

MUIR BEACH COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT

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



**Wed, December 4, 2013
7:00 PM – Regular Meeting**

**Board of Directors
Community Center
19 Seacape Drive
Muir Beach, CA 94965**

TIMING OF ITEMS ON AGENDA

The Board attempts to hear all items in order as stated on the agenda, however it reserves the right to take items out of the order listed at any time during the course of the meeting.

SPECIAL NEEDS

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact the District Manager at 415-388-7804. Notification 48 hours prior to the meeting will enable the District to make reasonable arrangements to ensure participation in the meeting.

AGENDA

Item 1 CALL TO ORDER

Note: The new directors from the November election were sworn in at the end of the last meeting.

Steve Shaffer, Board President
Scott Bender, Director
Paul Jeschke, Director
Peter Lambert, Director
Gerry Pearlman, Director

Leighton Hills, District Manager

Item 2 PRESENTATION BY MARIN LAFCO

The Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) is responsible for the creation and dissolution of all governmental agencies in California. It reviews all agencies like the Muir Beach CSD, cities and counties periodically to promote efficiency in providing governmental services. The new executive officer of Marin LAFCO, Keene Simonds, will provide a brief presentation about LAFCO, in particular about an upcoming study by LAFCO on the providing of potable water by various districts in Marin County.

Item 3 COMMUNITY DISCUSSION WITH STEVE KINSEY

County Supervisor Steve Kinsey will be present for a community discussion with Muir Beach residents. Possible topics include:

1. Traffic congestion due to Muir Woods and proposed solutions
2. NPS' decision to not repave Pacific Way (after messing it up with cranes and heavy equipment)
3. County help with proposed NPS dog walking policies on Muir Beach
4. Short term vacation rentals, their impact on community character. Possible sharing of county occupancy tax proceeds from rentals at Muir Beach
5. Other

Item 4 CSD DOG WALKING RESOLUTION

At the last meeting on November 13, the board asked Joanie Wynn to prepare a proposed resolution opposing the currently proposed preferred alternative for dog management at Muir Beach. The proposed resolution is attached.

Item 5 PUBLIC OPEN TIME

1. *Topics should be within the jurisdiction of the CSD (water, roads, fire & public recreation).*
2. *The topic should not be elsewhere on the agenda.*
3. *The Board and staff may only briefly respond to statements and questions (legal requirement for items not posted on an agenda which lets members of the community know a topic is up for discussion).*
4. *Public comments are limited to 3 minutes per speaker, unless waived by the Board.*
5. *The period for public open time is limited to 15 minutes, unless waived by the Board.*

Item 6 SELECTION OF DATE FOR NEXT MEETING

Item 7 ADJOURNMENT

**MUIR BEACH COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT
RESOLUTION OPPOSING THE GOLDEN GATE NATIONAL RECREATION AREA'S CURRENTLY
PROPOSED PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE FOR DOG MANAGEMENT**

WHEREAS, On September 6, 2013, the Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA) released a Supplemental Dog Management Plan, with a Preferred Alternative F that would ban all off-leash, voice-controlled dog walking on Muir Beach and create large areas where dogs would not be allowed at all, including restrictions in areas where off-leash, voice-controlled dog walking is currently allowed; and

WHEREAS, Preferred Alternative F would also eliminate all dog access to the Coastal Fire Road and Trails adjacent to Muir Beach; and

WHEREAS, There is currently no continuous trail from Muir Beach to Mill Valley that allows access with a dog; and

WHEREAS, Preferred alternative F states that *“off-leash dog walking can occur at a small beach area on county property adjacent to the NPS beach”* (commonly known as “Little Beach”). Little Beach is not accessible without crossing the main beach or driving along neighborhood private roads. For visitors who attempt to access Little Beach by car, there is no public parking on Sunset Way, Pacific Way or Cove Lane. These single lane local roads are fire lanes. Extra and illegally parked cars would create a hazard by blocking access to emergency vehicles. For those who would arrive on foot, there are no amenities or services for Little Beach, no trash cans, no toilets. From a safety standpoint, visitors who cross over to access Little Beach may become stranded during high tide, then try to unsafely cross over the rocks to get back to Big Beach. From an environmental standpoint, additional visitor use will lead to increased erosion of the hillside trails and the potential increase of dog waste left at these trailheads. Funneling an entire user group to this small local beach would impact the enjoyment and safety of this area for Muir Beach residents. Formally stating and implementing such a plan would require appropriate impact studies and input from the surrounding community/residents of Muir Beach, the Muir Beach Community Services District and Muir Beach Volunteer Fire Department; and

WHEREAS, A significant reduction in dog access will have negative impacts on approximately 1/3 of the households in Muir Beach that own dogs that require regular exercise; and

WHEREAS, Muir Beach residents and their dogs have traditionally enjoyed access to various properties under the present oversight of the GGNRA, such as Muir Beach and the surrounding trails

WHEREAS, Muir Beach was established as a residential community before stewardship of the land by GGNRA and has historically and safely allowed responsible off-leash dog use; and

WHEREAS, The GGNRA was mandated by Congress in 1972 to: *“provide for the maintenance of needed recreational open space necessary for urban environment and planning”, “to assure the preservation of open spaces”* and *“to provide public access along the waterfront and to expand the maximum extent possible the outdoor recreation opportunities available to the region.”*

WHEREAS, In 1979, after an extensive period of public comment including public hearings, the GGNRA determined that voice-controlled dog walking would have no negative impact on the natural environment or on other park visitors when conducted on one percent of the GGNRA land, and the GGNRA therefore determined that dogs could be walked under voice control on that one percent of its land; and

WHEREAS, People, dogs, birds, plants and other species have been co-existing in the GGNRA for decades, consistent with the recreational purposes of the GGNRA; and

WHEREAS, No evidence has been presented which indicates that use by dogs is more harmful to environmentally sensitive areas than use by people, therefore it is unreasonable and invalid to restrict usage of Muir Beach and Coastal Trails to dog owners; and

WHEREAS, In order to protect the newly restored Redwood Creek and lagoon areas with its sensitive habitat and wildlife, NPS has recently installed boundary fencing to prohibit swimming, trampling on vegetation or disturbing wildlife in these areas by both people and dogs. This adequately addresses their environmental concerns on the beach without the need for an off leash ban; and

WHEREAS, The Supplemental Dog Management Plan does not include any consideration of the benefits of off-leash, voice-controlled dog walking, including providing needed exercise for people and dogs, nor does it include any consideration of the impact on the residents of Muir Beach; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, That Muir Beach Community Services District (MBCSD) opposes the GGNRA's proposed preferred alternative in the Supplemental Dog Management Plan and urges the GGNRA to modify the Plan to allow for greater access to recreational opportunities such as dog walking, or alternatively to adopt the No Action alternative (A) that would continue the current usage for off-leash, voice-controlled dog walking; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That dog access must be granted from Coyote Ridge Trail to Miwok Fire Road to allow hikers with dogs to cross from Muir Beach into Mill Valley; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the MBCSD believes that the GGNRA is an urban recreation area and not a remote national park and that the GGNRA should be managed with the needs of recreational users and the residents of the surrounding community of Muir Beach very much in mind; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this legislation be sent to GGNRA Superintendent Frank Dean, National Park Service Director Jon Jarvis, Marin County Supervisor Steve Kinsey, U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein, U.S. Senator Barbara Boxer, Congressman Jared Huffman, Representative Lynn Woolsey, Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell, Chairman of the U.S. House Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands Rob Bishop, Ranking Minority Member of the U.S. House Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands Raul Grijalva.