



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Golden Gate National Recreation Area
Fort Mason, San Francisco, California 94123

IN REPLY REFER TO:

N50 (GOGA-NRMR)

MAY 23 2016

Lisa Ketcham
Midcoast Community Council
P.O. Box 248
Moss Beach, CA 94038-0248

Re: Support for eradication of invasive jubata/pampas grass in the Midcoast

Dear Ms. Ketcham:

Thank you for your letter of support regarding invasive plant control on the Coastside. We are very pleased to be part of a regional effort towards controlling this invasive species, because as you mentioned in your letter, an area-wide coordinated program is required to be truly effective long term.

So far, management of jubata grass along the Coastside within the Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA) property has focused on 1) areas that support our most vulnerable sensitive plant communities (native coastal prairies) and 2) highly used, ridge-top trails (1.5 miles of the Spine Trail and 0.3 miles of the Alta Vista Trail) that pose the highest potential for long-range seed dispersal. We currently have a contract in place to maintain control in these areas; work will happen on the ground in August/September when young flowers are up, and it is easiest to find isolated individuals among the scrub. We have not yet begun to tackle the areas above El Granada where jubata grass is most dense and very difficult to access. We would like to have a more long-term management and funding strategy for that type of work, given the required follow-up actions after a control project of that scale.

In addition to these on-the-ground actions, we have also been communicating with land management groups in San Mateo County through the county's Weed Management Area (WMA) <http://www.cal-ipc.org/WMA/San_Mateo_WMA.php>. Through the WMA, we intend to work with our neighboring agencies (State Parks, County Parks, CalTrans, and POST) to document the footprint of jubata grass along the Coastside, clearly define areas that have been managed, and highlight areas where there are gaps in management. We feel like this is the first step towards partnering with a cross-jurisdictional group, such as the Peninsula Working Group or the San Mateo Resource Conservation District, to help us fill in the funding gaps to tackle this large-scale project holistically. The map we are planning to produce is currently being drafted by the San Mateo County Parks Natural Resource Management division.

We very much appreciate the Midcoast Community Council's support on this topic. Our San Mateo County Weed Management Area representative, Susie Bennett, will ensure that the

contents of your letter are discussed at the next WMA meeting (July 17) and appropriate action items can be determined to continue pushing this multi-year project forward. If you have any further questions, please contact Susie Bennett at (415) 265-1540 or susie_bennett@nps.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Christine Lehnertz". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Christine Lehnertz
General Superintendent