

# Sample Comments on the GGNRA Proposed Rule for Dog Management

By Crissy Field Dog Group

Please submit your comments before the May 25 deadline

**Note:** *The below are suggestions to be personalized based on individual experience and circumstance. Use these as a starting point; comments written in your own words have a much greater impact.*

*How will the rule impact your current use of the GGNRA?*

- I currently exercise my dog in the GGNRA at \_\_, at least \_\_ times per week.
- On-leash exercise is not an adequate substitute for off-leash exercise. When dogs are off leash, they burn more energy and get the mental stimulation and socialization that they need.
- If the current proposal is adopted, I will no longer be able to exercise my dog at \_\_ because that area will be [restricted to on-leash only/closed to dogs]. I will be forced to exercise my dog at other locations, such as: other Locations in GGNRA? City parks? City streets?

*If you go somewhere else to exercise your dog, how will you get there?*

- To access this location I will be required to drive an additional \_\_ miles, creating more carbon footprint.

*Unattended dogs -- are dogs not allowed in restrooms at the area you visit?*

- Because “unattended” dogs are not allowed in the rule, I will not be able to use the restrooms at the GGNRA facility I regularly visit. This will make visiting impossible, since dogs are prohibited from buildings, where restrooms are located.

*Other than simply “walking” your dog -- what other activities do you engage in?*

- I regularly exercise my dog through play, including off leash games such as fetch, as well as quieter activities such as picnicking with my dog.
- The rule is too restrictive in defining “uncontrolled” dogs to include activities such as digging.

*Safety Issues*

- I have a family and we have a dog. The only place we will be allowed to play with our dog in Marin is Rodeo Beach. Rodeo Beach is not safe for small children or dogs due to the dangerous surf. Why can't you provide a safe place for my family to recreate in Marin County as they have now at Muir Beach?
- I do not feel safe walking at certain times of the day or night without my dog. As a result, I will be unable to visit areas where dogs are no longer allowed.

*Commercial Dog Walkers:* I rely on a commercial dog walker to exercise my dog and strongly support allowing CDWs to use the GGNRA.

*Fair enforcement:* The GGNRA should focus on responsible dog ownership and education -- whole areas of the GGNRA should not be closed down based on a few bad actors.

*Impact on neighborhoods:* The GGNRA functions as important recreational space for my local neighborhood and surrounding community. Restricting off leash use will have a highly negative impact on recreation in my neighborhood.

- *San Mateo County:* The draft provides no off-leash space in all of San Mateo County. This is unacceptable.
- *Ocean Beach:* The draft limits the number of dogs to 3 on Ocean Beach for noncommercial use.
- *Marin County:* The draft only allows off-leash use at one location (Rodeo Beach) and no off leash trails.

Again submit your letter by May 25<sup>th</sup> and either go to this link <http://tinyurl.com/go6eka3>

OR

send it to Chris Lehnertz, GGNRA Superintendent, Proposed Rule for Dog Management, Building 201 Ft. Mason SF, CA 94123. And be sure to include the RIN-1024-AE 16 number on your letter and envelope.