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July 29, 2008

To: Golden Gate National Recreation Area
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Re: Golden Gate National Recreation Area General Management Plan

Dear Brian O'Neill,

The overflow crowd that met at the Muir Beach Community Center on June 26th demonstrated Muir Beach's strong feelings regarding some of the proposed alternatives in the Golden Gate National Recreation Area General Management Plan. The community also expressed disappointment at the lack of collaboration in developing General Management Plan alternatives and great concern that its input may not be given due consideration.

We seek to maintain a balance between environmental stewardship, recreational enjoyment for generations to come, the nurturing of the social fabric of our community, and protection of cultural and historic resources.

This takes recognition that horses and barns at the Dairy, sheep and gardens at Slide Ranch, flowers on the hillsides, people and old farm buildings at Banducci Ranch, and rows of vegetables and zen buddhist practice at Green Gulch Farm are what make this place beautiful and unique. They are what make this area as attractive to our visitors as it is to us. Its coastal, rural, ranching history must be preserved, protected, and appreciated by all.

We strongly support this vision of the GGNRA General Management Plan:

1. Golden Gate Dairy: eliminate options for visitor services of any kind at the Golden Gate Dairy. There is no room! We support both the preservation of the historic presence of horses at the Dairy, under the auspices of Ocean Riders of Marin, and the continued presence of the Muir Beach Volunteer Fire Department, which protects the entire community, from Three Corners and Green Gulch Farm to Muir Woods, Slide Ranch, and beyond.

Ocean Riders of Marin continues a long history of kids and horses at the Dairy and provides riding opportunities for horse-lovers of all ages. In addition, it is committed to fostering outreach programs for under-served youth by offering them a chance to experience the thrill of riding a horse in the wild. Ocean Riders has shown its commitment to environmental stewardship by working tirelessly to minimize its impact in the watershed, and working to preserve the integrity of the land, water, flora and fauna of Redwood Creek. Because the co-existence of horses and fire engines is essential, but not always easy, any additional use at this site such as moving Muir Woods activities to the Dairy, installing an informational kiosk or adding a bus stop for the Muir Woods shuttle is absolutely inappropriate, out of the question, and will be strongly opposed.

2. Banducci Ranch: the cultural and historical integrity of Banducci Ranch, which has been in the Banducci family since the thirties, must be supported. This includes the

ownership/partnership role of Amadeo Banducci, who, as the last rancher in this valley, personifies Muir Beach living history. With his vision as a farmer and a steward of the land, he must be allowed to run his ranch and to pass it on to his family.

Ranches are run with farm labor, and develop a farm community of their own that extends beyond the immediate family. We support this long-standing community at Banducci Ranch, and treasure its diversity. These are our friends and neighbors, **and** must not be removed from their homes.

3. Slide Ranch: maintain, nurture and support the Slide Ranch environmental educational center where it is now located, on the site of an old coast dairy ranch. Slide Ranch is a gem for the whole Bay Area. By experiencing a working farm and garden, it offers many children their first opportunity to learn that food does not originate on grocery store shelves. It also allows these children to experience nature both on land and in the tide pools at ocean's edge. This gives them a sense of the importance of environmental stewardship. This coastal site is intrinsic to the children's experience. Slide Ranch must remain as it is, and where it is.
4. Muir Woods National Monument: Juggling the need for access to this venerable stand of redwoods that was created close to a major population center with the express purpose of being remarkably accessible, and the preservation of those same great trees, is a balancing act that we understand well. Our concern is that the parking lots at Muir Woods not be reduced or eliminated until and unless the number of cars using them has been diminished by the use of shuttle buses and parking facilities at connecting mass transit transfer points.

We are extremely concerned about the impacts of moving Muir Woods facilities to Muir Beach, and encourage discussion of land swaps with the State, where useful and feasible, to accommodate those needs.

In addition, we local Marin County people love to hike in Muir Woods! While we support efforts to restore the natural flood plain and create a sustainable visitor program, it would be a shame to replace access along the valley floor with a limited trail system above the valley floor that is "highly controlled and limited to designated areas and activities." This is not consistent with the need for Muir Woods to provide an accessible opportunity for visitors to fully experience the wonders of this great treasure.

5. Trailhead Development: We do not support any proposal for intensified development of trailheads with new facilities such as parking lots, restrooms or picnic areas. The wild, undeveloped appearance of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area is what makes it so spectacular.
6. Interagency Coordination: We strongly support the efforts at improved coordination with neighboring agencies and organizations to better manage the park for environmental restoration, protection of species diversity, and building resiliency to climate change.
7. Public Transit: We support efforts to provide public transit to the Muir Beach parking lot to lessen the impact of private cars. We urge the Park Service to collaborate with the County to provide appropriately-sized public transit for both local residents and Muir Beach visitors.
8. Miscellaneous: Lastly, we urge consideration of Shirley Souza Nygren's request for a name change of Santos Meadows to Souza Meadows, and we urge the Park Service to work cooperatively with Bob Winkleman to resolve trail connections and pedestrian safety issues.

Sincerely,

Amadeo Banducci & Family

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Brian O'Neill
Superintendent
Golden Gate National Parks
Fort Mason, building 201
San Francisco, CA
94123

11/16/07

Dear Brian:

Following your suggestion, we are submitting this letter to you. We are very concerned about the future of the Banducci site that is part of the Redwood Creek watershed. Historically, this land has been used for farming purposes since at least the turn of the century. The Banducci's alone have been occupying and farming this land for at least 70 years.

In the GGNRA general management plan, it states that the park service is trying to preserve the natural vitality and unique cultural history of the park lands. By allowing this land to be farmed the GGNRA will be preserving cultural history, and creating another potential educational opportunity, which I know the park service also places high value on.

This letter is to inform you of our intentions to farm on the Banducci site. Amadeo Banducci is a skilled farmer, who is very familiar with the landscape, and understands what it takes to make a successful farm. We are willing to do the work, and have been for many years. By farming this site, we will preserve, protect, and share the legacy of this land together.

Sincerely Yours,

Angelina Banducci.

Amadeo Banducci, & Family
1820 Shoreline Hwy
Muir Beach, CA
94965

Amadeo Banducci

193L

27880 Fawn Creek Court
Los Altos Hills, CA 94022
Tel: 650 941 3717
jenbasiji@sbcglobal.net

July 14, 2008

National Park Service - General Management Planning Team - GGNRA
Denver Service Center
12795 West Alameda Parkway
Denver, CO 80225-0287

Dear GGNRA Planning staff:

New General Plan, Proposed Alternatives

Many thanks, in advance for reading my letter. As an equestrian I support the majority of the concepts in Alternative 1, however Alternative 1 does not apply to the entire area. The final plan should take into account the need to retain existing stables, provide more trails (especially a variety of different length loop trails) and regional connections, provide adequate rig parking for equestrians, identify water sources for livestock, and provide unpaved trail surfaces for both joggers, bicyclists and horses. I also support multi-use trails, with the exception of the trails in the Phleger Estate. (For this area, please refer to ETRAC's earlier proposed multi-use trail bordering Filoli and Watershed lands from Canada Road up to Skyline). Creation of volunteer trail patrols is vital to provide "eyes and ears" in the new property.

In Marin County I support the position of the Marin Horse Council and want to go on record as supporting the continued presence of the horse facilities and increases in access to trails. The final plan must address the presence and requirements of equestrians.

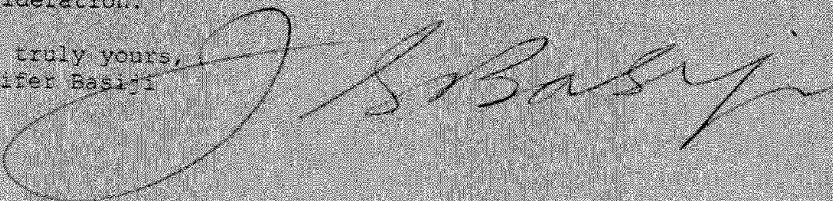
In San Mateo County I support most of the proposals in Alternative 1 for all the properties. The final plan should take into account the diverse nature of the land in San Mateo County and MUST allow for the continued presence of the horse facilities. The areas that have not traditionally been open to equestrians in the GGNRA should be re-examined and those properties opened up where possible. I support the details that ETRAC and the Coastside Horse Council have proposed.

I would like to address the issue of the lands in the Rancho Corral de Tierra parcel. This is a new acquisition and must be carefully planned. Horsemen are committed to multi-use in this area. Alternative 1 should be amended to preserve stables where they are because they provide for quality of life for the Coastside area and San Mateo County as a whole. Additionally, this is a large enough area that dogs on leash could be allowed.

The plan should also address existing trails and roads, which should be kept and maintained for equestrian use. These trails provide critical regional links from North to South and along the Bay Area Ridge Trail alignment. Most of these are appropriate multi-use trails and good for dogs on leash.

I sincerely hope these inputs can be taken to heart and given very serious consideration.

Very truly yours,
Jennifer Basiji



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July 16, 2008

National Park Service - General Management Planning Team - GGNRA
Denver Service Center
12795 West Alameda Parkway
Denver, CO 80225-0287

Dear GGNRA Planning staff:

Re: Northern California

I am responding to the alternatives that are proposed for the new general plan for the parks. I am an equestrian and I support the majority of the concepts in Alternative 1, however Alternative 1 does not apply to all the areas. The final plan should take into account the need to retain existing stables, provide more trails (especially a variety of different length loop trails) and regional connections, provide adequate rig parking for equestrians, identify water sources for livestock, and provide unpaved trail surfaces for both joggers, bicyclists and horses. I also support multi-use trails, with the exception of the trails in the Phleger Estate. Creation of volunteer trail patrols is vital to provide "eyes and ears" in the new property.

In Marin County I support the position of the Marin Horse Council and want to go on record as supporting the continued presence of the horse facilities and increases in access to trails. The final plan must address the presence and requirements of equestrians.

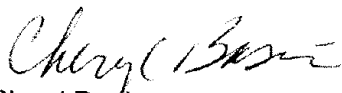
In San Mateo County I support most of the proposals in Alternative 1 for all the properties. The final plan should take into account the diverse nature of the land in San Mateo County and MUST allow for the continued presence of the horse facilities. The areas that have not traditionally been open to equestrians in the GGNRA should be re-examined and those properties opened up where possible. I support the details that ETRAC and the Coastside Horse Council have proposed.

I would like to address the issue of the lands in the Rancho Corral de Tierra parcel. This is a new acquisition and must be carefully planned. Horsemen are committed to multi-use in this area. Alternative 1 should be amended to preserve stables where they are because they provide for quality of life for the Coastside area and San Mateo County as a whole. This is a large enough area that dogs on leash could be allowed.

The plan should also address existing trails and roads which should be kept and maintained for equestrian use. These trails provide a critical regional link from North to South and along the Bay Area Ridge Trail alignment. Most of these are appropriate multi-use trails and good for dogs on leash and in many areas off-leash.

Thank you for the opportunity to give you my comments.

Regards,



Cheryl Basin
Board Member
San Mateo County Horsemen's Association
21 Camelot Court
San Carlos, CA 94070
650-364-3020
c-cheryl@sbcglobal.net

Comments to the General Management Plan/ Environmental Impact Statement

Marin Headlands

: Oakwood Valley, Marin City Ridge, Gerbode Valley
Alternative 2

Tennessee Valley

:

- :Bike path to Mill Valley
- Keep the horse patrol and nursery at its current site. There are only a few staff members and volunteers working at the nursery and if the site would be moved to the trailhead, interruptions by well meaning visitors would seriously reduce the ability to get the work done
- Horse patrol, done by volunteers, keeps NPS presents in the park
- Camping only for stewardship programs.
- Remove remaining dams and restore riparian habitat and wetland
- No rustic and modest facilities for recreational activities, Haypres camp is already available for everybody
- No expansion of horse facilities to the lower Marincello trail. Manage horse feed to keep out invasive weeds, and pick up horse droppings.
- Definitely No dogs on the Lower TV trail and beach
- No trailhead improvements.

Kirby Cove:

Alternative 2

Alcatraz Island:

- No Hotel or overnight accommodations on the island, think about the costs of supplying fresh water and waste removal.
- Food services, yes
I take offense with your statement. "The rubble on the Parade Ground would be removed and bird populations would be managed to accommodate enhanced visitor access. "It should be the other way around.
- Don't commercialize Alcatraz, we do not need a Disneyland

Capehart Housing:

- Remove housing north of Bunker Road. Replace landscaping around housing south of Bunker Road with native plants.
- No visitor center or other facilities for park or operational uses. Fort Cronkite has a visitor center, ample parking and buildings. The introduction of weeds and pathogens at the headwater (Capehart housing) of the lagoon is more serious, harsh conditions closer to the ocean will prevent its spread.

Upper Fort Mason

Alternative 2

- McDowell Road should be kept as an pedestrian and bicycle path

Lands End

Alternative 2

- Lands End proximity to the Cliff House attracts many tourist and visitors, a visitor center, to replace the one closed in the Cliff House, would be appropriate.

Fort Funston

- If the dog issue is not being resolved and your alternatives do include high levels of dog walking, there is no need to have any plans what so-ever. Right now dogs have taken over even the fenced in natural areas, because the Park has not been able to keep the fences repaired. The biggest offender are the professional dog walkers, who let the dogs run all through the landscape, consistently creating new trails.
- A solution would be to keep the area between the parking lot and Battery Davis as a dog running area, as it is totally ruined already. Create a distinct trail system which would require dogs on leashes. This means most of FoFu would be fenced in and could be restored.
- A trail along the cliffs makes sense in theory but there are natural processes taken place, like blow outs, which would require high maintenance. Also visitors should stay away from the cliffs, to avoid dog rescues and to protect the bank swallow nesting sites
- Hang gliding can continue
- No warming hut with information and bookstore. In the 1990's a visitor center was established in one of the existing buildings, but was closed due to lack of interest. (admittedly it was away from the main parking lot). Visitors are mainly dog walkers
- Park operations, stewardship, education support facilities and housing should remain.
- Preserve Battery Davis
-

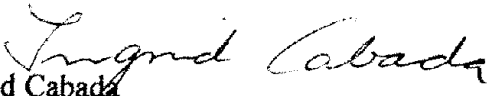
Sweeney Ridge, Milagra Ridge:

- Preserve the natural landscape and develop an interconnecting trail network
- No need to downgrade Sneath Lane, that money could be used for habitat restoration

Mori Point:

Alternative 2

General Statement: You loose your experience with nature with too many improvements like overnight accommodations, food service and visitors center were people congregate. Many trails are little used and provide a much better enjoyment and feeling of nature


Ingrid Cabada
434 Fair Oaks Street
San Francisco, CA 94110

July 8, 2008


National Park Service
General Management Planning Team-
GGNRA
Denver Service Center
12795 West Alameda Parkway
Denver, CO 80225-0287

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the GGNRA plans.

I'd like to suggest that on Alcatraz Island, ample space should be dedicated for birds and other wildlife that need an undisturbed place to rest and nest in the bay. I believe this is listed as Alternative 2.

In Pacifica, to connect the existing coastal trail, the GGNRA should explore the idea of acquiring the small beach area at the end of Manor Boulevard, just west of the post office. The city of Pacifica owns this property, but it would likely be better managed by the GGNRA, which has more experience and resources. It's presently somewhat fenced, with no benches, ice plant rather than natives, and nothing to welcome visitors other than the magnificent coastal view.

Sincerely,



Bill Collins

531 Johnson Avenue
Pacifica, CA 94044

David and Bonnie MacKenzie
28 Starbuck Drive
Muir Beach, CA 94965
415-389-1558

7/4/2008

National Park Service
General Management Planning Team – GGNRA
Denver Service Center
12795 West Alameda Parkway
Denver, CO 80225-0287

This letter contains comments from us on the General Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement Newsletter 4 – Spring 2008: Golden Gate National Recreation Area – Muir Woods National Monument.

We appreciate the opportunity to comment on the various alternatives presented in the plan and recognize that a large amount of work has been done to develop the alternatives to this point. The following comments are organized by the various sections of the plan.

Preliminary Alternatives for Muir Woods National Monument

Our preferred alternative is Preserving and Enjoying the Coastal Ecosystems, Alternative 2.

Specifically:

1. The increased primitive experience, with removal of built structures, would be very valuable. The developed visitor center area and store tend to concentrate a lot of visitors in a small area, resulting in congestion and significant noise. The existing parking lot has historically been the nesting location for Spotted Owls for many years (decades?) until the recent increased threat due to Barred Owls. Restoration of this area will allow a more natural environment for the endangered owls (less stress due to noise and food-seeking ravens and raccoons) and a more pleasant experience for the nature-seeking visitor. For me, Muir Woods is not a pleasant place to visit during the day (especially weekends!) with the existing congestion and artificial environment.
2. The idea of reduced but more natural access to the creek floodplain in the woods is excellent, especially give the likely stress on Sequoias due to climate change resulting in less creek runoff in the future. Natural stream flow is surely the best for endangered salmon, steelhead, owls, and frogs.
3. Moving the visitor center and transportation focus out of the woods is an excellent concept, and also allows better management of the expected increase in tourism.
4. NPS should also consider rating the Camp Hillwood and Camino del Canyon as a sensitive resource area based on the recent residence and nesting of Spotted Owls in this canyon, likely to be a permanent situation unless the Muir Woods Barred Owls are removed. Possible restoration of the remnant Redwood forest in this canyon (and removal of structures) might help the habitat for owls within only a few decades.

7/9/2008

5. Hopefully a partnership approach to the Dipsea trail with Mt. Tam State Park can be arranged, in that it is a very poor strategy to have both the Deer Park Fire Road and the Dipsea Trail parallel each other for several miles, resulting in unnecessary erosion and duplication of trails. The fire road in particular is subject to significant erosion, greatly due to vehicle traffic, and should be realigned or eliminated, which affects the Dipsea access also.

Preliminary Alternatives for Marin County

Our preferred alternative is Preserving and Enjoying the Coastal Ecosystems, Alternative 2.

Specifically:

1. Alternative 1 gives too much emphasis to visitor facilities, whereas Alternative 2 rightly emphasizes the need to proactively consider the potential effects of climate change. Also, Alternative 3 emphasizes the historic core, but we feel that there is already a lot of emphasis on history and not enough emphasis on preserving the critical environments in the face of global warming effects.
2. The Stinson-Beach to Bolinas-Fairfax Road element in Alternative 2 properly addresses the need for improvements at Stinson Beach with regard to the restrooms and food services. Easkoot Creek is a vital bird (and otter) migration corridor and is correctly given emphasis. We also agree with the sand dune restoration concept.
3. The Highway 1 and Panoramic Highway element in Alternative 2 is the best, and the idea of abandoning Highway 1 in the event of a major landslide is to be lauded! Hopefully the road segments to the slide could be safely left open, at least to foot and bike traffic, but this actual highway segment really isn't needed and Muir Beach would certainly appreciate the reduction in commuter traffic, as has been observed during various previous closures. This section of highway also contributes to a significant road kill of coyotes, foxes, bobcats, and deer which would be greatly reduced with a closure.
4. We support the Slide Ranch Alternative 2 which would move the farm facility to a better location. It's present position in the middle of a natural area is inappropriate and probably not too good for the environment.
5. The Lower Redwood Creek element Alternative 2 is preferable. There are many structures and septic issues to be resolved in this area, and conversion to minimal historic uses with major emphasis on restoration is what we would also desire. The heather removal project alone will be massive, but at least can be done over a long period (better leave a "historic" heather element for local heather aficionados!).
6. We prefer the Alternative 2 for the Golden Gate Dairy. This area continues to be a significant problem for creek contamination, and restoration of the area is still needed. The historic structure uses suggested would be appropriate. Very important is the use of some of this site or nearby for a transport stop (full size buses).

David and Bonnie MacKenzie
28 Starbuck Drive
Muir Beach, CA 94965
415-389-1558

7/7/2008

7. We have a general concern about any large parking area which might be created at the Golden Gate Dairy. Similarly, we oppose any additional large parking areas which might be proposed for the lower Redwood Creek or Muir Beach areas.
8. Tennessee Valley Alternative 2 is preferred. We are particularly supportive of the idea of conversion of unnecessary fire roads to trails, as is possible, but still providing bike and horse and foot access. In general, this conversion is a good idea throughout the GGNRA, and should not be a big problem since many emergency fire vehicles are capable of traveling over rugged terrain; a well-maintained road is not necessary.
9. Marin Headlands, Oakwood Valley, Main City Ridge, and Gerbode Valley Alternative 2 is preferred, especially the downgrading of Marincello road to a trail.
10. Offshore Marin Environment Alternative 2 is preferred. The offshore area at Muir Beach is very sensitive and a closure to motorized boats, and motorized boat fishing, perhaps as far up as Slide Ranch, would be desirable. Presently commercial and party boats often come right up near the beach depleting shoreline resources and generating a lot of noise. We would support shore fishing except near the Redwood Creek mouth. This will also help reduce poaching in the area, which we have witnessed on several occasions.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this plan.

Sincerely,

Dave (and Bonnie) MacKenzie

Dave and Bonnie MacKenzie

7/7/2008

We Want to Preserve our Stables and trails in the GGNRA

To: Brian O'Neill
Superintendent
Golden Gate National Recreation Area

From: Children and teens taking riding lessons

Re: 1. Support for preservation of equestrian facilities:

- ✓ Ember Ridge Equestrian Center
- Picardo Ranch (Millwood Ranch)
- Moss Beach Stables
- Renegade Ranch
- Ocean View Stables, Presidio Riding Club
- Miwok Stables
- Golden Gate Dairy

2. Support for continued equestrian access to riding trails: Milagra Ridge, Shell dance Nursery area, Sweeney Ridge, Cattle Hill, Mori Point, Pedro Point, Devil's Slide, San Pedro Mountain, Rancho Corral de Tierra, SFPUC Watershed easements (All south of San Francisco) as well as trails in Marin County and San Francisco that are located on GGNRA lands

Why we want to keep stables and trails on the GGNRA park lands: (use extra paper as necessary)

I personally want to keep the stables intact because I want to grow up to be a rider and I can't do that if there are no stables to ride at. In Burlingame, there are no places to ride at all, and the nearest stable that I like is Ember Ridge, which is VERY far away. Plus, everyday I see a construction site for a new building and I think that a park or garden should be there instead. A building in a stable area would look out of place in the landscape. And the horses and other animals, what will happen to them? I think that men tend to think that "These animals are disposable, I should think only about the benefits of MIE, not an animal." At least, most men think that. And (shhh) the berry bushes at my stables bear excellent fruit, and I would hate to see them go.

Name: Janette Davidson Age: 12 City of Residence: Burlingame Stables: Ember Ridge

A Picture is worth a thousand words:



Children taking riding lessons at ~~T~~ Embury Ridge Equestrian Center, San Mateo County, CA



Preservation of Equestrian Facilities in GGNRA

To: Brian O'Neill, Superintendent
Golden Gate National Recreation Area

From: *Riders and friends of horses in*
~~Pedro, Saddle and management of~~ *Marin County, CA* ~~Ranch~~

Re: (1) Support for preservation of **equestrian facilities**:
Ember Ridge, Picardo Ranch (Millwood), SFPUC Watershed easements,
Moss Beach Ranch, Ocean View Stables, Renegade Ranch, Rancho Tierra
del Coral, Presidio Riding Club, Miwok Stables and Golden Gate Dairy.

(2) Support for continued equestrian access to **riding trails**:
Milagra Ridge, Sheldance Nursery area, Sweeny Ridge, Cattle Hill, Mori Point,
Pedro Point, Devil's Slide, San Pedro Mountain (all south of San Francisco), as
well as trails in Marin County and San Francisco that are located on GGNRA lands.

We the undersigned seek to preserve the existing equestrian facilities and trail access which may in the future be affected by decisions taken by your General Management Planning Team – GGNRA. The above-named stables have successfully operated for decades in our local areas. These facilities are well known and highly utilized. Most are at or near full capacity, confirming the enduring popularity of horseback riding and the continuing urgent need for horse boarding facilities in these coastal areas. Our stables enjoy wide public support and aid many sectors of the local economy (hay and grain production, feed stores, tack stores, online providers, veterinarians, farriers, instructors, rodeos, shows, restaurants, etc.). All of these interests would suffer if riding or horse boarding opportunities were reduced.

As urban areas encroach on rural preserves, it becomes all the more important that the government recognizes that before the advent of GGNRA our equine facilities were already responsible and established custodians of these lands. The trails have been cared for; they are not degraded. Precautions have been taken not to pollute the seasonal streams. Buildings have been kept to a minimum. Dirt bikes and off-road vehicles that would destroy the natural habitat have been discouraged in an effort to preserve the areas. We continue to be good stewards of the land.

With the continued high level of interest in horseback riding, horse camps for children, hourly lessons and horse boarding, it is only reasonable that the local facilities be allowed to continue operating in our coastal areas. Urban residents enjoy these traditional pastimes and value the proximity of our stables to the cities. As construction encroaches on open spaces it becomes more difficult to maintain equestrian facilities. Nevertheless, riding remains very popular and we the undersigned need and support our equestrian facilities in the planned Golden Gate National Recreation Area.

Thank you for your attention to our petition and please find attached signatures supporting the continuance and enhancement of our equestrian facilities under your management.

Marin County,

~~San Francisco~~ CA:

Name	City of residence
Harriet Iglehart	Monkton MD
Hallie Iglehart	mill valley CA
Elaine Belle	Mill Valley CA
Pamela Martin	Larkspur, CA
Sheilah Glor	Mill Valley CA
Shofen Cee	Fairfax CA
Kathy Harris	Mill Valley CA
Lois Wyle	Fairfax CA
Lauren Hall	Kentfield, CA
Lyette Koffinow	SAN RAFAEL, CA
Tackett Dragon	Oakland, CA
VERLINDA ROSE	San Rafael CA
Elaine Liveness	San Rafael, CA
Donna Andrews	Stinson Beach
Guthrie Fox	Mill Valley CA
Shirley Rockstades	Mill Valley
Jean Barrett	Sausalito CA

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Thank you for your attention to our petition and please find attached signatures supporting the continuance and enhancement of our equestrian facilities under your management.

Petitioners ~~located in~~ located in Marin County, CA

Name

City of residence

Denise Gilchrist

Santa Rosa 707-538-5128

James Kelley

Santa Rosa 415-577-6666

Bruce A. Mandel

Windsor

J.S. Dodge

Santa Rosa

Alisa Dodge

Santa Rosa

Don Hankins

Santa Rosa

Donna Crowley

Santa Rosa

Lee Whitney

Sonoma

Sandy Edwards

Santa Rosa Ca.

Nancy Kasovich

Santa Rosa

Carol Barnes

Santa Rosa

Mary Purvey

Pennsauke, CA

Cheryl Breckler

Santa Rosa CA

Rhondell Rasmus

Santa Rosa, CA.

Linda Kennedy

Rohnert Park, CA

Joan Brault

Santa Rosa, CA

popular and we the undersigned need and support our equestrian facilities in the planned Golden Gate National Recreation Area.

Thank you for your attention to our petition and please find attached signatures supporting the continuance and enhancement of our equestrian facilities under your management.

Petitioners ~~Ranch/Club~~ located in Marin County, CA

<u>Name</u>	<u>City of residence</u>
Janelle e. Panga	Santa Rosa, CA
Vickie Morse	Sebastopol, CA
Anne Brannucci	Sebastopol
Emily Schuster	Sebastopol
Araeli Lopez	Petaluma, CA
Jo [Signature]	Santa Rosa
Michelle Full	Sebastopol
[Signature]	Santa Rosa, CA
Jamie Lerum	Sebastopol CA
Daf	Petaluma CA
Emily Sullivan	San Anselmo
Mike Buer	Sebastopol CA
Pastor Jennings	Napa, CA
[Signature]	Sebastopol, CA
Rain Benedict	Kearneyton, CA
Annie Desmond	Sebastopol, CA

Preservation of Equestrian Facilities in GGNRA

To: Brian O'Neill, Superintendent
Golden Gate National Recreation Area

From: **Supporters of horseback riding** in the Golden Gate National Recreation Area
who reside in San Francisco, the East Bay and San Mateo County

Re: (1) Support for preservation of **equestrian facilities**:
Ember Ridge, Picardo Ranch (Millwood), Moss Beach Ranch, Renegade Ranch,
Ocean View Stables, Presidio Riding Club, Miwok Stables and Golden Gate Dairy.

(2) Support for continued equestrian access to **riding trails**:
Milagra Ridge, Shelldance Nursery area, Sweeney Ridge, Cattle Hill, Mori Point,
Pedro Point, Devil's Slide, San Pedro Mountain, Rancho Corral de Tierra,
SFPUC Watershed easements (all south of San Francisco), as well as trails in
Marin County and San Francisco that are located on GGNRA lands.

We the undersigned seek to preserve the existing equestrian facilities and trail access which may in the future be affected by decisions taken by your General Management Planning Team – GGNRA. The above-named stables have successfully operated for decades in our local areas. These facilities are well known and highly utilized. Most are at or near full capacity, confirming the enduring popularity of horseback riding and the continuing urgent need for horse boarding facilities in these coastal areas. Our stables enjoy wide public support and aid many sectors of the local economy (hay and grain production, feed stores, tack stores, online providers, veterinarians, farriers, instructors, rodeos, shows, restaurants, etc.). All of these interests would suffer loss of income if riding or horse boarding opportunities were reduced.



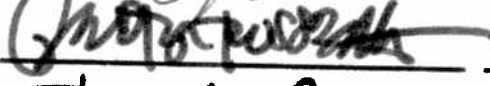

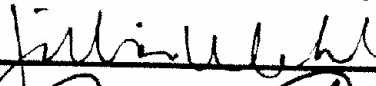
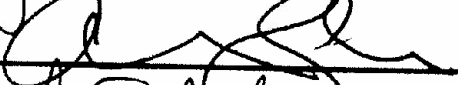



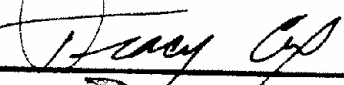




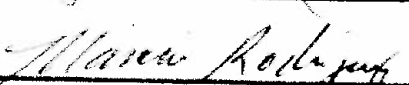
As urban areas encroach on rural preserves, it becomes all the more important that the government recognize that before the advent of GGNRA our equine facilities were already responsible and established custodians of these lands. The trails have been well cared for and maintained. Precautions have been taken not to pollute the seasonal streams. Buildings have been kept to a minimum. We continue to be good stewards of the land.

With the continued high level of interest in horseback riding, horse camps for children, hourly lessons and horse boarding, it is only reasonable that the local facilities be allowed to continue operating in our coastal areas. Urban residents enjoy these traditional pastimes and value the proximity of our stables to the cities. As construction encroaches on open spaces it becomes more difficult to maintain equestrian facilities. Nevertheless, riding remains very

popular and we the undersigned need and support our equestrian facilities in the planned Golden Gate National Recreation Area.

Thank you for your attention to our petition and please find attached signatures supporting the continuance and enhancement of our equestrian facilities under your management.

Supporters of horseback riding in the Golden Gate National Recreation Area:

<u>Print Name</u>	<u>Signature</u>	<u>City of Residence</u>
Christopher Fong		San Francisco CA
Eric Jungerman		Oakland, CA
GEORGE RUSSELL		KENTFIELD CA
DOROTHY A. YULE		OAKLAND, CA
Jillian Welsh		San Francisco CA
Allison Ghaman		San Francisco, CA
JOHN BLANCHARD		FOREFOX, CA
KEN COSTA		SAN MATEO
ELIZABETH BURE		FISHER CITY
TRACY COX		SAN FRANCISCO
RICHARD MENDOZ		SAN FRANCISCO
NATLETTE BISHER		SAN FRANCISCO
RHONDAGIEDT		HAYWARD, CA
Leslie Fiering		Pescadero CA
MARCOS RODRIGUEZ		Pacific CA

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Thank you for your attention to our petition and please find attached signatures supporting the continuance and enhancement of our equestrian facilities under your management.

We support horseback riding and stables in the Golden Gate National Recreation Area:

<u>Name</u>	<u>City of residence</u>
Kate Sullivan	Maraga, CA
Sharon LEO	Maraga CA
Karla Lund	Briones, CA
Sally Wortman	San Francisco, CA
Burt Hinton	San Francisco, CA
Michael Sean Sullivan	Oakland, CA.
Judie Bullock	Los Angeles CA
Patricia Mann	Oakland CA
Lynne Baer	Maraga CA
Kim Bann	Maraga CA
Marianne McKay	Maraga CA
Linda Strom Lindstrom	Maraga CA
Shady Lyons	Emery, CA
Gette Cherry	Belkeley, CA
Paul Jackson	walnut Creek
Gusan Walker	Albany

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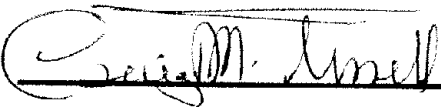

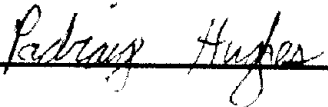

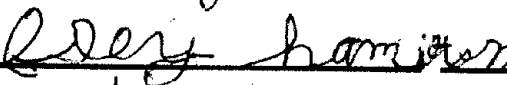


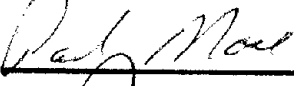
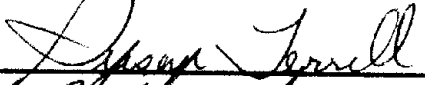









Supporters of horseback riding in the Golden Gate National Recreation Area:

<u>Print Name</u>	<u>Signature</u>	<u>City of Residence</u>
Cynthia Bernstein	Cynthia Bernstein	Pacific
Charles Benoit	Charles F Benoit	Pacific
Bobby Raman	Bobby Raman	Pacific
Matt Nelson	Matt Nelson	Pacific
Wendy Leung Kwok	Wendy Leung Kwok	Pacific
Richard Pilote	Richard Pilote	Pacific
Theresa Soldovira	Theresa Soldovira	Pacific
Kathy Wood	Kathy Wood	Pacific
Tobias Larson	Tobias Larson	Pacific
DAVID A. CUEVAS	David Cuevas	Pacific
Jordan Broder	Jordan Broder	Pacific
Jared Kelly	Jared Kelly	Pacific
Michael Smith	Michael Smith	Pacific
Stacey Speck	Stacey Speck	Pacific
Natalie Ekberg	Natalie Ekberg	Pacific

popular and we the undersigned need and support our equestrian facilities in the planned Golden Gate National Recreation Area.

Thank you for your attention to our petition and please find attached signatures supporting the continuance and enhancement of our equestrian facilities under your management.

Supporters of horseback riding in the Golden Gate National Recreation Area:

<u>Print Name</u>	<u>Signature</u>	<u>City of Residence</u>
CRAIG M. TERRELL		SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94132
James Hamilton		Pacific CA 94044
Padraig Hughes		Pacific CA 94044
Bryan Hughes		Pacific CA 94044
Joey Hamilton		Pacific CA 94044
KEVIN HUGHES		Pacific 94044
Anna Moore		Pacific, CA 94044
Paul Moore		Pacific CA 94044
Susan Terrell		San Francisco 94132
NATHAN LEE		Pacific, CA 94044
Brian Tognozzi		Pacific, CA 94044
Chelsey Nelson		Moss Beach CA 94038
Emily Killingsworth		Moss Beach CA 94038
Ashley Perreault		Half Moon Bay CA 94019
		Pacific
		Capitola, CA

We support the preservation of riding stables and continued access to riding trails in the Golden Gate National Recreation Area :

Name	City of Residence
Bertille Legrand	2877 23rd Street San Francisco Ca 94110
Parker Daniel Desmond	2877 23rd St S.F. Ca 94110
Michael Galea	3267 McCay Rd. Colusa CA 95632
Tina L. Fruehe	255 Marvillia Ca., Pacifica 94044
Cam Fruehe	255 "MARVILLA" CA, Pacifica 94044
Beth Forry	1156 Galvez Dr. Pacifica CA 94044
Devin Burke	Pacifica, CA 94044
Nico Camacho	South city CA. 94080
MATT WILLIAMS	PACIFICA, CA 94044
Robert L. Stone Jr	Pacifica ca. 94044
MIKE PROVENCE	PACIFICA, CA 94044
JOHN I WU	PACIFICA, CA 94044
Robert T. Crow	Pacifica CA 94044
DOUGLAS FRANKS	Half Moon Bay 94019
Eldeen Carlson	1980 Willow Way San Bruno, 94066
JUSTIN COCKEY	1650 TIBURON BLVD, TIBURON, CA. 94920
CARDYNE Wagem	1650 TIBURON BLVD TIBURON CA 94920
Jenny Stegmann	1290 Birch Street Montara, CA 94037
Nick Penko	1078 Manzanita Dr. CA 94044
Erica Terrell	571 Arch St. S.F., CA 94132

P11

Preservation of Equestrian Facilities in GGNRA

To: Brian O'Neill, Superintendent
Golden Gate National Recreation Area

From: **Supporters of horseback riding** in the Golden Gate National Recreation Area

Re: (1) Support for preservation of **equestrian facilities**:
Ember Ridge, Picardo Ranch (Millwood), SFPUC Watershed easements,
Moss Beach Ranch, Ocean View Stables, Renegade Ranch, Presidio Riding Club,
Miwok Stables and Golden Gate Dairy.

(2) Support for continued equestrian access to **riding trails**:
Milagra Ridge, Sheldance Nursery area, Sweeney Ridge, Cattle Hill, Mori Point,
Pedro Point, Devil's Slide, San Pedro Mountain (all south of San Francisco), Phleger
Estate as well as trails in Marin County and San Francisco that are located on GGNRA
lands.

We the undersigned seek to preserve the existing equestrian facilities and trail access which may in the future be affected by decisions taken by your General Management Planning Team – GGNRA. The above-named stables have successfully operated for decades in our local areas. These facilities are well known and highly utilized. Most are at or near full capacity, confirming the enduring popularity of horseback riding and the continuing urgent need for horse boarding facilities in these coastal areas. Our stables enjoy wide public support and aid many sectors of the local economy (hay and grain production, feed stores, tack stores, online providers, veterinarians, farriers, instructors, rodeos, shows, restaurants, etc.). All of these interests would suffer if riding or horse boarding opportunities were reduced.

As urban areas encroach on rural preserves, it becomes all the more important that the government recognize that before the advent of GGNRA our equine facilities were already responsible and established custodians of these lands. The trails have been cared for; they are not degraded. Precautions have been taken not to pollute the seasonal streams. Buildings have been kept to a minimum. Dirt bikes and off-road vehicles that would destroy the natural habitat have been discouraged in an effort to preserve the areas. We continue to be good stewards of the land.

With the continued high level of interest in horseback riding, horse camps for children, hourly lessons and horse boarding, it is only reasonable that the local facilities be allowed to continue operating in our coastal areas. Urban residents enjoy these traditional pastimes and value the proximity of our stables to the cities. As construction encroaches on open spaces it becomes more difficult to maintain equestrian facilities. Nevertheless, riding remains very

popular and we the undersigned need and support our equestrian facilities in the planned Golden Gate National Recreation Area.

Thank you for your attention to our petition and please find attached signatures supporting the continuance and enhancement of our equestrian facilities under your management.

We support horseback riding and stables in the Golden Gate National Recreation Area:

Name	City of residence
CARL PISATURO	SAN FRANCISCO
KIRA KENNEDY	GRASS VALLEY, CA
Mike Jurs (Mike Jurs)	San Francisco, Ca
VICTOR VILDES	San Francisco CA 1100 SUTTER PARK DR #16. MENLO PARK CA 94025-
Lois Morgan	8 Locksley #5A SF CA 94122
Marjorie Flynn	1900 SUTTER ST, SF CA 94115
Robert Swift	1121 Florick St SF. CA 94110
Eric Unruh	26544 FLEMING AVE, HAYWARD 94544
Lee Abubakar	San Francisco, Ca

We Want to Preserve our Stables and trails in the GGNRA

To: Brian O'Neill
Superintendent
Golden Gate National Recreation Area

From: Children and teens taking riding lessons

Re: 1. Support for preservation of equestrian facilities:

- Ember Ridge Equestrian Center
- Picardo Ranch (Millwood Ranch)
- Moss Beach Stables
- Renegade Ranch
- Ovean View Stables, Presidio Riding Club
- Miwok Stables
- Golden Gate Dairy

2. Support for continued equestrian access to riding trails: Milagra Ridge, Shell dance Nursery area, Sweeney Ridge, Cattle Hill, Mori Point, Pedro Point, Devil's Slide, San Pedro Mountain, Rancho Corral de Tierra, SFPUC Watershed easements (All south of San Francisco) as well as trails in Marin County and San Francisco that are located on GGNRA lands

Why we want to keep stables and trails on the GGNRA park lands: (use extra paper as necessary)

Horseback riding is fun and teaches valuable life skills to young people. Taking care of a horse or pony requires responsibility and wise use of money. Ember Ridge has little or no impact on the natural environment and could be a valuable piece of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area. Many horses and ponies live on these ranches and would lose their homes if they were forced to move. Please keep ranches like these open so horses and people can stay there.

Name - Fiona Benjamin Age - 11 City of Residence - Pacifica Stables - Ember Ridge

Young riders taking lessons at Ember Ridge Equestrian Center, San Mateo County, CA.



190L

July 10th 2008

National Park Service - General Management Planning Team - GGNRA
Denver Service Center
12795 West Alameda Parkway
Denver, CO 80225-0287

Dear GGNRA Planning staff:

I am responding to the alternatives that are proposed for the new general plan for the parks. I am an equestrian and I support the majority of the concepts in Alternative 1, however Alternative 1 does not apply to all the area. The final plan should take into account the need to retain existing stables, provide more trails (especially a variety of different length loop trails) and regional connections, provide adequate rig parking for equestrians, identify water sources for livestock, and provide unpaved trail surfaces for both joggers, bicyclists and horses. I also support multi-use trails, with the exception of the trails in the Phleger Estate. Creation of volunteer trail patrols is vital to provide "eyes and ears" in the new property.

In Marin County I support the position of the Marin Horse Council and want to go on record as supporting the continued presence of the horse facilities and increases in access to trails. The final plan must address the presence and requirements of equestrians.

In San Mateo County I support most of the proposals in Alternative 1 for all the properties. The final plan should take into account the diverse nature of the land in San Mateo County and MUST allow for the continued presence of the horse facilities. The areas that have not traditionally been open to equestrians in the GGNRA should be re-examined and those properties opened up where possible. I support the details that ETRAC and the Coastside Horse Council have proposed.

I would like to address the issue of the lands in the Rancho Corral de Tierra parcel. This is a new acquisition and must be carefully planned. Horsemen are committed to multi-use in this area. Alternative 1 should be amended to preserve stables where they are because they provide for quality of life for the Coastside area and San Mateo County as a whole. This is a large enough area that dogs on leash could be allowed.

The plan should also address existing trails and roads which should be kept and maintained for equestrian use. These trails provide a critical regional links from North to South and along the Bay Area Ridge Trail alignment. Most of these are appropriate multi-use trails and good for dogs on leash and in many areas off-leash.

Thank you for the opportunity to give you my comments.
Regards from,

Ellie Ferrari

ELLIE FERRARI

Ellie Ferrari
211 Willowbrook Dr.
Portola Valley, CA 94028

We Want to Preserve our Stables and trails in the GGNRA

239

To: Brian O'Neill
Superintendent
Golden Gate National Recreation Area

From: Children and teens taking riding lessons

Re: 1. Support for preservation of equestrian facilities:

- Ember Ridge Equestrian Center
- Picardo Ranch (Millwood Ranch)
- Moss Beach Stables
- Renegade Ranch
- Ovean View Stables, Presidio Riding Club
- Miwok Stables
- Golden Gate Dairy

2. Support for continued equestrian access to riding trails: Milagra Ridge, Shell dance Nursery area, Sweeney Ridge, Cattle Hill, Mori Point, Pedro Point, Devil's Slide, San Pedro Mountain, Rancho Corral de Tierra, SFPUC Watershed easements (All south of San Francisco) as well as trails in Marin County and San Francisco that are located on GGNRA lands

Why we want to keep stables and trails on the GGNRA park lands: (use extra paper as necessary)

Horseback riding is fun and educational and is a true sport that many people love. While riding the rider has to practice learn and accomplish skills that are both physically and mentally demanding with balance and control. There are also many life skills associated with riding and working with horses as in responsibility, caring for animals and setting and working towards goals just to name a few. Working with horses on to back →

Name Emma Elar

Age 13

City of Residence Pacifica

Stables Ember Ridge

can also contribute to everyday life that would make our world much safer than most people don't think of as in driving. I

almost always ride with other people and it ~~teach~~ I have to perform skills like interpreting where they are going to be and what they are doing while paying attention to what you are doing yourself. Trails are a fun way to practice our skills in a different place with little impact on the environment which motor vehicles may cause. Working with horses is amazing and involves a partnership where your partner could potentially kill you but instead you work together in harmony with trust. Without our trails and stables our incredible low impact environment would be lost. Please keep our stables and trails,

July 15, 2008

187L

National Park Service - General Management Planning Team – GGNRA
Denver Service Center
12795 West Alameda Parkway
Denver, CO 80225-0287

Dear GGNRA Planning staff:

I am responding to the alternatives that are proposed for the new general plan for the parks. I am an equestrian and I support the majority of the concepts in Alternative 1, however Alternative 1 does not apply to the entire area. The final plan should take into account the need to retain existing stables, provide more trails (especially a variety of different length loop trails) and regional connections, provide adequate trailer parking for equestrians, identify water sources for livestock, and provide unpaved trail surfaces for both joggers, bicyclists and horses. I also support multi-use trails, with the exception of the trails in the Phleger Estate. Creation of volunteer trail patrols is vital to provide "eyes and ears" in the new property.

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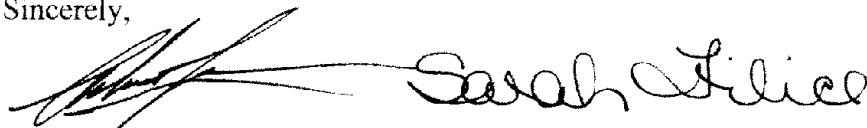
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Thank you for the opportunity to give you my comments.

Sincerely,



Al Filice (Past President San Mateo County Horsemen's Association 2005 & 2006, Member of the Coastside Horse Council)

Sarah Filice (Past President San Mateo County Horsemen's Association 2007, Member of the Coastside Horse Council)

2209 Purissima Creek Road
Half Moon Bay, CA 04019

We Want to Preserve our Stables and trails in the GGNRA

To: Brian O'Neill
Superintendent
Golden Gate National Recreation Area

From: Children and teens taking riding lessons

Re: 1. Support for preservation of equestrian facilities:

- Ember Ridge Equestrian Center
- Picardo Ranch (Millwood Ranch)
- Moss Beach Stables
- Renegade Ranch
- Ovean View Stables, Presidio Riding Club
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- Golden Gate Dairy

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Why we want to keep stables and trails on the GGNRA park lands: (use extra paper as necessary)

We have been riding and visiting these ranches for many years and some of these ranches are an integral part of the communities where they are located. I believe the ranches to be very low impact on the environment but are still important facilities. Riding and horses teach children good life skills such as responsibility, animal husbandry, fiscal impact and physical fitness. Two of the ranches have either a 4H or FFA program operating there as their base.

Having GGNRA, towns and farms and ranches is what makes our Bay Area so unique and special. Having access to the trail system of the GGNRA for horses and people provides wonderful opportunities to explore our heritage.

PLEASE PLEASE Keep the equestrian facilities and

Name

Age

City of Residence

Stables

GAIL BENJAMIN

57

PACIFICA

EMBER RIDGE

July 28, 2008

National Park Service - General Management Planning Team – GGNRA
Denver Service Center
12795 West Alameda Parkway
Denver, CO 80225-0287

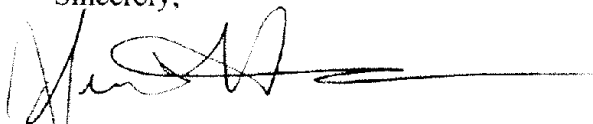
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The plan should also address existing trails and roads which should be kept and maintained for equestrian use. These trails provide a critical regional links from North to South and along the Bay Area Ridge Trail alignment. Most of these are appropriate multi-use trails and good for dogs on leash and in many areas off-leash. Thank you for the opportunity to give you my comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Teresa Green', followed by a long horizontal line.

Teresa Green
1215 De Solo Drive
Pacifica, CA 94044

229

The Marin County Equestrian Trail Guide

Sandy Greenblat, Publisher
105 Bay Way
San Rafael CA 94901
Tel: 415/459-1335 Fax: 415/460-5024
email: MarinTrailGuide@comcast.net

May 26, 2008

GGNRA

Re: Newsletter 4 – Spring 2008
GGNRA-GMP

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Thank you for providing the broad overview in Newsletter #4.

A few comments:

Page 14 – Overview: Current Conditions and Management
Alternative 1 + Connecting People and the Parks:

The overview should address the trail system and its ability to provide safe passage for walkers, hikers, runners, equestrians and to the best extent possible. Those with physical limitations who should be provided the best opportunity to enjoy the GGNRA facilities.

Alternative 1 reads: "The national park lands in Marin are a hiker's paradise, with an extensive network...etc...etc."

Please edit to read ""The national park lands in Marin are a hiker's and equestrian's paradise, with an extensive network... etc... -etc."

Page 16 - Preliminary Alternative's for Marin County
Tennessee Valley including Miwok Stables

Current Conditions and Management: This section does not even mention the issue of parking.

Alternative 1 states "....improved picnic and parking areas..."

Alternative 2 states "minimal level of visitor facilities...."

Alternative 3 ignores the issue.

The truth is: Tennessee Valley is one of the closest, if not the closest, major terminals for visitors from San Francisco who come every week by the thousands. Tennessee Valley alone provides the location for expanded facilities (rest rooms, picnic tables, trash enclosures, etc.) plus, most important, a ready area, non-sensitive, that can be utilized to expand the parking area, provide better flow through (there is none now since visitors block the aisles every weekend), better facilities for parking motor homes, cars with trailers, trucks with horse trailers, and make it possible for all of them to come and go without impacting the traditional auto and bicycle traffic.

Bear Valley in Point Reyes has a program wherein the main parking lot has a section reserved for trucks, motor homes, cars/trailers, and trucks with horse trailers. Everyone respects the limitations and abides. The balance of the parking area and the adjacent lots are for automobile use only. It works.

Page 18 - Preliminary Alternative's for Marin County
Conzelman, Bunker & McCullough Roads:

The first section, "Current Conditions and Management" as well as all three alternatives are missing one major point. This is a major area providing access, parking, hiking, riding and exploring the Headlands, close in to the greater San Francisco Bay Area. There is no mention of improved parking areas as covered in my January 2008 paper to GGNRA. Please consider enhanced limited parking as requested, in the area on the west side of Bunker Road just north of the stables, probably utilizing the abandoned 'old road'.

Tennessee Valley provides GGNRA one unique location with the ability to accommodate many visitors and their vehicles without damage to the environment. It will save demand for such expansion in other areas. Please consider expansion of this one, virtually urban terminal for expansion to provide facilities demanded by the amount of traffic involved.

Thank you.


Sandy Greenblatt

197

Duffy & Ron Hurwin
558 Tenaya Dr.
Tiburon, CA 94920

July 21, 2008

To: GGNRA
Re: General Management Plan

I have been attending scoping sessions and trying to digest the verbose alternatives presented as visions of the park's future. I fear for any of these alternatives as they all in one way or another create more restrictions on the park's uses and set up a sanitized homogeneous experience from park to park. I worry that the bureaucracy will create a "big box" type of experience in the park.

The GGNRA was originally created to be a close by getaway spot where urban dwellers and tourists could go to have a wilderness experience in "their own backyard" so to speak. To have such gorgeous natural habitat in such close proximity to a heavily populated urban area is unique to this region of the country.

I have been enjoying this park on horseback for 36 years. I am in fact a member of the Marin Municipal Water District Volunteer Mounted Patrol. When I first began riding in the GGNRA, there were many fewer people than now & everyone was on foot or horseback. The GGNRA lands are historically dairy and ranch lands and were in fact discovered on horseback as settlers moved west. This is an important part of our California history.

It is important to me that equestrian use continues and that the stable facilities remain in place and are even improved. The closest alternative proposed to my desires would be #1 - Connecting People With the Parks. However I differ with the proposal with regards to movement of any equestrian facilities, especially the Golden Gate Dairy Stables which has a historical presence in the park and shares it's facility with the Muir Beach Volunteer Fire Dept. I am vehemently opposed to moving the Dairy Stables from it's present site as it is very well run and is very conscientious about protecting the surrounding ecosystem.

Since the increased population and recent creation of the mountain bike have added traffic to the park, I recognize the needs for safety oriented controls in the park. The use of signage and distribution of maps and interpretive information is certainly of value. But I do not want to see "interpretive" information turning into the sanitized pre-packaged park experience that robs visitors of their own experience of nature. Mountain bikes, non motorized vehicles, have no historic precedent in the park. I do respect the desires of people to explore the parks by bike but do wish traffic restrictions to be put in place such that accidents are avoided. This is most important on single track trails with impeded sightlines that do not enable bike riders and other users to get out of each other's way in sufficient time to avoid a crash. There is no historic precedent for any vehicles in the park other than the early 20th century vehicles used by ranchers when the parklands were private property.

I have seen many children in the park who have never seen or been close to a horse. The media has been full of articles about children and adults suffering from "nature deprivation". Children delight in the sight of our horses when we ride them through the parks and delight in the opportunity to pet them. Our horses love kids and it gives us an opportunity to teach the children about their nature. 100 years ago children were riding horses to school, not bikes & carpools. Our horses have an important place in our history and that of the park. Without them, transportation would not have been possible in the last century let alone discovery of the very parks we are trying to manage. We must not lose sight of this in the general management plan.

I am middle aged and ride with many people who have disabilities and infirmities. To these people, their horses are their "legs" who transport them through the park for a serene and spiritual experience of nature. These are people who are unable to hike or ride a bike into the hills that compose our GGNRA. It would be in violation of the rights of disabled people to take away their "legs" such that they could not access the areas they support through their taxpayer dollars.

It is of paramount importance to me that all the existing trails are preserved the way they are and no additional restrictions placed on them for equestrian use. In addition, I'd like to see refined parking and staging opportunities for trailering our horses into the parks.

The trail system is excellent as it is in the park and I see no reason to change it other than maintaining what is there and preventing erosion, primarily due to natural forces of winter storms and drainage patterns resulting from rainfall runoff, fallen tree limbs, etc.

I am very cognoscent of the fact that along with the increase of the population in the Bay Area and the commercialization of the outdoor sporting industry has come greatly increased human traffic in the GGNRA. Along with any increases in traffic and congestion comes a need for some traffic controls. Also, many visitors are unaware that they are visiting a wilderness area & need some guidance so they don't get lost. Having proper maps & signage as well as some historical information available to enhance their understanding of where they are visiting is a good thing. But too much of packaged park experience rings hollow and causes a very sterilized experience of something which is supposed to be uplifting and inspiring. Too much of today's media robs one of the ability to create one's own experience. The park has always been a place where one can go to be reflective of life and nature. This quality must be retained. And maintaining the presence of the horse in the park is an essential component since we are indebted to this magnificent animal who carried our settlers thousands of miles to discover these very lands.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Duffy", followed by a long horizontal flourish line.

Duffy Hurwin

223

July 30, 2008

National Park Service
Denver Service Center
ATTN: Stephan Nofield
12795 West Alameda Parkway
Denver CO 80225-0287

RE: GGNRA, General Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement | Newsletter 4

Dear Mr Nofield,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Golden Gate National Recreational Area General Management Plan.

I am a frequent user of the GGNRA as both an equestrian and hiker. My major concern is the preliminary alternatives in the GMP are confusing & vague toward the future of equestrian facilities & equestrian trail access in the GGNRA.

The land within the GGNRA has for the most part been ranch lands, in some cases for over a hundred years, and should remain available for equestrian purposes as a community asset. Horses have a historic place in the GGNRA, and provide the public with many wonderful educational & recreational opportunities. For Marin, San Francisco and San Mateo counties, eliminating any of these equestrian facilities (or equestrian trail access) would create a significant loss to the community.

In planning the future GGNRA vision for equestrian uses, I hope the NPS will ensure the following:

- **EQUESTRIAN FACILITIES:** Please ensure all of the horse facilities are preserved and remain with no reduction of horses. These stables should continue providing the public with horse-boarding, riding lessons, trail riding and other outreach opportunities.
- **TRAILS & SAFETY:** Please improve & expand the trail systems (including more trail loops) to help distribute the increase of park users. Create trail systems to safely provide for hikers and equestrians. Single-track trails with limited sight lines, or inclines, can be unsafe as they expose hikers and equestrians to safety risks from mountain bikes. Wide roads/trails, without steep inclines or limited visibility, are ideal for all user-groups to share.
- **TRAILHEADS:** Please allow for separate and adequate parking for horse trailers when planning the development of parking areas. Trailheads should include room to safely unload horses, mounting blocks, tie areas, picnic tables and access to water.

Regarding the Proposed Alternatives for Marin Equestrian Facilities:

Golden Gate Dairy

Alternative 1 - "Equestrian uses would be relocated to Lower Redwood Creek". Not enough information is provided to select this alternative.

Alternative 2 is unacceptable.

Alternative 3 - I support Alternative 3. The Golden Gate Dairy Stables has successfully operated in this location for many years. This option allows continued equestrian access to trails, and retains an connection for the larger equestrian use-group.

-Note: An issue that needs attention in this area is the lack of a connector trail between Frank Valley Horse Camp and Muir Beach. Currently, equestrians have to use Highway One - a dangerous situation - a safe connector trail needs to be built.

Lower Redwood Creek

Alternative 1 - Not enough information is given regarding potential "equestrian uses" to select this alternative. However, I support the idea of expanding equestrian use opportunities to this area.

Alternatives 2 and 3 ("same as Alternative 2") are not acceptable.

Marin Headlands Stables at Rodeo Valley (Presidio Riding Club)

Crucial information is missing from all three Newsletter alternatives. None of the alternatives in Newsletter 4 even mention the existing equestrian facility, and some of the maps seem to cut the stables off from the trails.

Subsequent NPS Staff charts, detailing the alternatives, state: "Stables are removed", and, "Use of stables still being evaluated based on park operations needs". It is unacceptable not to include this information under the alternatives in Newsletter 4.

Please develop a new alternative that allows this facility to remain, with trail access. Allow this facility to continue serving the public with horse boarding options for the local population, and overnight horse accommodation for long-distance travelers with horses. Allow the hanger building to remain for the stables use, not a maintenance shed.

Lower Tennessee Valley Stables (Volunteer Mounted Patrol)

All 3 alternatives are unacceptable as they remove the LTV Stables. This historic location should be kept for equestrian use and for the volunteer mounted patrol. The addition of horse-camping is a good idea -- although, the site is not ideal for horse camping unless the riders are also able to camp at the site.

Creating a multi-use trail to connect with the Mill Valley Bike path, and promoting "equestrian touring on a 'trail to the sea'" is an excellent idea.

For equestrian facilities/trails in San Francisco & San Mateo counties, I support the recommendations of the equestrian facilities located in the affected areas, and the local Horse Councils/Associations.

Sincerely,



Karen Johnson

1842

July 16, 2008

National Park Service - General Management Planning Team - GGNRA
Denver Service Center
12795 West Alameda Parkway
Denver, CO 80225-0287

Dear GGNRA Planning staff:

I am responding to the alternatives that are proposed for the new general plan for the parks. I am an equestrian and I support the majority of the concepts in Alternative 1, however Alternative 1 does not apply to all the area. The final plan should take into account the need to retain existing stables, provide more trails (especially a variety of different length loop trails) and regional connections, provide adequate rig parking for equestrians, identify water sources for livestock, and provide unpaved trail surfaces for both joggers, bicyclists and horses. I also support multi-use trails, with the exception of the trails in the Phleger Estate. Creation of volunteer trail patrols is vital to provide "eyes and ears" in the new property.

In Marin County I support the position of the Marin Horse Council and want to go on record as supporting the continued presence of the horse facilities and increases in access to trails. The final plan must address the presence and requirements of equestrians.

In San Mateo County I support most of the proposals in Alternative 1 for all the properties. The final plan should take into account the diverse nature of the land in San Mateo County and MUST allow for the continued presence of the horse facilities. The areas that have not traditionally been open to equestrians in the GGNRA should be re-examined and those properties opened up where possible. I support the details that ETRAC and the Coastside Horse Council have proposed.

I would like to address the issue of the lands in the Rancho Corral de Tierra parcel. This is a new acquisition and must be carefully planned. Horsemen are committed to multi-use in this area. Alternative 1 should be amended to preserve stables where they are because they provide for quality of life for the Coastside area and San Mateo County as a whole. This is a large enough area that dogs on leash could be allowed.

The plan should also address existing trails and roads which should be kept and maintained for equestrian use. These trails provide a critical regional links from North to South and along the Bay Area Ridge Trail alignment. Most of these are appropriate multi-use trails and good for dogs on leash and in many areas off-leash.

Thank you for listening to my comments.
Regards from,



Jane Kikuchi
905 Tunitas Creek Rd.
Half Moon Bay, CA. 94019

July 29, 2008

To: Golden Gate National Recreation Area
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Re: Golden Gate National Recreation Area General Management Plan

Dear Brian O'Neill,

The overflow crowd that met at the Muir Beach Community Center on June 26th demonstrated Muir Beach's strong feelings regarding some of the proposed alternatives in the Golden Gate National Recreation Area General Management Plan. The community also expressed disappointment at the lack of collaboration in developing General Management Plan alternatives and great concern that its input may not be given due consideration.

We seek to maintain a balance between environmental stewardship, recreational enjoyment for generations to come, the nurturing of the social fabric of our community, and protection of cultural and historic resources.

This takes recognition that horses and barns at the Dairy, sheep and gardens at Slide Ranch, flowers on the hillsides, people and old farm buildings at Banducci Ranch, and rows of vegetables and zen buddhist practice at Green Gulch Farm are what make this place beautiful and unique. They are what make this area as attractive to our visitors as it is to us. Its coastal, rural, ranching history must be preserved, protected, and appreciated by all.

We strongly support this vision of the GGNRA General Management Plan:

1. Golden Gate Dairy: eliminate options for visitor services of any kind at the Golden Gate Dairy. There is no room! We support both the preservation of the historic presence of horses at the Dairy, under the auspices of Ocean Riders of Marin, and the continued presence of the Muir Beach Volunteer Fire Department, which protects the entire community, from Three Corners and Green Gulch Farm to Muir Woods, Slide Ranch, and beyond.

Ocean Riders of Marin continues a long history of kids and horses at the Dairy and provides riding opportunities for horse-lovers of all ages. In addition, it is committed to fostering outreach programs for under-served youth by offering them a chance to experience the thrill of riding a horse in the wild. Ocean Riders has shown its commitment to environmental stewardship by working tirelessly to minimize its impact in the watershed, and working to preserve the integrity of the land, water, flora and fauna of Redwood Creek. Because the

co-existence of horses and fire engines is essential, but not always easy, any additional use at this site such as moving Muir Woods activities to the Dairy, installing an informational kiosk or adding a bus stop for the Muir Woods shuttle is absolutely inappropriate, out of the question, and will be strongly opposed.

2. Banducci Ranch: the cultural and historical integrity of Banducci Ranch, which has been in the Banducci family since the thirties, must be supported. This includes the ownership/partnership role of Amadeo Banducci, who, as the last rancher in this valley, personifies Muir Beach living history. With his vision as a farmer and a steward of the land, he must be allowed to run his ranch and to pass it on to his family.

Ranches are run with farm labor, and develop a farm community of their own that extends beyond the immediate family. We support this long-standing community at Banducci Ranch, and treasure its diversity. These are our friends and neighbors, and must not be removed from their homes.

3. Slide Ranch: maintain, nurture and support the Slide Ranch environmental educational center where it is now located, on the site of an old coast dairy ranch. Slide Ranch is a gem for the whole Bay Area. By experiencing a working farm and garden, it offers many children their first opportunity to learn that food does not originate on grocery store shelves. It also allows these children to experience nature both on land and in the tide pools at ocean's edge. This gives them a sense of the importance of environmental stewardship. This coastal site is intrinsic to the children's experience. Slide Ranch must remain as it is, and where it is.
4. Muir Woods National Monument: Juggling the need for access to this venerable stand of redwoods that was created close to a major population center with the express purpose of being remarkably accessible, and the preservation of those same great trees, is a balancing act that we understand well. Our concern is that the parking lots at Muir Woods not be reduced or eliminated until and unless the number of cars using them has been diminished by the use of shuttle buses and parking facilities at connecting mass transit transfer points.

We are extremely concerned about the impacts of moving Muir Woods facilities to Muir Beach, and encourage discussion of land swaps with the State, where useful and feasible, to accommodate those needs.

In addition, we local Marin County people love to hike in Muir Woods! While we support efforts to restore the natural flood plain and create a sustainable visitor program, it would be a shame to replace access along the valley floor with a limited trail system above the valley floor that is "highly controlled and limited to designated areas and activities." This is not

consistent with the need for Muir Woods to provide an accessible opportunity for visitors to fully experience the wonders of this great treasure.

5. Trailhead Development: We do not support any proposal for intensified development of trailheads with new facilities such as parking lots, restrooms or picnic areas. The wild, undeveloped appearance of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area is what makes it so spectacular.
6. Interagency Coordination: We strongly support the efforts at improved coordination with neighboring agencies and organizations to better manage the park for environmental restoration, protection of species diversity, and building resiliency to climate change.
7. Public Transit: We support efforts to provide public transit to the Muir Beach parking lot to lessen the impact of private cars. We urge the Park Service to collaborate with the County to provide appropriately-sized public transit for both local residents and Muir Beach visitors.
8. Miscellaneous: Lastly, we urge consideration of Shirley Souza Nygren's request for a name change of Santos Meadows to Souza Meadows, and we urge the Park Service to work cooperatively with Bob Winklemann to resolve trail connections and pedestrian safety issues.

Sincerely,

Richard S. Kohn

Brenda F. Kohn

5 AHAB DRIVE
Muir Beach
CA 94965

July 21, 2008

National Park Service - General Management Planning Team - GCNRA
Denver Service Center
12795 West Alameda Parkway
Denver, CO 80225-0287

Dear GCNRA Planning staff:

I am responding to the alternatives that are proposed for the new general plan for the parks. I am an equestrian and I support the majority of the concepts in Alternative 1, however Alternative 1 does not apply to all the area. The final plan should take into account the need to retain existing stables, provide more trails (especially a variety of different length loop trails) and regional connections, provide adequate rig parking for equestrians, identify water sources for livestock, and provide unpaved trail surfaces for both joggers, bicyclists and horses. I also support multi-use trails, with the exception of the trails in the Phleger Estate. Creation of volunteer trail patrols is vital to provide "eyes and ears" in the new property.

In Marin County I support the position of the Marin Horse Council and want to go on record as supporting the continued presence of the horse facilities and increases in access to trails. The final plan must address the presence and requirements of equestrians.

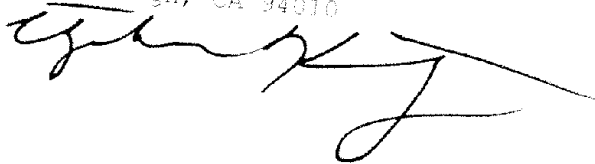
In San Mateo County I support most of the proposals in Alternative 1 for all the properties. The final plan should take into account the diverse nature of the land in San Mateo County and MUST allow for the continued presence of the horse facilities. The areas that have not traditionally been open to equestrians in the GCNRA should be re-examined and those properties opened up where possible. I support the details that ETRAC and the Coastside Horse Council have proposed.

I would like to address the issue of the lands in the Rancho Corral de Tierra parcel. This is a new acquisition and must be carefully planned. Horsemen are committed to multi-use in this area. Alternative 1 should be amended to preserve stables where they are because they provide for quality of life for the Coastside area and San Mateo County as a whole. This is a large enough area that dogs on leash could be allowed.

The plan should also address existing trails and roads which should be kept and maintained for equestrian use. These trails provide a critical regional links from North to South and along the Bay Area Ridge Trail alignment. Most of these are appropriate multi-use trails and good for dogs on leash and in many areas off-leash.

Thank you for the opportunity to give you my comments.
Regards from,

Elizabeth Kurtz
1605 Black Mountain Road
Hillsborough, CA 94010





JULY 23, 2008

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
DENVER SERVICE CENTER
STEPHAN NOFIELD
12795 WEST ALAMEDA PARKWAY
PO BOX 25287
DENVER CO 80225-0287

As a member of the equestrian community, I wish to go on record in strong support of alternative 1: Connecting People with the Parks. This is the only alternative that preserves the current stables in GGNRA parkland in Marin county, as well as recommending diverse uses by the multi-user community, including equestrians. I am strongly in favor of improved trail access, improved parking areas, trail maintenance and improvement for use in all weather conditions, as well as picnic tables, water troughs, hitching rails and manure bunkers for proper manure management.

I believe that the best way to ensure access to the parks by future generations is to promote opportunities for diverse use of the GGNRA territories by all user groups. For many of us, most of these rugged parklands would be off limits, were it not for the access provided by our equine mounts. And in order to enhance the visitor experience for equestrian users, we need well maintained trails, picnic tables, restrooms, and easy to use (from horse-back) gates and latches.

The areas that I am most concerned about ensuring access to (and that are discussed in the current draft management plan) include (but are not limited to): Tennessee Valley, Marin Headlands: Oakwood Valley, Mari City Ridge and Gerbode Valley, and Golden Gate Dairy.

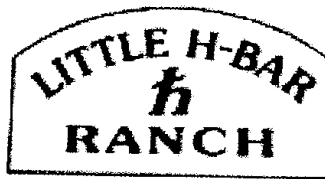
B) The missing important elements are:

- Recognition of the valuable resource that exists in the current trail system
- Advocacy for multi-user trails that connect to other trail systems.
- Analysis of what is needed to enable equestrian access (as described above).
- Appreciation for what the volunteer communities, such as horse clubs, can and are willing to contribute to making a safe multi-user environment for all visitors.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide comments on the GGNRA management plan draft.

Sincerely,

Lynn Cominsky



JULY 24, 2008

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, DENVER SERVICE CENTER
STEPHAN NOFIELD
12795 WEST ALAMEDA PARKWAY, PO BOX 25287
DENVER CO 80225-0287

Dear Mr. Nofield,

As a member of the equestrian community, I wish to go on record in strong support of alternative 1: Connecting People with the Parks. This is the only alternative that preserves the current stables in GGNRA parkland in Marin county. I also am strongly in support of the continued safe use of the GGNRA trails by equestrians, cyclists and hikers.

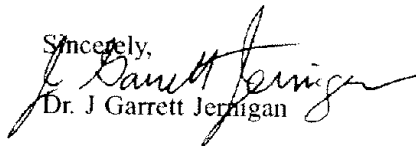
I am very concerned that alternatives 2 and 3 may results in a severe decrease in access to the trails by the public. The GGNRA trails system along with Point Reyes National Seashore is one of the best trail systems in the US and the entire world. There is a long history of public access to these trails which are located in proximity to a large urban area. It is appropriate that such a resource maximize trail access while also preserving the natural beauty of the area. I realize that there are advocates for all points of view including treating the GGNRA as an off-limits wilderness area with very limited public access.

I am reminded of a story about a young driver that has just received their first traffic ticket for running a red light. This young person appears before a judge to plead innocent. The judge declares that "everyone is guilty at one time or another" and nothing the young person says will persuade the judge to dismiss the fine. (In fun ?) the judge says that he normally considers three alternatives as punishment in these types of cases. Alternative (1) is a 100 dollar fine. Alternative 2 is life in prison. Alternative 3 is death by hanging. Since this is a first offence the judge says "pay the clerk 100 dollars, next guilty person please". I do hope this is a situation with the 100 dollar fine. Why do I feel like I am being punished ?

In closing I would like to bring up one other matter. The biggest issue for me is saving the trails. My personal friend Mr. Sandy Greenblat has provided you with detailed information about trail improvements that we need. I am very happy that GGNRA is working with the Marin Horse Council to let the equestrian community raise funds and even help with the installation of any approved trail changes. I would encourage you to maximize this process as a required part of the new written plan. I do not have a specific plan in mind however I feel that the fate of the process should not be left to just a few dedicated individuals like Sandy Greenblat. There should be a GGNRA "required process" that ensures better communication with the public with an active fund raising element for trail improvements.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide comments on the draft GGNRA management plan.

Sincerely,



Dr. J. Garrett Jernigan

PS: If you are a staff person reading or counting this letter please consider passing it on to the boss.

903 MUSTANG COURT • PETALUMA, CA • 94954
PHONE: (707) 782-9380 • FAX: (800) 848-6369

P10

Preservation of Equestrian Facilities in GGNRA

To: Brian O'Neill, Superintendent
Golden Gate National Recreation Area

From: Friends, boarders and management of
Mar Vista Stables Ranch, Daly City, CA

Re: (1) Support for preservation of **equestrian facilities**:
Ember Ridge, Picardo Ranch (Millwood), SFPUC Watershed easements,
Moss Beach Ranch, Ocean View Stables, Renegade Ranch, Rancho Tierra
del Coral, Presidio Riding Club, Miwok Stables and Golden Gate Dairy.

(2) Support for continued equestrian access to **riding trails**:
Milagra Ridge, Sheldance Nursery area, Sweeny Ridge, Cattle Hill, Mori Point,
Pedro Point, Devil's Slide, San Pedro Mountain (all south of San Francisco), as
well as trails in Marin County and San Francisco that are located on GGNRA lands.

We the undersigned seek to preserve the existing equestrian facilities and trail access which may in the future be affected by decisions taken by your General Management Planning Team – GGNRA. The above-named stables have successfully operated for decades in our local areas. These facilities are well known and highly utilized. Most are at or near full capacity, confirming the enduring popularity of horseback riding and the continuing urgent need for horse boarding facilities in these coastal areas. Our stables enjoy wide public support and are major centers of the local economy (they and their production, feed stores, tack stores, online providers, veterinarians, farriers, instructors, and horse shows, parties, etc.). All of these interests would suffer if riding or horse boarding opportunities were reduced.

An urban area needs an equal recreation. It becomes all the more important that the recreation enjoyed is that before the advent of GGNRA.

our equine facilities were already responsible and established custodians of these lands. The trails have been cared for; they are not degraded.

Precautions have been taken not to pollute the seasonal streams. Buildings have been kept to a minimum. Dirt bikes and off-road vehicles that would destroy the natural habitat have been discouraged in an effort to preserve the areas. We continue to be good stewards of the land.

With the continued high level of interest in horseback riding, horse camps for children, hourly lessons and horse boarding, it is only reasonable that the local facilities be allowed to continue operating in our coastal areas. Urban residents enjoy these traditional pastimes and value the proximity of our stables to the cities. As construction encroaches on open spaces it becomes more difficult to maintain equestrian facilities. Nevertheless, riding remains very popular and we the undersigned need and support our equestrian facilities in the planned Golden Gate National Recreation Area.

Thank you for your attention to our petition and please find attached signatures supporting the continuance and enhancement of our equestrian facilities under your management.

Mar Vista Stables, Daly City,
~~San Francisco, California~~, CA:

<u>Name</u>	<u>City of</u>
<u>Marilyn Garcia Marilyn Garcia</u>	<u>San Francisco</u>
<u>Natalia Pasmarick</u>	<u>San Francisco, CA</u>
<u>Wardie</u>	<u>Daly City, CA</u>
<u>LORI Gallerani</u>	<u>San Jose</u>
<u>4013 Folsom SF CA 94110</u>	
<u>Paula D. Halls</u>	<u>1467 Olney St, SE, CA 94109</u>
<u>Blanche A. Halliday</u>	<u>San Francisco, CA 94132</u>

From : Mar Vista Stables,
Daly City, CA

~~Haley R. Davis~~ Haley R. Davis
San Francisco, CA

~~Emilia A. Cronwall~~ Catherine A. Cronwall
San Francisco, CA

Shannon Kerr
San Francisco, CA

NORA Spiegel
San Francisco, CA

Christian Medeiros
San Francisco, CA

Yuhuan' Salma
South San Francisco, CA

Elaina Kauffmann
Mill Valley, CA

Glafys M. M. M.
Daly City

Robert Trumbull

Victoria Trumbull
San Francisco, CA

Allyson
Brisbane, CA

Name _____ City of _____
Residence _____

Karol Rasmussen
Millbrae, CA

From: Mar Vista Stables
Daly City, CA

SIERRA GILMORE
MILBRAE, CA

RICK APPIANO
SEAYWARD, CA

Jennifer Was Here⁹⁹ → Daly City, CA
~~Inside~~

Donna Buckler
Daly City 94015

Submitted July, 2008

200

Amelia S. Marshall
3327 Wisconsin Street
Oakland CA 94602
July 20, 2008

Stephan Nofield

National Park Service General Management Planning Team – GGNRA

Denver Service Center, 12795 West Alameda Parkway

Denver CO 80225-0287

Dear Sir:

It is extremely important that the Golden Gate National Recreation Area continue to be hospitable to equestrians.

One of the great things about our culture of the American West is that horseback riding remains accessible to persons of all income levels and abilities. We want to keep it that way. In Europe and elsewhere around the world, horse sports are limited to wealthy people. Here, thanks to our ranching traditions, even an Oakland working woman like me can trailer my mare to ride in view of the Golden Gate. Kids with disabilities – like my own son – become inspired and empowered when they are able to enjoy horses and riding.

Enclosed you will find a petition with about 35 signatures, primarily from horse lovers in the East Bay who also visit the GGNRA for horse camping and day use, supporting the continued presence of horses in the proposed Golden Gate National Park lands.

If stables were to be closed, horse concessions “concentrated”, and trail access denied to equestrians, this is in violation of what a large segment of the public wants done with our tax dollars. For minimal ecological impact, horse facilities should be spread throughout appropriate areas.

Despite our weakened economy, horse keeping continues. Lots of us have a passion for the sport and the lifestyle of being around horses. We want to continue to share this passion with youth and others who can benefit from this great traditional use of public park lands.

Please continue to work with local equestrian groups to ensure respectful treatment of all the stakeholders and proper environmental protections.

Sincerely,

Amelia S. Marshall

Amelia S. Marshall

Preservation of Equestrian Facilities in GGNRA

To: Brian O'Neill, Superintendent
Golden Gate National Recreation Area

From: **Supporters of horseback riding** in the Golden Gate National Recreation Area

Re: (1) Support for preservation of **equestrian facilities**:
Ember Ridge, Picardo Ranch (Millwood), SFPUC Watershed easements,
Moss Beach Ranch, Ocean View Stables, Renegade Ranch, Presidio Riding Club,
Miwok Stables and Golden Gate Dairy.

(2) Support for continued equestrian access to **riding trails**:
Milagra Ridge, Shelldance Nursery area, Sweeney Ridge, Cattle Hill, Mori Point,
Pedro Point, Devil's Slide, San Pedro Mountain (all south of San Francisco), Phleger
Estate as well as trails in Marin County and in San Francisco that are located on
GGNRA lands.

We the undersigned seek to preserve the existing equestrian facilities and trail access which may in the future be affected by decisions taken by your General Management Planning Team – GGNRA. The above-named stables have successfully operated for decades in our local areas. These facilities are well known and highly utilized. Most are at or near full capacity, confirming the enduring popularity of horseback riding and the continuing urgent need for horse boarding facilities in these coastal areas. Our stables enjoy wide public support and aid many sectors of the local economy (hay and grain production, feed stores, tack stores, online providers, veterinarians, farriers, instructors, rodeos, shows, restaurants, etc.). All of these interests would suffer if riding or horse boarding opportunities were reduced.

As urban areas encroach on rural preserves, it becomes all the more important that the government recognize that before the advent of GGNRA our equine facilities were already responsible and established custodians of these lands. The trails have been cared for; they are not degraded. Precautions have been taken not to pollute the seasonal streams. Buildings have been kept to a minimum. Dirt bikes and off-road vehicles that would destroy the natural habitat have been discouraged in an effort to preserve the areas. We continue to be good stewards of the land.

With the continued high level of interest in horseback riding, horse camps for children, hourly lessons and horse boarding, it is only reasonable that the local facilities be allowed to continue operating in our coastal areas. Urban residents enjoy these traditional pastimes and value the proximity of our stables to the cities. As construction encroaches on open spaces it becomes more difficult to maintain equestrian facilities. Nevertheless, riding remains very

popular and we the undersigned need and support our equestrian facilities in the planned Golden Gate National Recreation Area.

Thank you for your attention to our petition and please find attached signatures supporting the continuance and enhancement of our equestrian facilities under your management.

We support horseback riding and stables in the Golden Gate National Recreation Area:

<u>Name</u>	<u>City of residence</u>
Amelia S. Marshall	Oakland CA
Sandra May	Concord, CA
Judi Bank	Oakland, CA
Lee Brown	Copperopolis, CA
John Winters	Oakland, CA
Amy Hunter	Oakland CA
Vatu D	Piedmont, CA
E.G. Burge	Piedmont, Pa.
Myra	Piedmont CA
BK Ogden	Berkland, CA
melanie B. Diamond	Berkeley, CA.
Jessica Miller	BRIONES CA
CHRISTINE RIVIN	CONCORD, CA
Judy West	Oakland CA
John Constantine	Alameda, CA
Christine Lantieri	Berkeley, CA

Name

City of Residence

Randy Hassel

Oakland

Sam Spahr

Danville

Vali Axel

Danville

Kim Gardner

Los Gatos

Cori Branger

Los Gatos

David Middleton

Hayward

Johanne Lamm

Hayward

John H.

San Ramon

Sam C. Stutz

Oakland

Luz M. de Gómes

San Ramon

Angela Pardini

San Ramon

Ann Ray

Oakland

Katy Webb

Sonoma

Robert M. Lee

Marin County

John J. Hill

San Francisco

Julian Abelskamp

Lafayette

Georges Schneider

Summitville CA

Susan Bertilacchi Green

Pleasant Hill, CA CCC

C.A. Kall

San Mateo Co

189L

July 15, 2008

National Park Service
General Management Planning Team - GGNRA
Denver Service Center
12795 West Alameda Parkway
Denver, CO 80225-0287

Dear GGNRA Planning staff:

I am responding to the alternatives that are proposed for the new general plan for the parks. I am an equestrian and I support the majority of the concepts in Alternative 1, however Alternative 1 does not apply to all the area. The final plan should take into account the need to retain existing stables, provide more trails (especially a variety of different length loop trails) and regional connections, provide adequate rig parking for equestrians, identify water sources for livestock, and provide unpaved trail surfaces for both joggers, bicyclists and horses. I also support multi-use trails, with the exception of the trails in the Phleger Estate. Creation of volunteer trail patrols is vital to provide "eyes and ears" in the new property.

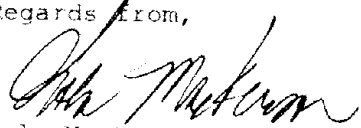
In Marin County I support the position of the Marin Horse Council and want to go on record as supporting the continued presence of the horse facilities and increases in access to trails. The final plan must address the presence and requirements of equestrians.

In San Mateo County I support most of the proposals in Alternative 1 for all the properties. The final plan should take into account the diverse nature of the land in San Mateo County and MUST allow for the continued presence of the horse facilities. The areas that have not traditionally been open to equestrians in the GGNRA should be reexamined and those properties opened up where possible. I support the details that ETRAC and the Coastside Horse Council have proposed.

I would like to address the issue of the lands in the Rancho Corral de Tierra parcel. This is a new acquisition and must be carefully planned. Horsemen are committed to multi-use in this area. Alternative 1 should be amended to preserve stables where they are because they provide for quality of life for the Coastside area and San Mateo County as a whole. This is a large enough area that dogs on leash could be allowed.

The plan should also address existing trails and roads which should be kept and maintained for equestrian use. These trails provide a critical regional links from North to South and along the Bay Area Ridge Trail alignment. Most of these are appropriate multi-use trails and good for dogs on leash and in many areas off-leash.

Thank you for the opportunity to give you my comments.
Regards from,



Nola Masterson
768 West California Way
Woodside, CA 94062

July 28, 2008

National Park Service - General Management Planning Team -- GGNRA
Denver Service Center
12795 West Alameda Parkway
Denver, CO 80225-0287

Re: Comments on General Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement

Dear GGNRA Planners:

Overall, the open houses and the newsletter is a terrific approach to explaining the scope of the GGNRA, and terrific way to set forth the alternatives.

As a general comment, I would like to see a lot more of the park used by everyone. I really believe that you can't truly teach an appreciation of nature, of history and of preservation without physically experiencing it.

Riding horses is a tremendous way to experience nature. My interest is in preserving the existing equestrian facilities and enhancing the trail system in Marin and in San Mateo in a way that is in harmony with nature. I ride horses, and my kids ride, and it is an amazingly unique and wonderful way to enjoy nature. The place we ride is Ember Ridge, in Moss Beach (Rancho Corral de Tierra), and it is a remarkably well-managed and accessible place, for people of all socio-economic backgrounds, ages and races.

I truly believe, also, that stables can be in harmony with nature, and enhance the park for use by many, many nature enthusiasts. The creek that runs through Ember Ridge has been tested many times and it is my understanding that the water quality remains good. So, with proper management, the stables can have no negative impact while providing a wonderful opportunity for people to enjoy nature.


That said, here are my comments specifically for Rancho Corral de Tierra:

Alternative 1: I read this as preserving the existing stables (equestrian boarding facilities), and accordingly, I support this Alternative. I like this alternative because it seems to support the view that with proper management (run-off and waste containment practices), equestrian facilities can co-exist without negative impact to water quality and the natural habitat. I would add to this alternative the following: (1) that the equestrian facilities be managed under long term leases or other long-term arrangement, so that management can invest in maintenance and management of the facilities without fear that the use will expire, (2) that youth education programs like 4-H and FFA be allowed to continue to use the equestrian areas and (3) that existing trails be maintained for horses and others, and new unpaved trails be added in the new areas of the GGNRA lands if possible.

Alternative 2: I do not support this alternative because it mandates relocation or removal of equestrian facilities. I do not support moving the equestrian facilities unless there is a proven SCIENTIFIC reason for a specific facility and the way it is managed – not just an unfounded assumption that there is a negative impact in connection with current stable location.

Finally, I support the details that ETRAC and the Coastside Horse Council have proposed.

Thank You,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tessa McFarland". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial 'T' and 'M'.

Tessa McFarland
480 Castenada Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94116

185L

July 16, 2008

National Park Service - General Management Planning Team - GGNRA
Denver Service Center
12795 West Alameda Parkway
Denver, CO 80225-0287

Dear GGNRA Planning staff:

I am responding to the alternatives that are proposed for the new general plan for the parks. I am an equestrian and I support the majority of the concepts in Alternative 1, however Alternative 1 does not apply to all the area. The final plan should take into account the need to retain existing stables, provide more trails (especially a variety of different length loop trails) and regional connections, provide adequate rig parking for equestrians, identify water sources for livestock, and provide unpaved trail surfaces for both joggers, bicyclists and horses. I also support multi-use trails, with the exception of the trails in the Phleger Estate. Creation of volunteer trail patrols is vital to provide "eyes and ears" in the new property.

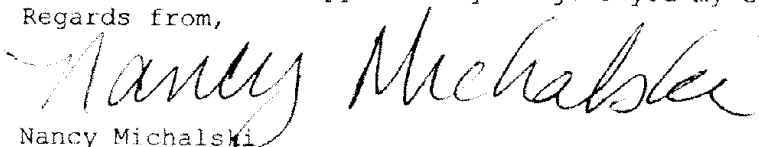
In Marin County I support the position of the Marin Horse Council and want to go on record as supporting the continued presence of the horse facilities and increases in access to trails. The final plan must address the presence and requirements of equestrians.

In San Mateo County I support most of the proposals in Alternative 1 for all the properties. The final plan should take into account the diverse nature of the land in San Mateo County and MUST allow for the continued presence of the horse facilities. The areas that have not traditionally been open to equestrians in the GGNRA should be re-examined and those properties opened up where possible. I support the details that ETRAC and the Coastside Horse Council have proposed.

I would like to address the issue of the lands in the Rancho Corral de Tierra parcel. This is a new acquisition and must be carefully planned. Horsemen are committed to multi-use in this area. Alternative 1 should be amended to preserve stables where they are because they provide for quality of life for the Coastside area and San Mateo County as a whole. This is a large enough area that dogs on leash could be allowed.

The plan should also address existing trails and roads which should be kept and maintained for equestrian use. These trails provide a critical regional links from North to South and along the Bay Area Ridge Trail alignment. Most of these are appropriate multi-use trails and good for dogs on leash and in many areas off-leash.

Thank you for the opportunity to give you my comments.
Regards from,



Nancy Michalski
1507 Kingsgate Drive, Sunnyvale, CA 94087

1924

**In response to the meeting at the Muir Beach Community Center on June 26, 2008
with the National Park Service.**

It is confusing to me that a plan (Alternative) exists for Slide Ranch to relocate "if they should want to" when they have clearly stated they do not want to. The NPS seems concerned about their location because "Slide Ranch is called "Slide" Ranch for a reason" and the area is "sensitive and unstable" and "may not be the best location for the activities that are currently going on there"...However...the NPS stated that if Slide Ranch were to relocate, the NPS would use the site for exactly what Slide Ranch is doing now only increase the visitor activities.

In other words, they say that Slide Ranch is located on sensitive and unstable ground and clearly support the idea of relocating them to reduce the impact/footprint on the area yet...they would turn that area into a bigger and better Slide Ranch if it became available!! Leave Slide Ranch alone!

I also take issue with the idea of putting a visitor center and public transit stop at the Golden Gate Dairy. There is a concern for the Fire Department not being able to perform it's duties effectively if there were that kind of congestion in that area. Nothing else should need to be said! In light of this concern, relocating the equestrian facilities seems logical. Give the Fire Department The Dairy. The Fire Department would have easier access in and out for emergencies (which will probably increase as the NPS continues to draw more people and as regular large transit and tour busses are allowed to be on these narrow, twisting roads). The large barn (renovated) would give them much needed space for a variety of things including community preparedness classes. Moving the equestrian facilities would also eliminate the often dangerous crossing of horses over Highway One. Adding MORE to the dairy makes no sense...we don't need MORE congestion at that intersection or at the Fire Department. Why not use the farm land at Kerri Lane on Frank's Valley Road (Muir Woods Road)...looks like a nice spot for a visitor's center (renovate the old barn)...plenty of room for busses.

As for the Banducci Ranch...all I can say is...what a travesty to move those people...and, for what purpose?? Is it necessary to be so destructive in order to create? There is so much land in this park system, it baffles me that anyone would even consider moving out families that have been here for generations and are an integral part of the community! Find another location for your planned activities...there is plenty of land in the park system.

The NPS seems to have a concern about the "Stewardship" of the land. From my perspective, the NPS is the *big business* in West Marin and causes the greatest impact/footprint with a goal to increase that impact by drawing more people and building more facilities. I am certainly not against that...the Park belongs to the People! However, the impact the NPS has is far greater than the impact of those living at Banducci Ranch, the activities at Slide Ranch or the minimal activity at The Dairy.

Laraine Miller
Muir Beach, California

**L. D. MILLER
PO BOX 64
MILL VALLEY CA 94941**

Sandra Mullen
320 Bodega Avenue
Petaluma, Ca. 94952
707-765-1915

25 July 2008

National Park Service
Denver Service Center
ATTN: Stephan Nofield
12795 West Alameda Parkway
P.O. Box 25287
Denver CO 80225-0587

RE: Golden Gate National Recreation Area
General Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement
Newsletter 4

Dear Mr. Nofield:

I am writing in response to your request for input on the new General Management Plan for the GGNRA. I would like to note that although I hike and ride a bike I am specifically writing as an equestrian because I feel this user group has not been fairly represented in the GMP.

I am disappointed to see a focus on management, control, and policing in the language that appears to limit and confine access to the park. I also sense a tendency to homogenize the park by eating away at its unique regional character and history. The legacy of southern and western Marin County is largely agricultural and speaks to us culturally through the barns, dairies, farms, and ranches that follow the coast north. If the GGNRA does not want to allow grazing of cattle and sheep on these lands they can at least continue to allow horses to represent this important historic element. The barns, dairies, farms, and ranches should be treasured and preserved in this landscape.

Horses are iconic in the American west. They are recreational, therapeutic, and provide trail access to some who can no longer walk the trails. Despite all of this the NPS continues to squeeze them out. Trail access is limited, practical needs (such as water) are ignored, trailer parking is restricted, and horse facilities are being taken down or turned into maintenance sheds.

The trail systems should be improved and expanded to help distribute the increasing number of park users. Closing trails only results in overuse and

cultural resource and anchor to the equestrian network to remain. I cannot imagine the drive along this section of Highway 1 without the barns, corrals and mailboxes marking this intersection.

The GGNRA was brought into the National Park System because of it's unique location and character. Undermining it's special quality by eroding the cultural resources is a crude and short sighted management plan.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sandra Mullen". The signature is fluid and extends to the right with a long horizontal stroke.

Sandra Mullen

Preservation of Equestrian Facilities in GGNRA

To: Brian O'Neill, Superintendent
Golden Gate National Recreation Area

From: Customers, employees and management of **Pastorino Hay and Ranch Supply,**
Half Moon Bay, CA.

Re: (1) Support for preservation of **equestrian facilities:**
Ember Ridge, Picardo Ranch (Millwood), SFPUC Watershed easements,
Moss Beach Ranch, Ocean View Stables, Renegade Ranch, Rancho Tierra
del Coral, Presidio Riding Club, Miwok Stables and Golden Gate Dairy.

(2) Support for continued equestrian access to **riding trails:**
Milagra Ridge, Shelldance Nursery area, Sweeny Ridge, Cattle Hill, Mori Point,
Pedro Point, Devil's Slide, San Pedro Mountain (all south of San Francisco), as
well as trails in Marin County and San Francisco that are located on GGNRA lands.

We the undersigned seek to preserve the existing equestrian facilities and trail access which may in the future be affected by decisions taken by your General Management Planning Team – GGNRA. For decades **Pastorino's** has supplied horse barns, family farms and individuals keeping horses on their own properties with needed grain, alfalfa, grass hay, stall bedding and all manner of equine supplies. Pastorino's is a large distributor and makes a sizeable contribution to the economy of San Mateo County and neighboring counties through employment and taxes. Were the barns in the Golden Gate National Recreation Area to be closed or limited in their activities, Pastorino's would suffer revenue loss that would, by extension, impact other aspects of the local economy.

Local stables enjoy wide public support and aid many other sectors of our local business community (farming, tack stores, online providers, veterinarians, farriers, instructors, rodeos, shows, riding apparel retail sales, restaurants, etc.). All of these interests would suffer if riding or horse boarding opportunities were reduced.

With the continued high level of interest in horseback riding, horse camps for children, hourly lessons and horse boarding, it is only reasonable that the local facilities be allowed to continue operating in our coastal areas. Urban residents enjoy these traditional pastimes and value the proximity of our stables to the cities. As construction encroaches on open spaces it becomes more difficult to maintain equestrian facilities. Nevertheless, riding remains very popular and we the undersigned need and support our equestrian facilities in the planned Golden Gate National Recreation Area.

Thank you for your attention to our petition and please find attached signatures supporting the continuance and enhancement of our equestrian facilities under your management. **July, 2008**

Pastorino Hay & Ranch Supply, Half Moon Bay, CA:

Name	City of residence
Johelle Green	Half Moon Bay, CA.
Steven T. Kikuchi	Half Moon Bay, CA
Samuel Tucker	San Carlos, CA
Jenni Gianni	Half Moon Bay CA
Sheila Margo	Montara, CA
Michelle Smith	H.M.B.
Mable Olin	Half Moon Bay
Luis Torres	HALF MOON BAY CA
Jesus Cruz	HALF MOON BAY CA
Martina Babcock	Half Moon Bay, CA
Roger Moore + Karen	H.M.Bay, CA
Sylvia Rander	Mar Beach, Ca.

We Want to Preserve Our Stables and Trails in the GGNRA

To: Brian O'Neill, Superintendent
Golden Gate National Recreation Area

From: **Children and teens taking riding lessons or in riding camp during July, 2008**

Re: (1) Support for preservation of **equestrian facilities**:
Ember Ridge, Picardo Ranch (Millwood), Moss Beach Ranch, Renegade Ranch,
Ocean View Stables, Presidio Riding Club, Miwok Stables and Golden Gate Dairy.

(2) Support for continued equestrian access to **riding trails**:
Milagra Ridge, Sheldance Nursery area, Sweeney Ridge, Cattle Hill, Mori Point,
Pedro Point, Devil's Slide, San Pedro Mountain, Rancho Corral de Tierra,
SFPUC Watershed easements (all south of San Francisco), as well as trails in
Marin County and San Francisco that are located on GGNRA lands.

Why we want to keep stables and trails on the GGNRA park
lands (kids' comments):

Mary Marriott

Woodacre, CA

or in riding camp during July, 2008

I live in ...

San Rafael

Preservation of Equestrian Facilities in GGNRA

To: Brian O'Neill, Superintendent
Golden Gate National Recreation Area

From: **Supporters of horseback riding** in the Golden Gate National Recreation Area

Re: (1) Support for preservation of **equestrian facilities**:
Ember Ridge, Picardo Ranch (Millwood), SFPUC Watershed easements,
Moss Beach Ranch, Ocean View Stables, Renegade Ranch, Presidio Riding Club,
Miwok Stables and Golden Gate Dairy.

(2) Support for continued equestrian access to **riding trails**:
Milagra Ridge, Sheldance Nursery area, Sweeney Ridge, Cattle Hill, Mori Point,
Pedro Point, Devil's Slide, San Pedro Mountain (all south of San Francisco), Phleger
Estate as well as trails in Marin County and in San Francisco that are located on
GGNRA lands.

We the undersigned seek to preserve the existing equestrian facilities and trail access which may in the future be affected by decisions taken by your General Management Planning Team – GGNRA. The above-named stables have successfully operated for decades in our local areas. These facilities are well known and highly utilized. Most are at or near full capacity, confirming the enduring popularity of horseback riding and the continuing urgent need for horse boarding facilities in these coastal areas. Our stables enjoy wide public support and aid many sectors of the local economy (hay and grain production, feed stores, tack stores, online providers, veterinarians, farriers, instructors, rodeos, shows, restaurants, etc.). All of these interests would suffer if riding or horse boarding opportunities were reduced.

As urban areas encroach on rural preserves, it becomes all the more important that the government recognize that before the advent of GGNRA our equine facilities were already responsible and established custodians of these lands. The trails have been cared for; they are not degraded. Precautions have been taken not to pollute the seasonal streams. Buildings have been kept to a minimum. Dirt bikes and off-road vehicles that would destroy the natural habitat have been discouraged in an effort to preserve the areas. We continue to be good stewards of the land.

With the continued high level of interest in horseback riding, horse camps for children, hourly lessons and horse boarding, it is only reasonable that the local facilities be allowed to continue operating in our coastal areas. Urban residents enjoy these traditional pastimes and value the proximity of our stables to the cities. As construction encroaches on open spaces it becomes more difficult to maintain equestrian facilities. Nevertheless, riding remains very

popular and we the undersigned need and support our equestrian facilities in the planned Golden Gate National Recreation Area.

Thank you for your attention to our petition and please find attached signatures supporting the continuance and enhancement of our equestrian facilities under your management.

We support horseback riding and stables in the Golden Gate National Recreation Area:

<u>Name</u>	<u>City of residence</u>
Vicki Leary	Pt Reyes Station, CA
Kate Wilson	21 Drake Summit, Inverness CA
Peter W Meyer	Point Reyes Station, CA 94956
Melissa Rease	2156 Ward Dr. Walnut Creek CA 94596
Maria Wilson	Point Reyes STA. CA
HEIDI GROSS	STINSON BEACH, CA.
COLIN LAFRENZ	NOVATO, CA
Pam Bodie	Pilot Hill, CA
Kathy Madsen	Hidden Valley Lake, CA
Janet M. Garvey	San Francisco, CA
Trudi Starbeck Miller	Dillon Beach CA
Cindi Rice	Bolinas Calif.
Alessa Lopez	Point Reyes, CA
Ph. Van Dyke	Dogtown, CA
Nancy Nielsen	San Rafael, CA
Kate Wilson	Point Reyes Station, CA
Gene Giacomini	Pt Reyes Sta Ca
Text page please - thank you.	

Name

City of Residence

Kimmy Johnson

Inverness

DAVID GAULT

Inverness

FABIOLA MEJIA

POINT REYES STATION CA

Deirdre Taylor

Walnut Creek, CA

Harry Miller

Walnut Creek, CA

Arthur Miller

Walnut Creek Ct

Lisa Caporioni

Woodacre CA

Page Frechette

Vacaville, Cal.

Pam Higgins

Napa, Ca

Nancy Marriott

Woodacre, CA

Shirley Collette

San Geronimo, CA

Diana Dougherty

Nicasio Co

Marianne Sakellar

Pt. Reyes Station, CA

Mary King

Pt Reyes Sta.

Ray Hall

Pt Reyes Sta

Adella Gregory ^{Horses}

rule!

Sue Dodge

Marshall, CA

WALTER KOLON

Marshall, CA

Karen Johnson

San Francisco, CA

Norma Fox

Cluburn, Ca