350.org](http://350.org) and the Sierra Club that are doing the most to fulfill the dreams of the first Earth Day.

We can't afford to let something like an attempt to ban dogs or restrict access in the GGNRA distract us from the true environmental issues of our day — climate change, fracking, water scarcity — that deserve the vision and leadership of the Bay Area.

True environmental leadership must remain our most important legacy.

We know that the role the GGNRA plays in our regional health and identity is unparalleled. We are obligated to honor its origins, protect its multiple uses, provide a place for hikers,

bikers, dogs and kids and show the rest of the country why we deserve to have its bounty so close at hand.

Huey D. Johnson of Mill Valley is the founder of Resource Renewal Institute, a non-profit organization that deals with environmental sustainability. As director of the Nature Conservancy, he helped save the Marin Headlands from development. He was also the founder of the Trust for Public Land and served as secretary of resources during Gov. Jerry Brown's first term.

<Response to Johnson Op Ed.doc>

**From:** Howard Levitt and Wendy Scheffers howandwen@ (b) (6)

**Subject:** Re: Fimrite article

**Date:** September 7, 2014 at 1:12 PM

**To:** Sharon Farrell SFarrell@ParksConservancy.org

**Cc:** Greg Moore MooreGreg@ (b) (6), frank and diane dean milestonedean@ (b) (6), Alex Picavet picavet@ (b) (6)

HL

Thanks, Sharon. All of these folks could be good authors of a letter to the editor on Fimrite's article. I have to keep my distance from this, for obvious reasons, so how would you suggest someone reach out to these folks, and who would do the reaching? Re better presence in Marin - yes! We have been talking about creating a position that is equivalent to Christine FitzGerald in SM Co ... her work hasn't solved all the angst, but it has really kept things calm and mostly civilized.

BTW, just finished reading all of the sfgate comments on the article... lots of govt as big brother, lots of nimbys, you should suck it up, lots of NPS has a pattern of screwing communities. Laura Pandapas (Lovapanda) was very prominent, and one of her beefs was with Conservancy privatizing the park.

Howard

On Sep 7, 2014, at 12:26 PM, Sharon Farrell wrote:

Hi

Yes, I read this too. I am saddened that a few vocal residents have become the "voice" of the community. Per Greg's thoughts, below are some individuals who might be good spokespersons –

- Marilee is a good suggestion as many of her Corps members have benefited from educational/career training at both MuBe and Dias Ridge.
- Larry Minikes (MCL) – he wrote a response to the Huey Johnson Op Ed piece
- Nona Dennis (MCL) – I recently presented the status of the TLC to MCL, and she made several comments about misinformation coming MuBe residents.
- Richard Lautze – Aim High – has been an active partner with stewardship and our work in Tennessee Valley/MuBe for 20 years
- Ingrid and Jamie Cabada – 25+ year volunteers with HRT & native plant nursery who have worked at MuBe and other locations throughout the Park. Supported the Park during the Presidio VMP and FoFu issues.
- Maureen Pinto – I am not sure if she would write anything, but she too has been a huge advocate of our work over the past 5 years, plus she has continued to share her support for our community engagement.
- Tom Boss with MCBC – active partner in trail stewardship throughout Dias corridor – he helped shape our equestrian/hiker/bike stewardship program on the trail. He is interested in increased multi-use access.
- Joel Gerwein (Coastal Conservancy) – he has a big advocate for MuBe, Coho restoration and trail working in the area and recently shared his frustration over the loss of the bus stop project and misinformation
- Gail Seymour – CDFW – very active in the Marin environmental community with helping educate stakeholders about coho/steelhead restoration needs. She knows most of the Tam Task Force participants as well as Mill Valley Streamkeepers, SPAWN etc. and is respected. She has been one of the restoration work's biggest proponents.

There are also a large number of community members within MuBe who support our work. That said, a number have been intimidated by the more vocal residents who are sharing A LOT of misinformation. I talked to both Brian and Nancy about needing to get the accurate information about a number of efforts out to the broader community. Let me know how I can help – I also agree with Greg that we need to be attentive not to pull TLC into this, as we are meeting with 2-4 groups weekly

at this time.

Community engagement and public information sharing is on the RWC Collaborative's senior management team agenda for Sept 18<sup>th</sup>. We are looking to develop a more comprehensive engagement program that will highlight many of the non-controversial projects – tactile models, trail signage, etc., and engage a much broader audience to build support.

Cheers Sharon

Sharon Farrell  
Director of Park Projects  
*Resource Conservation & Project Implementation*  
Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy  
Building 201, Fort Mason  
San Francisco, CA 94123  
P: 415-561-3065  
C: (b) (6)  
F: 415-561-3003  
[www.parksconservancy.org](http://www.parksconservancy.org)  
*Parks for All Forever*

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**From:** Greg Moore [mailto:MooreGreg@ (b) (6)]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 07, 2014 11:37 AM  
**To:** 'Howard Levitt and Wendy Scheffers'; 'frank and diane dean'  
**Cc:** 'Alex Picavet'; Sharon Farrell  
**Subject:** RE: Fimrite article

Hi Howard,

I believe the responses should be fact-based, not opinion-based. I think the rebuttal should highlight the NPS's track record of conservation and visitor service, rather than argue whether the NPS can be trusted or not. Let's just point to the facts. The "belong to all of us" argument may be too ideological to work.

For example:

- Numbers of trails improved, acres restored, visitors served, historic buildings saved, native plants planted, youth engaged.
- Challenges met at the Presidio, Fort Baker, etc.
- Partners involved in parklands

Sharon, perhaps you have ideas of who would be a spokespersons. For example, Marilee Ekert (powerful since she is now on the Board of MCF); Marin Conservation League; Marin City; Aim High; GGRO volunteer; Habitat Restoration Team, etc. Let's not, however, drag the TLC into ..

THIS.

Do we have any connections with Marin press or Editorial Boards that can help us?

I do think that the NPS should be considering a Marin-based office with a community liaison in place.

Greg

-----Original Message-----

From: Howard Levitt and Wendy Scheffers [[mailto:howandwen@\(b\) \(6\) \[REDACTED\]](mailto:howandwen@(b) (6) [REDACTED])]

Sent: Sunday, September 7, 2014 10:43 AM

To: Greg Moore; frank and diane dean

Cc: Alex Picavet

Subject: Fimrite article

Greg and Frank:

Please keep responses to this on personal email.

I know you'll be flying today, Frank, and may not see this message. Greg, could you help us identify a few Marin residents to write rebuttal letters in response to today's Peter Fimrite's Chron article?

I believe the key points in a rebuttal would include:

1. The headline and article refer to "mistrust" of the NPS. In fact, it's not mistrust as much as it is a belief by some vocal people in Muir Beach that what they view as their private beach will be used by others.
2. Using the Muir Beach restoration as an example of the NPS as a "huge commercial developer" reinforces point #1.
3. The article represents very shoddy journalism. Fimrite has taken the Karl Rove approach to journalism -- "some folks have said...", "according to some...", "people fear ...." -- to provide a personal opinion masquerading as journalism. Because Fimrite is a Muir Beach resident - something not disclosed in the article - he is clearly serving as an advocate for a community viewpoint, not as an objective reporter.
4. The conclusion of the article, that the real issue is "can NPS get along with its neighbors?" has it wrong. The real issue is: Can the residents of Muir Beach understand that the national parklands adjoining their community belong to all of us?

This article needs a loud response.

I'll be available to talk about this in the late afternoon. I will also be reaching out by phone to Amy, and through her, to Neal Desai.

| Howard=



**From:** Diane Dean milestonedean@(b) (6)

**Subject:** Re: today's column

**Date:** January 20, 2014 at 7:04 PM

**To:** Howard Levitt and Wendy Scheffers howandwen@(b) (6)

DD

Howard, well done sir! Thanks to you and Thomas.

Frank

On Jan 20, 2014, at 3:54 PM, Howard Levitt and Wendy Scheffers <howandwen@ (b) (6)> wrote:

Frank, - my Stanford prof, cycling, and football buddy - just fired this off to Tom Stienstra. Written in classic academic English, Tom nevertheless calls Stienstra to task. Not sure what, if any the response will be. HL

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Thomas A Ryckman <tryckman@ (b) (6)>

**Date:** January 20, 2014 3:00:43 PM PST

**To:** [tstienstra@sfchronicle.com](mailto:tstienstra@sfchronicle.com)

**Subject:** today's column

Dear Mr. Stienstra,

I read your column regularly and usually with enjoyment. Since coming to SF in 1999, my wife and I have learned much from you about the wonderful walks in and around the Bay Area, and from your coverage of the wonders of (by Eastern standards) subtle seasonal changes in California.

However today I was both disappointed and annoyed. As I understand it, the GGNRA dog leash plan has been carefully drafted to balance the interests of dog owners with a mandate that fragile natural habitats must be protected. It is not the arbitrary imposition of government whim or a ukase from a remote faceless bureaucrat. In this matter, which I have followed for some time, dog owner groups are acting like spoiled children, selfishly putting their supposed entitlement (though allegedly speaking for their pets) above the general good of the public, a good that includes passing on to future generations the few remaining strips of wildlife habitat in the Bay Area. As with other areas of environmental protection, past practice or precedent is not, and should not be, an inviolable standard going forward. I do not see, as many dog owners do, that one can legitimately speak here of an infringement of "rights". In this narcissistic society, claims about "rights" are as common as blackberries and just about as meaningful.

Your remarks about government and park rangers may elicit praise from dog owners but they are irresponsible. You might ask the people of Charleston, WV about the necessity of "a lot of new rules and enforcement". And your opinion that "It is common these days that rangers do not live within the community of the parks they patrol" requires evidence. Even if true, the same could be said for many of the police and firemen working in communities in the Bay Area. You do a disservice to your readers to pander to a particular constituency on this issue.

Sincerely,

Thomas Ryckman

**From:** Howard Levitt and Wendy Scheffers howandwen@ (b) (6)  
**Subject:** Yes!  
**Date:** May 1, 2011 at 7:38 AM  
**To:** frank and diane dean milestonedean@ (b) (6)

---



Hi Frank:

At last, the Chronicle piece we've been waiting for! Today's editorial will help change the equation for us with the elected officials. Although it seldom happens these days, in this case the high road was the right road for us.

Walk with Mark Farrell went well yesterday - but I think he will still try to play the deal maker. He posed all sorts of f'rinstances like, "how about you split East Beach down the middle?" We couldn't have had a better day to tour; Crissy was packed with thousands of users, several dogs were off leash in the WPA, and overall the balance in our prescription at Crissy seemed pretty evident.

I have an idea - what if we offer onsite tours of Crissy, OB and Funston for the interested public in a couple of weeks? Nothing shows the balance like seeing the situation on the ground.

Wendy and I will be at Crissy today at Noon for the Crissy 10th anniversary Conservancy's Members Day.

See you tomorrow.

Howard

**From:** shirwin1@ (b) (6)  
**Subject:** Fwd: a different perspective on the off-leash issue  
**Date:** May 13, 2011 at 2:37 PM  
**To:** Howard\_Levitt@nps.gov, Alexandra\_Picavet@nps.gov

SS

----- Forwarded Message -----

**From:** "BeckyE" <rebecae@ (b) (6) >  
**To:** "Shirwin Smith" <shirwin1@ (b) (6) >  
**Sent:** Friday, May 13, 2011 1:11:24 PM  
**Subject:** FW: a different perspective on the off-leash issue

-----Forwarded Message-----

**From:** Neal Desai  
**Sent:** May 12, 2011 11:51 AM  
**To:** "BeckyE (rebecae@ (b) (6) )"  
**Subject:** FW: a different perspective on the off-leash issue

Just FYI that Nat has reached out to congressional offices...

---

**From:** Nathaniel Stookey [mailto:nstookey@ (b) (6) ]  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 12, 2011 11:45 AM  
**To:** Nathaniel Stookey  
**Subject:** a different perspective on the off-leash issue

May 12, 2011

Dear Senators Feinstein and Boxer,  
Dear Representatives Pelosi and Speier,

I was very surprised by the San Francisco Board of Supervisors' nearly unanimous decision to oppose the GGNRA's new proposal to manage off-leash dogs on National Park Service lands. I understand that off-leash advocates are a very large, vocal, and well-organized constituency but hope that, over the course of this process, you will hear other perspectives as well.

Growing up in San Francisco, my wife Jodi and I were both frequent visitors to Fort Funston, which is one of our city's most wild and spectacular natural areas. We celebrated childhood birthdays there, played capture the flag, and took frequent long walks with our parents, both with and without dogs. When we moved home to San Francisco with our own children in 2003, we expected Fort Funston to be a focal point in their lives as well but, despite having become part of the GGNRA, the entire property had essentially become an off-leash dog-park. Our children couldn't safely play there (because of feces as well as safety concerns) and our parents – older now – couldn't walk for fear of being knocked over at every turn. Fort Funston is one of our favorite places on earth, fifteen minutes from our door, and is now basically off-limits to us. This is a source of great sadness to our family, to our parents, and to many friends with whom we share fond memories of the place.

It is true that dog-walkers now make up the majority of visitors to Fort Funston, but I suspect there are many others like us who have stopped using the park because it has become unsafe and/or unpleasant. Those former users are difficult to reach, much less organize, because they now go elsewhere to enjoy the outdoors.

If you don't know Fort Funston, I recommend a visit. You can walk along the bluffs and down a ladder to a gorgeous cliff-walled beach. There are horses and hang-gliders. **It's also a great place to walk your dog, which is in no way threatened by the new rules.** Currently, the entire park is a de facto off-leash zone. The proposal is for the off-leash area to be defined and for its boundaries to be enforced so that other uses (like birthday parties!) are once again possible. That seems reasonable to me. If it seems reasonable to you, I hope you will support GGNRA's very careful process to create parklands that can once again be enjoyed by everyone.

Thank you for your consideration,

Nathaniel Stookey

(b) (6)  
San Francisco, CA

From: shirwin1@ (b) (6)  
Subject: Fwd: Chronicle Insight editorial  
Date: May 2, 2011 at 1:33 PM  
To: Howard\_Levitt@nps.gov

---

SS

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: "Amy Meyer" <a7w2m@ (b) (6)>  
To: "Neal Desai" <ndesai@npca.org>, "mlynes@goldengateaudubon.org" (mlynes@goldengateaudubon.org) <mlynes@goldengateaudubon.org>, "Rich Bartke" <richbartke@ (b) (6)>, "Becky Evans" <rebecae@ (b) (6)>, "Jan Blum" <1janblum@ (b) (6)>, "arthurfeinstein@ (b) (6) Feinstein" <arthurfeinstein@ (b) (6)>, "Ruth Gravanis" <gravanis@ (b) (6)>, "Steven Krefting" <skrefting@igc.org>, "Peter Brastow" <peter@natureinthecity.org>, "matthew zlatunich" <mbzlat@ (b) (6)>, "M.A. Miller" <ma-miller@ (b) (6)>, "Margaret Goodale" <margstan@ (b) (6)>  
Sent: Sunday, May 1, 2011 7:50:58 PM  
Subject: Chronicle Insight editorial

Dear All,

Some of you have received a message just like this one from Neal Desai. Today's Insight section, page 10, GOOD dog editorial.

DOES ANYONE KNOW HOW THIS HAPPENED?

Rich, would you please inform the Advisory Commission in Exile!!

Please let the Chronicle know you are grateful. Tell others to write.  
Amy

DRAFT #2      OP-ED re: Dog walking in GGNRA, Proposed Special Rule – An Accommodation, not a Ban

In 1972, Congress passed a bill that gave the Bay Area its glorious national park next door. The first paragraph of that legislation says:

*In order to preserve for public use and enjoyment certain areas of Marin and San Francisco [and San Mateo] Counties... possessing outstanding natural, historic, scenic, and recreational values... the Golden Gate National Recreation Area... is hereby established. In the management of the recreation area the Secretary of the Interior... shall utilize the resources in a manner which will provide for recreation and educational opportunities consistent with sound principles of land use planning and management... In carrying out the provisions of the Act, the Secretary shall preserve the recreation area, as far as possible, in its natural setting, and protect it from development and uses which would destroy the scenic beauty and natural character of the area.*

The legislation provided for a Citizens Advisory Commission, unpaid volunteers appointed by the Secretary. The undersigned are former members of that now sun-setted commission who served from 8 to 29 years each. We held frequent public hearings so the public could learn about plans for the park and so that the public could advise the GGNRA superintendent about local concerns.

Because of the use of some GGNRA lands for off-leash dog walking prior to the creation of the park, the advisory commission recommended that the superintendent permit dog walking under voice control in some areas. In 1979 the superintendent accepted that recommendation. This was extraordinary.

By federal regulation, dog walking under voice control for recreation was and is not allowed in any unit of the national park system. All of them follow the same regulation – on-leash where allowed, for recreational dog walking. This applies whether the unit is a national park, national seashore, national recreation area, or any of the other 25 or so names by which lands in the care of the National Park Service are known.

In keeping with our 1979 recommendation, which acknowledged the unusual circumstances at GGNRA where NPS lands are both resource treasures and the backyard for a major urban area, the park embarked 8 years ago on a planning process. The goal was to replace the NPS-wide federal regulation here at GGNRA with a park-specific rule that could better address local needs. That 8-year process has resulted in a 2,400-page Draft Environmental Impact Statement covering 21 areas of GGNRA. Those 21 areas are the majority, and most heavily visited, of the 14,000 acres managed by the park. (All other lands within the park boundary are administered by other agencies.)

The preferred alternative in the Draft makes clear that GGNRA's goal is to accommodate, not ban, dog walking, even voice-control dog walking – despite the

Shirwin Smith 3/24/2011 3:54 PM

**Comment [1]:** Here add info about how times have changed – increase in users and in forms of recreation since 1979, plus knowledge of resources.

NPS-wide regulation requiring leashes. This carries forward former Supt. Brian O'Neill's intent at the beginning of the planning process, when the Negotiated Rulemaking Committee for dog management was formed, to find a middle ground - where resources would be protected and where a variety of differing user groups could safely co-exist.

This draft plan is a significant step, proposing to allow a use not permitted in any other national park unit. However, with the privilege that this represents comes responsibility. We know that many dog walkers treasure these lands, and are concerned for the environment. Hopefully that care and concern ensures their consideration for the needs of the natural resources the NPS must protect, and for other recreational users who share park areas.

We urge the public to review what is actually being proposed by GGNRA, and to submit comments that would help the park achieve its desired end of a balance of recreational uses and resource protection. We hope that the effort that has gone into crafting a special rule to give people opportunities to enjoy a traditional use of certain areas of the GGNRA will be successful.

Amy Meyer  
Trent Orr  
Gimmy Park Li  
Fred Rodriguez  
Jackie Young

Rich Bartke  
John Mitchell  
Betsey Cutler  
Susan Allen

Lennie Roberts  
Paul Jones  
Doug Nadeau  
Michael Alexander

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

From: shirwin1@ (b) (6) 

Subject: Re: Dogs/John Reynolds

Date: May 2, 2011 at 5:59 PM

To: Amy Meyer a7w2m@ (b) (6), jreynoldsparks@ (b) (6), Neal Desai ndesai@npca.org, Becky Evans rebecca@ (b) (6)

SS

Hi all, attached is yesterday's SF Chronicle editorial, also including the link to it online.

Shirwin

----- Original Message -----

From: "Amy Meyer" <a7w2m@ (b) (6)>

To: "Shirwin Smith" <shirwin1@ (b) (6)>

Cc: "Neal Desai" <ndesai@npca.org>, "Becky Evans" <rebecca@ (b) (6)>

Sent: Monday, May 2, 2011 4:19:20 PM

Subject: Dogs/John Reynolds

Shirwin,

John is following the dog issue from afar. I sent him the IJ CAC piece. The Chronicle editorial has made everything lots better.

Can you send John an electronic copy? His e-mail: jreynoldsparks@ (b) (6) You might as well send one to me and to Neal Desai (NPCA) and to Becky Evans (Sierra Club) because we are likely to have to use it.

Thank you,  
Amy



Leash the dogs at Bay  
Area parks...50111.docx

**From:** Smith, Shirwin shirwin\_smith@nps.gov  
**Subject:** Fwd: Facebook site on Dogwalking in the GGNRA  
**Date:** December 4, 2012 at 4:56 PM  
**To:** shirwin1@ (b) (6)

SS

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** Su, George <[george\\_su@nps.gov](mailto:george_su@nps.gov)>  
**Date:** Fri, Nov 30, 2012 at 1:17 PM  
**Subject:** Facebook site on Dogwalking in the GGNRA  
**To:** Shirwin Smith <[shirwin\\_smith@nps.gov](mailto:shirwin_smith@nps.gov)>

Hey Shirwin,

I just found this page while perusing Facebook.

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Dogs-of-the-Golden-Gate-National-Recreation-Area/189574667743306?fref=ts>

--

Thanks. :o)

Sincerely,

George Su :o)  
Multimedia Specialist / Park Web Administrator  
Multimedia Volunteer Coordinator  
Division of Interpretation & Education

Golden Gate National Recreation Area, Muir Woods National Monument, & Fort Point National Historic Site

Fort Mason, Building 201  
San Francisco, CA 94123

phone (415) 561-4758  
mobile (415) 827-6296

Twitter  
@RangerBenyBison  
@GoldenGateNPS  
@FortPointNPS  
@MuirWoodsNPS

email: [george\\_su@nps.gov](mailto:george_su@nps.gov)

web: [www.nps.gov/goga](http://www.nps.gov/goga)  
[www.nps.gov/fopo](http://www.nps.gov/fopo)  
[www.nps.gov/muwo](http://www.nps.gov/muwo)

-----  
The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA  
-----

From: shirwin1@ (b) (6)  
Subject: Feedback on DEIS prior to Monday mtg  
Date: April 15, 2011 at 5:58 PM  
To: (b) (6).net

SS

Hi Barbara - Frank wanted to get your feedback (b) (5)

(b) (5)

(b) (5)

(b) (5)

(b) (5)


(b) (5)

Could you give us feedback on (b) (5)

(b) (5)

Thanks for your time - understand you're heading off on leave. Sorry to be throwing one more question at you as you head out!

Shirwin

**From:** BeckyE rebecca@ (b) (6)   
**Subject:** Fw: Re: Trust's Proposed Commercial Dog Management Public Use Limit  
**Date:** November 28, 2012 at 1:03 PM  
**To:** Shirwin Smith shirwin1@ (b) (6)

---

EB

Shirwin: here is Matt's email. Enjoyed our conversation; I will get back to you.



Becky Re/ Trust's Proposed  
Commecia...e Limit.eml

**From:** BeckyE rebecca@ (b) (6)  
**Subject:** Fw: Request for clarification re: commercial dog walking  
**Date:** December 9, 2012 at 5:49 PM  
**To:** Shirwin Smith shirwin1@ (b) (6)

EB

FYI . . .

-----Forwarded Message-----

**From:** Matthew Zlatunich <mbzlat@ (b) (6)>  
**Sent:** Dec 9, 2012 3:40 PM  
**To:** Craig Middleton <cmiddleton@presidiotrust.gov>, Tia Lombardi <TLombardi@presidiotrust.gov>  
**Cc:** Amy Meyer <a7w2m@ (b) (6)>, Becky Evans <rebecca@ (b) (6)>, Jan Blum <ljanblum@ (b) (6)>, Ruth Gravanis <gravanis@ (b) (6)>, Frank Dean <frank\_dean@nps.gov>  
**Subject:** Request for clarification re: commercial dog walking

Hello Craig and Tia,

Thank you so much for answering my questions regarding commercial dog walking at the PFP/P meeting last week. I'm sure you realize that my interest in this issue is motivated by the desire to minimize negative impacts to our National Park lands, and to uphold National Park values.

So that I might be most capable of submitting useful remarks for the Presidio Trusts proposed Public Use Limit on Commercial Dog Walking – a proposal aimed at reducing damage to resources, threats to public safety, and visitor conflict – I am hoping that you can clarify for me the current legality of commercial dog walking in Area B of the Presidio.

Title 36 Chapter X of the Code of Federal Regulations includes the following regulations:

36 CFR 1005.3 Business operations.

Engaging in or soliciting any business in the area administered by the Presidio Trust, except in accordance with the provisions of a permit, contract, or other written agreement with the United States, is prohibited.

36 CFR 1005.6 Commercial vehicles.

(a) The term "Commercial vehicle" as used in this section shall include, but not be limited to trucks, station wagons, pickups, passenger cars or other vehicles when used in transporting movable property for a fee or profit, either as a direct charge to another person, or otherwise, or used as an incident to providing services to another person, or used in connection with any business.

(b) The use of government roads within the area administered by the Presidio Trust by commercial vehicles, when such use is in no way connected with the operation of the area administered by the Presidio Trust, is prohibited, except that in emergencies the Executive Director may grant permission to use Presidio Trust roads.

(c) The Executive Director shall issue permits for commercial vehicles used on Presidio Trust roads when such use is necessary for access to private lands situated within or adjacent to the area administered by the Presidio Trust, to which access is otherwise not available.

36 CFR 1005.13 Nuisances.

The creation or maintenance of a nuisance upon the federally owned lands of the area administered by the Presidio Trust or upon any private lands within the boundaries of the area administered by the Presidio Trust under the exclusive legislative jurisdiction of the United States is prohibited.

Yet, the posting of the proposed public use limit in the Federal Register states that, "the Trust currently does not impose restrictions specific to Commercial Dog Walkers in Area B."

Does this mean that the Trust asserts that the aforementioned regulations do not apply to commercial dog walking businesses within Area B of the Presidio?


If it is indeed the Trusts assertion that these regulations do not apply to commercial dog walking businesses then a detailed explanation of the rationale for this assertion would be greatly appreciated.

If, otherwise, the Trust asserts that these regulations do in fact apply to commercial dog walking businesses, then would it not be unnecessary to propose a public use limit on an unwarranted commercial activity?

I thank you and I look forward to your response.

Most sincerely,

Matthew Zlatunich

From: shirwin1@**(b) (6)**   
Subject: Fwd: GGNRA Dog Management Plan  
Date: April 14, 2011 at 3:01 PM  
To: Howard\_levitt@nps.gov, Frank\_Dean@nps.gov

SS

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: "Amy Meyer" <a7w2m@**(b) (6)**>  
To: "Cassandra Costello" <cassandra.costello@sfgov.org>  
Sent: Thursday, April 14, 2011 2:28:22 PM  
Subject: GGNRA Dog Management Plan

Dear Cassandra,

*I have a park problem that may be of interest to you and may fall into your area with the mayor, or it may belong somewhere else and you can direct this message accordingly.*

*Supervisor Wiener introduced a resolution concerning the GGNRA Dog Management Plan. I just saw this article from the Examiner:*

## Mayor Ed Lee enters GGNRA dog fight

By: [Joshua Sabatini](#) 04/13/11 12:48 PM

*Examiner Staff Writer*

Mayor Ed Lee has jumped into the fight over proposed Golden Gate National Recreation Area's restrictions on off-leash dogs at Ocean beach and other federal lands overseen by the federal agency.

Lee's involvement comes as the Board of Supervisors was scheduled to vote on a [resolution](#), introduced by Supervisor Scott Wiener, opposing the plan, which would have turned up political pressure on the federal agency.

Lee requested the board postpone its Tuesday vote on the resolution for two weeks so he could discuss the matter with GGNRA, Wiener said.

"[Lee] would very much like the opportunity to engage directly with GGNRA on this issue to see if there is any way to make that a productive process," Wiener said. "Having the mayor engage ...can be a very powerful thing."

Wiener said he wants the GGNRA to go back to the drawing board. "I have very serious concerns about this plan in terms of the impact it will have on dogs and their owners in San Francisco as well as the impact on it will have on our city parks. For that reason I cannot support what GGNRA is doing and they need to go back to the drawing board and come up with a different plan."

The board is now scheduled to vote on the resolution on April 26.

*I was happy to learn about the Mayor's efforts to try to improve Supervisor Wiener's resolution. I am hoping it results in a less confrontational statement from the Board, one that acknowledges the GGNRA's national park system status and federal requirements for management of the land. The GGNRA has come up with an accommodation for dogs, not a ban, which would be unique in the national park system, and is meant to acknowledge traditional uses of some areas of the park.*

*For quick reference, should you need it, I was instrumental in the writing of the legislation that established the GGNRA in 1972. For 12 years I was a member of the San Francisco Recreation and Park Commission and for 29 years vice-chair of the federal Advisory Commission to the GGNRA and Point Reyes National Seashore, a commission appointed by the Secretary of the Interior.*



*The attached opinion piece is from 14 members of the termed-out federal commission. The op-ed has been submitted to the San Francisco Chronicle but we want to be sure the mayor receives our message in a timely way. Can you help us?*

*I hope you are happy in your new job!*  
Amy



Dog- Final.rtf

From: shirwin1@ (b) (6)  
Subject: Re: GGNRA Dog Management Plan/DEIS  
Date: April 25, 2011 at 5:22 PM  
To: BeckyE rebecca@ (b) (6)

SS

Thank you, Becky!

Shirwin

----- Original Message -----

From: "BeckyE" <rebecca@ (b) (6)>  
To: "Howard Levitt" <howard\_levitt@nps.gov>, "Shirwin Smith" <shirwin1@ (b) (6)>, "Frank Dean" <Frank\_Dean@nps.gov>  
Sent: Monday, April 25, 2011 3:07:13 PM  
Subject: Fw: GGNRA Dog Management Plan/DEIS

Forgot you folks with my bccs.

-----Forwarded Message-----

>From: BeckyE <rebecca@ (b) (6)>  
>Sent: Apr 25, 2011 2:49 PM  
>To: David Chiu <David.Chiu@sfgov.org>  
>Subject: GGNRA Dog Management Plan/DEIS

>

>Dear Supervisor Chiu:

>

>I encourage you to reject Sup. Weiner's resolution #110410 which asks the Board of Supervisors to  
>oppose the GGNRA's preferred alternatives for dog management. It is one-sided and shortsighted.

>

>By law the National Park Service is required to protect national park resources and to leave them

>unimpaired for future generations. The NPS is try to follow its mandate by producing this DEIS. It is

>not the role of any national park to provide open access to domestic animals. Or to assess dog management  
>on city properties.

>

>The issue of dogs in the GGNRA has been roiling along for several years; an attempt at federal rule making failed. Experts will tell you that there is no such thing as "voice control". This measure does not consider the city residents and visitors who want a dog-free experience; especially the disabled and the elderly.

>

>A substitute resolution is rumored to be in the works - requiring Animal Care and Control and Recreation & Park

>Department to submit substantive comments on the DEIS. I would ask your support for this measure.

>

>San Francisco should get its own house in order on dog management. Many dog guardians do not obey San Francisco's leash law. The city does not enforce the Health Code on dog waste and fewer than 20% of dog owners  
>have not obtained licenses for their pets.

>

>The Golden Gate Biosphere Reserve should not be further fouled by dog feces nor its wildlife harassed by them.

>

>thank you,

>

>Becky Evans

>District 3

>

**From:** Craig Scott <craigsct@(b) (6)>  
**Subject:** Fwd: [glenparkparents] the mysterious Arnita Bowman of San Bruno  
**Date:** December 13, 2012 at 10:58 AM  
**To:** shirwin1@(b) (6)

SC

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "glenparklorentzen" <lorentzen@(b) (6)>  
**Date:** December 12, 2012, 5:26:44 PM PST  
**To:** [glenparkparents@yahoogroups.com](mailto:glenparkparents@yahoogroups.com)  
**Subject:** [glenparkparents] the mysterious Arnita Bowman of San Bruno

Dear Arnita,

I was wondering if you could clarify a few things. Aren't you one of the major actors in blocking the renovations to Glen Canyon Park? SF Forest lists you as one of its 4 directors, and the environmental review appeal to the Board of Supervisors is signed by you as an individual and as President of ForestForestForever. Yet in your email you refer to SF Forest as "they" instead of "we" and you don't seem to be in a hurry to take ownership of your own legal maneuvers.

Also, it seems from your letter to the Supervisors that you are not a San Francisco resident, voter, or taxpayer. I am happy to share our parks with you and your children (I presume you have children, since you are on this mailing list). However, I don't appreciate your efforts to stand in the way of making our park safer for neighborhood children and more accessible to disabled people.

I am also curious if you could tell us more about who ForestForestForever represents, as it has no website I could find. Is it just you? If not, who supports it and can you tell us more about its membership? I think many of us are getting tired of the role that anonymous front groups with mysterious backers are playing in American politics, so I hope this isn't now taking place in my own backyard.

Perhaps I'm completely misreading the situation, in which case feel free to correct me.

Regards,  
Peter Lorentzen

--- In [glenparkparents@yahoogroups.com](mailto:glenparkparents@yahoogroups.com), "Arnita Bowman" <arnitabowman@...> wrote:

>

>

> fyi... SFForest sent an email saying they heard from Anastasia that she  
> already withdrew the rehearing appeal in light of the environmental  
> review appeal to the Board of Supervisors. Because she withdrew the  
> appeal, it will not be on the Board of Appeals' agenda tonight.

>

>

>

> --- In [glenparkparents@yahoogroups.com](mailto:glenparkparents@yahoogroups.com), Elizabeth Weise <beth@>  
> wrote:

> >

> > The Board of Appeals meeting that will address the on-going stoppage  
> of work on the Rec Center in Glen Park is today at 500 pm, Dec 12, room  
> 416 at City Hall. According to the agenda the the Glen Park project is  
> the fourth rehearing item which means it should start by about 530 - 545  
> pm. After short presentations by the appellants and the city, there will  
> be public comment (up to 3 minutes per speaker), and then deliberations  
> by the board. It's hard to tell, but maybe an hour overall.

> > If you have feelings on the matter but cannot attend, please send an  
> e-mail to [cynthia.goldstein@](mailto:cynthia.goldstein@), for the record.

> >

>

GGNRA186464

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**From:** shirwin1@ (b) (6)   
**Subject:** Info from Gina Banks mtg  
**Date:** May 11, 2011 at 12:34 PM  
**To:** ndesai@npca.org

---

SS

Neal, attached are the most pertinent pages, per our discussion just now.

Shirwin



CFDog\_Feinstein mtg  
info.pdf

## Leash the dogs at Bay Area parks



The Bay Area's biggest federal park has taken on an unwinnable topic: curbing dogs along the cliffs, paths and beaches overlooking the bay and ocean. Some of the region's most beautiful outdoors comes with the roughest politics and toughest decision making.

On balance, federal authorities have it right in imposing more controls. Dogs - said to outnumber children in San Francisco - can trample undergrowth, harm wildlife and bother park visitors. Leashing dogs, instead of letting them run free, is a reasonable option in this well-used landscape.

In the abstract, that suggestion might be easy to take. But the National Park Service is getting serious after years of study and stop-and-go legal efforts. Three prime dog-running spots at Ocean Beach, Fort Funston and Crissy Field are all tagged for tighter restrictions, partial bans and leash laws. In Marin County, dogs will be barred from Muir Beach, and, in San Mateo County, animals must be leashed on a number of popular trails.

Part of the problem is abrupt change. There hasn't been serious study of dog effects on the environment since 1979, when the last policy was written. More people and more dogs now use the system, and a plan that reflects this use pattern is overdue.

This growth has brought conflicts with park visitors who complain about unruly dogs. There's also the park's mandate to safeguard nature, backed by concerns about a loss in bird-rearing areas. Free-running dogs can exact a toll, and the rangers are right to measure the effects and propose answers.

Adapting to the proposed changes - which may come about next year - will take time and patience from all sides. The fond experience of tossing a stick isn't easily dismissed.

But a busy park system needs to control a group of rambunctious visitors for the public's overall benefit. It's time to leash the dogs.

**Online:** To see maps of the proposed changes to where dogs will be allowed in the GGNRA, go to [www.nps.gov/goga/deis.htm](http://www.nps.gov/goga/deis.htm) and scroll down to "Plan/DEIS, Volume 2, Maps."

###

**This editorial from May 1, 2011 San Francisco Chronicle is online at:**  
<http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2011/05/01/EDEI1H59P5.DTL>



From: shirwin1@ (b) (6)  
Subject: Fwd: Meeting next week to talk GGNRA dogs  
Date: April 18, 2011 at 5:08 PM  
To: Frank\_Dean@nps.gov, Alexandra\_Picavet@nps.gov

SS

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: "Amy Meyer" <a7w2m@ (b) (6)>  
To: "Howard Levitt and Wendy Scheffers" <howandwen@ (b) (6)>, "Shirwin Smith" <shirwin1@ (b) (6)>  
Sent: Monday, April 18, 2011 9:14:51 AM  
Subject: Fwd: Meeting next week to talk GGNRA dogs

**From:** Neal Desai <ndesai@npca.org>  
**Date:** April 15, 2011 1:03:08 PM PDT  
**To:** "drinsf@ (b) (6)" <drinsf@ (b) (6)>, "Jan Blum (1janblum@ (b) (6))" <1janblum@ (b) (6)>, Brent Plater <bplater@wildequity.org>, Steven Krefting <skrefting@igc.org>, "arthurfeinstein@ (b) (6)" <arthurfeinstein@ (b) (6)>, "Kate Kelley Looby (kate.kelley@sierraclub.org)" <kate.kelley@sierraclub.org>, "Mike Lynes (mlynes@goldengateaudubon.org)" <mlynes@goldengateaudubon.org>, "Mark Welther (mwelther@goldengateaudubon.org)" <mwelther@goldengateaudubon.org>, "Noreen Weeden (nweeden@goldengateaudubon.org)" <nweeden@goldengateaudubon.org>, Amy <a7w2m@earthlink.net>, "Clary Jennifer (jenclary@ (b) (6))" <jenclary@ (b) (6)>, "BeckyE (rebecae@ (b) (6))" <rebecae@ (b) (6)>  
**Subject: Meeting next week to talk GGNRA dogs**

Hi All,

Mike and I have talked about getting together next week to regroup. Brent has offered up his Wild Equity Institute office for meeting space. Please go to the following link and enter your availability: <http://www.doodle.com/xrwrft55scab88h#table> (I have proposed 1 hr slots from 9am-5pm on Tues and Wed of next week; Tues is preferred; please select all times you can make)

UPDATES:

Mayor's Office:

Brent and I spoke to the Mayor's office about this yesterday (Jason Elliott, the Mayor's Leg Director). The Mayor does not see this issue as something they "need to go to war" over, and want to work constructively with GGNRA. They want to have GGNRA identify and measure the impacts their actions would have on City parks and the port (specific to the City, they want to know if impacts will occur on all City park lands, or some places where it will be concentrated). They are concerned about the 75% enforcement threshold that could lead to dogs being banned from certain areas. The three departments they want to engage are RPD, Animal Care and Control, and Port Authority. They want GGNRA to create a supplemental EIS and want to work with GGNRA in a more involved fashion than the general public. They understand that need for a 2 way street in that GGNRA should be able to regulate dog walking on their lands just as RPD has regulated dog walking on lands they manage.

We conveyed: GGNRA is working in partnership and in good faith with the City on various issues and problems such as Sharp Park and America's Cup, and the BoS resolution can undermine this cooperation; GGNRA can't "negotiate" with the City as it is illegal under NEPA, but they will work to consider and address the City's concerns; the City needs to take the first step by responding to the GGNRA's plan and providing substantive comments; a supplemental EIS is unlikely; the City needs to evaluate their own policy and enforcement concerns on their lands; groups in the conservation coalition are not supportive of the plan as it is too weak, though we support the efforts to make progress.

RPD:

NPS has been in conversation with them. I am waiting for a call back to hear how things are progressing.

BOS:

The Wiener resolution has been tabled until 4/26 to allow the Mayor's office to engage, which they are doing. Also, Elsbernd's office told us that David Chiu and Avalos were supportive of Elsbernd's amendment as it was more constructive than just opposing the GGNRA plan. We were told by Elsbernd's office that Mar, Mirkarimi, Farrell, and Campos may support Elsbernd's resolution or some other alternative to Wiener's resolution. Elsbernd is also fine if some other supervisor proposes an amended resolution. I will work on setting up times for folks to meet with these offices, as well as others and depending on who is available, they can meet.

Congressional Offices:

As already reported, Pelosi's office stated she is only hearing from offleash dog advocates. We need to get a meeting with them soon, as well as Feinstein and Boxer's offices. Mike is finalizing a letter to the Congressional offices and will have a draft for us by Monday.

Thanks,  
neal

=====

Neal Desai  
Associate Director, Pacific Region

National Parks Conservation Association  
*Protecting Our National Parks for Future Generations*  
150 Post Street, Suite 310  
San Francisco, CA 94108  
P> 415.989.9921 x20  
C> 510.368.0845  
F> 415.989.9926  
E> [ndesai@npca.org](mailto:ndesai@npca.org)  
W> [www.npca.org](http://www.npca.org)

From: shirwin1@ (b) (6)  
Subject: Re: My so-far dog review  
Date: April 14, 2011 at 3:14 PM  
To: Amy Meyer a7w2m@ (b) (6)

SS

Amy, good feedback, plus you had some points in there which I am borrowing as I work on a new set of talking points.

Thanks for sending.

Shirwin

----- Original Message -----

From: "Amy Meyer" <a7w2m@ (b) (6)>  
To: "Shirwin Smith" <shirwin1@ (b) (6)>  
Sent: Thursday, April 14, 2011 3:05:22 PM  
Subject: My so-far dog review

Shirwin,

This is incomplete and just being sent to let you know what I personally am thinking. I will be sharing it with my family and some of my friends as I am sharing it with you so as to encourage other people to give their specific opinions on specific places in the actual draft Dog Management Plan rather than less-useful generalities.

Amy

From: shirwin1@ (b) (6)  
Subject: Nathaniel Stookey's email to SF Supervisors  
Date: May 11, 2011 at 4:14 PM  
To: ndesai@npca.org

SS

Sorry - meant to send this along right after we spoke.

Shirwin

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: "Shirwin Smith" <Shirwin\_Smith@nps.gov>  
To: shirwin1@ (b) (6)  
Sent: Tuesday, May 10, 2011 5:37:55 PM  
Subject: Fw: a different perspective on the off-leash issue

----- Forwarded by Shirwin Smith/GOGA/NPS on 05/10/2011 05:37 PM -----

"Nathaniel  
Stookey"

To: <shirwin\_smith@nps.gov>

<nstookey@ (b) (6)> cc:

(b) (6)>

Subject: FW: a different perspective on the off-leash

issue

05/10/2011 01:33  
PM MST

Dear Shirwin Smith,

I have sent my personal comments through your web-site as requested but would also like to share the following correspondence with the NPS.

I believe it's very important that GGNRA take into account the parks' diverse constituents. Many of us (especially children and the elderly) can no longer use certain parks because of the risks posed by off-leash dogs. Unfortunately, those potential users are almost impossible to reach or organize because they now go elsewhere for recreation.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can provide further information.

Nathaniel Stookey

From: Nathaniel Stookey [mailto:nstookey@(b) (6)]  
Sent: Tuesday, May 10, 2011 1:01 PM  
Subject: a different perspective on the off-leash issue

Dear Eric, Mark, David, Carmen, Ross, Jane, Sean, Scott, David, Malia, and John,

I was surprised by the near-unanimity of your decision to oppose the GGNRA's new proposal for off-leash dogs. I understand that off-leash advocates are a very large, vocal, and well-organized constituency but hope that, over the course of this process, you will hear other perspectives as well. It's important that the Board consider the needs of all San Franciscans, not just the most forceful lobbies.

I hope you will take a moment to read the following brief note which I sent this morning to my friends, many of whom, like me, have very fond childhood memories of Fort Funston as a place that could be enjoyed by people of all ages, as well as dogs.

Yours, with my best wishes,

Nathaniel Stookey

---

Hi

I try to stay away from the political stuff but this one's important to me because it's about one of my favorite places in SF. Fort Funston is an unbelievably wild and beautiful beach at the southwest corner of the city. Jodi and I both spent lots of time there as kids: birthday parties, capture the flag, long walks with our parents. When we moved home with our own kids in 2003, we expected it to be a focal point in their lives as well but, despite having become part of the GGNRA, the entire property had essentially become a dog-park. Our children couldn't safely play there and our parents – older now – couldn't walk for fear of being knocked over at every turn. It's one of our favorite places on earth, fifteen minutes from our door, and it's basically off-limits to us.

This spring, the GGNRA proposed new rules for off-leash dogs and I was shocked to learn that the Board of Supes had come out 10-1 against it. Presumably this is because a disproportionate number of their constituents had voiced support for maintaining the off-leash status quo at Fort Funston and elsewhere in the GGNRA (such as Chrissy Field). While it's true that dog-walkers now make up the majority of visitors to Fort Funston, I suspect there are many others like us who have stopped using the park because it

has become unsafe and/or unpleasant. The National Park Service needs to hear those voices. \*And it's quite urgent as the public comment period closes May 31\*

If you don't know Fort Funston, I recommend a visit. You can walk along the bluffs and down a ladder to a gorgeous cliff-walled beach. There are horses and hang-gliders. It's also a great place to walk your dog, which is in no way threatened by the new rules. Currently, the entire park is a de facto off-leash zone. The proposal is for the off-leash area to be defined and for its boundaries to be enforced so that other uses (like birthday parties!) are once again possible. That seems reasonable to me. If it seems reasonable to you, please comment, even very briefly, at

<http://parkplanning.nps.gov/projectHome.cfm?projectId=11759>

(and forward widely)

Thanks!

Nat(haniel)

From: shirwin1@ (b) (6)  
Subject: Re: Ray Holland paragraph  
Date: May 2, 2011 at 5:44 PM  
To: Amy Meyer a7w2m@ (b) (6)

SS

I think he meant "CBM", meaning "Compliance-based management". You're right about the last sentence. It is a very valid agency point, but not helpful in your response.

Shirwin

----- Original Message -----

From: "Amy Meyer" <a7w2m@ (b) (6)>  
To: "Shirwin Smith" <shirwin1@ (b) (6)>  
Sent: Monday, May 2, 2011 4:10:29 PM  
Subject: Fwd: Ray Holland paragraph

Begin forwarded message:

Shirwin, what's a CPM? I think if I add Howard's second sentence to your statement that would be enough. Adding the rest of what he wrote wouldn't help—I think it was just meant for me to understand. Or am I missing something? Amy

**From:** [Howard Levitt@nps.gov](mailto:Howard_Levitt@nps.gov)  
**Date:** May 2, 2011 2:04:52 PM PDT  
**To:** "shirwin1" <shirwin1@ (b) (6)>, "Amy Meyer" <a7w2m@ (b) (6)>  
**Subject:** Re: Ray Holland paragraph

Shirwin has it right. Changing the status of an area only comes after several other serious attempts to improve compliance. We hope never to have to escalate in this way, but the reason to include CPM in the DEIS is precisely because we don't want to undertake the cost and complication of another pub process if we fail in our attempts to achieve compliance. HL.

---

**From:** shirwin1  
**Sent:** 05/02/2011 08:30 PM GMT  
**To:** Amy Meyer <a7w2m@ (b) (6)>  
**Cc:** Howard Levitt  
**Subject:** Re: Ray Holland paragraph

Amy - Howard should weigh in, but pgs. 63-67 of the DEIS describe in some detail the preliminary steps (and the timeline of those steps in advance of any management change) required of the NPS in instances of non-compliance, plus the public notification that would occur in areas where non-compliance is approaching 75%. A public comment period would not be part of compliance-based management, but a notification to the public would be, both when issues first arise and in the instance where a management change may be in the offing.

Shirwin

----- Original Message -----

From: "Amy Meyer" <a7w2m@ (b) (6)>

To: "Howard Levitt" <[howard\\_levitt@nps.gov](mailto:howard_levitt@nps.gov)>  
Cc: "Shirwin Smith" <[shirwin1@](mailto:shirwin1@)(b) (6)>  
Sent: Saturday, April 30, 2011 9:49:54 PM  
Subject: Ray Holland paragraph

Howard,

You and I got a letter from Ray Holland. It included this paragraph:

**Even though the NPS' "Compliance-Based Management Strategy" has already produced a more open and transparent federal rule-making process resulting in an exception to the nationwide no off-leash dogs in any national parks, once its dog management rule for the GGNRA has finally been adopted the process will quickly revert to a closed and opaque federal rule-making process because it will deny the public the right to be notified of the opportunity to comment on any major empirically-based changes to that rule that are subsequently considered.**

Is that an accurate statement? If not, what would be?

Amy



**From:** "Levitt, Howard" [howard\\_levitt@nps.gov](mailto:howard_levitt@nps.gov)  
**Subject:** April 29, 2016 at 1:01 PM America/Los\_Angeles  
**Date:** Wendy Scheffers [\(b\)](mailto:howandwen@(b)) [\(b\)](mailto:howandwen@(b))  
**To:**

---



--

Howard Levitt  
Director of Communications and Partnerships  
Golden Gate National Parks  
[howard\\_levitt@nps.gov](mailto:howard_levitt@nps.gov)  
415-561-4730

**Attachments:**

[FOIA NPS 2016 00154 Stephens acknowledgement.docx](#) (57.27 kB)

**From:** Howard Levitt and Wendy Scheffers howandwen(b) (6)  
**Subject:** Fwd:  
**Date:** April 29, 2016 at 1:02 PM America/Los\_Angeles  
**To:** Neal Desai ndesai@npca.org

---



----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** Levitt, Howard <[howard\\_levitt@nps.gov](mailto:howard_levitt@nps.gov)>  
**Date:** Fri, Apr 29, 2016 at 1:01 PM  
**Subject:**  
**To:** Wendy Scheffers <[howandwen@nps.gov](mailto:howandwen@nps.gov)>

--

Howard Levitt  
Director of Communications and Partnerships  
Golden Gate National Parks  
[howard\\_levitt@nps.gov](mailto:howard_levitt@nps.gov)  
[415-561-4730](tel:415-561-4730)

**Attachments:**

[FOIA NPS 2016 00154 Stephens acknowledgement.docx](#) (57.27 kB)

**From:** Neal Desai ndesai@npca.org  
**Subject:** another request - san mateo related  
**Date:** July 09, 2015 at 2:55 PM America/Los\_Angeles  
**To:** Howard Levitt and Wendy Scheffers howandwen@ (b) (6)

---



Howard,

Where do I obtain the dog walking regulations that were on GGNRA San Mateo lands at the time they were acquired by NPS. I could use this ASAP, either through telling me where I could find it via phone or pointing me to any documents where I could find them, such as the SDEIS. Thanks,  
Neal

**From:** Neal Desai ndesai@npca.org  
**Subject:** RE: another request - san mateo related  
**Date:** July 09, 2015 at 3:20 PM America/Los\_Angeles  
**To:** Howard Levitt and Wendy Scheffers howandwen@(b) (6)



Per below email, I need to know the status of dog walking on these specific properties at the time of acquisition:

**San Mateo County**

**Currently On leash:**

- Milagra Ridge trails
- Mori Point trails
- Rancho Corral de Tierra
- Sweeney Ridge trails, except for the Notch Trail which is closed to dog walking

**Currently No dogs:**

- Phleger Estate
- Notch Trail at Sweeney Ridge

---

**From:** Neal Desai  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 09, 2015 2:53 PM  
**To:** 'Howard Levitt and Wendy Scheffers'  
**Subject:** another request - san mateo related

Howard,  
Where do I obtain the dog walking regulations that were on GGNRA San Mateo lands at the time they were acquired by NPS. I could use this ASAP, either through telling me where I could find it via phone or pointing me to any documents where I could find them, such as the SDEIS. Thanks,  
Neal

**From:** Howard Levitt and Wendy Scheffers howandwen@ (b) (6)  
**Subject:** Re: another request - san mateo related  
**Date:** July 09, 2015 at 9:44 PM America/Los\_Angeles  
**To:** Neal Desai ndesai@npca.org



Neal, on vacation near Yosemite... I assume your question is in regards to Speier's scary move. Best thing would be to contact Paul Ringgold at POST. He would know the rules POST applied before NPS acquired RCDT. I believe they permitted folks to walk dogs on RCDT, but never off-leash. SM Co Park rules are the most restrictive of any agency - no dogs in most parks, and never off leash. Those rules are still in effect. I believe I had sent you a doc that showed SM Co rules. I'll be back on Monday for a phone call. Thanks, as always, for your help.  
Howard

On Thu, Jul 9, 2015 at 2:55 PM, Neal Desai <[ndesai@npca.org](mailto:ndesai@npca.org)> wrote:

Howard,  
Where do I obtain the dog walking regulations that were on GGNRA San Mateo lands at the time they were acquired by NPS. I could use this ASAP, either through telling me where I could find it via phone or pointing me to any documents where I could find them, such as the SDEIS. Thanks,  
Neal

**From:** Neal Desai [ndesai@npca.org](mailto:ndesai@npca.org)  
**Subject:** Re: another request - san mateo related  
**Date:** July 09, 2015 at 9:46 PM America/Los\_Angeles  
**To:** Howard Levitt and Wendy Scheffers [\(b\) \(6\)](mailto:howandwen@(b) (6))

---



Sounds good. Let's follow up Monday morning if possible. Enjoy Yosemite!!

On Jul 9, 2015, at 9:44 PM, "Howard Levitt and Wendy Scheffers" <[\(b\) \(6\)](mailto:howandwen@(b) (6))> wrote:

Neal, on vacation near Yosemite... I assume your question is in regards to Speier's scary move. Best thing would be to contact Paul Ringgold at POST. He would know the rules POST applied before NPS acquired RCDT. I believe they permitted folks to walk dogs on RCDT, but never off-leash. SM Co Park rules are the most restrictive of any agency - no dogs in most parks, and never off leash. Those rules are still in effect. I believe I had sent you a doc that showed SM Co rules. I'll be back on Monday for a phone call. Thanks, as always, for your help.  
Howard

On Thu, Jul 9, 2015 at 2:55 PM, Neal Desai <[ndesai@npca.org](mailto:ndesai@npca.org)> wrote:

Howard,  
Where do I obtain the dog walking regulations that were on GGNRA San Mateo lands at the time they were acquired by NPS. I could use this ASAP, either through telling me where I could find it via phone or pointing me to any documents where I could find them, such as the SDEIS. Thanks,  
Neal

**From:** Amy Meyer amy7w2m@ (b) (6)  
**Subject:** Change.org petition  
**Date:** February 27, 2016 at 3:28 PM America/Los\_Angeles  
**To:** Neal Desai ndesai@npca.org, BeckyE rebecca@ (b) (6) (b) (6) Alan Carlton  
carltona@ (b) (6) (b) (6), wsheplaw WSHEPLAW (b) (6)



According to my neighborhood electronic newsletter, Save Our Recreation has a Change.org petition.

(Alan, "Wsheplaw" above is Bill Shepard, head of NAPP, Neighborhood Associations for Presidio Planning)

### Save Our Recreation

21h ago

Patti Twain from NE Outer Richmond

There is a new proposed law to limit dogs in GGNRA, which will affect everyone who enjoys our recreational areas.

"The proposed general management policy will deny significant public use for longstanding activities like hiking, surfing, bike riding, horseback riding, and dog walking... Erecting fences, barriers and compliance signs to foil – and ticket – "trespassers" who cause no harm on land that belongs to all of us achieves no good outcome."

Please review and consider signing the petition at "Change.org". Search for "access to the golden gate recreation area."

Edited 8h ago · Shared with NE Outer Richmond + 5 nearby neighborhoods in General

--

[www.amywmeyer.com](http://www.amywmeyer.com)

**From:** Amy Meyer amy7w2m@ (b) (6)  
**Subject:** Correct # of GGNRA visitors.URGENT  
**Date:** February 22, 2016 at 5:56 PM America/Los\_Angeles  
**To:** howandwen@ (b) (6)  
**Cc:** Neal Desai ndesai@npca.org



---

Howard: Neal is using 14.9 million

I heard Chris use 17 million

We need ONE accurate figure right away that we all agree on.

Thanks,  
Amy

--

[www.amywmeyer.com](http://www.amywmeyer.com)



**From:** Howard Levitt and Wendy Scheffers howandwen@**(b) (6)**  
**Subject:** Doc of interest  
**Date:** July 01, 2015 at 1:43 PM America/Los\_Angeles  
**To:** Amy Meyer a7w2m@**(b) (6)**, ndesai@npca.org, rebae@**(b) (6)**



---

Amy, Neal, and Becky:

Here's something I believe you were interested in seeing. More to come. Respond only to this home email address.

HL

**Attachments:**

[DOC002.pdf](#) (59.88 kB)

**From:** Amy Meyer a7w2m@ (b) (6)  
**Subject:** Re: Doc of interest  
**Date:** July 01, 2015 at 1:55 PM America/Los\_Angeles  
**To:** Howard Levitt and Wendy Scheffers howandwen@ (b) (6)



Thank you, HL. On Jul 1, 2015, at 1:43 PM, Howard Levitt and Wendy Scheffers wrote: > Amy, Neal, and Becky: > > Here's something I believe you were interested in seeing. More to come. Respond only to this home email address. > > HL > > > Amy Meyer www.amywmeyer.com

From:

A

Amy Meyer a7w2m@ (b) (6)

Subject:

Re: Doc of interest

Date:

July 01, 2015 at 3:14 PM America/Los\_Angeles

To:

Howard Levitt and Wendy Scheffers howandwen@ (b) (6)

Cc:

Neal Desai ndesai@npca.org, Becky Evans rebecca@ (b) (6)

Howard, Now that I've had a chance to study this chart and see how dogs are walking/not walking in various places, what's obviously missing and which I'm sure you'll send us next is how GGNRA's proposed Dog Management Plan provides for them with the same kind of numbers. We will not have a meeting with Dan Bernal until probably the week of July 20. Having these comparative figures all together equivalently will be very useful. Amy On Jul 1, 2015, at 1:43 PM, Howard Levitt and Wendy Scheffers wrote: > Amy, Neal, and Becky: > > Here's something I believe you were interested in seeing. More to come. Respond only to this home email address. > > HL > > >

From:

H

Howard Levitt and Wendy Scheffers howandwen@ (b) (6)

Subject:

Re: Doc of interest

Date:

July 01, 2015 at 5:52 PM America/Los\_Angeles

To:

Amy Meyer a7w2m@ (b) (6), ndesai@npca.org, rebecca@ (b) (6)

CONFIDENTIAL.

More.

Howard

On Wed, Jul 1, 2015 at 1:43 PM, Howard Levitt and Wendy Scheffers <howandwen@ (b) (6)> wrote:

Amy, Neal, and Becky:

Here's something I believe you were interested in seeing. More to come. Respond only to this home email address.

HL

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Subject:

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July 01, 2015 at 5:54 PM America/Los\_Angeles

To:

Amy Meyer [a7w2m@](#)(b) (6) ndesai@npca.org, rebecca@

CONFIDENTIAL

More.

Howard

On Wed, Jul 1, 2015 at 5:52 PM, Howard Levitt and Wendy Scheffers <[howandwen@](#)(b) (6)> wrote:

CONFIDENTIAL.

More.

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On Wed, Jul 1, 2015 at 1:43 PM, Howard Levitt and Wendy Scheffers

<[howandwen@](#)(b) (6)> wrote:

Amy, Neal, and Becky:

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HL

**Attachments:**

[Background.docx](#) (14.5 kB)

[Neighboring agencies.doc](#) (32.5 kB)

From:

A

Amy Meyer [a7w2m@](#)(b) (6)

Subject:

Re: Doc of interest

Date:

July 07, 2015 at 11:10 AM America/Los\_Angeles

To:

Howard Levitt and Wendy Scheffers [howandwen@](#)(b) (6)

Howard,

The background document you sent is helpful and we have edited it to suit our needs.

But the Neighboring Agencies paper, while helpful, does not give any comparison with what

GGNRA is offering. Chris pointed out that the dog people say they are only getting to use 1% of the GGNRA. But the GGNRA only controls 13,000 acres of its 80,000. And much of the land is unsuited for people to walk on as well as dogs. We don't need a percent, but we do have to be able to show clearly how GGNRA stacks up against the others.

It isn't necessary to use the same format as the Neighboring Agencies paper, but only to have a paper for GGNRA so as to clearly make comparisons.

We have a meeting with Dan Bernal on Monday July 13.

We need something to show this comparison at that meeting. We plan to send him the Background paper and the Neighboring Agencies paper in advance, this Friday. It would be best to have the comparison paper to send in with the other two.

Amy

On Jul 1, 2015, at 5:54 PM, Howard Levitt and Wendy Scheffers <[<howandwen@b\(6\)>](mailto:howandwen@b(6))> wrote:

CONFIDENTIAL

More.

Howard

On Wed, Jul 1, 2015 at 5:52 PM, Howard Levitt and Wendy Scheffers <[<howandwen@b\(6\)>](mailto:howandwen@b(6))> wrote:

CONFIDENTIAL.

More.

Howard

On Wed, Jul 1, 2015 at 1:43 PM, Howard Levitt and Wendy Scheffers <[<howandwen@b\(6\)>](mailto:howandwen@b(6))> wrote:

Amy, Neal, and Becky:

Here's something I believe you were interested in seeing. More to come. Respond only to this home email address.

HL

<Background.docx><Neighboring agencies.doc>

From:

B  
BeckyE [<rebecae@b\(6\)>](mailto:rebecae@b(6))

Subject:

Re: Doc of interest

Date:

July 07, 2015 at 11:23 AM America/Los\_Angeles

To:

Amy Meyer [a7w2m@b \(b\) \(6\)](#) Howard Levitt and Wendy Scheffers  
[howandwen@b \(b\) \(6\)](#)

**From:** Amy Meyer amy7w2m@ (b) (6)  
**Subject:** dog comment sample  
**Date:** February 26, 2016 at 4:54 PM America/Los\_Angeles  
**To:** howandwen@ (b) (6)



---

Adam Green from Sea Cliff

17h ago

As someone with three dogs, I'm all in favor of restricting dogs.

The problem is the arrogant, self-entitled, obstinately righteous "dog lover" owners, not the dogs. The dogs are fine, even the most poorly socialized dogs that want to bark and bite, it's not the dog, it's the human.

But the restrictions on dogs will give back the beaches to habitat, the wildlife and the people.

It's not just the negligent dog walkers, it's not just the bites, attacks, hospitalizations from severe and permanent injuries, it's not the kids stepping in poop or the damage to the environment, or the indigenous wildlife massacres caused by domesticated cats and dogs, it's all of these plus those imbeciles buying Pit Bulls and other aggressive species as personal weapons.

I'd really like to walk along the beach (or around Lake Tahoe) without having to worry about protecting my children from aggressive dogs or, as happened recently, shooing away a dog that was off-leash and got into the belongings of someone as they were in the lake, then it pissed on their clothes and towels, then I shooed it away again and again till, half an hour later, the "owner" wandered by and pretended to be a dog lover. It's not the dogs, it's the damn owners that think dogs are "people" or even equal to people.

As someone allergic to dogs (yes, you really have to love your dog to be allergic and want to be with him or her ... I'm a mess for half a day after I wash one of our dogs ... runny nose, itchy eyes ... but when that mutt can't rest until he has positioned himself to rest his chin on my foot, it's all worth it times ten ... well, times three, let's say ...) anyway, as someone concerned about health and hygiene, I'm insulted and offended by people carrying their dogs into supermarkets and public spaces or having them in or around cafes -- they're no better than smokers.

It's high time for dog owners to get a clue and stop imposing their lifestyle upon others.

**From:** Howard Levitt and Wendy Scheffers howandwen@ (b) (6)  
**Subject:** Re: dog comment sample  
**Date:** February 26, 2016 at 9:34 PM America/Los\_Angeles  
**To:** Amy Meyer amy7w2m@ (b) (6)



This is a great letter. Yes, we have to find a way to get these letters into the record. On Monday, I'll send you a link to pass on to people who comment on the neighborhood blog.

On Feb 26, 2016, at 4:54 PM, Amy Meyer wrote:

Adam Green from Sea Cliff

17h ago

As someone with three dogs, I'm all in favor of restricting dogs.

The problem is the arrogant, self-entitled, obstinately righteous "dog lover" owners, not the dogs. The dogs are fine, even the most poorly socialized dogs that want to bark and bite, it's not the dog, it's the human.

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It's high time for dog owners to get a clue and stop imposing their lifestyle upon others.

**From:** Amy Meyer amy7w2m(b) (6)  
**Subject:** Dog comments  
**Date:** February 26, 2016 at 4:51 PM America/Los\_Angeles  
**To:** howandwen@(b) (6)

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Howard,

There is a computer-based newsletter in my neighborhood. There are several comments posted today about dog management. They generally favor regulation. I don't know these people and wonder how we can use their comments.

One way would be to post the announcement of the Rule document in the newsletter and the comment period and ask people to let the park know what they are thinking on the official form. If so, please send me a clean copy so I can forward it to the newsletter.

Another way would be to make copies of what is said— but if so, where do I send them?

Amy

--

[www.amywmeyer.com](http://www.amywmeyer.com)



**From:** Amy Meyer a7w2m@ (b) (6)  
**Subject:** Dog Management  
**Date:** September 10, 2015 at 10:14 AM America/Los\_Angeles  
**To:** Howard Levitt and Wendy Scheffers howandwen@ (b) (6)  
**Cc:** Neal Desai ndesai@npca.org, Becky Evans rebecca@ (b) (6)



Howard, I have collected one good dog management letter from a neighbor of Sutro Heights Park. It is addressed to you and Chris and it is not electronic but was mailed to me with just your names on it and no park address. Since you wrote yesterday that the best estimate for the Dog Management draft rule is now early November, the subject will not be on the September agenda of P4P/P, and for now I don't see the need to meet about it. But my having one letter brings up the best way to give the park letters to present to the public and legislators. I expect there will be some kind of electronic form attached to the Draft Rule when it is released and that should get a lot of responses from both sides. But in soliciting letters in advance to support the need for a Rule from the people who don't deal with details but are hot about unpleasant dog stories— a process that takes lots of personal contact and time— am I right in thinking that addressing the letters to Chris and you, and getting them sent to me, Becky, or Neal, by snail mail or e-mail, and our passing them on to you is what you will need to begin a pile of letters of support. Please share with us any thoughts you may have as to anything productive we may do during this waiting period. Amy

**From:** Howard Levitt and Wendy Scheffers howandwen@ (b) (6)  
**Subject:** Re: Dog Management  
**Date:** September 10, 2015 at 9:35 PM America/Los\_Angeles  
**To:** Amy Meyer a7w2m@ (b) (6)  
**Cc:** Neal Desai ndesai@npca.org, Becky Evans rebecca@ (b) (6)



---

CONFIDENTIAL Dear Amy ( and Neal and Becky, too): Thank you for getting some momentum going on this. Yes, letters addressed to Chris asking her to be firm on protecting park resources and allowing for those who don't want a dog experience would be very useful. Cc to Rep Pelosi would also be good, because she is the one we need to stay away from this issue. Dan Bernal and Robert Edmonson need to be able to report to Nancy that there is a very sizable cohort who do not want Golden Gate to become a dog park. Whenever you three feel up to it, I know Chris and I would like to meet to talk about a strategy to activate non-dog advocates to make their voices heard on the Draft Rule. In deep appreciation. Howard On Sep 10, 2015, at 10:14 AM, Amy Meyer wrote: > Howard, > > I have collected one good dog management letter from a neighbor of Sutro Heights Park. It is addressed to you and Chris and it is not electronic but was mailed to me with just your names on it and no park address. > > Since you wrote yesterday that the best estimate for the Dog Management draft rule is now early November, the subject will not be on the September agenda of P4P/P, and for now I don't see the need to meet about it. > > But my having one letter brings up the best way to give the park letters to present to the public and legislators. I expect there will be some kind of electronic form attached to the Draft Rule when it is released and that should get a lot of responses from both sides. But in soliciting letters in advance to support the need for a Rule from the people who don't deal with details but are hot about unpleasant dog stories— a process that takes lots of personal contact and time— am I right in thinking that addressing the letters to Chris and you, and getting them sent to me, Becky, or Neal, by snail mail or e-mail, and our passing them on to you is what you will need to begin a pile of letters of support. > > Please share with us any thoughts you may have as to anything productive we may do during this waiting period. > > Amy > > >

**From:** Amy Meyer a7w2m@ (b) (6)  
**Subject:** Re: Dog Management  
**Date:** September 11, 2015 at 9:48 AM America/Los\_Angeles  
**To:** Howard Levitt and Wendy Scheffers howandwen@ (b) (6)  
**Cc:** Neal Desai ndesai@npca.org, Becky Evans rebecae@ (b) (6)



Howard, Please send all addresses to use, both electronic and snail mail. That makes it easy to inform people and get them moving. Is a Pelosi copy of a letter to Chris best sent locally or to Robert Edmonson or both (easy enough electronically)? If you and Chris will offer us a choice of 3 times to meet next, I'm sure we can agree on one of them. Amy On Sep 10, 2015, at 9:35 PM, Howard Levitt and Wendy Scheffers wrote: > CONFIDENTIAL > > Dear Amy ( and Neal and Becky, too): > > Thank you for getting some momentum going on this. Yes, letters addressed to Chris asking her to be firm on protecting park resources and allowing for those who don't want a dog experience would be very useful. Cc to Rep Pelosi would also be good, because she is the one we need to stay away from this issue. Dan Bernal and Robert Edmonson need to be able to report to Nancy that there is a very sizable cohort who do not want Golden Gate to become a dog park. Whenever you three feel up to it, I know Chris and I would like to meet to talk about a strategy to activate non-dog advocates to make their voices heard on the Draft Rule. > > In deep appreciation. > > Howard > > On Sep 10, 2015, at 10:14 AM, Amy Meyer wrote: > >> Howard, >> >> I have collected one good dog management letter from a neighbor of Sutro Heights Park. It is addressed to you and Chris and it is not electronic but was mailed to me with just your names on it and no park address. >> >> Since you wrote yesterday that the best estimate for the Dog Management draft rule is now early November, the subject will not be on the September agenda of P4P/P, and for now I don't see the need to meet about it. >> >> But my having one letter brings up the best way to give the park letters to present to the public and legislators. I expect there will be some kind of electronic form attached to the Draft Rule when it is released and that should get a lot of responses from both sides. But in soliciting letters in advance to support the need for a Rule from the people who don't deal with details but are hot about unpleasant dog stories— a process that takes lots of personal contact and time— am I right in thinking that addressing the letters to Chris and you, and getting them sent to me, Becky, or Neal, by snail mail or e-mail, and our passing them on to you is what you will need to begin a pile of letters of support. >> >> Please share with us any thoughts you may have as to anything productive we may do during this waiting period. >> >> Amy >> >> >> >

From:

H

Howard Levitt and Wendy Scheffers howandwen@ (b) (6)

Subject:

Re: Dog Management

Date:

September 11, 2015 at 6:31 PM America/Los\_Angeles

To:

Amy Meyer a7w2m@ (b) (6)

Cc:

Neal Desai ndesai@npca.org, Becky Evans rebecae@ (b) (6)

Thanks, Amy. Should have added Chris's info: Christine Lehnertz, General Superintendent Golden Gate National Recreation Area Building 201, Fort Mason San Francisco, California 94123 chris\_lehnertz@nps.gov Will send you some dates next week. Have a great weekend. Howard On Sep 11, 2015, at 9:48 AM, Amy Meyer wrote: > Howard, > > Please send all addresses to use, both electronic and snail mail. That makes it easy to inform people and get them moving. > > Is a Pelosi copy of a letter to Chris best sent locally or to Robert Edmonson or both (easy enough electronically)? > > If you and Chris will offer us a choice of 3 times to meet next, I'm sure we can agree on one of them. > > Amy > > > On Sep 10, 2015, at 9:35 PM, Howard Levitt and Wendy Scheffers wrote: > >> CONFIDENTIAL >> >> Dear Amy ( and Neal and Becky, too): >> >> Thank you for getting some momentum going on this. Yes, letters addressed to Chris asking her to be

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From:

Howard Levitt and Wendy Scheffers [howandwen@nps.gov](#) (b) (6)

Subject:

Re: Dog Management

Date:

September 11, 2015 at 6:56 PM America/Los\_Angeles

To:

Howard Levitt and Wendy Scheffers [howandwen@nps.gov](#) (b) (6)

Cc:

Amy Meyer [amy@nps.gov](#) (b) (6) Neal Desai [ndesai@npsa.org](#), Becky Evans [rebecca@nps.gov](#) (b) (6)

Email to both Dan Bernal and Robert Edmonson is best. On Sep 11, 2015, at 6:31 PM, Howard Levitt and Wendy Scheffers wrote: > Thanks, Amy. Should have added Chris's info: > > Christine Lehnertz, General Superintendent > Golden Gate National Recreation Area > Building 201, Fort Mason > San Francisco, California 94123 > > [chris\\_lehnertz@nps.gov](#) > > Will send you some dates next week. > > Have a great weekend. > > Howard > > > On Sep 11, 2015, at 9:48 AM, Amy Meyer wrote: > >> Howard, > >> Please send all addresses to use, both electronic and snail mail. That makes it easy to inform people and get them moving. > >> Is a Pelosi copy of a letter to Chris best sent locally or to Robert Edmonson or both (easy enough electronically)? > >> If you and Chris will offer us a choice of 3 times to meet next, I'm sure we can agree on one of them. >> >> Amy >> >> >> On Sep 10, 2015, at 9:35 PM, Howard Levitt and Wendy Scheffers wrote: >> >>> CONFIDENTIAL >>> >>> Dear Amy ( and Neal and Becky, too): >>> >>> Thank you for getting some momentum going on this. Yes, letters addressed to Chris asking her to be firm on protecting park resources and allowing for those who don't want a dog experience would be very useful. Cc to Rep Pelosi would also be good, because she is the one we need to stay away from this issue. Dan Bernal and Robert Edmonson need to be able to report to Nancy that there is a very sizable cohort who do not want Golden Gate to become a dog park. Whenever you three feel up to it, I know Chris and I would like to meet to talk about a strategy to activate non-dog advocates to make their voices heard on the Draft Rule. >>> >>> In deep appreciation. >>> >>> Howard >>> >>> On Sep 10, 2015, at 10:14 AM, Amy Meyer wrote: >>> >>>> Howard, >>>> >>>> I have collected one good dog management letter from a neighbor of Sutro Heights Park. It is addressed to you and Chris and it is not electronic but was mailed to me with just your names on it

GGNRA183600

From: Howard Levitt and Wendy Scheffers (b) (6)  
Subject: Dog Mtg  
Date: March 28, 2016 at 10:03 PM America/Los\_Angeles  
To: Louis Blumberg (b) (6)



NR Personal

Re the Dog Mtg, location is the Hall of Flowers in GGP near 9th and Lincoln. Doors open at 5:45 PM, presentation and question period starts at 6:15 PM. Would love to hear a voice of reason. Main point we need to hear is that some of the public supports our mission of first protecting park resources and then accommodating recreation. Most of the dog folks who speak suggest that they are the primary users of the park. In fact, at most dog visits constitute 10-12% of total annual visitation throughout the park, though the % is higher in places like Fort Funston (up to 60%) and Crissy Field (up to 24%). Nevertheless, the NPS plan reflects a commonsense approach to allowing a variety of visitor experiences - with and without dogs - and protects resources, reduces conflicts, and makes the park cleaner and safer for everyone. Hope to see you tomorrow night! Howard



From: Howard Levitt and Wendy Scheffers (b) (6)  
Subject: Re: Dog Mig  
Date: March 28, 2016 at 10:10 PM America/Los\_Angeles  
To: Louis Blumberg (b) (6)



NR Personal

[REDACTED] ove, Wendy On Mar 28, 2016, at 10:03 PM, Howard Levitt and Wendy Scheffers wrote: > Lou, > > NR Personal

[REDACTED] > Re the Dog Mig, location is the Hall of Flowers in GGP near 9th and Lincoln. Doors open at 5:45 PM, presentation and question period starts at 6:15 PM. Would love to hear a voice of reason. Main point we need to hear is that some of the public supports our mission of first protecting park resources and then accommodating recreation. Most of the dog folks who speak suggest that they are the primary users of the park. In fact, at most dog visits constitute 10-12% of total annual visitation throughout the park, though the % is higher in places like Fort Funston (up to 60%) and Crissy Field (up to 24%). Nevertheless, the NPS plan reflects a commonsense approach to allowing a variety of visitor experiences - with and without dogs - and protects resources, reduces conflicts, and makes the park cleaner and safer for everyone. > > Hope to see you tomorrow night! > > Howard

**From:** Bern landsmiths@ (b) (6)  
**Subject:** dog rules offline conversation?  
**Date:** March 24, 2016 at 8:56 PM America/Los\_Angeles  
**To:** "Howard Levitt & Wendy Scheffers" howandwen@ (b) (6)

---



Hi Howard -

I'm about to have some time to dig into the docs and put some comments together (will likely tend toward the "still the most liberal policy re: dogs of any national park" and "for the many people who are uncomfortable around dogs, this sets out clear areas to avoid" sort of comments...

What do you think? should we meet for coffee? Or beer?

Bern



**From:** Howard Levitt and Wendy Scheffers howandwen@ (b) (6)  
**Subject:** Re: dog rules offline conversation?  
**Date:** March 24, 2016 at 9:07 PM America/Los\_Angeles  
**To:** Bern landsmiths@ (b) (6)



---

Yes! Let's meet sometime next week. How about Mon after work for a beer? Howard

On Thu, Mar 24, 2016 at 8:56 PM, Bern <[<landsmiths@ \(b\) \(6\)>](mailto:landsmiths@ (b) (6))> wrote:

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Bern

**From:** Bern [landsmiths@\(b\) \(6\)](#)  
**Subject:** Re: dog rules offline conversation?  
**Date:** March 24, 2016 at 9:09 PM America/Los\_Angeles  
**To:** Howard Levitt and Wendy Scheffers [howandwen@\(b\) \(6\)](#)

---



That works for me - what's a good spot for you (and secure for bike parking?)

On Thu, Mar 24, 2016 at 9:07 PM, Howard Levitt and Wendy Scheffers

<[howandwen@\(b\) \(6\)](#)> wrote:

Yes! Let's meet sometime next week. How about Mon after work for a beer? Howard

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What do you think? should we meet for coffee? Or beer?

Bern

**From:** Howard Levitt and Wendy Scheffers howandwen@ (b) (6)  
**Subject:** Re: dog rules offline conversation?  
**Date:** March 25, 2016 at 11:23 AM America/Los\_Angeles  
**To:** Bern landsmiths (b) (6)



Bern, can we make it lunch at FOMA instead - secure bike parking right inside our building? I will need to get home right after work on Monday? Howard

On Mar 24, 2016, at 9:09 PM, Bern wrote:

That works for me - what's a good spot for you (and secure for bike parking?)

On Thu, Mar 24, 2016 at 9:07 PM, Howard Levitt and Wendy Scheffers

<[howandwen@ \(b\) \(6\)](mailto:howandwen@ (b) (6))> wrote:

Yes! Let's meet sometime next week. How about Mon after work for a beer?  
Howard

On Thu, Mar 24, 2016 at 8:56 PM, Bern <[landsmiths@ \(b\) \(6\)](mailto:landsmiths@ (b) (6))> wrote:

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What do you think? should we meet for coffee? Or beer?

Bern

**From:** Bern landsmiths@ (b) (6)  
**Subject:** Re: dog rules offline conversation?  
**Date:** March 30, 2016 at 3:11 PM America/Los\_Angeles  
**To:** Howard Levitt and Wendy Scheffers howandwen@ (b) (6)



Hi Howard -  
Sorry I missed out on Monday  
How about Thursday before work or at lunch?

Bern

On Fri, Mar 25, 2016 at 11:23 AM, Howard Levitt and Wendy Scheffers  
<howandwen@ (b) (6)> wrote:

Bern, can we make it lunch at FOMA instead - secure bike parking right inside our building? I will need to get home right after work on Monday? Howard

On Mar 24, 2016, at 9:09 PM, Bern wrote:

That works for me - what's a good spot for you (and secure for bike parking?)

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<howandwen@ (b) (6)> wrote:

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What do you think? should we meet for coffee? Or beer?

Bern

**From:** Howard Levitt and Wendy Scheffers [howandwen@b\(6\)](#)  
**Subject:** Re: dog rules offline conversation?  
**Date:** March 30, 2016 at 3:22 PM America/Los\_Angeles  
**To:** Bern [landsmiths@b\(6\)](#)



Thurs will be jammed up because I will need to prep for the Pacifica mtg. Unless you're planning on attending the Pacifica mtg and making a comment there, let's push our get-together until the week of Apr 11 - comment period doesn't expire until 5/25. Some time the week of 4/11??  
Howard

On Wed, Mar 30, 2016 at 3:11 PM, Bern [landsmiths@b\(6\)](#) wrote:

Hi Howard -  
Sorry I missed out on Monday  
How about Thursday before work or at lunch?

Bern

On Fri, Mar 25, 2016 at 11:23 AM, Howard Levitt and Wendy Scheffers  
<[howandwen@b\(6\)](#)> wrote:

Bern, can we make it lunch at FOMA instead - secure bike parking right inside our building? I will need to get home right after work on Monday? Howard

On Mar 24, 2016, at 9:09 PM, Bern wrote:

That works for me - what's a good spot for you (and secure for bike parking?)

On Thu, Mar 24, 2016 at 9:07 PM, Howard Levitt and Wendy Scheffers  
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Yes! Let's meet sometime next week. How about Mon after work for a beer?  
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On Thu, Mar 24, 2016 at 8:56 PM, Bern [landsmiths@b\(6\)](#) wrote:

Hi Howard -  
I'm about to have some time to dig into the docs and put some comments together (will likely tend toward the "still the most liberal policy re: dogs of any national park" and "for the many people who are uncomfortable around dogs, this sets out clear areas to avoid" sort of comments...

What do you think? should we meet for coffee? Or beer?

Bern

**From:** Bern landsmiths@**(b) (6)**  
**Subject:** Re: dog rules offline conversation?  
**Date:** March 30, 2016 at 3:27 PM America/Los\_Angeles  
**To:** Howard Levitt and Wendy Scheffers howandwen@**(b) (6)**



Yeah that week works for me (next week I'll be at the state trails conference).

Cheers -  
Bern

On Wed, Mar 30, 2016 at 3:22 PM, Howard Levitt and Wendy Scheffers

<[howandwen@b6](mailto:howandwen@b6)> wrote:

Thurs will be jammed up because I will need to prep for the Pacifica mtg. Unless you're planning on attending the Pacifica mtg and making a comment there, let's push our get-together until the week of Apr 11 - comment period doesn't expire until 5/25. Some time the week of 4/11?? Howard

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What do you think? should we meet for coffee? Or beer?

Bern

**From:** Amy Meyer a7w2m@ (b) (6)  
**Subject:** Dogs with Becky's changes.  
**Date:** July 14, 2015 at 11:40 AM America/Los\_Angeles  
**To:** Becky Evans rebecca@ (b) (6), Neal Desai ndesai@npca.org, Howard Levitt  
and Wendy Scheffers howandwen@ (b) (6)



Neal, you can work from this update from Becky.

**Howard— I can't send this anywhere until the 7 or 8 issue is settled.**

Becky— "Something else that is missing is that off-leash dog walking was not permitted under previous ownership." I was on the Rec Park Commission and owned a dog from 1962 on. There was no city regulation at all. It was when the NPS started to use the national park regulation that it became an issue. I don't understand why there are two limits for commercial dog walking. I don't know because the names of the remaining sites aren't given. There isn't enough trouble from the commercial walkers to worry about it — the problem is so much more the individual dog owners.

**REWRITE** Amy integrating Becky's changes:

1. Of the 407 areas of the National Park System, not one permits off-leash dogs, and it is a significant stretch for NPS to even consider off-leash dog use.

2. When Golden Gate National Recreation Area took over the ownership of most of the beach areas of San Francisco and southern Marin, the park's administration acknowledged the long tradition of off-leash dog recreation in those areas of the park. This led to a 1979 recommendation by the Federal Advisory Commission for the GGNRA that dogs be allowed off-leash in many areas of the park. GGNRA made that recommendation park policy.

3. By the mid-t990s, the damage caused by off-leash dogs to dunes, habitat, and wildlife had become evident. When the Advisory Commission tried to rescind the 1979 policy, dog owners went to court. The judge ruled there would have to be a formal public removal of the policy, instead of reverting to the national regulations. GGNRA petitioned the NPS regional and national directorate to allow development of a Special Rule for dog management, for this park only. This regulation would meet the preservation and recreation mandates of the park's legislation. This process, with extensive public input and several revisions, has been going on for 15 years. The damage to the park's resources has continued to increase, and dog owners feel ever more entitled to run their dogs off-leash.

4. GGNRA is required to consider the expectations of a broad array of national park users from all over the country and the world, not solely the interests of single-issue stakeholders. Of the 22 park sites originally evaluated for off-leash use, the 5 that are most contested are those which are popular with all users: Fort Funston, Ocean Beach, Crissy Field, Rodeo Beach, and Muir Beach. Under the proposed Special Rule, all but Muir Beach will have off-leash areas. The 7 off-leash areas will be Crissy Field, Fort Funston, and Fort Mason's Great Meadow— each will have 2 areas— and Ocean Beach and Rodeo Beach will each have 1 area— for a total of EIGHT

5. NPS carefully assessed every area governed by the 1979 Pet Policy They later reviewed key San Mateo County sites that were not owned or managed by the park in 1979, to determine if there were any areas where dogs could be permitted off leash without threatening wildlife and habitat, and which also permitted opportunities for those who want a dog-free experience. GGNRA identified 7 ?8 areas where they feel off-leash dog use can occur.

6. In addition to the 7 (8?) proposed off leash areas, there are 21 areas (including some that also permit off leash) that are proposed for on-leash dog walking.

7. Commercial dog walkers are limited to certain areas and are subject to a 3 dog maximum except on Fort Funston, Fort Mason, Baker Beach, and Crissy Field in San Francisco and Fort Baker, Rodeo Beach, and Alta Trail in Marin where they are subject to a 6 dog limit. The 6 dog limit is the same as that for the Presidio and the city parks in San Francisco. The dogs may be off-leash where otherwise permitted. NPS authority to permit this use is contested by several environmental groups.

Amy



**From:** Neal Desai ndesai@npca.org  
**Subject:** RE: Dogs with Becky's changes.  
**Date:** July 14, 2015 at 12:29 PM America/Los\_Angeles  
**To:** Amy Meyer a7w2m@ (b) (6), Becky Evans rebecca@ (b) (6) Howard  
Levitt and Wendy Scheffers howandwen@ (b) (6)



Amy, please see the attached that contains tracked changes edits. I included several statements, such as in many cases, the original land manager did not allow dog walking and that the 1979 pet policy did not consider scientific research or other park users.

Thank you very much for putting this info together. When you have a final set of 4 documents, can you please send them around to us for final review? At this point, it doesn't matter if we send Dan the info by 2 or by 5pm. Thanks!  
neal

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**From:** Amy Meyer [mailto:a7w2m@ (b) (6)]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 14, 2015 11:41 AM  
**To:** Becky Evans; Neal Desai; Howard Levitt and Wendy Scheffers  
**Subject:** Dogs with Becky's changes.

Neal, you can work from this update from Becky.

**Howard— I can't send this anywhere until the 7 or 8 issue is settled.**

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Amy

**Attachments:**

[neal edits to dogs.docx](#) (19.1 kB)

More than a decade ago, the National Park Service began a public process that would allow for the Golden Gate National Recreation (GGNRA) to become the first and only national park site to welcome off-leash dogs. This unprecedented rule-making process made many national park lovers fear that the GGNRA would continue to be managed as a giant dog park, despite related negative impacts to park wildlife, plants, and visitors. After all, this was during a period when numerous decisions (e.g. snowmobiles in Yellowstone) were made by the Administration that conflicted with science and policy.

Fast-forward to today, the Park Service recently released a proposed dog management rule that follows the law, reflects scientific literature, and affirms that this special place will be managed for long-term public interest and the benefit of all Americans. This new rule updates a nearly 40-year old regulation that was created far before GGNRA became the most visited national park site, offering more diverse forms of recreation than any other in our entire park system. Naturally, since park visitation has grown to 17 million, conflicts between users have also increased.

The GGNRA is the backyard national park to many of us Bay Area residents, including me. It also contains more threatened and endangered species than Yellowstone, Yosemite and Sequoia-Kings Canyon National Parks, combined. This alarming statistic highlights the national importance of these lands and underscores the need to help species recover. GGNRA and all of our 411 National Park System sites are managed to the same standard of care regardless of its classification, such as National Park, National Battlefield, or National Recreation Area.

Such facts are inconvenient and often overlooked by those who would like to see unregulated off-leash dogs throughout our shared national parkland, including trails and picnic areas. Also inconvenient, scientific research does not conclude that impacts from off-leash dogs are beneficial to wildlife, plants, and their habitat.

Yet, the Park Service has recognized that all Americans are stakeholders in our national parks. Through a rigorous public engagement process that considered the views of all park visitors, not just one user group, the Park Service has proposed that it can responsibly accommodate on-leash and off-leash dog walking. The Park Service has successfully struck a balance in its plan that minimizes negative impacts on other park users and resources.

For more than two years, public documents have provided trail-by-trail and beach-by-beach analysis. The documents reference more than 20 studies regarding the negative impacts dogs have on natural resources.

Marin County Parks Department reports dog walking, including dog waste, as a top visitor complaint. Such data directly contradicts claims that conflicts between off-leash dogs and other park users and wildlife in nearby San Francisco or other parts of the country simply don't occur locally.

Already, various off-leash activists who oppose other local planning efforts (e.g. efforts to implement sustainable ranching at Point Reyes National Seashore and reduce traffic congestion at Muir Woods) have threatened to litigate the final dog rule. Such an approach is a disservice to all the other park visitors who would like to enjoy prime

parkland without dogs, or walk their leashed dog without being jumped on by an unknown off-leash dog.

This subject is clearly emotional because people love their dogs and therefore it may be difficult to imagine them harming other visitors or wildlife. But people also love their national parks and the Park Service has a legally-mandated mission to welcome all visitors and to preserve our local and national heritage for years to come. That balance can only be accomplished by the reasonable off-leash rules in the GGRNA plan.

**From:** Amy Meyer amy7w2m@ (b) (6)  
**Subject:** Format of the 6 meetings  
**Date:** March 09, 2016 at 10:15 AM America/Los\_Angeles  
**To:** Howard Levitt and Wendy Scheffers howandwen@ (b) (6)  
**Cc:** Neal Desai ndesai@npca.org



---

Howard,

Thank you for the good conversation yesterday. And also for the delicious oranges!

Neal and I talked about the agreed-upon format with the questions collected as Huffman did. I want to tell you I had been thinking about the Huffman meeting as we talked. If I had made the suggestion, I could see why you should be worrying. But since Martha made the suggestion and since Christine and David both agreed with her it was very much an agreed-upon consensus of all. Which you can say if it becomes necessary.

Amy

--

[www.amywmeyer.com](http://www.amywmeyer.com)

**From:** Howard Levitt and Wendy Scheffers howandwen(b) (6)  
**Subject:** Re: Format of the 6 meetings  
**Date:** March 09, 2016 at 10:40 AM America/Los\_Angeles  
**To:** Amy Meyer amy7w2m@(b) (6)  
**Cc:** Neal Desai ndesai@npca.org



Thanks, Amy and Neal. As always, your presence (and Becky's and Noreen's) was crucial.

I agree completely with you that adjusting the "question" session format makes sense since it came from the dog folks. It was interesting that the corollary to extending the question session is the reduction/elimination of a general "statement" session, which no one seemed to have a problem with.

I've talked with my team about this, and we've identified an ideal staff person (Adrienne Freeman) to do the real-time sort of the questions. This shift will require us to have our experts ready to field questions and provide CONCISE answers to them. I believe this format change will give us our best shot at meetings that achieve the goal of clarifying the rule so that people can submit comments from a position of greater knowledge.

Onward.

Howard

On Wed, Mar 9, 2016 at 10:15 AM, Amy Meyer <amy7w2m@(b) (6)> wrote:

Howard,

Thank you for the good conversation yesterday. And also for the delicious oranges!

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--

[www.amywmeyer.com](http://www.amywmeyer.com)

**From:** Amy Meyer amy7w2m@ (b) (6)  
**Subject:** Fwd: Correct # of GGNRA visitors.URGENT  
**Date:** February 22, 2016 at 7:27 PM America/Los\_Angeles  
**To:** Neal Desai ndesai@npca.org  
**Cc:** howandwen@ (b) (6)



Neal

I would like to stand by 17.5 million. MUWO and FOPO are administered by GGNRA.

Is this OK with you?

Amy

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** Howard Levitt and Wendy Scheffers <howandwen@ (b) (6) >  
**Date:** Monday, February 22, 2016  
**Subject:** Correct # of GGNRA visitors.URGENT  
**To:** Amy Meyer <amy7w2m@ (b) (6) >  
**Cc:** Neal Desai <ndesai@npca.org>

Neal is correct for GGNRA only - figure of 17.5 includes MUWO and FOPO. I explained this to Steve Rubenstein of the Chron and Mark Prado. They seemed to get it. I generally provide both GOGA's # initially, and then go on to point out that there are two other units under GOGA mgt, and the total was 17.5 in 2015, second highest in NPS.

On Mon, Feb 22, 2016 at 5:56 PM, Amy Meyer <amy7w2m@ (b) (6) > wrote:

Howard: Neal is using 14.9 million

I heard Chris use 17 million

We need ONE accurate figure right away that we all agree on.

Thanks,  
Amy

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[www.amywmeyer.com](http://www.amywmeyer.com)

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From: Amy Meyer <amy7@nps.gov> (b) (6)  
Subject: Fed: FYI re Speier and dog management plan: Responding to your message  
Date: June 09, 2016 at 5:07 PM America/Los\_Angeles  
To: Howard Levitt and Wendy Schellars <hschellars@nps.gov> (b) (6)



Howard,  
I thought you'd like to see this.  
Let me know if what Lennie has written is in tune with GGNRA's current perceptions.  
Amy

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Lennie Roberts <lennie@delcoul.org>  
Date: Thu, Jun 9, 2016 at 3:47 PM  
Subject: Re: FYI re Speier and dog management plan: Responding to your message  
To: Amy Meyer <amy7@nps.gov> (b) (6)  
Cc: BeckyE <beckee@nps.gov> (b) (6), WSheplew <WSHEPLAW@nps.gov> (b) (6), Paul Wenner <paul@nps.gov> (b) (6)

Wow!

I think Jackie has stepped WAY back from previous statements in the press that were very pro-dog.

This was in the Half Moon Bay Review at the time of release of the Rule:

"Not good enough," said U.S. Rep. Jackie Speier in a prepared release. "The National Park Service has tried but not hard enough and has not listened to the residents and dog walkers of San Mateo County. How can you say it is fair to create seven off-leash areas in the San Francisco and Marin portions of the GGNRA and none, zero in San Mateo County?"

I'm encouraged by her much more measured tone.

LR

On Jun 9, 2016, at 12:26 PM, Amy Meyer <amy7@nps.gov> (b) (6) wrote:

Lennie,

I know you don't live in Speier's district, but your Committee for Green Foothills ear is to the ground all over the Peninsula. I've had inquiries as to what this letter from Speier to one of her constituents might mean. She's done a couple of things that were ineffective re: dog management and I get the idea that while she's personally in favor of dogs off leash she is more making gestures than taking a hard stand against the proposed Special Rule. At least I hope that's what's happening...

Any insight?

Thanks,  
Amy

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From: Paul Wenner <paul@nps.gov> (b) (6)  
Date: Fri, Jun 3, 2016 at 12:33 PM  
Subject: FYI re Speier and dog management plan: Responding to your message  
To: Amy Meyer <amy7@nps.gov> (b) (6), Bill Shepard <WSHEPLAW@nps.gov> (b) (6)

----- Forwarded Message -----

Subject: Responding to your message  
Date: Fri, 3 Jun 2016 14:30:07 -0400  
From: Rep. Jackie Speier <CA14ma-113@mail.house.gov>  
To: paul@nps.gov (b) (6)



JACKIE SPEIER  
OFFICE OF THE CLERK  
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-0312  
PHONE: (202) 225-4000  
FAX: (202) 225-4001  
WWW.HOUSE.EDU  
WWW.SPEIER.EDU

Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515-0312

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES  
SUBCOMMITTEE:  
EARTH, SPACE, AND AEROSPACE  
COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND  
GOVERNMENT REFORM  
SUBCOMMITTEE:  
NATIONAL DEFENSE, ENERGY, AND  
INFRASTRUCTURE  
NATIONAL SECURITY  
GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION  
TASK FORCE  
HQS 0101

June 3, 2016

Dear Mr. Warner:

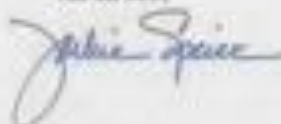
Thank you for contacting me to express your concerns regarding the Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA) draft Dog Management Plan. I respect your concerns, and think you make valid points about this plan. I would like to clarify my own beliefs about off-leash policies at GGNRA, and my hopes for an inclusive, thoughtful, environmentally friendly GGNRA for all of us to share.

I believe there should be opportunities for all residents to recreate in the GGNRA, whether one wants to bird watch or ride a horse, walk a path or climb a hill, watch a wave or watch their dog romp. Some of these uses are incompatible, and setting aside areas for non-compatible uses is appropriate.

Let me be clear, I don't think all of GGNRA should be open to off-leash dogs – only designated off-leash areas that don't impact our native wildlife. GGNRA isn't just for humans and dogs; we share it with a diverse ecosystem of creatures. If we want to open parts of the park to off-leash dogs, we will need to post clear guidelines and enforcement measures. It's then up to dog owners to follow those rules and protect the natural beauty of GGNRA for all who visit, with or without their furry friends. We need a Dog Management plan that includes all constituencies, and takes into account the recreational interests of all.

I am confident we can achieve this balance, and the National Parks Service should work on a plan to reflect that balance. Thank you again for taking the time to write to me about this issue. Don't hesitate to contact me in the future if I may be of assistance.

All the best,



Jackie Speier  
Member of Congress

With Member Accountability Committee

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[www.speier.house.gov](http://www.speier.house.gov)

[www.speier.house.gov](http://www.speier.house.gov)

GGNRA183620

From: Howard Levitt and Wendy Scheffers <howard@hlevitt.com>  
Subject: Re: FYI re Speier and dog management plan: Responding to your message  
Date: June 09, 2016 at 10:37 PM America/Los\_Angeles  
To: Amy Meyer <amy@hlevitt.com>

H

Amy, I agree that Jackie had painted herself into a corner as the champion of the underdog (pun intended) in the fight against the imperious NPS, and her letter to Paul reflects a different tone. However, as recently as March 15 she sent a letter to the head of the Appropriations Committee in Congress that reiterated her desire to block funding for GGNRA to implement a new dog plan. So my personal assessment is that she was simply responding softly to Paul because of his support for NPS, but probably hasn't moved much. H

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To: Amy Meyer <amy@hlevitt.com>, Bill Shepard <WSHEPLEW@hlevitt.com>

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**To:** [paul@](mailto:paul@)(b) (6)



June 3, 2016

Dear Mr. Wermer:

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All the best,

Jackie Speier  
Member of Congress

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Paul Wermer Sustainability Consulting

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(b) (6)(b) (6)

GGNRA183622

[paul@](#)(b) (6)

[www.pw-sc.com](#)

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[www.amywmeyer.com](#)

From: Amy Meyer <amy7w2m@b1 (b) (6)>  
Subject: Fwd: Proposed Rule for Dog Management Open for Comment - Feb 24  
Date: March 17, 2016 at 3:41 PM America/Los\_Angeles  
To: Howard Levitt and Wendy Scheffers <howardlevitt@b1 (b) (6)>



Howard,

In response to a request from Rich Bartke to send letters to legislators and GGNRA, Paul Jones of the old CAC sent this reply.

If you can think of one brief statement I could make to him, let me know. The San Francisco situation is much better than in the two other counties.

Amy

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Paul Jones <pauleonessator@b1 (b) (6)>  
Date: Thu, Mar 17, 2016 at 11:17 AM  
Subject: Re: Proposed Rule for Dog Management Open for Comment - Feb 24  
To: Rich Bartke <richbartke@b1 (b) (6)>  
Cc: amy7w2m@b1 (b) (6), Lennie Roberts <lennie@darwin.ptvy.ca.us>, gbatmurb@b1 (b) (6), gimmypark@b1 (b) (6), ccserv@b1 (b) (6)

Hi, Folks: I am going to write my own letter and it's going to say that I'm not supportive of the approach they are taking for San Mateo. I'm going to have to respectfully (and I mean very respectfully) disagree. They are eliminating about 70% of the trails to onleash dog access. I don't see the science behind the decision, which means it's a policy desire. This will have the unwanted effect of creating conflicts where there will be access and funneling dog walkers onto City of Pacifica lands, which are already stressed. GGNRA owns over 50% of the land in Pacifica, so it's not a trivial matter in terms of members of the community affected by this potential rule. There are other scientists who agree with me, so I know I'm not alone. There is a former NPS manager who agrees with my view. MMWD allows dogs on leash on almost all of its lands and you can't say they're ecologically less valuable, plus their watersheds are feed the water supply for Marin. If they can do it, the GGNRA can be a bit more lenient.

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I think each of us should write a letter, first explaining our membership on the Commission which held all the public hearings, and then offering our individual opinions.

Is that a workable plan? I'm ready to put pen to paper (so to speak).

Rich



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To: richbartke <[\(b\) \(6\)](mailto:richbartke@b(6))>  
Cc: Lennie Roberts <[lennie@darwin.ptvy.ca.us](mailto:lennie@darwin.ptvy.ca.us)>; Gordon Bennett <[\(b\) \(6\)](mailto:gbatmuirb@b(6))>; gimmyparkli <[\(b\) \(6\)](mailto:gimmyparkli@b(6))>  
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First, please let the following members of Congress know that you support the GGNRA's proposed rule that provides recreation for all and protects our at-risk natural resources (for ease, you can include these staffers on one email rather than sending 4 individual ones):

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Representative Jared Huffman: [Jenny.callaway@mail.house.gov](mailto:Jenny.callaway@mail.house.gov)  
Senator Dianne Feinstein: [sean\\_elsbernd@feinstein.senate.gov](mailto:sean_elsbernd@feinstein.senate.gov)

Second, and equally important, please take as little as 2 minutes to fill out [this form and submit formal comments](#) in support of GGNRA's proposed dog rule.

*(This from Amy: I am going to send a longer letter to the park on this form because I think they will need as much substance as they can get. They particularly want personal examples of experiences with dogs, whether about safety, habitat destruction, visitor experience. etc) BUT PLEASE SEND COMMENTS!*

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Warm regards to all of you,

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Date: Tue, Feb 23, 2016 at 11:25 AM

Subject: Proposed Rule for Dog Management Open for Comment - Feb 24

To: [amy7u2m@nps.gov](#) (b) (6)

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National Recreation Area



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### Proposed Rule for Dog Management in the GGNRA

Open for Public Comment - February 24, 2016

Dear Friends of GGNRA:

I am pleased to announce the **Proposed Rule for Dog Management** in the Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA) will open for a 60-day public comment period on February 24, 2016. This is an important step in the process to develop a federal rule on dog management in the GGNRA.

The Proposed Rule would amend the park's special regulations designating 22 locations for dog walking in the GGNRA. It is based on the Preferred Alternative described in the Draft Dog Management Plan/Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) that was reviewed and commented on by the public in 2013/14. The Proposed Rule would designate where and how people would be able to enjoy the park with their dogs - both on- and off-leash - as well as places that would be dog free. It would define terms like "voice and sight control" that are essential to dog management. If ultimately implemented, the rule would ensure the protection of the park's natural and cultural resources and continue to provide recreational opportunities for a wide variety of park



GGNRA183626

users. Comments on the Proposed Rule, along with comments previously received on the SEIS, will be used in developing the final plan and final rule, which are expected later this year.

GGNRA recognizes well-managed dog walking as a healthy and popular way to enjoy park lands. Under the Proposed Rule, the GGNRA would remain the most dog-friendly national park and the only national park in the United States to allow off-leash voice and sight control dog walking.

Under the Proposed Rule, off-leash dog walking would be allowed in seven areas in five different park locations including Fort Funston, the most popular dog walking area in the park. Dog walking would be allowed on almost one-third of the park's beach mileage, mostly off-leash, and one-third of the park's trail mileage would be available for visitors to walk their dogs on-leash. There would also be dog free beach and picnic area options. Specific areas would be identified for commercial dog walking.

#### Public Meetings

Please join us at a public meeting in Marin, San Francisco, or San Mateo County to discuss the Proposed Rule, ask questions, and learn about the public comment and planning process. [Click here for meeting details](#). If your organization would like us to speak at your next meeting about the Proposed Rule, please call us at [\(415\) 561-4728](tel:4155614728).

#### Where to find/comment on the Proposed Rule

To download a copy of the Proposed Rule on February 24, 2016, please visit [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov) (Search RIN: 1024-AE16). It is also available for public inspection on February 23, 2016, at [www.federalregister.gov/public-inspection](http://www.federalregister.gov/public-inspection) (search: Golden Gate Dog Management). If you have questions about the Proposed Rule or would like to request a hard copy, please call [\(415\) 561-4728](tel:4155614728) or [goga\\_dogmgt@nps.gov](mailto:goga_dogmgt@nps.gov). Please note that comments on the Proposed Rule will be accepted through April 25, 2016, at [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov) (Search RIN: 1024-AE16), or via letter to: Superintendent, GGNRA, Dog Management Proposed Rule, Building 201 Fort Mason, San Francisco, California, 94123.

Your comments on the Proposed Rule will play an important role in the development of the final plan and rule, which are expected later this year. We welcome your participation in the process. For more information on dog management planning and the Proposed Rule, please visit our [website](#).



Sincerely,

Christine Lehnertz  
Superintendent

To request alternate formats of this email, or general accessibility information, please visit our [park accessibility website](#), email [gsaa\\_accessibility@nps.gov](mailto:gsaa_accessibility@nps.gov) or call (415) 561-4958. Individuals who are deaf, hard-of-hearing, deaf/blind or have speech disabilities may utilize the Federal Relay Service number (800) 877-8339.

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From: Amy Meyer <amy7@2mfi(b) (6)>  
Subject: Fwd: Proposed Rule for Dog Management Open for Comment - Feb 24  
Date: March 18, 2016 at 2:25 PM America/Los\_Angeles  
To: Howard Levitt and Wendy Scheffers <howardlevitt(b) (6)>

A

Howard

There seems to be no way in this stupid (b) (6) to send one message, the one right below from Paul Jones, without sending the whole train of e-mails. Or— maybe Yani can give me another computer lesson.

This morning you outlined what might be possible in Pacifica: a combination of a small beach of theirs and 1/3 of an acre at Mori Point. I had heard the same from Frank Dean. Is this the time to tell Paul to start looking into this? If so, would you give me a few sentences for him, please. I could begin with "I've heard there is a small Pacifica beach that could be combined with a tiny piece of Mori Point beach that might accomplish some of the access that you want. [Description] Can you look into this?"

Or, another idea?

You and Chris were just fine this morning.

Amy

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To: Rich Bartke <richbartke@ (b) (6)>  
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Representative Jackie Speier: [Miriam.Goldstein@mail.house.gov](mailto:Miriam.Goldstein@mail.house.gov)  
Representative Jared Huffman: [Jenny.callaway@mail.house.gov](mailto:Jenny.callaway@mail.house.gov)  
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To: [amy7a2m00](#) (b) (6)

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Superintendent

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Subject: Fwd: Proposed Rule for Dog Management Open for Comment - Feb 24

Dear Rich,

I feel the Advisory Commission in Exile has one more stand to take, since Dog Management in the GGNRA was going on while we were still in office. Five of us are on this letter, but perhaps one or another of you can suggest people I've lost contact with. Jackie Young and Paul Jones come to mind. Dennis Rodoni is running for office in Marin to replace Supervisor Steve Kinsey who is retiring. I would not bring him into this; if elected he would make a big difference on that board— but part of his district is in east Marin where there is controversy he doesn't need.

Below is the notice that came out a few weeks ago from Superintendent Chris Lehnertz. She is doing a wonderful personable job— this morning one Conservancy person at a small Crissy Field planning session said, "She is a model for all of us." At Congresswoman Pelosi's request, the comment period on this notice has since been extended a month, until May 25.

As you may imagine, the dog owners are as contentious as ever, from Crissy Field Dog to Save Our Recreation. Their main argument seems to be this is not a national park but an urban recreation area. There was a fine editorial in the Chronicle in support of the Special Rule. There have been mixed letters in publications. Yesterday the SF Board of Supervisors voted 10 - 1 against the Special Rule (my supervisor, Eric Mar, excepted). Their advisory resolution is just part of the lower levels of government getting into the act and I don't expect anything else from San Mateo and Marin counties.

I would like to have two letters from the CAC go into this fray. The first is very short and should be sent as soon as possible. Neal Desai of NPCA sent the following instructions. NOTE: the 3 congressional offices have dots between the first and last name of the recipient. Senator Feinstein's aide has an underline. These offices are counting the comments they receive.

First, please let the following members of Congress know that you support the GGNRA's proposed rule that provides recreation for all and protects our at-risk natural resources (for ease, you can include these staffers on one email rather than sending 4 individual ones):

Leader Nancy Pelosi: [Robert.edmonson@mail.house.gov](mailto:Robert.edmonson@mail.house.gov)

Representative Jackie Speier: [Miriam.Goldstein@mail.house.gov](mailto:Miriam.Goldstein@mail.house.gov)

Representative Jared Huffman: [Jenny.callaway@mail.house.gov](mailto:Jenny.callaway@mail.house.gov)

Senator Dianne Feinstein: [sean\\_elsbernd@feinstein.senate.gov](mailto:sean_elsbernd@feinstein.senate.gov)

Second, and equally important, please take as little as 2 minutes to fill out [this form and submit formal comments](#) in support of GGNRA's proposed dog rule.

*(This from Amy: I am going to send a longer letter to the park on this form because I think they will need as much substance as they can get. They particularly want personal examples of experiences with dogs, whether about safety, habitat destruction, visitor experience. etc) BUT PLEASE SEND COMMENTS!*

**Additional Resources:**

[Frequently Asked Questions by the NPS](#)

[Frequently Asked Questions by the National Parks Conservation Association](#)

[Public Meetings on the Proposed Rule for Dog Management in the GGNRA](#)

[Dog Management Planning Timeline](#)

[Maps under the Proposed Rule for Dog Management in the GGNRA](#)

If any of you want the underlying policy and legislative support for this Special Rule, just ask and I will forward the information. But this letter is long enough.

Warm regards to all of you,

Amy

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **GGNRA Superintendent Chris Lehnertz** <[goga\\_planning@nps.gov](mailto:goga_planning@nps.gov)>

Date: Tue, Feb 23, 2016 at 11:25 AM

Subject: Proposed Rule for Dog Management Open for Comment - Feb 24

To: [amy7v2m@b\) \(b\)](#)

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#### Proposed Rule for Dog Management in the GGNRA

**Open for Public Comment - February 24, 2016**

Dear Friends of GGNRA:

I am pleased to announce the **Proposed Rule for Dog Management** in the Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA) will open for a 60-day public comment period on February 24, 2016. This is an important step in the process to develop a federal rule on dog



management in the GGNRA.

The Proposed Rule would amend the park's special regulations designating 22 locations for dog walking in the GGNRA. It is based on the Preferred Alternative described in the Draft Dog Management Plan/Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) that was reviewed and commented on by the public in 2013/14. The Proposed Rule would designate where and how people would be able to enjoy the park with their dogs - both on- and off-leash - as well as places that would be dog free. It would define terms like "voice and sight control" that are essential to dog management. If ultimately implemented, the rule would ensure the protection of the park's natural and cultural resources and continue to provide recreational opportunities for a wide variety of park users. Comments on the Proposed Rule, along with comments previously received on the SEIS, will be used in developing the final plan and final rule, which are expected later this year.

GGNRA recognizes well-managed dog walking as a healthy and popular way to enjoy park lands. Under the Proposed Rule, the GGNRA would remain the most dog-friendly national park and the only national park in the United States to allow off-leash voice and sight control dog walking.

Under the Proposed Rule, off-leash dog walking would be allowed in seven areas in five different park locations including Fort Funston, the most popular dog walking area in the park. Dog walking would be allowed on almost one-third of the park's beach mileage, mostly off-leash, and one-third of the park's trail mileage would be available for visitors to walk their dogs on-leash. There would also be dog free beach and picnic area options. Specific areas would be identified for commercial dog walking.

#### Public Meetings

Please join us at a public meeting in Marin, San Francisco, or San Mateo County to discuss the Proposed Rule, ask questions, and learn about the public comment and planning process. [Click here for](#)

[meeting details](#). If your organization would like us to speak at your next meeting about the Proposed Rule, please call us at [\(415\) 561-4728](tel:4155614728).

**Where to find/comment on the Proposed Rule**

To download a copy of the Proposed Rule on February 24, 2016, please visit [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov) (Search RIN: 1024-AE16). It is also available for public inspection on February 23, 2016, at [www.federalregister.gov/public-inspection](http://www.federalregister.gov/public-inspection) (search: Golden Gate Dog Management). If you have questions about the Proposed Rule or would like to request a hard copy, please call [\(415\) 561-4728](tel:4155614728) or [goga\\_dogmgt@nps.gov](mailto:goga_dogmgt@nps.gov). Please note that comments on the Proposed Rule will be accepted through April 25, 2016, at [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov) (Search RIN: 1024-AE16), or via letter to: Superintendent, GGNRA, Dog Management Proposed Rule, Building 201 Fort Mason, San Francisco, California, 94123.

Your comments on the Proposed Rule will play an important role in the development of the final plan and rule, which are expected later this year. We welcome your participation in the process. For more information on dog management planning and the Proposed Rule, please visit our [website](#).

Sincerely,

Christine Lehnertz  
Superintendent

To request alternate formats of this email, or general accessibility information, please visit our [park accessibility website](#), email [goga\\_accessibility@nps.gov](mailto:goga_accessibility@nps.gov) or call [\(415\) 561-4958](tel:4155614958). Individuals who are deaf, hard-of-hearing, deaf/blind or have speech disabilities may utilize the Federal Relay Service number [\(800\) 877-8339](tel:8008778339).

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National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

You are receiving this email because you have expressed an interest in receiving updates from Golden Gate National Recreation Area. Don't forget to add [goga\\_planning@nps.gov](mailto:goga_planning@nps.gov) to your address book so we'll be sure to land in your inbox.

If you'd like to unsubscribe please click the "SafeUnsubscribe" link at the bottom of this email.

Golden Gate National Recreation Area, Building 201 - Fort Mason, San  
Francisco, CA 94123

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**From:** [Howard Levitt and Wendy Scheffers](#)  
**To:** [Neal Desai](#)  
**Subject:** Fwd: talking points  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 01, 2016 4:51:50 PM  
**Attachments:** [Talking Point re SF dog access.docx](#)

---

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** Howard Levitt and Wendy Scheffers <[howandwen@](#)(b) (6)>  
**Date:** Tue, Mar 1, 2016 at 2:34 PM  
**Subject:** talking points  
**To:** Wendy Scheffers <[wsmobility@](#)(b) (6)>

**From:** [Howard Levitt and Wendy Scheffers](#)  
**To:** [frank and diane dean](#)  
**Subject:** Fwd: today's column  
**Date:** Monday, January 20, 2014 3:54:45 PM

---

Frank, - my Stanford prof, cycling, and football buddy - just fired this off to Tom Stienstra. Written in classic academic English, Tom nevertheless calls Stienstra to task. Not sure what, if any the response will be. HL

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Thomas A Ryckman <[<tryckman@\(b\) \(6\)>](mailto:tryckman@(b) (6))>  
**Date:** January 20, 2014 3:00:43 PM PST  
**To:** [tstienstra@sfbay.com](mailto:tstienstra@sfbay.com)  
**Subject:** today's column

Dear Mr. Stienstra,

I read your column regularly and usually with enjoyment. Since coming to SF in 1999, my wife and I have learned much from you about the wonderful walks in and around the Bay Area, and from your coverage of the wonders of (by Eastern standards) subtle seasonal changes in California.

However today I was both disappointed and annoyed. As I understand it, the GGNRA dog leash plan has been carefully drafted to balance the interests of dog owners with a mandate that fragile natural habitats must be protected. It is not the arbitrary imposition of government whim or a ukase from a remote faceless bureaucrat. In this matter, which I have followed for some time, dog owner groups are acting like spoiled children, selfishly putting their supposed entitlement (though allegedly speaking for their pets) above the general good of the public, a good that includes passing on to future generations the few remaining strips of wildlife habitat in the Bay Area. As with other areas of environmental protection, past practice or precedent is not, and should not be, an inviolable standard going forward. I do not see, as many dog owners do, that one can legitimately speak here of an infringement of "rights". In this narcissistic society, claims about "rights" are as common as blackberries and just about as meaningful.

Your remarks about government and park rangers may elicit praise from dog owners but they are irresponsible. You might ask the people of Charleston, WV about the necessity of "a lot of new rules and enforcement". And your opinion that "It is common these days that rangers do not live within the community of the parks they patrol" requires evidence. Even if true, the same could be said for many of the police and firemen working in communities in the Bay Area. You do a disservice to your readers to pander to a particular constituency on this issue.

Sincerely,



Thomas Ryckman

**From:** Neal Desai ndesai@npca.org  
**Subject:** FYI  
**Date:** April 22, 2016 at 9:31 AM America/Los\_Angeles  
**To:** Howard Levitt and Wendy Scheffers howandwen@(b) (6)

---



**Attachments:**

[Final Neal Desai MIJ GGNRA Dog Rule OpEd.docx](#) (24.94 kB)

**From:** Amy Meyer a7w2m(b) (6)  
**Subject:** GGNRA Dog Management History  
**Date:** July 14, 2015 at 1:45 PM America/Los\_Angeles  
**To:** Neal Desai ndesai@npca.org, Becky Evans rebeccaeb(b) (6)  
**Cc:** Howard Levitt and Wendy Scheffers howandwen(b) (6)



Neal and Becky,

Howard confirmed 8 locations. I inserted Neal's corrections.

Now I am waiting for Howard to phone me back again: #5 includes San Mateo County. No off-leash accommodation to that county is shown—and that is where Speier is causing trouble. Please read that paragraph carefully to see whether there is a missing clause or sentence, such as "Some (or number of) on-leash sites have been identified."

Please look this over one more time and then I will prepare our 4 page packet.

This paper now has a title.

## GGNRA Dog Management History

1. Of the 407 areas of the National Park System, not one permits off-leash dogs, and it is a significant stretch for NPS to even consider off-leash dog use.
2. When Golden Gate National Recreation Area took over the ownership of most of the beach areas of San Francisco and southern Marin, the park's administration acknowledged the long tradition of off-leash dog recreation in those areas of the park. This led to a 1979 recommendation by the Federal Advisory Commission for the GGNRA that dogs be allowed off-leash in different areas of the park, though the recommendation was not informed by scientific research or consideration of other park users. GGNRA made that recommendation park policy.
3. By the mid-1990s, the damage caused by off-leash dogs to dunes, habitat, and wildlife had become evident. When the Federal Advisory Commission tried to rescind the 1979 policy, dog owners went to court. The judge ruled there would have to be a formal public removal of the policy, instead of reverting to the national regulations. GGNRA petitioned the NPS regional and national directorate to allow development of a Special Rule for dog management, for this park only. This regulation would meet the preservation and recreation mandates of

the park's legislation. This process, with extensive public input and several revisions, has been going on for 15 years. The damage to the park's resources has continued to increase, and dog owners feel ever more entitled to run their dogs off-leash.

4. GGNRA is required to consider the expectations of a broad array of national park users from all over the country and the world, not solely the interests of single-issue stakeholders. Of the 22 park sites originally evaluated for off-leash use, the 5 that are most contested are those which are popular with all users and include habitat for sensitive species: Fort Funston, Ocean Beach, Crissy Field, Rodeo Beach, and Muir Beach. Under the proposed Special Rule, all but Muir Beach will have off-leash areas. The 8 off-leash areas will be at Crissy Field, Fort Funston, and Fort Mason's Great Meadow— each will have 2 areas— and Ocean Beach and Rodeo Beach will each have 1 area— for a total of 8.

5. NPS carefully assessed every area governed by the 1979 Pet Policy. They later reviewed key San Mateo County sites that were not owned or managed by the park in 1979, to determine if there were any areas where dogs could be permitted off leash without threatening wildlife and habitat, and which also permitted opportunities for those who want a dog-free experience. **Some (or number of) on-leash sites have been identified.** GGNRA identified 8 areas where they feel off-leash dog can be provided. In many instances, the original land manager prior to GGNRA did not allow off-leash dog walking, though the use was continuing illegally. When NPS or other federal land management agencies review park uses, they do not grandfather in uses that are conducted against regulations.

6. In addition to the 8 proposed off leash areas, there are 21 areas (including some that also permit off leash) that are proposed for on-leash dog walking.

7. Commercial dog walkers are limited to certain areas and are subject to a 3 dog maximum except on Fort Funston, Fort Mason, Baker Beach, and Crissy Field in San Francisco and Fort Baker, Rodeo Beach, and Alta Trail in Marin where they are subject to a 6 dog limit. The 6 dog limit is the same as that for the Presidio and the city parks in San

Francisco. The dogs may be off-leash where otherwise permitted. NPS authority to permit this use is contested by several environmental groups.

**From:** Howard Levitt and Wendy Scheffers howandwen@ (b) (6)  
**Subject:** Re: GGNRA Dog Management History  
**Date:** July 14, 2015 at 1:58 PM America/Los\_Angeles  
**To:** Amy Meyer a7w2m@ (b) (6)  
**Cc:** Neal Desai ndesai@npca.org, Becky Evans rebecca@ (b) (6)



Amy, et al: Final minor suggestions in ALL CAPS below. A few words also deleted for clarity.  
Howard

On Tue, Jul 14, 2015 at 1:45 PM, Amy Meyer <a7w2m@ (b) (6)> wrote:  
Neal and Becky,

Howard confirmed 8 locations. I inserted Neal's corrections.

Now I am waiting for Howard to phone me back again: #5 includes San Mateo County. No off-leash accommodation to that county is shown— and that is where Speier is causing trouble. Please read that paragraph carefully to see whether there is a missing clause or sentence, such as "Some (or number of) on-leash sites have been identified."

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**From:** Amy Meyer a7w2m@ (b) (6)  
**Subject:** Re: GGNRA Dog Management History  
**Date:** July 14, 2015 at 2:07 PM America/Los\_Angeles  
**To:** Howard Levitt and Wendy Scheffers howandwen@ (b) (6)  
**Cc:** Neal Desai ndesai@npca.org, Becky Evans rebecca@ (b) (6)



Howard,

Thanks for what's in caps— will add.

Please comment on what I wrote in red. A little more has to be said about San Mateo County. Does that clause cover it?

Amy

On Jul 14, 2015, at 1:58 PM, Howard Levitt and Wendy Scheffers <[<howandwen@ \(b\) \(6\)>](mailto:howandwen@ (b) (6))> wrote:

Amy, et al: Final minor suggestions in ALL CAPS below. A few words also deleted for clarity. Howard

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Amy Meyer  
[www.amymeyer.com](http://www.amymeyer.com)

**From:** BeckyE rebecca@ (b) (6)  
**Subject:** Re: GGNRA Dog Management History  
**Date:** July 14, 2015 at 2:57 PM America/Los\_Angeles  
**To:** Amy Meyer a7w2m@ (b) (6) (b) (6) Neal Desai ndesai@npca.org  
**Cc:** Howard Levitt and Wendy Scheffers howandwen@ (b) (6)

---



**From:** David Shaw DShaw@parksconservancy.org  
**Subject:** Hi Howard  
**Date:** February 19, 2016 at 10:30 AM America/Los\_Angeles  
**To:** "howandwen@gmail.com" howandwen@(b) (6)

---



Hi Howard:

Pete made some suggested revisions to the letter from Chris about the draft rule release. See attached. Understand if it is not possible to incorporate revisions but wanted to pass along in case.

Hope this helps!

Cheers,  
David

**Attachments:**

[DRAFT.Supt.Dog.Mgt.2.8.16HL.EH\\_MH\\_PB.docx](#) (36.3 kB)

**From:** Howard Levitt and Wendy Scheffers howandwen@ (b) (6)  
**Subject:** Re: Hi Howard  
**Date:** February 19, 2016 at 12:42 PM America/Los\_Angeles  
**To:** David Shaw DShaw@parksconservancy.org



Thanks, David. Good thoughts here, but we had already been moving forward, and it's too late to change directions. I think the letter we've come up with conveys the right tone and content. Will forward it to you shortly. Howard

On Fri, Feb 19, 2016 at 10:30 AM, David Shaw <[DShaw@parksconservancy.org](mailto:DShaw@parksconservancy.org)> wrote:

Hi Howard:

Pete made some suggested revisions to the letter from Chris about the draft rule release. See attached. Understand if it is not possible to incorporate revisions but wanted to pass along in case.

Hope this helps!

Cheers,  
David

**From:** Amy Meyer amy7w2m@[b] (6)  
**Subject:** Huffman  
**Date:** April 12, 2016 at 3:04 PM America/Los\_Angeles  
**To:** Howard Levitt and Wendy Scheffers howandwen@[b] (6)

---



I spoke with Jenny in his office this morning. She will try to get him to help with the fire pits. At her request, I sent her the letter I sent to the Commission.

--

[www.amywmeyer.com](http://www.amywmeyer.com)

**From:** Howard Levitt and Wendy Scheffers howandwen@ (b) (6)  
**Subject:** Re: Huffman  
**Date:** April 12, 2016 at 3:30 PM America/Los\_Angeles  
**To:** Amy Meyer amy7w2m@ (b) (6)



Amy, your letter was terrific. I will be testifying before the Commission on Friday and hopefully they will provide us an unclouded consistency determination. Howard

On Tue, Apr 12, 2016 at 3:04 PM, Amy Meyer <amy7w2m@ (b) (6)> wrote:  
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[www.amywmeyer.com](http://www.amywmeyer.com)



**From:** Amy Meyer amy7w2m@ (b) (6)  
**Subject:** Re: Huffman  
**Date:** April 12, 2016 at 4:58 PM America/Los\_Angeles  
**To:** Howard Levitt and Wendy Scheffers howandwen@ (b) (6)



Are you going to be at P4P/P on Friday morning, Howard?

Here is the **Agenda**. I understand Brian Aviles will be there for the first item. I know Chris can't come so I'm concerned about #2 and #3. What time do you have to be in Santa Rosa?

Amy

**1) Crissy Refresh and East Beach parking lot renovation** - Jen Greene, Natalya Blumenfeld - Parks Conservancy - 30 minutes

**2) Update on Special Rule for Dog Management** - Howard Levitt - 15 minutes

**3) Introduction to the US Park Police** - Lieutenant Timothy Hodge - Relates specially to the Special Rule for Dog Management - 20 minutes

**4) SF Maritime National Historical Park - A fantastic acquisition!** - Kevin Hendricks or Lynn Cullivan - 10 minutes

San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park recently acquired the Allen Knight collection from the Museum of Monterey (formerly the Monterey History & Maritime Museum). The collection primarily relates to Pacific and West Coast maritime and includes roughly: 18,500 photographs, prints and negatives; 50 linear feet of archival material (the bulk of which are logbooks); over 200 artifacts related to West Coast ships and maritime industry including: 22 ship models, approximately 100 paintings, prints and drawings, 20 nameboards, 10 life rings, 25 scrimshaw and bone carvings, and a variety of ship furnishings and fittings.

**5) How does the Trust keep tenants informed about changes that take place on the Presidio?** Kathryn Inglin, Presidio Trust - 10 minutes

**6) People for the Parks/Presidio and social media** - Becky Evans will introduce - We'll continue this at the next meeting - 5 minutes

On Tue, Apr 12, 2016 at 3:30 PM, Howard Levitt and Wendy Scheffers <howandwen@ (b) (6)> wrote:

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[www.amywmeyer.com](http://www.amywmeyer.com)

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**From:** Howard Levitt and Wendy Scheffers howandwen(b) (6)  
**Subject:** Re: Huffman  
**Date:** April 12, 2016 at 5:22 PM America/Los\_Angeles  
**To:** Amy Meyer amy7w2m@ (b) (6)



I'm planning on staying through the USPP item. Howard

On Tue, Apr 12, 2016 at 4:58 PM, Amy Meyer <amy7w2m@ (b) (6)> wrote:  
Are you going to be at P4P/P on Friday morning, Howard?

Here is the **Agenda**. I understand Brian Aviles will be there for the first item. I know Chris can't come so I'm concerned about #2 and #3. What time do you have to be in Santa Rosa?

Amy

1) **Crissy Refresh and East Beach parking lot renovation** - Jen Greene, Natalya Blumenfeld - Parks Conservancy - 30 minutes

2) **Update on Special Rule for Dog Management** - Howard Levitt - 15 minutes

3) **Introduction to the US Park Police** - Lieutenant Timothy Hodge - Relates specially to the Special Rule for Dog Management - 20 minutes

4) **SF Maritime National Historical Park - A fantastic acquisition!** - Kevin Hendricks or Lynn Cullivan - 10 minutes

San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park recently acquired the Allen Knight collection from the Museum of Monterey (formerly the Monterey History & Maritime Museum). The collection primarily relates to Pacific and West Coast maritime and includes roughly: 18,500 photographs, prints and negatives; 50 linear feet of archival material (the bulk of which are logbooks); over 200 artifacts related to West Coast ships and maritime industry including: 22 ship models, approximately 100 paintings, prints and drawings, 20 nameboards, 10 life rings, 25 scrimshaw and bone carvings, and a variety of ship furnishings and fittings.

5) **How does the Trust keep tenants informed about changes that take place on the Presidio?** Kathryn Inglin, Presidio Trust - 10 minutes

6) **People for the Parks/Presidio and social media** - Becky Evans will introduce - We'll continue this at the next meeting - 5 minutes

On Tue, Apr 12, 2016 at 3:30 PM, Howard Levitt and Wendy Scheffers <howandwen@ (b) (6)> wrote:

Amy, your letter was terrific. I will be testifying before the Commission on Friday and hopefully they will provide us an unclouded consistency determination. Howard

On Tue, Apr 12, 2016 at 3:04 PM, Amy Meyer <amy7w2m@ (b) (6)> wrote:

I spoke with Jenny in his office this morning. She will try to get him to help with the fire pits. At her request, I sent her the letter I sent to the Commission.

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**From:** Amy Meyer amy7w2m@ (b) (6)  
**Subject:** Re: Huffman  
**Date:** April 12, 2016 at 5:26 PM America/Los\_Angeles  
**To:** Howard Levitt and Wendy Scheffers howandwen@ (b) (6)



Good! Thanks.

On Tuesday, April 12, 2016, Howard Levitt and Wendy Scheffers <howandwen@ (b) (6)> wrote:

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**From:** Howard Levitt and Wendy Scheffers howandwen@ (b) (6)  
**Subject:** Interesting M and R piece from around a month ago  
**Date:** March 01, 2016 at 7:49 PM America/Los\_Angeles  
**To:** Neal Desai ndesai@npca.org, Amy Meyer amy7w2m@ (b) (6) (b) (6), BeckyE Evans  
rebecae@ (b) (6)



---

Katy Tang is the sponsor of the BOS resolution opposing the dog rule. HL

**Attachments:**

[M and R.docx](#) (96.63 kB)

**From:** BeckyE rebecca@e(b) (6)  
**Subject:** Re: Interesting M and R piece from around a month ago  
**Date:** March 01, 2016 at 7:57 PM America/Los\_Angeles  
**To:** Howard Levitt and Wendy Scheffers howandwen@ (b) (6) (b) (6) Neal Desai  
ndesai@npca.org, Amy Meyer amy7w2m@ (b) (6)



Very interesting. She was staff for one of the supervisors before she was appointed to fill that seat.  
-----Original Message----- >From: Howard Levitt and Wendy Scheffers >Sent: Mar 1, 2016 7:49 PM  
>To: Neal Desai , Amy Meyer , BeckyE Evans >Subject: Interesting M and R piece from around a  
month ago > >Katy Tang is the sponsor of the BOS resolution opposing the dog rule. HL >

From:

N

Neal Desai [ndesai@npca.org](mailto:ndesai@npca.org)

Subject:

Re: Interesting M and R piece from around a month ago

Date:

March 01, 2016 at 10:02 PM America/Los\_Angeles

To:

Howard Levitt and Wendy Scheffers [\(b\) \(6\)](mailto:howandwen@ (b) (6) (b) (6))

Good to know > On Mar 1, 2016, at 7:50 PM, "Howard Levitt and Wendy Scheffers" wrote: > >  
Katy Tang is the sponsor of the BOS resolution opposing the dog rule. HL > >

**From:** Amy Meyer a7w2m@ (b) (6)  
**Subject:** Last piece of dog management presentation to Dan Bernal  
**Date:** July 10, 2015 at 4:42 PM America/Los\_Angeles  
**To:** chris\_lehnertz@ (b) (6)  
**Cc:** Howard Levitt and Wendy Scheffers howandwen@ (b) (6)



Dear Chris, Neal, Becky, and I have pulled together all but the last piece of paper for the meeting with Dan on Wednesday. They are 1) a shortened version of the preamble Howard sent us and 2) the chart he sent showing what neighboring agencies do. I found 3) the CFR citation and will provide Dan with a copy, highlighting sections 1 and 2.. Howard said he'd get on the paper that summarizes the relevant sections of the Dog Management Plan as soon as he returns on Monday. This has to be in bullet or other short form—it's my experience that Dan does not have the time to deal with anything of any length. He will simply want to know the essentials. I need the paper by Tuesday morning because I want to send the 4 papers to Dan ahead of time and want him to be able to share them with the person he is including in our meeting from their Washington office. I also have to go over the paper with Neal and Becky before I use it. I have to leave by 9:30 Monday morning for an event for the opening of the New Presidio Parkway. I will be back about noon. I leave for a doctors appointment at 2:15. Back near 4. Best, Amy

**From:** Howard Levitt and Wendy Scheffers howandwen@ (b) (6)  
**Subject:** Re: Last piece of dog management presentation to Dan Bernal  
**Date:** July 13, 2015 at 4:53 PM America/Los\_Angeles  
**To:** Amy Meyer a7w2m@ (b) (6), Neal Desai ndesai@npca.org,  
rebecae@ (b) (6)  
**Cc:** chris\_lehnertz@ (b) (6)



Amy, Neal, and Becky:

Try this ...

1. Golden Gate petitioned the NPS regional and national directorate to be able to develop a GOGA-specific rule for dog management that both met the preservation and recreation mandates of an NPS site, and also acknowledged the then-30 year tradition of off-leash dog use in areas of the park, and park ownership of most of the beach areas in San Francisco and southern Marin. It is a significant stretch for NPS to even consider off-leash dog use.
2. Of 407 areas of the NPS, not one permits off leash dog use.
2. Unlike single-issue stakeholders, NPS is required to consider the desires of a broad array of park users.
3. The sites that are most contested in the park are those which are popular with all users - Fort Funston, Ocean Beach, Crissy Field, Rodeo Beach, and Muir Beach. Four of these areas have proposed off-leash areas. Others of the 22 areas originally evaluated for use zoning are also used and enjoyed by a broad spectrum of visitors.
4. NPS carefully assessed every area governed by the 1979 Pet Policy, and later added key San Mateo County sites that were not owned or managed by the park in 1979, to determine if there were any areas where dogs could be permitted off leash without threatening sensitive or threatened wildlife and plants, and which also permitted opportunities for those who want a dog-free experience. We identified 7 areas where we feel off leash dog use can occur.
5. In addition to the 7 proposed off leash areas, there are 21 areas (including some that also permit off leash) that propose on-leash dog walking.
6. Commercial dog walking is permitted in many park areas; NPS authority to permit this use is contested by several groups.

Howard

On Fri, Jul 10, 2015 at 4:42 PM, Amy Meyer <a7w2m@ (b) (6)> wrote:  
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Best,

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**From:** Amy Meyer a7w2m@ (b) (6)  
**Subject:** Re: Last piece of dog management presentation to Dan Bernal  
**Date:** July 13, 2015 at 4:59 PM America/Los\_Angeles  
**To:** Howard Levitt and Wendy Scheffers howandwen@ (b) (6)  
**Cc:** Neal Desai ndesai@npca.org, Becky Evans rebecca (b) (6), chris\_lehnertz@ (b) (6)



Thanks, Howard.

I know it was a strain to get this out on your first day back.

Will keep you and Chris posted when we have our packet together to send to Dan tomorrow.

Best,  
Amy

On Jul 13, 2015, at 4:53 PM, Howard Levitt and Wendy Scheffers <[howandwen@ \(b\) \(6\)](mailto:howandwen@ (b) (6))> wrote:

Amy, Neal, and Becky:

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## Bay Area Dog Management Zones: Extent of On-leash, Off-leash, and Prohibited Areas

Jurisdiction	City/County of San Francisco	San Mateo County	Marin County Parks	Marin County Open Space	Marin Water District	Point Reyes National Seashore	State of CA	Mid-peninsula Regional Open Space	East Bay Regional Parks	San Francisco Watershed
Area of Managed Land	3,300 acres	16,000 acres; 50 miles of trail	700 acres	15,000 acres; 190 miles of trail and fire road	21,000 acres; 130 miles of trail	71,000 acres	12,000 acres near, adjacent to GGNRA	50,000 acres; 220 miles of trail	95,000 acres; 1,150 miles of trail	63,000 acres; 210 miles of rights-of-way
Areas where dogs permitted On-Leash	3,300 acres minus athletic fields/courts; playgrounds; sensitive habitat areas	None	Approx. 300 acres in McNinis opened to on-leash.	190 miles of trails and fire roads	21,000 acres; 130 miles of trail	150 acres of beach (approx.); most 'developed' areas; 15.4 miles of trail	Parking lots and paved roads only; no beaches or trails	17.5 acres; 50 miles of trail	Approx. 90,000 acres	None
Areas where dogs permitted Off-Leash	114 acres*; 2 miles of trail (recently reduced by 14 acres for natural resource protections)	None	None	70 miles of fire roads	None	None	None	17.5 acres	Most areas, excepting parking lots, picnic areas, camping, etc.	None
Areas where dogs prohibited	Athletic fields/courts; playgrounds; sensitive habitat areas	16,000 acres; 50 miles of trail	400 acres	Approx. 14,800 acres (all areas except trails and fire roads)	None	All undeveloped areas; most beaches and trails	All areas except parking lots and paved roads	Approx. 48,930 acres	Approx. 5000 acres of beaches, wetlands, nature areas/ preserves and golf courses	63,000 acres; 210 miles of rights-of-way



**From:** Amy Meyer a7w2m@ (b) (6)  
**Subject:** P4P/P  
**Date:** July 02, 2015 at 1:49 PM America/Los\_Angeles  
**To:** howard Wendy Scheffers howandwen@ (b) (6)

---



Howard,

Realized when your automatic reply came back this morning that you would not see it for a long while.

Amy

Dear All,

I would like to schedule our next meeting during the week of July 20 or July 27, 8:30 -10 am, at Fort Mason Center. The earlier week would be better. Some of you are essential for this meeting; others are less so or can suggest someone else to attend.

Topics will include:

- Changes at the Presidio Trust — Updates on management (brief)

- Summary of proposals received by SF Recreation & Parks for the Palace of Fine Arts

- New Presidio Parklands — I would like input from the Trust, the GGNRA, and the Parks Conservancy, especially regarding habitat and structures

- Design of the Korean War Memorial

- Introduction to the Dog Management Plan for the GGNRA

- The Trust's Strategy 2020

**PLEASE LET ME KNOW YOUR AVAILABILITY AS SOON AS POSSIBLE!**

Thank you,

Amy

**From:** Howard Levitt and Wendy Scheffers howandwen@ (b) (6)  
**Subject:** Re: P4P/P  
**Date:** July 09, 2015 at 9:57 PM America/Los\_Angeles  
**To:** Amy Meyer a7w2m@ (b) (6)



Amy, just back in email range ... still on vacation near Yosemite. Week of 7/20 is best for me.  
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**From:** Amy Meyer a7w2m@ (b) (6)  
**Subject:** Re: P4P/P  
**Date:** July 10, 2015 at 10:14 AM America/Los\_Angeles  
**To:** Howard Levitt and Wendy Scheffers howandwen@ (b) (6)



Thanks, HOward.

The meeting will be on Monday, 7/20. Announcement will be in your bps mail with the agenda on Monday.

Sorry to bother you on vacation— hope it was good.

Amy

On Jul 9, 2015, at 9:57 PM, Howard Levitt and Wendy Scheffers <[howandwen@ \(b\) \(6\)](mailto:howandwen@ (b) (6))> wrote:

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[www.amymeyer.com](http://www.amymeyer.com)

From: Amy Meyer amy7w2m@ (b) (6)  
Subject: Pacifica and dogs  
Date: March 18, 2016 at 2:32 PM America/Los\_Angeles  
To: Howard Levitt and Wendy Scheffers howandwer (b) (6)



Howard,

This is the letter Paul sent that I can't seem to get to you from the stupid mail chain. It connects with this:

Howard  
Maybe Yani can give me another computer lesson.

This morning you outlined what might be possible in Pacifica: a combination of a small beach of theirs and 1/3 of an acre at Mori Point. I had heard the same from Frank Dean. Is this the time to tell Paul to start looking into this? If so, would you give me a few sentences for him, please. I could begin with "I've heard there is a small Pacifica beach that could be combined with a tiny piece of Mori Point beach that might accomplish some of the access that you want. [Description] Can you look into this?"

Or, another idea? Or, just leave it alone for now?

You and Chris were just fine this morning.

Amy

Paul Jones <pauljonessailor@ (b) (6) >

Mar 17 (1 day)

to Rich, me, Lennie, gbatmuirb, gimmyparkli, ccserve

Hi, Folks: I am going to write my own letter and it's going to say that I'm not supportive of the approach they are taking for San Mateo. I'm going to have to respectfully (and I mean very respectfully) disagree. They are eliminating about 70% of the trails to onleash dog access. I don't see the science behind the decision, which means it's a policy desire. This will have the unwanted effect of creating conflicts where there will be access and funneling dog walkers onto City of Pacifica lands, which are already stressed. GGNRA owns over 50% of the land in Pacifica, so it's not a trivial matter in terms of members of the community affected by this potential rule. There are other scientists who agree with me, so I know I'm not alone. There is a former NPS manager who agrees with my view. MMWD allows dogs on leash on almost all of its lands and you can't say they're ecologically less valuable, plus their watersheds are feed the water supply for Marin. If they can do it, the GGNRA can be a bit more lenient.

As it stands now, a Pacifican can't walk a dog up onto Sweeney Ridge without DRIVING over to Sneath Lane to access the fire road up the hill. Then, you can walk to the Nike site and back. That isn't right. There is no reason that a person can't walk on the Baquiano Trail with a dog onleash up to the "discovery site". It won't harm a butterfly or a bee. It's arbitrary or a misapplication of "science".

I strongly believe, after working for EPA for 26 years, that decisions need to be anchored in policy, law, and science. I don't see it for San Mateo. Can't speak for decisions affecting San Francisco or Marin as I haven't paid much attention to it. But for down here, I'm quite certain there will be a significant backlash that could be avoided.

Sincerely,  
Paul

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Sincerely,  
Paul

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**From:** Neal Desai ndesai@npca.org  
**Subject:** public engagement stats  
**Date:** July 07, 2015 at 4:28 PM America/Los\_Angeles  
**To:** Howard Levitt and Wendy Scheffers howandwen@(b) (6)

---



Howard,

Any sense of how many meetings/public engagement opportunities the NPS has offered throughout this very long process? We would like to be able to present to Pelosi's office that the NPS has engaged the public, including those that disagree with the need for the plan. And I want to also highlight that listening to someone and doing what they want you to do are two different things. And much of what anti-regulation crowd wants from NPS is not supported by law, policy or science.

Thanks,  
Neal

**From:** Howard Levitt and Wendy Scheffers howandwen@ (b) (6)  
**Subject:** Re: public engagement stats  
**Date:** July 09, 2015 at 9:54 PM America/Los\_Angeles  
**To:** Neal Desai ndesai@npca.org



Sorry Neal, just back in email range. We held at least 10 full public meetings, published at least 3 newsletters, made dozens of presentations at comm org mtgs. We have met with recreational and commercial dog walking groups on at least 10 occasions, and have met with non dogwalking stakeholders another 6-8 times. We have handed out thousands of cards to park visitors inviting them to review and comment on the two versions of the plan, and to attend the public meetings. We have read and evaluated thousands of comments from a full range of stakeholders on two draft dog plans - DEIS and SEIS. We have provided around 50 radio and television interviews on the dog planning process. I could go on, but you get the idea. Thanks for your help with Pelosi. Chris and I will be meeting with Dan Bernal and patching in her WASO office on 7/15. Howard

On Tue, Jul 7, 2015 at 4:28 PM, Neal Desai <[ndesai@npca.org](mailto:ndesai@npca.org)> wrote:

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Thanks,  
Neal

**From:** Amy Meyer a7w2m@ (b) (6)  
**Subject:** Questions  
**Date:** July 13, 2015 at 5:21 PM America/Los\_Angeles  
**To:** Howard Levitt and Wendy Scheffers howandwen@ (b) (6)  
**Cc:** Becky Evans rebecca@ (b) (6), Neal Desai ndesai@npca.org



Howard:

You wrote:

*3. The sites that are most contested in the park are those which are popular with all users - Fort Funston, Ocean Beach, Crissy Field, Rodeo Beach, and Muir Beach. Four of these areas have proposed off-leash areas. Others of the 22 areas originally evaluated for use zoning are also used and enjoyed by a broad spectrum of visitors.*

Is Muir Beach the one not permitting off-leash dogs?

*5. In addition to the 7 proposed off leash areas, there are 21 areas (including some that also permit off leash) that propose on-leash dog walking.*

Please give us the names of all 7 off-leash areas.

*6. Commercial dog walking is permitted in many park areas; NPS authority to permit this use is contested by several groups.*

Does this mean many other National Park areas? Or many of the 21 on-leash areas of this national park? And are all these dogs on leash with their handlers? Or, in areas such as the northern end of Ocean Beach which I am sure is off-leash, can the commercial dogs run off-leash with the others?

General question:

We have to be informed about the commercial dog walkers and their role in this issue. Do you know, are they very active in asserting their interests at this time? Do they argue about the need to have more dogs with one handler?

Amy

**From:** Howard Levitt and Wendy Scheffers howandwen@(b) (6)  
**Subject:** Re: Questions  
**Date:** July 13, 2015 at 6:05 PM America/Los\_Angeles  
**To:** Amy Meyer a7w2m@ (b) (6)  
**Cc:** Becky Evans rebecae@ (b) (6), Neal Desai ndesai@npca.org



See below. in ALL CAPS. Howard

On Mon, Jul 13, 2015 at 5:21 PM, Amy Meyer <a7w2m@ (b) (6)> wrote:  
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RODEO BEACH; FORT MASON GREAT MEADOW (TWO AREAS); CRISSY FIELD (TWO AREAS); FORT FUNSTON (TWO AREAS)

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I NEED TO CHECK THIS ONE, BUT HERE'S WHAT I BELIEVE ON THIS.

Does this mean many other National Park areas? NO, ONLY GOGA

Or many SOME of the 21 on-leash areas of this national park? YES

And are all these dogs on leash with their handlers? NO, SOME ARE OFF LEASH, WHERE OTHERWISE PERMITTED.

Or, in areas such as the northern end of Ocean Beach which I am sure is off-leash, can the commercial dogs run off-leash with the others? YES, BUT THERE WOULD BE A 3 DOG MAX LIMIT AT OCEAN BEACH.

IN THE SEIS, COMMERCIAL DOG WALKERS WILL BE LIMITED TO CERTAIN AREAS AND WILL BE SUBJECT TO THE 6 DOG MAXIMUM. IN THE SEIS, ONLY ALTA TRAIL, RODEO BEACH, FORT BAKER, FORT MASON, CRISSY FIELD, BAKER BEACH, AND FORT FUNSTON WOULD PERMIT MORE THAN 3 DOGS.

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AFTER SOME GRUMBLING, MOST OF THE COMMERCIAL DOG WALKERS HAVE COMPLIED WITH THE INTERIM RULE. I'M CERTAIN MOST RESENT THE REQUIREMENTS AND THE FEES. THEY DO NOT APPEAR TO BE ACTIVELY OPPOSING THE PLAN - MOST ARE BUSINESS PEOPLE WHO JUST WANT TO KNOW THE RULES. HOWEVER, I'M SURE SOME OF THE COMM DOG WALKERS ARE ACTIVE WITH THE REC DOG USER GROUPS TO OPPOSE THE PLAN.

Amy



**From:** Amy Meyer a7w2m@ (b) (6)  
**Subject:** Re: Questions  
**Date:** July 13, 2015 at 7:17 PM America/Los\_Angeles  
**To:** Howard Levitt and Wendy Scheffers howandwen@ (b) (6)  
**Cc:** Neal Desai ndesai@npca.org, BeckyE rebecca@ (b) (6)



This helps a lot.  
One more? Where is Alta trail?

On Jul 13, 2015, at 6:05 PM, Howard Levitt and Wendy Scheffers <[<howandwen@ \(b\) \(6\)>](mailto:howandwen@ (b) (6))> wrote:

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**Date:** July 13, 2015 at 7:23 PM America/Los\_Angeles  
**To:** Amy Meyer a7w2m@ (b) (6)  
**Cc:** Neal Desai ndesai@npca.org, BeckyE rebecca@ (b) (6)

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RIDGE ABOVE MARIN CITY, UP DONOHUE STREET.

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Amy

**From:** Howard Levitt and Wendy Scheffers howandwen@ (b) (6)  
**Subject:** Re: Correct # of GGNRA visitors.URGENT  
**Date:** February 22, 2016 at 8:37 PM America/Los\_Angeles  
**To:** Neal Desai ndesai@npca.org



Can you send a link, Neal? I can't find it online.

On Feb 22, 2016, at 8:33 PM, Neal Desai wrote:

[His story just posted. Doesn't reflect balance and necessary facts](#)

---

**From:** Howard Levitt and Wendy Scheffers [mailto:howandwen@ (b) (6)]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 22, 2016 8:32 PM  
**To:** Neal Desai  
**Subject:** Re: Correct # of GGNRA visitors.URGENT

Glad he spoke with you. Yes, we shall see. Fingers crossed. Thank you!!

On Feb 22, 2016, at 7:47 PM, Neal Desai wrote:

Just spoke to him. I communicated the balance that this plan strikes. He mentioned that he has been fielding calls from numerous dog walkers. We shall see how this turns out.

**From:** Howard Levitt and Wendy Scheffers [mailto:howandwen@ (b) (6)]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 22, 2016 7:46 PM  
**To:** Neal Desai  
**Subject:** Re: Correct # of GGNRA visitors.URGENT

Wanted to know what % of the park would be closed to off-leash vs current situation. His angle seemed to be what the off-leash community was losing. Said he understood the need for balance, etc, but we shall see. Did you speak with him?

On Mon, Feb 22, 2016 at 6:52 PM, Neal Desai <ndesai@npca.org> wrote:

What did Steve ask about? I sent him our statement and FAQs

On Feb 22, 2016, at 6:49 PM, "Howard Levitt and Wendy Scheffers" <howandwen@ (b) (6)> wrote:

Neal is correct for GGNRA only - figure of 17.5 includes MUWO and FOPO. I explained this to Steve Rubenstein of the Chron and Mark Prado. They seemed to get it. I generally provide both GOGA's # initially, and then go on to point out that there are two other units under GOGA mgt, and the total was 17.5 in 2015, second highest in NPS.

On Mon, Feb 22, 2016 at 5:56 PM, Amy Meyer <amy7w2m@ (b) (6)> wrote:

Howard: Neal is using 14.9 million

I heard Chris use 17 million

We need ONE accurate figure right away that we all agree on.

Thanks,  
Amy

--

[www.amywmeyer.com](http://www.amywmeyer.com)

**From:** Howard Levitt and Wendy Scheffers howandwen@ (b) (6)  
**Subject:** Re: Correct # of GGNRA visitors.URGENT  
**Date:** February 22, 2016 at 8:48 PM America/Los\_Angeles  
**To:** Neal Desai ndesai@npca.org



Just saw it. Typical coverage for the Chron. Really glad your points made it in, otherwise there would have been zero balance.

On Feb 22, 2016, at 8:33 PM, Neal Desai wrote:

His story just posted. Doesn't reflect balance and necessary facts

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**From:** Howard Levitt and Wendy Scheffers [mailto:howandwen@ (b) (6)]  
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Thanks,  
Amy

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**From:** Amy Meyer amy7w2m@ (b) (6)  
**Subject:** Re: Dog Management  
**Date:** April 22, 2016 at 11:04 PM America/Los\_Angeles  
**To:** Norman LaForce n.laforce@ (b) (6)  
**Cc:** BeckyE rebecca@ (b) (6) (b) (6) Alan Carlton carltona@ (b) (6) (b) (6), Neal Desai ndesai@npca.org



Thanks so much, Norman.  
Here's hoping.  
Amy

On Fri, Apr 22, 2016 at 8:52 PM, Norman LaForce <n.laforce@ (b) (6)> wrote:

I sent this [The Chronicle](#).

Thanks to Tom Stienstra, "Some Bay Area parks throw dog owners a bone, " for reporting on the wide variety of places in the Bay Area where dogs may be locally exercised and enjoyed. He also makes clear the agencies that help make this possible, but notes that further restrictions are intended in the Golden Gate National Recreation Area. He doesn't say why this is happening, which everyone needs to understand. Dogs are almost never allowed in national parks because of their outstanding natural resources. GGNRA has to be administered so as to conform with national policies and regulations and the park's enabling legislation— which is not happening now. By creating a Special Rule for dogs in GGNRA, they will be able to enjoy 22 areas on-leash, and 7 areas off-leash in San Francisco, Marin, and San Mateo counties. Other visitors will have dog-free areas to enjoy. [This is a win-win for everyone](#).

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**From:** Howard Levitt and Wendy Scheffers howandwen (b) (6)

**Subject:** Re: Dog Management

**Date:** April 22, 2016 at 11:19 PM America/Los\_Angeles

**To:** Amy Meyer amy7w2m@ (b) (6)

**Cc:** Norman LaForce n.laforce@ (b) (6) (b) (6) BeckyE rebecca@ (b) (6) (b) (6) Alan Carlton carltonal@ (b) (6) (b) (6)

Neal Desai ndesai@npca.org



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**From:** Norman LaForce n.laforce@ (b) (6)  
**Subject:** RE: Dog Management  
**Date:** April 23, 2016 at 8:26 AM America/Los\_Angeles  
**To:** "Howard Levitt and Wendy Scheffers" howandwen@ (b) (6) (b) (6) "Amy Meyer" amy7w2m@ (b) (6)  
**Cc:** "BeckyE" rebecca@ (b) (6) (b) (6) "Alan Carlton" carltona@ (b) (6) (b) (6) "Neal Desai" ndesai@npca.org



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Amy had a hand in it, too.

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**From:** Howard Levitt and Wendy Scheffers [mailto:howandwen@ (b) (6)]  
**Sent:** Friday, April 22, 2016 11:20 PM  
**To:** Amy Meyer  
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**Subject:** Re: Dog Management

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**From:** BeckyE rebecca@ (b) (6)  
**Subject:** RE: Dog Management  
**Date:** April 23, 2016 at 9:10 AM America/Los\_Angeles  
**To:** Norman LaForce n.laforce@ (b) (6), "Howard Levitt and Wendy Scheffers"  
howandwen@ (b) (6) (b) (6) "Amy Meyer" amy7w2m@ (b) (6)  
**Cc:** "BeckyE" rebecca@ (b) (6) (b) (6) "Alan Carlton" carltona@ (b) (6) (b) (6) "Neal Desai" ndesai@npca.org



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**From:** Howard Levitt and Wendy Scheffers howandwen@ (b) (6)  
**Subject:** Re: Dog Management  
**Date:** April 23, 2016 at 10:55 PM America/Los\_Angeles  
**To:** Norman LaForce n.laforce@ (b) (6)  
**Cc:** "Amy Meyer" amy7w2m (b) (6) (b) (6) "BeckyE" rebecca@ (b) (6) (b) (6) "Alan Carlton" carltona@ (b) (6) (b) (6)  
"Neal Desai" ndesai@npca.org



I suspected as much. Howard

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**From:** [Howard Levitt and Wendy Scheffers](#)  
**To:** [BeckyE](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Fw: Re: Thank you for supporting recreation for all and protection of imperiled wildlife at GGNRA with your vote today  
**Date:** Thursday, March 24, 2016 2:41:29 PM

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thanks, Becky!

On Thu, Mar 24, 2016 at 2:28 PM, BeckyE <[<rebecae@\(b\) \(6\)>](mailto:rebecae@(b) (6))> wrote:

-----Forwarded Message-----

From: Cindy Margulis  
Sent: Mar 24, 2016 12:25 PM  
To: Neal Desai  
Cc: Brent Plater , "BeckyE ([<rebecae@\(b\) \(6\)>](mailto:rebecae@(b) (6)))" , "[<amy7w2m@\(b\) \(6\)>](mailto:amy7w2m@(b) (6))"  
Subject: Re: Thank you for supporting recreation for all and protection of imperiled wildlife at GGNRA with your vote today

I've returned from being away.

I just wanted to let you all know that Golden Gate Audubon has issued an electronic Action Alert to its thousands of members about the Dog Rule with links to contact the relevant US Congressional legislators.

Here's a weblink to what we'd sent:

<http://goldengateaudubon.org/expired-announcement/news/support-sensible-new-dog-rules-for-the-ggnra/>

There's also a post on our Facebook page, as well.

Feel free to re-post from the Golden Gate Audubon FB, if desired, to make it easy-peasy for folks to comment to our region's federal legislators.

Cindy

On Tue, Mar 15, 2016 at 5:28 PM, Neal Desai <[ndesai@npca.org](mailto:ndesai@npca.org)> wrote:

Supervisor Mar,

Thank you for speaking up for the balance that the proposed rule creates for all park users and imperiled wildlife, and for the oppositional, unconstructive nature of the resolution.

Much appreciated, and conservation groups and stakeholders who use the park will continue to push for the approval of the plan. Please let us know what else you may need in the future regarding this matter or the GGNRA generally.

Thanks again,

Neal

p.s. interestingly and ironically, this is what Matier & Ross last month said about Katy Tang and resolutions:

**Woods Day:** San Francisco Supervisor **Katy Tang** was unusually candid about why she joined her fellow board members in their unanimous vote for a day of remembrance for **Mario Woods**, the man shot to death by five police officers Dec. 2 when he refused to drop a knife.

In an e-mail to constituent **Kathy Lewis**, who was upset by the board's action, **the moderate Tang** said she was "not a fan of these nonbinding resolutions." But if she had voted no, she said, the measure would have gone to committee for debate and "I would have have caused more media attention and more protests and more discord."

"I would have become the next focus of the Black Lives Matter movement," Tang said.

As for why some of her board colleagues pushed for the resolution in the first place?

"It is for the media attention," Tang wrote. "In fact, that's usually the only reason why supervisors introduce resolutions."

--

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Cindy Margulis  
Executive Director  
**Golden Gate Audubon Society**  
2530 San Pablo Ave., Suite G  
Berkeley, CA 94702  
Tel: (510) 843-9912  
[www.goldengateaudubon.org](http://www.goldengateaudubon.org)  
-----

**From:** [Howard Levitt and Wendy Scheffers](#)  
**To:** [Neal Desai](#)  
**Subject:** Re: reordered #5  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 14, 2015 9:01:40 PM

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Sorry I couldn't call you earlier, Neal. Will call tomorrow.

On Jul 14, 2015, at 4:05 PM, Neal Desai wrote:

[Reworded and rearranged below.](#)

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**From:** Amy Meyer [mailto:a7w2m@**(b) (6)**]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 14, 2015 3:30 PM  
**To:** Neal Desai; Becky Evans  
**Cc:** Howard Levitt and Wendy Scheffers  
**Subject:** reordered #5

# 5 still doesn't read right, and it must be because of Jackie Speier.

Reordered 5 as follows while still waiting for Howard:

5. NPS carefully assessed every area governed by the 1979 Pet Policy **and additional lands sold or donated to the park since then, such as San Mateo County lands**. GGNRA identified 8 areas where they feel off-leash dog experience can be provided **without threatening wildlife and habitat, and which also permitted opportunities for those who want a dog-free experience. A number of on-leash sites were also identified**. In many instances, the original land manager prior to GGNRA did not allow off-leash dog walking, though the use was continuing illegally. When NPS or other federal land management agencies review park uses, **such as cattle grazing or off-road vehicle recreation**, they do not grandfather in uses that are conducted against regulations.

**From:** [Frank\\_Dean@nps.gov](mailto:Frank_Dean@nps.gov)  
**To:** [Howard Levitt and Wendy Scheffers](#)  
**Cc:** [Howard\\_Levitt@nps.gov](mailto:Howard_Levitt@nps.gov)  
**Subject:** Re: Sharp post-mortum  
**Date:** Tuesday, October 04, 2011 11:29:31 PM

---

Howard,

I have been thinking about this as well and thought it had passed. We'll get through it and I know the other parties have not been genuine and we are obviously not in step with "the establishment" on this issue. We should meet with Speier to get her to understand we are not the enemy. Not sure who prompted her to write the letter, but there is a machine of sorts at work on this golf issue.

Don't worry, but let's figure out a measured response or approach. Sharp is not a priority and I let others make it into one for us because we are so busy.

Dogs and AC34 are other issues where we can step on a rake and you have always done good work in communicating our message.

Hey, our jobs would be easy if we just got to tell everyone what they wanted to hear. We do stand for our agency and ethical principles unlike some "allies" named in her letter.

Good park news coming on Thursday!

Thanks,

Frank

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

----- Original Message -----

From: Howard Levitt and Wendy Scheffers [howandwen@**(b) (6)**]  
Sent: 10/04/2011 09:43 PM MST  
To: Frank Dean  
Cc: Howard Levitt  
Subject: Sharp post-mortum

Hi Frank:

I'm completely bummed out about the Speier letter and the fallout from our Sharp statement. I think this will pass, and I'm not imagining any irreparable breaks in our relationships with Dave or Phil. And we did gain cred with some of our best longterm supporters.

But meanwhile, I can't help but replay the scenarios. Neither Phil nor Dave have been entirely communicative on what they were cooking up at Sharp, but regardless, I probably should have given them a heads-up

that the statement was forthcoming, even while holding firm that we would issue it. I apologize to you for not taking that step and contributing to this situation.

We'll deal with Speier's office when we can get a meeting with her, but let's talk tomorrow on the best steps to patch things up with Phil and Dave. As I mentioned, I would like to contact Phil and Dave, but let's talk.

HL

**From:** [Frank Dean](#)  
**To:** [Howard Levitt and Wendy Scheffers](#); [Howard Levitt](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Stienstra today  
**Date:** Monday, January 20, 2014 1:02:55 PM

---

Howard,

I know Tom is a regular columnist, but not sure how serious or credible he is taken given his style, but perhaps has a following. Would be nice to have him get to know us. Perhaps Mia can vouch for the park or even a brief meeting with me- an old school ranger, for future consideration in subsequent articles? Frustrating that the other side is planting all these misconceptions.

Frank Dean  
General Superintendent  
Golden Gate National Recreation Area  
201 Fort Mason  
San Francisco, CA 94123  
(415) 561-4720

On Jan 20, 2014, at 12:40 PM, Howard Levitt and Wendy Scheffers  
<howandwen@**(b) (6)**> wrote:

> Saw it first thing - despicable I'm corresponding with Frank about asking Neal or someone else to send a letter to the editor in response to this absurd article. Don't let the article bring you down - Stienstra is a dog owner who often writes about enjoying his dog in the wilderness. Howard

>

> On Jan 20, 2014, at 10:42 AM, Amy Meyer wrote:

>

>> Hi Howard,

>>

>> Thanks to Rich Bartke who was writing to me about something else I saw the dog rant in Stienstra's column on p. B2 today.

>>

>> unhappily,

>> Amy

>

**From:** [Howard Levitt](#)  
**To:** [Frank Dean](#)  
**Cc:** [Howard Levitt and Wendy Scheffers](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Stienstra today  
**Date:** Monday, January 20, 2014 1:06:16 PM

---

Okay to set Neal or Amy in motion? This one merits a response, esp the slam on rangers.

Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 20, 2014, at 1:02 PM, Frank Dean <[frank\\_dean@nps.gov](mailto:frank_dean@nps.gov)> wrote:

> Howard,  
>  
> I know Tom is a regular columnist, but not sure how serious or  
> credible he is taken given his style, but perhaps has a following.  
> Would be nice to have him get to know us. Perhaps Mia can vouch for  
> the park or even a brief meeting with me- an old school ranger, for  
> future consideration in subsequent articles? Frustrating that the  
> other side is planting all these misconceptions.  
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> Frank Dean  
> General Superintendent  
> Golden Gate National Recreation Area  
> 201 Fort Mason  
> San Francisco, CA 94123  
> (415) 561-4720  
>  
>  
> On Jan 20, 2014, at 12:40 PM, Howard Levitt and Wendy Scheffers  
> <[\(b\) \(6\)](mailto:howandwen@(b) (6))> wrote:  
>  
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>>> Hi Howard,  
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>>> Thanks to Rich Bartke who was writing to me about something else I saw the dog rant in Stienstra's column on  
p. B2 today.  
>>>  
>>> unhappily,  
>>> Amy  
>>

**From:** [Howard Levitt and Wendy Scheffers](#)  
**To:** [BeckyE](#)  
**Cc:** [Neal Desai](#); [Amy Meyer](#)  
**Bcc:** [chris\\_lehnertz@](#)(b) (6)  
**Subject:** Re: Thank you for the meeting  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 21, 2015 11:26:58 PM

---

Dear Becky, Amy, and Neal:

You're marvelous friends - thank you so much! These actions will be hugely important in the next phase, as the draft Rule is completed and released for comment. Let's stay in touch ...  
Howard

On Jul 21, 2015, at 10:42 AM, BeckyE wrote:

fyi . . .

-----Forwarded Message-----

From: BeckyE  
Sent: Jul 21, 2015 10:41 AM  
To: Dan Bernal  
Cc: Amy , Neal Desai , Becky Evans  
Subject: Thank you for the meeting

Dear Dan,

Thank you for meeting with us for an informative session about the pending GGNRA Dog Management Plan.

You told us that the Leader's Office is receiving many comments from opponents to the Plan.

- In the future, you will hear more from the stakeholders who support the Dog Management Plan.
- Our organizations will continue to educate the public with significant scientific and factual information supporting the balanced NPS decision-making as the misinformation campaign is waged by those that simply oppose regulation. We'll provide key points for your use, such as what we shared with you regarding debunking the "less than 1% of GGNRA for dog walking" claim.
- Our organizations will encourage a maximum comment period on the SEIS - from 60 to 90 days.
- The celebration of all forms of recreation as part of the NPS Centennial and seek people "without baggage? is an excellent



idea and we will explore possibilities to implement this suggestion.

- When the Plan process is done we'll seek ways to celebrate what is being permitted here and nowhere else.
- We'll assist the NPS in enlisting as many different stakeholders as possible to help implement the Plan.

Dan, thank you very much for your time and attention to this complex matter.

Best regards,

Amy Meyer  
Becky Evans  
Neal Desai

**From:** [Diane Dean](#)  
**To:** [Howard Levitt and Wendy Scheffers](#)  
**Subject:** Re: today's column  
**Date:** Monday, January 20, 2014 7:04:58 PM

---

Howard, well done sir! Thanks to you and Thomas.

Frank

On Jan 20, 2014, at 3:54 PM, Howard Levitt and Wendy Scheffers  
<[howandwen@](#)(b) (6)> wrote:

Frank, - my Stanford prof, cycling, and football buddy - just fired this off to Tom Stienstra. Written in classic academic English, Tom nevertheless calls Stienstra to task. Not sure what, if any the response will be. HL

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Thomas A Ryckman <[tryckman@](#)(b) (6)>  
**Date:** January 20, 2014 3:00:43 PM PST  
**To:** [tstienstra@sfchronicle.com](#)  
**Subject:** today's column

Dear Mr. Stienstra,

I read your column regularly and usually with enjoyment. Since coming to SF in 1999, my wife and I have learned much from you about the wonderful walks in and around the Bay Area, and from your coverage of the wonders of (by Eastern standards) subtle seasonal changes in California.

However today I was both disappointed and annoyed. As I understand it, the GGNRA dog leash plan has been carefully drafted to balance the interests of dog owners with a mandate that fragile natural habitats must be protected. It is not the arbitrary imposition of government whim or a ukase from a remote faceless bureaucrat. In this matter, which I have followed for some time, dog owner groups are acting like spoiled children, selfishly putting their supposed entitlement (though allegedly speaking for their pets) above the general good of the public, a good that includes passing on to future generations the few remaining strips of wildlife habitat in the Bay Area. As with other areas of environmental protection, past practice or precedent is not, and should not be, an inviolable standard going forward. I do not see, as many dog owners do, that one can legitimately speak here of an infringement of "rights". In this narcissistic society, claims about "rights" are as common as blackberries and just about as meaningful.

Your remarks about government and park rangers may elicit praise from dog owners but they are irresponsible. You might ask the people of Charleston, WV about the necessity of "a lot of new rules and enforcement". And your opinion that "It is common these days that rangers do not live within the community of the parks they patrol" requires evidence. Even if true, the same could be said for many of the police and firemen working in communities in the Bay Area. You do a disservice to your readers to pander to a particular constituency on this issue.

Sincerely,

Thomas Ryckman

**From:** [Howard Levitt and Wendy Scheffers](#)  
**To:** [Amy Meyer](#); [Greg Moore](#); [Greg Moore](#); [frank and diane dean](#)  
**Cc:** [Howard Levitt](#)  
**Subject:** Re: What's going on with Huey?  
**Date:** Sunday, May 04, 2014 11:38:38 AM

---

Dear Amy: Huey's way off the deep end, and this deeply offensive piece cannot stand uncontested. Below is a link to the Fimrite article. Maybe all of us can connect by phone today or tomorrow to consider a rejoinder and refutation of this malicious nonsense. Howard

<http://www.sfgate.com/default/article/Golden-Gate-National-Recreation-Area-proposes-5436978.php>

On May 4, 2014, at 10:59 AM, Amy Meyer wrote:

Dear Howard,

Greg Moore just sent this nasty screed by Huey against the Conservancy. I am trying to get my arms around what is going on and am working on what I can do to help.

Do you have the article electronically that Peter Fimrite did last week? I want to see it for context. Probably that has to wait until tomorrow, but please send it to me as soon as you can.

Thanks,  
Amy

## **Marin Voice: Keep recreation in GGNRA**

By Huey D. Johnson  
Guest op-ed column

Posted: 05/03/2014 06:45:00 PM PDT

SAN FRANCISCO is being highlighted nationally this year with 600 showings on the nation's TV stations of the lovely film, "Rebels with a Cause."

Produced by Santa Rosa's KCRB and local filmmakers Nancy Kelly and Kenji Yamamoto, the documentary tells the story of the struggle to establish the Golden Gate National Recreation Area through the dreams of honorable politicians and the fast-moving land purchases made by small nonprofits that make up the GGNRA today.

That now-preserved recreation landscape includes 40 miles of seashore landscape reaching from Bolinas in the north, across the Golden Gate Bridge, to San Mateo County in the south. Its history goes back to post-World War II, when with the help of a cooperative Congress the federal government sought to ease urban pressure by providing recreation. Under Chairman Laurance Rockefeller, the Outdoor Recreation Review Commission hired hundreds of experts to study how recreation could improve our stressful urban condition.

Results included establishment of the Land and Water Conservation Fund. I recall the fund provided \$113 million. Without it there wouldn't be a GGNRA.

The GGNRA is intended especially for workers and retirees, those living in small apartments with no backyards and no place to walk their dogs. In light of the source and purpose of the LWCF money, the current political maneuvering to end dog walking is absurd. Owners can train, control and pick up after dogs. And there are already clear rules in place with respect to pets in the GGNRA that need to be enforced and supported.

As happens, a nonprofit Golden Gate National Park Conservancy has emerged that wants to limit public use of the GGNRA. This was never the intent or the purpose of the GGNRA. The principal activity of the national parks advocacy group is fundraising, and wealthy donors who are led to believe they are giving to an environmental cause have donated millions of dollars that is given to government.

This is a mistake.

Such groups have wonderful promise as a way of providing volunteers to assist GGNRA needs, but raising money for government isn't sensible. They are overdue in checking out the British National Trust, or the Friend of Austria's Vienna Woods. These two are marvelously successful and they don't send money to government.

Meanwhile, as the parks conservancy skims millions of dollars from San Francisco regional environmental giving, important environmental nonprofits are starving trying to compete with it to do their more important work. It's the efforts of Earth Justice, [350.org](http://350.org) and the Sierra Club that are doing the most to fulfill the dreams of the first Earth Day.

We can't afford to let something like an attempt to ban dogs or restrict access in the GGNRA distract us from the true environmental issues of our day — climate

change, fracking, water scarcity — that deserve the vision and leadership of the Bay Area.

True environmental leadership must remain our most important legacy.

We know that the role the GGNRA plays in our regional health and identity is unparalleled. We are obligated to honor its origins, protect its multiple uses, provide a place for hikers, bikers, dogs and kids and show the rest of the country why we deserve to have its bounty so close at hand.

Huey D. Johnson of Mill Valley is the founder of Resource Renewal Institute, a non-profit organization that deals with environmental sustainability. As director of the Nature Conservancy, he helped save the Marin Headlands from development. He was also the founder of the Trust for Public Land and served as secretary of resources during Gov. Jerry Brown's first term.

**From:** [Frank\\_Dean@nps.gov](mailto:Frank_Dean@nps.gov)  
**To:** [Howard Levitt and Wendy Scheffers](#); [Howard Levitt](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Wiener Hearing  
**Date:** Wednesday, April 06, 2011 8:09:41 AM

---

Okay, let's talk on a break today. I don't feel comfortable waiting until Friday as we may need external advice.

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

----- Original Message -----

From: Howard Levitt and Wendy Scheffers [howandwen@**(b) (6)**]  
Sent: 04/05/2011 09:58 PM MST  
To: Frank Dean  
Subject: Wiener Hearing

Hi Frank:

Spoke with Alex tonight about this - I know you're concerned; so am I. I think we will be fine if we stick with some key messages, and position ourselves as empathetic to the city's concerns and concerns of dog users in general, but firm in our commitment to manage the park to create a balance among the desires of various user groups and our mandate to protect resources into the future. We need to emphasize that everyone is contending for the same prime real estate. If we feel we can use any data from the SFSU report, we can say that while dog use is a major activity in the park, it is still a small minority of users. I think we can point out that we will listen to all comments, but that we know that the dog community is disproportionately represented in the comments. We must avoid any discussion of science - this plan is about sound, balanced public policy, but clearly reflects our need to protect known habitats of known species. On Fri, we can fine-tune the powerpoint and rehearse our talking points against the questions we know will be asked.

Howard

**From:** Gregory Moore mooregreg@ (b) (6)  
**Subject:** Some Thoughts  
**Date:** February 13, 2016 at 10:30 AM America/Los\_Angeles  
**To:** "Howard Levitt and Wendy Scheffers" howandwen@ (b) (6)



Hi Howard,

I hope I can be honest with my reactions to the presentation of the staff power point on the DMP and Rule that we previewed yesterday. I found it rather alarming. Additionally, I found the tone was slightly "preachy" and almost propaganda sounding to me. Finally, the graphic presentation was extremely difficult to follow and read. I tried to express my reactions in a positive way and hope I did not offend anyone or cause hurt feelings.

Most of all, it made me wonder about the public facing communications. I believe:

- The tone should be humble, something like. *We are really grateful that so many people enjoy visiting our parks with such a variety of experiences and expectations. We are lucky to have so many people who care so much. We are working with the public to help ensure that everyone has a positive and safe visit, that the park supports a diversity of experiences and that the park's beauty, history and nature are protected. This isn't an easy task given how much park visitation has grown and how varied people's expectations are. After 16 years (?) of consideration with lots of public comment, we want to move to greater clarity and certainty about an issue of intense public expectation and opinion. We are asking our community to help us prepare the park for its future.*
- The information needs key points that are consistent and have a clear "return to message."
- I do truly believe that the message needs to be simplified. For example, our goals in this plan center on three things:
  1. **THE VISITOR**
    - § Providing for a variety of park experiences
    - § Ensuring a safe visit
    - § Providing a conflict-free experience for visitors
  2. **THE PARK**
    - § Preserving the park's natural and cultural resources
    - § Protecting rare and endangered plants and wildlife
    - § Providing necessary park stewardship, maintenance and facilities
  3. **CLARITY For PARK VISITORS**
    - § Ensuring that visitors can share the park through approved plans, guidelines and rules
    - § Giving visitors clarity about where and how they can enjoy the park
    - § Providing greater certainty about how people can enjoy the park
- It is important to maintain public empathy with the challenge the NPS faces in the policy debate. If any staff member is imperious, defensive or preachy, this empathy will be lost.
- Are there message points, speaking points or practice sessions for park spokespersons? If not, that is probably needed. There are many skills of active listening, "congruent sending," etc. that could be useful.

Just some thoughts, Howard. I hope you know my intention is to be supportive, not just critical.

Greg



**From:** Howard Levitt and Wendy Scheffers howandwen@ (b) (6)  
**Subject:** Re: Some Thoughts  
**Date:** February 13, 2016 at 5:53 PM America/Los\_Angeles  
**To:** Gregory Moore mooregreg@ (b) (6)



Hi Greg,

Of course you can be candid with me - after all these years, what's the point in dancing and dodging. I also always appreciate your insight ... so thanks.

I don't think Thursday's presentation represented how the staff trainings will go; the presentation has been revamped based on the discussion.

Re the tone and content. Here's the thing about tone - Adrienne is new to this, so she sometimes comes across as a bit didactic ... not preachy, but a little smug. I have already talked to hear about that. I will be attending most of the staff trainings to make sure we don't impart a sense that we're going to be anything but respectful of park visitors, dog advocates, etc.

So.... arrogance, aggressiveness, dismissiveness, smugness, rigidity, etc = NO. Empathy, concern, humility, patience, etc = YES.

The purpose of the staff trainings is to alert them to the upcoming release and how it might (or might not) generate feelings or concerns among park visitors, and what they should know in order to be able to keep any encounter positive. For your field staff, and ours non-managers, we will emphasize that all they really want to do is let those who inquire know how to comment, and if necessary to assure the inquirer that the Prop Rule is NOT a decision. Also to let staff know that they should punt quickly to someone on the Comm team if there is any question of substance. Staff will understand that they are not part of the ground game on this issue.

Chris wanted staff to have the big picture - hence all the background, but we'll be certain to frame that as merely background for staff knowledge, not an empowerment to engage with visitors.

Re spokespersons, I will be the primary (almost exclusive) public/media/elected official spokesperson- along with Chris, of course. Mike S will not speak to the media, nor will Adrienne, nor will Alex. I plan to personally deliver all of the stakeholder presentations. I long ago mastered the art of active listening and I am very empathetic re the importance of dogs in peoples' lives and their recreation preferences.

But I will be shifting my approach from past presentations in that I will be making the case for the reasonableness of the Prop rule/plan. I have learned that leading with the statement that we have produced the most dog-friendly plan possible, with accompanying facts on how much dog use will be permitted, but following that with a statement that we cannot view visitor use through a single lens, elicits nods of support from all but the avowed off-leash advocates.

When I get back to the office next week, I will send you the latest version of a Dog Mgt Communications Plan that we have been going back and forth with WASO about. Some of the message points in that look as if they were written by govt lawyers, vs communicators ... because they were. You have no idea how many cooks are in this kitchen.

Enjoy your weekend. Wendy and I are going to Tahoe tonight for some X-try skiing.

Howard

On Feb 13, 2016, at 10:30 AM, Gregory Moore wrote:

Hi Howard,

I hope I can be honest with my reactions to the presentation of the staff power point on the DMP and Rule that we previewed yesterday. I found it rather alarming. Additionally, I found the tone was slightly "preachy" and almost propaganda sounding to me. Finally, the graphic presentation was extremely difficult to follow and read. I tried to express my reactions in a positive way and hope I did not offend anyone or cause hurt feelings.

Most of all, it made me wonder about the public facing communications. I believe:

- The tone should be humble, something like. *We are really grateful that so many people enjoy visiting our parks with such a variety of experiences and expectations. We are lucky to have so many people who care so much. We are working with the public to help ensure that everyone has a positive and safe visit, that the park supports a diversity of experiences and that the park's beauty, history and nature are protected. This isn't an easy task given how much park visitation has grown and how varied people's expectations are. After 16 years (?) of consideration with lots of public comment, we want to move to greater clarity and certainty about an issue of intense public expectation and opinion. We are asking our community to help us prepare the park for its future.*
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Just some thoughts, Howard. I hope you know my intention is to be supportive, not just critical.

Greg

**From:** Howard Levitt and Wendy Scheffers howandwen@ (b) (6)  
**Subject:** Spencer Michels interviews  
**Date:** September 21, 2015 at 12:27 AM America/Los\_Angeles  
**To:** Amy Meyer a7w2m@ (b) (6), Neal Desai ndesai@npca.org, Becky Evans  
rebecae@ (b) (6), cmargulis@goldengateaudubon.org



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CONFIDENTIAL Dear All: I spoke with Spencer Michels, who is producing the PBS News Hour story on Golden Gate dog mgt. He told me his interview line up is Chris Lehnertz, Amy Meyer, Cindy Margulis, Sally Stephens of SF Dog and Save Our Recreation, Huey Johnson, speaking on behalf of dog walkers in general, and maybe Martha Walters of Crissy Field Dog. Amy, it's interesting he's got Huey on his list; I wanted you to know, in case Spencer's questions attempt to pit you against Huey. Huey seems to mostly reflect the interests of Muir Beach dog walkers - he apparently is connected in some way to Laura Pandapas, a very hysterical Muir Beach voice. Three key points re Muir Beach are: a) there are very high resource values at Muir Beach that need protecting, including shorebirds riparian habitat, and creek biota; b) Muir Beach is relatively small and it would be impossible to allow both an off-leash and a dog-free experience, which is possible at the other areas NPS proposes for regulated off-leash use; c) NPS proposes on-leash on the entire beach, which means visitors could still enjoy the beach with their dogs very close at hand - 'on leash' is not 'no dogs.' Meanwhile, a big thanks to each of you for helping to assure that more than one side is heard from in this overheated issue. Gratefully, Howard

**From:** Amy Meyer a7w2m@ (b) (6)  
**Subject:** Re: Spencer Michels interviews  
**Date:** September 21, 2015 at 8:39 AM America/Los\_Angeles  
**To:** Howard Levitt and Wendy Scheffers howandwen (b) (6)



Howard, Thanks for the Huey warning. I told Spencer of his attacks on the Conservancy but that is not likely to come up here. And thanks for the specific Muir Beach values. This is a national program and I hope Spencer sticks to the broader issues. Amy On Sep 21, 2015, at 12:27 AM, Howard Levitt and Wendy Scheffers wrote: > CONFIDENTIAL > > Dear All: > > I spoke with Spencer Michels, who is producing the PBS News Hour story on Golden Gate dog mgt. He told me his interview line up is Chris Lehnertz, Amy Meyer, Cindy Margulis, Sally Stephens of SF Dog and Save Our Recreation, Huey Johnson, speaking on behalf of dog walkers in general, and maybe Martha Walters of Crissy Field Dog. Amy, it's interesting he's got Huey on his list; I wanted you to know, in case Spencer's questions attempt to pit you against Huey. > > Huey seems to mostly reflect the interests of Muir Beach dog walkers - he apparently is connected in some way to Laura Pandapas, a very hysterical Muir Beach voice. Three key points re Muir Beach are: a) there are very high resource values at Muir Beach that need protecting, including shorebirds riparian habitat, and creek biota; b) Muir Beach is relatively small and it would be impossible to allow both an off-leash and a dog-free experience, which is possible at the other areas NPS proposes for regulated off-leash use; c) NPS proposes on-leash on the entire beach, which means visitors could still enjoy the beach with their dogs very close at hand - 'on leash' is not 'no dogs.' > > Meanwhile, a big thanks to each of you for helping to assure that more than one side is heard from in this overheated issue. > > Gratefully, > > Howard > >

**From:** [Amy Meyer](#)  
**To:** [Howard Levitt and Wendy Scheffers](#); [Howard Levitt](#)  
**Subject:** What's going on with Huey?  
**Date:** Sunday, May 04, 2014 10:59:37 AM

---

Dear Howard,

Greg Moore just sent this nasty screed by Huey against the Conservancy. I am trying to get my arms around what is going on and am working on what I can do to help.

Do you have the article electronically that Peter Fimrite did last week? I want to see it for context. Probably that has to wait until tomorrow, but please send it to me as soon as you can.

Thanks,  
Amy

## Marin Voice: Keep recreation in GGNRA

By Huey D. Johnson  
Guest op-ed column

Posted: 05/03/2014 06:45:00 PM PDT

SAN FRANCISCO is being highlighted nationally this year with 600 showings on the nation's TV stations of the lovely film, "Rebels with a Cause."

Produced by Santa Rosa's KCRB and local filmmakers Nancy Kelly and Kenji Yamamoto, the documentary tells the story of the struggle to establish the Golden Gate National Recreation Area through the dreams of honorable politicians and the fast-moving land purchases made by small nonprofits that make up the GGNRA today.

That now-preserved recreation landscape includes 40 miles of seashore landscape reaching from Bolinas in the north, across the Golden Gate Bridge, to San Mateo County in the south. Its history goes back to post-World War II, when with the help of a cooperative Congress the federal government sought to ease urban pressure by providing recreation. Under Chairman Laurance Rockefeller, the Outdoor Recreation Review Commission hired hundreds of experts to study how recreation could improve our stressful urban condition.

Results included establishment of the Land and Water Conservation Fund. I recall the fund provided \$113 million. Without it there wouldn't be a GGNRA.

The GGNRA is intended especially for workers and retirees, those living in small apartments with no backyards and no place to walk their dogs. In light of the source and purpose of the LWCF money, the current political maneuvering to end dog walking is absurd. Owners can train, control and pick up after dogs. And there are already clear rules in place with respect to pets in the GGNRA that need to be enforced and supported.

As happens, a nonprofit Golden Gate National Park Conservancy has emerged that wants to limit public use of the GGNRA. This was never the intent or the purpose of the GGNRA. The principal activity of the national parks advocacy group is fundraising, and wealthy donors who are led to believe they are giving to an environmental cause have donated millions of dollars that is given to government.

This is a mistake.

Such groups have wonderful promise as a way of providing volunteers to assist GGNRA needs, but raising money for government isn't sensible. They are overdue in checking out the British National Trust, or the Friend of Austria's Vienna Woods. These two are marvelously successful and they don't send money to government.

Meanwhile, as the parks conservancy skims millions of dollars from San Francisco regional environmental giving, important environmental nonprofits are starving trying to compete with it to do their more important work. It's the efforts of Earth Justice, [350.org](http://350.org) and the Sierra Club that are doing the most to fulfill the dreams of the first Earth Day.

We can't afford to let something like an attempt to ban dogs or restrict access in the GGNRA distract us from the true environmental issues of our day — climate change, fracking, water scarcity — that deserve the vision and leadership of the Bay Area.

True environmental leadership must remain our most important legacy.

We know that the role the GGNRA plays in our regional health and identity is unparalleled. We are obligated to honor its origins, protect its multiple uses, provide a place for hikers, bikers, dogs and kids and show the rest of the country why we deserve to have its bounty so close at hand.

Huey D. Johnson of Mill Valley is the founder of Resource Renewal Institute, a non-profit organization that deals with environmental sustainability. As director of the Nature Conservancy, he helped save the Marin Headlands from development. He was also the founder of the Trust for Public Land and served as secretary of resources during Gov. Jerry Brown's first term.

**From:** [Howard Levitt and Wendy Scheffers](#)  
**To:** [frank and diane dean](#)  
**Subject:** Yes!  
**Date:** Sunday, May 01, 2011 7:38:33 AM

---

Hi Frank:

At last, the Chronicle piece we've been waiting for! Today's editorial will help change the equation for us with the elected officials. Although it seldom happens these days, in this case the high road was the right road for us.

Walk with Mark Farrell went well yesterday - but I think he will still try to play the deal maker. He posed all sorts of frinstances like, "how about you split East Beach down the middle?" We couldn't have had a better day to tour; Crissy was packed with thousands of users, several dogs were off leash in the WPA, and overall the balance in our prescription at Crissy seemed pretty evident.

I have an idea - what if we offer onsite tours of Crissy, OB and Funston for the interested public in a couple of weeks? Nothing shows the balance like seeing the situation on the ground.

Wendy and I will be at Crissy today at Noon for the Crissy 10th anniversary Conservancy's Members Day.

See you tomorrow.

Howard

**From:** "Levitt, Howard" howard\_levitt@nps.gov

**Subject:** Dog Comm Plan

**Date:** November 13, 2015 at 4:46 PM America/Los\_Angeles

**To:** Howard Levitt Howard\_Levitt@nps.gov, Wendy Scheffers howandwen@ (b) (6) (b) (6) (b) (6),  
Adrienne Freeman adrienne\_freeman@nps.gov



---

Hi Adrienne: Here's my in-progress review -made it through p 14; major changes. Please look these over for consistency and if they seem good, accept the changes. I will keep plowing through this and will develop a few new pieces. Have a good weekend. Howard

--

Howard Levitt  
Director of Communications and Partnerships  
Golden Gate National Parks  
[howard\\_levitt@nps.gov](mailto:howard_levitt@nps.gov)  
415-561-4730

**Attachments:**

[Dog Management Plan Nov13 hl.docx](#) (136.1 kB)



**From:** howandwen@ (b) (6)  
**Subject:** Editorial  
**Date:** February 25, 2016 at 7:16 AM America/Los\_Angeles  
**To:** Lois Kazakoff lkazakoff@sfchronicle.com



Hi Lois, We appreciated the balanced approach in the editorial this morning. There was one factual error, however. There are seven areas proposed for off-leash dog walking, but Rancho Corral de Tierra in San Mateo County is not one of them. We had considered a few areas there, but did not include any in the preferred alternative of the SEIS because of the concerns we had discussed on the call. I'm sorry if I explained that in a way that was unclear. The proposed off leash area you did not mention is the north end of Ocean Beach. Again, thank you for trying to help foster reason on a sometimes overheated issue. Howard Sent from my iPhone

**From:** howandwen@ (b) (6)

**Subject:** Fwd: Editorial

**Date:** February 25, 2016 at 7:22 AM America/Los\_Angeles

**To:** Chris Lehnertz Chris\_Lehnertz@nps.gov, Michael Savidge

Michael\_J\_Savidge@nps.gov, Adrienne Freeman adrienne\_freeman@nps.gov, Alexandra Picavet  
alexandra\_picavet@nps.gov



This note to Lois Kazakoff was sent from my home account. We had talked specifically about why we did not identify an off leash area in SM County. Expect a big reaction. HL

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** [howandwen@](#) (b) (6)

**Date:** February 25, 2016 at 7:16:50 AM PST

**To:** Lois Kazakoff <[lkazakoff@sfchronicle.com](mailto:lkazakoff@sfchronicle.com)>

**Subject:** Editorial

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Howard

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** BeckyE rebecca@ (b) (6)  
**Subject:** Fw: [SFB-GEN\*] Albany: Suit refiled over off-leash dogs at beach Damin  
Esper.21Apr16.East Bay Times  
**Date:** April 22, 2016 at 10:51 AM America/Los\_Angeles  
**To:** Howard Levitt and Wendy Scheffers howandwen@ (b) (6)

---



**From:** BeckyE rebecca@ (b) (6)  
**Subject:** Fw: GGNRA Dog Plan  
**Date:** February 23, 2016 at 6:23 PM America/Los\_Angeles  
**To:** Howard Levitt and Wendy Scheffers howandwen@ (b) (6)

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**From:** Neal Desai [ndesai@npca.org](mailto:ndesai@npca.org)  
**Subject:** FW: MarinIJ and SF Chron stories on dog rule  
**Date:** February 22, 2016 at 8:45 PM America/Los\_Angeles  
**To:** Howard Levitt and Wendy Scheffers [howandwen@](mailto:howandwen@)(b) (6)



# Rodeo Beach the only Marin off-leash dog site in proposed rule for GGNRA

By [Mark Prado](#), *Marin Independent Journal*

POSTED: 02/22/16, 6:26 PM PST | UPDATED: 47 SECS AGO

## [0 COMMENTS](#)

Rodeo Beach is the only area within the Golden Gate National Recreation Area in Marin where dogs will be able to roam unleashed under a proposed federal rule set to be issued Tuesday.

Almost-final rules governing where dogs can and can't be in the national area — which includes parts of Marin, San Francisco and San Mateo counties — will be issued after 15 years of often-heated discussion and review.

“Marin County is particularly hard hit,” said Cassandra Fimrite of Marin County DOG in a statement. “The only remaining off leash access for Marin will be at the north end of remote Rodeo Beach — requiring a long drive for all visitors, and adding to southern Marin’s already terrible traffic.”

But there is also support for restrictions.

“Dogs can go out and run after wildlife,” said Barbara Salzman, president of Marin Audubon, at a recent Independent Journal editorial board meeting. “The more interruptions a species has, the more it impacts their nesting and feeding, especially shorebirds. On leash is more acceptable.”

The issue has pitted passionate dog owners against Golden Gate National Recreation Area officials and environmentalists. Dog owners say their dogs need to be off leash and have space to run, but there have been complaints lodged with recreation area officials about aggressive dogs attacking people and smaller animals scaring children and trampling sensitive wildlife habitat and species.

Beginning Wednesday there will be a 60-day comment period on the rules, which can be found beginning 6 a.m. Tuesday by searching [federalregister.gov/public-inspection](http://federalregister.gov/public-inspection) for Golden Gate Dog Management. Two hearings — 6 to 8 p.m. March 23 at the Bay Model in Sausalito and 6 to 8 p.m. March 30 at the Mill Valley Community Center — have been set in Marin.

Then, by the end of the year, the rules will be put into place and become enforceable in the first part of 2017. Off-leash dog walking advocates expect the issue to end up in the courts, where it has been before.

## MARIN RESTRICTIONS

The new rules — if finalized as they are — would mark a change in how dogs are walked on the Golden Gate lands in Marin. Presently dogs can be off leash at Rodeo Beach, Oakwood Valley Road, Muir Beach, Homestead Valley and Alta Avenue.

Under the new rules, Rodeo Beach would be the only place where dogs could run free. Muir Beach would have to be on-leash, after an earlier version of the plan had them banned entirely. Dogs on the Oakwood Valley Road, Homestead Valley and Alta Avenue would now be on-leash. In fact, park service officials said all trails in Marin would at a minimum require leashes, and others would have an outright ban on dogs.

At the park service controlled area of Stinson Beach, Muir Woods National Monument, Tennessee Valley trail, and Audubon Canyon dogs are off limits, leashed or not, and those rules would stay in place.

## FEDS ‘NOT LISTENING’

Dog supporter Martha Walters of San Rafael questioned the new rules, saying they lack merit in two areas.

“This is not just we don’t like it; where is the scientific and legal reasoning? There is none,” she said. “The park service is not listening to the public. We don’t think dogs should be everywhere, but we do think there should be scientific and legal support for the plan. There is not.”

The plan was praised by Neal Desai, director of Pacific Region Field Operations for the National Parks Conservation Association.

“The challenge is striking a balance between these various forms of recreation while also protecting the park’s fragile resources,” he said in a statement. “And this thoroughly researched and carefully thought out proposal does just that.”

Of the 8.7 miles of beaches in the park, about 2.7 miles or 31 percent would be available to dogs and 2.3 miles or 26 percent would allow dogs off leash, according to park officials. Of the 137 miles addressed by the plan, about 46 miles, or 34 percent, would be available to dog walking, but in Marin it would be all on leash.

“Walking a dog is fun, healthy and popular and it’s something we want to be able to maintain, while we reduce the conflicts that are out there,” said Christine Lehnertz, Golden Gate’s superintendent. “We think the proposed rule can provide a safer and more balanced approach to dog walking.”

The superintendent could open new trails to on-leash walking in the future if unofficial social trails are legitimized.

Under the new rule, leashes could be no longer than 6 feet and there is cap of six dogs per dog walker. The park service estimates the roll-out would cost about \$2.5 million for new signs, educational material and enforcement personnel.

#### POSSIBLE TEMPLATE

With its plan, the park service is trying to strike a balance to protect wildlife habitat and people, while allowing dogs and their owners places to recreate. The long-awaited final ruling could also set a wide-ranging precedent for dogs in national parks across the country.

The dog debate has its roots in a special rule that was created by Golden Gate in 1979 to allow canines off leash. After fielding complaints about aggressive dogs and other canine problems, in 2000 park officials tried to implement a policy that required leashes.

But in June 2005, a U.S. District Court judge ruled the recreation area failed to take public comment before requiring dogs be leashed. In response to the ruling, recreation area officials said dogs could be off leash in certain areas as long as they were under voice control. It then launched the rule process, which culminated with the new plan.

<http://www.sfgate.com/news/article/Proposal-issued-to-further-limit-dogs-in-GGNRA-6848065.php>

## Proposal issued to further limit dogs in GGNRA

By [Steve Rubenstein](#)

Published 7:42 pm, Monday, February 22, 2016

Howls and growls from both ends of the dog leash are greeting proposed new rules that would severely restrict the decades-old practice of off-leash dog walking in the Golden Gate National Recreation Area.

The proposed rules, announced Monday, would limit off-leash walking to only five areas within the 80,000-acre recreation area — Crissy Field, Fort Funston, Ocean Beach, Fort Mason and Rodeo Beach. Within those areas, the amount of space currently allowed for off-leash walking would be further trimmed.

Some sites that currently allow off-leash walking would be restricted to on-leash walking. Some sites that allow on-leash walking would ban dogs altogether.

“This is a huge disappointment,” said [Sally Stephens](#), chairwoman of the [San Francisco Dog Owners Group](#). “Instead of bringing people to nature, the Park Service seems to be trying to find ways to keep people away.”

In San Francisco, the two primary sites for off-leash dog walking — Crissy Field and Fort Funston — would lose more than half of their current off-leash acreage. At Fort Funston, in the southwest corner of San Francisco, the current 85 acres designated for off-leash walking would be cut to 35 acres. At Crissy Field, off-leash walking behind East Beach and on most of the airstrip area would no longer be allowed — a loss of about half the current space.

Particularly hard hit would be Marin County, which would lose off-leash dog walking nearly everywhere in the GGNRA except a section of Rodeo Beach. And San Mateo County would continue to have no off-leash dog walking areas.

In Marin, dog-friendly Muir Beach would lose off-leash walking. Longtime resident [Laura Pandapas](#) lamented that she will no longer be able to take her daily off-leash walk with her poodle, Shugie.

“This is going to decimate the quality of life in Marin,” she said. “Our public spaces need to be shared by everyone. It’s not fair for someone to think a public space has to be perfect, and has to be sanitized just for them.”

The new rules, which are subject to public comment and expected to be made final by the end of the year, are the culmination of a process that began in 2002, when the [National Park Service](#) said it first began considering how to restrict the practice that had long been allowed on the lands that it inherited when it established the GGNRA in the 1970s.

“We need to consider the needs and desires of a full range of visitors, some of whom enjoy experiencing the park with dogs and some of whom don’t,” said [Howard Levitt](#), director of communications for the recreation area. “Many visitors want to have an experience that doesn’t have a dog encounter in it. We reject the notion that we began with a negative mind-set toward dogs.”

That view was shared by few in the canine community, who maintain that the GGNRA has long sought to severely restrict or banish dogs from the area, which stretches from Marin County through San Francisco to San Mateo County, largely on former military lands. Dog advocates say the GGNRA is not a pristine wilderness, like some National Park Service properties, but an urban park where pets are part of the landscape and off-leash dogs have long been welcomed.

“In places like Yellowstone or Yosemite, these restrictions might make sense,” Stephens said. “Not here.”

Another group of GGNRA users, San Francisco-based Save Our Recreation, said the new rules will “lead to the largest loss of public access to the GGNRA since its inception.”

“This federal bureaucracy is imposing its will onto the local community and completely ignoring the needs of the people who live nearby and frequently use these areas - the very reason the GGNRA was created,” said [Andrea Buffa](#) of Save Our Recreation. “The Park Service has really thumbed its nose at the San Francisco, Marin and San Mateo boards of supervisors. All are on record opposing the dog management plan, and today’s proposed dog rule is exactly the same as earlier Park Service proposals.”

But the [National Parks Conservation Association](#), an advocacy group whose members generally support Park Service policy, said in a statement that the new dog rules were a “common-sense approach.”

Regional director [Neal Desai](#) praised the GGNRA policy for “balancing various forms of recreation while protecting the park’s fragile resources.”

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GGNRA superintendent [Chris Lehnertz](#) said the area has been trying to hash out a fair dog policy for decades. Park usage, she said, has grown from 1.5 million people a year in the 1970s to 15 million last year and that means a lot more creatures — both the two-legged and four-legged kind — per acre of park.

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*Steve Rubenstein is a San Francisco Chronicle staff writer. Email: SRubenstein@sfchronicle.com*

**From:** Howard Levitt and Wendy Scheffers [howandwen@nps.gov](mailto:howandwen@nps.gov) (b) (6)  
**Subject:** Fwd: MarinIJ and SF Chron stories on dog rule  
**Date:** February 22, 2016 at 9:07 PM America/Los\_Angeles  
**To:** [chris\\_lehnertz@nps.gov](mailto:chris_lehnertz@nps.gov)

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Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Neal Desai <[ndesai@npca.org](mailto:ndesai@npca.org)>  
**Date:** February 22, 2016 8:45:15 PM PST  
**To:** Howard Levitt and Wendy Scheffers <[howandwen@nps.gov](mailto:howandwen@nps.gov)> (b) (6)  
**Subject:** FW: MarinIJ and SF Chron stories on dog rule

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*[Steve Rubenstein](#) is a [San Francisco Chronicle](#) staff writer. Email: [SRubenstein@sfgchronicle.com](mailto:SRubenstein@sfgchronicle.com)*

**From:** BeckyE rebecca@ (b) (6)  
**Subject:** Fw: Re: Thank you for supporting recreation for all and protection of imperiled wildlife at GGNRA with your vote today  
**Date:** March 24, 2016 at 2:28 PM America/Los\_Angeles  
**To:** Virginia Reinhart virginia.reinhart@sierraclub.org, Josh Sonnenfeld josh.sonnenfeld@sierraclub.org, Michael Ferreira MichaelJFerreira@ (b) (6)

---



**From:** [BeckyE](#)  
**To:** [Virginia Reinhart](#); [Josh Sonnenfeld](#); [Michael Ferreira](#)  
**Subject:** Fw: Re: Thank you for supporting recreation for all and protection of imperiled wildlife at GGNRA with your vote today  
**Date:** Thursday, March 24, 2016 2:28:29 PM

---

-----Forwarded Message-----

From: Cindy Margulis  
Sent: Mar 24, 2016 12:25 PM  
To: Neal Desai  
Cc: Brent Plater , "BeckyE (rebecae@[b] (6) [REDACTED])" , "amy7w2m@[b] (6) [REDACTED]"  
Subject: Re: Thank you for supporting recreation for all and protection of imperiled wildlife at GGNRA with your vote today

I've returned from being away.

I just wanted to let you all know that Golden Gate Audubon has issued an electronic Action Alert to its thousands of members about the Dog Rule with links to contact the relevant US Congressional legislators.

Here's a weblink to what we'd sent:

<http://goldengateaudubon.org/expired-announcement/news/support-sensible-new-dog-rules-for-the-ggnra/>

There's also a post on our Facebook page, as well.

Feel free to re-post from the Golden Gate Audubon FB, if desired, to make it easy-peasy for folks to comment to our region's federal legislators.

Cindy

On Tue, Mar 15, 2016 at 5:28 PM, Neal Desai <[ndesai@npca.org](mailto:ndesai@npca.org)> wrote:

Supervisor Mar,

Thank you for speaking up for the balance that the proposed rule creates for all park users and imperiled wildlife, and for the oppositional, unconstructive nature of the resolution.

Much appreciated, and conservation groups and stakeholders who use the park will continue to push for the approval of the plan. Please let us know what else you may need in the future regarding this matter or the GGNRA generally.

Thanks again,

Neal



p.s. interestingly and ironically, this is what Matier & Ross last month said about Katy Tang and resolutions:

**Woods Day:** San Francisco Supervisor **Katy Tang** was unusually candid about why she joined her fellow board members in their unanimous vote for a day of remembrance for **Mario Woods**, the man shot to death by five police officers Dec. 2 when he refused to drop a knife.

In an e-mail to constituent **Kathy Lewis**, who was upset by the board's action, **the moderate Tang said she was "not a fan of these nonbinding resolutions."** But if she had voted no, she said, the measure would have gone to committee for debate and "I would have have caused more media attention and more protests and more discord."

"I would have become the next focus of the Black Lives Matter movement," Tang said.

As for why some of her board colleagues pushed for the resolution in the first place?

**"It is for the media attention," Tang wrote. "In fact, that's usually the only reason why supervisors introduce resolutions."**

--

-----  
Cindy Margulis  
Executive Director  
**Golden Gate Audubon Society**  
2530 San Pablo Ave., Suite G  
Berkeley, CA 94702  
Tel: (510) 843-9912  
[www.goldengateaudubon.org](http://www.goldengateaudubon.org)  
-----

**From:** "Levitt, Howard" howard\_levitt@nps.gov  
**Subject:** Fwd: Annnnnnd again!  
**Date:** December 08, 2015 at 10:21 PM America/Los\_Angeles  
**To:** Wendy Scheffers howandwen@**(b) (6)**

---



----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** Freeman, Adrienne <[adrienne\\_freeman@nps.gov](mailto:adrienne_freeman@nps.gov)>  
**Date:** Tue, Dec 8, 2015 at 5:42 PM  
**Subject:** Annnnnnd again!  
**To:** Howard Levitt <[howard\\_levitt@nps.gov](mailto:howard_levitt@nps.gov)>

--

**Winter Hours: Monday- Thursday, 7:30am to 6pm**

Adrienne Freeman  
Acting Public Affairs Specialist  
Golden Gate National Recreation Area  
201 Fort Mason  
San Francisco, California 94123  
office 415.561.4732  
cell 209.742.3391

--

Howard Levitt  
Director of Communications and Partnerships  
Golden Gate National Parks  
[howard\\_levitt@nps.gov](mailto:howard_levitt@nps.gov)  
415-561-4730

**Attachments:**

[Final DRAFT\\_Dog Communication Plan Dec 8\\_1740.docx](#) (193.3 kB)

**From:** [Howard Levitt and Wendy Scheffers](#)  
**To:** [Howard Levitt](#)  
**Subject:** Fwd: Slides for Supe Hearing  
**Date:** Monday, April 11, 2011 12:50:18 AM  
**Attachments:** [Slides for SF supe hearing.doc](#)  
[Untitled attachment 08416.htm](#)

---

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Howard Levitt and Wendy Scheffers <[howandwen@](#)(b) (6)>  
**Date:** April 10, 2011 9:20:42 PM PDT  
**To:** Frank Dean <[frank\\_dean@nps.gov](#)>, [shirwin\\_smith@nps.gov](#), [alexandra\\_picavet@nps.gov](#)  
**Subject:** Slides for Supe Hearing

Frank, Shirwin and Alex:

Attached are some slides I thought would best make our case in a step-by-step, yet concise, way. Please let me know your thoughts - the text will need to be tightened on several of the slides, and I want to review them against the Steven Krefting, et al, and Jan Blum letters for completeness. I will be in around 8:00 AM tomorrow to chat with you (Alex) about creating these slides.

On Sat, I heard a KGO talk show program about the GOGA dog issue while I was waiting in line at the post office. Balanced comments from callers; total bias from the host. He told his listeners to show up on Mon.

Howard

From: [Neil Desai](#)  
To: [Yvonne Skaffes](#)  
Subject: Fwd: Supervisor Scott Wiener's -- about 31 Jan. forum I Stern Grove  
Date: Thursday, February 20, 2014 4:42:28 PM

---

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Bob Plante <[political\\_bob@yahoo.com](#)> (b) (6)  
Date: Wed, Feb 19, 2014 at 4:23 PM  
Subject: Fwd: Supervisor Scott Wiener's -- about 31 Jan. forum I Stern Grove  
To: [ksaddam@yahoo.com](#)  
Cc: Neil Desai <[ndesai@ggca.org](#)>

This is a verbatim excerpt from a much longer newsletter.



## February 2014 Newsletter

Office Phone: 415-554-6968  
Email: [scott.wiener@sf.gov](mailto:scott.wiener@sf.gov)  
Website: [www.scottwiener.com](http://www.scottwiener.com)

---

### In this Newsletter

#### Policy Work

[Streetlight Funding](#)  
[Code Enforcement](#)  
[Highlife Transportation](#)  
[Development Fee](#)  
[GGNRA Update](#)  
[H-Law Legislation](#)  
[Soda Tax](#)  
[Pedestrian Safety Update](#)

#### Community Updates

[Cesar Chavez](#)  
[Golden Park](#)  
[Open Campus](#)  
[Diamond Shamrock](#)  
[San Jose Avenue](#)

#### Community Calendar

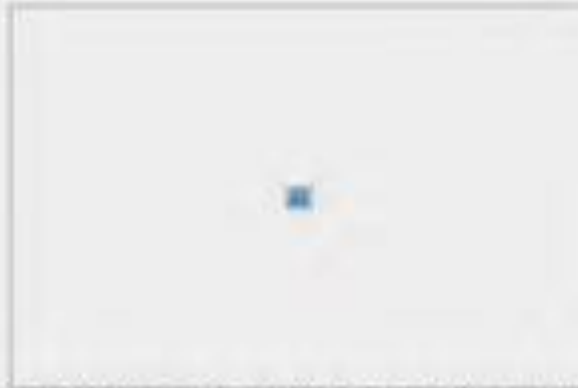
#### Office Hours

Thursday, March 14  
10:30am-12:00pm  
Haefliger's House of Coffee  
168 Dolores Street

#### Proposed Restrictions on Dog Access in Federal Recreation Areas

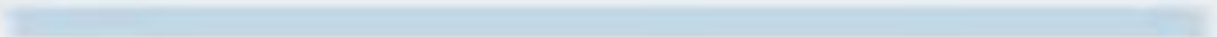
Recently, I joined a panel organized by Congressman Jackie Speier to discuss the proposal by the National Park Service to severely restrict dog access at federal park properties, including Fort Funston, Crissy Field, and Ocean Beach. Last year, I authored a resolution at the Board of Supervisors, which passed unanimously, putting San Francisco on record opposing the plan. I'm happy that Congressman Speier has taken a strong position against the plan as well. You can [read an editorial](#) on this issue by advocate Sally Stephens published in the Chronicle a few weeks ago and [listen to a radio spot](#) I recorded on KQED.

Friday, March 5, 1999  
12:00pm - 2:00pm  
City Hall, Room 224



Scott at the GGNRA Dog Management Plan Public Forum with San Mateo County Parks Director Marlene Fairley, General Manager of San Francisco Bay and Park P&B Goldberg, GGNRA Superintendent Frank Dean and Congressman Jackie Speier

1



2

—  
Howard Levitt  
Director of Communications and Partnerships  
Golden Gate National Parks  
[howard\\_levitt@nps.gov](mailto:howard_levitt@nps.gov)  
415-561-4730

**From:** [Levitt, Howard](#)  
**To:** [Wendy Scheffers](#)  
**Subject:** Fwd: Updated Marin IJ Op Ed  
**Date:** Thursday, May 08, 2014 6:48:29 PM  
**Attachments:** [Op Ed re GGNRA GMP.docx](#)  
[Op Ed re GGNRA GMP.docx](#)

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----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Levitt, Howard** <[howard\\_levitt@nps.gov](mailto:howard_levitt@nps.gov)>  
Date: Thu, May 8, 2014 at 6:42 PM  
Subject: Updated Marin IJ Op Ed  
To: Frank Dean <[frank\\_dean@nps.gov](mailto:frank_dean@nps.gov)>, Greg Moore <[gmoore@parksconservancy.org](mailto:gmoore@parksconservancy.org)>, dshaw <[dshaw@parksconservancy.org](mailto:dshaw@parksconservancy.org)>

Frank, Greg, and David: Here is a slightly revised version of the Marin IJ Op Ed. This fits their length requirement of around 550-600 words. Need your suggestions ASAP. I want to send this tonight, so they can plan for publication on Sunday. Howard

--

Howard Levitt  
Director of Communications and Partnerships  
Golden Gate National Parks  
[howard\\_levitt@nps.gov](mailto:howard_levitt@nps.gov)  
415-561-4730

--

Howard Levitt  
Director of Communications and Partnerships  
Golden Gate National Parks  
[howard\\_levitt@nps.gov](mailto:howard_levitt@nps.gov)  
415-561-4730

**From:** howandwen(b) (6)  
**Subject:** IMPORTANT re previous note  
**Date:** February 25, 2016 at 7:28 AM America/Los\_Angeles  
**To:** Lois Kazakoff lkazakoff@sfchronicle.com



---

Lois, though this and my previous note came from my home account, please do NOT consider my previous note to be a letter to the editor. I just wanted to point out the error in the editorial. Thanks. Howard Levitt Director of Communications Golden Gate National Recreation Area Sent from my iPhone > On Feb 25, 2016, at 7:16 AM, howandwen@ (b) (6) wrote: > > Hi Lois, > We appreciated the balanced approach in the editorial this morning. There was one factual error, however. There are seven areas proposed for off-leash dog walking, but Rancho Corral de Tierra in San Mateo County is not one of them. We had considered a few areas there, but did not include any in the preferred alternative of the SEIS because of the concerns we had discussed on the call. I'm sorry if I explained that in a way that was unclear. The proposed off leash area you did not mention is the north end of Ocean Beach. > Again, thank you for trying to help foster reason on a sometimes overheated issue. > Howard > > Sent from my iPhone

**From:** howandwen@ (b) (6)  
**Subject:** Fwd: IMPORTANT re previous note  
**Date:** February 25, 2016 at 7:30 AM America/Los\_Angeles  
**To:** Chris Lehnertz Chris\_Lehnertz@nps.gov, Michael Savidge  
Michael\_J\_Savidge@nps.gov, Adrienne Freeman adrienne\_freeman@nps.gov, Alexandra Picavet  
alexandra\_picavet@nps.gov

---



Just sent this to Lois. Don't want her to run my first note as a letter to the editor. H

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** [howandwen@ \(b\) \(6\)](#)  
**Date:** February 25, 2016 at 7:28:23 AM PST  
**To:** Lois Kazakoff <[lkazakoff@sfchronicle.com](mailto:lkazakoff@sfchronicle.com)>  
**Subject:** IMPORTANT re previous note

Lois, though this and my previous note came from my home account, please do NOT consider my previous note to be a letter to the editor. I just wanted to point out the error in the editorial.

Thanks.

Howard Levitt  
Director of Communications  
Golden Gate National Recreation Area

Sent from my iPhone

On Feb 25, 2016, at 7:16 AM, [howandwen@ \(b\) \(6\)](#) wrote:

Hi Lois,

We appreciated the balanced approach in the editorial this morning. There was one factual error, however. There are seven areas proposed for off-leash dog walking, but Rancho Corral de Tierra in San Mateo County is not one of them. We had considered a few areas there, but did not include any in the preferred alternative of the SEIS because of the concerns we had discussed on the call. I'm sorry if I explained that in a way that was unclear. The proposed off leash area you did not mention is the north end of Ocean Beach.

Again, thank you for trying to help foster reason on a sometimes overheated issue.

Howard

Sent from my iPhone



**From:** "Kazakoff, Lois" [LKazakoff@sfchronicle.com](mailto:LKazakoff@sfchronicle.com)  
**Subject:** RE: IMPORTANT re previous note  
**Date:** February 25, 2016 at 9:07 AM America/Los\_Angeles  
**To:** "howandwen@gmail.com" [\(b\) \(6\)](mailto:howandwen@(b) (6))



I went over my notes last night and I had listed the seven. There was no mention of Ocean Beach, although we talked about Ocean Beach separately. I did not connect Ocean Beach. I'll fix now. Follow me on Twitter: @lkazakoff Follow me on Instagram: Lois\_Kaz Read Chronicle editorials, Open Forum and Insight commentary at SFChronicle.com -----Original Message----- From: [\(b\) \(6\)](mailto:howandwen@(b) (6)) [mailto:[\(b\) \(6\)](mailto:howandwen@(b) (6))] Sent: Thursday, February 25, 2016 7:28 AM To: Kazakoff, Lois Subject: IMPORTANT re previous note Lois, though this and my previous note came from my home account, please do NOT consider my previous note to be a letter to the editor. I just wanted to point out the error in the editorial. Thanks. Howard Levitt Director of Communications Golden Gate National Recreation Area Sent from my iPhone > On Feb 25, 2016, at 7:16 AM, [\(b\) \(6\)](mailto:howandwen@(b) (6)) wrote: > > Hi Lois, > We appreciated the balanced approach in the editorial this morning. There was one factual error, however. There are seven areas proposed for off-leash dog walking, but Rancho Corral de Tierra in San Mateo County is not one of them. We had considered a few areas there, but did not include any in the preferred alternative of the SEIS because of the concerns we had discussed on the call. I'm sorry if I explained that in a way that was unclear. The proposed off leash area you did not mention is the north end of Ocean Beach. > Again, thank you for trying to help foster reason on a sometimes overheated issue. > Howard > > Sent from my iPhone

**Attachments:**

[Lois Kazakoff.vcf](#) (24.89 kB)

From:

[\(b\) \(6\)](mailto:howandwen@(b) (6))

Subject:

Re: IMPORTANT re previous note

Date:

February 25, 2016 at 11:55 AM America/Los\_Angeles

To:

"Kazakoff, Lois" [LKazakoff@sfchronicle.com](mailto:LKazakoff@sfchronicle.com)

Thank you, Lois. Sorry if I was unclear. Howard Sent from my iPhone > On Feb 25, 2016, at 9:07 AM, Kazakoff, Lois wrote: > > I went over my notes last night and I had listed the seven. There was no mention of Ocean Beach, although we talked about Ocean Beach separately. I did not connect Ocean Beach. I'll fix now. > > > Follow me on Twitter: @lkazakoff > > Follow me on Instagram: Lois\_Kaz > > Read Chronicle editorials, Open Forum and Insight commentary at SFChronicle.com > > -----Original Message----- > From: [\(b\) \(6\)](mailto:howandwen@(b) (6)) [mailto:[\(b\) \(6\)](mailto:howandwen@(b) (6))] > Sent: Thursday, February 25, 2016 7:28 AM > To: Kazakoff, Lois > Subject: IMPORTANT re previous note > > Lois, though this and my previous note came from my home account, please do NOT consider my previous note to be a letter to the editor. I just wanted to point out the error in the editorial. > Thanks. > Howard Levitt > Director of Communications > Golden Gate National Recreation Area > > Sent from my iPhone > > On Feb 25, 2016, at 7:16 AM, [\(b\) \(6\)](mailto:howandwen@(b) (6)) wrote: > > > Hi Lois, > > We appreciated the balanced approach in the editorial this morning. There was one factual error, however. There are seven areas proposed for off-leash dog walking, but Rancho Corral de Tierra in San Mateo County is not one of them. We had considered a few areas there, but did not include any in the preferred alternative of the SEIS because of the concerns we had discussed on the call. I'm sorry if I explained that in a way that was unclear. The proposed off leash area you did not mention is the north end of Ocean Beach. > > Again, thank you for trying to help foster reason on a sometimes overheated issue. > > Howard > > > Sent from my iPhone >

**From:** Amy Meyer a7w2m (b) (6)  
**Subject:** Ocean Beach  
**Date:** July 14, 2015 at 8:53 AM America/Los\_Angeles  
**To:** Howard Levitt and Wendy Scheffers howandwen@ (b) (6)



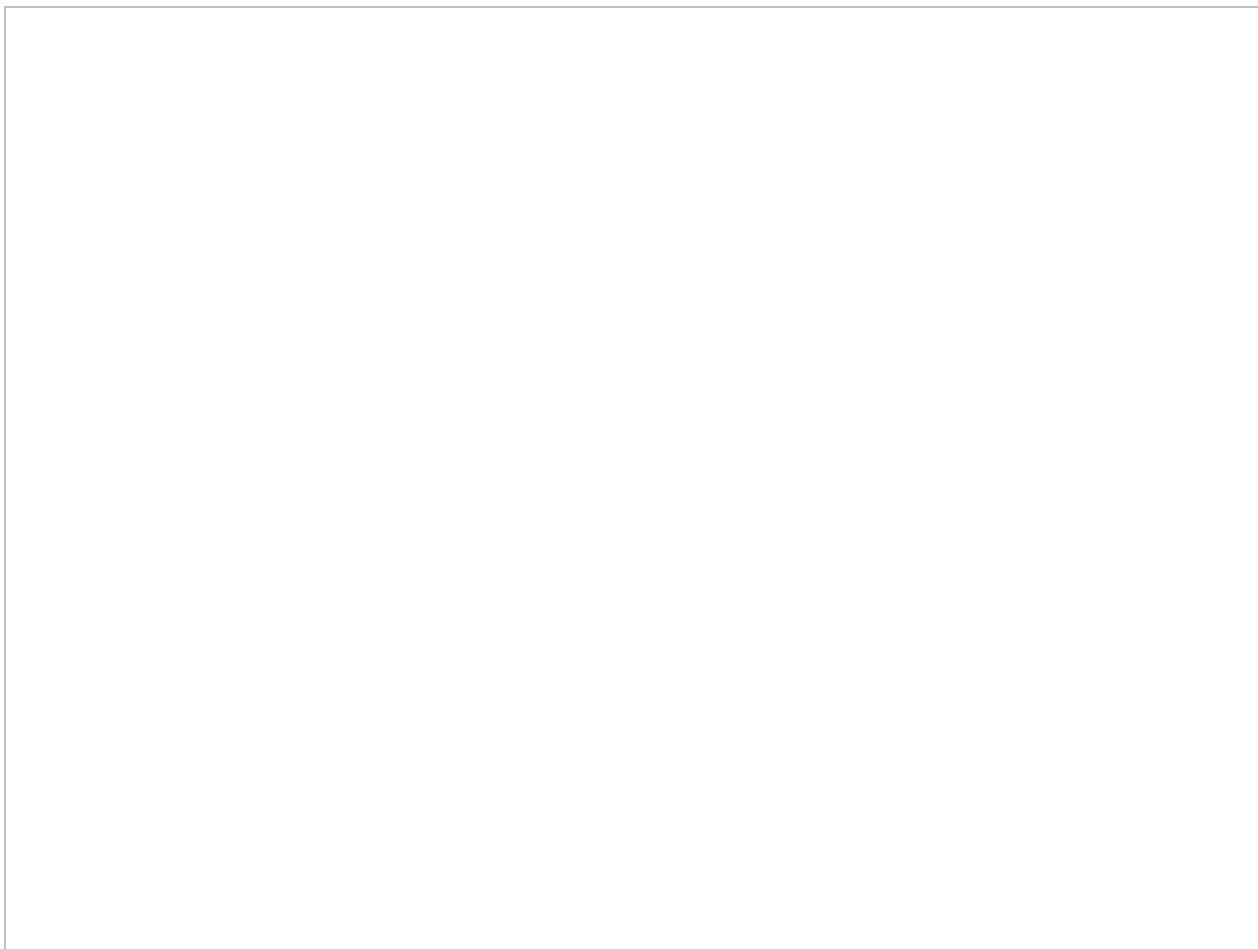
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Doesn't Ocean Beach have an off-leash area? Are there 8?

*5. In addition to the 7 proposed off leash areas, there are 21 areas (including some that also permit off leash) that propose on-leash dog walking.*

Please give us the names of all 7 off-leash areas.  
RODEO BEACH; FORT MASON GREAT MEADOW (TWO AREAS); CRISSY FIELD (TWO AREAS); FORT FUNSTON (TWO AREAS)

**From:** Howard Levitt and Wendy Scheffers howandwen@ (b) (6)  
**Subject:** on KQED Forum re: dog management - January 2011  
**Date:** September 28, 2016 at 7:31 PM America/Los\_Angeles  
**To:** Erin Heimbinder eheimbinder (b) (6)



MG\_0160.JPG

**Attachments:**

[.MG\\_0160.jpg](#) (1.18 MB)

**From:** BeckyE rebecca@ (b) (6)  
**Subject:** polled on dog plan; taking back GGNRA lands  
**Date:** February 23, 2016 at 5:30 PM America/Los\_Angeles  
**To:** Alan Carlton carltona@ (b) (6) (b) (6), Norman LaForce n.laforce@ (b) (6) (b) (6), Josh Sonnenfeld josh.sonnenfeld@sierraclub.org, Amy Meyer amy7w2m@ (b) (6) (b) (6), Neal Desai ndesai@npca.org, Bill Shephard wsheplaw@ (b) (6) (b) (6), Bruce Hamilton Bruce.Hamilton@sierraclub.org  
**Cc:** Becky Evans rebecca@ (b) (6)

---



**From:** Frank Dean [frank\\_dean@nps.gov](mailto:frank_dean@nps.gov)  
**Subject:** Re: Dogs  
**Date:** December 17, 2014 at 7:52 PM America/Los\_Angeles  
**To:** "Takashiro, Janet" [janet\\_takashiro@nps.gov](mailto:janet_takashiro@nps.gov), Howard Levitt [Howard\\_Levitt@nps.gov](mailto:Howard_Levitt@nps.gov),  
Howard Levitt and Wendy Scheffers [\(b\) \(6\)](mailto:howandwen@nps.gov)



Okay, hope it went tonight as the meeting in DC is tomorrow.

Thanks

Frank Dean  
General Superintendent  
Golden Gate National Recreation Area  
201 Fort Mason  
San Francisco, CA 94123  
(415) 561-4720

On Dec 17, 2014, at 5:03 PM, "Takashiro, Janet" <[janet\\_takashiro@nps.gov](mailto:janet_takashiro@nps.gov)> wrote:

Frank,

Howard said it would be easier if he sent the message directly from his box, to Peggy.  
Hope that's ok.

Janet

On Wed, Dec 17, 2014 at 4:45 PM, Frank Dean <[frank\\_dean@nps.gov](mailto:frank_dean@nps.gov)> wrote:  
Howard, please prepare a clean email and have Janet send to Peggy now.

Thanks,

Frank Dean  
General Superintendent  
Golden Gate National Recreation Area  
201 Fort Mason  
San Francisco, CA 94123  
(415) 561-4720

On Dec 17, 2014, at 2:59 PM, "Levitt, Howard" <[howard\\_levitt@nps.gov](mailto:howard_levitt@nps.gov)> wrote:

Done - see attached file.

On Wed, Dec 17, 2014 at 2:52 PM, Dean, Frank <[frank\\_dean@nps.gov](mailto:frank_dean@nps.gov)> wrote:

Good- just add one more bullet on City relationship- supervisors advocacy and no queries from the mayor to the park.

Thanks Howard

On Wed, Dec 17, 2014 at 2:45 PM, Levitt, Howard  
<[howard\\_levitt@nps.gov](mailto:howard_levitt@nps.gov)> wrote:

Frank: Here's a draft status update for Peggy...

Dog management planning process is in it's 12th year. NPS has

completed analysis of comments from the September 2013 SEIS and is developing a draft Rule, which is anticipated to go to OMB in Feb/March 2015. After OMB review, Draft Rule will be released for public review (60-90 days). Depending on release date of Draft Rule, FEIS could be released in Fall 2015, and a Final Rule published in Winter 2016.

Re Commercial Dog Walking, the park has instituted an effective permit system, which has achieved good compliance.

Off-leash advocates have been relentlessly pressing elected officials and government decisionmakers to open more areas for off leash dog use. On the other hand, environmental groups and some advocates for seniors and children, while less vocal than the off leash advocates, have made it clear they are watching closely to make sure their desires (fewer off leash dog areas, fenced areas, etc) are respected.

On Mon, Dec 15, 2014 at 1:20 PM, Frank Dean  
<[frank\\_dean@nps.gov](mailto:frank_dean@nps.gov)> wrote:

Okay Peggy.

Howard, let's also call Jason Elliott in mayor's office to get some context about the meeting.

Frank

Frank Dean  
General Superintendent  
Golden Gate National Recreation Area  
201 Fort Mason  
San Francisco, CA 94123  
(415) 561-4720

> On Dec 15, 2014, at 1:07 PM, Peggy O'Dell  
<[peggy\\_o'dell@nps.gov](mailto:peggy_o'dell@nps.gov)> wrote:

>

> Need three sentences on where you are with dogs. Sally  
meeting with SF Mayor. Need by Thursday please. Thank you.

>

> Sent from my iPhone

--

Howard Levitt  
Director of Communications and Partnerships  
Golden Gate National Parks  
[howard\\_levitt@nps.gov](mailto:howard_levitt@nps.gov)  
415-561-4730

--

Frank Dean  
General Superintendent  
Golden Gate  
National Recreation Area  
San Francisco, CA 94123  
(415) 561-4720

--

Howard Levitt  
Director of Communications and Partnerships  
Golden Gate National Parks  
[howard\\_levitt@nps.gov](mailto:howard_levitt@nps.gov)  
415-561-4730

<Peggy notes for Mayor Lee visit.docx>

**From:** Amy Meyer amy7w2m@ (b) (6)  
**Subject:** Re: Examiner dog op-ed  
**Date:** April 11, 2016 at 12:10 PM America/Los\_Angeles  
**To:** Nick pagoulatos nickolas.pagoulatos@sfgov.org  
**Cc:** Eric Mar emailericmar@ (b) (6) (b) (6), BeckyE rebecca@ (b) (6) (b) (6) Neal Desai ndesai@npca.org

---



Thank you!

On Mon, Apr 11, 2016 at 11:58 AM, Pagoulatos, Nickolas (BOS)  
<[nickolas.pagoulatos@sfgov.org](mailto:nickolas.pagoulatos@sfgov.org)> wrote:

Hi Amy,

I got word on Friday that it will be running next Sunday.

**From:** Amy Meyer [mailto:[amy7w2m@ \(b\) \(6\)](mailto:amy7w2m@ (b) (6))]  
**Sent:** Monday, April 11, 2016 11:52 AM  
**To:** Eric Mar <[emailericmar@ \(b\) \(6\)](mailto:emailericmar@ (b) (6))>  
**Cc:** Pagoulatos, Nickolas (BOS) <[nickolas.pagoulatos@sfgov.org](mailto:nickolas.pagoulatos@sfgov.org)>  
**Subject:** Examiner dog op-ed

Dear Eric,

Did anything ever happen with the Examiner?

Amy

--

[www.amywmeyer.com](http://www.amywmeyer.com)

--

[www.amywmeyer.com](http://www.amywmeyer.com)



**From:** Frank Dean frank\_dean@nps.gov  
**Subject:** Re: GOGA Dog Planning Status  
**Date:** December 17, 2014 at 7:53 PM America/Los\_Angeles  
**To:** "Levitt, Howard" howard\_levitt@nps.gov, Howard Levitt and Wendy Scheffers  
howandwen@(b) (6)



Thanks Howard!

Frank Dean  
General Superintendent  
Golden Gate National Recreation Area  
201 Fort Mason  
San Francisco, CA 94123  
(415) 561-4720

On Dec 17, 2014, at 5:06 PM, "Levitt, Howard" <[howard\\_levitt@nps.gov](mailto:howard_levitt@nps.gov)> wrote:

Hi Peggy: Frank asked me to send this to you in prep for the Sec's mtg with SF Mayor Ed Lee. Happy holidays to you and your family. Howard

GOGA dog management planning process is in it's 12th year. NPS has analyzed comments from the September 2013 SEIS and is developing a Draft Rule, which is anticipated to go to OMB in Feb/March 2015. After OMB review, Draft Rule will be released for public review (60-90 days). Depending on release date of Draft Rule, FEIS could be released in Fall 2015, and a Final Rule published in Winter 2016.

Re Commercial Dog Walking, the park has instituted an effective permit system, which has achieved good compliance.

Off-leash advocates have been relentlessly pressing elected officials and government decision makers to open more areas for off leash dog use. On the other side, environmental groups and some advocates for seniors and children - while less vocal than the off leash advocates - have made it clear they are watching closely to make sure their desires (fewer off leash dog areas, fenced areas, etc) are respected.

City elected officials have been enlisted by off leash advocates to intervene with NPS and DOI decision makers. One Supervisor has been particularly active in advocating for the off-leash constituency. Mayor Ed Lee's office has not reached out to the park on this issue in several years.

--

Howard Levitt  
Director of Communications and Partnerships  
Golden Gate National Parks  
[howard\\_levitt@nps.gov](mailto:howard_levitt@nps.gov)  
415-561-4730

**From:** Amy Meyer amy7w2m@**(b) (6)**  
**Subject:** Re: Info: Dog walkers sue GGNRA  
**Date:** April 07, 2016 at 3:43 PM America/Los\_Angeles  
**To:** Mark Westlund mark.westlund@sierraclub.org  
**Cc:** Virginia Reinhart virginia.reinhart@sierraclub.org, Neal Desai ndesai@npca.org, Josh Sonnenfeld josh.sonnenfeld@sierraclub.org, Alan Carlton carltonal@**(b) (6)****(b) (6)**, Michelle Myers michelle.myers@sierraclub.org, BeckyE rebecca@**(b) (6)****(b) (6)** "Bernal, Dan" Dan.Bernal@mail.house.gov



Please click on the red print "even Nancy Pelosi weighing in against it" and you will find that it is about Nancy getting the comment time on the proposed Special Rule extended for 30 days.

It concerns me that many people won't bother to click.

Amy

On Thu, Apr 7, 2016 at 2:56 PM, Mark Westlund <[mark.westlund@sierraclub.org](mailto:mark.westlund@sierraclub.org)> wrote:

[http://sfist.com/2016/04/07/dog\\_owners\\_get\\_serious\\_file\\_lawsuit.php](http://sfist.com/2016/04/07/dog_owners_get_serious_file_lawsuit.php)

## Dog Owners Get Serious, File Lawsuit Against National Park Service Over New Restrictions

BY **JAY BARMANN** IN **NEWS** ON APR 7, 2016 12:20 PM



Fort Funston. Photo: [Darwin Bell](#)

In the [ongoing drama](#) over new proposed dog rules in the Golden Gate National Recreation Area, several

local dog-owner groups filed a federal lawsuit Tuesday seeking data from the National Park Service on the impact of dogs on the area. As [KRON 4](#) and [CBS 5 are reporting](#), angry dog owners who don't want to see the number of off-leash areas decrease along the SF and Marin coasts are looking to compel the government to show them some hard numbers before the period for public comment on the proposed changes ends.

The group filing the suit goes by the name Save Our Recreation, and as an attorney representing them [tells the Chronicle](#), "It is apparent that NPS has purposefully blocked access to this information because it does not want the public to use the documents in connection with the public comment period for the proposed rule that, if implemented, would radically reduce a long-standing recreational use of the GGNRA."

The group, which serves as an umbrella organization for multiple local dog-owner groups, filed a Freedom of Information Act request for the same data back in November, but heard no response. Thus, the lawsuit.

The new rules, as detailed in February, would drastically reduce the number of off-leash areas for dogs — cutting the acreage where off-leash dog walking is allowed by more than half in popular spots like Fort Funston and Crissy Field — and banning dogs altogether in some spots.

Many, many people have spoken out against the plan, with [even Nancy Pelosi weighing in against it](#), because as we all know, anecdotally, there are more dogs than children in San Francisco. The new rules would effect a large swath of the coast though, not just in SF, as the GGNRA extends to Marin and down into San Mateo County as well.

The Park Service has previously said that the changes are trying to strike a balance of allowing dog owners and non-dog owners alike space to enjoy the beaches, and protecting habitats and the environment as well.

--

[www.amywmeyer.com](http://www.amywmeyer.com)

**From:** [Amy Meyer](#)  
**To:** [shirwin1@](#)(b) (6)  
**Cc:** [Howard Levitt and Wendy Scheffers](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Ray Holland paragraph  
**Date:** Monday, May 02, 2011 3:56:50 PM

---

Thanks, Shirwin.

Howard, have you anything to add to Shirwin's statement? I don't like to see NPS accused of something untrue and Ray's statement should be answered.

Amy

On May 2, 2011, at 1:30 PM, [shirwin1@](#)(b) (6) wrote:

Amy - Howard should weigh in, but pgs. 63-67 of the DEIS describe in some detail the preliminary steps (and the timeline of those steps in advance of any management change) required of the NPS in instances of non-compliance, plus the public notification that would occur in areas where non-compliance is approaching 75%. A public comment period would not be part of compliance-based management, but a notification to the public would be, both when issues first arise and in the instance where a management change may be in the offing.

Shirwin

----- Original Message -----

From: "Amy Meyer" <[a7w2m@](#)(b) (6)>  
To: "Howard Levitt" <[howard\\_levitt@nps.gov](#)>  
Cc: "Shirwin Smith" <[shirwin1@](#)(b) (6)>  
Sent: Saturday, April 30, 2011 9:49:54 PM  
Subject: Ray Holland paragraph

Howard,

You and I got a letter from Ray Holland. It included this paragraph:

**Even though the NPS' "Compliance-Based Management Strategy" has already produced a more open and transparent federal rule-making process resulting in an exception to the nationwide no off-leash dogs in any national parks, once its dog management rule for the GGNRA has finally been adopted the process will quickly revert to a closed and opaque federal rule-making process because it will deny the public the right to be notified of the opportunity to comment on any major empirically-based changes to that rule that are subsequently considered.**

Is that an accurate statement? If not, what would be?

Amy

**From:** [Michael\\_B\\_Edwards@nps.gov](mailto:Michael_B_Edwards@nps.gov)  
**To:** [Howard Levitt and Wendy Scheffers](#)  
**Cc:** [alexandra\\_picavet@nps.gov](mailto:alexandra_picavet@nps.gov); [chris\\_powell@nps.gov](mailto:chris_powell@nps.gov); [Howard Levitt](#); [shirwin\\_smith@nps.gov](mailto:shirwin_smith@nps.gov)  
**Subject:** Re: REVIEW THIS VERSION Re: FAQs - core team and employee versions  
**Date:** Tuesday, January 11, 2011 2:44:07 PM  
**Attachments:** [DRAFT FAQs\\_core team011011\\_HL.docx](#)

---

One additional comment on the FAQs - change "What are the major concerns associated with allowing..." to "What are the main concerns..." Would also need to change in text below this title from major to main. We don't want to call anything "major" which has a direct connotation with the impacts analysis.

Michael B. Edwards  
Project Manager  
Environmental Protection Specialist  
Environmental Quality Division, Planning & Compliance Branch  
WASO-NRPC  
303.969.2694  
303.638.1928 (cell)

Howard Levitt and  
Wendy Scheffers  
<[howandwen@nps.gov](mailto:howandwen@nps.gov)> To  
(b) (6)  
Howard Levitt  
<[Howard\\_Levitt@nps.gov](mailto:Howard_Levitt@nps.gov)>,  
01/11/2011 08:41 shirwin\_smith@nps.gov,  
AM alexandra\_picavet@nps.gov,  
michael\_b\_edwards@nps.gov,  
chris\_powell@nps.gov  
cc

Subject  
REVIEW THIS VERSION Re: FAQs - core  
team and employee versions

Everyone (Chris, I'm including you for your painfully deep background: on the topic!): Please review this version of the FAQs; I made some minor changes this morning. HL

(See attached file: DRAFT FAQs\_core team011011\_HL.docx)

**From:** [Howard\\_Levitt@nps.gov](mailto:Howard_Levitt@nps.gov)  
**To:** [Michael\\_B\\_Edwards@nps.gov](mailto:Michael_B_Edwards@nps.gov)  
**Cc:** [alexandra\\_picavet@nps.gov](mailto:alexandra_picavet@nps.gov); [chris\\_powell@nps.gov](mailto:chris_powell@nps.gov); [Howard Levitt and Wendy Scheffers](#); [shirwin\\_smith@nps.gov](mailto:shirwin_smith@nps.gov)  
**Subject:** Re: REVIEW THIS VERSION Re: FAQs - core team and employee versions  
**Date:** Tuesday, January 11, 2011 4:18:59 PM  
**Attachments:** [DRAFT FAQs 1.11.11 mbe cmts.docx](#)

---

Great comments, Michael - thanks. Re costs - a reporter asked us how much it cost to produce the plan. What figure can we give him? HL

Howard Levitt  
Director of Communications and Partnerships  
Golden Gate National Recreation Area  
Building 201, Fort Mason  
San Francisco, California 94123  
phone: 415 561-4730  
fax: 415 561-4710  
mobile: 415 725-8589

-----  
Experience Your America

Michael B Edwards  
To: Howard Levitt and Wendy Scheffers <[howandwen@\(b\) \(6\) \[REDACTED\]](mailto:howandwen@(b) (6) [REDACTED])>, Howard Levitt/GOGA/NPS@NPS  
01/11/2011 12:24 PM EST cc: [alexandra\\_picavet@nps.gov](mailto:alexandra_picavet@nps.gov), [chris\\_powell@nps.gov](mailto:chris_powell@nps.gov), Howard Levitt <[Howard\\_Levitt@nps.gov](mailto:Howard_Levitt@nps.gov)>, [shirwin\\_smith@nps.gov](mailto:shirwin_smith@nps.gov)  
Subject: Re: REVIEW THIS VERSION Re: FAQs - core team and employee versions(Document link: Howard Levitt)

Howard,

Please see my comments attached in tracked changes. File was renamed as my computer wouldn't save a long file name.

Thanks,

(See attached file: DRAFT FAQs 1.11.11 mbe cmts.docx)

Michael B. Edwards  
Project Manager  
Environmental Protection Specialist  
Environmental Quality Division, Planning & Compliance Branch  
WASO-NRPC  
303.969.2694  
303.638.1928 (cell)

Howard Levitt and  
Wendy Scheffers  
<howandwen@ (b) (6)> To  
(b) (6) Howard Levitt  
<Howard\_Levitt@nps.gov>,  
01/11/2011 08:41 shirwin\_smith@nps.gov,  
AM alexandra\_picavet@nps.gov,  
michael\_b\_edwards@nps.gov,  
chris\_powell@nps.gov  
cc

Subject  
REVIEW THIS VERSION Re: FAQs - core  
team and employee versions

Everyone (Chris, I'm including you for your painfully deep background:  
on the topic!): Please review this version of the FAQs; I made some  
minor changes this morning. HL

[attachment "DRAFT FAQs\_core team011011\_HL.docx" deleted by Michael B  
Edwards/WASO/NPS]

**From:** [Shirwin\\_Smith@nps.gov](mailto:Shirwin_Smith@nps.gov)  
**To:** [Howard\\_Levitt@nps.gov](mailto:Howard_Levitt@nps.gov)  
**Cc:** [alexandra\\_picavet@nps.gov](mailto:alexandra_picavet@nps.gov); [chris\\_powell@nps.gov](mailto:chris_powell@nps.gov); [Howard Levitt and Wendy Scheffers](#); [Michael\\_B\\_Edwards@nps.gov](mailto:Michael_B_Edwards@nps.gov)  
**Subject:** Re: REVIEW THIS VERSION Re: FAQs - core team and employee versions  
**Date:** Tuesday, January 11, 2011 5:52:27 PM

---

Howard - I sent you and Alex responses to the media questions, including this one, earlier this afternoon. See subject line "Responses to Questions at Media brief"

Shirwin

Shirwin Smith  
Management Assistant  
Golden Gate National Recreation Area  
Ft. Mason, Building 201  
San Francisco, CA 94123  
415-561-4947 (o)  
415-716-9999 (c)

Howard Levitt  
To: Michael B Edwards/WASO/NPS@NPS  
01/11/2011 03:42 cc: alexandra\_picavet@nps.gov, chris\_powell@nps.gov, Howard Levitt and Wendy Scheffers <howandwen@**(b) (6)**>  
PM PST shirwin\_smith@nps.gov  
Subject: Re: REVIEW THIS VERSION Re: FAQs - core team and employee versions(Document link: Shirwin Smith)

Great comments, Michael - thanks. Re costs - a reporter asked us how much it cost to produce the plan. What figure can we give him? HL

Howard Levitt  
Director of Communications and Partnerships  
Golden Gate National Recreation Area  
Building 201, Fort Mason  
San Francisco, California 94123  
phone: 415 561-4730  
fax: 415 561-4710  
mobile: 415 725-8589

-----  
Experience Your America

Michael B Edwards  
To: Howard Levitt and Wendy Scheffers <howandwen@**(b) (6)**>

GGNRA183877



Howard

01/11/2011 12:24 PM EST Levitt/GOGA/NPS@NPS  
cc: alexandra\_picavet@nps.gov, chris\_powell@nps.gov, Howard

Levitt

<Howard\_Levitt@nps.gov>, shirwin\_smith@nps.gov

Subject: Re: REVIEW THIS VERSION Re: FAQs - core team and employee

versions(Document

link: Howard Levitt)

Howard,

Please see my comments attached in tracked changes. File was renamed as my computer wouldn't save a long file name.

Thanks,

Michael B. Edwards  
Project Manager  
Environmental Protection Specialist  
Environmental Quality Division, Planning & Compliance Branch  
WASO-NRPC  
303.969.2694  
303.638.1928 (cell)

Howard Levitt and  
Wendy Scheffers

<howandwen@**(b) (6)**  
**(b) (6)**

To

Howard Levitt  
<Howard\_Levitt@nps.gov>,  
01/11/2011 08:41 AM shirwin\_smith@nps.gov,  
alexandra\_picavet@nps.gov,  
michael\_b\_edwards@nps.gov,  
chris\_powell@nps.gov  
cc

Subject

REVIEW THIS VERSION Re: FAQs - core  
team and employee versions

Everyone (Chris, I'm including you for your painfully deep background:

GGNRA183878

on the topic!): Please review this version of the FAQs; I made some minor changes this morning. HL

[attachment "DRAFT FAQs\_core team011011\_HL.docx" deleted by Michael B Edwards/WASO/NPS]

**From:** [Chris.Powell@nps.gov](mailto:Chris.Powell@nps.gov)  
**To:** [Shirwin.Smith@nps.gov](mailto:Shirwin.Smith@nps.gov)  
**Cc:** [alexandra.picavet@nps.gov](mailto:alexandra.picavet@nps.gov); [Howard Levitt and Wendy Scheffers](#); [Howard Levitt](#); [Michael.B.Edwards@nps.gov](mailto:Michael.B.Edwards@nps.gov)  
**Subject:** Re: REVIEW THIS VERSION Re: FAQs - core team and employee versions  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 12, 2011 9:12:32 AM  
**Attachments:** [DRAFT FAQs 1.11.11 mbe cmts ses.credits.docx](#)

---

Howard et al,

I've added my comments on top of Shirwins and Michaels. Good work! I'm not looking at it from a distance so my comments are in that vein.

While working on this, I just got my copy of the DEIS! This is an amazing amount of work--my hats off to you.

Chris

(See attached file: DRAFT FAQs 1.11.11 mbe cmts\_ses.credits.docx)

Christine Powell  
Office of Legislative and Congressional Affairs  
National Park Service  
(o) 202-208-3636  
(c) 202-591-0660

**From:** [Howard\\_Levitt@nps.gov](mailto:Howard_Levitt@nps.gov)  
**To:** [Cleve Justis](#); [ICE](#)  
**Cc:** [Frank\\_Dean@nps.gov](mailto:Frank_Dean@nps.gov); [Chris\\_Lehnertz@nps.gov](mailto:Chris_Lehnertz@nps.gov)  
**Subject:** Re: Talking points for KQED Forum  
**Date:** Wednesday, April 06, 2011 9:51:32 PM

---

Cleve: Noticed typos in the attachment - could you clean them up before printing for Jon? Thanks! HL

----- Original Message -----

From: Cleveland Justis [CJustis@ParksConservancy.org]  
Sent: 04/07/2011 04:28 AM GMT  
To: Howard Levitt and Wendy Scheffers <howandwen@**(b) (6)**>  
Cc: Jon Jarvis; Howard Levitt; Frank Dean; Chris Lehnertz  
Subject: Re: Talking points for KQED Forum

Thanks, Howard. I will do.

Jon, I will pick you up at 8 am in front of the lobby. I have a silver Volvo wagon. My mobile number is: 415-264-1875.

Best,  
Cleve

On Apr 6, 2011, at 9:17 PM, "Howard Levitt and Wendy Scheffers" <howandwen@**(b) (6)**> wrote:

> Hi Cleve: Please print out the attached file for Jon. Thanks for helping get him to and from KQED - 2601 Mariposa, SF, near 17th and Bryant. In the door by 8:45, latest. HL

>

> Hi Jon: Call me on my cellphone if you need any more background or info for Forum. 415 725-8589. The host, Michael Krasny, is the consummate professional; he won't let things get out of hand in the direction of dogs or of the gov't shutdown. Good luck. HL

>

>

> <Talking Points for KQED Forum.doc>

**From:** [Cleveland Justis](#)  
**To:** [Howard Levitt and Wendy Scheffers](#)  
**Cc:** [jon\\_jarvis@nps.gov](mailto:jon_jarvis@nps.gov); [howard\\_levitt@nps.gov](mailto:howard_levitt@nps.gov); [frank\\_dean@nps.gov](mailto:frank_dean@nps.gov); [chris\\_lehnertz@nps.gov](mailto:chris_lehnertz@nps.gov)  
**Subject:** Re: Talking points for KQED Forum  
**Date:** Wednesday, April 06, 2011 9:31:14 PM

---

Thanks, Howard. I will do.

Jon, I will pick you up at 8 am in front of the lobby. I have a silver Volvo wagon. My mobile number is: (b) (6).

Best,  
Cleve

On Apr 6, 2011, at 9:17 PM, "Howard Levitt and Wendy Scheffers" <howandwen@ (b) (6)> wrote:

> Hi Cleve: Please print out the attached file for Jon. Thanks for helping get him to and from KQED - 2601 Mariposa, SF, near 17th and Bryant. In the door by 8:45, latest. HL

>

> Hi Jon: Call me on my cellphone if you need any more background or info for Forum. 415 725-8589. The host, Michael Krasny, is the consummate professional; he won't let things get out of hand in the direction of dogs or of the gov't shutdown. Good luck. HL

>

>

> <Talking Points for KQED Forum.doc>

**From:** [Howard Levitt and Wendy Scheffers](#)  
**To:** [Thomas A Ryckman](#)  
**Subject:** Re: today's column  
**Date:** Monday, January 20, 2014 3:50:58 PM

---

Wonderful, wonderful letter, Tom. Thank you! Howard

On Jan 20, 2014, at 3:00 PM, Thomas A Ryckman wrote:

> Dear Mr. Stienstra,

>

> I read your column regularly and usually with enjoyment. Since coming to SF in 1999, my wife and I have learned much from you about the wonderful walks in and around the Bay Area, and from your coverage of the wonders of (by Eastern standards) subtle seasonal changes in California.

>

> However today I was both disappointed and annoyed. As I understand it, the GGNRA dog leash plan has been carefully drafted to balance the interests of dog owners with a mandate that fragile natural habitats must be protected. It is not the arbitrary imposition of government whim or a ukase from a remote faceless bureaucrat. In this matter, which I have followed for some time, dog owner groups are acting like spoiled children, selfishly putting their supposed entitlement (though allegedly speaking for their pets) above the general good of the public, a good that includes passing on to future generations the few remaining strips of wildlife habitat in the Bay Area. As with other areas of environmental protection, past practice or precedent is not, and should not be, an inviolable standard going forward. I do not see, as many dog owners do, that one can legitimately speak here of an infringement of "rights". In this narcissistic society, claims about "rights" are as common as blackberries and just about as meaningful.

>

> Your remarks about government and park rangers may elicit praise from dog owners but they are irresponsible. You might ask the people of Charleston, WV about the necessity of "a lot of new rules and enforcement". And your opinion that "It is common these days that rangers do not live within the community of the parks they patrol" requires evidence. Even if true, the same could be said for many of the police and firemen working in communities in the Bay Area. You do a disservice to your readers to pander to a particular constituency on this issue.

>

> Sincerely,

>

> Thomas Ryckman

**From:** [Frank\\_Dean@nps.gov](mailto:Frank_Dean@nps.gov)  
**To:** [Howard Levitt and Wendy Scheffers](#); [Howard Levitt](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Wiener Hearing  
**Date:** Wednesday, April 06, 2011 8:32:31 AM

---

Possible shutdown may affect our attendance.

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

----- Original Message -----

From: Howard Levitt and Wendy Scheffers [howandwen@**(b) (6)**]  
Sent: 04/05/2011 09:58 PM MST  
To: Frank Dean  
Subject: Wiener Hearing

Hi Frank:

Spoke with Alex tonight about this - I know you're concerned; so am I. I think we will be fine if we stick with some key messages, and position ourselves as empathetic to the city's concerns and concerns of dog users in general, but firm in our commitment to manage the park to create a balance among the desires of various user groups and our mandate to protect resources into the future. We need to emphasize that everyone is contending for the same prime real estate. If we feel we can use any data from the SFSU report, we can say that while dog use is a major activity in the park, it is still a small minority of users. I think we can point out that we will listen to all comments, but that we know that the dog community is disproportionately represented in the comments. We must avoid any discussion of science - this plan is about sound, balanced public policy, but clearly reflects our need to protect known habitats of known species. On Fri, we can fine-tune the powerpoint and rehearse our talking points against the questions we know will be asked.

Howard

**From:** [Howard Levitt and Wendy Scheffers](#)  
**To:** [Howard Levitt](#); [shirwin\\_smith@nps.gov](mailto:shirwin_smith@nps.gov); [alexandra\\_picavet@nps.gov](mailto:alexandra_picavet@nps.gov); [michael\\_b\\_edwards@nps.gov](mailto:michael_b_edwards@nps.gov); [chris\\_powell@nps.gov](mailto:chris_powell@nps.gov)  
**Subject:** REVIEW THIS VERSION Re: FAQs - core team and employee versions  
**Date:** Tuesday, January 11, 2011 7:41:15 AM  
**Attachments:** [DRAFT FAQs\\_core team011011\\_HL.docx](#)  
[Untitled attachment 06834.txt](#)

---

Everyone (Chris, I'm including you for your painfully deep background: on the topic!): Please review this version of the FAQs; I made some minor changes this morning. HL



**From:** [Amy Meyer](#)  
**To:** [chris\\_lehnertz@](mailto:chris_lehnertz@)(b) (6)  
**Cc:** [Howard Levitt and Wendy Scheffers](#)  
**Subject:** San Mateo dog story  
**Date:** Wednesday, July 15, 2015 8:25:16 AM

---

Dear Chris,

Howard may also know this story. I heard it from Frank Dean.

I knew Dave Holland a little when he was the head of San Mateo County parks. He moved on to become Assistant County Manager and retired last year. A couple of years ago, Frank went to Dave about a 10 acre parcel of land that is within the GGNRA boundary but had not yet been acquired. Frank suggested that Dave allow it to become a dog park so that when it was acquired that would be an established use. Of course that would take off some of the dogs-run-free pressure in San Mateo County. Dave wouldn't cooperate.

I understand you are meeting with Dan Bernal right after Neal, Becky, and I do. I should be home from 2:30 until 5:15 should you wish to phone. (b) (6)

(The current San Mateo County Parks director is Marlene Finley and has a conservation background. She and Neal Desai were the only two speakers in a panel put together by Jackie Speier for a meeting about the GGNRA Dog Management Plan who dealt well with the issue.)

Best regards,

Amy

**From:** [Howard Levitt and Wendy Scheffers](#)  
**To:** [Chris Lehnertz](#)  
**Subject:** SF Chron article and reader comments  
**Date:** Sunday, April 24, 2016 1:26:32 PM

---

Chris, check out SF Gate for the Mighty Mutt March article and reader comment. Very revealing. Howard

<http://www.sfgate.com/bayarea/articleComments/Dogs-owners-unleash-protest-of-proposed-7305701.php>

**From:** [Howard Levitt and Wendy Scheffers](#)  
**To:** [Frank Dean](#); [shirwin\\_smith@nps.gov](mailto:shirwin_smith@nps.gov); [alexandra\\_picavet@nps.gov](mailto:alexandra_picavet@nps.gov)  
**Subject:** Slides for Supe Hearing  
**Date:** Sunday, April 10, 2011 9:20:48 PM  
**Attachments:** [Slides for SF supe hearing.doc](#)  
[Untitled attachment 08411.txt](#)

---

Frank, Shirwin and Alex:

Attached are some slides I thought would best make our case in a step-by-step, yet concise, way. Please let me know your thoughts - the text will need to be tightened on several of the slides, and I want to review them against the Steven Krefting, et al, and Jan Blum letters for completeness. I will be in around 8:00 AM tomorrow to chat with you (Alex) about creating these slides.

On Sat, I heard a KGO talk show program about the GOGA dog issue while I was waiting in line at the post office. Balanced comments from callers; total bias from the host. He told his listeners to show up on Mon.

Howard

**From:** [Amy Meyer](#)  
**To:** [Howard Levitt and Wendy Scheffers](#)  
**Subject:** Stienstra today  
**Date:** Monday, January 20, 2014 10:42:21 AM

---

Hi Howard,

Thanks to Rich Bartke who was writing to me about something else I saw the dog rant in Stienstra's column on p. B2 today.

unhappily,  
Amy

**From:** [Levitt, Howard](#)  
**To:** [Wendy Scheffers](#)  
**Subject:** stuff  
**Date:** Sunday, February 21, 2016 4:28:15 PM  
**Attachments:** [Comm Plan on Proposed Rule V5 21Feb2016 FINAL.docx](#)  
[2\\_21Proposed Rule--FAQ \(1\).pdf](#)  
[pre-briefing schedule.xlsx](#)

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Howard Levitt  
Director of Communications and Partnerships  
Golden Gate National Parks  
[howard\\_levitt@nps.gov](mailto:howard_levitt@nps.gov)  
415-561-4730

**From:** [Howard Levitt and Wendy Scheffers](#)  
**To:** [cjustis@parksconservancy.org](mailto:cjustis@parksconservancy.org); [jon\\_jarvis@nps.gov](mailto:jon_jarvis@nps.gov)  
**Cc:** [howard\\_levitt@nps.gov](mailto:howard_levitt@nps.gov); [frank\\_dean@nps.gov](mailto:frank_dean@nps.gov); [chris\\_lehnertz@nps.gov](mailto:chris_lehnertz@nps.gov)  
**Subject:** Talking points for KQED Forum  
**Date:** Wednesday, April 06, 2011 9:19:50 PM  
**Attachments:** [Talking Points for KQED Forum.doc](#)

---

Hi Cleve: Please print out the attached file for Jon. Thanks for helping get him to and from KQED - 2601 Mariposa, SF, near 17th and Bryant. In the door by 8:45, latest. HL

Hi Jon: Call me on my cellphone if you need any more background or info for Forum. 415 725-8589. The host, Michael Krasny, is the consummate professional; he won't let things get out of hand in the direction of dogs or of the gov't shutdown. Good luck. HL

**From:** [Alexandra\\_Picavet@nps.gov](mailto:Alexandra_Picavet@nps.gov)  
**To:** [Howard\\_Levitt@nps.gov](mailto:Howard_Levitt@nps.gov); [howandwen@](#)(b) (6)  
**Subject:** talking points  
**Date:** Wednesday, April 06, 2011 6:11:01 PM

---

Sorry Howard. Glad to help.  
Alex

#### Talking points –Dog management

This accommodation of regulated off-leash recreational use-- not allowed anywhere else in the NPS-- is in direct response to, and recognition of GGNRA's unique situation and public input.

NPS is willing to consider some regulated off-leash use, but must also adhere to the conservation mandate of the agency and federal laws.

Recreation is a multifaceted thing. The NPS must manage the competing interests of the many user groups that are drawn to parks in a fair and balanced way.

NPS must be able to adjust management over the 20-year life of the plan if impacts are greater than expected – be that impacts on other user groups or resources.

The extraordinary steps taken by GGNRA to get to this point shows clear intent of trying to achieve balance and hear all voices and years of work.

Golden Gate NRA saw more than 300,000 participants in athletic special events last year including swimming, kayaking, running, and triathlon activities. Some of these events— like the historic Dipsea run— have been occurring for more than 100 years.

#### Talking points –America's Cup

The NPS is a significant community member in the Bay Area. The partnership of the NPS with the City of San Francisco and the event organizers will make this event the most accessible to a wide variety of people it has ever been. (usually out in the ocean and impossible to truly watch from shore)

By increasing the accessibility to this event through viewing opportunities on Golden Gate NRA land, the relevancy (and excitement)

of the America's Cup, and sailing in general, is being enhanced for future generations.

The NPS is working with the city of San Francisco and event organizers to allow for optimum viewing access to the public while staying true to our mandate to protect the natural and cultural resources as well as visitor experience we have been entrusted with.

Alexandra Picavet  
Office of Public Affairs  
Golden Gate National Recreation Area  
Phone: 415.786.8021  
Alexandra\_Picavet@nps.gov



**From:** [Howard Levitt and Wendy Scheffers](#)  
**To:** [Wendy Scheffers](#)  
**Subject:** talking points  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 01, 2016 2:34:12 PM  
**Attachments:** [Talking Point re SF dog access.docx](#)

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**From:** [Thomas A Ryckman](#)  
**To:** [tstienstra@sfchronicle.com](mailto:tstienstra@sfchronicle.com)  
**Subject:** today's column  
**Date:** Monday, January 20, 2014 3:00:47 PM

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Dear Mr. Stienstra,

I read your column regularly and usually with enjoyment. Since coming to SF in 1999, my wife and I have learned much from you about the wonderful walks in and around the Bay Area, and from your coverage of the wonders of (by Eastern standards) subtle seasonal changes in California.

However today I was both disappointed and annoyed. As I understand it, the GGNRA dog leash plan has been carefully drafted to balance the interests of dog owners with a mandate that fragile natural habitats must be protected. It is not the arbitrary imposition of government whim or a ukase from a remote faceless bureaucrat. In this matter, which I have followed for some time, dog owner groups are acting like spoiled children, selfishly putting their supposed entitlement (though allegedly speaking for their pets) above the general good of the public, a good that includes passing on to future generations the few remaining strips of wildlife habitat in the Bay Area. As with other areas of environmental protection, past practice or precedent is not, and should not be, an inviolable standard going forward. I do not see, as many dog owners do, that one can legitimately speak here of an infringement of "rights". In this narcissistic society, claims about "rights" are as common as blackberries and just about as meaningful.

Your remarks about government and park rangers may elicit praise from dog owners but they are irresponsible. You might ask the people of Charleston, WV about the necessity of "a lot of new rules and enforcement". And your opinion that "It is common these days that rangers do not live within the community of the parks they patrol" requires evidence. Even if true, the same could be said for many of the police and firemen working in communities in the Bay Area. You do a disservice to your readers to pander to a particular constituency on this issue.

Sincerely,

Thomas Ryckman