

From: [Andrea Buffa](#)
To: [Lehnertz, Christine](#)
Cc: [Frank Dean](#); [Karen Washington](#); cookab.hashemi@mail.house.gov; dpine@smcgov.org; dhorsley@smcgov.org; David.Chiu@sfgov.org; [Wiener, Scott](#); Jason.Elliott@sfgov.org; ksears@marincounty.org; colleen.beamish@asm.ca.gov; michael.miller@asm.ca.gov; katrina.rill@mail.house.gov; Dan.Bernal@mail.house.gov; Jenny.Callaway@mail.house.gov; skinsey@marincounty.org
Subject: Re: Ms. Lehnertz -- following up on request for a meeting with you.
Date: Monday, October 27, 2014 3:46:06 PM

Dear Ms. Lehnertz,

I was surprised to your receive your email stating that you will not meet with our group, Save Our Recreation, which represents some 10,000 concerned Bay Area residents.

For the past six months we have been working to schedule a meeting with you and your office to present our concerns about a change in policy that will dramatically limit recreation in the Golden Gate National Recreation Area.

We even sought the assistance of Assemblymember Phil Ting to help set up a meeting. His office was told that we had “never formally requested” a meeting. Despite our disagreement with that assertion, we put process aside and sent you a formal request nearly a month ago.

Now, finally, we are in receipt of your response and we do not understand your flat out refusal to meet with a group of local residents deeply concerned about the plans to limit and even bar recreational access in areas highly used by hundreds of thousands of families each year.

It is our understanding that the status of the GGNRA general management plan does reside with your office and therefore our request is appropriate. Our concerns are shared by thousands of people who oppose unilateral changes in GGNRA management policy, which could be signed into effect any day. We feel there are systemic problems with how the process has been conducted and high risk for the National Park Service to use a business-as-usual approach to our pressing concerns.

Tension between the GGNRA and the local communities is extremely high, and we believe much of the reason is because the GGNRA leadership has not seriously engaged the community with its plans. A four-month submission window in 2011 that resulted in a meager 541 public comments for a property that boasts 17 million visitors annually is hardly adequate community input. That so few people responded is testament to the extremely poor outreach conducted by the GGNRA about its plan - - few posted notices about the plan at GGNRA sites, no public hearings, and no announcements on TV or radio. It raises serious issues about the outreach and inclusiveness for a long-term governing plan that affects the second densest urban

population in the country.

The draft proposals, which would severely limit access to some of the most heavily used recreational areas in the Bay Area, including Fort Funston, Ocean Beach, Marin Headlands and other popular recreation areas, violate the original promise and charter of the GGNRA.

Your refusal to grant us the simple courtesy of meeting only deepens our concerns that you are planning to act unilaterally to change longstanding policies for public use of the GGNRA. This land belongs to all of us. It was expressly designated a National Recreation Area given to NPS to hold in trust in order to preserve recreation, not limit it.

Oh behalf of the thousands of people in the Bay Area who signed our petition, for which you have been a designated recipient, we ask that you meet with our group, and every other legitimate community group and organization, to hear firsthand the deep objections to the plan.

Thank you for your consideration,

Andrea Buffa

Save Our Recreation

www.saveourrecreation.com

On Sun, Oct 19, 2014 at 8:10 PM, Lehnertz, Christine <chris_lehnertz@nps.gov> wrote:

Hi Andrea,

I apologize for my delay in getting back with you and wanted to let you know that I have received your letter and referred it to Golden Gate NRA Superintendent Frank Dean for response. He and I are in close contact regarding the status of planning efforts. We have taken very seriously the active engagement of individuals and groups in regard to the issues at hand, very much appreciate your perspective, and will continue to involve the public.

Sincerely,

Chris Lehnertz

-Think safety. It couldn't hurt!

Chris Lehnertz, Regional Director
National Park Service, Pacific West Region

333 Bush Street, Suite 500
San Francisco, CA 94104-2828

(o) [415-623-2101](tel:415-623-2101)

(m) [415-652-8811](tel:415-652-8811)

<http://www.facebook.com/pacificwestparks>

On Fri, Oct 17, 2014 at 3:55 PM, Andrea Buffa <andreabuffa2006@gmail.com> wrote:

Dear Ms. Lehnertz,

I'm writing to follow up on the letter I sent to your office in late September, requesting a meeting with you on behalf of the group Save Our Recreation. I've pasted the letter below and attached it as a PDF in case you somehow missed it, since I haven't yet received any response from you or your office.

Thanks for your consideration,
Andrea Buffa, Save Our Recreation
andreabuffa2006@gmail.com, (510) 325-3653

September 26, 2014

Christine Lehnertz, Regional Director

National Park Service

333 Bush Street, Suite 500

San Francisco, CA 94104-2828

Dear Regional Director Lehnertz:

We would like the opportunity to meet with you about our serious concerns regarding revisions to the management of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA). Our group Save Our Recreation represents more than 10,000 Bay Area residents who support preserving recreation in the GGNRA. Individual members of our organization have previously attempted to schedule a meeting with you and your staff, but please consider this letter a formal request to meet with you so that we may start a dialogue and, hopefully, come to a resolution that addresses all concerns.

Nearly 40 years ago, the City and County of San Francisco and other local governments transferred management of the GGNRA to the federal government in exchange for the express promise that these lands would be managed to preserve recreation. Today, all we are asking is that the National Park Service continue to keep that promise.

The GGNRA is working and working brilliantly to bring parks and recreation to millions of people every year. As the population of the Bay Area grows, and grows rapidly, the need for recreational open space becomes ever more pressing. We are concerned that the Park Service is now considering severely restricting access to this urban refuge. A core tenet of the establishment of the GGNRA was “to preserve for public use and enjoyment” this recreation area and “serve the recreational needs of the people of the metropolitan area.” We ask that you consider this core tenant in your decisions making process, and that the surrounding communities be given a real opportunity to understand the proposed changes and give input that is not only seriously reviewed but also incorporated into the plan.

Over the last four decades, the GGNRA has expanded and acquired more land through acts of Congress. Much of these efforts have been in partnership with local communities, and we ask that the Park Service uphold its commitment to allow community participation in its decision making process, particularly when it comes to contentious issues.

We are asking you to reconsider your proposed changes to the management of the GGNRA and be more inclusive of community input. We encourage you to conduct an open process that aggressively engages and allows all interested parties to work together to ensure protections for both the environment and recreational opportunities.

We will follow up via phone to attempt to schedule a meeting or you can contact us at [\(510\) 325-3653](tel:5103253653). Thank you in advance for meeting on this important matter.

Sincerely,

Andrea Buffa

Save Our Recreation