

City and County of San Francisco



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August 4, 2008

National Parks Service
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Subject Comments on Ocean Beach Section of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area
General Management Plan

Dear Mr. Norfield:

On behalf of Executive Committee for the Ocean Beach Restoration - Great Highway Erosion Control Project, we wish to provide the following comments on the Golden Gate National Recreation Area General Management Plan dated as contained in Newsletter 4, Spring 2008. The Committee supports **Ocean Beach Alternative 1 Connecting with People**. Alternative 1 is in tune with the efforts Ocean Beach Restoration - Great Highway Erosion Control Project started in 2002.

For the over presentation of the Ocean Beach section contained in the General Management Plan we wish to express the following.

1. The description detail of Ocean Beach in the Management Plan lacks the specificity warranted and granted to other GGNRA sites identified in the Management Plan. Ocean Beach is approximately 3 miles long and has diverse habitat area and recreation functions that do not accurately fit into the alternatives provided in the plan.
2. The city maintains a number of access easements across that parallel to the beach. The complexity of uses and users along the length of Ocean Beach should be identified in the management plan.
3. Statements made in alternatives 2 and 3 on page 33 of the Management Plan do not fit the physical environment. The Natural Zone stated on page 33 discusses a natural shoreline process to continue to create a beach, dunes and cliffs from central Ocean Beach

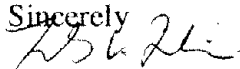
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Customer Service Teamwork Continuous Improvement

to Mussel Rock. About 3000 feet from Sloat Blvd south towards the Fort Funston the area is not in, "a natural state of eroding sedimentary bluffs." The bluff material in this area is landfill utilizing concrete, rock, brick and other deleterious material. Any type of managed retreat program as outlined in alternatives 2 and 3 would expose and add more deleterious material, to the detriment of beach users.

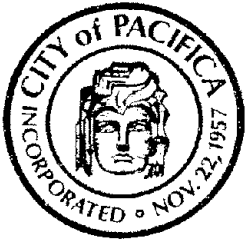
If you have any questions on our comments please contact me at 415-558-4011. I look forward to assisting the National Park Service on the development of their General Management Plan

Sincerely



Frank V. Filice
Manager of Capital Planning

c: Peter Mull USACOE
Kim Sterrett, California Boating and Waterways
Steve Ortega, GGNRA
Jon Loiacono, San Francisco Public Utilities Commission



Scenic Pacifica

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July 30, 2008

Mr. Brian O'Neill
Superintendent
Golden Gate National Recreation Area
Building 201, Fort Mason Center
San Francisco, CA 94103

RE: City Council Comments on the Draft General Management Plan/EIS Newsletter

Dear Superintendent O'Neill:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the General Management Plan/EIS Newsletter 4, dated Spring 2008. We'd like to preface our comments with an expression of appreciation for the long standing partnership between the GGNRA and the City of Pacifica that has led to the protection and restoration of important open space. In addition, the GGNRA and the Parks Conservancy should be lauded for the recent restoration work on Mori Point, and the continuing maintenance efforts on upper Milagra Ridge.

The following comments were discussed and agreed upon at the City Council meeting of July 28, 2008. The City's GGNRA Liaison Committee recently sent a letter containing comments on the GMP newsletter, and the City Council concurs with those comments. While we clearly recognize the inherent value of open space and park lands, it is vital that we reinforce the positive economic component of these amenities. To that end, we strongly believe that the visitor center needs to be located in the City of Pacifica, where our established visitor serving uses may benefit from the increased visitor traffic and the infrastructure exists to better serve visitors. Increased access and connectivity to other trails and recreation areas, such as the Bay Area Ridge Trail and the San Francisco Watershed property, should be an important component of the GMP update. The GMP update should also provide for the continuation of the Sheldance Nursery. This well established use attracts many visitors and is a benefit to both the GGNRA and the City. Finally, as mentioned above, the City Council concurs with other comments contained in the letter from the GGNRA Liaison Committee, including consideration of the "scenic corridor" designation for Park land in Pacifica, clarification of the hiking hut concept, continuation of and accommodation for equestrian trails and uses, and further integration with public transit.





PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

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Scenic Pacifica

July 16, 2008

Mr. Brian O'Neill
Superintendent
Golden Gate National Recreation Area
Building 201, Fort Mason Center
San Francisco, CA 94103

Subject: Comments on the Draft General Management Plan/EIS Newsletter

Dear Superintendent O'Neill:

I am writing to provide comments on the General Management Plan/EIS Newsletter 4, dated Spring 2008. The members of the GGNRA Liaison Committee of the City of Pacifica (GGNRA LC) discussed this document at our monthly meeting on May 26, 2008. We would like to begin by thanking you and your staff for the production of a professional document that is well done with excellent graphics and summary material which make your recommendations easy to understand.

The GGNRA LC understood the GMP update to be premised on need to have a plan for the San Mateo properties within the GGNRA which became part of the park after the GMP of 1981 was written. Because of that, the committee felt there should be greater emphasis on this fact, with a commensurate orientation of the entire document toward the land in Pacifica and unincorporated San Mateo County which either currently are, or are being considered for inclusion in, the GGNRA.

Members also believe there should be greater opportunity in GGNRA lands within Pacifica to be in the "scenic corridor" designation. For example, we believe there should be more diverse opportunities for recreational activities and access at the Sheldance Nursery Area and Picardo Ranch, should it become part of the park.

The GGNRA LC believes there should be a commitment to maintain equestrian trails at Picardo Ranch, and there should also be a serious evaluation for the siting of a drive-through facility to park a truck and horse trailer somewhere in Pacifica.

On the subject of hiking huts, the committee suggests greater clarification on what is meant by hiking huts. As you know, there has been a concept paper circulated that advances the idea of facilities to provide overnight lodging, food, environmental



education and habitat restoration. This is not the same as "rustic overnight accommodations" and we believe the next iteration of the GMP update would be improved by an elaboration on what is meant by these various types of accommodations.

We recommend further exploration into the idea of connecting trails in Pacifica (including GGNRA property, San Pedro Valley County Park, and other parklands) to Rancho Corral de Tierra property and McNee Ranch State Park. These options should include using the proposed Bay Area Ridge Trail which we understand may traverse the Peninsula Watershed property managed by the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission.

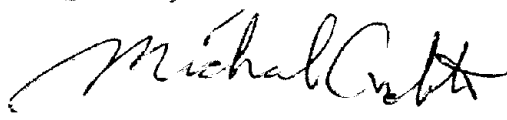
In the same way that we feel the GMP should expand on trail connections for hiking, the committee believes there should be an examination of public transportation connections. For example, we like to think there will be great demand in the near future for hikers who might walk from the north or central part of Pacifica to destinations to the south to take a SAMTRANS bus back north at the end of their trek. Integrating these transportation concepts at this early stage will further the likelihood of them happening in the future.

The GGNRA LC feels strongly that the "multi-agency visitor information and orientation facility" needs to be in Pacifica. In this newsletter, it appears as if the GGNRA prefers for this visitors center to be located in Rancho Corral de Tierra. We agree that a smaller satellite center might be appropriate for the southern entrance to the park; however, we unanimously feel that Pacifica must be the location of a larger visitor center as it will have more visitation from trips originating to the north and the Pacifica has the business and commercial infrastructure to support high levels of visitation.

Last, we support the idea of creating more structures and programs for the youth. We know this is important to GGRNA as well, but suggest we explore opportunities for constructing facilities dedicated to youth programs, which will serve as possible stewardship and internship opportunities for students and young adults.

We thank you and your staff for your dedication and hard work. We continue to be grateful for all that you have done and continue to do for the advancement of park lands in and near Pacifica.

Sincerely


for Paul Jones
Co-Chair

cc: City Council
GGNRA Liaison Committee

✓ National Park Service
General Management Planning Team – GGNRA
Denver Service Center
12795 West Alameda Parkway
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National Park Service
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Stephan Nofield
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July 16, 2008

RE: **Comments on GGNRA General Management, Plan Newsletter #4**

Staff of the State Coastal Conservancy submitted comments on the above-referenced document on July 9, 2008. We regret that our comments on the San Mateo County portion of the plan were omitted from our original letter. Please consider this additional input from Coastal Conservancy staff:

SPECIFIC COMMENTS

San Mateo County

Mori Point: Conservancy staff supports Alternative 1, with its dual focus of resource preservation and public trails. Millions of dollars of private and public money – including \$500,000 from the Conservancy – is currently being spent building trails on this property. The California Coastal Trail runs through this land. To “highly control” visitor use, as proposed in Alternative 2, would negate the purpose of these years of work and millions of dollars of grants.

Pedro Point: Again, Conservancy staff supports Alternative 1, with its emphasis on public trails. To restrict public access (as proposed by Alternative 2) would be inappropriate for this property which was acquired with public funds and provides a critical link in the California Coastal Trail.

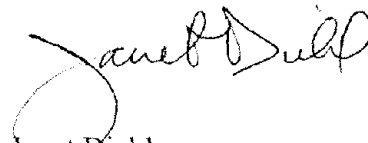
Montara Lighthouse: Conservancy staff strongly supports Alternative 1, with a particular emphasis on enhancing the current hostel and day use programming. The hostel should be kept open to the general public, *not* turned into a “campus” with overnight accommodations restricted to “program participants and staff” (as proposed in Alternative 2) or people taking

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part in a “historical immersion experience” (Alternative 3). To limit overnight stays to people who sign up for a program would ultimately mean that only school groups and organized nonprofits would be able to enjoy this absolutely unique overnight experience. Families, foreigners, people passing through – these are the people currently using the hostel who would be shut out by Alternatives 2 and 3. People should be able to enjoy a night or two in this wonderful place without having to sign up for a “program.” Instead, the hostel should be expanded, for general public use, as proposed in Alternative 1, with access from Highway 1 improved.

Thank you for taking these comments into consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Janet Diehl". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the beginning.

Janet Diehl
Project Manager
Coastal Conservancy



National Park Service
Denver Service Center
Stephan Nofield
12795 West Alameda Parkway
PO Box 25287
Denver, CO 80225-0287

July 9, 2008

RE: **Comments on GGNRA General Management, Plan Newsletter #4**

The staff of the State Coastal Conservancy appreciates this opportunity to comment on the above-referenced document. As you may know, over the last two decades, the Coastal Conservancy has assisted several nonprofit agencies to carry out a number of projects throughout the Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA). Because the Coastal Conservancy's mandate includes both resource protection *and* public access, we appreciate and are generally supportive of this effort to take a broad look at management approaches throughout the GGNRA. However, because the preliminary alternatives described in the newsletter are so broad, staff had difficulty ascertaining the basis for the approaches. We assume that many of the management approaches were based on the Park Service's collective experience in managing this park, but we look forward to reviewing the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) in order to better understand the basis for the alternatives.

As a general comment, the presentation of alternatives comes across as suggesting that "connecting people with the parks" (Alternative 1) is mutually exclusive with "preserving and enjoying coastal ecosystems" (Alternative 2), when coastal ecosystem interpretation/enhancement and environmental stewardship are also elements of connecting people with the parks. We feel that the interpretation elements of Alternative 1 can incorporate coastal ecosystem protectionss, as appropriate.

Furthermore, the educational/engagement components of Alternative 1 should also "...focus on engaging visitors, communities, and partners in participatory science, education, and stewardship focused on the coastal environment," as described for Alternative 2. The Conservancy staff supports Alternative 2's increased emphasis on forms of recreation that would not significantly reduce the cross section of the public that could access the GGNRA,

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but would heighten visitors' experience of nature and would allow for the enhancement of natural resources.

In some cases, as in areas where natural resources are very sensitive, it may be appropriate to restrict public access. However in such cases, we would advocate a concomitant focus on programming to encourage people to learn about and enjoy the natural resources. This would be particularly true in places where the Park Service has already invested in restoration, such as at Muir Woods and portions of the Redwood Creek watershed where there is a program to improve anadromous fish habitat. In such cases, the Park Service will need to carefully balance the need for visitor amenities with habitat protection.

Finally, any/all alternatives should incorporate what was explicitly specified regarding Park Service leadership under the overview section of Alternative 2, i.e., that the Park Service "in collaboration with community partners, would demonstrate leadership in pro-active adaptation and management in face of climate change and sea level rise." Climate change and sea level rise are not specific to any one of the management alternatives, and should therefore be addressed regardless of which management alternative is selected.

On behalf of the Conservancy staff, I want to thank you again for this opportunity to comment on the management plan and we look forward to working with the Park Service on refining the alternatives. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions. My direct number is 510 286-7028.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tom Gandesbery". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Tom" being more prominent than the last name "Gandesbery".

Tom Gandesbery
Project Manager
San Francisco Bay Program

Specific comments attached.

SPECIFIC COMMENTS

SAN FRANCISCO Section, Overview Subsection:

1) Alternative 1's educational/engagement components could also include what was specified for Alternative 2: "...focus on engaging visitors, communities, and partners in participatory science, education, and stewardship focused on the coastal environment."

2) Any/all alternatives should incorporate what was explicitly specified regarding Park Service leadership under the overview section of Alternative 2, i.e., that the Park Service "in collaboration with community partners, would demonstrate leadership in pro-active adaptation and management in face of climate change and sea level rise." Climate change and sea level rise are not specific to any one of the management alternatives, and should therefore be addressed regardless of which management alternative is selected.

Fort Mason: The "stewardship hub" described in Alternative 2 should be incorporated into Alternative 1.

Fort Funston: Why is the expanded "park operations zone" only proposed in Alternative 1?

Ocean Beach: Staff questions whether it is feasible to establish a "natural zone" at a beach that is located in such an urbanized area as this. We would be interested in more detail about how this can be carried out. We note that the dune restoration at Crissy Field has been in place for a few years now and could be used as a model for dune plant restoration at other locations.

Offshore Marine Areas: We question the Park Service's proposal to establish a "sensitive resources zone" (marine reserve) along the shoreline and within the sub-tidal portions of the GGNRA. Again, and perhaps because an EIS is not currently available, we do not understand the basis for designating these areas and restricting access. What exactly would drive the Park Service to prohibit access to these areas? This raises the need to do site-specific studies of sensitive resources before making broad and far-reaching management decisions. This is especially true for migratory bird species, since the population of birds to be protected may be very large in the winter, when, presumably, human visitation numbers are at their lowest. And presuming there is a case to be made for restricting boating in these areas, how would the Park Service enforce these rules? Would the Service need to establish a marine patrol to exclude boaters from these "patches" of water, or would it rely on Coast Guard and the state Department of Fish and Game for enforcement?

Muir Woods: The Conservancy has been a partner in the restoration of Redwood Creek, providing funds to a number of projects focused on restoring the watershed. We therefore support Alternative 2's emphasis on restoration of the creek, even at the expense of some visitor amenities. However, we are concerned that requiring nearly all visitors to arrive by shuttle would greatly decrease the number of people who will experience the unique

resources of Muir Woods, and prefer Alternative 1's approach of providing a shuttle service and decreased/modified parking at the Muir Woods. A middle ground between these two alternatives that maintains an emphasis on accelerated restoration of Redwood Creek, including rerouting the Dipsea Trail creek crossing, would be preferred by the Conservancy. For example, the Conservancy would support not adding new restrooms and drinking water near Bridge 4, if it would result in enhanced creek restoration.

The Conservancy would support Alternative 1 for the Muir Woods Addition, because it calls for the utilization of the Camp Hillwood structures to enhance educational opportunities, while at the same time relocating operational functions in the rest of the Muir Woods Addition to other areas to allow for natural resource enhancement.

Stinson Beach to Bolinas-Fairfax Road: The Conservancy would support Alternative 2's emphasis on enhancing the Easkoot Creek riparian corridor and restoring wetlands by redesigning and removing parking areas while maintaining the current level of visitor services. However, the Conservancy is concerned that removing the parking area may cause congestion and problems in the community of Stinson Beach during busy weekends, and ultimately decrease the number of visitors coming to the beach. Improving alternative transportation options, or providing nearby parking in a less sensitive location, should both be explored as possible approaches to allow natural resource restoration and enhancement without detracting from public access.

Highway 1 and Panoramic Highway: The Conservancy would support Alternative 1 (maintaining Highway 1 and provided increased informational signage and pullouts). This section of the Highway is used extensively by cyclists. The Conservancy would strongly support improved safety measures for bicyclists, whether they consist of signage or bicycle lanes. Alternative 2 for this area supports abandoning the stretch of Highway 1 between Muir Beach and Stinson Beach if a major slide were to occur. While we are intrigued by this idea, we wonder if a public access trail would suffer the same fate as the Highway? Also, access to Slide Ranch and the Steep Ravine Rustic Cabins, and possibly other public and private facilities could be negatively affected. As this road is part of the state highway system, we would assume that Caltrans would facilitate a careful cost-benefit analysis and comprehensive traffic study as part of the process of deciding whether to rebuild the roadway after a future slide.

Slide Ranch: The Conservancy supports Alternative 1, which calls for the enhancement of the environmental and farm education center at this site. The existing location offers unique access to scenic views and to the coast, while providing rustic facilities for farm and environmental education. It is unlikely that another site could be found that would provide a similar experience.

Lower Redwood Creek: The Conservancy supports Alternative 2. The Conservancy has invested and will continue to invest in the restoration of the Redwood Creek watershed, and Alternative 2 provides the best management to further enhance and restore Redwood Creek's resources, while at the same time accommodating additional trail connections to the Coastal

Trail and providing visitor opportunities for stewardship. The Conservancy also supports the idea of exploring increased water storage capacity to protect salmon. The addition of a small scale educational organic farm at this site seems unnecessary given that Slide Ranch provides the same service and is located only 2 miles north on Highway 1.

Golden Gate Dairy: The Conservancy supports the mixture of increased access (transit stop, visitor orientation) and natural resource enhancement (creek corridor enhancement, preservation and enhancement of uplands) offered by Alternative 1. If possible, the Conservancy would prefer that development of equestrian facilities not be relocated to Lower Redwood Creek if doing so would constrain creek restoration. The Conservancy would support locating the equestrian facilities in whichever of these two locations allows for the greatest restoration/enhancement of Redwood Creek.

Tennessee Valley: The Conservancy supports Alternative 1, with the addition of the removal of unnecessary dams and artificial ponds (unless these are providing habitat for California red-legged frog) as described in Alternative 2. The Conservancy is particularly supportive of the idea of bringing transit to this site and extending the multiuse trail to connect with the Mill Valley Bike Path (Bay Trail), as well as improvements to the equestrian facility to protect the adjacent riparian area, as described in Alternative 1.

Marin Headlands: Oakwood Valley, Marin City Ridge, and Gerbode Valley: The Conservancy supports Alternative 1, with its expansion of visitor facilities within the "Diverse Opportunities" zone, which is a very small portion of this area overall. Alternative 1 will also allow for preservation and enhancement of natural resources in the rest of this area.

Marin Headlands: Fort Barry and Fort Cronkhite: The Conservancy would support a combination of Alternatives 1 and 2, allowing for continued adaptive reuse of the Fort's structures, enhanced visitor facilities, such as a warming hut and transit stop, and restoration of coastal resources for threatened and endangered species. The Conservancy encourages the GGNRA to explore the possibilities of developing enhanced visitor facilities and a transit stop through the adaptive reuse approach that has been employed successfully so far. Hopefully, this will allow for restoration of natural resources at the same time as these facilities are added.

Capehart Housing Area: The Conservancy supports Alternative 1, which allows for creek restoration while providing replacement sustainable housing for the park's workforce.

Conzelman, Bunker, and McCullough Roads: The Conservancy supports Alternative 2, which would provide for improved visitor access in the immediate road corridor, and enhancement of mission blue butterfly habitat. Restricting visitor access to designated trails in this zone is appropriate given the status of the mission blue.

Kirby Cove: The Conservancy supports Alternative 2, with continued beach access, camping, and connections to the SF Bay Water Trail, as well as mission blue butterfly habitat expansion and enhancement.



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL OCEAN SERVICE**

Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary
991 Marine Drive
San Francisco, CA 94129

July 18, 2008

National Park Service
General Management Planning Team –GGNRA
Goga_gmp@nps.gov

RE: Comments on General Management Plan Preliminary Alternatives

Dear General Management Planning Team:

Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary (GFNMS) has reviewed the General Management Plan (GMP) Preliminary Alternatives provided in Newsletter 4 dated Spring 2008 for the Golden Gate National Recreational Area (GGNRA). GFNMS manages the waters and submerged lands of GGNRA off the Coast of San Mateo and Marin Counties to the mean high tide, including the tidal waters and submerged lands currently adjacent to, and overlapping jurisdiction with GGNRA. Therefore, we plan to be an active stakeholder, partner and collaborator in the implementation of the GMP.

All comments provided herein discuss GFNMS' suggestions on shaping the preferred alternative(s), focus on the impacts to GFNMS, and examine the need for the inclusion and clarification of GFNMS jurisdiction. We have specific comments on several preliminary alternatives for Marin and San Mateo Counties and some overall comments on the maps and the management zones.

General Comments

GFNMS supports the general approach of three Concepts and Guiding Principles as presented in the newsletter. In particular, we encourage GGNRA to acknowledge specific regional collaborations and partnerships when describing potential actions under each of the alternatives, including the preferred alternative. We also encourage an ecosystem-based approach to actions in the preferred alternative.

GFNMS supports all actions in the preliminary alternatives that protect coastal streams from erosion and restore riparian habitat. We encourage GGNRA to protect and improve water quality in the creeks that drain into Sanctuary waters. Improving water quality in areas of management along coastal streams and land use in the coastal zone including Slide Ranch, Muir Beach and Rancho Corral de Tierra helps protect sanctuary resources.

GFNMS regulations prohibit discharging or depositing any material or other matter directly into the Sanctuary from the land [15 CFR § 922.83 (a)(2)]. It is critical that any land uses within GGNRA along the shoreline have clean discharges. Actions that improve offshore water quality should be incorporated into the preferred alternative.



Maps and Management Zones

The maps are a great way to communicate actions to the public. We suggest that Sanctuary boundaries are added to the maps to show overlapping jurisdictions within the ocean. We noticed that Preliminary Alternative 2 has two offshore “Sensitive Resources” zones and that recreational activities allowed under these zones could include non-motorized boating, but could potentially exclude fishing and motorized fishing. We have several recommendations for clarifying exactly what these two areas would and would not allow.

The area off Point Bonita, at Bird Island, is now home to a Common Murre colony. This was observed in June 2008 by U.S. Fish and Wildlife from the Bird Island overlook (south of the rock) along a southeast-facing wall on the west side of the rock. Brandt's Cormorants have also been observed nesting in this area. Most of the cormorant nests are on the west side along the flatter top portion of the rock. This new information should be considered in how this offshore area is designated in the preferred alternative.

GFNMS has an entire program dedicated to the protection of seabirds, The Seabird Colony Protection Program, which began in 2006. This Program specifically aims to reduce human disturbance to seabirds at coastal breeding and roosting sites in Central California in order to improve the survival and recruitment of seabirds by targeting the three main sources of these disturbances: boats, planes and humans on foot. Annual funding for education and outreach is provided, and this is also a partnership program with state and federal agencies, including National Park Service. GFNMS welcomes an ongoing partnership for seabird protection.

The program tracks disturbances through monitoring. Monitoring data has shown that both motorized and non-motorized vessels can cause a disruption to breeding activities, and that boats have caused the most severe observed impacts to seabird colonies by approaching in close proximity. According to a report released in 1998 by H.R. Carter et al., seabird population responses to preventing disturbances by boats could include increased breeding successes, population size and roosting use. These benefits to seabird populations would help compensate for injuries to seabirds from oils spills and other anthropogenic causes by speeding and ensuring natural population recovery in the near future.

GFNMS also has a Seabird Technical Advisory Committee, composed state and federal agencies including GGNRA, which advises us on actions to protect and restore seabirds. The Committee advised us to recommend vessel “no-go” zones around the ten key seabird breeding and roosting colonies and provided a 1000 ft closure distance recommendation. These actions would eliminate 91% of disturbance and 95% of flushing (causing birds to fly), according to U.S. Fish and Wildlife monitoring data. One of the ten locations was Bird Rock off Point Bonita. This recommendation specifically includes non-motorized vessels. Therefore, we urge GGNRA to consider this recommendation when determining how to zone this area on the map.

The other “Sensitive Resource” zone on the map is the area between Rocky Point and Muir Beach. It would be helpful to describe the specific reasons for listing this zone for special protection (i.e intertidal collection, offshore fishing, motorized vessels).

Other Planning Topics

Climate Change: GFNMS supports the planning approach for addressing climate change. We recommend that the preferred alternative address impacts of climate change for each of the Management Zones and clarify if there are any specific management actions for addressing climate change. We also offer to partner with GGNRA on addressing climate change in coastal areas.

Marin County

General Comments: Since there is not a specific recommendation for Muir Beach, we recommend that specific actions be incorporated into the preferred alternative for Marin County that can result in improving water quality by addressing current uses at Muir Beach.

Stinson Beach-Bolinas Fairfax Rd: GFNMS is partnering with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Marin County Open Space District to develop a Locally Preferred Plan to restore Bolinas Lagoon. The plan aims to minimize the adverse human impacts to Bolinas Lagoon, thereby promoting the natural, dynamic processes of the estuarine environment. One of the actions in the Plan is to investigate the use of GGNRA Stinson Beach lands to improve floodplain function for Easkoot Creek. An additional action can be to investigate utilizing a portion of the GGNRA Stinson Beach parking as a seasonal floodplain. The specific language in Preliminary Alternative 2 does not clarify if the floodplain restoration is seasonal or year-round, which is an important clarification in order to build community support. We also recommend clarifying if Preliminary Alternative 2 also includes the actions listed in the Natural Zone in Preliminary Alternative 3. Right now it is not clear if the uplands east of Highway 1 would be restored in Alternative 2.

Highway 1: GFNMS supports the actions for the Scenic Corridor Zone and the Natural Zone. We have been and will continue to review actions taken by Caltrans to manage the coastal road. We also suggest an additional action in the Natural Zone, which is to partner with GFNMS on interpretive signage highlighting Sanctuary waters and the offshore waters of GGNRA.

Slide Ranch: GFNMS supports the actions in Preliminary Alternative 2 for the Natural Zone and we are interested in partnering in restoration of coastal resources.

Lower Redwood Creek: GFNMS supports the actions in Preliminary Alternative 2 for the Natural Zone to further protect the creek's endangered salmon.

Offshore Marine Environment: GFNMS supports the actions in Preliminary Alternative 2 for the Natural Zone, Scenic Corridor Zone and Sensitive Resources Zone. As stated above, we recommend an additional refinement of the zones based on specific needs of each of these areas.

Additionally, the breeding and nesting times (including nest prospecting and pre-nesting activities) for the two main populations of seabird species near Point Bonita, Brandt's Cormorants and Common Murres, is November to August. Both species can additionally benefit by protection from human disturbance throughout during the non-nesting season. In particular, Brandt's Cormorants need places to rest and dry their wings and year-round protection can provide these additional benefits.

Finally, we recommend that GGRNA staff clarify the language for the Natural Zone in Preliminary Alternative 2. GFNMS manages the northern portion of the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary, which includes all Sanctuary waters north of Ano Nuevo, including waters off the southern Marin coast. Therefore GGRNA only needs to coordinate with GFNMS.

San Mateo County

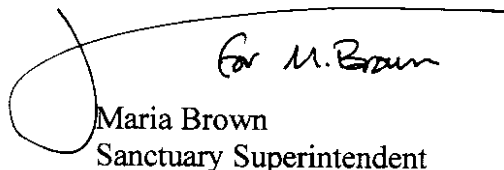
Pedro Point and Devil's Slide: GFNMS supports Preliminary Alternative 2, sensitive resources Management Zone to protect the breeding Common Murre and Brandt's Cormorant colony on Devil's Slide Rock. This colony was completely abandoned in 1988. As a result, in 1996, a \$ 5 million, 10-year restoration project to restore the Murres to Devil's Slide Rock was launched. The project used social attraction, with decoys, calls and mirrors to attract birds back to the abandoned colony. The funding was approved as part of the *Apex Houston* oil spill restoration fund, along with monitoring for success at the rock.

The restoration effort at Devil's Slide Rock has yielded successes, and in 2007 there were 392 breeding pairs on the rock. However, the biologists monitoring this colony and the colonies off of the coast of Marin identified human-based disturbance as one of the factors impeding recovery at particular colonies. Since this first restoration project, over \$ 6.2 million dollars of restoration funds have been spent on this colony. It is also expected that the *Luckenbach* restoration plan will continue funding for the next 20 years. The goal is to return the colony to 3,000 Common Murres, which was the estimated colony size in 1979. In order to achieve this goal it is critical to minimize human access to the rock and the surrounding cliffs. This area is prone to disturbances from aircraft and vessels, so it is critical to prevent adding an additional stressor to this colony. We recommend that the preferred alternative includes specific actions to protect Devil's Slide Rock and the surrounding coastal bluffs, and any proposed coastal access is constructed in a way that does not jeopardize this ongoing restoration project.

Conclusion

GFNMS appreciates this opportunity to comment on the GMP preliminary alternatives and can provide additional information as needed. Please contact Karen Reyna at 415-561-6622 x208 if you have any questions. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Maria Brown
Sanctuary Superintendent

cc: Superintendent Brian O'Neil



Department of Parks COUNTY OF SAN MATEO

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July 23, 2008

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

Dear National Park Service,

I am writing to forward County Park's comments on the proposed General Management Plan.

1. Regional Trails Proposed Within GGNRA Boundaries

It appears that there is a great opportunity for GGNRA to assist in implementing the Regional Trail network in San Mateo County. In 2001 County Parks completed a Regional Trail Master Plan, which also includes Design and Management Guidelines (which comply with County General Plan policies when implemented). The Regional Trail Master Plan can be viewed on the County Park website at www.eparks.net, under Park Planning, under Master Plans. The Regional Trail Master Plan is being updated at this time by County Parks with input from trail user groups to determine best trail routes by user groups. At some point during this next year 08-09 the Draft Regional Trail Plan will be available for public, and agency, review and comment.

Regional Trails currently identified in the 2001 Regional Trail Master Plan that are identified within GGNRA boundaries are: San Pedro Point Trail, Old San Pedro Road Trail, Half Moon Bay/Colma Road Trail, Montara Mountain Trail, Valley View Trail, Midcoast Foothill Trail, Scarper View Trail, East Ridge Boundary Trail, Skyline Trail Extension North, San Andreas Trail Extension, Crystal Springs Trail North (County Parks currently working on), and Crystal Springs Trail South Alternate Trail (County Parks currently working on). See the Trail Plan for trail start and end descriptions. Specific parcel specific routes have not been identified.

The General Plan also discusses Picardo Ranch, and there may be a possibility to connect it by Pacifica sidewalks with improved signage to San Pedro Valley County Park.

2. Corral de Tierra

The Corral de Tierra property has a long history of diverse agricultural use, and currently has an active farm on the site. There are opportunities to continue ongoing agriculture, grazing, and floriculture through lessees (as most agriculture currently occurs in San Mateo County), and also provide an opportunity to connect people to the agricultural history of the land through interpretation. This would be in sync with GGNRA's goal of preserving historic and natural resources, and providing healthy foods grown sustainably within GGNRA catered facilities.

The land area is large enough to offer a diversity of overnight lodging (i.e. RV, tent, and cabin camping) for folks coming from a distance to explore San Mateo County Midcoast, and Corral de Tierra.

The Corral de Tierra property is within the 15 watersheds, which drain into the Fitzgerald Marine Reserve Area of Special Biological Significance, so addressing any water quality issues and demonstrating leadership in restoring historical salmonid bearing streams is critical.

3) Midcoast Action Plan

On May 20, 2008 the County Board of Supervisors adopted the Midcoast Action Plan. The document can be viewed by visiting the County Park website at www.cpark.net, under Park Planning, under Other Planning Efforts. There are a variety of recreational needs identified in the document, which may provide some recreational ideas for GGNRA as it applies to the Corral de Tierra property. Of particular note is the proposed trailhead from Farralones View School to Rancho Corral de Tierra.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. If there are any further questions please feel free to contact me at 650/599-1393.

Sincerely,



David G. Holland
Director

C: Dave Moore, Superintendent
Gary Lockman, Superintendent
Sam Herzberg, Senior Planner



DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

Ruth Coleman, Director

Marin District
845 Casa Grande Road
Petaluma, CA 94954

July 1, 2008

National Park Service
Denver Service Center
Stephan Nofield
12795 West Alameda Parkway
P.O. Box 25287
Denver, CA 80225-0287

Dear Stephan,

California State Parks (CSP) – Marin District appreciates the continued opportunity to play a role in the Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA) General Management Plan (GMP) update. I am confident that our time together has served to strengthen the relationship between California State Parks and the National Park Service.

Generally, the desire of CPS – Marin District as a neighbor to GGNRA is that through understanding of our missions, we can plan and work together toward the common good, create efficiencies, and provide the opportunity for undistracted, positive, and inspirational visitor experiences. Specifically, there are four elements of the GMP of which we would like to comment.

Collaboration

The concept of collaboration between GGNRA and CSP - Marin District (as well as other land management entities) is referenced under "Guiding Principles and Management Concepts" and has been strongly supported as a concept during this GMP process. Collaboration is often driven by personalities or politics and is often at risk when management or politics change. The value of collaboration and comprehensive planning cannot be overstated and should be included in the final GMP as a strong and powerful directive of implementation for years to come. As a reciprocal element, this collaborative process should be strong enough to help shape the future updating of the Mount Tamalpais State Park General Plan. At present, the references are not as evident as when the 'seamless connection' alternative was in play. We want to ensure that there is good, solid direction for a future state park update and would encourage a direct reference to the common-sense need for joint planning efforts in the Muir Woods/Redwood Creek watershed area.

Trails

A strong connection between the lands of both GGNRA and CSP - Marin District is the network of trails that both physically connect the properties but are also historically significant features and serve to connect people to the past. Many of the trails on Mt.

Tamalpais were constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps in the 1930's. Trails provide visitors the opportunity to immerse themselves in the natural environment and explore the area. With Mt. Tamalpais State Park nearly surrounding Muir Woods National Monument and sharing boundaries with other GGNRA lands, many trails cross jurisdictions and visitors can conceivably enter lands managed by local, state, and federal agencies all on the same trek. Efforts have started to develop signage common to both agencies and informative to the visitors. References to maintaining trail connections are made throughout the plan and it is the desire of CSP - Marin District to maintain trail connections, develop improved signage, maintain trails to similar standards, and provide information encouraging visitors to take advantage of the experiences throughout the region.

Parking and Traffic

CSP - Marin District fully supports improved traffic management and the creation of an off site "welcome center" as noted in both alternatives under the "Arrival" element for Muir Woods NM. And although not listed as an alternative, we also support and encourage the development of a parking facility, picnic area, transportation connection, trail head, restrooms, and information center at Homestead Hill on GGNRA land off the Panoramic Highway to serve the multiple jurisdictions of the greater area. The site provides for wonderful vistas of the bay, is a popular roadside stop for visitors, and does not have adjacent residential concerns. Additionally, the site features an opportunity for the development of a regional information site for vehicular and trail access to GGNRA, State Park, and Marin Municipal Water District properties and the vast network of trails reaching both the north and south of Muir Woods including Mt Tamalpais and the Dias Ridge areas. Operation of this facility could be in partnership with those agencies.

Equestrian

CSP - Marin District supports ongoing equestrian use including utilization of trails, special camping facilities, and the horse corral at Santos Meadow in Mt. Tamalpais SP in addition to the development of an equestrian outreach program for disadvantaged youth. Although continued use is expected, equestrian facility expansion is not planned for State Park land. Developing a partnership in support of these activities is desired and we support the "Evolved Cultural Landscape" concept under Alternative 1 for the Lower Redwood Creek (former Banducci flower farm) allowing for the development of stables on GGNRA land proximal to the Santos Meadows facilities.

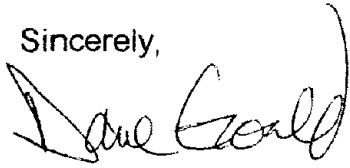
I just want to let you know again how much I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the GGNRA GMP. It is essential that the National Park Service and California State Parks continues to strengthen our partnership and by participating in this GMP it is yet another example how we can together share our vision for the management of park lands in Marin.

Mr. Stephan Nofield

-3-

June 24, 2008

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dave Gould". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "D" and a long, sweeping underline.

Dave Gould
Marin District Superintendent

Cc: Nancy Horner, GGNRA
Alan Tang, CSP
File

230

STINSON BEACH COUNTY WATER DISTRICT

3785 Shoreline Highway • P.O. Box 245

Stinson Beach, CA 94970

Phone: (415) 868-1333

Facsimile: (415) 868-9417

E-mail: sbcw@stinson-beach-cwd.dst.ca.us

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July 29, 2008

National Park Service
General Management Planning Team - GGNRA
Denver Service Center
12795 W. Alameda Parkway
Denver, Colorado 80225-0287

Re: Stinson Beach County Water District comments on Newsletter #4
"General Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement"

Dear Planning Team;

The Stinson Beach County Water District appreciates the opportunity to provide comments on the General Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement as described in your Newsletter #4.

The Stinson Beach County Water District wants to, and should be, included as a stakeholder/ partner with the GGNRA as you have established with other political bodies and agencies. We would like to be added to a more formal and direct contact list.

The District is very supportive of the parks concept of upgrading the beach facilities, especially the septic disposal system. We have had ongoing concerns regarding septic disposal, and urge you to upgrade and correct the deficiencies in the system. Should you implement the alternative of removing the parking lot, then we would expect that you address the septic system and the bathroom facility.

The District owns land, easements, facilities and other interests within the park boundary. We would expect to be included in the future technical working groups or stakeholder meetings. Attached is an interest card for follow up with the District

Sincerely,



Ed Schmidt, General Manager
Stinson Beach County Water District



Tamalpais Community Services District

305 Bell Lane, Mill Valley, CA 94941 • 415 388-6393 • Fax: 415 388-4168
 info@tcsd.us • www.tcsd.us

July 11, 2008

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

CC: Brian O'Neill, Superintendent GGNRA
 Charles McGlashan, Supervisor Marin County

Re: GGNRA GMP Alternatives for Marin County

To Whom It May Concern:

The Tamalpais Community Services District (TCSD) Board of Directors would like to provide some feedback on the GGNRA General Management Plan for the Marin County area. As a matter of background, the TCSD was formed in 1958 to serve the sanitation, refuse, and parks & recreation needs of its 7500 residents. Our community, known as "Tamalpais Valley" is a gateway community to the Marin Headlands portion of the GGNRA. Our board members are publicly elected.

The TCSD Board endorses Alternative 2 (Preserving and Enjoying Coastal Ecosystems) for park areas including Tennessee Valley, Marin Headlands, and Kirby Cove.

Many of our residents use the Tennessee Valley area daily and/or weekly for recreation. What is unique about the Marin Headlands is its peacefulness, creating a "sanctuary" of nature, even as it situated immediately adjacent to a busy urban area.

This peacefulness must be preserved, because it is so rare to find so close to a busy city. In what other major city on this planet can one take a 10 minute drive, hoist a back-pack, and prepare to spend the night in the wilderness?

Certainly, what we don't need at Tennessee Valley is more asphalt, more equestrian services (the Miwok stable area is already quite large, given the amount of trails in the area), more picnic areas, and more buildings (warming hut, other "facilities"). The same can be said about Kirby Cove. It is such a treasure right now - any additional development such as cabins would certainly despoil it.

In summary, what the Marin Headlands require is a strategy to preserve and protect the eco-system, with special focus on eliminating the non-native plants and bushes that seem to have taken over large swaths of the land since it was incorporated into the GGNRA. Any improvements should be modest, focusing on stewardship and restoration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Steffen Bartschat", written over a horizontal line.

Steffen Bartschat
 President, TCSD Board

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0512

July 7, 2008

Mr. Stephen Nofield
National Park Service
Denver Service Center
PO Box 25287
Denver, CO 80225-0287

Dear Mr. Nofield:

The San Mateo County Historical Association (association) is under consideration as a possible partner in a historic resources study of the San Mateo County Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GRNRA) parklands. The association has also proposed the creation of a new interpretive center in San Mateo County on behalf of the GGNRA, and the association has suggested Sanchez Adobe in Pacifica as the possible site.

While any proposal must always be fairly evaluated by an agency, I wanted to let you know that the ability of the association to perform on research assignments is well known in San Mateo County. In addition, the site selected by the association is exceptional. Sanchez Adobe is presently marked by highway markers and is known throughout our community. Pacifica is the destination of tens of thousands of tourists each year because its broad, clean beaches draw surfers and families from throughout the nine-county San Francisco Bay Area.

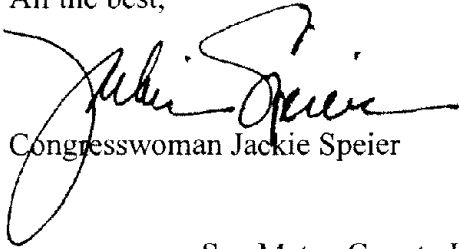
In its expanded role as an interpretive center, the Sanchez Adobe could be a living history museum for the properties under the domain of the GGNRA. What better place could there be to speak about the history of GGNRA properties than from within the walls of a genuine California adobe structure located next to the landing spot for the first Spanish exploratory party?

With respect to the interpretive center, you may have an opportunity to partner with the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans). Just before I left my position as a State Senator, my staff had a conversation with the District 4 Director of Caltrans about the need for a monument or diorama or other explanatory materials about the Devil's Slide tunnel presently being constructed just south of Pacifica. While no funds were specifically earmarked for the creation of a visitor-serving facility, the fact is that an engineering wonder is emerging on that site. Its creation is in part due to the GGNRA's interest in preserving the topography and environmental diversity of lands in that area. I would definitely recommend that you contact Mr. Bijan Sartipi, District 4 Director of Caltrans, at 510-286-5900 to see if he wishes to participate with the GGNRA in a project.

Furthermore, the California Coastal Conservancy funds visitor-serving projects, and it would be a sound use of your staff's time to explore the possibility of funding the proposed interpretive center in part through its contributions. The Coastal Conservancy has previously made a number of grants in Pacifica and recognizes its unusual role as a gateway to California's coast. The Coastal Conservancy may be reached at 510-286-1015.

Thank you for considering the Sanchez Adobe and the San Mateo County Historical Association as partners in the effort to bolster the public's understanding of the GGNRA's wonders. If I may answer any questions, please feel free to contact me or the member of my staff handling this subject, Brian Perkins, at 650-342-0300.

All the best,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jackie Speier", with a large, stylized flourish extending from the bottom left.

Congresswoman Jackie Speier

cc:

San Mateo County Historical Association

Pacifica City Council

Mr. Bijan Sartipi, District Director, Caltrans District 4

Mr. Sam Schuchat, Executive Officer, California Coastal Conservancy

Addresses for cc:

San Mateo Historical Association
Attn: Mitch Postel
2200 Broadway
Redwood City, CA 94063

Pacifica City Council
170 Santa Maria Avenue
Pacifica, CA 94044

Mr. Sam Schuchat
California Coastal Conservancy
1300 Broadway, 13th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612

Mr. Bijan Sartipi
CALTRANS DISTRICT 4
111 GRAND AVE
OAKLAND, CA 94612
510-286-4444