

To: Christine B. Carey[cbcarey@nps.gov]
From: Levitt, Howard
Sent: Fri 5/10/2013 8:43:25 PM
Importance: Normal
Subject: Re: Rancho Corral de Tierra
Received: Fri 5/10/2013 8:43:25 PM

We're gonna miss seeing old Peggy and her dog in the park!

On Fri, May 10, 2013 at 12:28 PM, Christine B. Carey <cbcarey@nps.gov> wrote:

she's decided to share those thoughts with the HMB Review

http://www.hmbreview.com/opinion/matters_of_opinion/i-won-t-see-you-at-the-park-without-my/article_3f581432-b99d-11e2-8ad7-0019bb2963f4.html

Christine Carey, PE, AICP
National Park Service
Community Planner - San Mateo County

Golden Gate National Recreation Area
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San Francisco, CA 94123

(415) 561-4745
cbcarey@nps.gov

On Tue, May 7, 2013 at 5:21 PM, Levitt, Howard <howard_levitt@nps.gov> wrote:

Psychiatrists charge hundreds of dollars per hour for the venting opportunity you are giving Peggy free of charge. HL

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

From: Peggy Emrey <Exemption 6@coastside.net>

Date: Tue, May 7, 2013 at 2:51 PM

Subject: Re: Rancho Corral de Tierra

To: "Christine B. Carey" <cbcarey@nps.gov>

Cc: Howard Levitt <howard_levitt@nps.gov>, Shirwin Smith <shirwin_smith@nps.gov>, Bechtell Bill

<Exemption 6@comcast.net>, Lambert Clay <clay@hmbreview.com>, "Exemption 6@sbcglobal.net"

<Exemption 6@sbcglobal.net>, Slater-Carter Kathryn <Exemption 6@sonic.net>, Boville Darin <Exemption 6@darinboville.com>,

Crosby Lynne <Exemption 6@yahoo.com>, Kleinman Carole <Exemption 6@yahoo.com>, Copeland Lee

<Exemption 6@pacbell.net>

Hi Christine,

Thanks for your reply.

I'm happy for the equestrian community that you've been so responsive to their concerns.

However, I'm not happy for the much larger number of us dog owners who have effectively been locked out for the past few years because of a few riders. Rancho is not a small area. It's all I see when I look out my windows. It's an area that dog lovers have had free access to for many, many decades, until you came along. It's not private property and has not been for decades. There is little risk to endangered species in most of it. That open space continues up and over a

mountain range, and north to south for many miles. The word "Recreation" is in your title for a reason, and that word covers many, many activities, including dog walking and exercising. Recreation is in your charter.

It boggles the minds of all of us dog owners that:

- a.) There is not enough room for everyone in all those square miles of open space
- b.) There is not enough regard for one of the primary recreational user groups in this area to make up your mind in less than many years where we might fit into our own taxpayer funded lands
- c.) The much smaller number of equestrians takes total and complete precedence over the much larger group of dog lovers in this community
- d.) The "rules" for various groups vary so much between species. It's OK for large amounts of horse excrement to litter trails and roads, but not OK for the much smaller excrement of dogs, which is essentially indistinguishable from that of the coyotes, mountain lions, bobcats, etc. which live in the hills. Horses can run, but not dogs. Dog people have tried to address this concern, but do horse people? Not in front of my house, they don't.
- e.) The safety of hikers and dog walkers and horses is not assured by the presence of mountain bikers and others, who don't follow your guidelines, yet are still allowed free range on Rancho territory.

The only group that has been summarily excluded has been the citizens seeking to exercise their dogs in safe accessible areas. Your policies, rather than promoting cooperation between various recreational groups in selecting areas suitable for all, has used us as a wedge between them. You and your powers-that-be arrived on our doorstep and took over our open space with a preconceived notion that dogs and dog people are bad and therefore were to be excluded. Period. The gates were locked from the start, literally and figuratively, and for us, our tax dollars have gone down the drain except for the privilege of looking from a distance. You begrudgingly decided to humor us with promises of a "dog plan," still with no date in sight. And if you do ever finalize one, you will likely restrict our companions to a six foot radius, the end of a short leash, with no possibility of getting real exercise. Humans cannot physically cover enough ground needed to exercise a dog. Most elderly humans definitely can't.

I can appreciate that there are some people who don't like dogs and are afraid of them. There are also people who are afraid of horses, fear reckless mountain bike riders, don't appreciate litter left by hikers, are concerned about hikers who smoke and drop matches and live ashes along the trail, and even fear those who lie in wait for lone elderly walkers. All these groups have full and free access to our open space with your blessing. Except those who find walking without our canine family members devoid of our most basic pleasures, and who find them to be our only means of security, especially for lone elderly walkers. We don't carry guns or tasers, and would be loathe to use them against another human being anyway without life threatening provocation, unlike your rangers.

My equestrian friends are fortunate that you care enough about their recreational interests to provide them unlimited access to everywhere. We, however, are not so lucky. We have nowhere to freely exercise our canine family members now. The national push for exercise stops in your front yard for us, unless we enjoy sharing the local roads with cars, trucks, motorcycles, skateboards, bicycles, etc. I don't, and I don't feel safe without my canine companions, so I'll just stay home.

I don't ever want to see another lovely flyer saying, "See you at the park," though. Until it's possible and you allow us in our open space again.

Peggy Emrey

P.O. box 371150
Montara, CA 94037

Sent from my iPad

On May 7, 2013, at 12:40 PM, "Christine B. Carey" <cbc Carey@nps.gov> wrote:

Hi Peggy

Thanks for your email. I understand your concerns and appreciate hearing your comments about the newsletter. I just wanted to take a moment to clarify the current regulations at Rancho Corral de Tierra.

The signage that was posted in the past few months reflects the interim regulations in the park that have been in place since GGNRA management began in 2011. The decisions to temporarily permit or restrict areas for dogs until the Dog Management Plan is complete were based primarily on conversations with the equestrian community regarding conflicts between horses and dogs, as well as discussions among the park's management, planning and resource divisions. The park is intended for all visitors to enjoy a variety of experiences, and to that end, there are still several areas where dogs are currently permitted.

GGNRA will be releasing the Supplemental EIS for the Dog Management Plan in the next few months, which will include a range of alternatives for dog use at Rancho. I hope that you will still consider participating in that planning process and submitting your comments on the plan at that time.

In the meantime, please feel free to contact me with any concerns or questions you may have.

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On Fri, May 3, 2013 at 5:47 PM, Peggy Emrey <peggyemrey@coastside.net> wrote:

"See you in the park"

No, you won't. Not any more.

I moved to Montara 37 years ago to a property located where Harte St. turns into Alamo in Montara. For most of those years I used to walk my dogs on what is unfortunately now Rancho Corral de Tierra land; it was the biggest reason why I moved to where I still am...access to open space dog walking lands.

Now you've banned us from this area, so I can no longer enjoy the walks I used to take for so many years. I could walk out my front gate, up Alamo St, and into the fields from there, looking out over the ocean. We used to call the area heading toward the ocean "the hay fields." There were equestrians, but no wheeled vehicles or bicycles, so the dogs were safe. I have no interest in those long walks if I can't take my dogs; watching them run, play and explore was the greatest part of my enjoyment. As was seeing that part of our world through their eyes. Now that you've come in and taken these lands from us, I will only be enjoying them from a distance...and begrudging this use of my tax dollars that is making these "public" lands unavailable to a huge segment of the public. It's not like there isn't enough space out there in the hills for the wildlife plus the residents. I would have thought there was plenty of room for all. We weren't interfering with anything endangered; that space continues all the way up to the top of the mountain; the

area used to be farmed, which is why it was called "the hay fields." Many, many people walking their dogs and riding their horses have always headed past my house and on up Alamo for the same pleasures I enjoyed. We never walked that far up into the mountains, just far enough to let the dogs exercise in a safe area.

But then you came along with your prejudice against anything canine, and, using our tax dollars, took our open space away from us. You heard from the dog owners, but it didn't matter much. I can't walk to nearby open space any more for the pleasure I had for so many years. A new fiefdom is now in place, the signs are up, and we're not welcome there any more. It used to be that if the public had access through areas for a certain number of years, that access was legally required to continue. But for the half of the population who are dog owners, it doesn't apply. I'm sorry you're here now, and even more sorry my tax dollars are supporting this. POST was a much more welcome neighbor.

So no, "see you in the park" no longer applies. Don't send us email with those words. I'll only see it from my window. I and my fellow dog owners are no longer welcome in our open space.

Peggy Emrey
P.O. Box 371150
Montara, CA 94037

Sent from my iPad

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