

From: (b)(6)
To: Chris_Lehnertz@nps.gov
Cc: karen_washington@nps.gov
Subject: GGRA's plans
Date: Tuesday, May 27, 2014 11:28:02 PM

Dear Chris and Karen:

Please do something to slow down the GGNRA drive to limit recreation and please do not sign off on any new plans that could restrict our enjoyment of GGNRA lands. My reasons for this request are eloquently listed below.

It has come to the sad juncture that the staff of the GGNRA is proposing to use our federal taxpayer dollars to keep people from recreating in the Golden Gate National Recreation Area.

Currently the GGNRA is pushing forward with three separate plans that seek to limit access to areas like Fort Funston, Ocean Beach, Rancho Corral de Tierra and the Marin Headlands. Two of those plans could be signed off on as soon as this week—the General Management Plan, which would establish zones where the GGNRA could actually prohibit people from doing things like picnicking at most of Ocean Beach; and a rule that would create restrictive and expensive permits for professional dog walkers who people count on to make sure their pets receive appropriate exercise.

Right now most people in the Bay Area have no idea what's being planned (there has been very little effort by the GGNRA to reach out to the public and gather input). That's why the National Park Service absolutely should not sign off on these plans right now. We need a real meaningful public process that involves the people who are going to be affected. And we want a process that really takes our input into account. The entire community should have the opportunity to participate in this important discussion.

Unlike some staff members at the GGNRA, we do not believe people and nature are incompatible. We believe we can balance both so that we can protect recreational opportunities and be responsible stewards of our environment like we have been doing in the GGNRA for decades.

We live in one of the most densely populated urban areas in America. San Francisco is the second most densely populated city in America after New York City. And the people of the San Francisco Bay Area fought hard to establish and protect the GGNRA that was founded to provide recreational opportunities to the people of this region. Now the National Park Service, which was entrusted to protect public access, is trying to eliminate those recreational opportunities one by one.

These are beaches and trails where people have been welcomed for 40 years into the GGNRA. There is no credible reason to start denying access now.