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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

March 1, 2016

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**** PRESS RELEASE ****

**SUPERVISORS KATY TANG, SCOTT WIENER, AND NORMAN YEE ANNOUNCE
RESOLUTION OPPOSING GOLDEN GATE NATIONAL RECREATION AREA'S
(GGNRA) PROPOSED RULE FOR MANAGING DOGS IN URBAN PARKLANDS**

Resolution a response to GGNRA's announcement that it will move forward with plans to restrict on and off-leash dog access in parks throughout San Francisco, Marin, and San Mateo Counties

Today Supervisors Katy Tang, Scott Wiener, and Norman Yee joined dozens of residents along with the SF Dog Owners Group (SFDOG) and Save Our Recreation, to announce a resolution opposing GGNRA's proposed rule for managing dogs in 22 locations throughout San Francisco, Marin, and San Mateo. Supervisors Mark Farrell, David Campos, London Breed, and John Avalos have also co-sponsored the resolution.

"I am disappointed that, despite strong opposition to the proposed plan to restrict on and off-leash dog walking in our urban parks, GGNRA has decided to move forward with a plan that would eliminate over 75 percent of Ocean Beach for use by residents and visitors with dogs," said Supervisor Tang. "GGNRA has admittedly made only minor adjustments to its plans, despite the overwhelming pushback from the community as well as elected officials at the local and federal levels."

The proposed rule would designate specific areas where dogs would be required to stay on leash, areas where dogs may be off-leash but under voice and sight control, and areas where dog walking would be prohibited. In San Francisco, large portions of Crissy Field, Baker Beach, Lands End, Sutro Heights Park, Ocean Beach and Fort Funston would have restrictions that limit access for both on and off-leash use. Many areas that were once available for dog walking will be completely off limits to dogs, such as at Ocean Beach, Fort Funston, and Baker Beach.

"Once again, we are voicing our clear opposition to plans to restrict dog access in these federal recreation areas," said Supervisor Wiener. "I have authored two successfully enacted resolutions putting San Francisco on record to oppose these restrictions. We have been joined by the Marin County and San Mateo County Board of Supervisors, which also passed resolutions opposing these changes. These restrictions will have a negative impact on our residents, our dogs, and our neighborhood parks, which will absorb the brunt of spillover if access to federal lands is significantly reduced. While I have tremendous respect for the GGNRA agency, it is frustrating that it is not listening to the elected representatives of the Bay Area, who are unanimous in opposing these restrictions."



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“The GGNRA dog management rule is not just about dog people or cat people or goldfish people—this is about people. GGNRA is on a trajectory to keep people out of this recreation area and are just starting with people who recreate with their dogs,” said Sally Stephens of SFDOG, a Save Our Recreation coalition member. “Currently, dogs are allowed in just 1 percent of the GGNRA; this management rule would diminish that to just one tenth of a percent. This is not a compromise; this is a strategy to effectively keep people out of this recreation area in an effort to turn this recreation area into a wilderness area.”

“Our recreation areas should have open access for all our residents whether you are a child, a senior, or a dog owner,” said Supervisor Yee. “However, GGNRA’s proposal goes too far and does not strike a balance, especially in areas like Fort Funston which will now have further restrictions. I urge GGNRA to reconsider their decision.”

“If these regulations go into effect, the entire stretch of Ocean Beach bordering District 4, from Sloat Boulevard to Lincoln Way, which is currently open to on and off-leash dog walking during different times of the year, will be off limits to dogs,” said Supervisor Tang, “I am supportive of balancing the needs of users and protecting natural resources. However, this means many of our residents will now have to drive elsewhere to provide opportunities for their dogs to exercise, meanwhile putting immense pressure on our already stressed city parks.”

GGNRA released its proposed rule for Dog Management on February 24, 2016, and the document is open for public comment through May 25, 2016. The public can provide feedback on these regulations via the web at www.regulations.gov (search: RIN 1024-AE16) or by letter to: Superintendent, GGNRA, Attn: Dog Management Proposed Rule, Building 201 Fort Mason, SF, CA 94123.

Maps are available at: <http://www.nps.gov/goga/getinvolved/prop-rule-maps.htm>.

For more information, please contact Supervisor Tang’s office at 415-554-7460 or Katy.Tang@sfgov.org.

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