

MUIR BEACH COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT

19 Seacape Drive • Muir Beach, CA 94965 • 415-388-7804 • www.muirbeachcsd.com



May 04, 2016
Meeting of the Board of Directors
District Manager's Report

The following is an ongoing list of the District Manager's activities over the past month. Topics are listed in order of the MBCSD's Charter as follows: Fire/Life Safety, Recreation, Roads, Water, and finally General Business:

Item:	Topic: Description	Action
01	<p>Fire/Life Safety – National Park Service inter-agency work: NPS Park Ranger Mia Monroe asked me to post the following info. Please direct any questions to mia_monroe@nps.gov :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> _ The bench up on the bluff overlooking the southern part of Muir Beach is installed. _ The maintenance crew reports that summer trash schedule will go into place a bit earlier with morning and evening pick-up happening on weekends and at other times when needed AND staff levels make it possible. Thank you for reporting specific problems or locations. Also, whenever beachgoers and/or neighbors pitch in to help, it makes a difference...soon you'll see upgrades to the All One Ocean litter bag pick-up station, too. _ The NPS maintenance crew has also resumed regular sampling of waters at Muir Beach (and other NPS beaches in Marin, too). Test results in April indicated high and unsafe levels of E coli and the area was posted as unsafe for water contact. Hopefully, recent tests will indicate that the water is cleaner. To learn of testing results yourself Marine County EH provides results and recommendations via phone (415-473-2335, press 1) or via website (marincounty.org/ehs and look for the box "BeachMonitoring" on right). _ The test sign indicating actual beach closure hours will soon arrive, report back on whether it helps out! _ Golden Gate Dairy House is in use on a limited basis. Park staff, work crews and monitoring teams are already using it for meetings, to suit up for field work and for tool storage. Look for more activity during the summer. _ Wondering what the straw is on park trails, especially in Muir Woods? After removal of one of the most invasive plants (panic grass aka Erharta) sterile mulch (straw) is applied to smother seedling growth...very labor intensive and we're fortunate that many volunteers help staff with this form of weed management. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> _ Follow up on contacts with NPS, Marin County, and State Parks staff to keep up to date on issues which may affect the CSD's charter. _ Follow up with Darren Fong and Victor Bjelajac on potential grant opportunities re: sustainability issues and our water service. (Still pending: 5/4/16)

	<p><i>_ The next update on the Memorandum of Understanding between County of Marin and NPS will be at the June 14 BOS meeting. NPS LE has been enforcing parking restrictions, writing nearly 600 tickets this year (these are Marin County tickets so the fine is paid to County of Marin) and we've opened the overflow parking lot a month earlier than planned to offer a bit of relief with busy season already here. The Muir Woods shuttle is operating (with weekday service during the summer). Busy times to plan around include the Mtn Play season, the MBVFD BBQ, Planetary Dance on June 5 and Dipsea Race on June 12. Other informational meetings are being planned, please get on the NPS mailing list to receive notices/invitations directly.</i></p> <p><i>_ Wildlife report: NPS Aquatic Ecologist reports that there are NO bullfrogs in Redwood Creek Watershed (red-legged frogs have successfully re-established in ponds and the Pacific chorus frog sure lets us know it is here in good numbers, too!). Over 300 coho smolts have been observed in Redwood Creek very recently and the team will particularly evaluate the success of the large backwater that was constructed as part of the lower Redwood Creek restoration project to help guide future restoration activities in this area. Coho Jumpstart report: The Warm Springs hatchery manager has indicated that the remaining coho from Redwood Creek are doing well and he has switched them to more natural foods (squid) rather than pellets. Do you subscribe to www.sfnp.org? It's a great way to learn about our special areas natural history!</i></p> <p><i>_ The buckeyes are spectacular, swallowtails are flitting and floating, wilson's warblers are here to nest...what a spring!</i></p>	
02	<p>Fire/Life Safety – Budget Update: No new actions to report.</p>	<p><i>_ In preparation for audits, generate similar reports for previous years as necessary.</i></p> <p><i>_Present the Board with the revised FY15/16 budget to adopt in the May meeting. (Still pending: 5/4/16)</i></p>
03	<p>Fire/Life Safety – 1793 Shoreline: No new actions to report on opportunities to sell/trade the site.</p>	<p><i>_ Look into other ways to trade the property for equivalent assets. (Still pending: 5/4/16)</i></p>
04	<p>Fire/Life Safety – New Fire House: 5/4/16 Agenda item 09 will address this topic.</p>	
05	<p>Fire/Life Safety – Disaster Prep: No new actions to report on for this item.</p>	<p><i>_ Coordinate with local volunteers on efforts for disaster preparations and meet with management of other Marin CSD's to review County support. (Still pending: 5/4/16)</i></p>

<p>06</p>	<p>Recreation – Measure A Funds: <i>Per last month’s report, the Measure A worksheet for FY 16/17 is due by 6/1/16.</i></p>	<p><i>_ Continue to track funds and anticipate future use for the specific areas of the Measure A dollars in FY18/19.</i></p>
<p>07</p>	<p>Recreation – Community Center Landscaping: <i>No new actions to report on this issue.</i></p>	<p><i>_ Mtg pending re: stonework completion. (Still pending: 5/4/16)</i></p>
<p>08</p>	<p>Recreation – Community Center Renovations: <i>Still pending items include:</i> <i>1.) Replacing broken glass lites in the skylight over the deck (safety and liability issue). (Bid = +/--\$7,900)</i> <i>2.) Installing glass panels for weatherproofing of the deck which would substantially increase its use during the winter. (Bid = +/--\$20,100)</i> <i>3.) Insulated glass replacements for the all the existing doors and windows in the main hall. (Bid = +/--\$36,000)</i> <i>4.) Obtain a structural evaluation of the Community Center.</i> <i>5.) Obtain an accessibility assessment of the Community Center.</i> <i>6.) Permanent heaters for the deck (Est = \$15k-\$20k)</i></p>	<p><i>_ Continue to work with the Facilities Committee on a comprehensive plan.</i></p>
<p>09</p>	<p>Recreation – Spindrif Point: <i>5/4/16 Agenda Item 07 will cover progress on this issue.</i></p>	
<p>10</p>	<p>Roads – Sunset Way Project: <i>5/4/16 Agenda Item 07 will cover progress on this issue.</i></p>	<p><i>_ Receive/review rough estimates from GC’s. (Still pending response as of 5/4/16)</i></p> <p><i>_ Review site conditions indicated by the committee review to clarify scope. (Pending committee mtg in the field on 5/15/16.)</i></p> <p><i>_ Obtain video scope of Cove Lane storm drain. (Still pending as of 5/4/16)</i></p> <p><i>_ Revise Gantt schedule for committee review.</i></p>
<p>11</p>	<p>Roads – Misc Repairs: <i>No new actions to report on this issue.</i></p>	<p><i>_Assess areas that need patching.</i></p>
<p>12</p>	<p>Roads – CalTrans Easement at Hwy 1/Sunset Way: <i>The issue of safety improvements needs to be raised with State representatives and CalTrans. Any improvements should be coordinated with the Sunset Way project.</i></p>	<p><i>_ Outreach to CalTrans and coordination with Sunset Way Project timeline. (Still pending as of 5/4/16)</i></p>

13	<p>Roads – Work in Easement Area: <i>I followed up on unauthorized excavation work for a retaining wall that was underway within the easement area on Sunset Way. I clarified with the owner that board approval would be required to alter the landscape. After further discussion, the owner decided to backfill the excavation and will reinstall the original conditions.</i></p>	
14	<p>Water – Marin LAFCO: <i>No new actions to report on this issue.</i></p>	<p><i>_ Ongoing: Explore recommendations of the LAFCO water study with the Board as a future agenda item. (Still pending as of 5/4/16)</i></p>
15	<p>Water – Well Issues: <i>The installation of a new liner for the main 2002 well is scheduled to take place on Monday, 5/9/16. The approximate cost is \$7,545. We hope this will solve the contamination problems and will be testing when the work is complete to see if we can switch back to the main well. The backup 2008 well has been in operation since January and is continuing to function adequately. Fortunately, testing of the 2008 well water on 4/21/16 exhibited no coliforms or e coli in contrast to the March tests which I reported on in last month’s report.</i></p>	<p><i>_ Notify the entire community in accordance with our preset plans should any issues affect the water in the supply system post-chlorination, i.e. supply lines and tanks.</i></p> <p><i>_ Continue to report to the Water Board and notify the CSD board of any changes in their safety recommendations.</i></p>
16	<p>Water – Banducci /NPS Property: <i>5/4/16 Agenda Item 10 will cover this issue.</i></p>	<p><i>_If approved, send the draft contract to NPS for review and approval.</i></p> <p><i>_Follow up on the NPS schedule for the work.</i></p>
17	<p>Water – Conservation: <i>No new actions to report on this issue.</i></p>	<p><i>_Follow up with the Board, community, and advisors on issues/measures related to water conservation and the community’s natural resources. (Still pending as of 5/4/16)</i></p>
18	<p>Water – Water Manager Retirement: <i>5/4/16 Agenda Item 07 will cover this issue.</i></p>	
19	<p>Water – Water Report: <i>The annual water report is due on 6/30/16 .</i></p>	<p><i>_Schedule work on the report.</i></p>

<p>20</p>	<p>General Business – District Manager’s Hours: <i>5/4/16 Agenda Item 08 covers this topic. For the record, here are my weekly hours since the last board meeting:</i></p> <p><i>04/03/16 - 04/09/16 = 40.00hrs 04/10/16 - 04/16/16 = 18.75hrs 04/17/16 - 04/23/16 = 07.50hrs (family illness) 04/24/16 - 04/30/16 = 20.75hrs</i></p>	<p><i>_ Continue to meet with Personnel Committee as required.</i></p>
<p>21</p>	<p>General Business – Financial Audits: <i>As stated previously, the District must audit prior fiscal years 07-08 thru 14-15. I have sent RFP’s out to 20 audit firms. I requested proposals by 5/24/16 and hope the Board can approve an auditor at the 6/1/16 regular meeting.</i></p>	<p><i>_Update the board when proposals are received. (Still pending: 5/4/16)</i></p>
<p>22</p>	<p>General Business – Strategic Planning: <i>No new actions to report on this issue.</i></p>	<p><i>_ Coordinate financial planning with the facilities analysis and other community goals in subsequent meetings. (Still pending as of 5/4/16)</i></p>
<p>23</p>	<p>General Business – Website: <i>Per my comments in the December 2015 board meeting the CSD should update its website to comply with the Grand Jury’s recommendations on transparency and public access. This item will be a placeholder until the District assigns resources for the update. Any community volunteer resources available to assist with this project are welcome to inquire. The District received the final report and it is published here: http://www.marincounty.org/~media/files/departments/gj/reports-responses/2015/webtransparencypcard.pdf?la=en</i></p> <p><i>The Grand Jury requested that responses to the report be submitted by 6/10/16 but I have not received Board consensus to do so.</i></p> <p><i>I received a quote from a company who revised the Marinwood CSD website and did nice work. The estimated cost to revise our website to allow for easier updating and conformance with the Grand Jury report is \$3,500. Whether an experienced company is hired to do this per my recommendation or some volunteer effort is chosen, I suggest that the work be completed as soon as possible. The current organization of the site requires that I edit the HTML code each month to post updates. That’s not an efficient process. Additionally, the improvements would rectify current deficiencies that make the site non-compliant.</i></p> <p><i>On a related note, I started audio recording the regular meetings and uploading the files so they can be accessed by the public upon request. It would be helpful to create links on the website for the files. On a few occasions, the recordings have already been helpful in clarifying what transpired.</i></p>	<p><i>_Update the board and community for feedback and assistance when resources are assigned. (Still pending as of 5/4/16)</i></p>

24	<p>General Business – FY16/17 Budget Planning: <i>NOTE: Continued item from the previous report. Still pending action. The FY16-17 draft budget process has been delayed due to excessive demands on my time but it needs to be started ASAP. The goal is to adopt a final budget by the start of the fiscal year on July 1st in accordance with best practices and consistent with other agencies.</i></p>	<p><i>_Draft the FY16-17 budget to follow a fund-accounting format to transparently reflect the Charter categories of the MBCSD. (Still pending as of 5/4/16)</i></p>
25	<p>General Business – Grants: <i>NOTE: Continued item from the previous report. Director Grose has begun some outreach in this area and will update the board when appropriate. This is a bookmark for future investigation of grants that would be beneficial to all areas of the CSD’s charter: Water, Fire, Roads, and Recreation.</i></p>	<p><i>_Acquire assistance in researching and application for grant opportunities beneficial to the CSD. _Coordinate with Director Grose on a Community Skills list to search local assets. (Still pending as of 5/4/16)</i></p>
26	<p>General Business – MBAG Information: <i>Director Hamilton-Rivers forwarded the attached update on the Muir Beach Advocacy Group in order to keep the CSD and community apprised of their activities. Agenda Item 06 includes a specific action item for collaboration.</i></p>	
27	<p>General Business – By Laws update: <i>The By Laws need to be revised to correct some errors. I would like the Directors to review the existing ones and let me know if you have any questions/concerns/suggestions. They are available at: http://www.muirbeachcsd.com/documents/BylawsMBCSDApprovedMar272014.pdf</i></p>	<p><i>_Draft an update to the By Laws and agendaize for review/approval in the 6/1/19 Regular Board Meeting.</i></p>
28	<p>General Business – NPS Dog Management Plan letter: <i>Attached is the letter that was sent to NPS and Cc’d to 11 other Federal, State, and local government officials regarding the Dog Management Plan.</i></p>	

Date: April 21, 2016

To: Victoria Hamilton-Rivers

Cc: Michael Kaufman, Chris Gove, Beth Begault, Tayeko Kaufman

From: Christian Riehl

Subject: Accomplishments of the MBA, along with a list of organizations and people MBA representatives have gotten to know.

The MBA group was established in the summer of 2014.

MBA group Accomplishments:

- Organized opposition to the NPS plan to build a bus stop at the intersection of Highway 1 and Pacific Way. NPS has stopped the project for now.
- Resolution 1 of the MBA, passed by a vote of the members in September 2014 and which addresses the NPS General Management Plan, was presented to NPS and Marin BOS, putting forth 5 positions: 1) there should be a visitor cap at Muir Woods; 2) there should be no NPS development between the ocean and Muir Woods, especially not at the Banducci Ranch; 3) no parking on Franks Valley Rd; 4) safety of residents and visitors should be a paramount concern; 5) no bus station at Muir Beach.
- Participated on Congressman Jared Huffman's Ad Hoc committee addressing visitation to Muir Woods and parking along Muir Woods Rd and Franks Valley Rd. (The MBA declined to either support or oppose the MOU between the county and the NPS that eliminates parking after 7 years. Interestingly, the District Manager of the Muir Beach CSD sent a letter to the congressman and the county saying the CSD wholeheartedly supports the agreement – even though the MOU was never even discussed by the CSD and is outside the charter of the CSD).
- At the request of the MBA, the Marin County BOS included in the 2015 bus ordinance a ban on tour buses going to the Muir Beach Overlook, thereby ensuring no bus traffic on our local roads.
- With the assistance of Supervisor Kate Sears, brought to the county's attention the creekside erosion undermining a Muir Beach water main at the Pacific Way bridge. Subsequently, county DPW twice shored up the creekside with rip rap to prevent further undermining of the water main.
- Lobbied the Post Office and enlisted the aid of Congressman Huffman to reverse the USPS plan to eliminate the official blue mail collection box at Muir Beach.

Organizations and Individuals with which the MBA has established relationships:

At the county level, we know –and are known by- **supervisors Kate Sears, Damon Connolly, and Steve Kinsey**. We also have met **Susan Kirsch**, who is running for supervisor against Kate Sears, and **Dennis Rodoni**, who is running for Kinsey’s spot on the BOS.

We also are known by:

- Raul Rojas, head of Public Works, and also staffers like Eric Steger, Bob Goralka, Craig Parmley, and Ernest Klock
- Nancy Whelan, head of Marin Transit
- General Counsel Steven Woodside
- Assemblyman Marc Levine’s senior field rep, Scott Alonzo
- Cal Trans – the public affairs officer, Steven Williams
- Congressman Jared Huffman, his district director Jenny Calloway, and senior staff member Matt Maltbie.
- The City Manager of Sausalito, Adam Politzer
- Past Mayor of Mill Valley and current councilwoman Stephanie Moulton-Peters (city council members rotate being mayor;)

And we’ve made connections with:

- The Muir Woods Park Community Association up on Panaoramic
- The Homestead Valley Land Trust
- Homestead Valley Community Association
- Sustainable Almonte
- Tam Valley CSD
- Water Marin
- Marin Coalition
- Marin Conservation League
- Citizen Marin

And lest we forget, we also know:

- Matt Leffert, head of the Tam Lands Collaborative,
- Various staffers and people at the Parks Conservancy and GGNRA –e.g., Christine Lehnertz, Aaron Roth, and formerly Frank Dean (retired)

And we also met with the Marin IJ Editorial Board, including the Publisher, Editor-Robert Sterling, and Opinion Page Editor-Brad Breithaupt. We’ve also been in contact from time-to-time with Samantha Kimmey of the Point Reyes Light. And there’s also Peter Fimrite of the SF Chronicle.



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May 4th, 2016

To:
Superintendent Christine Lehnertz
GGNRA
Building 201, Fort Mason
San Francisco CA 94123

Cc:
Director Jon Jarvis, National Park Service
Secretary Sally Jewell, Department of the Interior
Senator Diane Feinstein, United States Senate
Senator Barbara Boxer, United States Senate
Congressman Jared Huffman, United States House of Representatives
Congressman Tom McClintock, Chairman of Subcommittee on Federal Lands
Congressman Rob Bishop, Chairman of the House Committee on Natural Resources
Congressman Raul Grijalva, House Committee on Natural Resources
Congresswoman Niki Tsongas, Ranking Minority Member of Subcommittee on Federal Lands
Supervisor Steve Kinsey, Marin County Board of Supervisors
Supervisor Kate Sears, Marin County Board of Supervisors

Re: 2016 Draft Rule for Dog Management – Public Comment Submission

Dear Superintendent Lehnertz,

Many members of the Muir Beach community and the Community Service District have deep concerns about the proposed Draft Rule for the GGNRA's dog management plan—generally and particularly as it applies to the community of Muir Beach. *We appreciate the challenges inherent in balancing the many demands of increasing visitation and protection of park resources. However, we feel that the proposed rule is far too restrictive and doesn't strike the appropriate balance.*

Essentially, the Draft Rule represents an adoption of the Preferred Alternatives from the SEIS, and does not reflect responsiveness to the concerns/comments that this board unanimously expressed in 2013 in response to that document, and that were echoed by the full Marin County Board of Supervisors in February of 2014. The published Draft Rule has failed to address any of those concerns resulting in the attached Muir Beach CSD resolution from 2013 to be as applicable to the proposed Draft Rule as it was to the SEIS.



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With the Bay Area population growing and visitation to the GGRNRA increasing, the need for outdoor recreational opportunities is growing as well. We strongly urge the NPS to reconsider the proposed Draft Rule, and to develop an alternative for Muir Beach that is more appropriate to a suburban environment, more balanced and creative in managing resource protection with various longstanding and legitimate recreational activities, more responsive to public concerns, and less restrictive to people with dogs in the Muir Beach portion of the GGNRA.

We support the continuation of the historically dog-friendly status of Muir Beach, with park resources going towards stronger enforcement of *existing* rules and regulations. Those existing regulations *already* require that pets *and people* stay out of sensitive areas, and that all garbage and pet waste be packed out from the beach. If conflict or crowding from increased visitation is an issue, the park service should seriously consider temporal buffers that allow access for off-peak hours for people with dogs, thereby providing continuation of historical access with compromises to balance the varied, longstanding and legitimate uses of the GGNRA.

The proposal to eliminate *all* Muir Beach fire roads and trails from use by people with dogs—even on leash—is a serious constraint for this community. We are surrounded by the GGNRA, as well as a State Park that has never allowed access for people with dogs. For residents of Muir Beach, the plan is excessively onerous, and essentially bans people with dogs from hiking or running on a single fire road/trail in or around Muir Beach. Site-specific, evidence-based justification for such a sweeping removal of access has yet to be provided. And the loss of what that access means has not been properly considered. People who live in Muir Beach, or those wanting to come here without a car, need a safe route to and from on foot with a leashed dog. This is especially true for women wanting or needing to hike alone. The Coastal, Coyote Ridge and Miwok fire roads are perfect for that sort of car-free access to highly visited Muir Beach. These fire roads—that will continue to be open to park service trucks, bikers, hikers and equestrians—should welcome leashed dogs as well.

Additionally, the flat, wide trail around the restored wetland, Kaasi Way, is an important path for people to navigate the community of Muir Beach on foot, and for pedestrian access to and from Green Gulch. The draft rule bans this trail completely for people with even a leashed dog, cutting off the community connection between Green Gulch and Muir Beach. Additionally, it's the only trail that an elderly or disabled person has been able to use with a dog in the area. Leashed access to the beach won't even provide that sort of critical access. This local trail needs to remain open to leashed dog walking, as removing it presents a unique hardship to residents and visitors to Muir Beach. Leashed dogs on Kaasi Road, an already well-traveled path, won't be responsible for any unique impacts to wildlife.



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The proposal to allow only leashed dogs on Muir Beach will invariably push all people with dogs to Little Beach. The NPS is apparently calling out an adjacent property to use as a de facto ROLA (regulated off leash area.) That statement from the SEIS (p. 113) was originally made in support of the development of the Preferred Alternative for Muir Beach; and since the Draft Rule is the adoption of the Preferred Alternative for Muir Beach, the directive to use Little Beach made in the SEIS is inherent in the formation of the Draft Rule. And it represents a significant lack of consideration of the impacts from displacement, and a unique, intentional use of property not belonging to the park service. It is unworkable, unsustainable, and fails to consider an adjacent area that is NOT under NPS management, and actually is a mix of county and *private* property. And the displacement effects on Little Beach--trash disposal, use of private property for ingress and egress, lack of restrooms and other crowding impacts to this tiny beach and its visitors—would create further hardship for our community. Additionally, there is no parking on Sunset and no safe access from the large parking lot much of the time. People will have to scramble across private property at higher tides, creating unnecessary risk to all. With the Draft Rule's new addition of seasonal restrictions proposed for crossing redwood creek (historically from Nov-June) another impact of the NPS's proposed rule will be to send people in cars on to MBCSD *fire access* roads with virtually no parking or county/city parking enforcement resources to manage the impacts, creating even more risk.

At root, there's something deeply disproportionate about the level of restrictions being placed on dog owners as compared to other recreational uses in the GGNRA...or even as compared to the total lack of limitations of vehicular traffic on Franks Valley Road, and the lack of general oversight on Muir Beach. If the top priority is taking care of park resources and reduction of conflict, there are many more tools in the conservation toolbox--applicable to all park visitors--needed to ensure a sustainable, resilient, healthy watershed.

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.

Very truly yours,

Gary Friedman
Board President
Muir Beach Community Services District