

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, June 11, 2019 4:03 PM
To: Peggy Jensen <pjensen@smcgov.org>
Subject: Restrictive Dog Ordinance in San Mateo Coast

Hello Ms. Jensen,

I strongly disagree with the impending restrictive dog ordinance on Pillar Point Bluff. As a dog owner of an active sporting breed, my dog needs constant exercise that only running off leash can provide. We are so limited in where we can take our dogs off leash, please let us retain this one place on the coast.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]
Montara resident and dog owner

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, June 11, 2019 8:06 PM
To: Peggy Jensen <pjensen@smcgov.org>
Subject: Dog leash policy for Quarry Park and Pillar Point Bluffs

Dear Ms. Jensen-

My husband and I moved to El Granada in April 2000. When we moved here one the first things people told us was "now, all you need is a dog". Sure enough we got our first dog, Rufus, a couple months later. We enjoyed discovering some of the coast with her. Two of our favorite spots included the Pillar Point Bluffs and the Quarry. Over the last 19 years these places have been great places to walk with our dog off leash. My previous dog, Rufus and my current dog, Lola get me outside, rain or shine, tired or not for two walks everyday. It's good for me and it's good for them. While we do walk other places, we go to the bluffs and the Quarry several times a week. I certainly do see some people at these locations without dogs, but I see a lot more people with dogs. I'm very frustrated that these two places are becoming less dog friendly. There are already so many trails for people who don't want to be around dogs to go. I'm very much against the new on leash policy and ticketing enforcement. I respectfully ask that you reconsider and give greater weight to the historical use of these properties.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, June 11, 2019 9:59 PM
To: Peggy Jensen <pjensen@smcgov.org>
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Off leash fine opposition

Dear Ms. Jensen,

We are homeowners in El Granada and have a wonderful 10 year old Swiss Mountain Dog. I have been active in the pet assisted therapy community and was a founding member of the SFO Wag Brigade which made national headlines as one of the most progressive animal assistance programs offered by municipalities in the country.

I'm writing today to voice my (and my husbands) sincere opposition to the new off leash penalties in San Mateo County. We entrust professionals such as our dog's walker and her amazing colleagues to care for and protect our four (sometimes three) legged children and that includes enjoying responsibly the parks and beaches in our community. Imposing such harsh penalties on these professionals will not only harm their livelihoods but also the quality of life for our pets.

Please consider this opposition when making your vote.

Sincerest appreciation,

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Wednesday, June 12, 2019 9:46 AM

To: Peggy Jensen <pjensen@smcgov.org>

Subject: Urgent: San Mateo County Parks dog ordinance meeting - June 12th

Dear, Ms. Jensen,

I understand that you will be voting on the San Mateo County Parks dog ordinance fines at tonight's meeting. Unfortunately, I am unable to attend the meeting, but I wanted to send a letter expressing my outrage about the dog ordinance's unfair fine system, our County's failure to provide its residents with fair dog walking access, and at County Park leadership's deep bias against dog owners.

For decades, San Mateo County dog owners (40% of residents in our county) have been shut out of most of our county parks system—a system that we have been paying for. Dog owners have 5% trails access while other user groups such as equestrians have 90% access.

Three years ago, dog owners were told that County Parks was working to fix this problem. Unfortunately, what started as a process to make San Mateo County Parks more dog-friendly appears to have been twisted into a way to levy heavy fines against hardworking families and to take away our historic off-leash dog walking areas on the coast.

Starting July 1, County Parks will begin ticketing entire communities for walking off-leash at places such as Pillar Point Bluff and possibly Quarry Park where off-leash has been practiced and working well for decades. Dog owners will be subjected to the heaviest scrutiny and largest fines out of any county park user group (not sure if other groups even have fines). Are rangers really planning to carry tape measures to measure the lengths of our leashes?

Every other Bay Area county provides equitable trails access, including off-leash, for its residents—except for San Mateo County. Starting July 1, San Mateo County residents will be ticketed in many cases because of our County's failure to provide its residents with fair dog walking access.

Before these fines begin, we ask that the Board of Supervisors correct this situation. A good start would be to allow off-leash to continue at Quarry Park and Pillar Point Bluff as it has for decades, and to have County Parks and the Dog Work Group develop a list of trails/parks to be opened to dog walking every six months until fair access is achieved.

Please do NOT punish our dogs in taking away area's that they can walk/run freely.. Please give us that live on the coast sanctioned off-leash areas as all other Bay Area County have access too.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, June 12, 2019 10:18 AM
To: Peggy Jensen <pjensen@smcgov.org>
Subject: i agree with the dog ordinance for dog leashes

Sadly I can not make it tonight. But I wanted to let you know I support it.

TONIGHT VERY IMPORTANT MEETING of Midcoast Community Peggy Jensen, Deputy County Manager/ acting Parks director, will be speaking about the new dog ordinance, which will begin ticketing dog owners for having their dogs off leash on JULY 1, in Quarry Park and on the Pillar Point Bluffs. The meeting begins at 7pm and will be held at 504 Avenue Alhambra in El Granada. Please tell every dog owner and anyone who values animals to show up to protest this. The more people who show up, the clearer it is that citizens/tax payers disagree with this ordinance. If you can't make it and would be willing to voice your concern, her contact information follows.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, June 12, 2019 2:51 PM
To: Peggy Jensen <pjensen@smcgov.org>
Subject: regarding MCC meeting tonite and dog leash law
Importance: High

Dear Ms. Jensen,

I am writing to address the dog ordinance that you will be discussing at tonight's MCC meeting. Since I cannot attend, I am sending this message to voice my concern over this ordinance.

I have lived in El Granada for 20 years. In that time, I have had 4 dogs. I am a responsible dog owner and have taught my dogs to behave in public. On a leash they simply do not get the exercise they require. We have always hiked all the trails in Quarry Park off leash these last 2 decades as much as 3 miles a day. Most of the time, there are very few other hikers. Those that we do run across often have dogs. Each owner I have ever come across in these 20 years has always been cordial and respectful of the other's space. If someone without a dog or with a leashed dog comes along, we leash our dogs too. This practice has never been an issue in Quarry Park. You may say that the dogs on leash will be ok there but a dog needs much more exercise than a human can offer with the leash attached. Our four legged friends run faster and climb better and so having them on leash does not allow them the kind of exercise they need. When we moved to El Granada in 1999, what attracted us most was the outdoor life and many many dogs that live here. If you take away that freedom and we are forced to travel to other counties to find off leash areas, the dogs will suffer. I myself work at home and need to be near places I can walk my boys without losing work time because of a commute to a place like Fort Funston where all dogs are off leash.

Anyway, I would like to make one suggestion which I have NEVER heard in all of the debates about the new laws and that is to create a schedule at Quarry Park and other open spaces where dogs would be allowed off leash. I recently witnessed a perfectly orchestrated program in New York City where dogs are allowed in Central Park off leash before 9am and after 6pm daily. I could not be more impressed with the many thousands of morning folks running, bicycling and strolling with their dogs running freely. It is all so perfectly timed that those that do not like off-leash dogs, simply don't go to the park during the off-leash hours. New York is a big city where you would think dogs could not possibly be happy and free but what I witnessed is something I would really love to see here. There is no reason why you should take away the rights of thousands of dogs to be off leash just because of the few bad ones. The majority of this community does not have a problem with the off leash situation at Quarry Park. Although local social media groups are full of people complaining about off leash dogs, there are hundreds more that do not agree. I implore you to reconsider this ordinance and make it fair for everyone!

Thank you for your attention in this matter. I hope that tonight's meeting is successful.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]
El Granada, CA

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, June 12, 2019 3:55 PM
To: Peggy Jensen <pjensen@smcgov.org>
Subject: Letter in Support of Dog Leash Laws

Dear Ms. Jensen,

I understand there is a proposal to ticket people who have their dogs off leash in Quarry Park in El Granada and the Pillar Point Bluffs in Half Moon Bay. I also understand there are a lot of people who are upset about this proposal. I can't fathom the outrage, and I am writing in SUPPORT of the proposal to ticket owners of off leash dogs.

It is illegal in most areas for dogs to be off leash. I believe there is good reason for this. On different occasions on the San Mateo County coastside, both my dog and I have been attacked by off leash dogs. Off leash dogs seem to be a bit of an epidemic here, and I'm hoping the ticketing will both increase awareness that the existing laws need to be followed, and I'm also hoping the ticketing will be a revenue generator for our cash-strapped county.

Thank you for considering my input. I hope you will help uphold our existing laws.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

El Granada, CA 94018

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, June 12, 2019 4:15 PM
To: Peggy Jensen <pjensen@smcgov.org>
Subject: Parks forum regarding dogs

Hi Peggy,

I'm not able to attend tonight's MCC meeting, but I understand that this will be the appropriate venue for discussing access for dogs on trails and off-leash spaces for dogs.

I'm writing in support of more park and trail spaces that allow leashed dogs (horses are allowed in more park and trail spaces than dogs, and no one picks up horse manure.... This does not make sense). I also want to advocate for more off-leash outdoor spaces for dogs, as San Mateo County does not provide adequate facilities at this time.

The Bay Area is considered extremely dog friendly, yet San Mateo County's Parks Department and the Coastsides in particular do not meet the dog community's needs. My understanding is that ticketing will begin July 1st for off-leash dogs in Quarry Park and Pillar Point Bluff, but that the conversation on providing access for dogs to more park and trail space (both on and off-leash) has been postponed.

I'm not an advocate for dogs to be off-leash where they are not allowed, as the general public and other dogs deserve to feel safe walking. That said, in my opinion the effort should be focused on meeting the off-leash needs of the community dogs so that people don't break the off-leash laws.

Feel free to contact me with any questions or clarifications, and I appreciate you taking the time to listen to the community needs.

Best,

[REDACTED]

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, June 12, 2019 5:44 PM
To: Peggy Jensen <pjensen@smcgov.org>
Subject: Dog leash ordinance comments

Ms Jensen,

My friends and neighbors and I are all very concerned about the possibility of San Mateo County enacting a law that would prevent us from walking our dogs off leash in areas like Poplar Beach.

We have lived about 1/4 mile from Poplar Beach for seven years, and we have always enjoyed the beauty of that place with our dogs. We are very careful to not only clean up after our dogs, but to collect trash and even clean up after others' dogs when they do not. I don't understand what the reasoning is for a leash ordinance in an area that is routinely visited by HORSES which are not required to clean up after themselves. The horses are far more destructive to the beach and the trails, and dangerous to beachgoers.

I strongly believe that you should consider laws that require cleaning up after your animals (of ANY kind), with fines for violations. Additionally, owners of animals should be held responsible for any damage or assaults by their animals. I have experienced numerous cases of aggressive dogs who have attacked other animals or people, even when they're on leash. This should be considered the same as an assault with a dangerous weapon.

But those of us who walk our dogs peacefully and responsibly (including professional dog walkers) are not the problem you have to solve.

Please do not restrict our enjoyment and our stewardship of our precious spaces.

Thank you for your consideration,

[REDACTED]
Half Moon Bay, CA 94019
[REDACTED] mobile
[REDACTED]

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, June 12, 2019 9:27 PM
To: Peggy Jensen <pjensen@smcgov.org>
Subject: Strongly Oppose Dog Ordinance

Dear Ms. Jensen,

My family and I are strongly opposed to the new Dog Walking Ordinance that will go in effect on July 1 that will result in ticketing of unleashed dogs in San Mateo County's Parks, specifically Pillar Point Beach. As a Coastside resident, that beach is a valued treasure to my family and I, including our dogs. We need a place to allow our dogs to get exercise, run and play — a leashed walk does not cut it. As a planner myself and previous public employee, I understand the hard choices that must be made to promote the health, safety and welfare of our community, and balancing community needs with limited financial resources. The Coastside county parks and beaches have many more problems than unleashed dogs, including trash from overcrowding by humans. As a Coastside resident and avid dog walker at Pillar Point Beach, I've seen many humans on the beach with their unleashed dogs, cleaning after the disrespectful human visits. This dog walking community takes pride in our beach and using county resources to police us, most of which are stewards of the beach, is a gross misuse of tax payer dollars and in strong opposition to the values of many Coastside residents.

Other jurisdictions have "voice command" ordinances that allow dogs off leash as long as they are well behaved and respond to their owners' voice command. Please explore a policy such as this, that will provide the County grounds to ticket those very few unleashed dogs that are a nuisance while allowing the peaceful majority of us to still enjoy our community amenity.

Respectfully,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

El Granada, California

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, June 12, 2019 9:33 PM
To: Peggy Jensen <pjensen@smcgov.org>
Subject: MCC Meeting June 12, Dogs

Dear Peggy,

I will not be able to attend the meeting in person tonight, but wanted to state my dissatisfaction with the new ordinance. In my opinion, this sweeping action harms the vast majority of responsible dog owners because of the few irresponsible ones.

Further, such mandates are not consistent with a democratic state, whereby the constituents vote and determine policy.

I first moved to the coastside in 1991 and have lived in Pacifica, Montara and El Granada. As a home owner, I feel the dog community is one of the positive aspects that should be kept.

I would fully support a more extreme penalty for actual issues caused by aggressive dogs or irresponsible owners. It seems stronger enforcement / action could be taken in that regard as a deterrent.

It is unfair to enforce the existing measure without offering dog owners off-lease alternatives in the area. The HMB dog park is really an inadequate

Thanks for your consideration

[REDACTED]

El Granada

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, June 12, 2019 9:57 PM
To: Peggy Jensen <pjensen@smcgov.org>
Subject: No tickets open more places to walk dogs

Please don't restrict more areas from being able to walk dogs. When I take people for walks that are sick or mentally depressed and they meet a dog their eyes light up and they get happy. It's so important. I had one small child hug my dog for over 10 min and afterwards told his mom he was ready to be a good boy.

Let's keep those types of encounters happening.

[REDACTED]
Skyline blvd

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Thursday, June 13, 2019 5:42 AM

To: Peggy Jensen <pjensen@smcgov.org>

Subject: Ticketing dog owners

Dear Ms Jensen,

I would politely like to register my protest against the ordinance to allow ticketing of dog owners with fogs off leash at Pillar Point and Quarry parks.

With thanks,

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone with apologies for any proofreading errors.

Perfection is an illusion. Yet perfectionists demand it from others while being far from flawless themselves. The margin of error of the human condition is often our greatest area of excellence and discovery.

[Stewart Stafford](#)

From: Elizabeth Knier <enknier@gmail.com>

Sent: Thursday, June 13, 2019 6:39 PM

To: PARKS_ParksAndRecreation <ParksAndRecreation@smcgov.org>

Subject: Dog Rules

To whom it may concern:

1) On June 11, on the hottest, sunniest day in HMB there was literally NO ONE on the trails in Quarry Park. 2) Most people walk their dogs OFF leash on the upper trails. There have been NO incidents of dog on person or dog on dog violence. Coyotes attack dogs, not the other way around. 3) The upper trails in Quarry Park and on Montara mountain are not suitable for children or adults with frailties, so there is no reason to require dogs to be on leash. 4) The Round Up weed killer that San Mateo County Parks continues to use on the trails is FAR more dangerous than any off leash dog could possibly be. 5) When is the last time the County Parks decision makers hiked the trails in Quarry Park or on Montara mountain to see the terrain and judge the suitability for off leash dogs? 6) County Parks should be ticketing the tourists on the beaches who leave trash, including diapers, plastics, bottles and all sorts of other harmful stuff, rather than targeting local dog owners. That would be a better and more suitable revenue stream. 7) Causing additional traffic by forcing local dog owners to drive many miles for off leash activities is more harmful to the environment and our property values than allowing off leash hiking at Quarry, Montara and a beach or two. 8) Off leash dogs are no more harmful to people or the environment than horses and out of control people with trash, firearms, polluting cars, and illegal fishing. So why the difference? Ticketing revenues? 9) My family literally has been walking our dogs off leash in Quarry Park since 1965 - back when there was a swing over the Quarry floor - super dangerous. I know from personal experience. That Quarry and Montara mountain should be preserved for locals. 10) Make certain parts off leash and others on leash and/or make certain days and times on or off leash - that way everyone has notice and everyone can enjoy.

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Saturday, June 15, 2019 1:00 PM

To: Dave Pine <dpine@smcgov.org>; Carole Groom <cgroom@smcgov.org>; Don Horsley <dhorsley@smcgov.org>; Warren Slocum <WSlocum@smcgov.org>; David Canepa <dcanepa@smcgov.org>

Cc: Michael Barber <MBarber@smcgov.org>; Juda Tolmasoff <jtolmasoff@smcgov.org>; Chris Hunter <chunter@smcgov.org>; Elizabeth Dallman <EDallman@smcgov.org>; Marci Dragun <MDragun@smcgov.org>; Tony Bayudan <tbayudan@smcgov.org>; Peggy Jensen <pjensen@smcgov.org>; Michael Callagy <MCallagy@smcgov.org>

Subject: Equitable Distribution of Dog Friendly Trails / Sanctioned Off Leash Areas in San Mateo County Parks

Dear San Mateo County Board of Supervisors,

As one of your constituents, grateful for your public service, and unenviable of the difficult role you have in trying to please everyone, I am nonetheless writing to encourage you to address what is currently an inequitable distribution of dog-friendly trails (5%) and sanctioned off-leash areas (0%) in San Mateo County parks. These percentages are the lowest I am aware of and explain why it is becoming increasingly difficult in our community to simply exercise ones dogs without breaking the law.

I was appreciative of the opportunity to attend the June 12 Midcoast Community Council meeting to hear the challenges public officials face around this issue and to share my concerns.

Through the public comment process I briefly referenced the 5 Freedoms, developed in the UK in 1965 to ensure the basic welfare of animals. In addition to freedom from hunger and thirst, and freedom from pain and discomfort is the freedom to exhibit normal behavior. It is not normal for dogs to be on leash at all times. Having spent 15+ years tending to the emotional and behavioral needs of the dogs in our county's care at the Coyote Point shelter, I can tell you, dogs do best when they have regular opportunities to run and romp and play. It is well known that a "tired dog is a good dog", and for most dogs, a walk on a leash simply doesn't suffice as the only means of exercise.

It is currently estimated that ~39-40% of CA households have one or more canine family members. I personally believe that number is growing as more people become enlightened about the magic of the human-canine bond and/or committed to the moral obligation of caring for homeless pets.

Please do your best, even if you are not a dog lover, to represent the significant number of canine households in your jurisdictions by ensuring an equitable distribution of dog-friendly trails and sanctioned off-leash areas. And if I can support you in this endeavor, please don't hesitate to reach out.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Half Moon Bay, CA

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, June 23, 2019 2:38 PM

To: PARKS_ParksAndRecreation <ParksAndRecreation@smcgov.org>

Subject: Quarry Park Leash laws

Dear Don Horsley,

I am writing to ask you to do the right thing and suspend the ticketing of dog off leash walking in Quarry park until the new SM County Park director has had enough time to assess the dog situation on the coast.

Currently, people with dogs are only allowed on 5% of San Mateo County Park trails (10 miles out of 190 miles of trails). Meanwhile, other users like horseback riders have 90% access. These archaic policies date back nearly 80 years to when most of San Mateo County was agricultural land. This is unfair and unethical since San Mateo county has 40% dog ownership overall.

San Mateo County Parks should have recreational dog walking access increased in county parks, and should designate some legal off-leash trails (as provided in every other Bay Area county).

Quarry Park has proven this is a good idea. There has been off leash dog walking at this park since the park was first opened to the public before San Mateo county parks acquired it.

We want fair access NOW up for dog walking in San Mateo County Parks.

On average my family visits 520 times a year Quarry park. San Mateo County Parks should not start ticketing with no true master plan in place.

The county parks meetings to decide the fate of Quarry were made unknown and inaccessible to working voters and taxpayers of San Mateo County. The meetings were held during working hours and in Redwood City.

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In Health,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, June 24, 2019 3:21 PM
To: Don Horsley <dhorsley@smcgov.org>
Cc: Elizabeth Dallman <EDallman@smcgov.org>; Peggy Jensen <pjensen@smcgov.org>
Subject: Extending the Dog Ordinance Education Period

Dear Supervisor Horsley,

As a member of County Parks' Dog Work Group, I am writing to respectfully request your help with a procedural/timing issue with the dog ordinance and County Parks' Dog Work Group process.

There has been some confusion among Dog Work Group members regarding the off-leash location selection process and timing. Many of us thought there would be at least one off-leash site provided before ticketing begins on July 1. That was what was initially envisioned during the Dog Management Committee process. Unfortunately, we learned at our June Dog Work Group meeting that this is not the case and that the earliest an off-leash location will be selected is October.

Given this timing issue, I am writing to respectfully request that the dog ordinance public education period be extended at our historic off-leash dog walking sites, Quarry Park and Pillar Point Bluff, until County Parks' off-leash pilot program is up and running. Starting enforcement/ticketing on July 1 without providing any off-leash access is going to put our community and the rangers in a difficult position. Rangers and our Coastside community have always have had a good relationship. This should not be jeopardized because of an administrative delay in putting together County Parks' off-leash program.

Thank you for anything you can do to head off this issue.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, July 13, 2019 8:26 AM
To: Lori Mrizek <lmrizek@smcgov.org>
Subject: More input regarding dogs in SMC parks

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of San Mateo County. Unless you recognize the sender's email address and know the content is safe, do not click links, open attachments or reply.

I would like to offer another idea to run past the SMC Parks Dept working on the issue of bringing dogs into the parks.

Foothill Park in Palo Alto has a policy of No Dogs on Weekends and Holidays. Dogs must be on leash on other weekdays. It seems to work very well for them because the weekend hikers and picnic lovers don't have to deal with dogs, and those more crowded days don't have dogs. However, people with dogs can enjoy most weekdays.

If a park is opened to dogs in SMC, perhaps there could be similar restrictions to keep a balance. There could even be a restriction on whether dogs can be in specific areas, like no dogs on the kids' playing fields or in certain picnic areas (so no soiling those areas and no chance of having someone's dog near your picnic there.)

I would love to bring my Labrador on walks in our parks, but I would not want my dog to make others uncomfortable. (Though she is trail certified as a patrol dog and is very well behaved, I see that some hikers are afraid of her.)

Just thought I'd throw that out there.

Have a great weekend,
[REDACTED]