

From: Chris Lehnertz chris_lehnertz@ (b) (6) 
Subject: Re: Dog meeting with Dan Bernal
Date: July 8, 2015 at 9:54 PM
To: Amy Meyer a7w2m@ (b) (6)



Hi Amy,

I will see what we can put together, and will call you to make sure I have it right. We can summarize what was in the supplemental EIS, which may be the best route to go.

Your message is right on target, that we were directed by a judge to go through a rule making, which could easily have been to simply adopt the regulation that applies to the other 406 national parks - Part 35 Section 2.15 of the Code of Federal Regulations. But, instead, GGNRA chose to promulgate a rule that is more liberal (weaker?) than what every other park in the nation implements. Some say that we are bending over backwards to make sure we provide off-leash experiences in five different locations in GGNRA when there are none in the entire rest of the nation.

Heard today that Representative Speier posted on Facebook that she introduced a dog management amendment that did not pass, but she would keep trying. I haven't seen it yet.

Thanks, talk to you soon.

Chris

On Jul 8, 2015, at 9:50 AM, Amy Meyer <a7w2m@ (b) (6)> wrote:

Dear Chris,

Neal, Becky, and I are meeting with Dan Bernal next Wednesday, 7/15, at 1 pm.

Howard supplied us with some good background information including underlying legislation and policy and also a chart showing what neighboring agencies are doing re: dogs.

We will summarize the nationwide dog regulations and describe why the situation here calls for the Special Rule.

What we don't have is what GGNRA is offering for dogs under the Special Rule. We would label what you tell us as a "final," going through the last stages of the approval process and expected to come out around mid-September.

One of the necessary matters to turn around is that GGNRA is not taking something away from dog owners but is giving them more than any other national park users in the country. The true comparison is with the usual NPS dog regulations. To receive this special benefit, sites have been well-justified so as not to set a precedent. That pushes back against "we're only getting 1%", but not defensively.

Can you get someone to send us the essential contents of the Special Rule (including, if possible, a map) that makes plain why certain areas have been chosen and examples of why many areas are inappropriate for on- or off-leash dogs.

Best regards,
Amy

Neal just sent this, including Pelosi's letter to you, below:

I can also send an email to howard's personal email asking him for how many meetings NPS has conducted over the years on this topic as a way to highlight the public engagement. The "listen to the community and diverse viewpoints" message is central to Pelosi's 4/1/15 letter to GGNRA (attached).

We want Pelosi's office to see that the NPS has listened to the community, but listening to someone and doing what they want you to do are two different things. And the science and policy doesn't support much of what the dog people want NPS to do

<Pelosi ltr re GGNRA dog 4.1.15.jpg>

NANCY PELOSI
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GGNRA194691

April 1, 2015

Superintendent Christine Lehnertz
Golden Gate National Recreation Area
Building 201, Fort Mason
San Francisco, CA 94123-0022

Dear Superintendent Lehnertz:

Congratulations on your appointment as Superintendent of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA). As you know, the GGNRA is one of our nation's greatest natural treasures – a crown jewel of the National Park System and America's most visited park unit. GGNRA offers residents of the Bay Area as well as visitors from around our country and the world the opportunity to connect with nature, enjoy outdoor recreational activity and experience our nation's history adjacent to a major urban center.

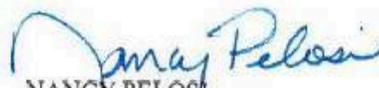
As former regional director for the Pacific West Region of the National Park Service, I have trust in your knowledge and understanding on the importance and diversity of passionate and deeply held views by my constituents on preserving abundant recreational activities, including off-leash dog walking.

In developing new dog management rules and implementing the recent General Management Plan, it is of the utmost importance that we recognize the need to achieve a working balance of natural, historic, scenic *and recreational* uses of GGNRA as envisioned by my predecessor Representative Phil Burton, who authored the legislation creating this national icon of our park system.

During this process, it is absolutely crucial that the concerns of those affected by the regulations are considered, consulted and incorporated. Your door must be open to diverse viewpoints, your actions must be transparent and your decisions must be clear, balanced and fair.

Congratulations, again, on your appointment as Golden Gate National Recreation Area Superintendent. I look forward to working with you in a constructive manner to ensure GGNRA remains a place of peaceful reflection, natural beauty and recreational opportunity well in the future.

best regards,


NANCY PELOSI
Democratic Leader