

Andrea Buffa
Save Our Recreation
(b)(6) [REDACTED]
San Francisco, California 94107

Dear Andrea:

As you know, Regional Director Chris Lehnertz asked me to respond to your September 26 letter to her. She is well aware of your concerns, and feels that maintaining the dialogue between your organization and the park is the best way to proceed.

I would be pleased to meet with you and representatives of Save Our Recreation to talk about the GMP. As you are aware, we disagree with the fundamental premise put forth by Save Our Recreation, on behalf of off-leash dog owners, that the GMP restricts recreation activity in the park. Actually, the new GMP is an unequivocal affirmation of the direction of the park's original GMP, circa 1980, that put recreation front and center in the park. In the new GMP, recreational users would continue to be welcomed in nearly every area of the park, other than those with very high resource sensitivity.

The GMP was shaped with extensive public involvement from 2006 to 2014, and was reviewed over a three month period by thousands of interested people. We held numerous public meetings at which the plan was presented. We produced five newsletters to explain the contents and recommendations in the plan. What emerged was a vision that both welcomes visitors to recreate in the park in innumerable ways – including on and off-leash dog walking – and protects park resources for future generations to enjoy.

I know that there is concern among some people that the GMP will affect in the outcome of the ongoing Dog Management Planning process. This is incorrect. Because the GMP is a high level vision for the park, operational plans like the Dog Management Plan are the means through which prescriptions for use are developed for specific areas of the park. To clarify this, we will include language in the Record of Decision for the GMP that says explicitly that the specific Dog Management Plans prescriptions will take precedence over the general guidance in the GMP. In other words, the GMP will not affect the Dog Management Plan process or outcome.

Please call my assistant, Lori Furtado, at 415 561-4720 to schedule a meeting.

Sincerely,

Frank Dean
General Superintendent