

# MUIR BEACH COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT

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June 01, 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><b>Fire/Life Safety – National Park Service inter-agency work:</b> NPS Park Ranger Mia Monroe asked me to post the following info. Please direct any questions to <a href="mailto:mia_monroe@nps.gov">mia_monroe@nps.gov</a> :</p> <p><b>Public Meetings</b> _ June 14: NPS-County of Marin MOU Update to Marin County Board of Supervisors, 10:30 am at Civic Center _ June 27: Muir Woods projects informational meeting, 6-8 pm at Tam Valley Elementary School (updates on Muir Woods Sustainable Access Project, FLAP and other work in watershed)</p> <p><b>Public Programs</b> _ Solstice hikes (observed June 20 this year) at sunrise and sunset AND we're also starting a Sunday morning program for families with young children - Tales from the Trees - on June 12 with Ranger Jasmine. <a href="https://www.nps.gov/muwo/planyourvisit/event-details.htm?eventID=5201492-307230">https://www.nps.gov/muwo/planyourvisit/event-details.htm?eventID=5201492-307230</a> _ Twilight walk, a stroll through the ancient forest with NPS and County of Marin naturalists...June 7, 7-9 pm. FREE _ Good Fire event at Green Gulch Farm on June 25.</p> <p><b>Muir Woods Access update</b> _ Vehicle size limit signage up on Shoreline Highway. Caltrans Route 1 future planning workshop held in early May. _ Parking lot attendants manage traffic flow, congestion and parking lot management at Muir Woods through the summer. NPS law enforcement staff continue active ticketing in Frank Valley using County ticketing authority (ticket fees go to County) and report over 600 tickets issued since Nov '15. _ Weekday shuttle service starts June 20. _ Traffic control and reroutes on Panoramic Highway/upper Muir Woods Rd in place morning of June 12 for annual Dipsea Race.</p>	<p><i>_ 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.</i></p> <p><i>_ Follow up with Darren Fong and Victor Bjelajac on potential grant opportunities re: sustainability issues and our water service. (Still pending: 6/1/16)</i></p>

	<p><b>Nature News</b>  <i>_ Enjoy the view from southern bluff overlooking Muir Beach...nice bench to sit at! Watch out for whales and peregrines! Feel good about the backwaters of Big Lagoon and Green Gulch tributary now sheltering hundreds of young fish!</i>  <i>_ New book, actually a classic updated significantly: Barry Spitz' Mount Tamalpais Trails...available along with other great titles like How to Raise A Wild Child, Secrets of the Oak Woodlands and an amazing children's book selection at the Muir Woods Visitor Center...is there a fourth grader in your life? be sure to get to Muir woods so they can "go fourth" and visit (with family!) national parks for free for the next year!</i></p>	
<b>02</b>	<p><b>Fire/Life Safety – Budget Update:</b>  <i>No new actions to report.</i></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. (Still pending: 6/1/16)</i></p>
<b>03</b>	<p><b>Fire/Life Safety – 1793 Shoreline:</b>  <i>No new actions to report on opportunities to sell/trade the site.</i></p>	<p><i>_ Look into other ways to trade the property for equivalent assets. (Still pending: 6/1/16)</i></p>
<b>04</b>	<p><b>Fire/Life Safety – New Fire House:</b>  <i>6/1/16 Agenda item 09 will address this topic.</i></p>	
<b>05</b>	<p><b>Fire/Life Safety – Fire Tax:</b>  <i>The current fire tax expires on 6/30/16. As discussed in the March meeting, materials were not ready for the June ballot. The deadline for the November ballot is 8/11/16. Since this funding supports regular ongoing operational expenses, I recommend proposing it as a permanent tax. The Board should authorize the time to create the proposition wording, receive public comments and coordinate to the extent permissible with the Fire Association on advocacy.</i></p>	<p><i>_ Work with Counsel to create ballot language for board approval.</i></p> <p><i>_ Follow calendar for ballot submission and approval.</i></p> <p><i>_ Inform the public of the purpose of the tax.</i></p>
<b>06</b>	<p><b>Fire/Life Safety – Disaster Prep:</b>  <i>No new actions to report on for this item.</i></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: 6/1/16)</i></p>
<b>07</b>	<p><b>Recreation – Measure A Funds:</b>  <i>Per last month's report, the Measure A worksheet for FY 16/17 is due by 6/1/16. The report will be submitted by 6/3/16.</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>

<b>08</b>	<b>Recreation – Community Center Landscaping:</b> <i>No new actions to report on this issue.</i>	<i>_ Follow-up on stonework completion.</i>
<b>09</b>	<b>Recreation – Community Center Renovations:</b> <i>6/1/16 Agenda item 07 will address enhancements to the deck.</i>	<i>_ Continue to work with the Facilities Committee on a comprehensive plan.</i>
<b>10</b>	<b>Recreation – Spindrift Point:</b> <i>No new actions to report on this issue.</i>	
<b>11</b>	<b>Roads – Sunset Way Project:</b> <i>6/1/16 Agenda item 10 will address this topic.</i>	<i>_ Obtain video scope of Cove Lane storm drain. (Still pending as of 6/1/16)</i>  <i>_ Revise Gantt schedule for committee review.</i>
<b>12</b>	<b>Roads – Misc Repairs:</b> <i>No new actions to report on this issue.</i>	<i>_ Assess areas that need patching.</i>
<b>13</b>	<b>Roads – CalTrans Easement at Hwy 1/Sunset Way:</b> <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>	<i>_ Outreach to CalTrans and coordination with Sunset Way Project timeline. (Still pending as of 6/1/16)</i>
<b>14</b>	<b>Water – Marin LAFCO:</b> <i>No new actions to report on this issue.</i>	<i>_ Ongoing: Explore recommendations of the LAFCO water study with the Board as a future agenda item. (Still pending as of 6/1/16)</i>
<b>15</b>	<b>Water – Well Issues:</b> <i>The 2002 well liner was installed on 5/9/16 and work was completed on 5/10/16. The installer notified us that the liner did not reduce the flow rate of the well. After intensive chlorination, we tested the well on 5/12/16 and 5/19/16. Fortunately, there was no presence of E. coli. The tests still showed low readings of coliforms, though. Per the Water Board engineer’s direction we will continue with the permit modification that requires increased reporting of our chlorine and tank levels to meet 4-log virus inactivation. That will ensure the water is treated adequately. The 2002 well was put back in service on 5/25/16. We will continue to perform our monthly tests on both wells to monitor contamination.</i>	<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>  <i>_ Continue to report to the Water Board and notify the CSD board of any changes in their safety recommendations.</i>
<b>16</b>	<b>Water – Banducci /NPS Property:</b> <i>6/1/16 Agenda Item 05 will cover this issue.</i>	<i>_ Pending Board action, follow up on the NPS schedule for the work and transition plan.</i>

17	<b>Water – Conservation:</b> <i>No new actions to report on this issue.</i>	<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 6/1/16)</i>
18	<b>Water – Water Manager Retirement:</b> <i>No new actions to report on this issue.</i>	
19	<b>Water – Water Report:</b> <i>The annual water report is due on 6/30/16 .</i>	<i>_Schedule work on the report.</i>
20	<b>General Business – District Manager’s Hours:</b> <i>For the record, here are my weekly hours since the last board meeting:  05/01/16 - 05/07/16 = 44.25hrs  05/08/16 - 05/14/16 = 20.00hrs ( incl. 6.50hrs comp time)  05/15/16 - 05/21/16 = 20.00hrs (incl. 4.00hrs comp time)  05/22/16 - 05/28/16 = 24.75hrs</i>	<i>_ Continue to meet with Personnel Committee as required.</i>
21	<b>General Business – Financial Audits:</b> <i>6/1/16 Agenda item 06 will address this topic.</i>	<i>_Follow up on Board direction.</i>
22	<b>General Business – Strategic Planning:</b> <i>No new actions to report on this issue.</i>	<i>_ Coordinate financial planning with the facilities analysis and other community goals in subsequent meetings. (Still pending as of 6/1/16)</i>
23	<b>General Business – Website:</b> <i>No new actions to report on this issue.</i>	<i>_Update the board and community for feedback and assistance when resources are assigned. (Still pending as of 6/1/16)</i>
24	<b>General Business – FY16/17 Budget Planning:</b> <i><b>NOTE: Continued item from the previous report. Still pending action.</b>  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>	<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 6/1/16)</i>
25	<b>General Business – Grants:</b> <i>I inquired about funding for accessibility upgrades to the Community Center with Liza Crosse, Supervisor Kinsey’s aide. She recommends that we pursue the Community Service Grant Program. It is finished for this fiscal year, but will start again in the Fall. That program provides grants on a competitive basis, up to \$10,000. See the webpage for more information: <a href="http://www.marincounty.org/depts/ad/service-fund-program-information">http://www.marincounty.org/depts/ad/service-fund-program-information</a></i>	<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 6/1/16)</i>

<p><b>26</b></p>	<p><b>General Business – MBAG Information:</b>  <i>I was notified that MBAG sent the info below to its members. I have also attached their letter to NPS re: the Dog Management Plan to the end of this report.</i></p> <p><i>“1. C-SMART survey –the county’s effort to plan how to adapt to sea level rise –specific to Muir Beach is open for your input. You have until June 7. The survey is very short –you can do it online by going here <a href="http://www.peakdemocracy.com/3683">http://www.peakdemocracy.com/3683</a>. You either have to register with your email address to submit it electronically, or you can print the completed survey and mail it in. The whole thing takes less than 5 minutes. There’s a lot of background information and important maps here: <a href="http://www.marincounty.org/depts/cd/divisions/planning/sea-level-rise">http://www.marincounty.org/depts/cd/divisions/planning/sea-level-rise</a>.</i></p> <p><i>The survey asks you to check off those potential strategies/concepts that you do agree with. It may be useful in the comment section to point out those strategies/concepts to which you disagree or object.</i></p> <p><i>For example, one option on which county planners ask your opinion is whether or not you support “retreat” from sea level rise, by which homeowners would be bought out and relocated. Since there are close to 50 houses at Muir Beach considered at long-term risk, one potential consequence of the “retreat” option would be to eliminate nearly one-third of the Muir Beach community. If you have an opinion about that, here’s your chance to state it.</i></p> <p><i>2. NPS Meetings on the Muir Woods MOU. There are two of these coming up:</i>  <i>_ Tuesday, June 14 at about 10:30am at the Marin Co. Board of Supes meeting - the NPS will give a presentation about traffic and parking on the Muir Woods/Franks Valley Rd. There will be open time for members of the public to speak - up to 3 minutes per person.</i>  <i>_ Monday, June 27, from 6pm to 8pm at Tam Valley Elementary School - another presentation about the NPS’ management of Muir Woods, Muir Beach, and the Redwood Creek watershed. While this will be a very scripted slideshow/presentation, there will be some time for questions.</i></p> <p><i>The more people that show up to these things, the better the chance of getting the attention of the County and the NPS- especially if people voice their concerns.”</i></p>	
<p><b>27</b></p>	<p><b>General Business – By Laws update:</b>  <b><i>NOTE: Continued item from the previous report. Still pending action.</i></b>  <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: <a href="http://www.muirbeachcsd.com/documents/BylawsMBCSDAapprovedMar272014.pdf">http://www.muirbeachcsd.com/documents/BylawsMBCSDAapprovedMar272014.pdf</a></i></p>	<p><i>_Draft an update to the By Laws and agendize for review/approval in the next Regular Board Meeting.</i></p>

To: Christine Lehnertz,  
General Superintendent of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area

From: Chris Gove, Michael Kaufman, Christian Riehl  
Coordinators, Muir Beach Advocacy Group

Date: May 17, 2016

Subject: **Proposed Rule for Dog Management in the GGNRA**

The Muir Beach Advocacy Group, comprising residents and property owners in Muir Beach, having discussed at its regular meeting the National Park Service's Proposed Rule for Dog Management in the GGNRA and having unanimous agreement at that meeting, gives the following comments:

The Muir Beach Advocacy Group strongly opposes the Proposed Rule for Dog Management in the GGNRA because:

- the new rule is detrimental to residents of Muir Beach;
- the rule is detrimental to the Muir Beach community generally;
- the rule is detrimental to other members of the public who visit Muir Beach and its environs; and
- there is no scientific or other evidence that a ban of off-leash dogs on Muir Beach itself and a ban of leashed dogs on fire roads in the Muir Beach area will provide environmental or social benefits.

Detriments to Muir Beach Residents: Many residents living in Muir Beach own dogs, and many have walked their dogs on the fire roads for decades. Similarly, residents have used Muir Beach as an off-leash place to run and play for decades. Eliminating these long-established areas of access for dog owners will require many residents to drive miles in order to find a place to walk and/or run their dogs. (The nearest dog park in Mill Valley is a minimum of 7 miles away).

Some residents who walk alone on the surrounding fireroads -which the NPS seems to be re-designating as "trails", even though they are not- experience a measure of security by walking with their dog. This security will be completely eliminated by the Plan's ban of on-leash dogs on the fire roads.

Detriments to the Muir Beach Community: The NPS, both in their Supplemental EIS for this rule, and in recent posts by NPS representative Mia Monroe on the NextDoor social media site, encourages all members of the public to use the non-GGNRA beach -known as "Little Beach" for off-leash dog walking. Little Beach is a County beach that includes several privately owned parcels with beach frontage. In effect, the NPS wishes to designate Little Beach as the Regulated Off-Leash Area ("ROLA") for all visitors to Muir Beach. This is both impractical and detrimental to Muir Beach residents and the Muir Beach Community because: a) that beach is very small; b) it is often unsafe and

completely unusable at high tides and is inaccessible from NPS property at even moderately high tides; c) there are no visitor facilities such as garbage cans or restrooms at that beach; d) there is no maintenance provided by any public agency; e) access is by narrow one-lane roads maintained by the community, *not* the county, on which there are extremely few places for vehicles to turn around or pass; and f) there is no place for visitors to park.

Viewed individually and cumulatively, these impracticalities and detriments place unfair and dangerous burdens on Muir Beach residents and threatening the health and safety of the community:

When NPS visitors attempt to access Little Beach via community roads, there is a reasonable expectation they will park illegally, make dangerous turnarounds, and potentially block emergency access both for users of Little Beach and for nearly half the residents of Muir Beach.

There is a reasonable expectation that members of the public who attempt to reach Little Beach from Muir Beach at high tide –or to return to Muir Beach after the tide has come in- will put themselves and their dogs in danger and require assistance from the Muir Beach Volunteer Fire Department.

The lack of restrooms and garbage cans, combined with increased visits by NPS visitors and their dogs, will result in more trash and waste on Little Beach, on neighbors' properties, and on community roads and property.

We also note –and find extremely objectionable- that neither Marin County nor the adjacent private property owners were consulted about using Little Beach as a de facto ROLA for GGNRA visitors. Equally troubling and objectionable is that the NPS did not do an environmental impact study of the effect of designating Little Beach a ROLA.

The Proposed Dog Management Plan imposes new and more extensive risks and burdens on the Muir Beach Community. The Muir Beach Community should not be forced to bear the burden of these risks.

Detriments to the Public at Large: The public has used Muir Beach for off-leash dog walking, and the fire roads of the surrounding area for on leash dog walking, for many decades. Closing this access at Muir Beach, as well as other GGNRA locations that have traditionally enjoyed this recreational activity for which the GGNRA was created, pushes people and their dogs onto State, County, and Municipal lands and facilities that, in many cases, are already crowded. The crowding will become worse, degrading the experience for all users of non-GGNRA properties and potentially degrading non-GGNRA recreational areas. This is detrimental to the general public.

Elderly and disabled people, along with parents and their small children –both residents of Muir Beach and the broader public- often walk with their dogs along Kaasi Road from the Muir Beach parking lot to Green Gulch farm and back. The popularity of this walk is

due to the flatness and width of Kaasi Road, providing easy and safe access to both natural and agricultural environments. Disallowing dogs on leashes along this road would be especially detrimental to these groups of people who have very few, in any, comparable places to walk their dogs.

No Scientific or Fact-Based Determination of Need or Benefits From the Proposed Rule:

We could find nothing in the Proposed Rule of any rigorous scientific study –either in the biological sciences or social sciences- indicating environmental or social benefits from the bans and restrictions of the Proposed Rule. Many of our members are very concerned about environmental degradation of the Redwood Creek watershed, but we have seen no harm to plants, animals, or ecosystems from dogs. We have observed humans jeopardizing the environment – e.g., the regular occurrence of people wading (and doing worse things) in the Redwood Creek and Lagoon—and we wish the NPS would expend effort to halt such behavior. Any detrimental behavior by dogs is almost exclusively the failure of the human dog owner (e.g., failing to pick up their dog’s poop). The Muir Beach Advocacy Group would like to see the NPS enforce existing rules that are already in place that are designed to keep people (and dogs) out of sensitive areas. At present, there is no enforcement whatsoever.

Summary:

The proposed NPS’ Dog Management Plan is detrimental to Muir Beach residents.

The proposed Dog Management Plan is detrimental to the Muir Beach Community and burdens the Community with new public health and safety risks.

The proposed Dog Management Plan is detrimental to the County of Marin and the broader general public.

There are no scientific studies indicating social or environmental benefits of the proposed Dog Management Plan. In the absence of rigorous scientific study supporting the expectation of beneficial outcomes of this Plan, the bans and restrictions it prescribes are capricious and arbitrary.

The Muir Beach Advocacy Group strongly opposes this Proposed Rule. It should be rejected in its entirety.