

Proposed Muir Beach CSD Dog Resolution submitted by Gary Friedman , 4/2/2016

Many members of our community have registered deep concern about the NPS dog management plan generally and particularly as it applies to Muir Beach residents. We appreciate the difficulty in balancing the many demands on this area's ecosystem. However, the proposed plan is far too restrictive. With the Bay Area population exploding and a steadily increasing number of tourists, we strongly urge the NPS to reconsider the current proposal and develop a new plan that is more appropriate to an urban environment and less restrictive to dogs and their owners in the Muir Beach area of the GGNRA.

The proposal to eliminate all Muir Beach trails from dog walking is a serious constraint on urban dwellers. In addition, for residents of Muir Beach, the plan is excessively restrictive. The proposal for all dogs to go to Little Beach is unworkable and unsustainable. There is no parking on Sunset and no decent access from the large parking lot. The additional displacement effects on Little Beach of trash disposal, use of private property for ingress and egress, lack of restrooms and other impacts as well have clearly not been taken into consideration. This is particularly onerous because in effect, Little Beach is being used as a de factor (ROLA) regulated off leash area.

Not only is Big beach off limits for dogs except by leash but the fire roads, open to bikers, hikers and equestrians should welcome dogs as well. At root, there's something deeply disproportionate about the level of restrictions being placed on dogs and dog lovers as compared to the total lack of limitations of vehicular traffic on Franks Valley Road. If the top priority is taking care of nature and preserving and protecting the ecosystem, there are many more behavioral changes of all kinds needed to ensure a sustainable, resilient, healthy watershed than dog access.

We commit to filing a public comment prior to the expiration of the notice period.

The NPS and our Muir Beach community need to work together to strike the right balance between protecting the environment and recognition of the demographic changes that are challenging us all. Please take another look at how we might create a dog plan that can be beneficial for both our and the greater community's needs and desires.