

To: Greg Moore[gmoore@parksconservancy.org]; David Shaw[dshaw@parksconservancy.org]
Cc: Howard Levitt[howard_levitt@nps.gov]
From: Frank Dean
Sent: Sun 5/4/2014 7:37:20 PM
Importance: Normal
Subject: Fwd: disturbing opt ed in Marin IJ Huey Johnson
Received: Sun 5/4/2014 7:37:21 PM

Greg and David,

Unfortunate and off the rails. We already have an appointment with the Marin IJ editorial board on Tuesday afternoon. We were talking about Huey internally last week because of his increasing stridency. I was going to ask Doug Ferguson what is going on, but it seems like a Martha script. Let's discuss.

Frank Dean
General Superintendent
Golden Gate National Recreation Area
201 Fort Mason
San Francisco, CA 94123
(415) 561-4720

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Levitt, Howard" <howard_levitt@nps.gov>
Date: May 4, 2014 12:03:12 PM PDT
To: "Picavet, Alexandra" <alexandra_picavet@nps.gov>
Cc: Frank Dean <Frank_Dean@nps.gov>, Aaron Roth <Aaron_Roth@nps.gov>
Subject: **Re: disturbing opt ed in Marin IJ Huey Johnson**

Saw this ... in dialogue with Amy; will try and loop in Greg and Frank in preparing a response to this seriously damaging rant by Huey.

On Sun, May 4, 2014 at 11:08 AM, Picavet, Alexandra <alexandra_picavet@nps.gov> wrote:

Only two comments so far. One from Panda Luv and another true believer.

Marin Voice: Keep recreation in GGNRA

*By Huey D. Johnson
Guest op-ed column*

POSTED: 05/03/2014 06:45:00 PM PDT

SAN FRANCISCO is being highlighted nationally this year with 600 showings on the nation's TV stations

GGNRA152651

of the lovely film, "Rebels with a Cause."

Produced by Santa Rosa's KCRB and local filmmakers Nancy Kelly and Kenji Yamamoto, the documentary tells the story of the struggle to establish the Golden Gate National Recreation Area through the dreams of honorable politicians and the fast-moving land purchases made by small nonprofits that make up the GGNRA today.

That now-preserved recreation landscape includes 40 miles of seashore landscape reaching from Bolinas in the north, across the Golden Gate Bridge, to San Mateo County in the south. Its history goes back to post-World War II, when with the help of a cooperative Congress the federal government sought to ease urban pressure by providing recreation. Under Chairman Laurance Rockefeller, the Outdoor Recreation Review Commission hired hundreds of experts to study how recreation could improve our stressful urban condition.

Results included establishment of the Land and Water Conservation Fund. I recall the fund provided \$113 million. Without it there wouldn't be a GGNRA.

The GGNRA is intended especially for workers and retirees, those living in small apartments with no backyards and no place to walk their dogs. In light of the source and purpose of the LWCF money, the current political maneuvering to end dog walking is absurd. Owners can train, control and pick up after dogs. And there are already clear rules in place with respect to pets in the GGNRA that need to be enforced and supported.

As happens, a nonprofit Golden Gate National Park Conservancy has emerged that wants to limit public use of the GGNRA. This was never the intent or the purpose of the GGNRA. The principal activity of the national parks advocacy group is fundraising, and wealthy donors who are led to believe they are giving to an environmental cause have donated millions of dollars that is given to government.

This is a mistake.

Such groups have wonderful promise as a way of providing volunteers to assist GGNRA needs, but raising money for government isn't sensible. They are overdue in checking out the British National Trust, or the Friend of Austria's Vienna Woods. These two are marvelously successful and they don't send money to government.

Meanwhile, as the parks conservancy skims millions of dollars from San Francisco regional environmental giving, important environmental nonprofits are starving trying to compete with it to do their more important work. It's the efforts of Earth Justice, 350.org and the Sierra Club that are doing the most to fulfill the dreams of the first Earth Day.

We can't afford to let something like an attempt to ban dogs or restrict access in the GGNRA distract us from the true environmental issues of our day — climate change, fracking, water scarcity — that deserve the vision and leadership of the Bay Area.

True environmental leadership must remain our most important legacy.

We know that the role the GGNRA plays in our regional health and identity is unparalleled. We are obligated to honor its origins, protect its multiple uses, provide a place for hikers, bikers, dogs and kids and show the rest of the country why we deserve to have its bounty so close at hand.

Huey D. Johnson of Mill Valley is the founder of Resource Renewal Institute, a non-profit organization that deals with environmental sustainability. As director of the Nature Conservancy, he helped save the Marin Headlands from development. He was also the founder of the Trust for Public Land and served as secretary of resources during Gov. Jerry Brown's first term.

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Alexandra Picavet
Public Affairs Specialist
Golden Gate National Parks
alexandra_picavet@nps.gov

415-786-8021 mobile
www.nps.gov/goga

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Howard Levitt
Director of Communications and Partnerships
Golden Gate National Parks
howard_levitt@nps.gov

415-561-4730