



# WRITTEN COMMENT TO THE DOG PILOT WORKGROUP

PLEASE COMPLETE THIS FORM AND HAND IT TO STAFF

DATE: 10/7/19

CITY: El Granada, CA ZIP CODE: 92018

IF WRITING ON BEHALF OF AN ORGANIZATION, PLEASE IDENTIFY:

PLEASE PROVIDE YOUR COMMENTS:

Please see my email submitted via email,  
but I'm here in person to request  
that the Pillar Point & Quarry Park pilots  
for off-leash be executed / supported.

Thank



# WRITTEN COMMENT TO THE DOG PILOT WORKGROUP

PLEASE COMPLETE THIS FORM AND HAND IT TO STAFF

DATE: 11/4/19

CITY: Moss Beach

ZIP CODE: 94038

IF WRITING ON BEHALF OF AN ORGANIZATION, PLEASE IDENTIFY:

PLEASE PROVIDE YOUR COMMENTS:

*A. Hatched.*

Your comments will be distributed to the Work Group.

My name is \_\_\_\_\_, I am a 21 year resident of Moss Beach and have walked the blufftop at Pillar Point with my dog for the past 2 1/2 years

Pillar Point Bluff has long been, and needs to remain, available to walk dogs off leash.

There are many benefits to dogs to have off leash time. They can run, play with other dogs and chase balls. Allowing them this limited freedom is good for their health and their mental well being and allows their humans to walk free of entanglement or the need to stop every five feet so their dog can sniff or pee.

I have been to many dog work group meetings and have yet to hear a non hypothetical reason why dogs should not be allowed to continue off leash in this area.

I have heard no evidence that dogs are doing environmental damage to the bluff top.

I have heard no evidence that suggests conflicts with non dog or on leash dog walkers are anything other than a rare occurrence.

I have heard no evidence that off leash dogs are running down to the beach from the bluff top to endanger the seals or other marine life.

The risk to seals is from people who are unwilling to follow the rules, obey the signs and insist on taking their dogs to the beach. This will not change if dog leash use is enforced on the bluff top.

Those of us that walk with our dogs there are careful to pick up trash and poop, whether or not it is from our own dogs. Our off leash dogs are kept under voice control and leashed if that is not possible or when encountering others like cyclists and joggers.

And we are also more than willing to help patrol the beach to aid in the detection and prevention of risks to seals from those who are not willing to follow the rules.

Certainly more intensive patrolling of the beach is a better use of ranger time than handing out tickets for the non criminal act of walking a dog off leash

I wish San Mateo County residents who actually use and pay for these parks were able to have more input into these decisions. I would hope that meetings could be held at times and places more conducive to public input; particularly the working public.

But as they are not I hope you will consider the petition that was circulated among those who live on the coast. it demonstrates widespread support for off leash dog walking on Pillar Point Bluff

Sincerely,



# WRITTEN COMMENT TO THE DOG PILOT WORKGROUP

PLEASE COMPLETE THIS FORM AND HAND IT TO STAFF

DATE: 11/12/19

CITY: HALF MOON BAY ZIP CODE: 94019

IF WRITING ON BEHALF OF AN ORGANIZATION, PLEASE IDENTIFY:

PLEASE PROVIDE YOUR COMMENTS:

I believe that the working group has greatly exaggerated the problem under discussion. I have lived in Half Moon Bay for 4 years, and walked the trails in Quarry Park and on the Pillar Point Bluffs many times. My experience is that regardless of time of day or day of the week, very few people use these trails (past 100 yards from the parking lots) and fewer residents have been walking their dogs off-leash for years without any problems.

The repeated use of the one incident involving a dog killing a seal at the beach at the Fitzgerald Marine Reserve is a red herring; the trails on the Bluffs don't connect to that area. When I walk with my dog on the Bluffs, we are nowhere near an area where marine mammals congregate. The fact that one irresponsible dog owner brought their dog to the beach is irrelevant to the many dog owners who walk their dogs on the trails on a daily basis.

Children are often disruptive to wildlife and destructive of flora, yet no one suggests banning them.

The working group seems to have a solution in search of a problem. Keeping dogs out of these areas or insisting they be on leash simply would be solving a problem that doesn't exist.

The supervisors should also be mindful that imposing very restrictive rules where people have long walked their dogs

Your comments will be distributed to the Work Group. without incident, will invariably lead to those rules being ignored OVER

Finally, if there are endangered species on the PP Bluffs or in Quarry  
Parks, then people shouldn't be allowed in these areas.

120-250 lb humans in shoes are far more destructive than the  
paws of 20-60 lb dogs. It's ludicrous to ban  
dogs from an area while allowing people, including  
children, to access them.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: [REDACTED]

Date: Mon, Nov 4, 2019 at 10:07 AM

Subject: November 4 - Off Leash Dog meeting

To: <[goga\\_public\\_affairs@nps.gov](mailto:goga_public_affairs@nps.gov)>, <[Laura\\_Joss@nps.gov](mailto:Laura_Joss@nps.gov)>, <[stan\\_austin@nps.gov](mailto:stan_austin@nps.gov)>, <[cgroom@smcgov.org](mailto:cgroom@smcgov.org)>, <[dpine@smcgov.org](mailto:dpine@smcgov.org)>, <[dhorsley@smcgov.org](mailto:dhorsley@smcgov.org)>, <[wslocum@smcgov.org](mailto:wslocum@smcgov.org)>, David Canepa <[dcanepa@smcgov.org](mailto:dcanepa@smcgov.org)>, Coastside DOG <[christine@coast-sidedog.org](mailto:christine@coast-sidedog.org)>

Dear All,

We are not able to attend today's meeting as intended. We are out of town on business and simply cannot get back in time. We have been to a few meetings to show support of allowing dogs to walk off leash on both the bluffs above Pillar Point as well as in Quarry Park. We are hoping this email will serve as "our voice" had we been able to be present today and given time to comment.

1) From the last meeting it is our understanding that the committee is close to approving off leash access on a trial basis for Quarry Park. Our comments below refer to the Pillar Point Bluffs which we hope you will consider as well. Quarry Park and Pillar Point offer two completely different landscapes for hiking. As I (Karen) stated when given a voice at the last meeting, we choose not to walk our dogs in Quarry Park due to the poison oak and concern for wildlife that might attack our dogs. We now live in the hills of Montara and witness coyote and fox on a daily basis. We KNOW they must inhabit the brush and woods that border the trails in the park.

2) We have lived on the coast since 1991 and have enjoyed the opportunity to walk the bluffs with our dog(s) off leash on a regular basis. We understand, appreciate and respect the privilege. We can also appreciate that not all people are comfortable in the presence of dogs, so we strive to put our dogs on leash whenever we see someone approaching without dogs; someone on a bike so that they do not have to navigate around loose dogs and whenever we see someone who chooses to have their dog on leash. While this is not always possible to anticipate, for the most part with the wide-open paths on the bluffs, 99% of the time we are able to do so. In the almost 30 years we have walked the bluffs (and we do so almost daily, weather and availability permitting) we have not had one bad experience or encounter.

3) Since Off Leash has now become an issue that requires a vote, we have become more aware of others, observing their methods and would say that most everyone is very courteous and respectful. When asked, it is surprising just how many people, like us, have walked the bluffs with their dogs since moving to the coastside. We would challenge you to find anyone who respects the landscape more than the dog owners. We consider the bluffs our "back yard."

4) Now retired (we came to the coast when we built and opened Seal Cove Inn in 1991) we enjoy the luxury of being able to walk the bluffs morning, noon or evening. Many of the committee members have stated at the meetings that they have been out to the bluffs but, we question how often and when. We are there almost every day at various times and are truly surprised how few people there are enjoying the trails. Weekends and holidays there are understandably a few more people, but, not extensive crowds. You have had a counter in place for quite a while which should validate just how many people

use the trails and if you are able to differentiate between two and four legged visitors you would know just how many of the people who walk the bluffs are in the company of their dogs.

5) It seems with each new meeting the results of a new study are presented to address the "fragile" landscape. As taxpayers we cannot help but question the cost of these studies, especially as it suspiciously seems that the timing and purpose of these studies is to serve the agenda of those against off leash walking. A few years back we observed months of bobcats aggressively plowing through the brush to eradicate the pampas grass. This resulted in massive destruction of the habitat for the lizards, snakes etc that the committee is now so concerned about protecting. Why was a study not suggested before the bobcats wreaked havoc on the bluffs previously? Why now when off leash is the issue? We would also claim that having walked the bluffs for 30 plus years, other than the natural erosion at the cliffs' edge, little has changed.

6) We would also like to express our thanks to Christine Corwin who bravely represents our Coastside Dog Walking Community. As your taped videos will evidence, she does not seem to receive the same respect and courtesy afforded other members present on the committee. It is very hard not to stand up and ask Pat Brown to please address Christine's comments with a little more kindness. Christine always shows respect, she is there to present "our voice" but, it is very obvious that her views are not welcomed most especially by Pat who seems to "shut her down" at any opportunity.

7) We would also like to express our frustration as tax payers to feel that this committee is a waste of time and resources. For all the meetings, surveys and the time committed by our paid county and state employees, knowing that a unanimous vote is required to "win" an off leash ruling it is hard not to question if we ever had a chance, truly ever had a "voice." There are members on the committee if asked in the beginning if anything could every sway their vote against off leash walking, we are certain they would have said no. We attend meetings hoping for a "voice", observing the process and come away each time feeling our time, too, is wasted and that there is no sincere consideration of our "voice." It also seems wrong that employees paid by our taxpayers' dollars do not seem to have any sense of obligation to consider our wishes.

8) Finally our greatest concern, fear is that the true agenda is to begin with taking away the right to walk off leash and then eventually completely taking away the right to walk with dogs. It seems our park administration does NOT want to deal with our four legged friends.

Again, we wish we could be in attendance today. Please consider our voice.

Sincerely,



November 4, 2019

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 4, 2019 11:02 AM  
**To:** PARKS\_ParksAndRecreation <[ParksAndRecreation@smcgov.org](mailto:ParksAndRecreation@smcgov.org)>  
**Subject:** Pillar Point Blufftop Park

My name is [REDACTED] and I have been a resident in Moss Beach for 29 years.

I live two blocks from Pillar Point Blufftop Park, and I walk the park everyday with my friends and our dogs.

As long as I have walked the trails of this park, historically dogs have been off leash. My friends and I are responsible dog owners. We respect other users of the park, whether they be bicyclists, joggers, or families with children, or other dogs on leash. We leash our dogs when approaching others, and cleanup after our pets (we also cleanup after other dogs too).

I know that the Fitzgerald Marine Reserve has concerns on the safety of the seals on the beaches. So do I. The bluffs are 80 feet high above the ocean. Dogs on the bluffs do not pose a threat to the wildlife on the beaches. The incident with the dog that killed the seal in Ross Cove, was because the owner was walking on the beach with their dog. The dog didn't run from the top of the bluff down to the beach. That owner lied, and there were witnesses that saw it. Please don't punish the majority of us, for the sins of one irresponsible person. This was one incident. I would like to see stronger signage, where it lists the fines for dogs on the beach.

The majority of people in this park are responsible with their pets. This is not a heavily used park.

There have been very few incidents, in the many years that I've walked these trails. Please allow this park for off leash use.

Thank you