

## **Meeting Summary from Founders and Former Commissioners Focus Group**

Tuesday, April 25, 2006

4:00pm to 6:00pm

GGNRA Headquarters

### **Participants:**

Doug Siden	Former GGNRA AC, East Bay Regional Park District Commissioner
Redmond Kernan	Former GGNRA AC
Bill Whalen	NPS Alumni
Rich Bartke	Former GGNRA AC
Lennie Roberts	Former GGNRA AC
Doug Nadeau	NPS Alumni
Michael Fischer	Former SPUR/Coastal Commission
Michael Alexander	Former GGNRA AC, SPUR
Ken Hunter	Former PFGGNRA
Amy Meyer	Former GGNRA AC, PFGGNRA
Betsy Cutler	Former GGNRA AC
Becky Evans	Sierra Club
Brian O'Neill	NPS, GGNRA
Mai-Liis Bartling	NPS, GGNRA
Nancy Hornor	NPS, GGNRA
Stephan Nofield	NPS, Denver Service Center
Kerri Cahill	NPS, Denver Service Center

### **Comments on the scope of the GMP planning effort:**

- Focus on watersheds or other ecological planning units- vision what could be in the GMP
- Mt. Tam and Angel Island should not be ignored in the GMP (at least do an independent analysis of existing plans)
- Muir Woods is an “island”, so need to include state and other adjacent public lands to address overall management needs - it is a continuum of land and resources
- Be cautious of San Francisco politics - Don't let planning get bogged down in politics

### **What was the original vision for GGNRA?**

- It was a two-part vision: parks to the people and land preservation
- The movement began with the forts and Alcatraz
- In Marin, the movement was intended to protect complete watersheds
- The Native American occupation of Alcatraz occurred 4 days before the park legislation was signed
- Ultimately, “green areas” were collected into the park with the intent to preserve a “complete land system” - protect lands from the threat of development
- It was about preserving the edge of the continent - the Golden Gate

- It was and is a pretty remarkable place to live and people wanted it preserved
- “Parks to the people” was a vehicle to protect the lands that had high national park values
- At the time, there was poor knowledge of the land’s specific valuable resources. It was mostly a “land grab” to keep it away from development
- The context of the development movement in California is an important motivation for park preservation - “get it before it’s all gone”

### **How has the vision for GGNRA evolved over time?**

- Need to encourage infill housing where possible – smart growth to avoid more sprawl up to the park’s edge
- Still need transportation to the parks
- Need an effective regional transportation system
- Public access becoming more and more important - particular responsibility of an urban park
- Need to determine how to address public access needs
- Need to determine who we are planning for - who and what will come in the future - information is lacking on the attributes of future users
- Need to address the needs of a future Spanish speaking majority – be aware of changing demographics
- Parks for the people needs to continue to outreach to diverse populations
- Need to understand how the role of the GGNRA has changed in the region. The NPS needs to work with ABAG to understand the new CA - Mark Bolodasan, Public Policy Institute
- Need to consider the range of experiences that are needed/desired
- What does the park do when the population doubles and demand for active recreation increases
- A goal should be that nine out of ten people polled know about GGNRA
- Develop a new generation that appreciates the park
- Constantly evaluate use and impacts - GGNRA should continue to be appealing for its qualities of remoteness
- The park should continue to look a lot like it looks today
- Don’t try to be all things to all people
- Need to identify which resources we need to protect the most
- Need to determine how to deal with major climate trends, such as global warming, as well as other natural and human caused disasters
- Park needs to be an example of best practices
- Be cautious of potential sell off of park lands for local needs (e.g., municipal utility easements)
- Need to defend the boundary of the park
- An urban city/county park is different than a national park and these differences should be recognized
- A citizens’ advisory commission is needed to aid park management
- The GMP needs to set the vision that people can rally around

- The recreation area designation is a challenge - there is no difference between National Park and National Recreation Area designations, but it is confusing to the public - need to change the name to Golden Gate National Park
- Need a funding strategy

### **What are the major challenges facing the park?**

- Lack of funding
- Need a stable, dependable funding source in place for stewardship activities - need a different funding structure than what exists today
- Image problem - people haven't put the park together due to promotion of icons
- The Golden Gate is one of the most important physical features and should be the focus of interpretation
- Educate people to the outdoors and the value of the park, including education centers, signs, guided walks, symposia, visitor center(s)
- There is demand that interpretation be entertainment, but the NPS needs to focus on the national park experience and opportunities for self-discovery
- Fort Mason is not interpreted well – e.g., WWII history
- Need to conduct a focus group with young people to understand their needs – this plan is for them – consider the Sierra Student Coalition
- Manage with the principles of sustainability
- The NPS needs to lead by example, including best practices and sustainability
- The willingness of the federal government to use law enforcement personnel for other purposes impacts abilities of the GGNRA to function
- Law enforcement will only become more important over time – need to use the model of employees as both rangers and law enforcement
- Need more awareness of the ethnic factor - staff should reflect the population
- Coordinate with San Francisco Maritime and Pt. Reyes in planning and management efforts
- Need to focus on defining desired conditions, including:
  - Natural resource values - more valuable and more scarce than ever before
  - Cultural resource elements - how to interpret and how to maintain for the long term
  - Visual quality resources - major reason why people are attracted to the park, but it is not often addressed in a GMP - needs equal respect to natural and cultural resource discussions
  - Recreation Opportunity - what kind of recreation is appropriate and how to divide among different jurisdictions in the region

### **What major issues/topics should the GMP address?**

- Changes in local climate of advocacy in response to outside park policy
- Defend boundaries of the park
- Bring people to the park
- Provide park access for higher concentrations of the population – need for comprehensive transportation system

- Good transportation makes people feel comfortable, including mode choices, frequency, easy access, safety
- Affordability to live, access and overnight in the San Francisco area
- North end of park is orphaned because it is not well managed by Pt. Reyes since it is GGNRA - don't focus on turf but on good management
- High level of satisfaction with national parks, but poorly funded - must be stable funding - transportation is costly
- Advocating for the value of the National Park System and funding
- Encourage young people in this process, spend time with teens - use today's knowledge for 30 years from now
- Interpretation and education are the same thing - Need to focus on the values that are preserved in the park – what is it all about, and why is it important - determine how many locations are needed for these interpretation/education opportunities
- Partnerships and stewardship

## **Meeting Summary from Ohlone Community/Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria Focus Group**

Wednesday, April 26, 2006

11:00am to 1:00pm

GGNRA Headquarters

### **Meeting Participants:**

Ann-Marie Sayers Indian Canyon

Jakki Kehl Mutsun Ohlone

Nick Tipon Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria

Andrew Galvan Ohlone Indian Tribe, Inc.

Linda Yamane Rumsien Ohlone

Leo Barker NPS - GGNRA

Paul Scolari NPS - GGNRA

Nancy Hornor NPS - GGNRA

Kerri Cahill NPS - Denver Service Center

Stephan Nofield NPS - Denver Service Center

### **Ideas for the GGNRA General Management Plan:**

- Need to institutionalize the process for consultation and input into planning and design projects. Need to develop a general agreement on consultation protocol (e.g., scope of input and assessment of sites)
- Need to develop a set of protection goals
- Need consultation on the testing that's done as part of planning and design projects
- Need to advocate with other agencies and partners regarding the process for consultation - Serve as a model for other agencies and partners
- The Crissy Field project serves as a good model for consultation (could be built upon)
- Tie park infrastructure to 3-dimensional icons representing native presence (need to make sure the symbols are correct) – e.g., Timberline Lodge, DeYoung Basket
- Need to include input in land restoration efforts – can consult on native plants and related historic uses (include native input and ethnobotanical knowledge into natural resource restoration efforts)
- The NPS should provide opportunities for use and collection of native plants
- NPS should look at policies developed by other Federal agencies for working with American Indians (i.e., DoD)
- Stories that need to be told in GGNRA:
  - Inhabitants before the Europeans, pre-contact is a preferable reference rather than pre-historic, Native Americans have been here 15,000+ years
  - History of the native peoples being successful through time, which ties to the use and preservation of natural resources - Respect of the land and natural resources
  - Descendants of native people are still alive and still live here
  - Influence of native people in creating existing natural landscapes

- Connect the native story with other parts of history and associated land uses - native story should not be compartmentalized into one chapter – tell the story through the continuum of history and with other interpretive themes.
- Need a museum or center that includes displays and tells the story – there are currently no exhibits. Need more than just one room. Need to use multiple media to tell the Native American story.
- Need early consultation and on-going consultation throughout the planning process
- Need use of the park for religious purposes – need to be able to visit sacred/ceremonial sites
- Need space for tribal uses and practices
- Need to correct the story being told about the history of Alcatraz (Occupation was organized by Indians from around the USA relocated to the SF Bay Area; focus on that story obscures story of the Island as originally w/i Ohlone territory)
- Include cultural sites, ceremonial sites, and burial sites as open space (restricted access to protect those values and resources)
  - ID these sites
  - expand the park to incorporate the sites
- Sacred sites need to be designated and protected for their values
- The GMP needs to include a park significance statement that refers to the American Indian history and culture that are associated with parklands.

## Meeting Summary from Historic Focus Group

April 18, 2006  
GGNRA Headquarters

### Meeting Participants:

Redmond Kernan	FPPHA	415-751-1126	<a href="mailto:redmundkernan@yahoo.com">redmundkernan@yahoo.com</a>
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Richard Sucre	Page & Turnbull, NCCSAH	415-593-3230	<a href="mailto:sucre@page-turnbull.com">sucre@page-turnbull.com</a>
Nancy Horner	NPS- GGNRA		
Stephan Nofield	NPS- DSC		
Kerri Cahill	NPS- DSC		
Barbara Judy	NPS- GGNRA		
Kirsten Baron	NPS- GGNRA		
Paul Scolari	NPS- GGNRA		
Craig Kenkel	NPS- GGNRA		

### Comments and Issues for the GGNRA General Management Plan:

- National recreation area vs. national park = this park is for the urban population and the national population – not just a local focus park
- Capturing Presidio in one paragraph – needs expanding
- Military installations, Presidio- implications for settlement of the United States, examples: Indians – more than just military
- Sir Francis Drake (St. James Island), Russia, England, Spain, Vizaino (1600)
- Port – Shelter – Harbor of refuge, physical topographies allows all ships of the world, entrance to the harbor drives trade
- 16 rivers drain into the Golden Gate, providing access to the interior
- Forces – erosion, geologic, gold rush – drove evolution of areas – ex: Fort Point protects San Francisco harbors
- Army was central governance (1848) for the state - administered areas for the significant parts of the West
- European settlements is not just forts, but it is the mission to expand
- Implication is military was just a key part of European expansion
- Protecting habitation was dependent upon fortification/mission/settlement (see California History Magazine for April)
- Influence of earthquake on settlement – don't forget the earthquake – influencing Mission and Marin
- History told by viewsheds and topography, shorelines, remains of ships illustrate and tell the story of this long, 15,000 years of continued history
- Cultural landscapes illustrated this historic trend
- Where are Sherman and Sheraton's offices?
- Interpretation

- Signing
- How should the precious pieces that are left be explained and represented
- Tying Point Reyes NS to GGNRA
- Looking comprehensively at lands north of Bolinas
- Saving ranch lands
- Mt. Tamalpais; Angel Island
- Don't allow the park to be broken apart in planning and management
- Pacifica has military role
- All tied the administration and evolution of this park – this park is a model of land preservation and partnerships – model for the country
- Cycle of private to public and advocacy of open space sets context of park, land value, land preservation, public access is the whole story of land use in the park
- Human forces of exploration, politics, economics led to human occupation (administrative centers) led to large swaths of open spaces (85-90 miles, including ranching, extraction – gold and silver, timbering and manufacturing)
- Pressures in the future make it more precious – need to look forward, not just back
- Ability to escape, resource preservation, service to urban population becomes more and more important in the future
- Now in brain business – need quality of life to attract and sustain

#### **Ideas for the GGNRA General Management Plan:**

- Focus not only on military history but other forms of human history and make sure those stories are told
- Contain the idea of restoration of natural resources (e.g., landscapes, wildlife corridors, fragmented species, natural processes, habitat)
- Interpretive message that should be included is Muir Woods – the opportunity to tell the story of the vast redwood forest and why it's now a remnant – it means so much because we lost so much
- Interpret the earlier natural and historic timeline and the Farrallon Island stories, ecological shift of water flow from central California, global warming at the end of the Ice Age, human habitation and migration (including Alaska and China), human occupation of the area (1421 Chinese exploration), interpret European expansion and exploration
- Ft. Mason Center – provide direction to the partners – to create a seamless connection
- GMP directs implementation plans – let the GMP be the whole before directing for specific plans
- Co-Op History Museum; Library
- Policy on tenants/partners to do research – park partners interpret and preserve sites to explain in the larger context
- Need to emphasize the historic and cultural component – increase status of historic part of mission – increase funding and staffing
- GMP needs to ID how these components are important to the whole
- GMP needs to recognize and string together all local, regional and national park lands – this unification represents the preservation of natural and cultural resources

## Meeting Summary from Diversity Organizations Focus Group

Friday, April 21, 2006

12:00pm to 2:00pm

Crissy Center

### **Meeting Participants:**

Catania Galvan San Francisco Public Utilities Commission  
Nancy Hornor NPS – GGNRA  
Naomi Torres NPS - GGNRA  
Kerri Cahill NPS - Denver Service Center  
Stephan Nofield NPS - Denver Service Center

### **Issues for the GGNRA General Management Plan:**

- Latinos do recreate and respect the environment – often in family activities in large groups
- One barrier is the location of diverse population from the park – don't know how to get in and get out easily – a lot “mystery” involved
- Many young people can't cross turf even while riding municipal buses.
- From Bayview/Mission it is closer to go enjoy Hunter Point and Candle Stick Park than to visit GGNRA.
- Transportation problem of getting from the city into the park and then around the park.

### **Ideas for the GGNRA General Management Plan:**

- To increase participation by diverse populations need to work with the school district to connect with teachers and parents. Engage teachers during in-service day
- Set up a parent liaison program to present them with what's available
- Need a park bus that could be reserved – free bus during down time for schools (e.g., 9am to 1:30pm)
- Get on list of suggested destinations of school trips and Boys and Girls Club
- Partner with churches and other organizations with buses
- To get the word out, work with the following entities:
  - Neighborhood councils
  - Mission Neighborhood Center
  - Coalition of neighborhood Centers
  - Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services
- Institutionalize the dialogue with underrepresented communities
- Get on the agenda of existing meetings
- Need to identify activities (e.g., Easter egg hunt, 4<sup>th</sup> of July picnic, treasure hunt that tells you about the park) that appeal to everyone
- Target “hot days” mobility units – get info out to where the people are on peak days
- Give people information about why they should value the park – campaign about identity
- Reach out to community and faith based organizations

- If the park service wants to outreach, then do it. Otherwise be satisfied with what is going on and who is served by the park.
- In talking to communities of diversity, learn –
  - why parks are special to you
  - the availability and location of open spaces that your family can visit at anytime.
  - explore what park attributes are personal to that individual
  - tie the parks to future generations, their children's, children
  - promote the concept of your National Park next door
- NPS should understand how San Francisco has changed and where its demographics are trending
- If NPS is about parks to the people then it needs to keep reaching out to the people. Help them understand the values they share with the park
- Explore the best ways to meet the needs of the anchored population
- Confer with SPUR – San Francisco Planning and Urban Resource
- YMCA operates Outdoor Club with 90% attendance of Asians
- Target users groups such as Senior Center Consortium, Beacon Center Consortium, school based community groups

## Meeting Summary from Environmental Focus Group

Friday, April 21, 2006

9:00am to 11:00am

Crissy Center

### **Meeting Participants:**

Peter Barstow Nature in the City

Nancy Hornor NPS – GGNRA

Daphne Hatch NPS - GGNRA

Kerri Cahill NPS - Denver Service Center

Stephan Nofield NPS - Denver Service Center

### **Issues for the GGNRA General Management Plan:**

- Three biggest issues:
  - Threatened and endangered species
  - Anticipating management needs of new lands
  - Need to look at SFWMD lands and Rancho – all big system lands – need to consider in terms of managing threatened and endangered species and nature conservation
  - SF Watershed is a refuge for native plants.
- A lot of SFWMD is disturbed
- Need more guided programming in the watershed
- There are some amazing habitats in SFWMD – it is considered the “core” of the Biosphere Reserve – all of the listed plants (except for those in Presidio) are all in SFWMD lands
- The scenic easement is more of an ecological purpose and not recreational
- Coordination among land managers has fallen off due to budget cutbacks
- GGNRA is the “backbone” that pulls together areas of ecological and recreational significance
- New uses constantly evolve but how should the park evaluate the appropriateness of these opportunities within the park
- How do you define GGNRA recreation?

### **Ideas for the GGNRA General Management Plan:**

- Talk about areas as a “whole” – cumulative benefits as a system of wild lands
- The Bay Area Open Space Council needs to spread view to include natural emphasis (focused on recreation now)
- Interested in trail connections between Rancho and SFWMD
- Need to consider interagency coordination on invasive weed management, sea level rise and other topics – look at [chicagowilderness.org](http://chicagowilderness.org) as a model of how to work together
- Need to consider how we respond to coastal erosion and sea-level rise in the GMP – need to do more research on the effects. Doyle Drive team is considering this issue – should coordinate with Rick Foster

- Need to reframe the approach to recreation – stewardship is recreation, it's not recreation vs. resource management, resource management is integrating people – includes educational programming, monitoring restoration projects, etc.
- Need to increase the publicity of the park to the public – not many people know they live next to a national park
- Resources and values are national park quality – need to build pride, sense of ownership – instill respect of resources and values
- Need a significant areas natural resource management plan
- Natural resource management needs more interaction with other divisions such as interpretation

## Alcatraz Island Initial GMP Scoping - Vision Team 2-27-06

### Issues, Concerns, & Threats identified for consideration under the GMP

Issue/Concern/Threat	Comments to be addressed under GMP
Shoreline stabilization	Should be addressed for the entire island, with a focus on the western bluffs
Building treatment designations	These need to be evaluated and re-confirmed through the GMP process
Accessibility	
Rubble and rebar piles	GMP should identify how these piles will be managed and contained, how future rubble that is generated is disposed of, public access, and appropriateness of vegetation debris disposal
Food services and catering	
Museum	Should there be a museum on the Island?
Indoor space needs	The GMP should include an assessment of indoor space needs and identify on a broad scale the types of needs and how to address them
Sustainable systems	GMP should evaluate the type, size and scale of appropriate sustainable systems/practices that should be implemented on the island - these should be addressed comprehensively
Integrity of National Historic Landmark Status	This needs to be evaluated as a part of the GMP process; the CLR will be critical in tying this analysis together
Definition of natural resource goals	These need to be further defined as a part of the GMP process
Water transportation	Should be addressed under the GMP process

## Alcatraz Island Initial GMP Scoping - Vision Team 2-27-06

### Summary of projects and proposals that are not covered under existing planning/compliance documents

Action/Project/Proposal	Category	Comments
Address water & sewage infrastructure issues	Built infrastructure	Should be addressed on GMP-level, with analysis directly linked with the desired future visitor use. (Note: further discussion should occur with the Vision/Management Team regarding piloting a small-scale facility per the recommendations within the BOR report)
Feasibility study & installation of sewage & grey water reuse system	Built infrastructure	See above
Morgue stabilization	Built infrastructure	Should be addressed through internal NEPA/NHPA level compliance, once small-scale planning is complete
Stabilize cliff below Warden's house	Built infrastructure	Already covered through FEIS, does not require GMP-level analysis
Repair and stabilize West Road	Built infrastructure	Should be addressed on a GMP-level, will require findings from CLR to fully inform decision-making
Tram roadway and tram upgrade	Built infrastructure	Should be addressed on GMP-level, with analysis directly linked with an accessibility analysis and transportation plan
Solar project	Built infrastructure	Does not require GMP-level analysis. Agreement was reached that the solar infrastructure would be placed on cell house, project requires funding.
Build desalinization plant	Built infrastructure	See comments under water & sewage plant above
Agave Trail Repair and opening year round	Built infrastructure & Visitor Exp.	Should be addressed on GMP-level, with analysis directly linked with the desired future visitor use and experience.
Stabilize western slope	Built infrastructure	Should be addressed on a GMP-level, will require findings from CLR to fully inform decision-making
Establish closed area around island identified with buoys	Built infrastructure	Recommendation originated from 2005 BCMS. Should be addressed on GMP-level and needs to include fishing, events, etc.
Air tours and over flights	Soundscape	Should be addressed on a GMP-level
Unregulated tours	Wildlife & Visitor Exp.	Should be addressed on a GMP-level