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February 11, 2014

RE: Agenda Item 10: Resolution of the Board
Opposing the Golden Gate Recreation Area's Proposed Dog
Management Plan (Preferred Alternative "F")

Dear Colleagues,

After a great deal of deliberation, I am putting this resolution before you for your consideration.

The Golden Gate National Recreation Area, managed by the National Park Service, is unique in all of our nation's parks. It is a metropolitan recreation area and is intertwined with vibrant communities in southern Marin. It is popular not only with constituents in Districts Three and Four, but is used by residents from all over Marin and surrounding counties.


It is a destination for recreation of all sorts, drawing families, cyclists, seniors, hikers, horseback riders and dog walkers, and increased usage and the impacts created by that increase have prompted the GGNRA staff to review their land management policies. There is a history in Marin County of protecting habitat and open space, and the need to balance fragile ecosystems with recreational use is an issue we have faced before. We support the protection and restoration of this natural treasure.

After almost a decade of public hearings and input, GGNRA has released a Supplemental Environmental Impact Study with the recommendation that the Preferred Alternative "F" be adopted as policy. Unfortunately, this proposal, if adopted as currently written, will come very close to being a de facto ban of dogs in the GGNRA in Marin.

This issue is important because of the expected impacts to Marin County Parks and Open Space lands and the watershed of MMWD when dogs displaced from the GGNRA and their owners seek other areas for exercise and recreation. There is no supporting data in the SEIR that supports a virtual ban of dogs in the GGNRA and it is my hope that the resolution will cause the GGNRA staff to seek compromises that allow for dogs in the GGNRA, both on-leash and off-leash, while still providing adequate protection for the natural environment.

Thank you very much for your consideration of this resolution.

Sincerely,



Kathrin Sears