

From: (b)(6)
To: Chris_Lehnertz@nps.gov
Cc: karen_washington@nps.gov
Subject: Interim dog walking permit rule and the GGNRA general management plan.
Date: Tuesday, May 27, 2014 1:08:12 PM

Dear Christine,

I am a resident of San Francisco, and use commercial dog walkers regularly, in my free time I also enjoy all that the bay area parks have to offer with my dog.

It would sadden and upset me very much to see the changes the GGNRA is proposing.

I strongly oppose the GGNRA's proposed commercial dog-walking rule. It is a violation of the GGNRA's own process for creating new dog rules and will harm many dog owners, small business owners and city parks in the San Francisco Bay Area.

The GGNRA should follow its own planning process before beginning to restrict dogs. Professional dog walking rules are included in the GGNRA's dog management proposal that is still going through an official review process.

The GGNRA should accept the dog walking permits that San Francisco and Marin already require dog walkers to obtain. Another permit with steep permit and training fees could put many professional dog walkers, who are small business owners, out of business.

The proposed permit is too restrictive. It will force many dogs into city parks and overwhelm the parks. Any professional dog-walking permit for the GGNRA should be aligned with and not more restrictive than the existing dog walking permits in San Francisco and Marin.

The interim rule will hurt many working people who own dogs and depend on dog walkers to exercise them during the day while they're at work. If these dogs are cooped up in houses and apartments all day long with no exercise, it will harm the dogs' physical and mental wellbeing and could potentially create more behavioral problems among dogs.

The GGNRA is showing itself to be a bad neighbor. It has not considered the impacts of these actions on the people, dogs, and parks in the surrounding communities. The GGNRA does not exist in a vacuum. It must work with people and officials in San Francisco, Marin, and San Mateo counties, not independent of or against them.

Yours Sincerely
Marisa Kapel
San Francisco