National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Golden Gate National Recreation Area

Golden Gate National Recreation Area
Dog Management Plan/EIS

Public Scoping Comment Analysis Report

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VU4050 - Visitor Use: Impacts of No Action/Current Conditions ..... **Error! Bookmark not defined.**
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INTRODUCTION AND GUIDE

INTRODUCTION

On March 3, 2006, Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA) released the Public Scoping Brochure for the Dog Management Plan/EIS for public review and comment. The public was invited to submit comments on the scope of the planning process and potential alternatives through April 24, 2006. During the scoping period, two public scoping workshops were held. The first was held at the Bay Model Visitor Center in Sausalito on April 4th, and the second was held at the Fort Mason Officers Club on April 5th. Both workshops presented information about current GGNRA dog management and the planning and negotiated rulemaking processes. Park staff and other National Park Service (NPS) specialists were on hand to answer questions and provide additional information to workshop participants. During the scoping period, over 500 pieces of correspondence were entered into the Planning, Environment, and Public Comment (PEPC) system either from direct entry by the commenter, or uploading of emails, faxes, and hard copy letters by NPS staff.

THE COMMENT ANALYSIS PROCESS

Comment analysis is a process used to compile and correlate similar public comments into a format that can be used by decision makers and the Dog Management Plan/EIS team. Comment analysis assists the team in organizing, clarifying, and addressing technical information pursuant to *National Environmental Policy Act* (NEPA) regulations. It also aids in identifying the topics and issues to be evaluated and considered throughout the planning process.

The process includes five main components:

- developing a coding structure
- employing a comment database for comment management
- reading and coding of public comments
- interpreting and analyzing the comments to identify issues and themes
- preparing a comment summary

A coding structure was developed to help sort comments into logical groups by topics and issues. The coding structure was derived from an analysis of the range of topics discussed during internal NPS scoping, past planning documents, and the comments themselves. The coding structure was designed to capture all comment content rather than to restrict or exclude any ideas.

The NPS PEPC database was used for management of the comments. The database stores the full text of all correspondence and allows each comment to be coded by topic and issue. Some outputs from the database include tallies of the total number of correspondences and comments received, sorting and reporting of comments by a particular topic or issue, and demographic information regarding the sources of the comments.

Analysis of the public comments involved the assignment of the codes to statements made by the public in their letters, email messages, and written comment forms. All comments were read and analyzed, including those of a technical nature; opinions, feelings, and preferences of one element or one potential alternative over another; and comments of a personal or philosophical nature.

Although the analysis process attempts to capture the full range of public concerns, this content analysis report should be used with caution. Comments from people who chose to respond do not necessarily represent the sentiments of the entire public. Furthermore, this was not a vote-counting process, and the emphasis was on the content of the comment rather than the number of times a comment was received.

DEFINITION OF TERMS

Primary terms used in the document are defined below.

Correspondence: A correspondence is the entire document received from a commenter. It can be in the form of a letter, email, written comment form, note card, open house transcript, or petition.

Comment: A comment is a portion of the text within a correspondence that addresses a single subject. It could include such information as an expression of support or opposition to the use of a potential management tool, additional data regarding the existing condition, or an opinion debating the adequacy of an analysis.

Code: A grouping centered on a common subject. The codes were developed during the scoping process and are used to track major subjects throughout the EIS process.

Concern: Concerns are subdivisions of codes. Each code was further separated into several concern statements to provide a better focus on the content of comments. For example, "Elements Common to All Alternatives" was broken down into four concern statements, while "Agency Rulemaking: Need for Emergency Action" did not need further refinement and only has one concern statement. In cases where no comments were received on an issue, the issue was not identified or discussed in this report.

All scoping comments were considered to be important as useful guidance and public input to the scoping process, but only substantive comments were analyzed in the Public Scoping Comment Summary Report. At this phase of the project, almost all comments are treated as being substantive, but four nonsubstantive codes were also identified. These codes represented general public opinion surrounding the issue of allowing dogs in GGNRA and whether there should be areas allowed for on or off leash recreation in GGNRA. If comments provided further details, such as specific areas where certain activities should be allowed, they were also assigned a substantive code and were analyzed further.

GUIDE TO THIS DOCUMENT

This report is organized as follows:

Content Analysis Report- This is the basic report produced from PEPC that provides information on the numbers and types of comments received, organized by code. The first section of the report provides a summary of the number of comments that were coded under each topic. The second section provides general demographic information, such as the states where commenters live, the number of letters received from different categories of organizations, etc.

Public Scoping Comment Summary- This report summarizes the substantive comments received during the scoping process. These comments are organized by codes and further organized into concern statements. Below each concern statement are representative quotes, which have been taken directly from the text of the public's comments and further clarify the concern statements.

Correspondence Index of Organizations- This provides a listing of all groups that submitted comments, arranged and grouped by the following organization types as defined by PEPC (and in this order): businesses; churches and religious groups; civic groups, conservation/preservation groups; federal government; NPS employees; non-governmental groups; recreational groups; state government; town or city government; tribal government; unaffiliated individuals; university/professional society. Each piece of correspondence was assigned a unique identification number upon entry into PEPC. This number can be used to assist the public in identifying the way NPS addressed their comments.

Correspondence Index of Individual Commenters- This provides a listing of all of the individuals who submitted comments during the public scoping period. Like the previous index, each correspondence was assigned a unique identification number which can be used to assist individuals in identifying the way in which NPS addressed their comments. This list is organized alphabetically.

Index By Organization Type- This list identifies all of the codes that were assigned to each individual piece of correspondence and is arranged by organization type. Individual commenters are also included in this report and are identified as Unaffiliated Individuals.

Index by Code- This lists which commenters or authors (identified by PEPC organization type) commented on which topics, as identified by the codes used in this analysis. The report is organized by code, and under each code is a list of the authors who submitted comments that fell under that code, and their correspondence numbers. Those correspondences identified as N/A represent unaffiliated individuals.

CONTENT ANALYSIS REPORT

Comment Distribution by Code

Code	Description	Number of Comments
AG1000	Agency Rulemaking: Need for Emergency Action	7
AL1000	Alternatives: Elements Common To All Alternatives	17
AL4000	Alternatives: New Alternatives Or Elements	197
AL5000	Alternatives: 1979 Pet Policy	54
AW1000	Animal Welfare: Impact on/to dogs	99
CC2000	Consultation and Coordination: Reg-Neg process	15
GA1000	Impact Analysis: Impact Analyses	23
GA2000	Impact Analysis: Use Trends And Assumptions	8
GA3000	Impact Analysis: General Methodology For Establishing Impacts/Effects	22
GC1000	Off-leash dogs: Support (non-substantive)	234
GC2000	Off-leash dogs: Oppose (non-substantive)	28
GC3000	General Comment: Support current management (non-substantive)	7
GC4000	General Comment: Continue to allow dogs within GGNRA (non-substantive)	22
GC4010	General Comment: Ban all dogs from GGNRA	13
LP1000	Laws and Policies: Impact of GGNRA actions on other NPS units' enforcement of servicewide policies and regulations	4
LU1000	Land Use: Policies and Historical Use	35
LU2000	Other Agencies Policies and mandates Regarding Dog Management	3
LU3000	Land Use: Dog Parks Provided by San Francisco and Other Municipalities	9
LU4000	Land Use: San Francisco Significant Natural Resources Area Management Plan	3
ON1000	Other NEPA Issues: General Comments	9
ON1100	Other NEPA Issues: Scope of planning process	24
PN1000	Purpose And Need: Planning Process And Policy	9
PN2000	Purpose And Need: Park Purpose And Significance	18
PN4000	Purpose And Need: Park Legislation/Authority	13
PN6000	Purpose And Need: Land Management Laws, Exec Orders	2
PN7000	Purpose and Need: Adequacy of EIS Purpose and Need	3
PN8000	Purpose And Need: Objectives In Taking Action	37
PN9000	Purpose And Need: Issues And Impact Topics Selected For Analyses	23
PN11000	Purpose And Need: Other Policies And Mandates	3
PO1000	Park Operations: Guiding Policies, Regs And Laws	5
PO4050	Park Operations: Impacts of No Action/Current Conditions	21

RF1000	References: General Comments	17
SE4000	Socioeconomics: Impact Of Proposal And Alternatives	8
TE2000	Threatened And Endangered Species: Methodology And Assumptions	3
TE5000	Threatened and Endangered Species: Impact of No Action/ Current Conditions	20
TE6000	Threatened and Endangered Species: Cumulative Actions and Effects	3
VC1010	Affected Environment: Impacts to multiple resources	18
VC1110	Affected Environment: Impacts to lands and parks surrounding GGNRA.	8
VC6000	Affected Environment: Marine And Estuarine Resources	3
VC9000	Affected Environment: Vegetation	8
VC11000	Affected Environment: Species Of Special Concern	10
VE4050	Visitor Experience: Impacts of No Action/Current Conditions	99
VE4060	Visitor Experience: Role of Park in Providing Visitors an Experience of Areas where Dogs are Not Allowed	1
VR2050	Vegetation and Riparian Areas: Impacts of No Action/Current Conditions	1
VR5000	Vegetation and Riparian Areas: Cumulative Actions and Effects	2
VS2000	Visitor Conflicts And Safety: Methodology And Assumptions	6
VS4050	Visitor Conflicts and Safety: Impacts of No Action/Current Conditions	71
VS4060	Visitor Conflicts and Safety: Aspects of Visitor Conflicts on Guide Dogs/ Service Dogs	3
VU1000	Visitor Use: Guiding Policies, Regs And Laws	7
VU2000	Visitor Use: Methodology And Assumptions	2
VU4010	Visitor Use: Actions of dog owners	126
VU4020	Visitor Use: Professional dog walkers	13
VU4050	Visitor Use: Impacts of No Action/Current Conditions	47
VU5000	Visitor Use: Cumulative Impacts	1
WH2000	Wildlife And Wildlife Habitat: Methodology And Assumptions	8
WH4050	Wildlife and Wildlife Habitat: Impact of No Action/Current Conditions	74
WH5000	Wildlife and Wildlife Habitat: Cumulative Actions and Effects	8
WQ4000	Water Resources: Impact Of Proposal And Alternatives	1

Correspondence Distribution by Correspondence Type

Type	Number of Correspondences
E-mail	32
Fax	1
Letter	178
Other	3
Park Form	21
Web Form	308
Total	**543**

Correspondence Distribution by Organization Type

Organization Type	Number of Correspondences
Business	1
Conservation/Preservation	23
Non-Governmental	6
Recreational Groups	6
State Government	1
Town or City Government	3
Unaffiliated Individual	503
Total	**543**

Correspondence Distribution by State

State	Number of Correspondences
Unspecified	1
AL	1
CA	533
CO	1
CT	1
GA	1
MO	1
NC	1
PA	1
VA	2
Total	**543**