

State Capitol
Room 2032
Sacramento, CA 95814-4900
TEL (916) 651-4008
FAX (916) 327-2186

District Offices
400 South El Camino Real, Suite 630
San Mateo, CA 94402
TEL (650) 340-8840
FAX (650) 340-1661

Hiram W. Johnson State Office Building
455 Golden Gate Avenue, Suite 14200
San Francisco, CA 94102
TEL (415) 557-7857
FAX (415) 557-7864

SENATOR.SPEIER@SEN.CA.GOV

WWW.SEN.CA.GOV/SPEIER

California State Senate

SENATOR JACKIE SPEIER

REPRESENTING SAN FRANCISCO AND SAN MATEO COUNTIES



COMMITTEES
CHAIR
Banking, Finance
and Insurance
Select Committee on
Government Cost Control
MEMBER
Appropriations
Education
Joint Committee on
Legislative Audit

December 2, 2005

Mr. Brent Plater
D. R. Patterson
1095 Market St Ste 511
San Francisco, CA 94103-1628

Dear Friends:

Thank you for your thoughtful correspondence advocating enforcement of dog leash rules at Golden Gate National Recreational Area (GGNRA). Over the years I have worked with dog owner organizations and GGNRA officials regarding off-leash behavior. In fact, in 2002 I authored SB 712 which would have created off-leash dog areas at three state parks. This bill, offered as an alternative for Bay Area dog owners who wanted off-leash parkland, led to the formation of a state task force which subsequently identified three parks that would be suitable for construction (fencing) of off-leash dog parks. Unfortunately, state budget problems derailed the projects. The SB 712 effort left me with the following conclusion:

Off-leash activity should be in areas that do not involve interaction with leashed dogs, or a fragile environment; i.e., the area should be fenced and properly noticed as to its use. For example, according to dog park experts, canine dominance factors preclude the placement of tables in dog parks—dogs jump on tables to be dominant—and problems will arise when a leashed dog is confronted by a free dog.

In brief, I agree with your concerns. I have asked my staff to contact the GGNRA to determine why leash laws are not being enforced. Since I am a state senator and the GGNRA is under federal control, I may be limited in what I can do. But, I have enjoyed a good work relationship with park officials; therefore, I will contact the GGNRA to share your concerns and the concerns of others regarding leash law enforcement. I will keep you informed of any discussions that occur related to this matter.

All the best,


JACKIE SPEIER
8th Senate District