

Member, Board of Supervisors  
District 7



City and County of San Francisco

**SEAN R. ELSBERND**

Superintendent Brian O'Neill  
Golden Gate National Recreation Area  
Fort Mason, Building 201  
San Francisco, CA 94123

April 28, 2006

Dear Superintendent O'Neill:

Pet management at the Golden Gate national recreation area has been an issue of concern to my constituents and the City of San Francisco for many years now.

In the August 16<sup>th</sup> 2005 petition, a broad coalition of groups proposed a reasonable approach to pet management at the GGNRA. This proposal included enforcement of the leash laws. I urge you to follow the request made by that coalition which included Action for Animals, Coleman Advocates for Children and Youth, the United Pier Anglers of California, and the Center for Biological Diversity.

In a poll included in the materials sent to you with the petition, over 70% of Bay Area residents are in favor of leash law enforcement making it apparent that GGNRA's voice control measures have not been effective in resolving pet management issues. Leash law enforcement is likely to greatly improve visitor experiences and is consistent with the public's wishes.

Leash law enforcement protects dog access to the GGNRA without jeopardizing the safety of the other dogs, wildlife, or park visitors. This is particularly true during the proposed negotiated rulemaking process. Until that process is completed and a long-term solution is identified, leash laws should be enforced so that the park's sensitive wildlife is protected and the park remains accessible to all.

I urge you to enforce the National Park System's leash law at the GGNRA.

As always, I appreciate any and all feedback on this issue. Please feel free to contact my office with any comments, questions, or concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sean R. Elsbernd".

Sean R. Elsbernd  
Supervisor, City and County of San Francisco