

RESOLUTION NO. _____

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, COUNTY OF SAN MATEO, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

* * * * *

RESOLUTION: A) OPPOSING GOLDEN GATE NATIONAL RECREATION AREA'S DRAFT DOG MANAGEMENT PLAN AND SUPPLEMENTAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT'S "PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE F" WHICH PROHIBITS ACCESS TO OFF-LEASH DOGS AND GREATLY RESTRICTS ACCESS TO ON-LEASH DOGS ON GOLDEN GATE NATIONAL RECREATION AREA'S PARK LANDS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTY OF SAN MATEO; AND B) REQUESTING GOLDEN GATE NATIONAL RECREATION AREA ADOPT A MORE INCLUSIVE AND COMMUNALLY ACCEPTABLE PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE

RESOLVED, by the Board of Supervisors of the County of San Mateo, State of California, that

WHEREAS, in 1972, President Richard Nixon signed into law "An Act to Establish the Golden Gate National Recreation Area" with the purpose of providing a national park experience to a large and diverse urban population while preserving the area's outstanding natural, scenic and recreational values; and

WHEREAS, in 1978, at the request of the dog-owner community, GGNRA developed the "1979 Pet Policy" which provided general guidance for managing dog walking on lands owned and managed by GGNRA; and

WHEREAS, despite the fact that the "1979 Pet Policy" was out of compliance with the National Park Service's (NPS) dog management policy, it was adopted by GGNRA; and

WHEREAS, in January 2001, in an attempt to amend GGNRA's dog management policy and bring it into compliance with the NPS's dog management policy, GGNRA unilaterally made the decision to start enforcing the NPS's dog management policy in all GGNRA parks; and

WHEREAS, in 2005, after a lawsuit filed by local dog walkers, a U.S. District Court Judge for the Northern District of California ruled that GGNRA could not change their dog management policy within the lands managed by the "1979 Pet Policy" until a proper public notice and comment period is conduct; and

WHEREAS, in January 2011, GGNRA released the Draft Dog Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement which aimed to identify various alternatives for a dog management policy while providing for a variety of visitor experiences, improving visitor and employee safety and preserving and protecting natural and cultural resources; and

WHEREAS, immediately following its release, the Draft Dog Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement generated significant negative feedback and over 4700 comment letters from the public and strong opposition from elected officials from San Mateo, Marin and San Francisco counties; and

WHEREAS, to address the high volume of concern generated by the Draft Dog Management Plan Environmental Impact Statement, in 2012 GGNRA published a Draft Dog Management Plan/Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement which evaluated the impacts of six alternative dog management practices (Alternatives A-F) for GGNRA's parks; and

WHEREAS, GGNRA's Draft Dog Management Plan/Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement proposed minimal changes to the prior plan and continued to place strict restrictions on dog's access to trail leading to immediately opposition by the public and locally elected officials; and

WHEREAS, GGNRA manages five parks in San Mateo County: Mori Point, Milagra Ridge, Sweeney Ridge, Pedro Point and Rancho Corral de Tierra; and

WHEREAS, in San Mateo County, the alternatives range from allowing leashed dogs on all park lands in San Mateo County to banning dogs from all park lands; and

WHEREAS, GGNRA's preferred alternative—Preferred Alternative F—greatly reduces the miles of trails accessible to on leash dogs throughout the County of San Mateo; and

WHEREAS, GGNRA park lands in San Mateo County will see some of the strictest prohibitions against dogs on trails in the GGNRA park system and will be the only county that has no off-leash or voice-control access for dogs; and

WHEREAS, restricting people from accessing GGNRA's lands with their dogs will have negative impacts on many of the County's residents and will limit people's access and experience, deterring people from visiting and enjoying their local national parks; and

WHEREAS, people from nearby cities and counties may now choose to visit other parks that grant greater access to on-leash dogs and have designated off-leash dog areas.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors finds that the Golden Gate National Recreation Area's "Preferred Alternative F" greatly reduces dog owners' ability to access trails used regularly by San Mateo County residents and visitors; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors finds that the Golden Gate National Recreation Area's "Preferred Alternative F" will have a negative cultural and economic impact on San Mateo County; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors opposes Golden Gate National Recreation Area's Preferred Alternative F and requests that the Golden Gate National Recreation Area consider a more inclusive Preferred Alternative as supported and called for by the general public and local, state and federal elected officials.