



# County of Santa Cruz

## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS PARKS, OPEN SPACE, AND CULTURAL SERVICES DIVISION

979 17<sup>TH</sup> AVENUE, SANTA CRUZ, CA 95062

(831) 454-7901 FAX: (831) 454-7940 TDD: (831) 454-7978

JOHN J. PRESLEIGH  
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS

### PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION AGENDA

Monday, June 10, 2013  
7:00 p.m.  
Regular Meeting

Simpkins Family Swim Center  
979 17th Avenue  
Santa Cruz, CA 95062

- I. CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL
- II. AGENDA MODIFICATIONS OR LATE ADDITIONS
- III. CONSENT AGENDA (Action)
  - A. Approve minutes from April 15, 2013.....Page 1
  - B. Consider Reports:
    1. Maintenance Section – Status Report.....Pages 2-3
    2. Facilities Section – Status Report.....Page 4
    3. Planning Section – Status Report.....Page 5-6
    4. Recreation Section – Status Report .....Pages 7-11
    5. Defer further consideration of proposals for Anna Jean Cummings Park until 2014. ....Page 12
    6. Authorize Chair to sign a letter of support for the Twin Lakes Beachfront Project.....Pages 13-15

#### ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Opportunity for persons to address the Commission on matters which are within the scope of responsibility of the Commission but not on today's agenda. Presentations must not exceed three (3) minutes in length, and individuals may speak only once during Oral Communications.

- IV. DIRECTOR'S REPORT
- V. INFORMATION ITEM
  1. Presentation to Michael Rosenberg honoring his years of service as a Santa Cruz County Parks Commissioner.
- VI. REGULAR AGENDA (Action)
  1. Consider proposal to allow dogs off-leash on beaches between 20th Avenue and Moran Lake from sunrise to 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. to sunset daily.
  2. Consider proposed 2013/14 Budget for Parks, Open Space and Cultural Services.
- VII. WRITTEN CORRESPONDENCE LISTING

*The Mission of the Santa Cruz County Parks, Open Space and Cultural Services is to provide safe, well designed and maintained parks and a wide variety of recreational and cultural opportunities for our diverse community*



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JOHN J. PRESLEIGH  
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS

### PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION Minutes of April 15, 2013, 7:00 p.m. meeting 979 17<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Room B Santa Cruz, California

#### I. ROLL CALL

Present: Katharine Minott, Steven Bennett, Dave Mercer, Mariah Roberts

Staff: Betsey Lynberg, Gretchen Iliff

Excused Absence: Jim Lang                      Unexcused Absence: n/a

#### II. AGENDA MODIFICATIONS: None

#### III. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approved Minutes from February 11, 2013, meeting.
- B. Accepted and filed Information and Reports.

Motion/Second: Minott/Mercer

AYES:                      4  
NOES:                      0  
ABSTAIN:                0  
ABSENT:                 1

#### IV. REGULAR AGENDA

1. Accepted and filed status report on the proposed installation of a nine-hole disc golf course and to preserve open space and enhance existing trails at Anna Jean Cummings Park, with direction to report on status of high school disc golf proposal at a future Commission meeting.

Motion/Second: Mercer/Minott

AYES:                      4  
NOES:                      0  
ABSTAIN:                0  
ABSENT:                 1

2. Selected Steven Bennett as Chair and Dave Mercer as Vice-Chair for the Commission.

Motion/Second: Minott/Roberts

AYES:                      4  
NOES:                      0  
ABSTAIN:                0  
ABSENT:                 1

#### V. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned.



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JOHN J. PRESLEIGH  
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS

**DATE:** May 30 2013  
**TO:** PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION  
ARTS COMMISSION  
**FROM:** GRETCHEN ILIFF, MAINTENANCE DIVISION  
**RE:** STATUS REPORTS ON CURRENT PROJECTS

### PARKS, BUILDING, AND GROUNDS MAINTENANCE

**NORTH COUNTY PARKS** (Highlands, Ben Lomond, Felton Covered Bridge, Probation, Michael Gray Field, Quail Hollow Ranch and the North Coast)

- New park rules signs and Leash Your Dog signs were installed along the new East Cliff Parkway.
- Staff attended an information session related to Snowy Plover Protection on North Coast beaches

**MID-COUNTY PARKS** (AJC, Government Center, Emeline Complex, Twin Lakes, Brommer, Felt, Floral, Coffee Lane, Soquel Lyons, Jose Avenue, Winkle Farm, Willowbrook Lane, Moran Lake, Maplethorpe, Santa Cruz Gardens, Mid-County beach access areas)

- Several large irrigation main leaks were repaired at Anna Jean Cummings Park.
- The parking lot at Felt Street Park was resurfaced by the contractor due to initial installation problems.
- The Environmental Club from Soquel High School held one work day and removed non-native broom from Anna Jean Cummings Park this month

**SOUTH COUNTY PARKS** (Polo Grounds, Valencia Hall, Hidden Beach, Seascape, Aptos Village, South County Beach access areas, Scott Park, Scott Estate, Aldridge Lane, Mesa Village, Pinto Lake, Freedom Government Annex)

- Staff attended a meeting with the newly formed Friends of Pinto Lake Park group.
- Staff assisted with many special events, including the Blues Festival, The Nisene Marks run, Felton Remembers, and a Memorial Day event at the Evergreen Cemetery.

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**SIMPKINS FAMILY SWIM CENTER**

- Staff replaced the main line check valve this month and repaired a water leak on the pool water return line.

**MISCELLANEOUS**

- Staff spent time this month throughout the County completing high weed mowing for fire control. Pinto Lake, Quail Hollow Ranch, Moran Lake, Anna Jean Cummings, McGregor, Panther, and Polo Grounds Park were all mowed.
- Staff received sexual harassment prevention training this month.



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JOHN J. PRESLEIGH  
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS

DATE: May 30, 2013  
TO: Arts Commission, Parks & Recreation Commission  
FROM: Gretchen Iliff, Facilities Management Division  
RE: Status Report on Current Projects

### **Summary for reservations in the Parks for the months of April and May 2013 (excluding SFSC):**

Rental revenue \$82,050.00

#### **Attendance at Reserved Facilities:**

The months of April and May continued with increased use of parks including picnic reservations, athletic field use, and center rentals that have hosted weddings, parties and memorial services along with two entire park rentals for annual festivals. Staff estimates that approximately 76,000 park visitors attended events in reserved facilities at County Parks during these two months.

#### **Center and Meeting Room Rentals in April and May 2013:**

There were 20 weddings and receptions held at our various Park Centers and 44 meetings. Center and meeting room rental revenues totaled \$13,075.00.

The office has been very busy with filling up the 2013 schedule while also finalizing paperwork and confirmation forms for upcoming events.

#### **Picnic Areas in April and May 2013:**

Picnic area rentals are in full swing once again. 70 picnics took place during these two months and revenues totaled \$9,750.00.

#### **Athletic Fields in April and May 2013:**

Athletic field use also continues to be very busy, for both baseball and soccer fields, with over 840 individual field bookings in 18 athletic fields in April and May. Revenues for these two months totaled \$40,500.00.

#### **Special Events:**

The special event season kicked off during these past few months with a number of events having already successfully taken place. The **Off Road Ramble 5k/10k Race**, the first of three races in the Run Santa Cruz Race Series in County Parks hosted by Fleet Feet Sports, was held at Pinto Lake County Park in April. This was the first race of this kind at the park and proceeds were raised for the families of the fallen Santa Cruz Police Officers. The Mountain Bikers of Santa Cruz hosted the **Santa Cruz Mountain Bike Festival** in Aptos Village utilizing the Aptos bike jump and pump tracks during their two-day event. The month of May hosted **Felton Remembers** (Felton Business Association) at Felton Covered Bridge Park as well as the annual **Blues Festival** at Aptos Park, both of which have again proven to be successful community celebrations.

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JOHN J. PRESLEIGH  
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS

**DATE:** JUNE 3, 2013  
**TO:** PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION, ARTS COMMISSION  
**FROM:** BETSEY LYNBERG, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR  
**SUBJECT:** PARK PLANNING DIVISION STATUS REPORT

### **BERT SCOTT ESTATE ROOF REPLACEMENT**

Wald Ruhnke & Dost has prepared draft plans and specifications for replacing the roofs on the main house and on the caretaker's house. Staff is preparing to take this project out to bid.

### **CARMICHAEL TRAIL**

This trail will provide connections between Cabrillo College, Vienna Woods neighborhoods and Nisene Marks State Park. Conservation Corps crews will clear and construct the trail mid-summer, with the trail expected to be open to the public in late summer.

### **CHANTICLEER PARK**

On December 5, 2012, Supervisor John Leopold and Parks hosted a community meeting at the Live Oak Grange to discuss the project status, interim development and phasing plan for Chanticleer Park. The meeting was well attended, and the community discussions were positive and upbeat. The Planning Department has issued a development permit for interim improvements. Staff is working with the Consultant, County Planning, and community members on implementation of the interim plan.

### **EAST CLIFF PARKWAY PROJECT**

Although not quite complete, the community continues to enjoy the parkway improvements. The contractor has replaced the decomposed granite pathway with a more durable Granite Crete Product. The World Surfing Reserve plaque was installed in Pleasure Point Park, as was a drinking fountain. The Contractor is completing other miscellaneous punch list items and change order requests.

### **THE FARM PARK**

Parks staff continued with efforts to implement the Prop 84 Urban Greening Grant for stream and oak woodland habitat restoration and a community garden. Fish and Game permits for stream bed restoration have been secured, and plant propagation is underway. A consultant has been selected to prepare final construction documents. Invasive tree removal is expected to begin this fall.

### **FELT STREET PARK**

The Contractor has completed addressing a warranty issue having to do with the quality of the asphalt paving in the parking lot this spring.

### **FELTON COVERED BRIDGE ROOF RESTORATION**

Caltrans has completed the Preliminary Environmental Study for the replacement of the roof for the Felton Covered Bridge. Environmental Science Associates is preparing a Historic Properties Survey Report. The results of this work will be sent to Caltrans.

### **HEART OF SOQUEL**

Development permit application for creek side trail, gathering area, and parking and circulation improvements has been submitted, and a hearing is anticipated for 2013. The County was recently awarded a State Water Board Grant over \$660,000 for low impact development features at Heart of Soquel.

### **MCGREGOR PARK SITE**

The Consultant is preparing plans and documentation necessary to submit to the Planning Department for development permits for Phase 1 improvements of McGregor Park. Phase 1 improvements are planned to include drainage and site infrastructure, park walkways and a sidewalk along McGregor Drive, picnic area, play area, accessible parking, turf and landscaping.

### **PROPOSITION 40 UNALLOCATED FUNDING**

In July 2011 Parks received notification that the enacted State Budget provided additional time for Proposition 40 grant recipients to complete their projects under the Per Capita and RZH Block Contracts. To date Parks has utilized all but \$131,119 of the original grant amounts. Parks staff has submitted three new grant applications to the State. The projects include: additional picnic tables at Ben Lomond Park; new poured in place surfacing and tot structure at Willowbrook Park; and a new group picnic area and shelter at Pinto Lake Park. New contracts with the State have been approved. Parks staff will proceed with the projects as soon as deed restriction can be recorded for each project.



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(831) 454-7901 FAX: (831) 454-7940 TDD: (831) 454-7978

DATE: June 2, 2013  
TO: Arts Commission, Parks and Recreation Commission  
FROM: Kathy DeWild, Program Coordinator  
RE: Recreation and Cultural Services Division Status Report –April-June, 2013

### ARTS AND CULTURAL

**Public Art Projects** – Artists are working on traffic boxes for Phase 3 of Outside the Box. The “Call to Artists” for Phase 4 has gone out, with applications due on July 12. The Arts Commission approved the selection panel’s recommendation for the Hidden Beach Pump Station; the artist will be presenting his proposal to the Board of Supervisors in June 2013.

**Art Exhibitions** – Virginia Draper’s photographs will be on exhibition at the Simpkins Family Swim Center / Parks office through mid-August.

**Artist of the Year 2013**, Susana Arias, gave a talk at the Museum of Art and History (MAH) on May 24. The audience enjoyed Susana’s animated explanation of her process and her inspiration to create. Supervisor Neal Coonerty presented Susana with a proclamation, honoring her contribution to the arts in Santa Cruz County. After the talk, she invited the audience to contribute to a work in-progress. The following afternoon at the MAH, she led several hands-on workshops where participants of all ages had the opportunity to make a clay bird; the birds will become part of a community sculpture that will be included in Susana’s exhibition at the MAH from July 19-September 22.

### QUAIL HOLLOW RANCH INTERPRETIVE PROGRAMS

#### Recent interpretive programs:

1. A Creepy Crawly field trip with Lee Summers, Park Interpreter, took place on Friday, May 3 from 10:00 – 11:30 a.m. for 19 kindergarten kids, along with 6 chaperones from Tierra Pacifica Charter School.
2. Lee Summers offered a Creepy Crawly birthday party for 8 children with 12 parents looking on, on Saturday, May 4 from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.
3. A second Creepy Crawly birthday party for the weekend was offered by Lee Summers on Sunday, May 5 from 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

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4. Simon Stapleton, along with other Master Gardeners, offered a Mother's Day Fun program for kids and Dads who wanted to make a living gift for Mom. On Sunday, May 5 from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. groups decorated pots and planted flowers in them as well as making a Mother's Day card.
5. The last of the season's herp walks: In Search of Herps took place with Paul Haskins on Sunday, May 5 from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. A number of reptiles and amphibians were found including the sensitive Western Pond Turtle, Santa Cruz Garter Snakes, Coast Garter Snakes and more.
6. A Pioneer Party was offered as a birthday party with Lee Summers on Friday, May 10 from 4:30-6:30 p.m. A total of 13 kids with 7 parents enjoyed the program.
7. The Santa Cruz Natural History Museum's docents visited the park on Saturday, May 11 from 10:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. for a Sandhills Trek with Lee Summers, Park Interpreter. This understanding of the rare sandhills habitat will aid the group in interpreting the Morgan Reserve to children's groups that they offer. A total of 11 adults enjoyed the program.
8. 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> graders from Aptos Academy visited the park with Lee Summers, Interpreter, for a Mad Scientist Experiments program on Friday, May 17 from 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
9. A Star and Moon Gazing program with the Santa Cruz Astronomy Club took place on Friday, May 17 from 8:00 p.m. – 12:00 a.m. Views of Saturn highlighted the evening.
10. From Laundry to Landscape: Simple Greywater Harvesting took place on Sunday, May 19 from 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. with Leann Ravenelle. 15 people attended.
11. A continuation of Leann's morning program continued with Simple Rainwater Harvesting from 12:30 -2:30 p.m.
12. The Water Smart Website was reviewed and discussed on Sunday, May 19 from 2:30 – 3:30 p.m. with Vai Campbell. A total of eight people attended this free event.
13. The Scotts Valley Charter School visited Quail Hollow on Friday, May 24 from 10:00 – 11:30 a.m. for a Creepy Crawly field trip with Lee Summers, Park Interpreter. A total of 30 kids with 23 chaperones attended the program.
14. Water's Footprints with Lee Summers, Interpreter, took place on Sunday, May 26 from 10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
15. Eric Feuss was back for another Beginning Birding program on Sunday, June 2 from 8:00 – 10:00 a.m.
16. A Lost and Found birthday party was offered by Lee Summers on Sunday, June 2 from 12:30 – 3:00 p.m.

Volunteer training for day camps took place on Saturday, May 18 from 12:00 – 3:00 p.m. at the Simpkins Family Swim Center with Oscar Arroyo leading new camp volunteers in how to work with younger children. Another training program-specific to the Quail Hollow programs will take place in July

Carol Carson, local writer for the Press Banner and recipient of a grant to offer natural history programs around the valley, offered a self-led Herp Walk with UCSC's Gage Dayton. A total of 28 people enjoyed rolling logs and found Western Pond Turtles, Garter Snakes, a Gopher Snake, and a variety of other lizards and salamanders.

Local resident, Marc Smith, donated a freeze-dried Gopher Snake and Red-shouldered Hawk to the park allowing staff to develop a snake display, addressing the important role that snakes have in the food webs of nature and also their important part in keeping rodent population down.

### **Upcoming interpretive programs:**

1. Two back-to-back Herp Walks will be offered by Lee Summers on Friday, June 7 from 10:30 – 11:30 a.m. with one half of Home Cruzers homeschool and again with the other half from 12:00 – 1:30 p.m.
2. Another Star and Moon Gazing program with the Santa Cruz Astronomy Club will be offered on Friday, June 14 from 8:30 p.m. – 12:00 a.m. Craig Wandke will offer a slide show about the moon.
3. A Habitat Hike with Lee Summers will take place on Sunday, June 16 from 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Staff will begin planning for the Time Travelers and Science Sleuths Summer Day Camps on Sunday, June 16.

### **ADULT AND SENIOR PROGRAMS**

In May, the Senior Mall Walk program celebrated spring with a lovely potluck party at Aptos Village Park. It was a beautiful day in which food, camaraderie, fun and B-I-N-G-O prizes abounded. May also brought two trips. First, a bus full of loyal Giants fans journeyed to AT&T Park to watch the Giants beat the Phillies in extra innings. What a thrill! On May 25, we took a trip to the Asian Art Museum to see the Terracotta Warrior exhibit. There we got a close-up view of ten figures from the First Emperor's tomb, which is estimated to include more than 7,000 life-sized figures and over 10,000 weapons. The exhibit was teeming with enthusiastic visitors, so a visit to the serene Japanese Tea Garden nearby was a perfect way to unwind before heading back home.

In June trip-goers journeyed to Menlo Park to the Sunset Celebration Weekend event. There we found a great deal of information concerning cooking, gardening, home decorating and travel destinations. We were also able to take a look at Sunset's test garden, test kitchen, re-imagined home, and more. We were fortunate to have wonderful weather for the outdoor event.

July brings a trip to Port Chicago and Old Town Pittsburg. Staff will also be planning for the annual Capitola Mall Walk awards ceremony.

### **YOUTH PROGRAMS**

As ACE and KE programs at La Selva and Mar Vista wind down for the school year, staff are busy planning for summer camps, which will begin Monday, June 10, for ages 6-12 at Aptos Park and the La Selva Beach Clubhouse.

## AQUATIC PROGRAMS

**Spring schedule runs through March 2 –June 13, 2013**

### **Lap Swimming**

The lap pool is open for lap swimming Mondays through Fridays 6:00 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. Saturdays it is open 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and on Sundays from 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

**Lap Swimming** - The lap pool is open for lap swimming Mondays through Fridays 6:00 a.m. to 7:30 pm. Saturdays it is open 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and Sundays from 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

**Warm-water Pool** - The warm-water pool is available for general use on:

Tuesday/Thursday 6:00 a.m.-7:30 p.m. (Shared w/swim lessons 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.)

Monday/Wednesday/Friday 6:00 a.m.-9:30 a.m.  
6:30 p.m.- 7:30 p.m.

Saturdays 9:00 a.m.-10:30 a.m. (adults only)  
10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. (adults and children)

Sundays 9:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m. (all ages)

**Recreation Swim** – We provide recreation swim times which include the warm water pool and first lane or two of the 50M pool. During the summer months it will also include the deep end tube area and climbing wall, as well as the water slide.

Mondays – Fridays 3:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m.

Saturdays 12:30 p.m.-4:00 p.m.

**Swim Lessons** - Lessons are held on Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., and evening sessions provided on Monday/Wednesday/Friday evenings from 4:00-7:00 p.m. and Tuesday/Thursday evenings from 4:00-7:00 p.m. In addition, staff is working with Janus to offer group swim lessons to its clients.

**Spring Junior Guard Camp** - This year we held a very successful Spring Junior Lifeguard program which served the maximum amount of participants of 40, which was held April 1 – 5.

**Adult Fitness Swimming** - Adult Fitness Swimming is very popular at the Simpkins Family Swim Center. The most well attended workouts are Tuesday and Saturday mornings. Up to 49 swimmers fill the 50-meter pool at these times. Fitness swimmers may choose from among three different times each day to work out mid-week. Workouts are held at 6:00 a.m., 12:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. Tuesday through Thursday, Fridays at 6:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m., and Saturdays at 9:00 a.m.

**Water Aerobics & Exercise** - The Water exercise classes this year reached their highest capacity so far. Water exercise is an excellent way for people to meet their fitness goals without impact on the joints. Classes are designed to appeal to all levels of ability including, healthy, pre-natal, seniors, arthritic, and rehabilitating or cross training fitness enthusiasts. A monthly calendar is available with dates, times and instructors names. Previous swimming or water exercise experience is not required to participate in the water exercise classes.

**Saturday Water Polo** - Drop-in Water Polo is held on Sundays from 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. You must be a member of USAWPA to participate in the program. A Swim fee of \$6.00 will be collected, or you may use a swim pass.

**Pool Rentals** - The Santa Cruz County Aquatics and the Cabrillo Threshers swim teams continue to rent lanes in the 50-meter pool. The swim teams offer school-age competitive swimming programs Monday through Friday from 4:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.



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JOHN J. PRESLEIGH  
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS

AGENDA: JUNE 10, 2013

June 5, 2013

SANTA CRUZ COUNTY  
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION  
979 17th Avenue  
Santa Cruz, CA 95062

SUBJECT: DEFERRAL OF ANNA JEAN CUMMINGS PARK UPDATE

Dear Commissioners:

On April 15, 2013, your Commission considered a status report regarding proposals for disc golf, and open space and trails at Anna Jean Cummings Park. At that time your Commission requested a status report on the possibility of locating disc golf on the Soquel High School campus. Staff is waiting for a response from the disc golf club and needs additional time.

It is therefore recommended that your Commission defer an update on the status of Anna Jean Cummings Park proposals and alternative sites for disc golf to a Commission agenda no later than January 2014.

Yours truly,

JOHN J. PRESLEIGH  
Director of Public Works

By:

BETSEY LYNBERG  
Assistant Public Works Director  
Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services

BAL:mh

6-10-13AJdeferral.doc



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JOHN J. PRESLEIGH  
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS

AGENDA: JUNE 10, 2013  
June 5, 2013

SANTA CRUZ COUNTY  
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION  
979 17th Avenue  
Santa Cruz, CA 95062

SUBJECT: LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR THE TWIN LAKES BEACHFRONT PROJECT

Dear Commissioners:

The Twin Lakes Beachfront Project includes coastal access and roadway improvements on East Cliff Drive between 5th and 7th Avenues. Twin Lakes State Beach and the Harbor Beach receive over 800,000 visitors a year, yet access is haphazard with cars routinely parking on the sand, and pedestrians sharing the travel lanes with cars and bicycles.

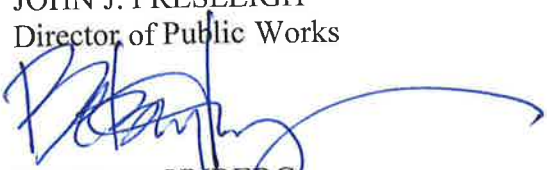
This project will implement a part of the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Scenic Trail. The project will improve coastal access with the development of pedestrian walkways and access to the Twin Lakes and Harbor beaches. In addition, parking will be organized and the road improved with bicycle lanes. Storm water quality will be enhanced, interpretive signage will explain the history of the trolley that once ran through this area and across the beach, and a public art piece will be placed in the traffic circle at the entrance to the Santa Cruz Harbor. The project has received local permits and will be considered by the California Coastal Commission for required Coastal Development permits on August 14<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> or 16<sup>th</sup> in Board Chambers at the Santa Cruz County Government Center.

It is therefore recommended that your Commission authorize the Chair of the Parks and Recreation Commission to sign a letter in support of this important County improvement project.

Yours truly,

JOHN J. PRESLEIGH  
Director of Public Works

By:

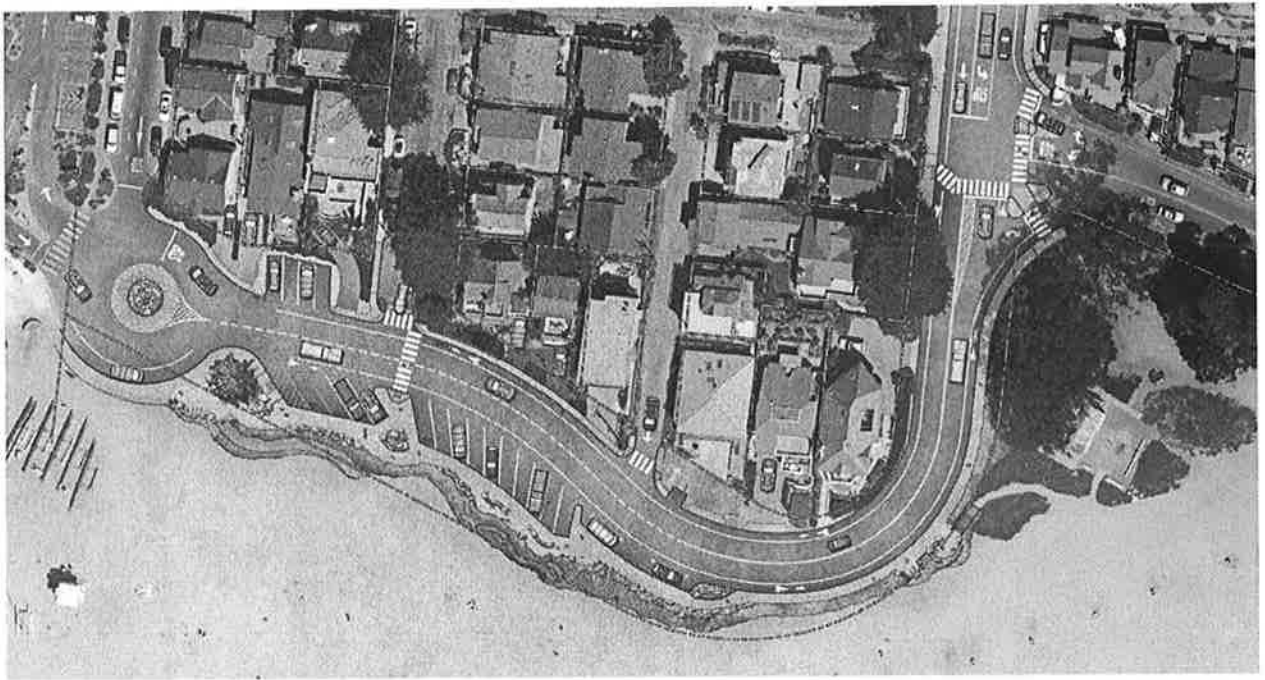
  
BETSEY LYNBERG  
Assistant Public Works Director  
Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services

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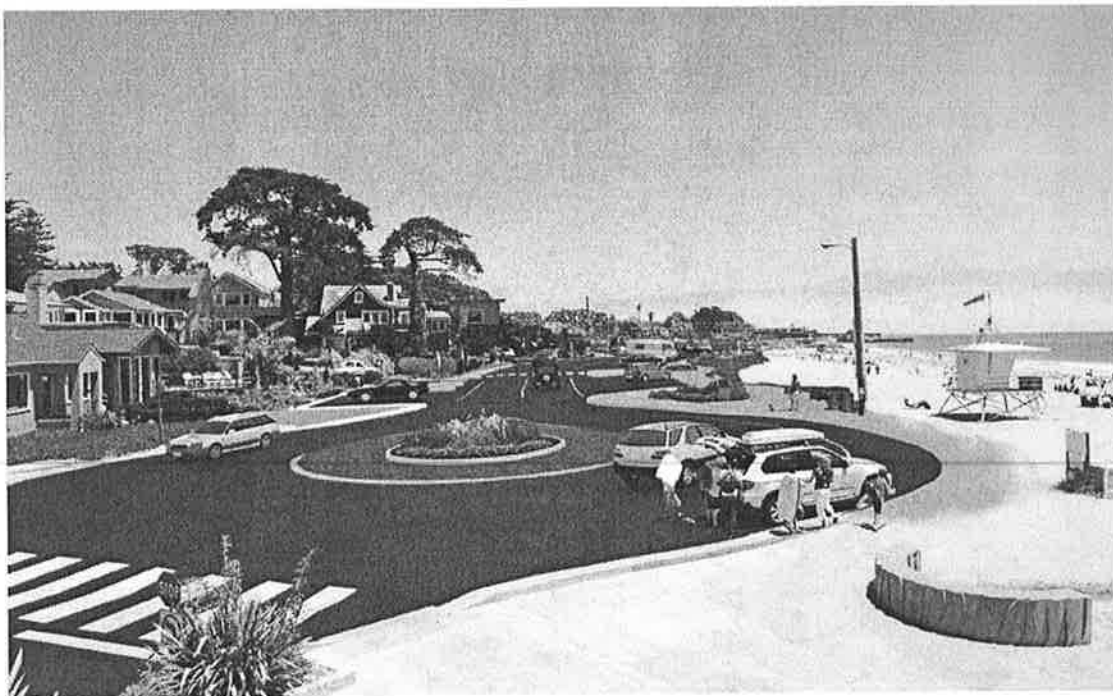
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*The Mission of the Santa Cruz County Parks, Open Space and Cultural Services is to provide safe, well designed and maintained parks and a wide variety of recreational and cultural opportunities for our diverse community*

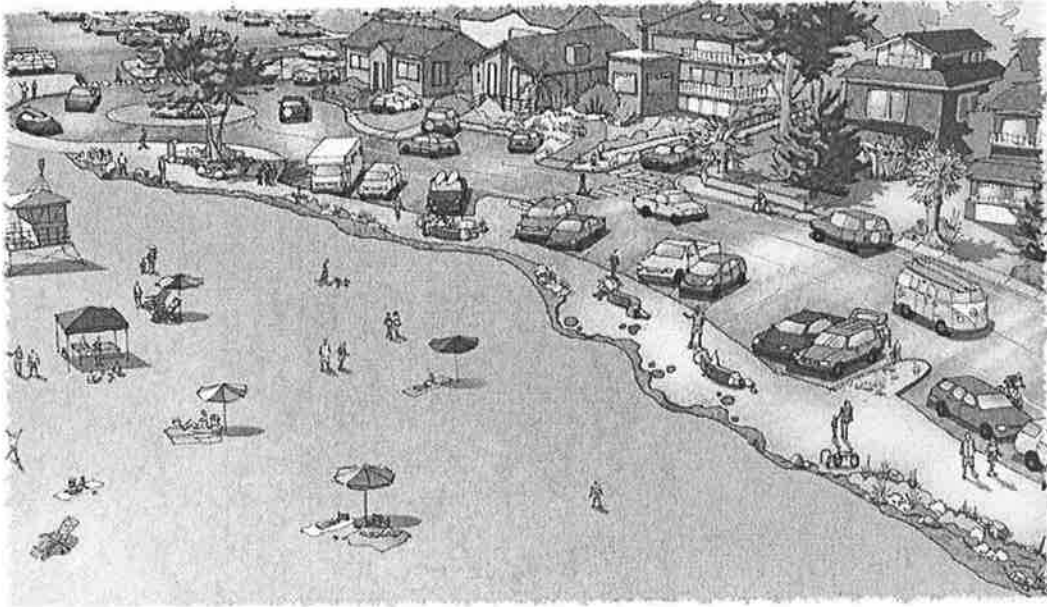
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**Twin Lakes Beachfront (East Cliff Drive from 5<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> Avenues)**  
Site plan showing proposed beachfront improvements.

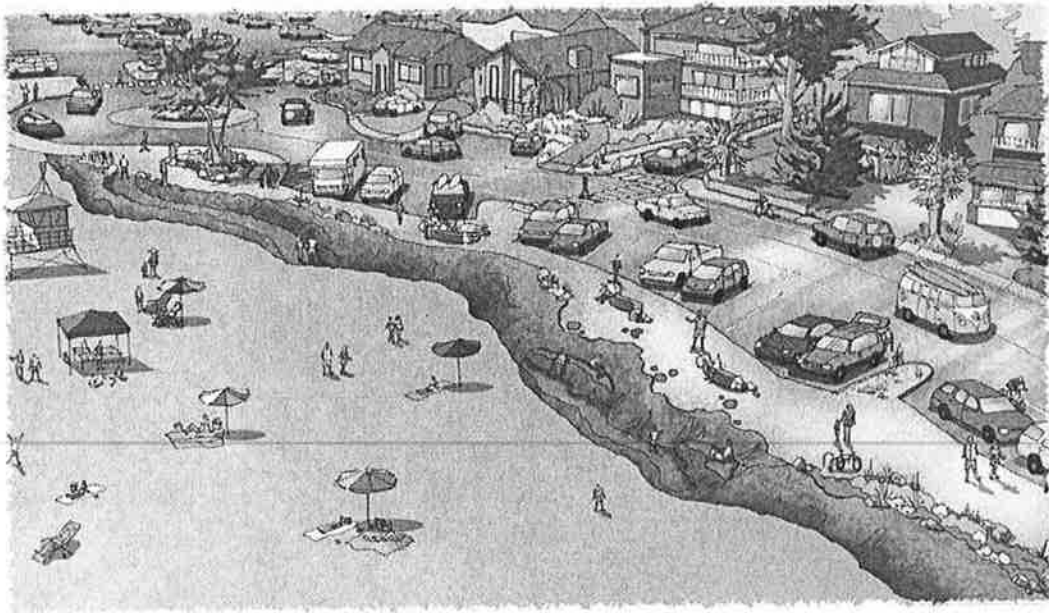


**Visual Simulation of Proposed Beachfront Improvements**  
Looking east from 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue and the O'Neill Building



### **Looking west down East Cliff Drive**

Summer sand condition - depiction of the beach with a typically high sand level. This level is routinely maintained by the dredging/beach nourishment operations undertaken by the Harbor Department.



### **Looking west down East Cliff Drive**

Low summer sand condition - as the sand level fluctuates with weather and oceanic activity, more of the underlying bluff protection becomes exposed, allowing for informal seating and beach access opportunities along the improvements.





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## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS PARKS, OPEN SPACE, AND CULTURAL SERVICES DIVISION

979 17<sup>TH</sup> AVENUE, SANTA CRUZ, CA 95062

(831) 454-7901 FAX: (831) 454-7940 TDD: (831) 454-7978

JOHN J. PRESLEIGH  
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS

AGENDA: JUNE 10, 2013

June 5, 2013

SANTA CRUZ COUNTY  
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION  
979 17<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Santa Cruz, CA 95062

SUBJECT: PROPOSAL TO ALLOW DOGS OFF-LEASH ON LIVE OAK BEACHES  
BETWEEN 20<sup>TH</sup> AVENUE AND MORAN LAKE BEACH FROM SUNRISE TO  
10 A.M. AND 4 P.M. TO SUNSET AND PROPOSAL TO RETAIN EXISTING  
LEASH LAWS

Dear Commissioners:

As your Commission is aware, Supervisor John Leopold has requested the Parks Division of the Department of Public Works review a proposal to allow dogs off-leash during certain times on Live Oak beaches between 20<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Moran Lake, a counter-proposal to retain existing leash laws, and the actions taken by Animal Services Authority (ASA) Board on this issue. Similar proposals have been considered by the Parks and Recreation Commission in the past. Santa Cruz County Parks oversees access and use of Santa Cruz County beaches. The Parks and Recreation Commission is being asked to consider the following staff report in your role as an advisory body to the Board of Supervisors.

### PROPOSALS

Live Oak Off Leash Advocates (LOOLA), proposes that dogs be permitted to be off-leash on Live Oak beaches between 20<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Moran Lake Beach from sunrise to 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. to sunset daily. The LOOLA proposal is included as Attachment 1. Additional information can be found at the LOOLA website: [www.loola.org](http://www.loola.org).

Leash Law Advocates of Santa Cruz County (LLASCC, pronounced Lassie), oppose the establishment of off-leash hours at County beaches and support additional fenced dog off-leash areas where appropriate. The LLASCC statement is included as Attachment 2. Additional information can be found at the LLASCC website: <http://llascc.weebly.com/>.

The Animal Service Authority Board considered similar requests in the past year and on August 13, 2012, took the following actions (see also Attachment 3):

“...review our current policies regarding leash law requirements and request that the Chair of the ASA Board send a carefully worded letter to the Mayors and the Board Chair which: reaffirms our continued commitment to current leash laws as stated in the County’s code; that we support the designation and maintenance of off-leash areas where they are enclosed or otherwise fenced or confined to effectively ensure public safety as well as address land use requirements and environmental safeguards; and that it makes it clear that ASA has no jurisdiction regarding the designation of these off-leash areas and that we take no position on designating specific off-leash areas within their jurisdictions but that we request that at an appropriate time, that the jurisdictions consider the possibility of examining enclosed or otherwise fenced or confined off-leash areas in the future which recognize public safety, environmental well being and the well being of the animals.”

## EXISTING REGULATIONS AND OFF-LEASH AREAS

Dogs are not allowed off-leash in Santa Cruz County parks, open space or beaches unless within a designated off-leash fenced enclosure. Santa Cruz County parks have three dog parks where dogs are permitted to run and play off-leash in fenced enclosures. These include: Chanticleer Avenue Park, Polo Grounds Park, and Pinto Lake Park. Dogs on-leash are permitted in all County parks and beaches with the exception of Quail Hollow Ranch where dogs are not permitted in sensitive habitat areas and trails located beyond the Quail Hollow ranch house and barns, and Scott Creek Beach due to the sensitive habitat and Snowy Plover nesting areas. Additional dog parks exist within the jurisdictions of the cities in the County. Leash laws for dogs in Santa Cruz County parks, open spaces and beaches are specified in the Santa Cruz County Code:

### Chapter 10.04 COUNTY PARKS

#### Section 10.04.020 Definitions

(F) “Park” means every park, riding and hiking trail, recreation area, beach, community center or building, historic structure or facility owned, managed or controlled in whole or in part by the county and under the jurisdiction of the director in either incorporated or unincorporated territory. [Ord. 4488 § 4, 1998; Ord. 2954, 1980; prior code § 8.60.010].

#### Section 10.04.090 Bringing animals into parks

A person shall not bring into a park any cattle, mule, goat, sheep, swine, dog, cat or other animal of any kind except as specifically provided in this chapter or as otherwise permitted by the director. [Ord. 2954, 1980; prior code § 8.60.040(g)].

#### Section 10.04.100 Dogs and Cats

- A. Dogs shall be licensed in accordance with the animal ordinance. A person may bring and maintain in any park, exclusive of golf courses, a dog or cat, if such dog or cat is kept on a leash or chain not to exceed six feet in length and under immediate control of its owner or custodian, or upon written permission of the director when required for authorized park programs, or when dogs are in special areas of parks designated and posted by the park director as dog exercise and training areas (dog parks) and so long as the regulations of the park director with respect to the use of such areas are followed.

- B. Any person owning or having control of any dog or cat which defecates upon property owned or managed by the department of parks, open space and cultural services must immediately remove and dispose of the feces.
- C. Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, the director has the authority to prohibit dogs and cats in any park or part thereof after submitting the proposal to the parks commission for review and recommendation. [Ord. 4666 § 1, 2002; Ord. 4429 § 2, 1996; Ord. 2954, 1980; prior code § 8.60.040(h)].

## Chapter 6.12 ANIMAL CONTROL

### Section 6.12.010 Dogs at large prohibited.

A. It is unlawful for the owner or caretaker of any dog, licensed or not, to permit or allow such dog to be at large anywhere in the unincorporated area of Santa Cruz County when there is reasonable cause to believe that the dog has caused or is likely to cause harm to persons or property, or other nuisances such as urinating, defecating, dumping garbage, digging or making noise on the property of others.

B. The owner or caretaker of any dog found in violation as described above may be contacted by an animal control officer or peace officer and issued a citation for the violation. If the owner or caretaker is not present, and there is no reasonable way to secure the dog to the owner's or caretaker's property to prevent subsequent violations, it may be impounded. If a dog is impounded from the property where the owner or caretaker is not present, a notice of such impound will be left with information about the nature of the impound, the name and address of the impounding agency, and an indication of the ultimate disposition of the dog if it is not reclaimed within a specified period of time. [Ord. 4503 § 3, 1998].

### Section 6.12.020 Leash required for dogs off premises.

It is unlawful for the owner of any dog, whether licensed or unlicensed, to permit or allow such dog to be away from the premises of its owner at any time if not under actual physical restraint or control, such as a leash, tether, or in the grasp of a person. [Ord. 4490 § 4, 1998; Ord. 3728 § 20, 1986; Ord. 2170, 1975; Ord. 1447, 1972; Ord. 1371, 1968; prior code § 8.05.401].

## ENFORCEMENT

In Santa Cruz County, Animal Control Officers working for the Santa Cruz County Animal Services Authority are responsible for enforcement of animal control laws in Santa Cruz County (Governed by Chapter 6.24). Animal Control officers are on duty from 8:00 a.m. to 10:30 p.m. Calls are generally complaint driven with officers prioritizing their response to calls. Highest priority is given to aggressive animal calls, including animal bites, followed by response to injured or sick domestic or wild animals.

## PREVIOUS PROPOSALS

In the spring and summer of 2007, the Parks and Recreation Commission considered the need for additional off-leash dog areas in County Parks. At that time, improvements to the existing dog park at Polo Grounds County Park were being considered. Permitting dogs off-leash in the unfenced Great Meadow at Polo Grounds was suggested, as well as off-leash dogs hours at County beaches and other parks. County Park staff conducted a survey of acreage at all county parks to determine if off-leash areas could be designated and concluded that virtually no space was available or underutilized at County Parks for off-leash use at that time. Staff recommended that fenced off-leash dog areas be considered as part of future new park development. In addition

advocates for fenced off-leash dog areas were encouraged to organize into dog constituent groups and raise funds to purchase property specifically for the purpose of off-leash dog parks. Ultimately, the Commission took no further action regarding unfenced off-leash dog areas. Since that time, the park master plan for Chanticleer Avenue Park was completed and a fenced off-leash dog area has been established in that park.

## SANTA CRUZ COUNTY ANIMAL SERVICES AUTHORITY BOARD

In the spring and summer of 2012, the Animal Services Authority Board heard from residents about the availability of off-leash dog areas in the County. The actions of the Board are described earlier in this report and are included as Attachment 3. Also attached is a letter to Supervisor Leopold from the Chair of the Animal Services Board (Attachment 4).

## ISSUES & CONSIDERATIONS

Proponents for off-leash hours on Live Oak beaches advocate for the shared use of public space and the importance of the health and social benefits of recreation for both dog owners and their pets. Considerable correspondence describing the benefits for dogs and their owners have been received as well as correspondence opposed to a change in current leash laws (see written correspondence, Attachment 5). Issues related to consideration of a change in leash laws are discussed briefly below.

Public Safety Dogs running on beaches off-leash are known to run into and knock down both adults and children, not only scaring people, but in some cases causing physical injury. Off-leash dogs have been known to attack people and other dogs. Recently a five-year old was hospitalized after being attacked on Rio Del Mar beach by an off-leash dog (see Santa Cruz Sentinel article, Attachment 6).

Enforcement Rules for beach use, including leash requirements, are posted on signage at beach access points. Off-leash dogs are witnessed on Live Oak beaches on a regular basis in violation of these rules. As discussed earlier in this report, due to limited resources Animal Control officers operate on a complaint driven basis rather than regular patrols.

Liability The County's Risk Manager has expressed grave concern explaining that County is self-insured for the first \$1 million of each tort claim and that the County department must pay this cost if the claim results in an insurance settlement and court judgment.

Wildlife Santa Cruz County beaches below the mean high tide line are part of the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary. In addition marine mammals and birds are protected by the Marine Mammal Protection Act and Migratory Bird Treaty Act. Santa Cruz County beaches are also known to provide habitat for endangered and threatened species such as the Pacific Coast Western Snowy Plover which nests on sandy beaches. Shorebirds are known to lay eggs in the back beach area of the Corcoran Lagoon beach and when found are seasonally fenced to provide protection of the eggs and chicks. Unfortunately, dogs allowed to run off-leash are also known to chase, harass and harm wildlife. State and federal rules and the County General Plan include extensive regulations and policies to protect sensitive habitats from disruption, including the following:

County General Plan Policy 5.3.2 – Protecting Shorebird Nesting Sites (LCP)  
Discourage all activities within 100 feet of shorebird nesting sites during nesting season (March-July).  
Prohibit dogs from beaches having nesting sites.

Sanitary Conditions/Health County Code requires dog owners to pick up and dispose of dog feces. Opponents to off-leash dogs express concern about encouraging additional dog use on beaches and the potential for unsanitary conditions should owners not properly pick up after their dogs.

Maintenance County Park resources continue to be stretched thin due to the difficult economic conditions. County Park staff maintains beach access points providing bags for pet waste and trash cans. County Parks does not have sufficient resources to clean beaches. The County does support Save Our Shores and their volunteer efforts under the Adopt-a-Beach program.

Permits and Environmental Review Live Oak beaches have a Parks and Recreation land use designation. General beach uses are considered a principle permitted use. County Planning staff has concluded that environmental review and permits would be required from Planning and the California Coastal Commission. The level of review under California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) is unclear. In the case of Lighthouse Field Beach (Its Beach) in Santa Cruz, the City's reliance on an initial study was challenged in court. Ultimately, the court of appeal ruled that the City violated CEQA by ignoring the possibility of increased use by off-leash dogs as the result of the change in policy to allow off-leash dogs. However the Court did not conclude that an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) was necessarily required.

Ownership County owned beaches are shown in blue on the attached map of Live Oak beaches (Attachment 7). County ownership is limited to Sunny Cove, between 20<sup>th</sup> Avenue and the outlet from Corcoran Lagoon and at Moran Lake. Most is privately owned with a Parks and Recreation land use designation. Much of the privately owned beach between Corcoran Lagoon and Moran Lake is subject to varying beach conditions depending upon the tide and surf. Although the public enjoys access along this entire stretch of beach, public access is not likely to be defined to include dogs. The easements would need to be researched. All property below the mean high tide line belongs to the state.

Cost of Implementation The cost of implementation is undetermined; however, they would be highly dependent upon the level of environmental review and costs of obtaining permits as may be required by the California Coastal Commission. Should an environmental impact report be required, costs could easily exceed \$100,000. Other costs would include changing signage to include off-leash dog hours, maintenance costs, environmental restoration or mitigation costs, liability insurance costs and other related costs including real property and legal costs.

## DISCUSSION

Dogs provide enjoyment and companionship for many individuals and families in Santa Cruz County. Outdoor exercise is good for the well-being of dogs as well as owners. Dogs are allowed on-leash in parks and beach locations throughout the County, and are allowed to play and run off-leash at various dog parks. However, many dog owners continue to advocate for additional fenced dog parks and now for off-leash dog hours on Live Oak beaches. While many support off-leash dog hours on beaches, based on recent hearings, many oppose such a change.

Residents and visitors alike are attracted to the scenic beauty of the Monterey Bay, beach activities, beach wildlife, and the ocean. The number one objection to a change in current leash laws is the safety and comfort of other beach users, followed by environmental and wildlife concerns. While staff understands that if dogs are allowed off-leash on Live Oak beaches, dog owners will be attracted to this stretch of beach from throughout the County and beyond potentially displacing other beach users. For example, many who once enjoyed Its Beach at Lighthouse Field in Santa Cruz will no longer visit that beach because of the large number of off-leash dogs and concern for their personal safety. In addition, off-leash dogs raise environmental and wildlife concerns.

The courts have determined that a change in policy of this nature would require CEQA review and coastal permits. Depending upon the level of CEQA review required, costs to implement a change in policy could exceed \$100,000 and County Park resources are very limited.

County Parks is dedicated to providing diverse recreational opportunities in the appropriate setting. For example, when skateboarding became popular, skate features and parks specifically designed for skateboarders were incorporated into many parks. Recently areas have been dedicated for bike pump tracks and bike jumps. Previously the Parks and Recreation Commission concluded that County Parks should as appropriate, plan for fenced off-leash dog areas in the design of new parks. The Animal Service Authority Board also encourages the County to expand opportunities for fenced off-leash dog areas. This approach could address the needs of dogs and their owners without jeopardizing the safety and enjoyment of others enjoying County beaches and parks.

Underdeveloped and/or underutilized County Parks could be considered for new fenced off-leash dog areas. A complete inventory of Santa Cruz County Parks is included as Attachment 8. Possible locations include: Anna Jean Cummings Park in Soquel, Farm Park in Soquel, Brommer Park in Live Oak, Seascape Park in Seascape, and the Miller Property in Boulder Creek. Consideration of these locations for fenced off-leash dog areas would require further site analysis, environmental considerations, funding and maintenance considerations, and neighborhood meetings.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

It is therefore recommended that your Commission take the following actions:


1. Consider public comment.
2. Direct staff to consider additional opportunities for fenced off-leash dog areas in County Parks in accordance with the recommendation of the Animal Services Authority Board with a report back to the Commission no later than February 2014.

3. Take no action with regards to the LLASCC proposal or the LOOLA proposal to allow dogs off-leash on Live Oak beaches between 20th Avenue and Moran Lake.

Yours truly,

JOHN J. PRESLEIGH  
Director of Public Works

By:



BETSEY LYNBERG  
Assistant Public Works Director  
Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services

BAL:mh

Attachments

Copy to: Supervisor Leopold  
Animal Services Authority  
County Administrative Officer

# LOOLA

Live Oak Off Leash  
Advocates





## Off Leash Policy Proposal

Submitted by Live Oak Off Leash Advocates (LOOLA)

### *Overview*

Santa Cruz County lacks sufficient open space where dog owners can exercise their animals off leash. According to data supplied by the Santa Cruz County Animal Shelter (SCCAS) there are over 51,000 dogs in the county residing in approximately 30,000 households. So, about 1 in 3 households have at least one dog. This is equal to almost 37% of the county's human population. Of course, this does not take into account the many visitors who visit our open spaces with their animals. To service this population there are only 12 off leash areas, with 7 in the city of Santa Cruz, 2 in Scotts Valley, and only 3 in the unincorporated areas. Of these 1 is in Aptos, 1 is in Watsonville, and 1 in Live Oak. This is clearly inadequate to serve a large and growing dog population. For example, there are no off leash areas between the Monterey Bay, 41<sup>st</sup> Ave, the Yacht Harbor, and Capitola Road, a very densely populated area with a visibly large population of dogs.

A distribution of off-leash areas within neighborhoods is important because individuals often prefer to exercise outdoors within walking distance of their homes. This has the added benefit of fewer car trips and congestion, less pollution, and reduced impacts on parking. Moreover, neighborhood open spaces build community and a sense of stewardship and responsibility. This sense of shared ownership and responsibility is the most effective way to control behavior issues by problematic users within each user group. While the percentage of problem users within each group is comparatively small, these users can have a disproportional impact on all public space user groups. Using enforcement as a tool to control problematic behavior is limited by lack of resources and personnel. In most cases, dollars spent on education are three times more effective than those spent on enforcement and punishment. A more effective strategy is encouraging responsible behavior via reinforcing a culture of responsible use through modeling, peer pressure, and education campaigns by both the county and organized user groups.

In an atmosphere of diminishing resources it is critical that users of specific public resources organize and take responsibility for those resources. Therefore, we recommend that the county shift resources and create policy to enable off leash use of areas where user groups exist or can be formed to help maintain those open spaces. Through partnering with organized user groups the county can reduce costs and decrease problem user issues. The consistent use of open spaces reduces criminal and other destructive activities. Regular users provide a degree of protection and surveillance for public open space that facilitates quicker, more efficient, and effective action by both law enforcement and maintenance crews.

Open public space is a limited commodity and dedicating spaces to one use effectively excludes other uses and users. It is not reasonable or acceptable that an activity such as off leash exercising of dogs be uniformly labeled as dangerous or disruptive and thus unacceptable when any issues that could potentially arise involve a small minority of users. No other user group is faced with such a broad prohibition on its activities. Moreover, such a blanket prohibition is a matter of tradition and is not supported by either empirical or anecdotal evidence. It is LOOLA's position that the best course of action is more responsible mixed use of open spaces via time-sharing arrangements where specific user groups get access during certain hours or full time mixed use access. This would maximize the use of existing facilities without the expense of infrastructure other than signage.

### **Enforcement Policy**

Widespread noncompliance with existing leash laws is not an enforcement failure by Animal Control Services (ACS) or a moral failure by dog owners; it is a policy failure. The county has been unwilling or unable to deal with the lack of off leash facilities as the dog population has grown. In the absence of action, dog owners have, over the past 20+ years, established their own solution, which is to create a de facto right of qualified off leash access to public space. To wit, that if their pet is licensed, under control, in proximity, and the owner picks up after that animal, they are free to responsibly use public space as any citizen would. Based on this right established over decades, citizens have made major life decisions and commitments such as where they purchase a home, obtaining a dog or a dog of a certain breed, and establishing daily life patterns via employment and other activities. This right is so deeply established that regular users of the Live Oak beaches *believe* that these beaches *are* legally off leash. This includes locals as well as visitors.

It is unreasonable that the qualified right of historical access is now under threat. Serious life commitments have been made and, lacking adequate facilities, dog owners are in the position of technically violating leash laws. Simply put, there is no place for them to go.

Moreover, the enforcement strategy employed by Animal Control Services (ACS) is both arbitrary and capricious. Taking into account the qualified right of historical access and resulting massive noncompliance combined with the limited resources of ACS current enforcement is totally ineffective and so unevenly applied as to be arbitrary and capricious. Further, the technical violation of having a dog off leash in any capacity in a public space and the conceptual reasoning for such a rule (public and animal safety) have been effectively decoupled. In no way is an animal off leash sitting by its owner, an elderly dog walking by its owner, or dog chasing a ball in the surf, and an unattended, out of control, or aggressive animal the same violations. This defies common sense. But under the current enforcement regime they are equal. This type of enforcement does not serve the purpose of the establishment of the leash law.

The current enforcement creates a climate of fear and hostility between ACS and dog owners. What should be a cooperative effort to foster public safety has become adversarial. This atmosphere greatly increases the potential for an unfortunate incident. This is entirely avoidable.

Enforcement of ordinances is always at the discretion of the officer at the scene and is based on the most effective use of resources and the underlying purpose of the law. Therefore, until adequate off leash facilities are made available we recommend that citations be tied to licensing and animal behavior. That is, dogs who exhibit behavior issues such as aggression or do not respond to voice commands, or who are not licensed, would be subjected to citation.

### **LOOLA Proposal for 20<sup>th</sup> Ave to Moran Lake Beach**

The attached proposal for off leash hours at 20<sup>th</sup> Ave to Moran Lake beach is a case study of how off leash access areas can be created across the county. LOOLA's over 90 active members have mobilized to formalize our existing open space stewardship by adopting the beach via the Save our Shores program. LOOLA has also developed protocols for engaging problem users on the beach. We have demonstrated wide community support through the gathering of over 2500 signatures endorsing our proposal. Finally, LOOLA has conducted research and fact-finding to support our shared use of this public resource. It is important to note that the Santa Cruz Animal Shelter and Animal Control both endorse the attached LOOLA proposal as well as the need for more off leash areas. We believe that this provides a model for community driven expansion of open space use for off leash activities.

### ***Potential Off Leash Access Areas***

There is no one-size-fits-all solution to this issue. Each open space is unique and used by a variety of stakeholders. As is seen with existing off leash facilities, a combination of shared and exclusive space would be a practical solution. It is the opinion of the petitioners that the best and most economical solution in most cases is the responsible shared use of public space. The enclosed proposal for Live Oak Beach Area is such an example. Ideally, existing spaces and infrastructure should be used whenever possible. Therefore, any movement for increasing shared use of public space for the off leash user group would involve a modification or variances on current requirements and regulations on off leash areas. For example, adequate set-back or buffers instead of fencing.

LOOLA members have identified many areas that may be suitable for some level of off leash access.

### **Existing Park Space**

Broomer Street Park

Floral Park on 38th Avenue

Jade Street Park

Anna Jean Cummings (Blue Ball) Park

Highlands Park including San Lorenzo River access

Felton Covered Bridge Park

A bigger area of Chanticleer Park--current dog park is too small

Aptos Village Park - totally unused during the week except in summer, when a Christian day camp rents it out during the weekdays. Used often on summer weekends for weddings and parties.

Lighthouse Field

DeLaveaga end of Park Way and the trails at De LaVeaga Park

Seascape Park

Pogonip

Jose Park at the Eddy Lane end

Monterey Park

Noble Park

### **Beaches**

It's Beach

Scott Creek Beach, Davenport

Hidden Beach Park in Aptos

## LOOLA Off Leash Policy Proposal

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Beer Can Beach Aptos

Trestle Beach Aptos

Sunny Cove

### Open Space

Open Space between Lode and Quartz by the Pleasure Point Sanitation Plant

Arana Gulch

Highlands

Loch Lomond (Owned by the City of Santa Cruz)

The Farm on Soquel Dr. (undeveloped & underused--County owned)

County Fairgrounds

The old Del Mar School Softball field is not currently maintained, and it's entirely fenced. (Off 17th Ave. near Portola).

The big field next to the parking lot on the bluff at Seacliff State Beach

Quail Hollow Ranch in Ben Lomond

SkyPark in Scotts Valley (fields far side of dog park)

The old 3-par golf course near Seacliff Inn

Moore Creek

MacGregor Property

### ***Call for Action***

We call on the Board of Supervisors to direct the Parks Commission to develop a framework for the expansion of off leash access with all areas of the county. Only through a comprehensive approach can the needs and concerns of all community members be met and our open spaces be used to their full potential.

## Proposal for Off Leash Hours on 20<sup>th</sup> Ave to Moran Lake Beach

Live Oak Off-Leash Advocates (LOOLA) is a collective of local Live Oak community dog owners who support an off-leash initiative for the 20th avenue beach area. Live Oak community dog owners request that Santa Cruz County establish off-leash hours on the 20th Avenue beach area (from 20th Avenue to Moran Lake Beach).

LOOLA circulated a petition to gauge community support for this effort. Petitions were distributed via volunteers and local businesses and a version was published electronically online. The community has demonstrated its support by 2500 signatures from Santa Cruz County residents that support an off-leash initiative.

The petition is worded as follows:

*By way of this petition we would like to advocate for off leash hours from sunrise to 10:00 a.m. and after 4 p.m. at Live Oak Beach (from 20th Avenue to Moran Lake Beach) in Santa Cruz, California.*

*Dog owners that frequent Live Oak Beaches have for many years considered this area a great option for exercising their unleashed dogs. We would like to continue this practice that has existed for so many years, despite the leash law.*

*Daily vigorous exercise that includes unfettered play with other socialized dogs and games of fetch and Frisbee are essential in maintaining the health of our dogs. We recognize the needs of others who would prefer to use the beach without dog interaction and feel that these off-leash hours would be a fair compromise.*

### **Our Request**

For decades Live Oak beaches have been a shared resource for people and animals despite current leash laws. The social aspect of both humans and animals has been a very important daily ritual for many of the local residents within the community. This is particularly true for elderly and retired people. Recently, our community has been disrupted due to the fear of receiving off-leash citations. For this reason we ask Santa Cruz County for a change in policy.

LOOLA understands there will be challenges with monitoring bad animal behavior; bad animal behavior is not very common at this beach area. According to Animal Control Services, there have been no verified reports of actionable animal behavior issues in this beach area. Most of regular users have trained their dogs for correct social behavior while off-leash. This social dog networking creates a bond between dogs of similar size and recreation habits to minimize the need for specific areas based upon the size of the animal. The norm is for open voluntary interaction.

LOOLA has a close relationship with SCCAS, which shares our goal for more off leash access. We propose to expand this cooperation by creating programs and website information to promote responsible dog ownership while in off-leash areas. In some cases this information can be tailored for first time animal adopters to create a foundation of responsible dog ownership. Education and public outreach is key for any change in community policy. Dog owners must understand what is expected while socializing their dog in an off-leash area through positive reinforcement messaging. Education is always a better and more effective use of public resources.

**Research**

LOOLA has conducted research on potential environmental and legal impacts for the proposed off leash beaches as well as on other communities that provide off-leash shared access to beaches or public open space.

**Environmental and Wildlife Impacts**

Some community members express concern about the impact of off leash access on the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary that abuts Live Oak beaches. According to Rikki Dunsmore, Ph.D., Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Marine Ecologist and Scott Kathey Federal Regulatory Coordinator Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration U.S. Department of Commerce MBNMS jurisdiction does not extend to area beaches, and the marine sanctuary has taken no official position on the subject of upland leash laws in Santa Cruz County. MBNMS inland boundary stops at the mean high tide line. We would add that Carmel has allowed off leash access to certain beaches since the 1970s with no evidence of negative environmental impacts.

Opponents to off leash access cite concerns about the harassment of wildlife. Marine mammals frequent the area but rarely venture on shore unless they are in distress. Most activity occurs off shore. Despite decades of regular off leash use of these beaches there have been no reported cases of dogs attacking marine mammals. While harassment of marine mammals is a federal crime, this applies only to the act not the potential for the act. If the potential of harassing marine mammals were equivalent to the act then people would have to be banned from beaches as well as dogs. Of particular concern is habitat for the endangered Snowy Plover. The Federal government greatly expanded Snowy Plover habitat in 2011. The only areas designated as critical habitat for Snowy Plover in Santa Cruz County are at Wadell Creek and in Aptos. Live Oak Beaches are potential habitat for Snowy Plover only in the sense that all beaches might be habitat. Again, potential habitat is not equivalent to actual habitat. Moreover, the primary danger to Snowy Plover or other shorebirds is people. People leave trash on the beaches, which attract vermin and predatory birds such as crows or sea gulls. Moreover, the beaches of Live Oak are heavily developed. Natural onshore habitat was effectively destroyed when roads were built that blocked water flows into tide marshes and homes were constructed on coastal bluffs and then protected by riprap. This riprap provides an ideal habitat for vermin that prey on shorebirds. The presence of wading birds such as Herrin or Egrets also indicates no ongoing negative impacts by the proximity of off leash dogs. There is no evidence that off leash activity poses a danger to wildlife on Live Oak beaches.

Opponents to off leash access also cite concerns about pollution from dog waste impacting water quality. There is no evidence to support this contention. There has never been a study that linked water quality issues at beaches with dog waste. Bacterial levels in water are usually due to run off and outflows from storm run-off that originate far from local beaches.

**Environmental Impact Report (EIR) under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)**

Opponents to off leash access have argued that any move to allow off leash access in public space would require an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Based on our research we believe that making 20<sup>th</sup> Ave an off leash dog access area would qualify for a Categorical Exemption (Article 19) under CEQA. The CEQA process will determine the potential need for a Mitigated Negative Declaration or an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) is necessary.

Filing of a Notice of Exemption triggers a 35-day deadline for any legal challenge under CEQA.

A challenge is only valid if there could be *both* unusual circumstances and a reasonable possibility of a significant environmental impact due to the unusual circumstances and/or that an expert opinion alleging a significant environmental impact. An EIR is required if there is *substantial* evidence that the project may have a *significant* effect on the environment. The determination of whether a project may have a significant effect on the environment is based to the extent possible on scientific and factual data. In cases where it is not clear whether there is substantial evidence that a project may have a significant effect on the environment, an EIR shall be prepared when there is serious public controversy concerning the environmental effect of a project (CEQA Guidelines, Section 15064). It is clear on its face that the types of environmental impacts intended under these laws do not exist for off leash areas.

When any of the following conditions occur the lead agency shall find that a project may have a significant effect on the environment, which will require a Mandatory Finding of Significance. Such a finding shall require an EIR to be prepared (CEQA Guidelines Section 15065):

- When a project has the potential to substantially degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of an endangered, rare or threatened species, or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory.
- When a project has the potential to achieve short-term goals to the disadvantage of long-term environmental goals.
- When a project has possible environmental effects, which are individually limited but cumulatively considerable.
- When the environmental effects of a project will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly.

These classes are considered to apply to instances, except where the project may impact on an environmental resource of hazardous or critical concern where designated, precisely mapped, and officially adopted pursuant to law by federal, state, or local agencies. That is, not a *general* concern over potential impacts but specific impacts to officially designated areas or species.

The Dog Beach can be issued a Categorical Exemption under CEQA (CA Environmental Quality Act) because:

1. It is not an activity that is prohibited from exception
2. The use of the beach is pre-existing but not codified
3. There is no evidence of degradation of the environment and wildlife. As explained earlier, Snowy Plover habitat in CA was greatly expanded in 2011 and according to the Federal Register does not include any areas in or around Corcoran Lagoon or surrounding beaches. The closest Snowy Plover habitat is north of Santa Cruz or South in Aptos.

### Existing Off-Leash Areas, Rules, and Regulations

Here are a few beach or open space communities that have adopted off-leash initiatives, more examples can be provided upon request:

### **Santa Cruz City – Mitchells Cove**

#### **Dog Regulations**

Dogs allowed off leash in undeveloped areas of the park as specified below;

1. Sunrise to 10a.m. – 4p.m. to sunset
2. Dog owners must clean up their dog's defecation !
3. Dogs must be on a leash at all other times

### **Santa Barbara County**

#### **Off Leash Areas and Rules.**

*Info taken from: <http://www.countyofsb.org/parks/parks01.aspx?id=9228>*

Section 26-49.1 of the County Code also permits off-leash canine play areas in our parks and county recreation areas under certain conditions, and in recent years County Parks has worked with owner groups to develop inviting play areas throughout the county. These range from Woof PAC Park at Waller Park in Santa Maria to Arroyo Burro Beach in Santa Barbara to Toro Canyon Park near Carpinteria. Our goal always is to work collaboratively with dog owners and park neighbors so that these canine play areas are well maintained, safe for dogs and people, and do not unduly add to noise or congestion. County Parks is currently working to develop new canine play areas, upgrade existing ones in our regional parks, and encourage more partnerships with dog owners.

#### **Arroyo Burro Beach Park**

Located at 2981 Cliff Drive, this county park is the portal for the best known off-leash spot in the Santa Barbara area. Dogs are required to be on leash through the parking lot and bathing beach until, passing Arroyo Burro Slough, dogs are welcome to run free and cavort in the Pacific Ocean surf below the city's Douglas Family Preserve. Self-service dog wash stations provided by Wripples, Inc.  
Hours: Daily from 6:00 AM to Sunset

#### **Tucker's Grove Park**

Our newest fenced off-leash area at Kiwanis Meadow is now open all hours the park is from 8:00 a.m. to sunset. The new play area is at the eastern end of the park, and is near ample parking and a public restroom. This area also provides easy access to the San Antonio Creek Trail, a mostly shaded 1.5-mile route that heads northeasterly to a trailhead at CA Route 154. Tucker's Grove County Park is located at intersection of Turnpike and Cathedral Oaks Roads.

#### **Sea Lookout Park in Isla Vista**

Sweeping views of the ocean from bluff top, with artistic, oversized cedar seating structures.  
Unenclosed lawn area. Located at Del Playa Drive at Camino del Sur.

Hours: Monday through Friday from 8:00 AM to 10:00 AM, and 4:00 PM to Sunset

#### **Toro Canyon County Park**

Located at the entry to this 74-acre wooded park, the off-leash canine play area consists of a fenced lawn area shaded by oak trees. Parking and restroom immediately adjacent. Address: 576 Toro Canyon Park Road.



Hours: Daily from 8:00 AM to 10:00 AM, and 4:00 PM to Sunset

### **Tabano Hollow Neighborhood Open Space**

Fenced lawn area with trees, drinking fountain, and benches.

Hours: Daily from 8:00 AM to 10:00 AM and from 3:00 PM to sunset

### **Patterson Neighborhood Open Space**

Unfenced lawn area located at University Drive and Calle Aparejo.

Hours: Monday through Friday from 8:00 to 10:00 AM

### **W.O.O.F Pac Park at Waller Park**

Located in the flagship Waller Park in Santa Maria, this 3-acre canine play area features fenced lawn areas for large and small dogs, double entry gates, canine drinking fountains, and benches for seating. Restrooms and Wripples self-service pet spa located nearby. W.O.O.F. stands for "Winners Of Off-leash Freedom."

Hours: Daily from 8:00 AM to Sunset

This dog park is will be closed periodically on Thursdays for maintenance.

### **Orcutt Community Park, Orcutt**

Our newest canine facility opened in Spring 2009 at this new regional park in the Rice Ranch section of Orcutt. This fenced canine play area is about 2.5 acres in size and features small and large dog areas, dog water fountains, and benches for dog owners and friends.

Hours: Daily from 8:00 AM to Sunset

NOTE: These rules may change as circumstances require. They will be prominently posted at each site.

- All of the rules in Santa Barbara County Code 26-49 and 49.1 apply to the use of any designated off-leash area.
- Dogs must be under the voice control of their caretaker.
- Leaving dogs unattended is prohibited. Owner/caretaker must be with dogs.
- No more than 3 dogs per responsible adult (caretaker) allowed per visit.
- Owners must carry a six-foot leash at all times, one for each dog.
- Young children must be closely supervised.
- Owners must clean up after their dogs.
- Dogs with a known history of dangerous behavior are prohibited.
- Aggressive dogs must be muzzled or removed.
- Dogs must be leashed until they are in the posted off-leash area & upon leaving the posted off-leash area, using a six-foot leash. Park users & dog owners assume all risk related to park use.
- The park is open to all park users.
- Puppies less than 4 months of age are prohibited.
- Dogs in heat are prohibited.
- Off-leash usage will be monitored with the assistance of local volunteers, DogPAC members, and County Parks staff.
- Each dog must wear a collar with identification and valid license attached at all times while in

an off-leash area.

- Dogs must have current vaccinations.

SB Co. Ord. 26-49.1

### Long Beach

Info from: <http://hatedogs.org/beach.html>

#### ROSIE'S DOG BEACH RULES/LAWS

1. Only one dog per adult. If you have two dogs, please bring an adult friend with you.
2. No dog shall be outside the orange traffic cones without its master on a leash. The cones outline the off-leash area.
3. Wear collar and registration tags at all times.
4. Dogs are not allowed to walk on the bike path (only to cross it).
5. Enter the off-leash area only between the two yellow flags on metal poles at the parking lot.
6. No aggressive dogs.
7. Hours are 6 a.m. to 8 p.m., daily.

More rules for Rosie's:

DOGS ARE NOT permitted on the beach at any time other than the scheduled hours, or at any place other than Rosie's Dog Beach. Each dog must be under the control of an adult, and only one dog per adult is permitted. The dog must be under visual and voice control by the owner at all times. The dog owner shall use a suitable container or instrument to remove dog waste and shall dispose of it in waste containers provided for that purpose. Aggressive dogs are not permitted.

DOG OWNERS ARE entirely responsible for their dog's actions, and accept the risk of allowing their dog to interact with people, other dogs, existing beach conditions, and City vehicles.

#### LEGAL RESPONSIBILITY

Owners are legally responsible for any injury caused by dogs. All dogs must wear a collar with current tags. Dogs must have current vaccinations, tags and be licensed (a current license from any jurisdiction is okay. (For instance, a dog from Lakewood should be registered with Lakewood Animal Control and must be wearing the dog tag provided by Lakewood Animal Control). Children shall be accompanied by an adult during Rosie's Dog Beach hours. Notwithstanding any other Ordinance or Rule of the City of Long Beach, dogs may be permitted, during the below mentioned times of day, on that part of the beach of the City of Long Beach bounded between the halfway point between Argonne and St. Joseph Avenues (the eastern boundary) and the halfway point between Roycroft and Quincy Avenues (the eastern boundary) from the waterline to the designated boundary markers located approximately 60 yards from the water line (the northern boundary) to be designated by appropriate posting by the Department of Parks, Recreation and Marine. Dogs are permitted on this designated part of the beach for the purpose of exercise. The hours that dogs may be so on the beach shall be set at the discretion of the Director of the Department of Parks, Recreation and Marine. Permission for dogs to be on this designated area of the beaches of the City of Long Beach may be revoked at any time by the Director of the Department of Parks, Recreation and Marine by appropriate posting at the designated area mentioned above.

With regard to said use of this designated part of the beach of the City of Long Beach:

- A. The dog exercise area must be accessed from adjacent parking lot in 90-degree angle to the

marked boundaries of the dog exercise area.

B. Each dog must be under the control of an adult, and only one dog per adult is permitted. The dog must be under visual and voice control by owner/guardian at all times. Dogs that do not respond to voice commands are not permitted.

C. All dogs must wear a collar with current tags.

D. All dogs must have current vaccinations and licenses.

E. As a condition of admission to such dog exercise area, the owner/guardian of such dog shall use a suitable container or instrument to remove dog feces and shall dispose of it in waste containers provided for that purpose.

F. Aggressive dogs are not permitted. Owners are legally responsible for any injury caused by their dogs.

G. Dogs shall not be left unattended.

H. Dogs under four (4) months old are not permitted.

I. Female dogs in heat are not permitted.

Professional dog trainers may not use the dog exercise area to conduct classes or individual instruction.

J. Children shall be accompanied by an adult and shall not run, shout, scream, wave their arms, or otherwise excite or antagonize dogs.

K. Bicycles, roller blades, roller skates, skateboards, strollers, and the like, are not permitted.

Wheelchairs and other aids for the disabled are permitted.

L. Spiked collars on dogs are not permitted.

M. The owner/guardian of a dog must have in his/her possession a leash for the dog which shall be worn by the dog at all times that the dog is ingressing/egressing the dog exercise area.

N. Dog owners/guardians shall provide drinking water for their dogs.

O. No food of any kind is permitted in the dog exercise area during the designated hours.

P. Dog owners/guardians shall otherwise comply with all rules governing the beaches and relevant parking regulations.

Q. No one shall play any team sport including but not limited to football, baseball, soccer, rugby and volleyball during the designated dog exercise hours. The use of a frisbee or a small, retrievable ball is permitted.

R. Use of the dog exercise area by the dog shall constitute implied consent of the dog's owner to all regulations and shall constitute a waiver of liability to the City of Long Beach and an agreement to protect, defend, indemnify, and hold harmless the City of Long Beach, its officials and employees for any injury or damage caused by a dog when the dog is not on a leash.

#### **Rosie's Dog Beach Enforcement**

**DOG OWNERS WHO FAIL** to comply with the regulations set forth by Ordinance may be cited. Citations may be written by: Animal Control Officers, Police Officers, Marine Patrol Officers, Park Rangers and/or Lifeguards.

#### **Carmel**

##### **MOST PET-FRIENDLY CITY**

##### **How Carmel Positions Themselves for Dog-Friendly Tourism**

"Dogs rule in Carmel! While sandy beaches and open expanses are dream destinations for dogs, Carmel also features many indoor places for locals and visitors traveling with their four-legged companions..."

<http://www.carmel.com/>

### **Carmel - Wikipedia**

"Carmel-by-the-Sea is an exceptionally dog-friendly city. Most hotels allow dogs to stay with guests. Almost all restaurants that offer outside dining allow dogs in those areas, with most of them also offering water. A few have special "doggie menus." Many retailers allow dogs to accompany their owners in their stores and many have treats available. Water bowls and dog biscuits can also be found in front of many stores. Dogs are not permitted, however in Devendorf Park (on Ocean Ave. between Junipero and Mission Streets). Dogs must be leashed, except on Carmel City Beach, where they are allowed unleashed if they are under voice command from their owners. The police department takes animal welfare seriously and officers will open cars that contain pets without adequate ventilation or water and will remove the pets and cite the owner.[24]" <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Carmel-by-the-Sea,California>

### **Pet-friendly Carmel-by-the-Sea (Hotels, restaurants, beaches)**

[http://www.carmelcalifornia.com/index.cfm/pet\\_friendly\\_carmel.htm](http://www.carmelcalifornia.com/index.cfm/pet_friendly_carmel.htm)

#### **Beaches**

Carmel Beach

Ocean Ave and Scenic Rd

Carmel, CA, US 93922

Off-leash hours: 6AM to 10PM

#### **County Parks**

Garland Ranch Regional Park: <http://www.seemonterey.com/carmel-valley-california/garland-ranchregional-park-carmel-valley-california>

### **Opportunities for Pet Tourism in Santa Cruz?**

Over 49 percent of U.S. adult leisure travelers consider their pet to be part of the family and 18 percent of U.S. adult leisure travelers usually take their pets with them when they travel.

<http://www.ustravel.org/news/press-kit/travel-facts-and-statistics>

Santa Cruz offers hotels, restaurants, a dog-friendly downtown area.

Why not a beach and a park? Why don't we rival Carmel for 'most pet-friendly town?'

### **Why Doesn't Santa Cruz Rival Carmel for 'Most Pet-Friendly City'?**

#### **Is there Money In Pet Tourism?**

For 2011, it estimated that \$50.84 billion will be spent on our pets in the U.S. There are approximately 78.2 million pet dogs in the U.S.

[http://www.americanpetproducts.org/press\\_industrytrends.asp](http://www.americanpetproducts.org/press_industrytrends.asp)

### **Huntington Beach**

Welcome to Huntington Dog Beach Surf City, California

*Following these rules while visiting Huntington Dog Beach will help to ensure that your day is happy and enjoyable for both you and your dog:*

- Maintain control of your dog at all times.

- Please pick up after your dog and dispose of waste in the trash cans.
- Under the existing city ordinance, 13.08.070, dogs must remain leashed. For the past several years; however, only unleashed, potentially dangerous dogs have been cited or removed.
- If your dog is new to Dog Beach, take it slow. Keep them on their leash until you can be sure of how they will react to the sand, sea, and especially other dogs and people.
- If your dog has a history of being aggressive toward other dogs or people, Dog Beach may not be the best place for him/her.
- Most important rule of all - HAVE FUN!

### **Moonstone Beach Humboldt County Ca**

Owning a dog brings a great deal of enjoyment but also carries with it a series of responsibilities. If owners are not aware of these responsibilities then communities can grow to dislike the dogs in their areas and anti-dog attitudes can develop.

The following is what we are requesting of dogs owners when they use Moonstone Beach:

- Control your dog - If you don't have good voice control over your dog, keep it on a leash.
- Keep your dog with you - Always know where your dog is and what it is doing. Please don't leave your dog unattended at the beach. If you are out surfing and you left your dog on the beach, obviously your dog is not with you and you cannot control it while you are catching waves.
- Be courteous to other beach users - Not everyone likes dogs and many people do not appreciate other people's dogs approaching them. Please be sensitive and keep your dog away from people who obviously are not interested in your dog.
- Pick up after your dog - Dog poop on the beach is a health hazard and gross. Bring a plastic bag with you every time you go out with your dog and make sure you keep an eye on it so you know when it is defecating so you can pick up after it.
- If you own an aggressive dog, keep it on a leash and away from other dogs and people.
- Think twice about bringing your dog to the beach if you won't or can't be responsible for it while it you are using the beach. The other beach goers will really appreciate dog owners cooperation with the requests above. Please take ownership of this beach; it belongs to all of us. If we can just remind each other to do the right thing, everyone can enjoy the beach together and eliminate bad experiences due to irresponsible dog owners.

### ***What area is LOOLA requesting for this off-leash initiative?***

LOOLA is requesting the below area to become a new off-leash dog area from sunrise to 10am and after 4pm to sunset 7 days a week.

LOOLA is ready to work with Santa Cruz County to recommend a set of off-leash rules and sponsor stewardship for this Live Oak beach resource for sustainability.

LOOLA wants this program to work and does understand that change will take time in regards to communicating to visiting or local dog owners that bad behaving dogs will not be tolerated.



**Why is this important to the community?**

LOOLA selected exemplar comments from the petition to let the community speak for itself.

14:10, Apr 02, Name not displayed, CA

We need to be able to compromise on this issue. Residents with and without dogs need to be able to enjoy this stretch of beach. There are many, many, many places to go without a dog. There are very few (and shrinking) places you can go with a dog off-leash. I am a PROPERTY TAX PAYER / homeowner in Live Oak. Santa Cruz, CA

19:13, Mar 26, Janet Hope, CA

Because my health and my dogs health are so important to me. Dogs need to be able to run loose and play, interact with other dogs. It is equally important socially for dogs and their owners! It is community!

13:47, Mar 26, lucinda swan, CA

My family and I live in Santa Cruz. Taking our dogs to the beach is a healthy fun activity for the whole family. Our dogs are an important part of our family. Lucinda Swan

19:06, Mar 20, Ms. Wendy Smith, CA

Why is it important? Because seeing dogs running free on the beach makes me smile big.

21:45, Mar 19, Ms. Madison McDowell, CA

i live in santa cruz on the boarder of live oak and i think it is important that our dogs get to run free for

some period of time without leashes. designated hours would be a great idea. thank you.

11:46, Mar 17, Ms. Carole Lindne, CA

Because it brings my dog so much joy to run & play with other dogs. He's 12 years old & we want him to remain healthy and keep his puppy spirit alive. We pick up a minimum of 2 bags of trash every time we go to the beach; in addition to, of course, being responsible about his waste. We CAN share the beach!!

20:50, Mar 10, Ms. deb wine, CA

I recognize the needs of others who would prefer to use the beach without dog interaction and feel that these off-leash hours would be a fair compromise. I would ask that you recognize responsible dog owners needs/desire to use the beach for recreation and enjoyment of its beauty with our dogs. Thank you for considering the needs of all County residents.

19:28, Mar 10, Sita Packer, CA

I have been taking dogs to the beach at 21st Ave. for 17 years. I think it is heartbreaking that the leash law is now being enforced. Both Monterey and Carmel have dogs of leash beaches and they do just fine.

### **Closing**

By practicing and encouraging other community dog owners to follow the principles of good dog ownership and working with the County on various beach projects LOOLA is committed to promoting a cleaner beach experience for all to enjoy. Thank you

Leash Law Advocates of Santa Cruz County  
LLASCC (pronounced Lassie)  
<http://llascc.weebly.com/>

Statement Concerning Proposals for Off-Leash Areas  
15 January 2013

Who We Are

LLASCC represents a diversity of residents from throughout Santa Cruz County. We are dog owners, foster dog owners, former dog owners, and those with no dogs. We support animal welfare, including domestic and wild animals and we support any regulations that foster such welfare. We consider the current county leash law to be the best means to insure the welfare of dogs, public safety and protection of the environment.

We support County Animal Services in the myriad ways they work tirelessly to manage an almost out of control proliferation of domestic animals in the County, especially dogs and cats, whose numbers increase daily. We support their continued enforcement of the County leash ordinance, to provide for public safety and the welfare of all dogs, in all public places (streets, parks, the beach). We support adequate funding so they may do their jobs. To this end, we support increased focus on getting dogs licensed, since less than 15% of dogs in the county are licensed, leaving most pet owners as part of the problem and not contributing to a solution.

We oppose the establishment of off-leash hours at County beaches and support, instead, additional fenced dog off-leash play areas, where appropriate.

The Animal Services Authority Board Recommendation

LLASCC wholeheartedly supports the ASA recommendation for off-leash dog play areas, passed unanimously by its Board of Directors on 13 August 2012, after two separate public hearings and four hours of testimony. The ASA Board realized that it is not in the business of land use planning and was therefore not equipped to consider a proposal for off-leash hours at local beaches. In its recommendation, sent to the Chair of the County Board of Supervisors on 15 October 2012, the ASA Board wisely reiterated exactly the purpose of the Animal Shelter's mission; that is "to provide animal rescue, regulation and humane care that protect the health, public safety and welfare of people and animals in Santa Cruz County."

Since the ASA Board is a Joint Powers Authority and serves the County of Santa Cruz, City of Santa Cruz, City of Scotts Valley, and the City of Watsonville, with representatives from each of the participating jurisdictions, their unanimous vote is particularly meaningful.

Specifically, the ASA Board vote was on the following motion that (emphasis added):

- reaffirms our continued **commitment to current leash laws** as stated in the County's code;
- supports the designation and maintenance of off-leash areas **where they are enclosed or otherwise fenced or confined to effectively ensure public safety as well as address land use requirements and environmental safeguards;**



- makes it clear that ASA has no jurisdiction regarding the designation of these off-leash areas and that we take no position on designating specific off-leash areas within their jurisdictions but that we request that at an appropriate time, that the jurisdictions consider the possibility of examining enclosed or otherwise fenced or confined off-leash areas in the future **which recognize public safety, environmental well being and the well being of the animals.**

#### Opposition to Off-Leash Hours at County Beaches

An organized group of dog owners is lobbying Santa Cruz County government to allow dogs to run off-leash on County beaches. In response to renewed enforcement of long-standing County dog leash laws, some dog owners are demanding special consideration and exception from leash laws to allow them to let their dogs run loose on County beaches.

Leash laws for dogs in Santa Cruz County are specified in Title Six, Sections 6.04 to 6.24 in Santa Cruz County Code.

#### **Title 6. Animals. Sections 6.04 to 6.24.090**

##### **6.12.020 Leash required for dogs off premises.**

It is unlawful for the owner of any dog, whether licensed or unlicensed, to permit or allow such dog to be away from the premises of its owner at any time if not under actual physical restraint or control, such as a leash, tether, or in the grasp of a person. (Ord. 4490 § 4, 1998; Ord. 3728 § 20, 1986; prior code § 8.05.401; Ord. 1371, 10/29/68; Ord. 1447, 7/25/72; Ord. 2170, 8/19/75)

##### **6.12.080 Animal defecation prohibited where.**

It is unlawful for the owner of any animal to allow or permit such animal to defecate on any public property or improved private property, other than that of the owner. It is the responsibility of the animal's owner to properly dispose of any solid waste resulting from an act in violation of this section. (Ord. 4490 § 5, 1998; prior code § 8.05.420; Ord. 2170, 8/19/75)

County Code is very specific in not allowing dogs off-leash anywhere in the County, at any time. In order to allow off-leash dogs on County beaches, the County would have to amend Section 6.12 to provide for specific exceptions. Such an amendment would provide argument for weakening County Code to allow off-leash dogs to run throughout the County at any time. Such an exception would become a precedent that could be used to further weaken the leash law.

Furthermore, Santa Cruz County beaches are part of the **Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary**, and, as such, are under the jurisdiction of state and federal laws with regard to threatened and endangered species and wildlife harassment in United States Marine Sanctuaries.

#### **United States Code of Federal Regulations, Title 15, Part 922**

##### **Section 922.132 Prohibited or otherwise regulated activities.**

Except as specified in paragraphs (b) through (e) of this section, the following activities are prohibited and thus are unlawful for any person to conduct or to cause to be conducted:

5. Taking any marine mammal, sea turtle, or bird within or above the Sanctuary, except as authorized by the Marine Mammal Protection Act, as amended, (MMPA), 16 U.S.C. 1361 et seq., Endangered Species Act, as amended, (ESA), 16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq., Migratory Bird

Treaty Act, as amended, (MBTA), 16 U.S.C. 703 et seq., or any regulation, as amended, promulgated under the MMPA, ESA, or MBTA.

**Take or taking means:**

(1) For any marine mammal, sea turtle, or seabird listed as either endangered or threatened pursuant to the Endangered Species Act, to harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, would, kill, trap, capture, collect or injure, or to attempt to engage in any such conduct;

(2) For any other marine mammal, sea turtle, or seabird, to harass, hunt, capture, kill, collect or injure, or to attempt to engage in any such conduct.

Allowing dogs to run loose on County beaches enables harassment of wildlife, which is specifically forbidden by federal law. National Marine Sanctuary guides for public use of beaches within National Marine Sanctuaries specifically address problems caused by allowing dogs to run free within the Sanctuaries.

From the **National Marine Sanctuaries** web page:

<http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/protect/oceanetiquette.html>

**Wildlife and pets don't mix**

"Wild animals can injure and spread diseases to pets, and in turn, pets can harm and disturb wildlife. For example, wild animals recognize dogs as predators and quickly flee when they see or smell dogs. If you are traveling with a pet, always keep them on a leash and away from areas frequented by marine wildlife.

"The Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary is home to endangered and threatened species under the federal Endangered Species Act and the California Endangered Species Act. Enforcement of both federal and state Endangered Species laws in the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary is conducted by the California Department of Fish and Game."

County General Plan/Local Coastal Program

The following sections of the County's Local Coastal Program (LCP) of its General Plan clearly demonstrate that dogs on County beaches, especially within the boundary of the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary (MBNMS), must be on-leash at all times. In some cases, dogs may be prohibited from beach areas (environmentally sensitive habitat areas) where the endangered Snowy Plover nests, leashed or not (5.3.2).

*Without an amendment of its LCP*, the Board of Supervisors may not legally change its current on-leash ordinance with regard to County beaches. Since all bird life of the MBNMS is not static, the entirety of the Sanctuary water/land interface is wildlife habitat that requires protection (Objective 5.1).

We direct your attention to the pertinent sections of the County's LCP.

**GENERAL PLAN AND LOCAL COASTAL PROGRAM  
for the COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ, CALIFORNIA**

12/19/94

## BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

### Objective 5.1 Biological Diversity

(LCP) To maintain the biological diversity of the County through an integrated program of open space acquisition and protection, identification and **protection of plant habitat and wildlife corridors and habitats, low-intensity and resource compatible land uses in sensitive habitats** and mitigations on projects and resource extraction to reduce impacts on plant and animal life.

#### Policies

##### 5.1.1 Sensitive Habitat Designation

(LCP) Designate the following areas as sensitive habitats: (a) areas shown on the County General Plan and LCP Resources and Constraints Maps; (b) any undesignated areas which meet the criteria (policy 5.1.2) and which are identified through the biotic review process or other means; and (c) areas of biotic concern as shown on the Resources and Constraints Maps which contain concentrations of rare, endangered, threatened or unique species.

##### 5.1.2 Definition of Sensitive Habitat

(LCP) An area is defined as a sensitive habitat if it meets one or more of the following criteria:

(e) **Areas which provide habitat for rare or endangered species which meet the definition of Section 15380 of the California Environmental Quality Act guidelines.**

(f) **Areas which provide habitat for rare, endangered or threatened species as designated by the State Fish and Game Commission, United States Fish and Wildlife Service or California Native Plant Society.**

(See Appendix B for a list of specific habitats and/or species.)

##### 5.1.6 Development Within Sensitive Habitats

(LCP) **Sensitive habitats shall be protected against any significant disruption of habitat values;** and any proposed development within or adjacent to these areas must maintain or enhance the functional capacity of the habitat. Reduce in scale, redesign, or, if no other alternative exists, deny any project which cannot sufficiently mitigate significant adverse impacts on sensitive habitats unless approval of a project is legally necessary to allow a reasonable use of the land.

##### 5.1.7 Site Design and Use Regulations

(LCP) **Protect sensitive habitats against any significant disruption or degradation of habitat values in accordance with the Sensitive Habitat Protection ordinance.** Utilize the following site design and use regulations on parcels containing these resources, excluding existing agricultural operations:

(d) **Prohibit domestic animals where they threaten sensitive habitats.**

##### 5.1.10 Species Protection

(LCP) **Recognize that habitat protection is only one aspect of maintaining**

**biodiversity and that certain wildlife species, such as migratory birds, may not utilize specific habitats.** Require protection of these individual rare, endangered and threatened species and continue to update policies as new information becomes available.

### **Objective 5.3 Aquatic and Marine Habitats**

(LCP) To identify, preserve and restore aquatic and **marine habitats**; to maximize scientific research and education which emphasizes comprehensive and coordinated management consistent with the mission of the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary; and to facilitate multiple use and recreation opportunities compatible with resource protection.

#### **Policies**

##### **5.3.1 Support the Monterey Bay Sanctuary**

(LCP) Support the mission of the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary to facilitate long-term management, protection, understanding and awareness of its resources and qualities.

##### **5.3.2 Protecting Shorebird Nesting Sites**

(LCP) **Discourage all activities within 100 feet of shorebird nesting sites during nesting season (March-July). Prohibit dogs from beaches having nesting sites.**

#### **Programs**

(LCP) **f. Enforce leash laws to the fullest extent possible.** (Responsibility: Board of Supervisors, law enforcement agencies.)

#### **Challenges to Allowing Off-leash Hours on County Beaches**

There exists a body of law that must be obeyed in order for any proposed amendments to the current County dog leash ordinance to move forward. The pertinent laws consist, at a minimum, of:

1. The National Marine Sanctuary Act (enforced by NOAA and the CA Dept. of Fish & Game.)
2. The Federal Endangered Species Act (enforced by the US Fish & Wildlife Service)
3. The CA Endangered Species Act (enforced by the CA Dept. of Fish & Game)
4. The California Coastal Act
5. The Local Coastal Program (LCP) of the County's General Plan, (overseen by the CA Coastal Commission)
6. Current County Code: Title 6.12.020 and 6.12.080 (enforced by the County)

This is not a simple issue; it is complex and it will take a lot of time and money from an already stretched County budget in order to create legally sanctioned off-leash use of the beaches of the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary. Keep in mind that the Sanctuary includes the shoreline (its boundary defined in the Act that created it). Additionally, the CA

Department of Fish & Game monitors up to another 1,000' inland of that boundary.

*To change the current ordinance and therefore the LCP component of the County's General Plan would require, at a minimum, the following:*

1. An initial environmental impact assessment (EA) of the proposed leash law amendment that must be rigorous, not perfunctory. Such an EA would no doubt lead to a full Environmental Impact Report (EIR) under CEQA because of the endangered species habitat at the beach and also because of the *cumulative impact* of creating precedent setting use that may well spread up and down the coast of the Monterey Bay Sanctuary.

2. An application for amending the LCP, from the CA Coastal Commission, which may initiate a requirement for a development permit because of an increase in the "intensity of use."

3. An Incidental Take Permit application to either the CA DF&G and/or the USFWS.

Keep in mind that the following subjects are **not relevant** in either an EA or an EIR and will not be included in either:

How much we love our dogs.

How much dogs need exercise.

How much dog owners will benefit mentality, emotionally, or physically.

Whether or not dog owners are a "special interest group."

However, the following **would be required** in either an EA and/or an EIR:

1. Alternative analysis of off-leash play areas at County inland parks that can meet the objectives of the proposed project.

2. Mitigation of continued harm to Snowy Plover habitat.

3. An assessment of the cumulative impact of creating off-leash dog parks at beaches of the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary other than those currently proposed

4. Description of endangered species and their habitats including the impacts of current off-leash dog use (more than just the Snowy Plover)

5. Description of anticipated further habitat degradation due to the proposed LCP amendment.

To substantiate the requirement for a CEQA document for any proposal to allow off-leash dog hours on County beaches, review the following court decision\*\* from 2005, regarding deficiencies of another environmental document that dealt with off-leash dog hours at Lighthouse Field State Beach (emphasis added):

CERTIFIED FOR PUBLICATION  
IN THE COURT OF APPEAL OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
SIXTH APPELLATE DISTRICT H027491  
8/10/05

On appeal from the denial of the writ petition, appellant Beach Rescue argues that (1) the initial study is inadequate because it failed to adequately describe the environmental

setting and evaluate the environmental impacts of unleashed dogs at Lighthouse Field State Beach, (2) the City's approval of the amended plan and adoption of a negative declaration was improper because it could be fairly argued, based on substantial evidence, that "the project may have a significant effect on the environment," and (3) the City's deferral of unleashed dog issues to future environmental review resulted in prohibited "piecemeal" environmental review.

We reverse.

### CEQA

"CEQA embodies our state's policy that 'the long-term protection of the environment . . . shall be the guiding criterion in public decisions.'

Under CEQA, a "project" includes "an activity which may cause either a direct physical change in the environment, or a reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment...

"An activity directly undertaken by any public agency," such as "the adoption and amendment of local General Plans or elements thereof," may be a "project."

**It is undisputed that the adoption of the revised general plan for LF State Beach is a "project" within the meaning of CEQA.**

Section 21060.5 defines "environment" as "the physical conditions which exist within the area which will be affected by a proposed project, including land, air, water, minerals, flora, fauna, noise, objects of historic or aesthetic significance."

Negative Declaration must be based on an analysis that uses CEQA guidelines.

Cumulative Impact: "When assessing whether a cumulative effect requires an EIR, the lead agency shall consider whether the cumulative impact is significant and whether the effects of the project are cumulatively considerable. An EIR must be prepared if the cumulative impact may be significant and the project's incremental effect, though individually limited, is cumulatively considerable. **'Cumulatively considerable' means that the incremental effects of an individual project are significant when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects.**"

The lead agency must prepare an EIR if it "is presented with a fair argument that a project may have a significant effect on the environment," even where it is also "presented with other substantial evidence that the project will not have a significant effect."

\*\*These comments are lifted from the first 9 pages of the 44 page Appeals Court decision for reversal of the Superior Court's finding for the City of Santa Cruz.

### LLASCC Summary/Recommendations

Since dogs running off-leash pose a threat of harassment to marine wildlife, including state and federally listed endangered and threatened species, on beaches within the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary, we recommend that the County not allow any dog off-leash hours on County beaches. Such a sanctioned activity contradicts state and federal laws and long established Santa Cruz County Code. Granting exception for off-leash dogs on County

beaches would place the County in opposition to state and federal regulatory agencies.

We do support the establishment of off-leash dog areas in existing inland parks, such as the Chanticleer Avenue and Jose Avenue parks. These areas would be fenced, with an entrance gate, thus assuring safety for both dogs and their owners as well as other park users.

Dog owners can already use the beaches 365 days a year, at all hours of the day, if their dogs are leashed. We think that time and funds would be better spent on enhancing single-use dog play areas in existing inland County parks, scattered throughout neighborhoods where people and dogs live.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Lewis  
Jean Brocklebank  
Leash Law Advocates of Santa Cruz County

**SANTA CRUZ COUNTY ANIMAL SHELTER  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**  
Minutes of Monday, August 13, 2012, 3:00 PM  
Board of Supervisors Chambers, Fifth Floor  
701 Ocean Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95060

VOTING KEY: M = Mauriello, P=Phares, Md = Maldonado, Sh= Shull, Ma = Martinez, We = Weiss, Br= Bradley; R=Ridgway  
First initial indicates maker of motion, second initial indicates the "second"; upper case letter = "yes" vote; lower case letter = "no" vote; () = abstain; // = absent

Call to Order and Roll Call: Chairperson Shull called meeting to order at 3:04pm,

Introductions: none

Late Addition or changes to agenda: none

ORAL COMMUNICATION – six people spoke regarding items not on the regular Agenda.

**5.0 CONSENT AGENDA**

Approved minutes of the June 11, 2012 Board meeting

Accepted reports of GM and Management Team for June 2012 and July 2012

Accepted stats for June 2012 and July 2012

Approved new veterinarian position

Approved 2012 Conflict of Interest Code biennial notice.

Accepted and approved quarterly reports for all claims under \$10,000

Approved gross pay adjustment for Animal Health Technician

Board Action on Consent Agenda – WeMaBrPMRMdSh

**6.0 REGULAR AGENDA**

6.1 Approved financial reports for the months of June 2012 and July 2012

Board Action on Regular Agenda – MWeBrMaPRMdSh

- 6.2 Dogs off Leash Areas: Motion by Martinez second by Weiss to accept the staff recommendation, Mauriello requested to modify the motion which was accepted by the first and the second as follows, Motion to review of our current policies regarding leash law requirements and request that the Chair of the ASA Board send a carefully worded letter to the Mayors and the Board Chair which: reaffirms our continued commitment to current leash laws as stated in the County's code;
- that we support the designation and maintenance of off-leash areas where they are enclosed or otherwise fenced or confined to effectively ensure public safety as well as address land use requirements and environmental safeguards; and that it makes it clear that ASA has no jurisdiction regarding the designation of these off-leash areas and that we take no position on designating specific off-leash



areas within their jurisdictions but that we request that at an appropriate time, that the jurisdictions consider the possibility of examining enclosed or otherwise fenced or confined off-leash areas in the future which recognize public safety, environmental well being and the well being of the animals.

Board Action on Regular Agenda – MWeBrMaPRMdSh

Meeting adjourned at 4:40 pm. Next regular meeting is scheduled for 10/15/2012 at 3pm.

Executive Session – ASA Board closed session for personnel evaluation – Melanie Sobel, General Manager



## Santa Cruz County Animal Shelter

2200 7<sup>th</sup> Ave., Santa Cruz, CA 95062  
580 Airport Boulevard, Watsonville, CA 95076  
Phone: (831) 454-7200 Fax: (831) 454-7210

Melanie Sobel  
General Manager

October 15, 2012

The Honorable Supervisor John Leopold  
County of Santa Cruz  
701 Ocean Street, Room 500  
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

**RE: *Designation and Maintenance of Off-Leash Dog Areas***

Dear Supervisor Leopold:

This past spring and summer, the Santa Cruz County Animal Services Authority Board (ASA Board) heard from dozens of residents about the availability of off-leash dog areas in the county. Over two meetings and nearly four hours of public testimony, the ASA Board heard arguments about the positive and negative impacts of off-leash dog areas on animal behavior and health, the environment and wildlife, and the lifestyles of families. It is clear that this is a complicated community issue with considerable passion on both sides.

Ultimately, although urged to make recommendations on the designation of off-leash dog areas in the county, the ASA Board decided to take no action.

The ASA Board is firmly committed to upholding local leash laws yet we also recognize the positive social value of off-leash areas to dogs and their families, if there are proper controls on these areas, including fencing and enclosures, to ensure public safety and provide adequate environmental safeguards. Further, the ASA Board recognizes the complexity of local land use decisions and takes no position on designating specific areas within any jurisdiction. We believe that at a time you determine is appropriate you may wish to consider expanding opportunities for fenced off leash areas that address your community's needs and which recognize public safety, environmental safeguards and the well-being of the animals.

Thank you for your consideration. If our Board may assist you in this endeavor, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

Tina Shull  
ASA Board Chair and  
Assistant City Manager, City of Santa Cruz

Cc: Susan Mauriello, County Administrative Officer

City of Santa Cruz • County of Santa Cruz • City of Scotts Valley • City of Watsonville

Attachment 4

Written correspondence

Attachment 5

## Melissa Henderson

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**From:** Georgina Monahan <Geojoymon@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 06, 2013 12:15 PM  
**To:** PRCWeb  
**Subject:** June 10,2013 meeting/off-leash dog proposals

Please distribute to each County Parks Advisory Commission member. Thank you.

County Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission  
979 17th Ave.,Santa Cruz, CA 95062  
June 2, 2013

Re: June 10, 2013 Meeting- Off-leash Dog Proposals

Dear Commission Members,

I am writing to ask you to continue to support the leash law on our Live Oak beaches.

Due to the refusal of dog owners to responsibly obey the existing leash law, our Live Oak beaches are dominated by off-leash dogs.

Contrary to claims of dog owners, there are frequent negative impacts from off-leash dogs. I live across the street from the beach at 20th-23rd Ave. From my window, I can see dogs (at times 15 or more) of all sizes and breeds racing along the beach, singly or in groups, chasing shorebirds, leaping, barking, defecating, urinating, and sometime fighting. However well behaved a dog may be at home, groups of dogs assume a pack mentality and are out of control. Dogs are unpredictable and owners cannot know how their dogs will behave when released on the beach. The attack on the little boy at Rio Del Mar beach on May 21, 2013 by an off-leash dog fostered by County Animal Services is proof of that!

Here are just some of my experiences with off-leash dogs on the beach from 20th Ave. - 23rd Ave. (Corcoran Lagoon Beach):

My grandchildren (ages 3 and 11) and I were sitting on the sand. A dog surprised us from behind, jumping into our midst. As we struggled to pick up the 3 year old and stand up, the dog continued to jump at us. Another dog, attracted to the commotion, circled around us. The children were frightened and began to scream. We called to the owner to leash her dog. The owner said, "It's just a puppy." And then she yelled, "You have evil in your heart!" We left the beach traumatized.

My granddaughter and I were wading ankle deep in the surf line when suddenly surprised by a strong wave. When we tried to dash up to dry sand a dog stood in our path, barking and growling at us, making it difficult to escape the water. When we did get out, my granddaughter was wet to her thighs and crying. The owner, who was sitting at the shoreline and watching, said nothing to his dog. To my complaint he said, "God bless you."

My sister-in-law was surrounded by a group of dogs which were sniffing and circling each other. The owners were strolling in a group behind their dogs and walked past as the dogs bristled, saying nothing to diffuse the situation. My sister-in-law was afraid to move. One dog was so close that it stepped on her barefoot and cut her toe with its toenail. When we complained to the owners, one shouted, "Get a life!"

While I was sitting on the beach, a dog took a dislike to my hat. It crouched and began to creep toward me in a menacing way. The dog owner who was walking on past finally stopped and watched. When I asked her to call off her dog she had to lift it away from me as it did not respond to command.

While I was standing waist deep in water, a dog came dashing in and came up behind me, its paddling feet close to my back. I was not even safe from off-leash dogs in the water.

Numerous times I have observed dogs defecating in the surf line. Owners cannot pick up the feces and it washes out to where people are swimming and ultimately to where marine animals are swimming.

I have observed dogs with diarrhea whose owners, unable to pick up the mess, simply kick sand over it.

Off-leash dogs regularly urinate and defecate on the beach. Beware of the area around piles of kelp and driftwood. Children's sand castles are prime targets. I saw several dogs, one after another, urinate on a child's sand castle, while the child and his parents were present. Not one of the dog owners said anything to his dog, nor did they look abashed or apologize to the child and his family. This is a very frequent occurrence.

In these unpleasant and potentially dangerous situations, the ineffectiveness of "voice control", when exercised at all, was illustrated as the dog owners, after fruitlessly calling out, had to approach and physically remove their dogs. Voice control is always after the fact - the off-leash dog has already done or is in the process of doing the damage.

I no longer take my grandchildren to the beach at 20th-23rd even though it is 25 feet away from my house. I will not risk their safety. I have several neighbors who no longer walk or jog on the beach at Corcoran Lagoon because of the dogs. They walk on the road and have reluctantly given up their beach time.

A group of dog owners is pressuring the County for off-leash hours. If off-leash hours are permitted, our Live Oak beach will become a dog park during those hours. Dogs will have exclusive use of this public resource for 6 to 8 hours a day, depending on the season. Members of the general public will be denied access to the beach during those hours--unless they want to risk their safety and the safety of their children. Shorebirds will be unable to feed with off-leash dogs present.

The beach is not the place for a dog park. Off-leash dogs and birds and people, especially children, do not mix. For example, the dog beach in Long Beach called Rosie's Dog Beach has had to be very specific in terms of rules for people because of the dangers of so many off-leash dogs. The rules include the caution that children should be accompanied by an adult and should not run, shout, scream, wave their arms or otherwise excite or antagonize dogs; that food is not permitted; and that no one shall play a team sport like volleyball or football on the dog beach. Clearly a dog beach is suitable only for dogs.

Your own brochure for Santa Cruz County Dog Parks states:

" Exercise caution when bringing small children inside a dog park."

And, under the "Why Bother To Leash Your Dog" section it states:

" If fighting with other dogs, a loose dog can be difficult to restrain.

Leashing ones dog protects the environment from dogs harassing, killing or maiming wildlife.

Dog waste is not allowed in playground areas or athletic fields to prevent children from coming into contact with feces or urine.

Dog waste may have parasites that can spread disease to other dogs and to people."

Why are the above restrictions being considered as allowable behaviors on the beach?

After discussion of this off-leash issue, the Animal Services Board has already voted in favor of fenced off-leash inland exercise areas for dogs, making the beach not an option.

We already share the beach with dogs- -provided they are on leash. That is enough.

Sincerely,

Georgina J. Monahan

2324 Melanie Place

Santa Cruz, CA 95062

Geojoymon@aol.com

**Melissa Henderson**

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**From:** Nancy Cox <nancycox@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 06, 2013 10:56 AM  
**To:** PRCWeb  
**Subject:** santa cruz county parks dept

Regarding Dog leash laws at 20th-26th Avenues

To Whom It May Concern:

I am a longtime resident of 26th Avenue. I am greatly concerned to hear about the possibility of dogs being off leashes at any time of day here. I have a little nephew under the age of five who regularly accompanies myself his great grandmother, and other members of our family to this beach. I also have friends with small children who come to play here. We have had multiple run-ins with off-leash dogs who have **run straight for them, jumping up on them**. Dogs also **RUN** in **packs** on the beach and are constantly **charging** walkers and people sitting.

I have been coming to 26th Avenue since I was three years old. It has never been like this before. **These leash laws should not be revoked but STRICTLY ENFORCED** as a **safety measure** for children, adults and the elderly.

I am horrified at the recent preventable attack at the Aptos beach. This could happen any day on our beach just footsteps from our homes and will happen if an effort isn't made to stop careless selfish behavior of dog owners. I am a responsible dog lover. I hope others will follow me in our efforts.

Sincerely, Nancy Cox

**Melissa Henderson**

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**From:** robert giles <outwild@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 06, 2013 8:48 AM  
**To:** PRCWeb  
**Subject:** RE: off leash dogs June 10 th.Proposal

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From: [outwild@hotmail.com](mailto:outwild@hotmail.com)  
To: [prcweb@co.santacruz.us](mailto:prcweb@co.santacruz.us)  
Subject: off leash dogs June 10 th.Proposal  
Date: Thu, 6 Jun 2013 08:44:34 -0700

Hi Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission ,I am writing you to let you know that I do not approve of dogs being off-leash at our public beaches. A majority of the dogs are undisciplined and not being monitored by their owners (therefor not being picked up after they use the beach as a bathroom). I also am concerned that a ban at 20 th. avenue beaches will then burden our beaches at 38 th. avenue with off-leash activity (as is now a problem). Thank you ,Robert Giles 500 38th, ave.Santa Cruz.Please give this to each member of your commission



**Melissa Henderson**

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**From:** Dwight Smith [mailto:smoodman@cruzio.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 06, 2013 8:32 AM  
**To:** PRCWeb  
**Subject:** Dogs on the Beach

Please keep dogs on leashes when they're on our beaches.

There is a reason for leash laws: One thoughtless owner with one untrained animal can create a tragedy for others.

Dwight Smith  
2605 Warwick Lane  
Santa Cruz, CA 95065

## Melissa Henderson

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**From:** Grant Weseman <grantweseman@sbuglobal.net>  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 06, 2013 2:58 AM  
**To:** PRCWeb  
**Subject:** Off-leash dog proposal  
**Attachments:** parks and rec letter 6-6-13.pdf

Please distribute this letter to the Parks and Rec commissioners.

Thank you,

Grant Weseman

June 6, 2013

Santa Cruz County  
Parks and Rec Advisory Comm.

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing you today to ask that you carefully consider the concept of off-leash dogs on the beaches at 26<sup>th</sup> Ave. to Sunny Cove. I want to stress that the concept of off-leash dog beaches has been nurtured over the last twenty years or so in an atmosphere best described as misguided. The basic premise all along has been that unleashed dogs running freely on the beach is compatible with other, traditional beach users. I have been going to and enjoying the beautiful beaches in Santa Cruz county since 1965 and it wasn't until the 1990's, with the increasing presence of unleashed dogs, that I realized what a problem they were. Since the 90's with the steady growth of off leash dogs on the beach the problems for the traditional beach-goers have increased such that they are literally being forced off the beaches.

Watching the growth of off-leash dog activity on our beaches over the years it has become apparent to me that this activity is incompatible with traditional beach recreation activities such as family outings with children and food, sun-bathing, walking, running, children playing, building sand castles, quiet contemplation of Nature's bounty, bird-watching, surfing, swimming and general relaxation. The traditional hazards to humans recreating at the beach such as getting sunburned, caught in a rip-tide and drowning, stepping on hot coals under the sand from improperly extinguished beach fires, being knocked-down by the shorebreak, etc., have now been multiplied by the presence of dogs off leash. Dog bites, of which there are some 4.7 million each year (so not an uncommon occurrence) are now a chief concern. The recent incident at Rio del Mar beach where a 5 year old boy was viciously attacked by an off leash dog, receiving severe injuries, is only the most recent and outrageous example of this hazard to traditional beach-goers. The list of dog offenses at the beach is long and the fact that they occur while their "responsible owners" are supervising them begs the question...Where is the control? Constant barking; knocking people down while chasing balls, birds, sticks; stealing food; harassing people while they sit or lie on the beach; engaging in fights with other dogs; chewing on boogie boards; pissing on people, backpacks, sandcastles, towels; crapping everywhere (urine and feces whether it gets picked up or not, and much of it doesn't get picked up, the urine never gets picked up, all contain pathogens that are hazardous to human health); running through and around human groups on the sand; the list goes on and on.

Contrary to the glowing stories of owner responsibility and concern, the reality is that, in general, the off leash dog owners are one of the most inept, untrained, under-qualified special interest groups I've ever seen. Compounding the lack of knowledge of dog-handling skills is the almost pathological tendency to NOT SEE the depredations that their pets commit. If it weren't for the fact that many of the breeds of dog found on the beach are physically and mentally capable of causing severe injuries, even death, to humans, maybe this wouldn't be such an issue. But, the fact is that, like guns, which range from airsoft pistols to AK-47's and worse, it is the physical capability of certain breeds combined with innate genetically-modified behaviors that determines whether a victim will be bothered or hospitalized. No public recreation professional would countenance allowing people (children, teen-agers, the elderly) to carry loaded automatic weapons onto the beach and brandish them in front of others. When it comes to dogs, however, with the capability to maim, disfigure, break bones, rip flesh and kill people (Pitbulls; German Shepards; Rottweilers; Presa Canarios; Huskies; etc.) all of a sudden common sense goes out the window. I have personally found myself in the situation of being circled by pitbulls on the beach, teen-age handlers nowhere in sight (not that they'd be capable of handling them anyway if they decided to go on attack) with nothing to defend myself except a pair of swim fins. The absurdity of such a situation is astounding.

I am asking you to recognize that like off road vehicles, off leash dogs need to be segregated from the general population into fenced, inland dog parks, as has been recommended by the Santa Cruz County Animal Services Board. There was a time when motorcycles and dune buggies could roam our beaches freely. Those days are long gone now. The solution was to establish OHV parks, supported by special taxes (think Hollister Hills in our area) where riders can ride to their hearts content and not threaten the safety of others or damage the shoreline habitat. Strict enforcement made this possible and could do the same for off leash advocates.

The shoreline habitat, including lagoons and wetlands, is totally unsuited to off leash activities. Dogs are predators. Unleashed dogs run counter to every habitat preservation principle that this community holds dear. Anti-harassment provisions of the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary for birds and marine mammals are routinely trampled by the hordes of off leash dogs running unchecked on our coastline.

Setting aside certain beaches for off leash hours as a means to control this activity is a very misguided notion. The reality is that as the word gets out through the internet, etc., the increase in numbers of participants will overwhelm our already short-handed enforcement resources. Taking into account the fact that our off leash dog community has worked in concert to defy the rules that we currently have in place, leashing up when the ranger is spotted and using any beach that pleases them for their activities, it would make more sense to abandon the on-leash rule in the county and simply ban all dogs from the beaches, on leash or off. This would go a long way towards easing the job of the rangers and animal services employees by allowing them to simply write citations for being on the beach with a dog instead of having to catch the miscreant with his leash off.

Even if dog owners could be induced to obey the on-leash rules, that still leaves us with the urine and feces problem since many do not pick-up. While our stores are now following the guidelines for reducing the presence of single-use plastic bags, the current situation still has us giving away plastic bags AT THE BEACH. Many of these bags never make it off the beach. Dog owners who can't be bothered to dispose of the feces-filled bags frequently just leave them on the beach for others to deal with. Or they just end up in the habitat.

Signage, informing dog owners of the on leash only rules are now being removed or defaced as fast as they go up. Does this sound like the work of a responsible community of dog handlers? Please respect your mission of providing for the recreation needs of the law-abiding community. Re-direct the off leash dog community to inland, fenced off leash dog parks where they can safely exercise and socialize their pets without threatening the safety and well-being of the majority of beach-loving citizens of this state and nation, as well as those who travel here from afar to enjoy the splendor of our precious, unique coastline.

Thank you for your efforts, Grant Weseman, Santa Cruz, 1<sup>st</sup> District

**Melissa Henderson**

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**From:** William De Broekert <gerlinde99@sbcglobal.net>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 05, 2013 7:27 PM  
**To:** PRCWeb  
**Subject:** County leash law

Dear Advisory Board Members,

I am very much in favor of the current county leash law. I live on Sunny Cove and have enjoyed our local beach for many years.

About 10 years ago a big dog off-leash jumped on me and I fell down and strained my right ankle. I was teaching first grade at the time and it was difficult for me to do my job for several weeks.

In December 2012, I was very weak and unable to move fast or protect myself, do to a medical treatment that I was receiving. I was on the beach at the end of 20th Avenue enjoying a sunny day when three large dogs run towards me. I asked the owner to please get her dogs. She told me to relax and have a nice day, and walked on. A bystander realized how ill I was and came to my rescue. The dog owner seemed to be unaware of the danger her dogs presented.

I would very much see the current law requiring a leash for dogs on the beach continue, and be enforced. I believe if the beach at 26th avenue becomes an off-leash beach people like me and others who live here can no longer enjoy the beach. It will be overrun with dogs.

Sincerely

Gerlinde de Broekert  
2- 1684 E Cliff Avenue  
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

## Melissa Henderson

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**From:** Janet Romanowski <janetrom@pacbell.net>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 05, 2013 5:47 PM  
**To:** PRCWeb  
**Subject:** allowing dogs off-leash

Please give to all commissioners.

I am a dog-owner and a strong advocate for allowing dogs to be off-leash under certain conditions and in certain places. I do not live on the Westside but I frequently take my dog to Its Beach. Not only is it good for the dogs, but it's good for the owners as well. I am very much in support of LOOLA's proposal to allow dogs off-leash at Live Oak beaches. I lived in Live Oak for many years and our choices were very limited on where we could go to not get "caught". I have a pit bull/chocolate lab mix. He is very well cared for, well behaved and loved by my vet and all those who come in contact with him. My dog is friendly and socialized due in part to being exposed to other dogs in a playful, open setting. Keep a dog penned up and away from other dogs and you get an animal that can be overly protective, not trusting of strangers, bored, and wanting to get out and create havoc in a neighborhood. While we do have situations where humans and environments have suffered from something done by a dog, I think these examples are few in numbers when compared to the positives this creates. Please support this proposal.

Regards,  
Janet Romanowski

## **OFF LEASH HOURS REQUESTED ARE INAPPROPRIATE HOURS.**

Deleterious to wild life feeding times and unfair to other citizens.

**Sunrise to 10.00 am** is prime time for birds to feed; the beach is a bird habitat. Shorebirds feed on crustaceans. This means that they usually feed two hours before or after low tide.

Those hours may or may not coincide with off leash hours. If the smaller birds miss their feeding time they may not make it to the next opportunity to feed.

**10.00 am to 4.00 pm.** Birds are generally not active during these hours and for some people it is not advisable to be out in the sun during the hours that are either side of noon.

**4.00 pm to sunset.** Birds are active in the later of these hours and these are the hours that people with jobs are able to visit the beach. The off leash argument is that people are not on the beach during these hours. Until approximately two and half years ago people were using the beach in the evenings, but now they have been basically driven off by the activities of off leash dogs particularly after 5.00 pm.

## Melissa Henderson

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**From:** Richard Lotti <richardlotti@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 05, 2013 3:18 PM  
**To:** PRCWeb  
**Subject:** Dog Lease Meeting June 10

We are in favor of the extended "off lease" hours for the Santa Cruz beach from 20<sup>th</sup> Avenue to 30<sup>th</sup> Avenue from Dawn to 10am and after 4pm.

We suggest the county consider a program similar to the parking permit program for beach access for all dogs, (it could be implemented by the Parking staff), residents could buy an "off leash" permit for the year while non-residents could purchase at a higher rate for a month at a time.

A further enhancement would be to utilize "parking space pay here" meter technology to allow purchase by credit card, these meters could be located at each beach access point. The meters are already in use in downtown Santa Cruz and Capitola, only the signage and rate need to change.

This would minimize the amount of out of area dog traffic and provide a revenue stream for the county to offset Park & Recreation costs.

Finally, if the county creates a designated off leash beach pedestrians could be made aware with signage that dogs are "off leash" and safety risks may exist just like signage for surfers, cliffs, water conditions etc.

Richard A. Lotti  
309 26<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Santa Cruz, CA 95062  
richardlotti@yahoo.com  
408-202-0637

JUNE 5, 2013

1

to Parks and Rec Commissioner(s)

I have lived on Warren St for 30 years - we are 200 yards from the beach at 26<sup>th</sup> Ave. I have raised 3 children & here 2 grandchild- ren and now care for a 3 year old great- grandson here a few days a week. Our lives have been formed by play at the beach and in the waves.

There were always a few dogs on the beach - we knew them and they knew us. They were never a threat - in fact one of them was ours. Occasionally there would be an incident of an aggressive dog or one that didn't like children. This is the beach that off-leash advocates refer to when they say there have always been off-leash dogs.

Over the last 10 years - more like 5 - there have been ever more off-leash dogs. The beach became a destination for dogs to run <sup>free</sup> and was advertized month to month and on the internet as such. This is the real problem with making it officially off-leash for a time of day. I have counted 80 dogs off-leash on the beach from 26<sup>th</sup> to Moran lagoon.



2

And they are more often large dogs and particularly active breeds. Owners often have more than one dog. Dogs frequently run in packs. I counted 2 packs of 8 dogs each one day. Dogs in packs are a known threat to small children, small dogs and anyone in their way.

If the beach is made off-leash before 10 AM and after 4 PM where will the young beachgoers go to play in the sand and water? We are told the sun is too strong from 10 to 2 - children get up early and love to go out and play in the summer before 10 AM. Small children nap in the afternoon. Can it be true that at 4 PM with the sun high in the sky the small ones (or anyone really) can't run at the water line? No more sunset walks without great numbers of dogs? Urine soaked sand and feces scars - plastic bags of feces - paw

Scoured sand? The <sup>High</sup> tide does not <sup>?</sup> reach the rocks when the sand is greater in the summer months - it doesn't rain so where is all the urine going? It was really bad last summer with reeking trash cans full of feces at the top of the stairs and <sup>feces</sup> in and out of plastic bags left on the beach & rocks. Dogs have human size feces.

The breeds that race around down there are rottweilers, great danes, pit bulls, greyhound, large labs, queensland blues, St Bernard and other mixed breed and pure-bred large dogs. Small dogs are usually on a leash for obvious reasons. A pit bull killed a chihuahua on the beach at lighthouse field in early May '13. My friend won't walk her chihuahua here for at least the last 3 years.

When I speak next Monday at the meeting I will talk of the danger to small children by incident. I have been putting my body between dogs and packs of dogs and my now 3 year old great grandson (who lives ~~on~~ near Rio del Mar beach and plays there) since he was a baby. An ideal place to run a toddler is in the sand - they can fall and fall and never get hurt. But he has not really been able to do that without serious guard duty on my part. He is of great interest to the dog. Particularly when he has no clothes on. I will not go further with this because I am afraid of my own words - especially after the attack on the boy in Rio del Mar a few weeks ago. I can't take him to the beach any more without great fear.

I have drawn pictures of some situations with the dogs at the beautiful beach (with 2 lagoons) between 20<sup>th</sup> and Moran. I've included these and some of my notes on what has happened down there.

I have written many letters to animal control and the County Supervisors. The dog owners have become rude and uncooperative in the face of safety. I hear "go home" "my dog is safe" "he loves children" "Back off lady" "Shut up" on and on if I ask dog owners to leash their dogs. My grandchildren have heard all of this.

I can't imagine what the beach would be like with legal hours off-leash. Dangerous large dogs and weird aggressive owners are already there — and there are so many more.

4  
I haven't written a letter this long since I was first in love! Please hear me and DO NOT ADVISE FOR OFF LEASH HOURS at the beach at any time of day or night. It will create a hell zone and hazard to all. Even the dog owners won't want it!!!

Sincerely

Carrie Cox

2625 Wilson St  
Santa Cruz, Ca.  
95062

Please give a copy to all 5 commissioners - Thank you!

531 462 5468

CARRIECOX@yahoo.com

# LEASH YOUR DOG AT THE BEACH (we're all doing it)

BE POPULAR!



50,000 dogs in S.C. County



**RIO DEL MAR**  
**Dog severely injure boy, 5, in attack**  
 A 5-year-old boy was attacked by a dog while visiting a Rio Del Mar beach with his baby sister Tuesday, according to officials with the Santa Cruz County Animal Shelter.  
 The dog — a male boxer-Australian shepherd mix who weighed at least 50 pounds and was not on a leash — euthanized, Melanie Sobel of the county Animal Shelter said.  
 The attack happened about 12:30 p.m. near Del Mar State Beach. According to Sobel the dog ran up to the boy and grabbed him by the head. He was bitten on the head, neck and arm she said.  
 The boy, an Aptos resident, was taken to the hospital with several injuries.  
 His condition was unknown Wednesday.  
 The dog was being taken care of by a shelter volunteer who agreed to foster the canine until a rescue organization could be found for him Sobel said. He was due to be moved to a rescue organization in Humboldt County next week she said.  
 — Santa Cruz Sentinel  
 5-21-13

ASPCA  
 "WHEN LEASHED a dog is UNABLE to follow his instincts to chase children."



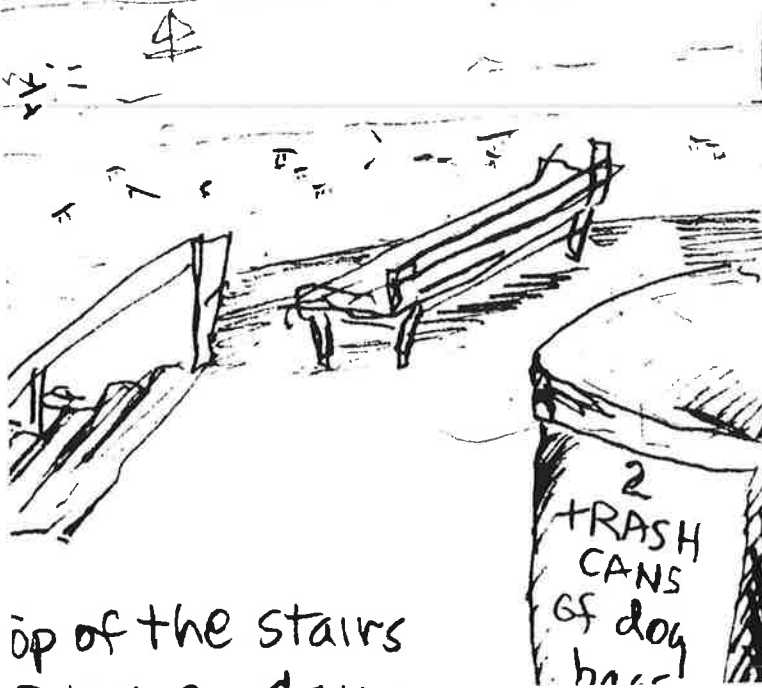
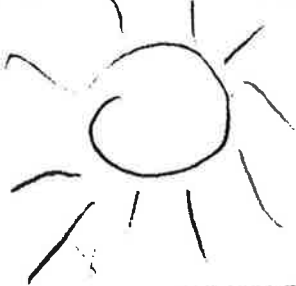
Be an example to other dog owners

26<sup>th</sup> Ave Stairs + BEACH

ALL TRUE & happened to MI  
2012



impossible sun bathing



top of the stairs

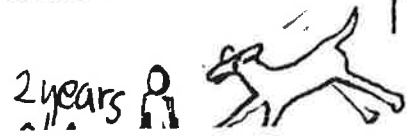


I count  
50 dogs on the  
beach

lets go home grandmar



These large dogs are  
mostly running at top  
speed and very excited







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**Urban Dog Etiquette**

**How to properly promenade your pooch in public**

City-dwelling dogkeepers are faced with greater challenges than their suburban and rural counterparts. Without a large, fenced yard for exercise, the city dweller must take to the streets three or more times a day with Fido or Fifi in tow. Crowded sidewalks replete with joggers, construction scaffolding and double-wide strollers turn each outing into an obstacle course. The following tips will make walks safer and more enjoyable for you, your dog and your neighbors.

**It's the Law**

Most cities and counties have some form of leash, license and pick-up-after-your-dog laws. These ordinances are designed to protect both the dog and the community at large. When leashed, a dog is safe from traffic and unable to follow his instincts to chase children, investigate garbage cans or dig up landscaping. Whether a dog is friendly or aggressive, a leash keeps him in check and allows the public to pass undisturbed. Some communities have leash-length restrictions. Whether it's the law or not, keep leashes to six feet or less on public sidewalks. Retractable leashes should not be used in areas frequented by joggers, skaters or cyclists; the thin line blends into the background and, all too often, athlete and dog collide.

Licensing a dog enables an animal control agency to return a lost pet to his rightful owner. Also, licensing fees often support local animal control efforts. In addition, the number of licenses issued gives government officials an idea of how many dogs are in the community, statistics that are very helpful when planning dog runs, shelter expansions and the like.

Pooper-scooper laws are essential for both the health and beautification of the community. Canine diseases and parasites are often shed in feces, which puts other dogs and children at risk. And no one enjoys maneuvering through unsightly piles of dog waste when out for a stroll. Pick up feces using a plastic bag, and knot the top to control odor and flies before disposing of it in a waste receptacle. Train your dog to urinate in gutters or on nonliving vertical surfaces, such as lampposts or hydrants. Avoid trees and flowerbeds.

**Etiquette Lessons and Safety Tips**

The well-trained city dog needs to respond to a minimum of four basic commands: "Sit-Stay," "Heel," "Leave it" and "Come." When you're waiting at a traffic light, a dog in a sitstay is out of harm's way. And while walking nicely on a loose leash is enough for most forays, there are times when your dog will need to be at heel position, which keeps her under control at your side.

The command "Leave it" is employed when it is necessary for Fido to avert his gaze. Whether he's being tantalized by chicken bones or a jogger, getting your dog to break eye contact with "forbidden fruit" before he acts enables you to draw his attention to safer rewards and pursuits. Or, should the dog slip his collar or break his leash, a recall command ("Come") could save his life. Most, if not all, of these commands are taught in basic obedience/manners class. Contact your local shelter for a referral to a class near you.

Remember that dogs can be frightened by sudden loud noises, such as running children, motorcycles, skateboarders and in-line skaters, to name a few. Be aware that such situations may demand quick and complete control on your part to prevent your dog from lunging or biting.

Before leaving home to run errands with your dog by your side, take a moment to consider which places permit dogs and which do not. For your pet's safety, leave him at home when he is not allowed to go into an establishment with you. A dog left tied to a post or parking meter is an easy target for teasing or theft.

**Remember the Good Neighbor Policy**

Keep in mind that not everyone loves dogs, so it's up to the urban dogkeeper to present a dog who is well-socialized and under control. When riding in an elevator, sit your dog in a far corner to avoid door-dashing each time the elevator makes a stop. Do not allow Fido to jump up on other riders, even when the greeting is friendly. Hurry through lobbies or take freight elevators and back exits if the building rules mandate it. Never allow your dog to soil in front of the building's entrance. If you have a young pup or dog-in-training who can't control himself, be sure to carry paper towels and odor neutralizer.

Many dogs enjoy the company of other canines, but always ask before allowing your animal to launch himself at another dog—for both their sakes. The same is true regarding children. First ask the child or her parent, "May my dog say hello to you?" before allowing physical contact. The greeting should not include jumping, bouncing off or grabbing at the child—even if it is done in the spirit of friendliness. If your dog is physically challenging, consider using a head natter for better control.

When we choose to keep dogs in crowded urban areas, we take on additional responsibilities. Unfortunately, when little consideration is shown for the neighbors, more doors close to dogkeepers. On the other hand, with a little training and thoughtfulness, more businesses and public areas will begin to put out the welcome mat for both you and your dog.

**ASPCA | Urban Dog Etiquette**



170

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51

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Send to a friend



**Melissa Henderson**

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**From:** med <medmunds@sbcglobal.net>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 05, 2013 10:50 AM  
**To:** PRCWeb  
**Cc:** jeanbean@baymoon.com  
**Subject:** June 10 agenda/support for leash law

Dear Neighbors:

\*\* The beaches, fun as they can be, are problematic for dogs running free. So would downtown Santa Cruz, Harvey West Park and a number of other locations. Having taken animals to the Aptos Dog Park, I would say that is a near ideal model for the purpose....and large enough for any breed to run itself out besides being a heck of a lot fun for all concerned. I suggest dog owners and lovers mobilize their political will and resources to establish more parks like Aptos.

Respectfully,  
Merritt Edmunds  
Santa Cruz homeowner

## Melissa Henderson

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**From:** Dwight Smith <smoodman@cruzio.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 05, 2013 8:01 AM  
**To:** PRCWeb  
**Subject:** Regarding dogs and beaches

While I can certainly understand the emotional appeal of unclipping Fido from the leash and seeing him run free, my logical mind says that is unwise. The problems unleashed dogs create far outweigh the value of seeing them run and play.

Rather than turning pets loose on the beaches, we should be looking for secure areas where people can take their dogs for exercise, and from that a question comes to mind: Shouldn't the cost of keeping these areas be borne by the folks who choose to bring dogs into their lives? Some sort of use fee would add a more sustainable aspect to the project.

Dwight Smith  
2605 Warwick Lane  
Santa Cruz, CA 95065

## Melissa Henderson

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**From:** AuxillaryMail@aol.com  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 04, 2013 10:01 PM  
**To:** PRCWeb  
**Subject:** Dogs Off Leash, Why?

Who's idea is this? What is the benefit?

We just can't imagine why this is a proposal at all in the first place. This is asking for trouble. Not all dogs are benign. We do not support a Dogs Off-Lease proposal. There are too many incidents of dog attacks.

Unfortunately, we are unable to attend your June 10 meeting, but here is our vote: "NO Dogs Off Leash"

Nora and Don Alvord,  
2-dog owner family  
21682 East Cliff Drive  
Santa Cruz, Ca 95062  
408 810 6672

## Melissa Henderson

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**From:** leonard <leonard@prcweb.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 04, 2013 2:16 PM  
**To:** PRCWeb  
**Subject:** June 10 meeting off leash dog proposals

Please pass this email on to each member of the parks and recreation advisory commission.

I urge you to keep the current county leash laws in effect. This is for the safety of us small peaceful dog owners, and children as well. Allowing dogs off leash gives carte blanche treatment to large violent attack type dogs. It sends a message to their owners that their dog can be treated and have the same rights and privileges as any other dog. But what if a particular dog is violent? Will they take extra precautions? How could they if their main concern is letting their dog run free? Dogs need control, some more than others. How can they be under control if they are free to run without a leash?

Easing the leash laws will only result in more attacks on humans and other dogs. The county could be held liable for allowing this to happen and the lawsuits could get expensive for all who live in the county. An attack on a child could be particularly tragic and costly.

It is my experience that even with leash laws people let their dogs off leash. I assume this is because their dogs are not violent and well behaved. The owners realize their liability for their animals. Thus they are more cautious and responsible. Without leash laws the owners are less liable, and we will see all dogs running free, and some will be violent and out of control. And people and dogs will be hurt.

What are leash laws for? It is not to keep dog poop off the landscape. If a dog runs free the owner can still clean up after it. Leash laws are for keeping people safe from attacks. People want to use a beach without fear of dogs they cannot possibly know. Having to be wary of strange dogs that might be violent does not sound to me like a way to enjoy a beach.

There are already enough off leash areas in the city and county of Santa Cruz. For the safety and well-being of people, especially children, and dogs, please keep the leash laws as they are. Thank you.

## Melissa Henderson

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**From:** Koenig, Diane <dmarvin@cruzio.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 04, 2013 12:59 PM  
**To:** PRCWeb  
**Subject:** Attention to: June 10 meeting/off-leash dog proposals

Staff, Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission  
County Parks Department  
Parks Department Offices  
979 17th Avenue, Santa Cruz, 95062

In regards to the June 10th off leash dog proposals:

Please distribute to the following:

Attention: Mariah Roberts, District 1, Kate Minott, District 2; Jim Lang, District 3; Steven Bennett, District 4; Dave Mercer, District 5

Dear Advisory Commission,

I have lived on 25<sup>th</sup> Ave and witnessed the changes to our beaches in the last 30 years. The Corcoran Lagoon was a nesting ground to the Snowy Plover but they could not survive the stresses put on them by un-leashed dogs. The owners of dogs that continuously chase the birds on the beaches are unaware of the pressure this puts on our shorebirds. Dog packs of 15 or more dogs in either direction make our beaches unsafe for children and for wildlife.

For the incidents that are catastrophic enough to make the papers (recent mauling of a five-year-old boy on Rio Del Mar beach, 5/22), many more go unreported. An unleashed Doberman Pincher on Rio Del Mar beach bit my sister some years ago and that incident went unreported. I had to call Animal Services recently when a dog bit a skim boarder on 26<sup>th</sup> Ave. beach. I held onto the dog for an hour but Animal Services never came and I had to let the dog go. I myself have been chased, my husband knocked over and my brother in law was peed upon while walking on Corcoran Lagoon beach.

Please recommend to the Board of Supervisors maintaining the existing leash laws in our beautiful Monterey Bay Sanctuary to keep the beaches safe for humans and wildlife. Compliance with the existing leash laws benefit everyone.

Sincerely,

Diane Marvin-Koenig

2417 Shoreview Dr.

Santa Cruz, Ca 95062

**Melissa Henderson**

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**From:** carrie cox <carriecox@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 03, 2013 10:38 PM  
**To:** PRCWeb  
**Subject:** Fw: Attention to: June 10 meeting/off-leash dog proposals

----- Forwarded Message -----

**From:** Todd Cox <taveosha@yahoo.com>  
**To:** Carrie Cox <carriecox@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, June 2, 2013 11:22 PM  
**Subject:** Attention to: June 10 meeting/off-leash dog proposals

Date: may 30, 2013

from: Todd Cox

Re: Attention to: June 10 meeting/off-leash dog proposals."

Dear Staff, Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission please forward copys to each of the five commissioners thank you.

Dear ladies and gentlemen of the advisory, after having grown up in a house on warren street, about a block from 26th ave. beach in Santa Cruz, i have seen all kinds of issues regarding unleashed dogs on the beach while going surfing or hanging out with friends and family.

An unleashed dog attacked me when i was ten years old as i walked with my mom and it knocked me down while trying to bite my throat! luckily my mom was able to get it off of me and chase it away. another time i watched my father as he tried separating two bull mastiffs from a friends border collie until he was badly bitten by one of them and we both could not do a thing as the two took the collie out into the white water and held it down until it was drowned dead.

my step sister was attacked by an unleashed Cocker Spanial and nearly lost one of her eyes after the dog bite her face while building sandcastles at 26th ave beach.

"I still love dogs though"

Some of my earliest memories were of my dog "October" who was my best friend and when my dad worked all night at the cannery on Sea bright ave. she was my only friend to keep me company while he worked.

now i have a Daucshund and i love to watch him run on the beach, but he does not always come back, so i have had to leash him. "i think its uncool to have a dog without a leash on it".

"there are so many reasons its important to have a leash on your dog".

"How many times have you seen your dog doing something you did not want it to do and with no way of stopping it especially if its way down the beach away from you"

"Fights with other unleashed dogs"?

"little kids getting run over by big dogs chasing shore birds up and down the beach"?

"Pit bulls are another reason you do not want them off a leash, they cant help it when their jaws lock on and its very hard to get them to unlock their jaws".

"Its better to be able to steer a dog away from a potentially negative encounter and with a leash on you can".

"I love dogs and know if it takes only a simple leash to be sure your dog wont get into trouble then I do not mind using a leash on my dog hopefully all will do the same"?



Thank you with regards,  
Todd Cox

**Melissa Henderson**

---

**From:** Elaine Rohlfes <elainerohlfes@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 03, 2013 4:19 PM  
**To:** PRCWeb  
**Subject:** The importance of walking the LO beach with my dogs off-leash

## Respected Commissioners:

I am asking you to support and recommend a change in the county ordinance that would allow dogs to be off-leash on the beach between 20th Ave. and Moran Lake Beach, for the compromise times of before 10:00 a.m. and after 4:00 p.m.

This is important to me and for me and for my dogs. For the previous 5 yrs , prior to recent enforcement of the no dogs off-leash law, I had been going occasionally with my 2 dogs to enjoy this beach, usually about sunset time. The frequency was perhaps 1x/week, or 1x/month, depending on the weather, tides, and time of the year. I avoided summer and tourist season. Since I live on Glen Canyon Rd., I chose this beach for several reasons:

- 1.) I could get there in my car without going on Hiway #1 during commute hours.
- 2.) The parking is close and available.
- 3.) The beach access from parking is easy and safe...flat surface, no stairs necessary.
- 4.) When the tide is out, the beach from one end to the other provides a nice space for good exercise, back and forth, for myself and my dogs, maybe 1/4 mile one way?
- 5.) It is relatively **safe area for an older single woman to walk accompanied by dogs off-leash**..not too isolated, with homes nearby and some with a view of the beach area.
- 6.) It seems fair that since I have been a home-owner, resident, tax-payer in Santa Cruz County for 39 years, I should be able to have occasional access to the beautiful ocean beach area that allows me to benefit physically and mentally from the experience. It is one reason that I chose to live in Santa Cruz County.

Thank-you!

Sincerely,  
Elaine Rohlfes

## Melissa Henderson

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**From:** elaine\_ [REDACTED]@comcast.net  
**Sent:** Monday, June 03, 2013 3:25 PM  
**To:** PRCWeb  
**Subject:** Do not amend leash laws to allow off leash at beach

Dear Sirs,

Regarding amending leash law requirements for beach area on 19th to Moran Lake and any where else in the County of Santa Cruz, we are against making any changes to leash requirements. As long time dog owners(Giant Schnauzer and Tibetan Terrier) we have been repeatedly subject to dogs off leash running up to us and our dogs growling and ignoring owners verbal calls. We have had unrelenting physical intimidation by a pitbull, a shepherd mix, another dark grey pitt bull, another shepherd type dog and a black lab at various parks throughout Santa Cruz. In each case we asked the owner to call their dog, and either the owner couldn't get the dog to follow verbal command or wouldn't. So many would yell, oh he's friendly, while the dog was all over my puppy Tibetan Terrier and wouldn't back off. In one case a Pitt Bull was doing the this and when asking the owner to pull their dog away he refused and insisted I endure this with my puppy because he believed his dog was 'friendly'. The owner of a black lab refused to recall his dog, then couldn't

as the lab was charging at us and climbing all over my Tibetan Terrier puppy of 8 months. That was the second occurrence with that owner who insisted it was an off leash beach. When I pointed out it was only off leash if your dog could follow verbal commands he made a foul hand gesture at me. Most recently I witnessed an off leash retriever charge an on leash shepherd and its owner with barks and growls that were clearly threatening. The woman called her dog the first time and the dog turned around toward her, then charged the man and his dog again. He asked her to leash her dog and in the midst of this she told him her dog was 'friendly' to which he responded 'no he is not' and he asked her again to leash the dog. I was getting my phone out to call 911 as the woman had a difficult time catching her 'friendly' dog.

Please exercise good judgement and do not change the leash laws. Too many owners fail to train their dogs in verbal recall and too many ignore the safety of others when insisting their unfriendly dog is friendly. It has been my experience in several of Santa Cruz parks and beaches that there are too many owners ignoring the potential danger their dogs, often untrained in verbal commands or poorly trained, and unleashed dogs present to others.

Elaine Bowers

[REDACTED]  
117 Gault St unit H  
Santa Cruz Ca 95062

## Melissa Henderson

---

**From:** Michael Bass <mbass@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 03, 2013 2:02 PM  
**To:** PRCWeb  
**Subject:** Live Oak Leash Law Issue

My input is not tied to either LLASCC or LOOLA specifically, and although I'm an East Cliff Drive Resident, the purpose of this email is to make the case for a balanced decision.

I have been a dog owner for most of my life, but I no longer own a dog and I'm content not to. So my personal preference is to have zero dogs on the beach because of the negative experiences I've had. I will state those first and then move to my thoughts on a compromise position.

I should also mention that one of my dogs was a Schützen trained German Sheppard and I've worked with police dog trainers quite a bit. So, I do have a fair amount of collective knowledge about dogs from experts in the field, and personal experience.

My bad experiences include:

- Off leash pit bulls with owners that I would not want to meet in a dark alley. You and others can say all you want about how Pit Bulls make great pets, but as I've said above, through expert opinion, I can give you a much different perspective. Ask yourself, why is it you never see one used for police, military or other service purposes? Simple - they're not reliable. If you want to roll the dice and take responsibility for another headline about a dead child or maimed adult, that would be irresponsible as a public servant. If you want to think they're great little pets, well maybe some are. However, I see some belonging to anything from gang members to shady owners and for some reason, they keep nervously yelling at their pit bull to come whenever it thinks about going towards another dog or person. They're clearly aware of the potential danger their dog represents - even though they allow it to be off leash. Maybe that's why they have the spiked correction collar. I've never seen another dog owner behave this way. The problem is, they have zero off leash control of their animal and the dog does what it pleases. I do my best to steer clear of these animals - because it is the responsible thing to do, not because I'm a fear based person. I've personally seen the damage these dogs can do. My German Shepherd almost died from the attack of an off leash pit bull that was happily playing Frisbee catch with it's owner until I walked by with my dog on leash. And my shepherd was Schützen trained but still no match for that fighting machine. **BOTTOM LINE:** Do you deny the potential danger here? Are you willing too take this risk and liability financially and on your conscience? If not, how do you intend to mitigate this issue?
- Defecation: You can talk all you want about responsible owners but there is a constant supply of non-responsible owners. Every week we encounter owners that like to pretend their dog isn't doing anything and just look the other way. Sometimes when we tell them to go clean up after them and they pretend they didn't know, they do. Other times its an F-U attitude. And sometimes they just leave bag of dog-doo on the beach for us to cart off.

- Let's acknowledge that off leash dogs take over a beach. It then becomes a completely different experience for everyone other than the dog owners. Napping on the beach isn't possible. Barking or a wet nose is inevitable. I can go on, but do we really need to pretend otherwise? Who goes to "dog beach" except dog owners. Some owners try to be responsible. Others think the whole world loves their dog. WORSE - there are others that think it's cute when their dog chases the wildlife away. I would love to photograph the sandpipers but I can hardly ever get the oppty before someone's dog comes to chase them away and the owner thinks it's a wonderful sight to see their dog so happy. LOOLA says they need to exercise their dogs. I would say over half the dogs on the beach are there to hang out with the owners, not get exercised and leave. Dog owners share their lives with their pet. It's not a bad thing. I did that for years, but let's not pretend this is just about exercising dogs for health reasons.
- Dog owners need to be accountable with these points. If they cannot be honest about the above issues and only have their lopsided view, if they cannot be accountable out of the starting gate, then why should anybody trust them to show accountability on the beach and not make their issues MY problem?

So, it get's down to safety - for people and other dogs - disruption to people and wildlife, and most important ACCOUNTABILITY.

#### COMPROMISE:

As I said, I prefer leash laws are enforced. However, if there is a compromise, then the following are essential:

- How are you going to ensure my safety? Are you going to pretend there are no dangerous dogs on our beach? Then you need to visit it. Are you going to say you never had an issue in 20 years so therefore you won't for the next 20? I personally don't have a good solution other than banning or registering certain breeds, but pretending this isn't an issue is not acceptable. If nothing else, check with the city lawyer and see what the cost of a lawsuit will be when something like this occurs due to negligence - failure to address.
- Hours: After 4pm? That's fine in the winter with an hour of daylight yet, but 4+ hours of dogs in the summer? No Way! That is way more than exercise time in non-prime hours. You need to have seasonal hours.
- Enforcement: I can live with reasonable hours, but I will NOT be in approval of anything unless there is finally an enforcement commitment from the city so I don't have to do your job for you. If you do NOT have the money and resources to enforce the hours, don't pass another useless law that you just ignore.
- Bad Apples: They will always exist. Raise the fines. It costs \$161 the first time your caught driving and talking on the phone. People now think twice. Make the first offense of defecation sting and go up for repeat offenders. Put some serious teeth in the laws that will and should exist and enforce them. Create a deterrent or this whole exercise is a joke.
- Registration: Since you really don't have the money for enforcement, why don't you have dog owners buy permits to pay for the enforcement of the bad apples in their group. This might also mitigate the pit bull owners. Maybe they'll think twice about their behavior if they can't hide behind anonymity. Tourists are probably a higher percentage of the bad apples so maybe they won't buy the permit. Make it like Live Oak Parking. Parking in front of my house and having guest do so is a BASIC right. So if it works as a solution for parking, how is buying

a dog permit a non-viable solution for the dog owners??? Again, accountability and willingness to accommodate the needs of others.

**BOTTOM LINE:**

No matter what you do, if you make any changes and allow any off-leash activity, you need to put other measures in place that address all aspects of this situation, and make sure you take into account all stakeholders. You need to specifically acknowledge that laws are there to cover the bad apples and for even the good people, they provide a necessary deterrent (like traffic tickets do). We're all human and non-perfect.

## Melissa Henderson

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**From:** Ann Barros <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, June 02, 2013 11:24 AM  
**To:** PRCWeb  
**Subject:** Attention to: June 10 meeting/off leash dog proposal

Dear Santa Cruz County Parks & Rec,

My name is Ann Barros, a resident of Santa Cruz, specifically 26th Avenue beach neighborhood, since 1972. I've lived in my home that I own here on 26th Avenue for 20 years. Our beach (26th Avenue, now aka the dog beach), used to be pristine and peaceful and for over 30 years, I ran everyday at water's edge on the sand. Now it is truly unsafe to run!! (or sometimes even walk if you find yourself in line of a pack of running dogs). There are so many dogs: large dogs, running dogs, oblivious, chasing dogs. I have been knocked over a few times by running, chasing, packing dogs unattended by their owners. It's not fun being knocked over on your own beach.

Dogs are supposed to be leashed, at least that's what the sign says. But everybody knows (especially people living farther away, that's how widespread the rumor is) that nobody ever patrols and enforces the leash law on 26th Avenue Beach, "because they can't get their vehicles down there"...

Our neighbors are constantly weighing in on how drastic the unleashed dog population has become and importantly how something has to be done about it. Please consider us neighbors who own homes on/near 26th Avenue and want to keep the beach a sanctuary for people, not dogs. This is an extremely important public safety issue.

I am not able to be at the public hearing on this issue on June 10, so please make a copy of this letter for each member of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission in support of maintaining and enforcing our current leash laws.

Thank you kindly,  
Ann Barros

## Melissa Henderson

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**From:** Hollye Hurst <hhurst@cruzio.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, June 02, 2013 7:13 AM  
**To:** PRCWeb  
**Subject:** letter to commission regarding agenda item for 6/10 meeting

Hollye Hurst, PhD

2355 Brommer St. #44  
Santa Cruz, CA 95062

June 2, 2013

Santa Cruz County Department of Public Works  
Parks, Open Space and Cultural Services Division  
979 17th Ave  
Santa Cruz, CA 95062

Director and Commissioners:

Thank you for your efforts to maintain our parks and recreation system particularly in this fiscally limited time. I am a resident of Live Oak and writing about the issue of off leash dog activity. I have studied the perspectives of those opposing any consideration of off leash activity and those citizens in favor of it. My proposal is that, among our many miles of coastline, we should have a mile long "dog beach" (at a minimum) so families with dogs can recreate together and people who are concerned about interacting with dogs can enjoy the other 20-something miles of beach unconcerned. My viewpoint is that Santa Cruz County needs more off leash areas and that, although more "dog parks" can be helpful they aren't for everyone, and our miles and miles of beaches offer us a unique opportunity to provide places for recreation and exercise for families with dogs to enjoy together. It is common knowledge that vigorously exercised dogs are better behaved. I support off leash areas at several beaches, which is in agreement with what has been customary for decades. Among our many miles of beaches that are rarely busy except for summer, I would suggest perhaps one mile in the Rio Del Mar area and one in the Live Oak area, at the least for designated off leash activity. My experience is that the majority of people frequenting the beach enjoy watching dogs off leash having fun and the great majority of dogs are well behaved. However I propose, rather than a "mixed use" area, SC Co. set aside several "dog beaches" for off leash activity - then reasonable people would be alerted to the presence of dogs off leash and therefore have the option of choosing another area for their particular activity if they are concerned. I believe this would greatly decrease the risk of annoying or risky interaction between humans and dogs (danger from dogs in fact are rare\*). The rest of the beach would be for dogs on leash only. In Live Oak, LOOLA has demonstrated their dedication to public education among families with dogs regarding beach maintenance and dog behavior and I am confident that people with dogs can maintain order among themselves and call for help if necessary.

I do not support limited hours for off leash activity primarily because it is discriminatory - many people cannot go to the beach during certain hours and why should families with dogs, particularly the elderly and disabled, be confined to times that are often foggy, cold and potentially high tide? I also think this is not a logical solution since hours of high activity are only during the summer. It is more reasonable to limit off leash activity to the period of Sept-April rather than year long at certain times of the day. I am fully confident that, even with increased patrolling, off leash activity will not stop and its more honest, reasonable and fair to provide limited space for families to exercise vigorously with their dogs for a couple miles among our many miles of beaches. In addition, this issue has so much support I think that, if the county does not move forward with the times on this issue, it will eventually be challenged by expensive legal action nobody needs to contend with. I am including a link to an Associated Press article that ends with bad press for Santa Cruz because of resistance to change in favor of off leash activity: <http://news.yahoo.com/lifes-beach-lucky-dogs-free-run-sand-170306139.html>

I appreciate your attention to my letter and am hopeful your careful consideration of this controversy will result in a decision that is reasonable and fair to the majority of families in this county.

thank you,

Hollye Hurst

NOTES:

\*The extremely informative California Research Bureau report "Dogs on the Beach" states this regarding *injuries to humans by dogs*:



"In addition, the literature and a recent study of 17 California dog parks conducted by the University of California (UC), Davis, School of Veterinary Medicine conclude that injuries to people from dog bites in off-leash areas are rare." -- pg. 33

This report also states this regarding *water quality*:

"With a few exceptions, beaches that allow dogs received excellent to very good grades (A or B) for dry weather during the past two grading cycles. (Over 75 percent of all beaches received an F for their wet weather grade.)" - - pg. 30

## Melissa Henderson

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**From:** Ann Barros <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Saturday, June 01, 2013 7:38 PM  
**To:** PRCWeb  
**Subject:** Please keep dogs leashed on 26th Ave. Beach

Dear Santa Cruz County Parks & Rec,

My name is Ann Barros, a resident of Santa Cruz, specifically 26th Avenue beach neighborhood, since 1972. I've lived in my home that I own here on 26th Avenue for 20 years. Our beach (26th Avenue, now aka the dog beach), used to be pristine and peaceful and for over 30 years, I ran everyday at water's edge on the sand. Now it is truly unsafe to run!! (or sometimes even walk if you find yourself in line of a pack of running dogs). There are so many dogs: large dogs, running dogs, oblivious, chasing dogs. I have been knocked over a few times by running, chasing, packing dogs unattended by their owners. It's not fun being knocked over on your own beach.

Dogs are supposed to be leashed, at least that's what the sign says. But everybody knows (especially people living farther away, that's how widespread the rumor is) that nobody ever patrols and enforces the leash law on 26th Avenue Beach, "because they can't get their vehicles down there"...

Our neighbors are constantly weighing in on how drastic the unleashed dog population has become and importantly how something has to be done about it. Please consider us neighbors who own homes on/near 26th Avenue and want to keep the beach a sanctuary for people, not dogs. This is a public safety issue.

I am not able to be at the public hearing on this issue on June 10, so please make a copy of this letter for all committee members in support of maintaining and enforcing our current leash laws.

Thank you kindly,  
Ann Barros

**From:** Buzz & Jennie Anderson <buzznjen@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Saturday, June 01, 2013 6:15 PM  
**To:** PRCWeb  
**Subject:** Comments on off-leash proposals

I have been a resident of Santa Cruz County for almost 60 years. I live on 16th Ave. We lost our 14 year old dog several months ago. We enjoyed taking her to the beach and letting her run off-leash. We did this in the early AM and around sunset. I strongly urge the powers that be to NOT allow off leash dogs during the day. A few hours in the morning and a couple of hours in the evening is plenty of time for off leash dogs. The Live Oak beaches have always been family beaches. Dog owners need to respect that fact. Families with small children and off leash dogs don't always mix. I heard that some people want Sunny Cove to be a 24 hour off-leash beach. This would be inviting disaster. The Cove is a confined space and the presence of many off leash dogs would lead to numerous dog fights. There are four motels within walking distance of the Cove. On busy warm days (even in the winter months) there are hundreds of visitors to that beach. Dogs need to be on leashes during those times. I would like this comment to be given to all the commissioners. Respectfully, Frank Anderson 212 16th Ave. 831-475-6691

154 26<sup>th</sup> Ave

Santa Cruz, CA 95062

May 28, 2013

SC County Parks Commission  
979 17<sup>th</sup> Ave  
Santa Cruz, CA 95062

Reference: NO!! to Off-leash Dogs on SC County Park Beaches

Dear Sir or Madam,

It's been disheartening to read about a group of residents that wish to change the current ordinance so that off-leash dogs are allowed on the county beaches. This is not an intelligent option for a number of reasons.

- 1) **Public Safety** It would be foolhardy for the SC County Parks Commission to consider such changes as it would jeopardize the safety of people who wish to visit the beach for recreation. Dogs are unpredictable animals and if not kept on leash are a menace to the general public. I've been bitten twice, jumped up on many times and now carry a trekking pole for protection. Even on-leash, they can be a problem as I've witnessed on more than one occasion a dog pulling the leash out of the hand of the owner to get at another dog.
- 2) **Public Liability** It's not an "if" but a "when" that incidents will occur where a dog will attack another dog or even another person (think of the recent Rio Del Mar incident) if dogs are allowed to roam free off-leash in public areas. Furthermore, are visitors going to be aware of the fact that the leash laws as defined on the current signage are loosely enforced and that they might be at jeopardy upon entering a SC County beach area? An incident could easily transpire into a huge lawsuit which will come out of my tax dollars!
- 3) **Public Health** Dogs regularly make "droppings" on the beach. These fecal droppings contain a variety of bacteria that have been shown to be detrimental to human health. Although the county does provide plastic pick-up bags, there are many dog owners who choose not to pick up. Little kids come with families to play in the sand. I sure wouldn't want any child I know digging in the sand where a dog has left fecal matter.
- 4) **Environmental Health** Dogs are non-native species to the Monterey Bay Marine Sanctuary. Off-leash dogs, in particular, ravage the nests of birds, chase birds trying to feed along the shoreline and generally harass the wildlife. This shouldn't be allowed and is specifically mentioned as a violation of the Monterey Bay Marine Sanctuary rules that were accepted by SC County.

**Melissa Henderson**

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**From:** Bill Prouty <wprouty@ymail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 31, 2013 3:38 PM  
**To:** PRCWeb  
**Cc:** Bill Prouty  
**Subject:** Attention to: June 10 meeting/off-leash dog proposals

Attention to: June 10 meeting/off-leash dog proposals

Please given to each member of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission.

**I endorse your direction to contingent upon all dogs remaining on leash in public spaces, unless special enclosed or fenced areas are provided to keep the remainder of the public space safe for myself and my family. Public safety trumps all other considerations!**

I walk Seabright Beach (state beach) often and also walk in County and City parks, dogs off leash are a real issue and a problem.

Please do all you can to keep us all safe and dogs on leashes where required.

William A Prouty

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JUN 5 2013

Betsey Lynberg  
County Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission  
979 17th Ave., Santa Cruz, CA 95062  
June 2, 2013

Re: June 10, 2013 Meeting- Off-leash Dog Proposals

Dear Ms. Lynberg,

I am writing to ask you to continue to support the leash law on our Live Oak beaches.

Due to the refusal of dog owners to responsibly obey the existing leash law, our Live Oak beaches are dominated by off-leash dogs.

Contrary to claims of dog owners, there are frequent negative impacts from off-leash dogs. I live across the street from the beach at 20th-23rd Ave. From my window, I can see dogs (at times 15 or more) of all sizes and breeds racing along the beach, singly or in groups, chasing shorebirds, leaping, barking, defecating, urinating, and sometime fighting. However well behaved a dog may be at home, groups of dogs assume a pack mentality and are out of control. Dogs are unpredictable and owners cannot know how their dogs will behave when released on the beach. The attack on the little boy at Rio Del Mar beach on May 21, 2013 by an off-leash dog fostered by County Animal Services is proof of that!

Here are just some of my experiences with off-leash dogs on the beach from 20th Ave. - 23rd Ave. (Corcoran Lagoon Beach):

My grandchildren (ages 3 and 11) and I were sitting on the sand. A dog surprised us from behind, jumping into our midst. As we struggled to pick up the 3 year old and stand up, the dog continued to jump at us. Another dog, attracted to the commotion, circled around us. The children were frightened and began to scream. We called to the owner to leash her dog. The owner said, "It's just a puppy." And then she yelled, "You have evil in your heart!" We left the beach traumatized.

My granddaughter and I were wading ankle deep in the surf line when suddenly surprised by a strong wave. When we tried to dash up to dry sand a dog stood in our path, barking and growling at us, making it difficult to escape the water. When we did get out, my granddaughter was wet to her thighs and crying. The owner, who was sitting at the shoreline and watching, said nothing to his dog. To my complaint he said, "God bless you."

My sister-in-law was surrounded by a group of dogs which were sniffing and circling each other. The owners were strolling in a group behind their dogs and walked past as the dogs bristled, saying nothing to diffuse the situation. My sister-in-law was afraid to move. One dog was so close that it stepped on her barefoot and cut her toe with its toenail. When we complained to the owners, one shouted, "Get a life!"

While I was sitting on the beach, a dog took a dislike to my hat. It crouched and began to creep toward me in a menacing way. The dog owner who was walking on past finally stopped and watched. When I asked her to call off her dog she had to lift it away from me as it did not respond to command.

While I was standing waist deep in water, a dog came dashing in and came up behind me, its paddling feet close to my back. I was not even safe from off-leash dogs in the water.

Numerous times I have observed dogs defecating in the surf line. Owners cannot pick up the feces and it washes out to where people are swimming and ultimately to where marine animals are swimming.

I have observed dogs with diarrhea whose owners, unable to pick up the mess, simply kick sand over it.

Off-leash dogs regularly urinate and defecate on the beach. Beware of the area around piles of kelp and driftwood. Children's sand castles are prime targets. I saw several dogs, one after another, urinate on a child's sand castle, while the child and his parents were present. Not one of the dog owners said anything to his dog, nor did they look abashed or apologize to the child and his family. This is a very frequent occurrence.

In these unpleasant and potentially dangerous situations, the ineffectiveness of "voice control", when exercised at all, was illustrated as the dog owners, after fruitlessly calling out, had to approach and physically remove their dogs. Voice control is **always after the fact - the off-leash dog has already done or is in the process of doing the damage.**

I no longer take my grandchildren to the beach at 20th-23rd even though it is 25 feet away from my house. I will not risk their safety. I have several neighbors who no longer walk or jog on the beach at Corcoran Lagoon because of the dogs. They walk on the road and have reluctantly given up their beach time.

A group of dog owners is pressuring the County for off-leash hours. If off-leash hours are permitted, our Live Oak beach will become a dog park during those hours. Dogs will have exclusive use of this public resource for 6 to 8 hours a day, depending on the season. Members of the general public will be denied access to the beach during those hours--unless they want to risk their safety and the safety of their children. Shorebirds will be unable to feed with off-leash dogs present.

The beach is not the place for a dog park. Off-leash dogs and birds and people, especially children, do not mix. For example, the dog beach in Long Beach called Rosie's Dog Beach has had to be very specific in terms of rules for people because of the dangers of so many off-leash dogs. The rules include the caution that children should be accompanied by an adult and should not run, shout, scream, wave their arms or otherwise excite or antagonize dogs; that food is not permitted; and that no one shall

play a team sport like volleyball or football on the dog beach. Clearly a dog beach is suitable only for dogs.

Your own brochure for Santa Cruz County Dog Parks states:

" Exercise caution when bringing small children inside a dog park."

And, under the "Why Bother To Leash Your Dog" section it states:

" If fighting with other dogs, a loose dog can be difficult to restrain.

Leashing ones dog protects the environment from dogs harassing, killing or maiming wildlife.

Dog waste is not allowed in playground areas or athletic fields to prevent children from coming into contact with feces or urine.

Dog waste may have parasites that can spread disease to other dogs and to people."

Why are the above restrictions being considered as allowable behaviors on the beach?

After discussion of this off-leash issue, the Animal Services Board has already voted in favor of fenced off-leash inland exercise areas for dogs, making the beach not an option.

We already share the beach with dogs- -provided they are on leash. That is enough.

Sincerely,

Georgina J. Monahan

2324 Melanie Place

Santa Cruz, CA 95062

Geojoymon@aol.com





JUN 5 2012

## Dog bite liability payouts rise to \$479 million in 2011

By Kari Huus, msnbc.com  
May 22, 2012, 12:32 pm

MSN.com

Dog bites cost insurance companies about \$479 million in 2011, accounting for an increasingly large chunk of payouts under homeowner's liability policies, according to a recent study.

While there was a slight decline in the number of dog bite claims, the price tag per case has risen 54 percent since 2003 — to an average of \$29,400 in 2011 — making up more than one-third of total liability claims paid out by homeowners, according to the Insurance Information Institute, which conducted the study. "These increases can be attributed to increased medical costs as well as the size of settlements, judgments and jury awards given to plaintiffs, which have risen well above the rate of inflation in recent years," the institute said in a release.

According to the Centers for Disease Control, 4.7 million people are bitten by dogs each year and about 800,000 of them seek medical attention. Of those injured, 386,000 require treatment in an emergency room and 16 die, according to the CDC. Kevin M. Phillips, a Beverly Hills based attorney who specializes in representing dog bite victims around the country, told msnbc.com that studies suggest that the popularity of pit bulls in the United States are likely a contributing factor in the rising cost of claims paid out by insurance companies.

"Attacks by pit bulls are associated with higher morbidity rates, higher hospital charges, and a higher risk of death than are attacks by other breeds of dogs," concluded a study published in the *Annals of Surgery* in April 2011. In some places, the law now provides different consideration for dog breeds like pit bulls, said Phillips. For instance, in Maryland, pit bulls are now deemed inherently dangerous, unlike most other breeds, said Phillips.

"If you own a pit bull and the pit bull hurts someone, no one has to prove it's dangerous. It is presumed to be so," he said.

Traditionally, a homeowner liability policy covers dog bites, but some insurance companies are modifying how they write policies. A CDC report on dogs involved in fatal human attacks between 1979 and 1998 — which the center specifies is not intended for policy making decisions — is nevertheless used as a guide for some insurers, according to a report in the *Des Moines Register*. At the top of that list are pit bulls, Rottweilers, German shepherds, huskies, Alaskan malamutes, Doberman pinschers and chow chows. "Insurance companies started experimenting with cutting out the coverage for dog bites. Homeowners have got to confirm they have the coverage," said Phillips. For some breeds of dogs associated with attacks, you may actually need a special canine liability insurance, he said. Without it, a serious dog attack can run up medical bills and compensation worth hundreds of thousands of dollars in costs to the pet owner.

"If your dog bites a child on the face, which is where a dog bites a child, it can wipe you out," he added.

Dogs off-leash can  
lead to:

**BIG LIABILITIES!**

JUN 5 19

To: Mariah Roberts, Kate Minott, Jim Lang, Steven Bennett, Dave Mercer.

From: Keith Angell

Date: 6/01/2013

Subject: Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission Meeting , June 10th, 2013.

Competing propositions regarding off leash hours at a Live Oak Beach.

Recently there was an article in the Sentinel regarding an attack at Rio Del Mar Beach.

I read the article and all the comments sent in by on line readers.

For your convenience I have compiled the comments into one document.

Off leash responders marked with yellow marker. On leash responders in black print.

Towards the end of the of the comments, one responder posted numerous newspaper articles relating to dog attacks nationwide. I have only included the first two.

An organization named LOOLA has submitted to you a proposal requesting off leash hours at a Live Oak beach and the establishment of more dog parks.

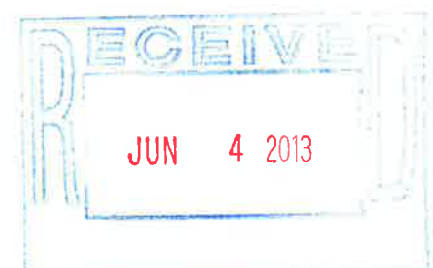
Most of that proposal is a red herring; they are only interested in the beach.

My preference is for the beach to be accessible to all citizens and on leash dogs 24 hours a day.

Yours sincerely



Keith Angell



## Article in Sentinel. **Dog attacks young boy at Rio del Mar State Beach**

### Responses to the article.

I have omitted some responses here because they were on a different subject and I also omitted some articles that were copies of anti pit bull articles from various newspapers. I did include the first two pit bull articles. Some responses refer to city and county parks.

Paragraphs marked with yellow marker are from pro OFF LEASH responders. It appeared to be multiple posts by five or six people.

Paragraphs in black were from pro ON LEASH responders, some repeaters, but there was a far greater number of individuals posting

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Want to give more input on leash laws?

<https://civonomics.com/workshops/4IEb/where-should-dogs-be-allowed-off-leash>

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I support leash laws, and I vote.

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No problem with the law here except possibly lack of enforcement. Not the only law not being enforced around here.

-----

Let me ask you this. If you were down on the beach with your small children... which would you rather have walking by... A young petite woman with a large aggressive rottweiler tugging on her leash or a person with a very well behaved, unleashed, and trained dog that never left their side?

-----

Orb Ust: NEITHER! Dogs do NOT belong on the beach!

-----

There is a lot of over reacting going on about this. I mean seriously. Maybe people need to be on leashes, because they hurt children all the time. I can say with 100 percent certainty that my dog would never do such a thing and I run just about every day with him not on a leash at rio del mar beach.

One bad dog involved in a very unique and isolated incident mostly the fault of the woman who brought him there should not set the standard for how we view all dogs and the rules about them. The knee jerking going on here is a little much. Stop acting like this is happening all the time and we have a serious problem.

I really hope the little guy is ok, that is a terrible thing to happen.

-----

**Orb Ust.**

**"One bad dog involved in a very unique and isolated incident "**

**Unique incident ! It happens frequently across the US. Close to home in the last the last twelve months Gilroy, Monterey, Scotts Valley and now Rio Del Mar. Those were attacks on people. I know of nine attacks on dogs, five of them fatal right here in Santa Cruz, one of the fatalities occurred this month. That's just the ones that I know about and I am not in the dog community. It's people like you with your 100% safe dog going off leash that encourages others to follow your example. Your dog might be a victim one day, think about that, because NONE of the dog fatalities that I know about were as a result of a fight They were just attacked with no provocation.**

**Really? can you link me to stories of dogs walking with their owners off leash attacking people all over santa cruz county?**

**The problem is not bad dogs, it is irresponsible dog owners.**

**Dog owners who allow their dogs to run off-leash create serious problems. Dogs running off-leash are health and safety threats to humans, other dogs and wildlife. This is why the City, County and State have strict leash laws that prohibit dogs from running off-leash away from their premises. Dogs must not be allowed to run off-leash, except in enclosed and fenced off-leash areas in existing inland City and County parks.**

**"One bad dog involved in a very unique and isolated incident"**

**Not a bad dog. You and I have no idea what that dog went through before he ended up in the Animal Shelter. He may have been abused by a young boy. The reason that there is an ordinance requiring that dogs be on a leash is because of a similar incident that occurred in Aptos. It's not an isolated incident**

**"Specifically, the report showed that during 2012, a total of 451 insurance claims were filed because of dog bites in California. Those claims led to a total of \$17.1 million in claim payouts."**

**<http://www.jdsupra.com/legalnews/california-leads-country-in-number-and-a-00574/>**

**notgoodthebad, exactly things that happen daily are not unique or isolated.**

**Orb ust ..You say "I can say with 100 percent certainty that my dog would never do such a thing and I run just about every day with him not on a leash at rio del mar beach."**

**And what exactly gives you the right to thumb your nose at a law that's in place for the protection of you, your dog and others?? I think you should be cited just for saying that. How utterly ignorant!**

**If you don't own anything of monetary value it might be worth the risk. But think of your beloved pet. How are you going to protect it from another off-leash untrained pit bull type with murder in its eyes?**

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**Michael A. Lewis well said. Dogs must not be allowed off leash period. They are a danger to the public .**

-----

**Cj Parke, you said... "And what exactly gives you the right to thumb your nose at a law that's in place for the protection of you, your dog and others?? I think you should be cited just for saying that. How utterly ignorant!"**

**So anyone who disagrees with you should be cited eh? And you call me ignorant? You can go F... yourself. My dog is a retired rescue dog who spent the majority of his life helping people survive terrible circumstances. If he wants to take a jog and a swim at the beach with me.. off his leash... and I get cited... I will pay the fine for him. He deserves it**

**These laws that punish everyone for the acts of a few are ridiculous. In Washington in Kings County where a friend of mine lives two people drowned in the river one summer so they made a law that you have wear a life jacket to swim in the river. I oppose the nanny state. If you embrace it then we disagree. But I will never succumb to your peoples incessant control and laws. But you telling me that I am not entitled to my opinion about this means I can tell you to F off.**

**I was once a law that women couldn't vote.... how dare they protest and disagree with the almighty law? How dare they CJ? And that Rosa Parks refusing to give up her seat for a white person, how dare she break the law, right? You kook.**

-----

**Nobody is overreacting about this. This kid could have died. The logic that "people need to be on leashes" is so lame. You're saying people are as unpredictable as dogs. This is the problem, a lot of people who own dogs don't use enough caution and just assume their dog is cool with everybody.**

-----

**I also hope this lady gets a ticket for not having her dog on a leash. How callous to say that you let your dog run around without a leash at the same beach this incident just happened.**

**I surely hope that your sweet rescue dog (who does sound wonderfully well behaved) never falls victim to some other unleashed, naughty dog who just want to fight.**

-----

**Orb Ust**

**[...]You can go F... yourself[...] A real intellectual heavyweight.**

-----

**orb-you are an arrogant fool.**

-----

**Orb Ust** You wrote " But I will never succumb to your peoples incessant control and laws."

So do you think that I should be allowed to drive Hwy 17 at 75 mph just because I am capable of doing so, or do you think that I should obey the speed limit that was written to protect less capable drivers from their inadequate driving skills? Ridiculous question, I know, but it's the kind of logic you use. You could be the poster child for the off leash advocates.

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**Orb Bust** is an excellent example of the mentality at play here. And it explains a lot of why we continue to see unleashed dogs on our beaches

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My dog is 12 years old and has saved 11 human lives (at least arguably) as a very highly trained rescue dog. That's nearly one saved human life for every year he has been alive. I have known him his entire life as his mother was also my dog. And her father was also my dog. I have never seen him growl or bark at anyone or another dog. When I run on the beach he stays at my side and never leaves. Never once since he was about 9 months old has he disobeyed me.

So yeah, I feel comfortable saying I am certain he won't attack a child on the beach as opposed to a pound dog who's life is a complete unknown. I guess nothing is an absolute certainty, but I know I can guarantee you there are people on the beach every day that pose more of a threat to you than my dog.

Was that lady an idiot for taking a dog she didn't know well and letting him run free? Absolutely. What if she had him on a leash and he pulled free and did the same thing? Would it be ok then? Would you feel better about this?

Pretty much just about everyone drives over the speed limit, but I don't see cops handing out tickets to people going 39 in a 35 do you? Same logic applies here in my opinion. If a dog is obviously highly trained and obedient and stays with its owner at all times, I don't think rangers should be giving them tickets. My opinion, I just don't think that a very isolated incident is something to use to make oppressive laws on people and their dogs.

I am a certified protection dog-I obey every command my owner gives. But, I am still an animal with instinct that can go out of control. While I truly feel that my canine cousin in your care would most likely never ever hurt any person, you still must take into consideration other cousins who may not be so well behaved. **LEASH YOUR DOG!** He will feel safer, now that he is the golden years esp.

-----  
**This dogs handler should have been put down instead of the dog! I also have been bitten while on the beach for no reason other than walking! I cant stand irresponsible dog owners because its really not that hard to follow the leash law! I carry a large knife for the next poor dog with a clueless owner & please believe I won't hesitate to use it on a dog that comes at me in a threatning manner!**

-----  
**Bottom line is...tho the dog owner their little Muttt is the cutest, smartest, cuddly and most precious furry thing in the world...but for most others....your dog is just a big PAIN IN THE ASS....dog owners need to be responsible for the actions of their Muttt...and don't get me wrong I love dogs...that is the ones that BEHAVE....by the way..what I said about dogs....goes for your KIDS too....pain....**

Every beach I go to there are people with dogs NOT on a leash and its ridiculous! Regardless if they "believe" their dog would never do anything wrong, you never know! They dont talk, you cant read their mind so saying your 100% sure is a big exxageration and potential for disaster. I saw one woman with 6 dogs, none of them on a leash and as I sat there they ran up to everyone wildly barking, huge mess and for people trying to relax and not be bothered..a nuisance.

-----  
Is a good dog above the law?.....  
-----

Dogs are not subject to law. Humans are. Humans either obey the law or they do not.

-----  
Orb Ust : You are officially the poster hag for "I'm special (insert screwball reason) so any Law or rule that I don't like doesn't apply to ME, or my Oh-so-special dog". Do you think the mangled and traumatized 5 year old, or his parents give a ratcrap how "special" the dog and it's owner think they are?  
-----

These leash laws are around for a reason, but people like this Orb Urst lady says "I know with 100% certainty that my dog would never do something like this". People need to remember these are animals that were wild at one point, and have natural wild instincts. Just because your dog acts a certain way with you doesn't mean it will do the same with everyone. It's not that I dislike dogs, but I get so tired of dog owners not respecting the laws, or other people that might be affected by your dog's actions (barking, crapping places and not picking it up, biting, growling, etc.

openid, you are the poster boy for AOL users who like a very confined and controlled experience. Good luck with that.

And somehow aligning me with a person who takes a dog they hardly know to the beach against shelter rules and lets them run free is another example of the mass hysteria you people are generating over one very isolated incident. I feel sick this happened but people drawing conclusions that every dog is capable of this is beyond laughable.

-----  
Orb Ust - Right on!! I support your position entirely. I have a well behaved dog who wouldn't hurt anyone. I take her to the beach whenever I can and if I get a ticket...oh well. That is the price I am willing to pay for not participating in the nanny state.  
-----

And if your dog just happens to mangle some kids face, oh well? You act like these laws are just inconveniences to you, but what you don't get is that they're in place to protect people from dogs. All dogs, your dogs, good dogs, bad dogs, ALL dogs.

-----  
Orb Ust People like you shouldn't be permitted to own a dog. You obviously aren't capable of grasping the responsibility that goes with ownership.  
-----



**Orb Ust Tell us what time you who is above the Law run on the beach with your "special" dog? I'll make sure I can watch while you explain to him that you don't have to comply with any rule you don't like. And see how graciously you accept your citation. And the next day, and the next....**

---

**Orb Ust I agree with you 100%....Is there any sight more joyful and inspiring than seeing dogs playing on Its Beach every afternoon? I have been going there for decades and NEVER once had a bad experience. We must not punish all our wonderful canine companions for the "sins" of a miniscule minority.**

---

**Matt Minvielle : B.S. response Matt and you know it, troll...**

---

**@OrbUst: According to Sobel, the dog ran up to the boy and grabbed him by the head. He was bitten on the head, neck and arm, she said. The boy, an Aptos resident, was taken to the hospital with severe injuries.:**

**A child has been seriously injured, scarred for life, and from what we know right now, may not even survive and YOU call it over-reacting?!**

---

**Very well said. A traumatized little boy and a dead dog. Did not have to happen.**

---

**i am heartbroken for this boy and his family. i have been very worried about all the off leash dogs between 20th and moran lagoon as i walk there with young members of my family. there have been many incidents with dogs racing around and sometimes being aggressive toward our children. please dog owners step up and leash your dog for our safety and theirs. write to the parks dept if you want dogs leashed (they can be at the beach unleashed as it is) and to your supervisors too. this is so serious a problem and it just became intolerable.**

---

**I was on the beach about ten days ago at Pleasure Point with a 80 year friend of the family, when two dogs just kept nipping at us, off leash. I was very upset that we couldn't enjoy the beautiful low tide with all the dogs off leash along 26th ave ... to the point.....I sure hope that little boy is doing better tonight ...**

---

**the parks dept is meeting june 10th at 7pm at simkins swim center to discuss off leash hours (before 10am and after 4pm) at the beach between 20th ave and moran lagoon. i will be there to protest and all are welcome. also write a letter to [prcweb@co.santa-cruz.ca.us](mailto:prcweb@co.santa-cruz.ca.us) to tell of bad experiences and support leash laws at all times of day and night. an informative local website for on leash advocates is <http://lascc.weebly.com>.**

---

I lived by Floral Park off 38th between East Cliff and Portola. There's a huge problem in that area with off leashed dogs. Especially at Floral Park, AKA Dog Sh- Park. One time someone's pit came at us when I was pushing my son in the stroller. I had yell at the owner to get her dog on a leash and she had the nerve to sass me...telling ME to calm down. "Get your effing dog away from me lady!" I don't like being charged by an off-leashed dog when I'm with a newborn and my 3 year old!

Another time I was told to wait before entering so an owner could get his huge rottweiler back on a leash because he was letting the thing run loose inside the children's play area, probably pissing on things or taking dumps in the sand.....no dogs allowed there! Dumb pet owners not following rules yet again!

I was also peed on while watching the surfers down at The Point by...you guessed it, someones OFF-LEASHED dog. That dog came up, sniffed my ankle and then lifted it's leg and ran off....that's a fun walk home with a pant leg soaked in some dog's urine.

There was never any sort of enforcement which sucks.

-----  
yes, I agree with Carrie. I sent a letter and you all should, too.

-----  
That's genius! Go protest leash laws right after a kid gets his face torn apart by a dog off a leash. You people are so dense. No wonder you get along with dogs better than actual people.

-----  
You must be liking your own posts matt, because I think to everyone else its pretty clear that none of the people above were talking about "protesting" leash laws, in fact they are all speaking in favor of leash laws and actually protesting for them

In many of your other comments you are saying things like "all dog owners don't take responsibility for their dogs" and making huge generalizations about dog owners and dogs themselves.

Its hard to imagine that with that intellect, you have only achieved being a delivery driver for a paper company

-----  
"nipping at you" Susie? So that means you ended up with bite marks? No? Didn't think so...you just hate dogs, right?

-----  
I feel bad for this little guy. He may very well not feel comfortable around dogs or pets the rest of his life. I hope somebody will take the time to reintroduce the boy to pets in a manner he can feel good about. This is a very sad story.

-----  
It took my grand-daughter eight years to get over being knocked down by a dog and she wasn't hurt. I've had to coax her into petting dogs.

ub2546 good for you -- keep coaxing. Introduce her to friendly dogs. Ask the owner first if it's okay. Some handlers and some dogs will let your granddaughter feed a treat. This is what socialization is all about, for the child and the dog. Make it a positive experience. I hope the youngster who suffered an attack at Del Mar gets therapy from people and therapy dogs so he'll learn to trust the world again.

---

Yet another example of the "I'm special (insert crackpot reason) so laws and rules don't apply to ME"!!!!... with tragic results for an innocent young child. The person who decided to make a very bad choice (big dog off leash) should be held liable for the results.

---

openid .. can we change this to (any dog off leash). The person in charge of this dog should suffer for breaking a well known law.

---

Leash Law Advocates of Santa Cruz County (<http://llascc.weebly.com/>) will be speaking to the County's Parks Advisory Commission on June 10th, where the Commissioners will be considering a proposal by a special interest group (LOOLA) to allow dogs off-leash at Live Oak beaches. If you cannot attend and say NO to this ludicrous proposal, then send your email for the record to [PRCweb@co.santa-cruz.ca.us](mailto:PRCweb@co.santa-cruz.ca.us) and ask that your comment be given to all Commissioners. If you can attend and speak in person, against allowing dogs off-leash on Live Oak beaches, the meeting begins at 7:00 pm at the Simpkins Swim Center meeting room.

---

Thank you for the information, however, I do like dogs and support the proposed off-leash hours at Live Oak beaches because it's restricted to certain hours in the morning and later in the afternoon, so I will be there to speak in favor. The person who was fostering the dog in this story should have used much better judgment, no doubt about it, and unfortunately for people who want to have off-leash hours, this persons actions will be the example used for residents who oppose it.

---

I like dogs, too. How will restricting off-leash dogs to certain hours keep people, especially children, safe? Do dogs only attack at certain times of the day?

You and your dog are allowed on Live Oak beaches, as long as your dog is leashed. Is this not enough?

---

P.S. The "bad judgement" of the foster dog care giver was allowing the dog off leash. Dogs belong on leash in public spaces, for the safety of the public as well as the dog. Now this unfortunate dog (a breed much like my own canine companion) is dead. Boy and dog ruined, when a leash could have saved both.

---

Jean Brocklebank So don't go to those beaches during those off-leash hours. That's ONE beach out of what, dozens?

---

**cesar.romo28** If you have off leash hours, you don't get to choose what dogs come to the beach. Are you prepared to pay thousands of dollars in vet bills if your dog is attacked and injured. My friend paid tens of thousands, My dog's vet bills were not so bad a few hundred dollars, but my wife reminds me that the vet told me that the last place he would take a dog is to the beach.

---

**Jean Brocklebank** - I agree, dog and kid ruined. Regarding restrictive hours, I think the hours under consideration are early in the day (when most people are at work and kids are in school) and late in the afternoon. Obviously dogs don't "attack" only at certain times of the day, just as people don't "attack" at certain times of the day.

**Dogs allowed leashed on the beaches in Live Oak?** No, sorry, not good enough for me. Both my dog and I are happier to be running and playing along the seaside together or with my mate for awhile - not all day, not even a few hours, but enough time to bond, get some exercise and then go home or wherever.

---

**sub2546** - Even with "on leash" hours I don't get to choose which dogs come to the beach... or which adults come to the beach, which out of control kids come to the beach or which bottle rocket nuisances flock to the beaches on the 4th of July.

**Sorry to hear about your friend's dog and the ensuing cost of the vet bills.** Your wife said the vet wouldn't take a dog to the beach - that's one veterinarian's opinion and it's neither right or wrong. If someone has a pet (just like a kid), they should be vigilant and aware of the situations they're bringing their pet (or kid) in contact with, and make the best decisions to keep them safe.

---

**I plan to speak in favor of having one beach with off leash times in our county.** Most other areas in CA have off leash beaches and it works just fine. Knowing which beach and what the times are could have prevented this terrible attack, people like Jean who don't like dogs could just avoid the one beach in the county that allows off leash dogs for a couple of hours

---

**Will Sharp** There is one beach, Mitchells Cove, and they don't adhere to the hours. Why should other beach goers have to check the time to determine when it is safe to go to the beach?

---

**cesar.romo28** Apparently you are unable to learn from the mistakes of others. I have nothing to do on the night of the meeting, listening to you talk should be an entertaining experience.

---

**Yeh, right. I bust my butt for 47 years, buy a house within walking distance to the beach, so that I can either stroll on it, walk my sons leashed dogs or watch my grand children play and you have the audacity to suggest that people like me should go to another beach or check the times that might be safe to go to the beach closest to my home. I've tried going to other beaches and there were off leash dogs at those.**

**You seem to think that people that advocate leashing dogs do not like dogs. You are dead wrong. I love dogs but absolutely despise people that have such a large sense of entitlement that they don't care about other people. The Live Oak beaches are open to anyone twenty four hours a day and should remain so.**

-----

**cesar.romo28 YOU ARE AN IRRESPONSIBLE IDIOT CESAR.**

-----

**@ Will Sharp: Jean Brocklebank never said she didn't like dogs; in fact, she said she did. Please read a commenter's entire post before putting words into their mouth. Thank you.**

-----

**Liz Senteney WHO pays for our beaches? WHO has the right to use them? And WHY should anyone have to restrict their use because they may encounter the unpredictable behavior of someone's dog and their person???? You are absurd and so is Cesar.romo and his posts.**

-----

**What your speaking of is lack of enforcement. There are people who decide to break the law just as this dog owner did, the child paid a terrible price, the dog was put to death and I have little doubt that the owner will pay a high financial price for their lack common sense. This dog should not have been off leash even where it's legal. When was the last time you heard of someone getting bite at Carmel beach. In spite of the anti dog group using this tragedy to oppose one beach in our county allowing off leash dogs for a couple of hours. Let's remember many of these people were predicting mahem and the end of civilization as we know it if we allowed dogs on leash downtown. It's worked out to be great, I haven't heard them mention anything about how wrong they were.**

-----

**Small children should not be allowed during off-leash hours. It's simple, they have access to several other local beaches. I think there are as many dogs as children in Santa Cruz.**

-----

**There is no antidog group.**

**No one predicted "mahem and the end of civilization as we know it."**

**Beaches are not an appropriate place for off-leash dogs, because they cannot be fenced and enclosed as per the Animal Services Authority Board of Directors' recommendation to the County Board of Supervisors. When dogs are allowed to run unrestrained, humans, other dogs and wildlife are placed at peril.**

-----

**How you ask? Don't allow small children at the beach during off leash time. There are many other beaches in the county for children and joggers or the frail.**

-----

sheperd493, children are citizens of this city, country, and state. Dogs are not. It is ridiculous to compare the two.

-----  
**Will Sharp** You are right about Carmel, I just think it is a different culture. In Carmel you rarely see a mix breed shelter dog. You buy a \$1500 pure bred dog, you take care of it, you invest in training and so forth. I know very few people in Santa Cruz who invest in training their dog. It does require some \$\$ and a lot of work. That said, I would still like a dedicated dog beach, no kids. If the dogs could be socialized more in a friendly relaxed environment they would learn to be better behaved overall.

-----  
It doesnt require a lot money to train your dog just time and consistency. And I haven't found rich people or pure bred dogs to be better behaved then mixed breeds or people with a "different culture", just the opposite. Carmel is a tourist town attracting people from all over and many differrnet dog breeds..no problems.

-----  
terry\_adams - Well that sums it up. I mean, how could I possibly argue with your rock solid evidence that I am indeed an idiot? After all, if it's written in ALL CAPS, then it must be true! ;)

-----  
**What is wrong with dogs have exclusive use of a beach for a certain period of time? As a citizen I should have the right to enjoy the park near my house, so does that mean I can just walk right out in the middle of a soccer or baseball game? It's a public park isn't it? I don't like either sport but I respect their time to enjoy it.**

-----  
**The beach is regulated by the Coastal Commission. Under the California Coastal Act, no agency can deny access to the beach to any member of the public. Therefore the County may not make rules that restrict access to the beach.**

-----  
**You wrote "Small children should not be allowed during off-leash hours. It's simple, they have access to several other local beaches."**

**I write - What if they live next to a beach? Are the parents supposed to take them somewhere else just so that you and your kind can have your pleasure. Share the beach, keep your dog on a leash**

**notgoodthebad** "You seem to think that people that advocate leashing dogs do not like dogs." I never said anything like that. You put a lot of words in mouth in your response to me. The issue in this particular incident was NOT that of an OWNED dog. This woman was NOT the owner of the dog; She did NOT know this dog, or its temperament. This woman was absolutely stupid in letting a strange dog off leash in public. She got this dog killed, and a young boy seriously hurt. My point is, it wasn't a regular "irresponsible owner" situation, there were "special" circumstances. Actual "Bites" do not happen as often as some make it sound.

I don't go to off leash areas. I don't appreciate being rushed by strange dogs. I stopped going to Rio Del Mar beach because of that. So if I know where the off leash dogs are, I don't go there. Yes, I live near RDM. But I can go somewhere that's safer for myself and my dog. Others that have this problem should do the same. Advocates for off leash areas are asking for this ONE beach, is that so much to ask? I'm not "one of those people" who thinks I'm above the law, and I'm not an owner that allows my dog to rush people or other dogs.

I TOTALLY get where you are coming from. The lesson here is, your foster dogs should NEVER Be off leash. If you want to take your OWN dog off leash and take that chance, fine. But a foster dog is not your property, and you do not know the dog enough to do so. Very sad situation.

-----  
ean, do you ever hear of kids being mauled at Its Beach? No, and the dogs there are off leash early in the morning and late in the afternoons....cut our canines a little slack ok?

-----  
**shepherd493:** I have a better suggestion. Do not allow dogs on the beach, period! Neither people with children, nor anyone else, should ever have to go to another beach, or anywhere else, to accommodate DOGS! Dogs do not belong on ANY beach at ANY time!! Not only are dogs a threat to humans on the beach, they are also a threat to wildlife – remember the dog that attacked and killed a baby seal a few weeks ago? Furthermore, people do not pick up after their fleabags on the beach and dog excrement washes into the ocean and kills marine life. Beaches are for people, NOT DOGS

-----  
**Pat Dowling:** Keep your "canines" at home!

-----  
I have been bitten 3 times on our beaches, all 3 unleashed with irresponsible owners. Unleashed dogs are terrible danger to the public both on the beaches on and on the streets. The problem is so severe that many people like myself can no longer use the beaches due to the danger. Enforcement is needed asap.

-----  
Missy Hyperbole would be a more appropriate name for you....

-----  
How do you walk down the beach and get bitten by a dog 3 different times? Maybe you shouldn't wear sausage necklaces.I don't believe this story.

Edward Cravalho Try simply walking on the beach. One does not have to do anything to attract vicious dogs running loose. The loose dog problem is out of control obviously.

---

I believe her. Back in January, four times within a twenty minute period I had large dogs come up to me and put their paws on my shoulders and stick their face in mine. I've been going to the beaches around here for over thirty years and never had that happen before.

What are the odds of having it happen that many times in such a short period. Two of the dog owners were so far away that they didn't have control over their dogs. The two that were closer to me, both had the same response, "That's the first time that he has done that." No apologies

---

Edward Cravalho The way you walk down the beach and get bit is you be a small person, either a child or a small adult.

---

Irresponsible owners mess it up for the rest of us. Maybe I'm lucky or maybe I go to better beaches, but I haven't seen such out of control behavior by our four-legged friends. Now, regarding dangerous activities at the beach by the two-legged types - littering, errant balls bouncing off heads, drugs, territorial gang posturing - I see that a lot more and think enforcement is needed ASAP.

---

Having been around and blessed with the opportunity to get to know many dogs in my life I find they have a innate sense of good and bad people. If you've been bit three times in your life...well we'll just leave it there. I'd trade most humans for dogs in a second. Missy from reading all you're one-sided crackpot posts the dogs have it in for you.

---

So, Doc Martin, you're insinuating that this 5-year old boy who was attacked while playing at the beach with his babysitter had it coming to him because the dog could sense that he was a bad person?

---

**Ed, it was an ATTACK....not a bite.**

---

I do. Every day, Never bitten once - even close.

---

Edward Cravalho A young child was taken to the emergency room with severe injuries due to being attacked and bitten on the head etc. This is not the place to question whether dogs attack innocent human beings. Really.

---

Edward Cravalho A young child was taken to the emergency room with severe injuries due to being attacked and bitten on the head etc. This is not the place to question whether dogs attack innocent human beings. Really.

---



**Doc Martin Your comments, after an article in which a young child was attacked and viciously injured by a dog are incomprehensible and insensitive. To try to stereotype and sum up all dogs and all humans is preposterous. Where is your compassion for this innocent child and their life altering injuries?**

---

Missy, I don't know if you have a clue of what a vicious dog is? I suspect not. I can say personally, after spending many many years on various beaches across this fine planet, I have yet to attract a vicious anything including humans.

---

Well said, Doc...I'd much rather spend time with dogs over most people...it is extraordinarily rare for something like this to happen...off-leash dogs and people exist harmoniously throughout Santa Cruz County...dog parks, beaches, etc., etc. An attack like the one that occurred on Rio del Mar Beach is almost unheard of...when was the last time that a dog attack on one of our beaches made the papers? 20, 20, 40 years ago?

---

**I hope they prosecute her. Bet she doesn't have anything to sue for either.**

---

**Dogs are predators, only slightly removed from their Lupine ancestors. They instinctively chase and attack any moving animals they encounter.**

**While this recent incident involved a dog illegally allowed to run off-leash, dogs have bitten humans and other dogs even while securely on-leash.**

**In Santa Cruz County we have made a compromise between absolute safety from dog attacks and the necessity of exercising our pets. City, County and State leash laws allow dog owners to walk their pets on-leash anywhere in the county, including local beaches. Allowing dogs to run off-leash on County beaches would negate that compromise already established and would create serious legal liability for the County Board of Supervisors.**

**Dogs must not be allowed to run off-leash on County beaches. Those irresponsible dog owners who illegally let their dogs run off-leash, and who promote and organize this illegal practice, must not be rewarded by officially condoning their activities.**

---

**Total bullshit. First of all, rescue dogs, police dogs, and disabled persons assistant dogs are allowed to be off leash while in duty. Secondly you are talking about over a hundred thousand years of adaptive evolution and breeding in the works for domesticated dogs. Your argument is akin to suggesting that modern man is as predictable as a chimpanzee.**

---

**We're not discussing working dogs, we're discussing pets.**

**This turns out not to be the case. Canis Lupus is only 50,000 years old. Human beings did not domesticate dogs until around 25,000 years ago, if then.**

**Domestic dogs and wolves can interbreed, therefore they are the same species with nearly identical genes. Domestic dogs revert to the wild state, living in packs, when taken from their domestic situation**

---

**So pet dogs are wild wolves capable of vicious tacks but working dogs are friendly helpers that would never hurt anyone? Somehow they know to turn off their "wolf" impulses?**

**And homo sapiens and Neanderthals could interbreed too. Should I assume you are just like a neandrathal? And humans have almost identical DNA to Chimpanzees, guess you are just like a chimp then huh?**

---

**Down deep Michael Lewis really wants unfettered access to Mother Nature to be off-limits to all species except for his beloved Homo Sapiens....**

---

**ASPCA dog etiquette: when leashed a dog is unable to follow his instincts to chase children. whether a dog is friendly or aggressive a leash keeps him in check and allows the public to pass undisturbed. remember that dogs can be frightened by sudden noises, such as running children. be aware that such situations may demand quick and complete control on your part to prevent your dog from lunging or biting".**

---

**my owner keeps me on leash at all times when I am not at home, not only is everyone else safer-I feel safer also, knowing that if there is dog that is off-lead-he will protect me from it-just as I will protect him. No, as much as I love to run free-beaches where altercations are all too easy-should be banned from us off-lead. I feel bad for my canine cousin-he lost his life because of an un-caring caretaker.**

---

**Actually, your little four-legged friend is probably more protective and more likely to bit ON-leash.**

**google: the-true-causes-of-dog-aggression**

---

**yes...yes I am. But when I am on lead...my owner will protect me from off-leash cousins. As I will protect him.**

---

**Whitney Wilde**

**This topic is not related to leash aggression.**

---

I may look cute and cuddly—but I am still an animal with sharp teeth and claws—and I am very fast—plus I do not know when instinct might take over my training and I do something bad—I do not mean too—but I am a dog after all is said and done.

---

So Mac do you feel safe at home with your unpredictable predator armed with razor sharp fangs and claws? You do? Ok, then, why not allow him/her a few minutes of off leash time to run free under your conscientious supervision?

---

And a dog talking in 3rd person on a website is a little weird. Says something about a lot of dog owners.

---

Yes Matt, we understand your way of thinking.. One dog bites a little boy and all dogs are vicious predators. One guy talks in the third person to playfully make a point and he represents the majority of dog owners. Seriously bro, you are clueless.

---

No I get it, trust me. The majority of dog owners I've seen won't fess up to their dog's mistakes and value them above humans. Nobody is saying all dogs are vicious predators that are going to bite someone. The point is we don't know which ones are, or what any dog will do, so keep it on leash. That's why the law is there. But you somehow think you're above that law. It doesn't matter what you think or "know with 100% certainty" what your dog will do, you still have to keep it on leash, bro.

---

Don't get a dog if you can't be responsible for its behavior. I feel bad for both the child and the dog. Glad to see this idiot isn't allowed to have one anymore.

---

She may not be allowed to "foster" another dog, but rest assured that she will likely have another dog at some point.

---

I suggest that one does not get a dog unless one is willing to adhere to the leash law, which protects all people and all dogs.

---

I let my dog off leash all the time. I also pay 100% attention to her/her cues and what's going on around us. I go to parks close to sunrise or sunset and if I see people with little kids I ask them if they're ok with me throwing the ball for my dog off leash.

The problem with too many dog owners is their flakey, overly anthropomorphic and Laissez-faire relationships with their pets. People just do not want to put the time and energy into being responsible owners and training their dogs...of course the same can be said (minus anthropomorphic) for many parents too.

I think the answer is to require a license to own a dog, or at least incentivize obedience classes. Create off leash hours in certain parks and have stricter enforcement during the on-leash hours.

---

**Yes! I love your ideas. Obedience classes and/or "dog good citizenship" certification should be a prerequisite for obtaining a dog license. We already require rabies immunizations and neutering, so why not good behavior?**

---

**Off-leash dog play areas in fenced, enclosed areas of some of our City-County parks is an excellent idea. However, establishing off-leash hours in the entire park creates a single-use of public space. Public space belongs to all members of the public, not just some dog owners who want their dog to be off-leash**

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**Off leash hours does not create a 'single use' of space. It simply means dogs can be off leash during those hours. Non dog owners can still use the park, they just must do so with the understanding that dogs will be running free during those hours.**

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**Famous last words: "Oh, he won't hurt you". I was jogging in Jade St Park when some idiot let both his dogs off leash (as he leaned on the "Dogs must be leashed " sign) and the larger dog just went nuts. He charged a disabled woman walking nearby, took a massive dump right between the soccer goal posts, and then came after me. I told the owner to leash his dog and HE went nuts, telling me how great his dogs were and how he's a "local" and that his dog was harmless. I told him he needs to consider that not everyone loves his dogs like he does and that maybe his dog is harmless, but I'm not. If anyone's dog charges me, I am not waiting to find out what his agenda is. I love animals so don't force me to kick the \*^(# out of your dumb dog in order to defend myself.**

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**I got the same BS over at Floral Park after being charged by some dumb dog. The owner got all defensive when I called her out about leashing her animal.**

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**Dog owners never own up to their dog's mistakes. It's always "He's nice" while the dog's growling at you, or they try and turn the whole thing around on you like you provoked the dog somehow.**

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**Never matt? Wow, these dog owners sound like terrible people. Every single last rotten one of them.**

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**Dan, you try to kick my Akita mix and you'd end up with a bloody stump...dumb comment maybe?**

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**Besides banning this volunteer, the shelter also needs to STOP FALSELY LABELLING PIT BULL MIXES as 'Boxer' 'Lab' and such. I hope Sobel and her shelter are well-insured. They will be liable for all damages here. They were not only the owners of this pit bull mix, but they misrepresented what it was.**

---

**@Jan Smith: As soon as I read this article, I strongly suspected the dog involved had "pit bull" somewhere in its lineage. Animal shelters and rescue organizations are notorious for mislabeling pit bulls as Lab mixes, bulldog mixes, etc. and passing them off on the unsuspecting public. Shelter dogs of any breed are bad news.**

**Although only 20% of the dogs owned in the US were adopted from a shelter, shelter dogs account for 50% of the attacks resulting in serious injury and as we all know, in recent years, pit bulls have been responsible for approximately 65% of the attacks in the US resulting in death and an even greater percentage of those which require hospitalization.**

**Several private animal shelters have gone out of business after being sued for allowing the adoption of dangerous dogs. While it would be impossible to put a county-owned shelter out of business, this incident should result in a mass turnover in personnel, beginning with Melanie Sobel! I hope the parents of the child sue not only animal control and Melanie Sobel, but also the "volunteer," who allowed the monster to run loose! Additionally, animal shelters should discontinue the practice of allowing "volunteers" to remove animals from the shelter!**

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**When strange dogs WooF at me aggressively it freaks me out. People need to keep their WooFing dogs on leashes. That's plain old fashioned courtesy.**

-----  
**Why do dog owners let their dogs go off-leash in areas where leashes are mandatory? There are plenty of special "dog parks" around here, where the dogs can be off leash, and play and socialize with other dogs. I have a friend with two little dogs, who just love going to the dog parks...they see all their friends, and frolic and have a great time. Very seldom are there any altercations between the dogs.**

-----  
**Dogs should be leashed when in public. Period. Even the best behaved dog in the world can be distracted and not obey. And the best dog in the world can also be attacked by some of the very naughty dogs out there (usually the result of not being raised properly). Can't even take a nice walk in my neighborhood here in Felton because of all the loose dogs. :(**

-----  
**Yes, let's require obedience training and good canine citizenship for dog licensing. We already require neutering and immunizations, so it's not that huge a step. It would also make me and my dog safer when we go out, and we could all enjoy the great outdoors knowing that everybody's family dog was under control.**

-----  
**There are 50,000 dogs in Santa Cruz County. Only 14,000 of them are licensed.**

-----  
**Michael, you might be shocked to know that there are even more unlicensed human beings in the area.**

-----  
**Yup! Dogs are great except when they're not.**

**Sadly, so many people over-estimate their ability to control their dogs' behavior while off-leash (Not to mention under-estimate their dogs' potential to cause harm. It's not only aggression that can cause harm when a large dog encounters a small human -- or a smaller dog. An overly playful large dog can also cause injury). I've often had to fend off attacks by larger dogs on my (leashed) small dog while the owner just stood there yelling "Fido! No! Come!" to no avail. The reality is, the vast majority of pet dogs are NOT well-trained enough to be allowed off-leash in an un-confined area. I love dogs...I can't imagine my life without a dog...but sometimes I think a license should be required in order to be a dog owner (or, in this case, a dog fosterer). Don't talk to me about your dog's "right" to run off leash until you can demonstrate that you can reliably call him back to you under ANY circumstance.**

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**I agree. I was up at a park off Meder street and some idiot had her pit bull off leash. I was in my car and hear screaming and yelling and see that the dog took off after a cat, the cat ran across the street towards the houses, the dog following, a car driving on the street swerves to avoid the cat and dog, nearly hitting parked cars in the process, the dog's owner lamely running after the dog.. "Mangrel, please come," like in a high pitched pleading tone that the dog of course ignored.**

**A couple minutes later I see the dog racing back across the street into the park again, chasing birds, the birds fly away so then he runs after some guy on a skateboard with his dog in front (on a leash), the dogs owner at this point finally runs back into the park and looks like she's going to have a heart attack from running a couple of miles after the dog which is running wild. Then the dog runs after some kids kicking a ball around. More screaming. Kids are crying, parents yelling, dude on skateboard throwing the finger. I had to leave unfortunately so didn't get to see the outcome of this circus, other than knowing that that woman had NO RIGHT to own any dog larger than a rat.**

**She had ZERO control over the animal, and was moronic enough not to even have him on a leash. I wish I had one of those tranquilizer guns they use to shoot darts into mountain lions. I would have used it on the dog and that idiot woman.**

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**so very true audry, I was bitten on my hand several years ago by a dog who's owner had told me not to worry he never bites. what the owner had failed to tell me was that the dog had been very abused as a puppy and you had to approach him slowly. I reached up to pat the dog on his head and he bit me on the hand. the person who had abused the dog use to reach up and hit the dog on the head when he was angry so the dog was reacting out of fear. I didn't get angry at the dog instead I was angry at the dogs owner. lol I still see the dog today and as soon as he see's me he starts to lick the part of my hand he bit. I tell myself it's his way of saying he's sorry.**

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**That's pretty much an everyday occurrence at University Terrace (Meder St) Park. It even has an off-leash area, but many dog owners don't limit their pets to that area.**

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**Daniela Katz: Sounds a lot like my neighborhood on the weekends.**

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**Same with Floral Park off 38th. It's somehow turned from a nice grassy area to kick a ball around to a huge litter box where the locals let their dogs have at it. They provide plastic bags to clean up after your pet, however there are still numerous landmines in the grass. The best is when you actually see dog poop in a bag but the bag is ditched on the fence post. Trashy people**

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**Pepper spray is more appropriate as a deterrent for canine attacks. Now when it comes to dealing with humans a .45AP can certainly get the job done in the right circumstances...**

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**Dogs do not belong at the beach period, another reason, pollution.**

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Have you ever been to Jade Street park while an adult softball game is going on? Some of those guys can hit the ball over the outfield fence, obviously endangering innocents. Someone tossing a football at the beach, another danger. Surfboards wash up, danger in the white water. Leashed dogs more likely to bite (leash takes away the flight from "fight or flight"), can't allow that. A soccer ball to the face can do a lot of damage, scratch them. Took a Frisbee to the nose once, send those to the rubbish pile. Young children are booger eating petri dishes for diseases, don't want them touching anything I may come in contact with.

A person can try and adapt the world to eliminate every one of their perceived dangers, or they can use judgement. I know which world I would rather live in..

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**Statistics prove otherwise.**

-----  
**Nope...**

**Which Dogs Bite? A Case-Control Study of Risk Factors (1991)**

**In 1994, researchers released a study of "which dogs bite" based on 1991 Denver County dog bite data. Pit bulls are not included in the study. In 1989, Denver banned pit bulls.**

**Biters are 6.2 times as likely to be male than female**

**Biters are 2.6 times as likely to be intact than neutered**

**Biters are 2.8 times as likely to be chained as unchained**

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**I wonder if the foster parent has deep pockets? LAWSUIT Time!**

**I'm so tired of irresponsible pet owners. You need to prove you can drive a car, why not prove you aren't some moron who just wants a high prey stud dog as a status symbol. There are so many people who don't train their animals, which is annoying if it's a poodle but dangerous if it's a dog that can kill people.**

**I have a couple friends that were bitten as kids and not only were they traumatized then but they're still sketchy around dogs. (Not to mention both have scars on their faces, one a decent chunk of lip taken off and had to be reconstructed.)**

**Forget putting down the dogs, I'm all for putting down the owners. ( or at least putting the worst ones in jail.)**

-----  
**"I wonder if the foster parent has deep pockets? LAWSUIT Time!"**

**Under California law the owner is liable for dog bites.**

**Pelu...that behavior had nothing to do with the dog being a pit bull and everything to do with it being an out-of-control, off leash dog with a moron for an owner. Of the dogs that have come after my leashed dog while we were out on walks, three have been Golden Retrievers (yes, Golden Retrievers), one was a Border Collie, and a couple were mostly herding breed mixes. The dog that attacked the kid at Rio Del Mar was a boxer mix. No breed of dog is inherently "bad" or dangerous, and breed-specific legislation just takes focus from the real problem, which is the unwillingness of many dog owners to train and control their dogs.**

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**All terriers were bred for fighting, RealityCheck...not just pit bulls. In fact, until fairly recently, it was common practice to "spark" terriers in the show ring (have leashed dogs face each other to see if they would hackle and growl at each other). The bulldog, which is considered a "non-sporting" breed, was also bred for bullbaiting. Most dogs of the Molossian type (Rottweilers, mastiffs, etc.) originally came from dogs bred for war. Irish wolfhounds were bred to kill wolves (and their masters' enemies). Rhodesian ridgebacks were bred to hunt lions. How many breeds are we going to ban? It's irresponsible owners that make bad dogs...not breeding.**

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**Or rather, "not the breed." Breeding certainly CAN contribute to making a problem dog, but it's not the breed of the dog that's at fault...rather the practices of a breeder who doesn't take temperament into consideration. We're seeing a lot of dangerously fearful Golden Retrievers right now (fearful/high anxiety dogs can be among the MOST dangerous), as well as Border Collies in whom the drive that makes them good herders flips into a heightened prey drive that makes them dangerously aggressive...that's bad breeding, compounded by bad handling. But it's not the fact of what the breed was developed for that makes the dog dangerous. If it were, there are a lot of breeds that should be on someone's "ban" list.**

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**I was walking past Floral Street Park earlier this week. A woman with a leashed dog entered the park Her dog was promptly accosted by an off leash bull dog. The owner of the bull dog apologized. The woman with the leashed dog immediately left the park; the damage was done, a peaceful walk with her dog spoiled.**

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**I never took my dog for a walk to toilet on someone else's landscaping, on beach sand or in any public space. I trained my dog to "go pee!" or "go poo!" in my small backyard. Then, and only then, would we take our walks together. Easy to do. Respectful of others. Happy dog and happy owner.**

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**One more reason to carry a gun.**

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**You don't need a gun, bear spray will do the trick; in fact it's better.**

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**sub2546 Will it work on the owner(s) as well?**

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**not good the bad if she's was in possession of the dog, she will be considered liable for the behavior of that dog during that time. just because she is not a permanent owner, this will easily be refuted and she will be held responsible.**

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**That's BS! I feel bad for the boy & his babysitter (that must have been a fun phone call to the boys parents) but they should NOT have killed that dog! The owner should be responsible...**

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**One bad apple .. the foster person! Why in the world would she let this happen when it is sooo easy to prevent by using a leash? I just do not understand this kind of "dog person". So sorry for this child as he suffers so needlessly!!**

-----  
**Yes, very sad. And I'm angry with the foster person for allowing it to happen. But don't let that be an indictment of all the millions of well-trained and well-behaved dogs and their responsible owners.**

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**Leash laws apply to everyone, equally.**

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**So do the speed limits but the vast majority of people break those laws.**

-----  
**What shelter was the dog foster person working for? What are their qualifications and training? Without knowing a dog's temperament, it should not be off-leash, and temperaments can change as a dog ages. This dog was 1/2 herding breed, the Aussies are known to want to nip heels if someone is running. Our previous dog was excellent, she did not need a leash, but we would always leash up when passing children and other leashed dogs. I thought this was typical dog etiquette.**

-----  
**Typically as a dog owner, I've found the stretch of beach from Rio Del Mar north to New Brighton a nice stretch to walk as the dog owners we've encountered follow the rules. Further south at Seascape off leash is allowed.**

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**Our current dog has a high prey drive. I hope this incident will show how important it is to have a dedicated dog beach, for dogs and dog owners, no children or joggers, etc. I've sometimes seen toddlers in the dog park, yes there are clueless people on both sides of the issue. If everyone would just follow the rules we'd all be safer.**

-----  
**Dog owners who allow their dogs to run off-leash are not "following the rules." They are engaged in irresponsible, illegal behavior.**

" Further south at Seascape off leash is allowed."

Are you sure about that? Try taking your dog to a dog park Oh! You don't want to do that because you want your walk on the beach. The dog couldn't care less where it is, as long as he/she is around other dogs.

Bob Johnson, human life, civility and safety are always worth the effort. People who don't value the law are called anti-socials and sociopaths, yes they will always exist, but that doesn't mean we as a society should just not try and give in to these people.

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Many of the laws on the books are the result of people's irresponsibility.

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**The following pages carry text from two of the newspaper articles posted as a response.**

The catchphrase that comes up whenever people talk about banning dangerous dog breeds is wearing a little thin: "There are no bad dogs, only bad owners."

So, in the wake of a Leger Marketing survey that showed seniors are likeliest to favour banning pit bulls and other scary breeds, what are we supposed to do about bad owners?

The answer is nothing. Nothing can be done about bad owners, because bad owners do not recognize themselves as such, nor do they appear to be aware that their dogs are dangerous and out of control. Why, Poopsie wouldn't hurt a fly!

Round and round it goes, as it always has.

Unlike Winnipeg, which banned pit bulls more than 20 years ago after a little girl had her face horribly scarred during an unprovoked attack, Calgary emphasizes fines, education and responsible pet ownership.

The responsible pet owners are already doing all the right things. But name me one person who would ever admit to being an irresponsible dog owner. Ain't gonna happen.

A couple of years ago, I was out walking with my border collie when a pit bull tore the leash from its owner's hand, dashed across the street and attacked my dog. Its owner just stood there and watched, as I did my best to separate the dogs. The woman said nothing; she didn't even offer an apology.

Does anyone think she has admitted to this day that she's an irresponsible pet owner? Of course not. But what she left in the wake of her irresponsibility, and her failure to train and control her dog, was a once-friendly border collie who now shows aggression to every dog he meets, out of the fear engendered in him by that one attack.

When pit bulls maul humans, the damage they do is horrific. Yet, people just keep mouthing the platitude of "no bad dogs, only bad owners." Platitudes are not solving the problem.

Calling the debate outdated, dogsbite.org, a public education website based in Austin, Texas, which tracks dog bite statistics, says the idea that "it's the owner, not the breed, has caused the pit bull problem to grow into a 30-year-old problem.

Designed to protect pit bull breeders and owners, the slogan ignores the genetic history of the breed and

**As a practicing emergency physician, I have witnessed countless dog bites. Invariably, the most vicious and brutal attacks I have seen have been from the pit bull breed.**

**Many of the victims have been children. In a recent study from the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, pit bull attacks accounted for more ER visits than all other breeds combined.**

**In young children, the most common part of the body injured was the face. Numerous studies have proven that the number-one cause of dog bite fatalities is the pit bull breed.**

**I am certain that many attacks are due to owner negligence, but the fact remains that many were unpredictable and were perpetrated by formerly "loving and loyal" pets.**

**Dr. Chagnon has every right to leave our town as she claims she will if pit bulls are banned, just like every one of her patients has the right not to attend her clinic where she brings her pit bulls.**

**I applaud Mayor Pro Tem Joanne Sanders for bringing this issue to the forefront. In the interest of public safety, I recommend we enforce a spay/neuter requirement on pit bulls while reviewing and revamping all of our policies relating to animal bites.**

**The Front Burner: Banning pit bulls saves lives and protects the innocent.**

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**Whether to ban pit bulls is a human health and safety issue that should be steered by health and safety officials. Public safety is not the profession of animal advocates. Thus, public policy coming from animal advocates concerning protecting humans from pit bulls is fundamentally flawed.**

**So far this year, 13 of the 14 Americans who have been killed by dogs — 93 percent — were killed by pit bulls and pit mixes. This is well above the average of 60 percent from 2005 to 2012.**

**As the pit bull population rises, more human fatalities ensue. During the last eight-year period that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention studied fatal attacks by breed (1991 to 1998), pit bulls were estimated at 1 percent of the U.S. dog population. Pit bulls killed an average of three people per year.**

**The pit bull population has since grown to 4 percent. During the most recent eight-year period (2005-12), pit bulls killed an average of 19 people per year.**

**Miami-Dade County, which banned pit bulls in 1989, has avoided this loss of life. Other Florida counties — prohibited by state law from regulating dogs by breed — continue to experience deaths and disfigurements due to pit bulls. Since 1989, 18 Florida citizens have been killed by pit bulls — none within Miami-Dade.**

**The threat from pit bulls results from the combination of the animals' inclination to attack without warning — an essential trait of fighting dogs — and the type of injuries that pit bulls typically inflict.**

**Most dogs bite and retreat, but pit bulls have a hold-and-shake bite style, and tenaciously refuse to stop an attack once begun.**

**Often a pit bull releases its grip only when dead — the trait dog fighters describe as being "dead game."**

**Ban opponents often blame dismembering and fatal attacks on environmental factors, such as neglect. That, unfortunately, is the plight of too many dogs of all breeds, not just those who kill and maim.**

**Opponents also fail to distinguish dog-bite-injury severity. They argue that bans "do not reduce all dog bites." Of the 4.7 million Americans bitten by dogs each year, 9,500 require hospitalization for severe dog-bite injuries. The most extreme injury level, mauling injury, requires life-saving procedures at trauma centers.**

**The purpose of a pit bull ban is to eradicate mauling injuries and deaths inflicted by pit bulls, the breed**

**involved in more than half of all severe and mauling attacks.**

**Since 1986, 18 appellate decisions have upheld lower-court findings that pit bulls are more dangerous than other dog breeds.**

**Since 1988, four peer-reviewed studies published in leading medical journals have reviewed the severity of pit bull injury. "Mortality, Mauling and Maiming by Vicious Dogs," published in the Annals of Surgery in 2011, concluded the following:**

**"Attacks by pit bulls are associated with higher morbidity rates, higher hospital charges, and a higher risk of death than are attacks by other breeds of dogs. Strict regulation of pit bulls may substantially reduce the U.S. mortality rates related to dog bites."**

**In April 2012, the highest court in Maryland declared pit bulls "inherently dangerous," altering common law pertaining to pit bull attacks. Pit bulls are prima facie dangerous in Maryland and held to a strict liability standard. In instances of a tenant's pit bull attacking, this liability extends to the landlord. The court cited the entire abstract of the 2011 Annals of Surgery study in its opinion.**

**Influential pit bull advocates have supported regulation in the past and are doing so now. On its Facebook page, the Villalobos Rescue Center, founded by Tia Torres of Animal Planet's Pit Bulls & Parolees — expressed support for a proposal in Louisiana on the heels of a mutilating attack on a woman by her own pit bulls.**

**It is time for Florida pit bull advocacy groups to follow suit.**

**Colleen Lynn is the founder of DogsBite.org, a national dog-bite victims' group dedicated to reducing serious dog attacks.**

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**Melissa Henderson**

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**From:** faye augustine <FAYEIRA@cruzio.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 21, 2013 7:15 PM  
**To:** PRCWeb  
**Subject:** off leash issues

To committee members,

I understand you are planning to make a recommendation on June 10 that the beach between 20th and 26th avenues become leash free for dogs. I want to go on record that I am against this happening for several reasons. I live near the beach and frequent often for a peaceful stroll. However, dogs are already running loose often and causing issues with chasing birds, each other, and unfortunately jumping and knocking over kids and adults. They are not able to be supervised by their owners at all times and I've seen many instances where owners don't even have control over their dogs on a leash.

I have had dogs jump on me and my friends and their grandkids. The owners do not call them off, saying they won't bite. I beg to differ. I have been snapped at whether they are playing or not, I don't know and don't care...either way it's a potential bite to me!

Please, please, do not make this or any other town beach off leash. In fact, it would be nice if the current leash laws were enforced and owners really did pick up after their animals.

For the record, I like dogs, and I realize they are just being what they are. It's just not a good place to let them run free.

respectfully,  
faye augustine

## Melissa Henderson

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**From:** kristen davis <kristenraedavis@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 21, 2013 7:39 PM  
**To:** John Leopold; Zach Friend; Neal Coonerty; Greg Caput; Bruce McPherson; PRCWeb  
**Subject:** Good News from LOOLA!  
**Attachments:** Loola booth friends.jpg; Signing Petitions.jpg; Woofstock.jpg

Dear Mariah, Kate, Jim, Steve, Dave, Zach, Greg, Neal, Bruce and John,

Please forgive me for an email – my last correspondence to you was via an actual “snail mail” complete with a card, a postage stamp and a picture of my dog! I've just plain run out of time.

I wanted to let you know that your friends at LOOLA, (*who are working so hard to make sure a safe, sane, fair and democratic law to share the beaches with our community's dogs is passed soon*), had a WONDERFUL, FUN, SUCCESSFUL day, in our booth, at the Coastal Dogs Event, in Soquel, on Sunday. People were literally lined up at the booth to sign our petitions, and so many people's reaction, wasn't just "yes I'll sign" - it was "HECK YES FOR SURE I'D LOVE TO SIGN AND THIS CAUSE IS SO RIGHT AND GOOD AND CAN MY KIDS AND MY COUSIN AND MY MOM AND MY FRIENDS AND OUR GUESTS WHO ARE VISITING FROM FREMONT AND MILPITAS SIGN AND HOW CAN WE HELP"?

We handed out dog biscuits with poop sacks tied to them, with a slip of paper printed with the link to our web site. People loved them!

We collected close to 400 signatures on our petitions, including the signatures of a couple of our friends who are officers with Santa Cruz Animal Control. What better endorsement could we possibly hope for!?

Clearly we have such huge community support...! The successful Coastal Dogs event energized our efforts.

I hope you'll enjoy the attached photos.

Thanks for reading this, and we look very much forward to seeing all of you - Mariah, Kate, Jim, Steve, and Dave, on June 10 at the Parks and Recreation meeting.

Sincerely,

Kristen Davis and my trusty side-kick, Sister Golden Hair Surprise.

email: kristenraedavis@gmail.com

cell: (831)431-3399

land: (831)477-1381

## Melissa Henderson

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**From:** D. Hooker <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 21, 2013 3:23 PM  
**To:** PRCWeb  
**Subject:** dogs off leash

I am a dog person. I live with two dogs. However, I do not feel that the beaches between 20th and 26th are the correct choices for off leash. There are responsible dog owners and irresponsible ones. Currently these beaches are loaded with the latter. Dogs are off leash NOW, shitting wherever (who do you suppose will pick up their pee) and knocking down children. This beautiful stretch of beach is just too small for dogs and people (especially children) to share. Please vote this down and consider using a larger beach, such as Rio Del Mar and Aptos. You only have to visit this beach at around 5 to see the problem.

Thanks

Dee Hooker

[REDACTED]  
[www.dhooker.com](http://www.dhooker.com)

**Melissa Henderson**

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**From:** Buff McKinley <buff@lcdig.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 20, 2013 3:09 PM  
**To:** PRCWeb  
**Subject:** a vote against the proposal to loosen or remove the LEASH LAW from Moran Lagoon and vicinity.

please count me among the many county residents and beach frequenters who hopes that ALL DOGS REMAIN ON LEASH at the beach.

It's just not fair to the rest of us.

I saw the signs at the beach and I bet you'll be getting lots of emails in support of OFF LEASH.

I don't like it. not one bit.

thank you

Buff McKinley  
buff@lcdig.com

2450 17th Ave #125  
Santa Cruz CA 95062  
831.479.4383



## Melissa Henderson

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**From:** \* Colleen Burke, L.Ac. <colleenburke@earthlink.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 20, 2013 12:15 PM  
**To:** PRCWeb  
**Subject:** ATTN: District One - Michael Rosenberg

Dear Mr. Rosenberg,

Please advocate for off-leash dog beach access during morning and evening hours. The kind of exercise this would allow is crucial for the well-being of my dog and myself.

Thank you so much.

Sincerely,

Colleen Burke, L.Ac.  
215 30th Ave  
Santa Cruz

**Melissa Henderson**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, May 20, 2013 6:13 AM  
**To:** PRCWeb  
**Subject:** Chaos & dog crappy

To whom it may concern,

This letter is in regards to the proposal to make an off leash dog beach from 20th Ave. to 26th and beyond to Moran Lagoon.

I am very much against this. My family and I come to visit and stay in Santa Cruz at least once or twice a year. We always come to that beach area to swim, play, picnic and take sunset walks, but recently there are so many dogs that they have ruined it for us. The dogs are running hard and seem out of control, actually knocking into us sometimes and getting on blankets and into food. The owners are usually too far away from them and can't effectively control them. If I had smaller children, I would be very afraid to venture out onto the sand with them. Also, every single dog owner is NOT picking up their dog's feces, it is gross there!

I am a dog and horse lover, have owned them for most of my life, but humans come first in my book. People need to keep their dogs on a leash when in the public.

Thanks for your attention to this letter,  
A. Jane Hicks

## Melissa Henderson

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**From:** kbtobin@gmail.com on behalf of Karen Tobin <karen@crosshairstudios.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, May 19, 2013 11:53 PM  
**To:** PRCWeb  
**Subject:** Off-Leash advocate

Dear Commissioner Roberts, Commissioner Minott, Commissioner Lang, Commissioner Bennett, Commissioner Mercer,

We got our golden retriever puppy three years ago, after living in the Pleasure Point community for over twenty years, and watching so many of our neighbors enjoy their dogs in this wonderful environment. When I began to take the dog to the beach area where everyone went, the "dog beach", I expected this to be a fairly solitary time, since I took the dog by myself. But soon I found that this time that was meant for the dog's benefit had quickly become a beneficial time for me, and for many other people at the beach with their dogs.

I found that going to the dog beach was a very social experience. I began my beach walk alone, but soon I stopped and chatted with someone who was also watching a dog. And then someone else would join us, and then someone else! I had no idea that going to the "dog beach" would be such a social event! I began to meet so many neighbors from the Live Oak area, and beyond. It really was quite wonderful. I would talk with so many different people who, under the usual circumstances of living here, I would not get to talk with. I would talk with a lot of middle-aged women, like myself; there are a lot of us walking our dogs! But I would also find myself talking with handsome, young surfer fellows who were out with their dog. Now when else would that ever happen?! Or I would talk with young college women, or teenage girls, out walking their dogs on the beach. I loved that my teenage daughter could take our dog for a run on the "dog beach"; it felt like a very safe place, since there would probably be a nice, middle-aged woman somewhere around, or a family, or, of course, the surfers.

There do not seem to be so many opportunities these days to have positive, open interactions with people in our neighborhoods anymore, unless we are right next door, and sometimes not even then. But this positive interacting is just what these walks on the beach with the dogs around seem to enhance. I think the dogs give us an avenue for starting conversations, and then for building community connection. It feels really, really good to meet so many different people from the community. I think a lot of these people may live alone, and the beach walks were a wonderful way to get out and feel like one has a community to which one belongs, and cares about. And the same feeling happens to those of us who do not live alone, but still loved this opportunity to feel connected. And this is a good thing for young and old, and for the community as a whole!

I did not expect this good, positive community feeling and sharing when I started out with the beach walks, but I know I miss seeing all those neighbors that I used to see.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Karen Tobin

## Melissa Henderson

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**From:** carrie cox <carriecox@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, May 19, 2013 6:05 PM  
**To:** PRCWeb; carriecox@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** off leash dogs a danger to small children

march 20, 2013

my 3 year old great grandson and i spent 2 hours midday playing and walking the beach from pleasure point to 38th ave on tues march 19. the tide was low and the sand had covered much of the rocky sea bed and created more beach than usual. it was warm and he played naked in the tide pools and beach. we couldn't go far from our clothes and lunch stash on the ledge of the cliff face because of curious off leash dogs. several times i yelled from the tide pools to stop a dog or two from either eating our lunch or peeing on our clothes. in the time we were there i counted 30 dogs off leash.

starting from the moment we arrived our experience was dominated by dogs. the first was a small dog who ran directly at dylan at the bottom of the stairs barking loudly as his owner laughed and said "as if you could do anything" to her dog while telling me she was harmless but not calling her off. dylan asked to be picked up as the dog came right to our feet still barking. there was a dog defecating on a rock that anyone would sit on at the bottom of the stairs while its owner watched. moving along there were 4 dogs and balls being thrown- an obstacle course we navigated through.

there were many times during our play that i had to pick dylan up to avoid a collision with a dog and usually more than one. we were warming up in the sand at the bottom of the cliff near 30th when 2 big dogs came running toward us. i picked up dylan and stood against the rocks asking their owners to please call their dogs. they said "would we let our dogs run toward your baby if they weren't safe? we are responsible dog owners." i told them i couldn't know that and its not responsible to let your dogs run at a child and it's an on leash beach. the woman said it's a county beach and it's off leash and she has been here for 30 years. i said i had been here for 50 years and she said i looked like it.

we left soon after and i have been thinking that the biggest difference with the dogs (aside from the increased numbers) is the attitude of the owners. they are usually hostile, unfriendly and offended if i ask them to call their dogs back. i am a friendly person and i am intimidated by these people. i have been worried and sad about this all night and now i'm trying to decide where to send this letter. i have stopped going to the beach mostly which is so sad and wrong. i'm actually afraid to let small children run on the beach for fear they will be chased and hurt or simply run into by a racing dog not looking where it's going.

i hear that those in power are considering off leash hours. i beg this not to happen. it will produce a truly dangerous beach environment. how could it possibly be a good thing? also whats with no signs on the posts with plastic bags for dog feces saying the dogs should be on leash?  
sincerely, carrie cox 831-462-5468

p.s. added on fri. march 22: at near sunset i attempted to go down to the beach at 26th ave stairs. i was repeatedly stopped from entering the top landing area on the cliff by an off leash large grey pitt bull with a heavy pink studded collar. her owner sat on the bench with his attention on the phone in his lap. he ignored my request to help me pass. finally a surfer came up the stairs and grabbed the dogs' collar and moved her to her owner who then took the collar and held her as i went down the stairs. there were 5 off leash dogs playing in the narrow high tide beach- no room for anything else.

**Melissa Henderson**

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**From:** Bob Vinal <bob@bayareahealth.net>  
**Sent:** Sunday, May 19, 2013 7:07 AM  
**To:** PRCWeb  
**Subject:** leash law

My name is Bob Vinal. I live with my wife Trudy and our best friend Brewski. Brewski is our six year dog (he is a mix).

We live on 36<sup>th</sup> Ave, in the Pleasure Point area. One of the reasons we love Santa Cruz so much is it has been very dog-friendly community. Many, many people walk their dogs around our streets and neighborhood. Some of our favorite restaurants have outdoor dining allowing our best friend to join us.

Having the beach to run our dog is very important to us and equally important to Brewski. The dogs on the beach are very friendly and owners are around to keep a watchful eye on the dogs. Mostly, the dogs play with each other or a ball or Frisbee. The older dogs just seem to stroll around. Keeping Brewski happy and fit means a lot to us.

I am not sure why there is a consideration for a leash law on the beach. If the owners are around there are no problems. I do not see packs of dogs running around the beaches when there are large crowds. Dog owners tend to go when the beaches are less occupied so there is room to run and play.

Please consider the rights of the dog owners. We are not on the beach 24/7, but we would like time to be with our friends and neighbors playing and exercising our dogs on the beach.

Sincerely,

Bob Vinal

601 36<sup>th</sup> Ave  
Santa Cruz, CA 95062

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Bob Vinal  
Bay Area Health Insurance

(650) 854-8963

(800) 564-4476

**Melissa Henderson**

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**From:** John McGuire <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 07, 2013 2:33 PM  
**To:** PRCWeb  
**Subject:** 20th avenue beach

May 7, 2013

Santa Cruz County Parks and Recreation Commisioners

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I'm writing on behalf of Friends of Lighthouse Field, a community-based organization representing more than 2,000 responsible dog owners and their pets, in Santa Cruz County. We wish to acquaint you with a series of actions and initiatives that our organization is supporting. Our goal is to support dog owner rights and, in the process, to restore traditional off-leash hours to Lighthouse Field State Beach (LFSB), known locally as "Its Beach."

Recently, our colleagues at Unleash the Beach, a like-minded organization of responsible dog owners in Santa Monica, California, enlisted the assistance of State Senator Ted Lieu, Assemblywoman Betsy Butler, and Mayor Richard Bloom in an effort to introduce a pilot project for off-leash hours at Santa Monica State Beach (SMSB). The effort by Unleash the Beach has also received the public endorsement of the *Los Angeles Times*, SPCA/LA, In Defense of Animals, and the Santa Monica City Council—which approved a resolution supporting off-leash hours at SMSB by a vote of 6-1. On May 15, 2012, Senator Lieu wrote to the Secretary of Natural Resources and then-Director of Parks and Recreation Ruth Coleman, advocating such a pilot program. Ruth Coleman's departure has left the California Department of Parks and Recreation with temporary leadership under Major General Anthony L. Jackson, USMC (Ret). Our hope, and expectation, is that Major General Jackson will be responsive to the needs and desires of the nearly two-thirds of California residents who own dogs.

Accordingly, Friends of Lighthouse Field will be proposing a new initiative, in tandem with the efforts by Unleash the Beach: namely, a pilot project to establish—or, in our case, re-establish—off-leash hours at a northern California beach (LFSB). The hours for off-leash recreation would be sunrise to 10 am and 4 pm to sunset. During that time, dog owners would be responsible—as always—for picking up after their pets, and for keeping them under voice control. At LFSB, Friends of Lighthouse Field would partner with State Parks and the City of Santa Cruz to maintain stewardship of the beach and to monitor compliance with the rules. The project would be allowed to run for one year, at the end of which, the State, the local communities, and the designated stewards would conduct an assessment.

As you know, the California State Code, Title 14, Section 4312, "Control of Animals," grants authority to the State Parks and Recreation director to amend the use policy regarding all State parks and beaches. Section 4312 also directs: "No person shall permit a dog to run loose, or turn loose any animal in any portion of a unit, except upon written authorization by the District Superintendent." The beaches under County authority do not have this level of authorization and designation for off lease use is a local action. If the Commission so recommends and the Supervisors approve, this would be a good example for the community to assess and the State to examine.

We believe, quite honestly, that FOLF speaks for the majority of the residents in our city and county. As the *Santa Cruz Sentinel* editorialized on July 27, 2011: "But in a county with an estimated 54,000 dogs, having a place like Lighthouse Field, where pet owners and their dogs would occasionally run free, made sense. Most owners are responsible, and giving off-leash dogs a few hours of fun in a nice spot before 10 a.m. and after 4 p.m. daily always seemed like a good compromise." This can also be said for the 20th Avenue beach and we trust in your support.

Sincerely,

John McGuire, Member

Friends of Lighthouse Field

Terri, Mike, Bailey and Kelsey Ryan



Parks and Recreation  
Commissioner Kate Minott

My Name is Terri Ryan. We are a family of 4 with 2,10 lbs dogs. Both my husband and I are born and raised in Santa Cruz. Our 2 daughters have grown up here on the beach. And until Animal Control started patrolling the shoreline...our dogs shared the beach also. We got our dogs when our oldest daughter suffered a brain injury during a Harbor High School soccer game. Daisy and Chuck gave us hope and laughter. We could be free of her daily struggles when we were on the beach walking with and running the dogs. They were happiest when running crazy circles!

These dogs need a place to run that is not fenced. They need to be free of leashes in places other than their own fenced yards or dog parks. Being with these dogs and all the other dogs on the beach is a fabulous social time for the whole family. Not only do our dogs run with other dogs but they learn social boundaries. We meet other dog owners, learn training skills, share life, laughs and make new friends.

Please give Santa Cruz dogs <sup>an off leash</sup> a portion of 20<sup>th</sup> Ave beach to enjoy with their owners. Off leash hours is only a compromise to completely open hours, which would be preferable to this family. However,

We support the off leash hours proposed by LOOLA.

Please find a solution for the many dogs and owners that would love to return to the beach. <sup>off leash</sup>

Thankyou

Terri Ryan Bailey Ryan

Mike Ryan Kelsey Ryan



To: Parks & Recreation Commissioners Mariah Roberts, Kate Minott, Jim Lang, Steve Bennett, and Dave Mercer  
Co. Santa Cruz Parks, Open Spaces & Cultural Services  
979 17th Avenue, Santa Cruz, CA , 95062  
May 14, 2013  
RE: Off-leash dog hours at Live Oak beach and other Santa Cruz locations

I have lived in Santa Cruz for over 15 years, enjoying the wealth of outdoor areas, including forest and beach, that we have available to us here. It wasn't until I got my dog that I realized that most of Santa Cruz county's outdoor beauty was no longer accessible to me with a high-energy dog.

One of the few areas that I did enjoy with my dog was the Live Oak beach. It was there that I found a fantastic melding of peoples: those walking their dogs, tourists, and a mix of locals that otherwise would never have come together – yet we met and spent time together most every day. I cannot stress enough the unique environment that had retirees, students, workers, unemployed, white collar, blue collar, etc. just enjoying each other's company with a common bond of the dogs. And I have met numerous tourists enjoying the beach who have played with my dog and chatted with me.

This beach is unique in many ways: it is quite long, so dogs aren't penned in – there is plenty of room for everyone to spread out and not engage (for example, people picnicking, playing at the water, etc), there is lots of local accessible parking, and it has been an 'unofficial' dog beach, to my knowledge, for about 30 years, which has created a great sense of community around the space.

Unfortunately, with the recent crack-down on off-leash dogs, many of the local dog-people have **stopped** coming to the beach. On recent occasions that I've visited, the beach has been almost **deserted**. For example, on the evening of May 13<sup>th</sup> between 4:30-6:00 it was 74+ degrees, yet I counted 15 people across the entire stretch of beach from 20<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> Ave – close to a mile. While not conclusive at all, I think that much of the use of the beach has disappeared with the leash restrictions. For myself, I've often been driving to Aptos, adding 1+ hour of driving time to my day during rush hour, in order to take my high-energy to an area where she can do what she loves best – chase the ball at the beach.

On behalf of my dog Jesse and many other beach-loving dogs and their people, I ask the Commissioners to take into account that almost half of the households in Santa Cruz have dogs, and that we are a large constituency who want to enjoy the outdoors with our animals – the LOOLA petition currently has over 3,000 signatures requesting that Live Oak Beach include off-leash hours for dogs. Many of us treat our animals like family members and go to great lengths to make sure our animals receive the exercise, food, attention that they so deserve. Please help us to continue these efforts by providing off-leash dog access to some of the beautiful resources, such as Live Oak beach, that Santa Cruz county holds as its treasures.

Thank you for your consideration. Regards,  
Kimberley Bermender

124 Forest Ave, Santa Cruz, CA, 95062

*Kimberley Bermender*



Dory Mansfield

1150 Lisa Ln.  
Santa Cruz, CA 95062

May 14, 2013

Co. Santa Cruz Parks, Open Spaces & Cultural Services  
979 17th Avenue  
Santa Cruz, CA 95062

To:

Commissioner Michael Rosenberg- District 1  
Commissioner Kate Minott - District 2  
Commissioner Jim Lang - District 3  
Commissioner Steve Bennett - District 4  
Commissioner Dave Mercer - District 5

Dear Commissioners,

Our purpose in contacting you today is to support the proposal for off-leash hours for dogs at the Live Oak beach from 20th Avenue to Moran Lake Beach as presented by Live Oak Off Leash Advocates (LOOLA).

Our history with this area goes back almost 20 years, when we adopted our first dog from SCCAS. At the time, we were renting a small place on 17th Ave that didn't have much of a yard. To meet her exercise needs, we started taking our new pup 'Happy' down to the beach and discovered the off leash tolerance. This was a great outlet for us, and we greatly appreciated the opportunity to train and play with our dog off leash. We took her there every day and worked hard with her to be sure she was under voice control. Through regular interactions with other dogs and other people, she turned into a very well socialized, beautiful animal. We were proud of the fact that with a word from either of us, she would stop in her tracks to come back to us.

Happy has moved on and we now have two more adopted pups that greatly enjoy their visits to this beach. Again, through the daily interactions with other dogs and other people, both of these pups are on their way to becoming incredible dogs. A side benefit to our dog walks has been our connection to the incredible community of dog owners that also frequent this beach. We have made many new friends and as a family feel even more connected to wonderful Live Oak community.

We have always been respectful of the beach, its neighbors and the beach goers not interested in interacting with our dogs and have always avoided peak hours when the beach tends to be more crowded. We are a responsible family; not only do we clean up after our dogs and pack our trash, we regularly pick up the trash from careless visitors that leave their picnic and party remains behind. (It's appalling to see what gets left on this beach!)

As a member of LOOLA and the greater community of dog owners in Live Oak, we are asking Santa Cruz County for off leash hours to be established on the 20<sup>th</sup> Avenue beach area, with the hours to be from sunrise to 10:00 a.m. and 4 p.m. to sunset at Live Oak Beach (from 20th Avenue to Moran Lake Beach) in Santa Cruz California.

As a Santa Cruz Co. dog owner, property owner and tax payer, we feel strongly that the current leash law is outdated and needs to be changed to support the entire community in the form of COMPROMISE, i.e. off-leash hours as proposed by LOOLA. There are far too many dogs and far too few open spaces in the county for us to adequately exercise them.

We are happy to be part of the respectful dog community that frequents this beach and see it as a valuable and treasured resource. Having the freedom and room to allow our dogs to run is of the utmost importance to our family and is an aspect of our lifestyle we consider to be essential. We hope to continue enjoying our dog's freedom during off-leash hours.

Thank you.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Dory S. Mansfield', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Dory S. Mansfield

Kevin I. Mansfield

Max M. Mansfield

Koa & Emma

Cc: John Leopold, District 1; Zach Friend - District 2; Neil Coonerty - District 3; Greg Caput - District 4;  
Bruce McPherson - District 5

To: Parks & Recreation Commissioners Mariah Roberts, Kate Minott, Jim Lang, Steve Bennett, and  
Dave Mercer  
Co. Santa Cruz Parks, Open Spaces & Cultural Services  
979 17th Avenue, Santa Cruz, CA , 95062  
May 15, 2013  
RE: Dogs off-leash at Live Oak Beach

I'll keep this brief.

I am a dog owner and very much enjoy walking my dog (off-leash) on the beach by 20th Ave.

It seems like there is an opportunity here to appease both sides of the on-leash/off-leash issue by specifying time periods for off-leash dog walking.

As long as the time periods are somewhat equitable I think the moderates on both sides will probably abide.

The other option (which seems to be the current law of the land) is to turn average citizens into criminals, and likewise create a large amount of visibly for yourselves.

If an option is given for me to follow the law reasonably I will take that route.

Otherwise, disregard this and continue this nonsense. So be it.



Dan Bermender

[Redacted address information]

Haley and Travis springing Rosco from the SPCA in 2011



907 35<sup>th</sup> Ave.  
Santa Cruz, CA 95062

May 16, 2013

Kate Minott  
Commissioner  
Santa Cruz County Parks and Recreation Commission  
979 17<sup>th</sup> Ave.  
Santa Cruz, CA 95062

Dear Commissioner Minott,

I am a 14-year resident of Santa Cruz and live in the Live Oak area, walking distance to the beach. About 18 months ago our family adopted a dog from the SPCA. Rosco is a wonderful dog and loves to run. It's pretty much what he lives for. I have two children, Haley, nine and Travis, seven. The day we adopted Rosco Travis said to me that our family hadn't really been complete without him.

The kids and I take Rosco to the beach usually twice a day, in the mornings before school for 15 to 30 minutes to walk/run him and again in the evenings. It's made a huge difference in our lives. We get to the beach daily now and have made many dog owner and dog friends on the beach. It's really created another community for us, a lovely diverse group of responsible and caring people, who, no matter our politics, culture or generation can all have a great time interacting with each other and our dogs. What a splendid use of public space! We all look out for one another and the beach. Every day we're picking up trash and occasionally tending to injured wildlife. Our dogs have led us to create a stronger more cohesive community which I believe is good for residents as well as the natural habitat we are tending.

I also believe we are building a form of neighborhood watch. Because we are at the beach so often we have our eyes on what is going on there and in our neighborhoods and we communicate with each other.

Given the large number of dog owners in Santa Cruz it seems only fair that there be at least a few hours a day when we can allow our dogs to run on the beach. We respect that some people have issues with dogs and we think the LOOLA proposal is a very reasonable compromise, keeping the beach free of dogs for the majority of the day and allowing some access for dogs during off-peak hours. Everybody gets to use the beach, and Animal Control doesn't have to patrol 12 hours a day.

So many other communities have figured out a path to compromise. In this progressive community we feel confident our Parks and Recreation Department will be able to do the same. Thank you for your attention to this important issue. It is a quality of life issue for thousands of residents both human and canine.

Sincerely,



Lynn Madden

476-8398

lynnmadden@comcast.net

18735 Ave  
Santa Cruz, CA 95062  
May 16, 2013

Kate Minott  
Commissioner  
Santa Cruz County Parks and Recreation Commission  
979 17<sup>th</sup> Ave.  
Santa Cruz, CA 95062

Dear Commissioner Minott,  
My name is Haley and I'm 9 years old. I'm writing this letter because I love dogs  
And I want them to get some time off leash at a certain amount of beaches.

I have a dog named Rosco and he's two years old and he loves to be off leash at the  
beach in the mornings and the evenings. I think it's important to let your dog off leash  
because they need it. You have to care for your dog so you should not just leave your dog  
at home.

I see lots of dogs off leash at the beach playing and having such a wonderful time and I  
don't think they're doing any harm to the people.

Love,

Haley Madden  
Haley Madden

[Redacted signature area]

I am Travis I am 7  
and my dog's name is Rosco  
I think dogs need to get  
out and sniff more. If we  
couldn't take our dog  
to the beach we  
would be unhappy. I  
like to take Rosco to  
the beach and throw  
a ball for him

From Travis





May 9, 2013

Dear Commissioner Kate Minott, District 2

My name is Barbara Lawrence. My husband and I moved to Santa Cruz from Menlo Park 30 years ago. One of the main reasons that we purchased our home in Santa Cruz was because of our great joy in walking our dog on the beach.

For 30 years we walked our various dogs on the 26<sup>th</sup> avenue beach - off leash. Our dogs are like our children and we train them well and want to give them what they need to be good citizens and happy individuals. Why off leash? Because dogs need to romp and play and learn social skills with their friends. For emotional stability they need to experience some time unchained. I am sure you have seen unhappy, snarling dogs who are restrained all the time!

As for us humans - during those 30 years we made warm, lasting friendships with other dog owners. It was important to us socially as well. Most of us can no longer go to the beach because our dogs who are accustomed to some freedom there are frustrated and unhappy. It feels like a broken family.

It seems only fair that some kind of compromise is utilized and I do believe that LOOKAS off leash proposal is excellent. There are so many of us — good responsible people who desire to have the life style and happiness with our dogs that we shared for so long.

Sincerely,

Barbara Lawrence

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

May 12, 2013

Dear Santa Cruz County Park Commissioner,

One morning less than one year ago, I took my dog Cisco down to the beach off the stairs at 26th Ave, as I do almost every morning, rain or shine. I throw the ball in the sand, in the water and he runs or swims and fetches and brings it back. I knew many other dog owners who came to do the same and felt like that it was their one place and hour of sanctuary of the day. On this particular morning I had three different conversations with three different women, all throwing balls for their dogs or allowing them to play with my dog.

(Without using their real names), Betsy loved her job coordinating a Cabrillo College lab, but recent budget cuts eliminated her assistant's position and now Betsy had to prepare all of the materials and guide all of the students herself, with no one to relieve her at any time during the day for a bathroom or lunch break. When she complained she was told to be thankful she still had her job. She said, "This time here on the beach with my dog before I go to work prepares me for the hard day ahead."

Moving further down the shore I saw Susie, an older woman whose beloved dog died the year before and she got a new puppy full of energy that seemed to replenish Susie's spirit. On this morning she confided to me that her husband had made a business decision that had gone bad with the recession and now they were faced with losing the home where they had raised their children and had lived in for decades. She didn't know how they were going to save it or where they would go. At least she had the beach and her new dog to play with.

On the way back I met Jane with her older dog, a black lab mix almost like mine, who loved to slowly walk and sniff the sea air. On this day she told me she had been battling breast cancer, thought it was beat, but just got a diagnosis that it had returned and may have spread. The next day she was scheduled for more tests and possibly surgery, radiation and chemo. She assured me that as soon as possible she would be back to the beach with her dog, that it was the best healer of all.

Several months ago for whatever reasons, the Animal Control officers began enforcing the leash rules and now the beach is almost dog and dog-owner free. Yes, it is quieter there and on mornings, late afternoons and non-summer weekdays the beach is almost empty compared to the community we once had. While I used to see Besty, Susie and Jane every couple of days, I have not seen them for months. I still go down every morning and throw the ball hidden in corners, but our community is gone, scattered to I don't know where.

And I don't know where or how these women find their sanctuaries to face the hard challenges that life places before us. Obviously, because of your regulations, it cannot be on a beach throwing a ball with their dogs.

Sincerely,

*Jerry Kay*

Jerry Kay, 4111 Hampstead Way, Santa Cruz, Ca. 95062 (831) 566-5771 jerrykay@sbcglobal.net

May 12, 2013

Commissioner Mariah Roberts-District 1  
Commissioner Kate Minott-District 2  
Commissioner Jim Lang-District 3  
Commissioner Steven Bennett-District 4  
Commissioner Dave Mercer-District 5  
County Santa Cruz: Parks, Open Spaces & Cultural Services  
979 17<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Santa Cruz, CA 95062

Dear Commissioners:

As a Live Oak resident and frequent user of the beach at 20<sup>th</sup> Street, I urge you to continue supporting the current leash law for dogs on this and on all Santa Cruz County beaches. This is not only a question of safety for humans and their pets, but also one of allowing wildlife to enjoy their home.

I understand that dog owners would like a place to have their dog off leash. I whole heartedly support an off leash dog park as an appropriate solution.

Thank you for listening.

Respectfully yours,

Ms. Sidney E. Irving

2481 Cardinal Lane  
Santa Cruz, CA 95062

CC: John Leopold-District 1  
Zach Friend-District 2  
Neil Coonerty-District 3  
Greg Caput-District 4  
Bruce McPherson-District 5

Sunday, May 12, 2013

Dear Mariah,

A sincere THANK YOU for your hard work and contributions on the Parks and Recreation Board!

The purposed of my letter is to share with you my sincere desire to see the County of Santa Cruz ("finally") make a good decision about the Live Oak Off leash beach situation. Allowing off leash dogs to share the beach part of the day, per our LOOLA proposal that was presented to the County Supervisors, and Parks and Recreation, is not only a good decision, but is the only rational, ethical and democratic decision!

Regardless of personal preferences, who's right, who's wrong...etc ...**in a democracy, it's so simple. MAJORITY RULES.** LOOLA has clearly and tangibly demonstrated that "dogs off leash advocates" in our community, are the majority, via obvious membership and petition signature numbers, as well as community activism and contributions to "taking good care" of our local beaches. We are truly the poop and beer bottle and trash picker uppers at the Live Oak beaches. Take a walk down, and observe how clean the beach at 21<sup>st</sup> Ave is.

I'm a 54 year old sales person with a great I.T. company. I cover the entire bay area work and work in the Public Sector/Education market. I live a couple of blocks from the beach at Portola and 21st Avenue. I bought my home here in 2009, primarily because of proximity to the "off leash dog beach". I was told by my real estate agent and numerous friends, all of whom have lived in Santa Cruz "forever" that the beach near my home was an off leash beach... There simply was no question about it in their minds.

I've had 3 dogs in my life - all came from local shelters. My dog (who is a very good girl, as you can see from the photos) ☺ loves the beach! She came from our local ASPCA last July, and was a skinny, scared, sad little dog. Everything scared her. Due to lots of love and kisses from yours truly, AND BEING ABLE TO SOCIALIZE WITH FRIENDLY STRANGERS AND OTHER NICE, WELL MANNERED DOGS, OFF LEASH, at our beloved 21st Ave beach, she's now a happy, trusting, well socialized member of our community!

How can so many cities (Monterey, Carmel etc) in California share their beaches with off leash dogs, while Santa Cruz simply can't make up their minds? This issue is almost comical in terms of the length of time it has taken to be resolved. You'd think we were asking to allow snakes to roam free in grocery stores or???

As a P and R person, you so fully understand the necessity of great public place being "shared" to create a happy, healthy community. We live in the best place in whole wide world...we all know that. We live in a county that has (at least!) 20 wonderful beaches...per my unofficial tally ...as follows:

Ano Nuevo	Live Oak	Pleasure Point
Aptos	Main and Cowell	Rio del Mar
Bonny Door	Manresa	Scott Creek
Capitola Beach	Moran Lake	Seacliff Beach
Laguna Creek	Natural Bridges	Sunset Beach
Laguna Creek	New Brighton	Waddell Creek
Lighthouse Field	Panther/Hole in the Wall	

So my not very accurate math shows that 20 beaches x 10 hours a day is 200 hours per day. LOOLA is asking for 1 beach for 6 useable hours a day (before 10am / after 4pm). In simple numbers, the compromise LOOLA is requesting is use about 3% of the usable daylight time on the County's beaches. **A no brainer in a democracy!**

We trust you Parks and Recreation Board ... we know you'll make the good choice!

Warm Regards from Kris, (and a wag wag wag from Sis),

*Kristen Davis*

Kristen Davis and "Sister Golden Hair Surprise" Davis (just call her Sister when you meet her)

Terri, Mike, Bailey and Kelsey Ryan

781 Bayshore Lane Santa Cruz CA 95062  
831-467-1001  
alan@luna.org/globalnet

Parks and Recreation  
Commissioner Dave Mercer

My Name is Terri Ryan. We are a family of 4 with 2,10 lbs dogs. Both my husband and I are born and raised in Santa Cruz. Our 2 daughters have grown up here on the beach. And until Animal Control started patrolling the shoreline...our dogs shared the beach also. We got our dogs when our oldest daughter suffered a brain injury during a Harbor High School soccer game. Daisy and Chuck gave us hope and laughter. We could be free of her daily struggles when we were on the beach walking with and running the dogs. They were happiest when running crazy circles!

These dogs need a place to run that is not fenced. They need to be free of leashes in places other than their own fenced yards or dog parks. Being with these dogs and all the other dogs on the beach is a fabulous social time for the whole family. Not only do our dogs run with other dogs but they learn social boundaries. We meet other dog owners, learn training skills, share life, laughs and make new friends.

Please give Santa Cruz dogs <sup>an off leash</sup> a portion of 20<sup>th</sup> Ave beach to enjoy with their owners. Off leash hours is only a compromise to completely open hours, which would be preferable to this family. However,

We support the off leash hours proposed by LOOLA.

Please find a solution for the many dogs and owners that would love to return to the beach. *without leashes*

Thank you

Terri Ryan

Bailey Ryan

Kelsey Ryan

Mike Ryan

PS.  
Dave!  
This is Terril  
STOWELL  
Remember me  
SLV 1978  
ook that's  
a while ago!

Please help  
us with  
passing  
off  
leash  
hours!

at the very least!

Terri, Mike, Bailey and Kelsey Ryan

281 Biny Lane Santa Cruz Ca 95062  
831-362-3081  
playourdogglobal.net

Parks and Recreation  
Commissioner Steve Bennett

My Name is Terri Ryan. We are a family of 4 with 2,10 lbs dogs. Both my husband and I are born and raised in Santa Cruz. Our 2 daughters have grown up here on the beach. And until Animal Control started patrolling the shoreline...our dogs shared the beach also. We got our dogs when our oldest daughter suffered a brain injury during a Harbor High School soccer game. Daisy and Chuck gave us hope and laughter. We could be free of her daily struggles when we were on the beach walking with and running the dogs. They were happiest when running crazy circles!

These dogs need a place to run that is not fenced. They need to be free of leashes in places other than their own fenced yards or dog parks. Being with these dogs and all the other dogs on the beach is a fabulous social time for the whole family. Not only do our dogs run with other dogs but they learn social boundaries. We meet other dog owners, learn training skills, share life, laughs and make new friends.

Please give Santa Cruz dogs <sup>an off leash</sup> a portion of 20<sup>th</sup> Ave beach to enjoy with their owners. Off leash hours is only a compromise to completely open hours, which would be preferable to this family. However,  
We support the off leash hours proposed by LOOLA.

Please find a solution for the many dogs and owners that would love to return to the beach <sup>without leashes</sup>

Thank you

Terri Ryan  
Mike Ryan

Bailey Ryan  
Kelsey Ryan



May 12, 2013

Commissioner Mariah Roberts - District 1      Commissioner Kate Minott - District 2  
Commissioner Jim Lang - District 3            Commissioner Steve Bennett - District 4  
Commissioner Dave Mercer - District 5  
Co. Santa Cruz Parks, Open Spaces & Cultural Services  
979 17th Avenue Santa Cruz, CA 95062

Dear Commissioners:

We support Off-Leash ("O-L") on Live Oak (LO) beaches. Solid information is before you: LOOLA's fact-finding confirms "O-L" policies are successful in other coastal communities. 3,000+ signatures on LOOLA petitions demonstrate its local support. LOOLA's "O-L" proposal provides everyone access and use of LO beaches: it's a win-win.

Sad situations turned happy: we've adopted from both AS and the SPCA:

- Daisy and Jasmine were puppy mills.
- Molly, a black lab - @ age 7 left in a backyard by a foreclosure move-out
- 65lb. Elmo was relinquished - baby's allergy; @5 he was the 2nd oldest at AS
- Sugar's owner died when Sugar was 8: her adopter's neglect made her fear touch (now 10, Sugar's an energy-bug who prances onto the sand!!)
- Louie and Alice were unlicensed, un-chipped; each was found wandering

Our dogs – the departed and the living – have gone "O-L" on LO beaches for years. Rain or shine, we meet-up other neighbors and their dog(s); these outings bring countless new friends into our life. This familiarity also adds to the neighborhood watch effort. Slightly disabled, George has a short walk to the stairs and onto the beach. There is no need for a car; "O-L" on LO beaches is an economical activity.

Like many pet owners, we donate extra in addition to paying AS license fee(s). We've also donated goods including \$400.00 of art for an AS special event (George is a 4x Open Studio artist).

AS - AC's priorities: "leash" regulations have not been enforced until recently - ticketing is not past practice. While ticketing brings new money to AS it risks alienating AS's friends, its neighbors and tarnishing Santa Cruz's dog friendly reputation. George was a juror in the case of hoarder – abuser Robert Brunett. We feel AC's skills and training will more positively protect our community when focused on stopping hoarding, organized fighting, aggressive dogs, abuse–neglect–injury cases and ensuring strong enforcement of licensing, spay and neutering!

Let's have LO beaches join the "O-L" success enjoyed in other communities!! In advance, thank you!

  
Patti Brady

  
George McCullough

  
500 3rd Avenue 476-6164

May 12, 2013

Dear Santa Cruz County Park Commissioner,

One morning less than one year ago, I took my dog Cisco down to the beach off the stairs at 26th Ave, as I do almost every morning, rain or shine. I throw the ball in the sand, in the water and he runs or swims and fetches and brings it back. I knew many other dog owners who came to do the same and felt like that it was their one place and hour of sanctuary of the day. On this particular morning I had three different conversations with three different women, all throwing balls for their dogs or allowing them to play with my dog.

(Without using their real names), Betsy loved her job coordinating a Cabrillo College lab, but recent budget cuts eliminated her assistant's position and now Betsy had to prepare all of the materials and guide all of the students herself, with no one to relieve her at any time during the day for a bathroom or lunch break. When she complained she was told to be thankful she still had her job. She said, "This time here on the beach with my dog before I go to work prepares me for the hard day ahead."

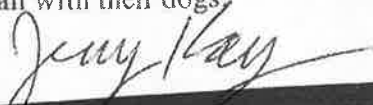
Moving further down the shore I saw Susie, an older woman whose beloved dog died the year before and she got a new puppy full of energy that seemed to replenish Susie's spirit. On this morning she confided to me that her husband had made a business decision that had gone bad with the recession and now they were faced with losing the home where they had raised their children and had lived in for decades. She didn't know how they were going to save it or where they would go. At least she had the beach and her new dog to play with.

On the way back I met Jane with her older dog, a black lab mix almost like mine, who loved to slowly walk and sniff the sea air. On this day she told me she had been battling breast cancer, thought it was beat, but just got a diagnosis that it had returned and may have spread. The next day she was scheduled for more tests and possibly surgery, radiation and chemo. She assured me that as soon as possible she would be back to the beach with her dog, that it was the best healer of all.

Several months ago for whatever reasons, the Animal Control officers began enforcing the leash rules and now the beach is almost dog and dog-owner free. Yes, it is quieter there and on mornings, late afternoons and non-summer weekdays the beach is almost empty compared to the community we once had. While I used to see Besty, Susie and Jane every couple of days, I have not seen them for months. I still go down every morning and throw the ball hidden in corners, but our community is gone, scattered to I don't know where.

And I don't know where or how these women find their sanctuaries to face the hard challenges that life places before us. Obviously, because of your regulations, it cannot be on a beach throwing a ball with their dogs.

Sincerely,



Jerry Kay, 41 Harpstead Way, Santa Cruz, Ca. 95062 (831) 566-5771 jerrykay@sbcglobal.net

## Melissa Henderson

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**From:** Jan Landry <jan@mindfulnessprograms.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 13, 2013 9:06 PM  
**To:** PRCWeb  
**Subject:** off leash hours for dogs at live oak beach

Dear Park and Recreation Commissioners: Mariah Roberts, Kate Minott, Jim Lang, Steve Bennett, and Dave Mercer,

Thank you for your service to Santa Cruz County. I am writing you today to express my hope that you will consider the off leash proposal for Live Oak beach put forth by LOOLA. Having off leash hours prior to 10:00 and after 4:00 feels like a win-win situation to allow the greatest number of people the freedom to enjoy the beach with or without dogs.

I have been a Santa Cruz resident for over 25 years, and have enjoyed taking my dog to the beach in the mornings and late evenings. It is one of the ways I am able to spend time at the beach, and make sure my dog gets plenty of exercise. I have also enjoyed the community of other dog walkers, who by far, are responsible, caring, and committed people who simply want to enjoy the beach with their canine companions.

Here are few of the things I have witnessed:

- Dog owners self policing, making sure no poop is left behind and that dog owners take responsibility for their dog's behavior. One faithful dog walker wears a backpack and collects poop bags from other walkers, to ensure it all goes into the trash. In addition, many dog walkers carry a bag to pick up trash and broken glass on the beach as they walk their dogs.
- Friendships struck up as people stop to talk while watching their dogs play together. A few years ago, while walking my dog at the beach, I was reacquainted with someone I used to know, and we became dog-walking buddies. Our friendship has deepened, which is something neither of us would have had the opportunity or time for otherwise.
- A community of support, one dog walker who has been undergoing treatment for cancer, has received offers to take her dog for a walk, caring words, and encouragement from other dog walkers on the beach. This has been a true support.
- A beach full of happy people, happy dogs, and within minutes of Animal Control coming to patrol, the beach is empty.
- Animal Control officers who are apologetic and describe feeling stressed, pressured and unhappy about giving tickets to dog walkers at Live Oak.

- Dog owners who live in Live-Oak, who were once able to walk to the beach, driving 10 miles each way to Seascapes so their dogs can enjoy the exercise of running or swimming in a safe environment. This seems like a waste of time, money, and resources.

These few examples speak to me of the opportunity for community building, which in the long run keeps us all safer, kinder, and hopefully able to enjoy and appreciate the spirit and beauty of Santa Cruz.

I hope you will vote for off-leash hours at Live Oak Beach, and come to the beach and enjoy the good-will and community that is present. Thank you for your consideration. Jan Landry

Jan Landry

19 Marnell Ave.

Santa Cruz, CA 95062



Photos like the ones above demonstrate that the current situation with little enforcement is already a problem. A change in the ordinance legalizing dogs running wild off-leash on the beach would only exacerbate the problems and liability to the county.

**DOGS ON THE BEACH BELONG ON A LEASH!**

Robert Malbon

Kyle Brown

1325 Bain Ave

Santa Cruz, CA 95062

May 28, 2013

Kate Minott  
Parks and Recreation Commissioner, District 2  
Santa Cruz Parks, Open Spaces & Cultural Services  
979 17<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Santa Cruz, CA 95062

Dear Commissioner:

I am writing to ask you to support the Live Oak Off Leash Advocates (LOOLA) proposal for off leash hours at Live Oak beach. I have been taking my labrador retriever "Charlie" down to the beach for years to run, play frisbee, and swim. As we run down the beach, I throw the frisbee which he delights in catching mid-air! We both get exercise and enjoy the outdoors in a way that could not happen in a small dog park.

Since this beach has been a defacto off-leash area for decades, it seems the logical place to create a dog beach. This proposal is not really asking for anything new, it just puts reasonable limits for off leash hours to when the beach is not being used. There is a community of off leash dog owners that are the only ones down at the beach on those cold foggy mornings. We pick up trash, educate new dog owners about cleaning up after their dogs, and are stewards of the beach.

Even if you don't like dogs, a large community of responsible dog owners in Santa Cruz is not being served. This proposal will benefit the community at large by providing an area for humans and their pets to exercise and recreate – at limited times of the day to not overlap with the times when the beach is heavily populated. I have taken my dog to off leash beaches in San Diego, Huntington Beach, Carmel, and others – we need an off leash beach in Santa Cruz!

Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,



Kyle Brown

## Melissa Henderson

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**From:** Tony Sloss <tsloss@pachell.net>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 31, 2013 12:00 PM  
**To:** PRCWeb  
**Subject:** Attention: June 10 meeting/off-leash dog proposals

Dear Parks Commissioners,

I write to express my strong concerns about consideration of dogs off leash on beaches. The recent attack on a young defenseless beachgoer who suffered critical injuries is a tragic and disturbing reminder of why dogs must be on leash. There is just too much potential for harm from the many breeds of dogs, the variety of ways they have been brought up and treated, and the range of owner mentalities, to allow dogs to run off leash at our beaches. The health, safety, and enjoyment of beaches by the public - children and adults - is not compatible with the desire of dog owners to see their dogs run free on these same beaches.

Take for example Its Beach in Santa Cruz City, where dogs are numerous and have greatly reduced the non-dog owning public from using that beach, and kept any wildlife from safely using that beach as habitat, food gathering or even for a short resting stay.

My own experience as a parent of three kids is that it is not relaxing and takes away enjoyment of spending time on the beach with my family when dogs are running off leash. There are just too many incidents of attack or unpredictable behavior of dogs toward people for me to not be vigilant and hover around my kids (when they were younger) when off-leash dogs were present. It is not fair to expect families and the public at large to deal with, or worse suffer an attack from, the increasing potential for harm from dogs off leash at the beach. I also go to the beach to see wildlife - a wonderful aspect of the beaches and nature in Santa Cruz county. Off-leash dogs will chase away birds and other marine life that utilize the beaches for food gathering, rest, and other important needs. There are also young children who are very afraid of dogs in general and would find it impossible to use beach that allowed off-leash dogs.

Several other inland parks are already too intimidating for young families due to drug use, sanitation and other undesirable behaviors. Please maintain and protect the beaches for the public welfare and wildlife that is already there. Off-leash dogs are appropriate to enclosed areas that ensure safety for the dogs, wildlife and the public.

Growing up my family owned a black lab that was a wonderful pet for many years. I loved that dog and understand the important role a dog can play in one's life. But that still does not give one the right or the reason to endanger or impact an important public space the way off-leash dogs would affect the public and wildlife at our county's beaches.

Thank you for your time to this important issue,

Tony Sloss  
35-year resident of SC County

**Melissa Henderson**

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**From:** Richard <[redacted]@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 31, 2013 9:05 AM  
**To:** PRCWeb  
**Subject:** Attention to: June 10 meeting/off-leash dog proposals

please give to each member of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission.

Hello,

I am a home owner and resident on 26 th ave, 300' from the beach.

Myself , and my family are strongly opposed to any off-leash dogs anytime on the beach. Once the leash law was passed, we have felt safe to go on the beach

We have several incidents of big dogs jumping and knocking down our children, which in turn made them fearful of even going to the beach. Leashes or not. In the past, I have witnessed several dog biting incidents, which were not reported as the dogs simply run off. The leash law is our only protection

The peace and tranquility of being on this beautiful beach is marred by the large numbers of big crazy dogs, even on leashes. This year there seems to be alot more Pit Bull type dogs, which I think have no place on a public beach. Google maps calls 26 th a "dog beach" , and there are way too many dogs now, If its "leash free" it will be awful and dangerous. Why allow this? Please do not allow dogs and their owners to control 26 th ave beach

Sincerely

Richard Buckminster

[redacted]  
245 26 th ave  
Santa Cruz Ca



## Melissa Henderson

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**From:** carrie cox <carriecox@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 31, 2013 8:37 AM  
**To:** PRCWeb  
**Subject:** Fw: the beach-this was to john leopold-please read and give to commissioners

----- Forwarded Message -----

**From:** carrie cox <carriecox@yahoo.com>  
**To:** "john.leopold@co.santa-cruz.ca.us" <john.leopold@co.santa-cruz.ca.us>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 17, 2013 10:57 PM  
**Subject:** the beach

hi john- just a note to tell you about a rottweiler knocking down a 2 year old yesterday at low tide on the beach at pleasure point around 11am. she cried a lot and her mother was worried she would become afraid of dogs. there were lots of small children playing including my 3 year old grandson. in the time we were there from about 10:30 to 12:30 there were over 30 dogs off leash running around and chasing balls. at one point a great dane came loping up to us in the tide pools. the owner simply told me the dog was friendly. i had to pick up my grandson and move- i cant confront everyone with him there. at one point a woman told me she was working for off leash dogs (she had one with her) and that the 2 year old had gotten in front of the dog not the other way around. also the owner of the rottweiler did not leash his dog even as the child was crying. the dog owners are very rude and do not even say they are sorry anymore! i don't know what to do about it except write you and beg you vote against off leash hours. these beaches are being ruined by the dogs.  
sincerely, carrie cox

**Melissa Henderson**

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**From:** Marion Morris <marion@valsys.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 30, 2013 5:05 PM  
**To:** PRCWeb  
**Subject:** Statement for Off-Leash Parks & Rec Discussion on June 10, 2013 - PLEASE SUBMIT

Nothing can put the dog attack on the 5 year old into perspective. It was a tragic accident but what needs to be noted is that this happened while the leash law was in effect and since Animal Control started their crackdown over a year ago! Isn't it time we faced the fact that the status quo is NOT working. There are too many dogs in the County and not enough open spaces available to them to get the exercise they need. Given no reasonable options such as off-leash hours on shared public space, dog owners will continue to sneak in some illegal off-leash time at the beach or elsewhere whenever they think they might be safe from Animal Control. For over 40 years there have been literally thousands of leashless dogs on our beaches with relatively few incidents. As a dog owner I advocate for off-leash hours at the beach to exercise my dog. And as a grandmother, I would like to promote the same to minimize risk, no matter how small, to anyone. Why don't we stop digging our paws in the sand and think about solutions instead of pushing an outdated law that does not serve the entire community's needs. We have to ask ourselves: What are the odds that child and dog would have met on this collision course had there been off-leash hours in place?

Thank you!

**Marion Morris**

**Melissa Henderson**

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**From:** michaela scott <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 30, 2013 10:56 AM  
**To:** PRCWeb  
**Subject:** Agenda Item for 6/10/13 for Consideration of Off-leash Dog Hours at Live Oak Beach

May 29, 2013

To:  
Mariah Roberts  
Kate Minott  
Jim Lang  
Steven Bennett  
Dave Mercer

Dear Parks and Rec Commissioners:

I've been a resident of Capitola and have been a Santa Cruz County since 1963 and have, for many of those years, enjoyed the Live Oak Beach (20<sup>th</sup>-Moran). Up until recently, my dog, Sweetpea, and I were able to go to the beach together to play and socialize. We would, at least twice weekly, meet my niece and her 3-year-old son at the beach. Since AC started enforcement, we have missed our time together there. It has been a deeply personal loss because it provided us with exercise, fresh air and the pure joy of watching our hounds romp and run with glee. I've met so many responsible, wonderful people there with their off-leash dogs. We shared our dog stores and learned from each other about dog socialization and canine care.

Having been presented with LOOLA's proposal and petition demonstrating an obvious need for more off-leash areas; and having heard from many dog owners who have forever been safely frequenting Live Oak beach with their off-leash dogs, I am hopeful that you will make a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors for approval of daily off-leash hours. And I ask that you propose they create a new County ordinance to that effect. We LOOLA members want to share our local resources with all beachgoers, including the tourists who support our local economy. The off-leash hours that have been proposed are a reasonable compromise to an all-or-nothing approach.

As in my email letter to you of April 19, 2013, I hope you will consider designating a portion of the MacGregor property as an off-leash dog park because Capitola and the surrounding area have virtually no dog parks. And as I mentioned previously, Floral Park on 38<sup>th</sup> Avenue is the perfect spot for a lawful off-leash area. To my knowledge, it is already designated as an off-leash dog park and was in development but was abruptly cancelled due to budgetary concerns.

I thank you and my dog, Sweetpea, thanks you for the time and energy you spend in considering this important issue.

Sincerely,

*Michaela K. Scott*

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

## Melissa Henderson

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**From:** Ted Coopman [mailto:tmcoopman@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 30, 2013 10:41 AM  
**To:** PRCWeb  
**Subject:** Off Leash Access BEach Proposal

Dear Parks and Recreation Commission Members,

I write to you as a member of Live Oak Off Leash Advocates (LOOLA) in support of off leash hours for the Live Oak beach between Moran Lake and 20<sup>th</sup> Ave before 10 am and after 4 pm. We are a well organized group who have formalized our commitment to work with the county to maintain this resource. While there are many important aspects of this request to consider, I wish to focus on the context and history of this beach and its suitability for off leash hours.

This Live Oak beach has been known as a "dog beach" for decades. I have talked with people who have lived here since the 1970s who have taken generations of dogs to play here. My spouse bought her house here in 1994 and we have taken first Iris, our Golden Retriever mix and now River, our Australian Sheppard/Border Collie mix to this beach. Over the years, a community and culture have developed around the activity of taking dogs to this beach, often off leash. While county leash laws were certainly in effect during this time it was widely perceived and understood that authorities tolerated such a use of this beach. Rarely, if ever, did Animal Control or the Sheriff come down to the beach because there were no serious issues with this activity. This well established and highly local user group accesses the beach on a daily basis and helps to keep it clean and safe. The social norms of use are to respect others, control your dog, and pick up after it. By any measure, the primary user group for this beach is dog owners, yet despite this fact there are also many people who use this beach who do not bring/own dogs. Users successfully share this space. There are virtually no documented cases of people or wildlife being hurt. The fact that there are dozens of off leash dogs on this beach every day and so little trouble and poop is telling.

About a year ago, The Santa Cruz Animal Shelter increased the number of Animal Control Officers. Upon realizing this fact, a small group of residents took it upon themselves to rid the beach of our community by repeatedly calling to complain every time they saw a dog off leash, not that these animals were causing problems with people or wildlife, but that they were simply off leash. The situation on the beach had not changed in decades - the only thing that changed and has brought us to this point is a group of people who are, in my opinion, abusing the system to discipline their neighbors. There is no sudden increase in use or events involving people or wildlife being harassed or injured. This has led LOOLA to seek official status for this responsible and long time use of this open space. Our desire to share this resource and respect those who may not want to share space with dogs was the impetus for suggesting designated hours. There are far fewer people on the beach in the early morning or late afternoon.

This stretch of beach is ideally suited to off leash access. The area is clearly defined by geography and separated by either bluffs or riprap or large open stretches of beach. It is a naturally contained space with several access points, designated permit and non-permit parking within walking distance, and access to bathroom facilities and trash containers. While having fully fenced off leash areas dedicated to dog owners works in some circumstances, this is not a viable long-term solution. Dedicated space for one group/activity is, by definition, exclusionary of other uses/users. This creates a zero-sum-game conflict over a limited resource and these areas are costly to permit, build, and maintain. Multiuse and user open space is the best, most cost effective, flexible, and egalitarian way to share this limited resource. As the dog owner user group grows and new user groups emerge and recede we cannot afford to divide up open space into smaller and smaller dedicated spaces. We feel

that sharing this space via access hours is a reasonable and pragmatic solution and a model for open space use for the county.

I urge you to support the LOOLA petition.

Sincerely,

-TED

Ted M. Coopman Ph.D.  
Lecturer  
Department of Communication Studies  
San Jose State University

## Melissa Henderson

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**From:** Lou Cole <lu9251@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 30, 2013 9:16 AM  
**To:** PRCWeb  
**Subject:** Attention to: June 10 meeting/off-leash dog proposals

Hello,

I would like to ask that you do not allow dogs to be off-leash at any of the public beaches in Santa Cruz, ever! The allowal of off-leash dogs creates many issues. Not the least of which is what the young child just experienced when they were mauled on a public beach recently. How any reasonable person could think about allowing dogs to be off-leash after such an incident is unconscionable. Of course, there are many other problems created by off-leash dogs in public (especially on beaches) like the health issues from the dogs spontaneous urination and defecation and the harassment of wildlife. I know dogs themselves are not to blame. It is, of course, the dog owners. But dog owners, as in our society in general, seem to have problems with taking responsibility for their actions. That is why public agencies need to be pro-active in creating rules and regulations to protect the majority of the public, not cater to the vocal minority! We can clearly see how this type of behavior has crippled our federal government!

I would like to also ask that this e-mail be given to each member of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission prior to the meeting.

Thank you, Lou Cole

**Melissa Henderson**

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**From:** Thomas Quinn <thomasquinn@sbcglobal.net>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 29, 2013 9:36 PM  
**To:** PRCWeb  
**Subject:** dog attacks on beach

Hello Park Commissioners, As life long resident of this area I go to the beach almost daily. The beach near my house is being ruined and being made very dangerous by dogs. We hear of many large and small dog attacks and problems such as the recent attack on a 5 year old boy in Aptos. I see large number of dangerous dogs and owners in addition to the more friendly dogs and owners. Some of the owners are clearly bringing attack dogs here and if you dare tell them to put their dog on a lease you run the risk of a fight as the owner will threaten you. The owners are often more dangerous than the dogs and we are formally requesting that the leash laws be vigorously enforced. There is a elderly lady down the street that has had two of her small dogs that were on a leash attacked and killed by attack dogs. The number of other incidents ranging from dogs charging people, attacking wildlife, and fecal matter all over the beach is more than we can count. The advocates of dogs being off leash are proposing that they somehow get an illegal and preferential exclusive use of the beach for a number of hours a day. This is clearly an idea that if implemented will result in numerous lawsuits against the county as there are many groups that will oppose this dangerous idea. If a large number of unleashed dogs started to accumulate on the Live Oak beach area it is just a matter of time statistically that someone is killed or seriously injured. Obviously the dog owner would be liable for extensive litigation for damages. Also it should be pointed out that the trend in modern litigation and its search for deep pockets would immediately lead to attacks on the county as the policy of not enforcing the leash laws would be perceived as a direct cause of injury. The local residents have collected enough money to hire an attorney to represent any injured parties. The county is being repetitively warned by emails such as mine that they need to enforce the leash laws. I hope the county has enough common sense to continue enforcing the leash laws. These local beaches have been used by families for hundreds of years and therefore there are small children, babies, elderly people that are extremely vulnerable to injury and/or death from some of these huge and vicious dogs that we are frequently seeing here. The nicer dog owners with their friendly dogs that are advocating this proposal will create an opening for vicious low life type of dogs and owners to flood our beaches. The friendly dog owners who are proposing this idea should step back and see that large numbers of unleashed dogs will soon get very dangerous. Death or serious injury will be a GUARANTEED statistical result if more and more dogs congregate here.

Yours Truly,

Thomas Quinn  
Live Oak

**Melissa Henderson**

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**From:** Joe Armstrong [Josephwarmstrong@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 29, 2013 2:08 PM  
**To:** PRCWeb  
**Subject:** Off-leash dog hours at Live Oak beaches

Hi,

I have just recently heard that there is a proposal to allow dogs off-leash during certain hours on Live Oak beaches between 19th Ave and Moran Lake.

I would LOVE that to be allowed. I walk my dog there several times a week and it is a great place to let them get some great exercise and socialization.

I agree that when the beach is crowded having off-leash dogs can be rather annoying, but during the morning and evening hours (before 11 A.M. and after 5 P.M.) the beach is typically deserted - please vote YES on changing the leash law to allow off-leash hours.

Thanks!

Joe Armstrong  
2850 Fresno St  
Santa Cruz, CA  
(831)464-2389  
resident of Santa Cruz/Live Oak since 1989



**Melissa Henderson**

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**From:** Jean Brocklebank <jeanbean@baymoon.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 29, 2013 12:32 PM  
**To:** PRCWeb  
**Subject:** June 10 agenda/Compromise

Hello Parks Advisory Commissioners ~

As you prepare for your upcoming meeting with off-leash dogs on the agenda, you will no doubt hear from many who see allowing dogs off leash for a few designated hours at the beach as a "**compromise**" between off-leash advocates and leash law advocates.

Nothing could be further from the truth. Allow me to explain.

A *compromise* has already been made at the beach between 19th Ave. and Moran Lake; that is, dogs are allowed there 24 hours a day, 365 days of the year. All owners and their canine companions are currently allowed on the beach as long as they are on leash, for public safety. The "compromise?" The rest of the public had to long ago accept that to be at the beach meant that one would have to share it with dogs, not just other humans. This is not the case everywhere. The City of Capitola recently reaffirmed a No Dogs on Beach policy. Designated swimming beaches (i.e. Cowells Beach) prohibit dogs altogether (this is a State health & safety law). And some State beaches along the coast prohibit dogs altogether due to sensitive habitat.

Furthermore, there can be no compromise when it comes to public safety, as witnessed this past week when a young child was attacked and bitten by an off-leash dog at Rio Del Mar beach. This was not an isolated incident; unleashed dog depredations on humans occur frequently at the beach that never make headlines (i.e., bites and nips as well as people knocked down and even peed on by unleashed canines).

I cannot imagine that your Commission would recommend placing the County in a position of liability by suggesting to the Board of Supervisors that its leash ordinance be rescinded at the public beach, even if only for a few hours each day.

Thank you for considering my thoughts on this matter.

Sincerely,  
Jean Brocklebank  
Live Oak resident

## Melissa Henderson

---

**From:** Giorgianni, Andrew <Andrew.Giorgianni@berliner.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 29, 2013 9:35 AM  
**To:** PRCWeb  
**Subject:** Leash Law

Dear Staff, Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission,

I live on 30<sup>th</sup> Avenue in Live Oak and have three small children. I am writing to support the leash law on the public beaches in my neighborhood. Too often I am at the beach with my children and dogs chase them, scare them and/or eat or lick their food. It gets really bad when there is a pitbull or other vicious type dog running around. It immediately changes the environment and mood of the families. You can feel the tension escalate instantly when certain types of dogs start running around. Parents then need to stand between their children and those dogs to protect the children. Since you can't discriminate against certain types of dogs (recognizing that not all dogs are the problem), all dogs should be required to stay on a lease AND the authorities must enforce the rules with monetary penalties.

Protect the safety of the children. Please do not allow dogs to run freely on the beaches.

Regards,

Andy

### Andrew Giorgianni

Real Estate Attorney



San Jose | Merced | Modesto

10 Almaden Blvd., Eleventh Floor | San Jose, California 95113 | 408.286.5800 | F 408.998.5388 | [www.berliner.com](http://www.berliner.com) | [http://berliner.com/attorney/andrew\\_j\\_giorgianni](http://berliner.com/attorney/andrew_j_giorgianni)

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Please consider the environment before printing this email.

May 22, 2013

~~510 Blackjack Lane~~  
Santa Cruz, California

County Parks Board

Reference: Dogs off leash on County  
Beaches

There's been a recent increase in off-leash dogs running wild on the beach. This has created a nasty situation where public safety is in jeopardy. It would seem to me that the county could be liable if a dog attacks a child and does damage due to the lack of sufficient enforcement. This is a public safety problem that needs to be addressed. Just this past weekend, a woman near Moran Lake County Park with a little dog was chased by a large dog, off-leash, trying to get at the little dog in her arms. One of the neighborhood teenagers that used to walk dogs on the beach on-leash was sufficiently frightened by one of these encounters that she no longer will accept jobs of this type. This has to stop! The public should not feel unsafe in a local county park. Please continue to allow off-leash activity ONLY in fenced areas and enforce the ordinance that prohibits dogs running off-leash on the beach.

Rosa Garcia

Joan F. Fuhry, R.N.

1750 Garza Lane  
Santa Cruz, CA 95062

Tel: 831-475-3437

E-mail: joan.fuhry@zaller.com

May 14, 2013

for Mariah!

Ms. Mariah Roberts  
County Parks Commission – District 1  
701 Ocean St.  
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Subject: Need for Off-Leash Areas/Hours at County Beaches & Parks

Dear Mariah:

Hi! My name is Daisy. I am 4-1/2 years old, and hail from a long succession of unprotected sex between intact dogs of many breeds. Because a lot of those breeds were hunters, I ended up being a chronic runaway. I wound up in the County animal shelter when my previous dog dad didn't take me back again, as he could no longer afford to feed me because he was out of a job. Boy do I miss him. He was the greatest dad, ever. He taught me to sit, lie down, and stays in the car for long periods without complaining. And he taught me to be very loving and gentle, even though I'm big and fast.

Luckily, my dog mom Joan fell in love with me and helped me escape the crazy place! I think palms may have been crossed with silver, but I'm not sure how. I didn't realize it at the time, but if Joan hadn't adopted me, I might have spent a long time in the shelter because I look sorta like a pit bull and lab mix (even though I don't have any pit bull or lab in me) and I'm pretty big and I have a LOT of energy to burn. Big dogs that look like me often don't get adopted because people don't want to take the time to exercise us, and because we eat a lot more than little dogs do. But Joan knew all this and she chose me anyway!

The first thing we did when Joan picked me up from the shelter was go to the beach! I hadn't had room to run in so long I hardly knew what to do with myself! But then Joan threw the ball, and off I went to chase it. I was SO happy!!! I got to chase a ball as far and as fast as I could run! Then she threw the ball into the ocean. I jumped over a wave and swam out to get my ball and swam back in—I did it! I loved it so much I just kept running into the water to get Joan to throw the ball into the waves so I could jump over them. She must either really love me, or really love going to the beach with me, because from then on we were there almost every day! On days we didn't go to the beach she would take me into a local park with a big grass field and throw my ball for me there.

I love that too! I can lie on my back and roll in the grass and scratch my back, and it smells so good! Well, sometimes \*I\* don't smell so good after I do this, but Joan just wrinkles her nose and gives me a bath, ick.

Then all of a sudden, we didn't go to the beach as much anymore. I knew something was different and wrong, but I didn't know what. I thought I had done something bad because she wasn't taking me to the beach. I heard Joan talking on the phone to her friends about how some of my friends (River, Maggie, Miles) had gotten expensive tickets from an officer for playing on the beach without leashes. Wow! We had never worn leashes on the beach before, and I heard Joan saying that Gecko and Truly (her previous dogs) had never worn leashes either.

Joan still sneaks me down to the beach when she thinks the "dogcatcher" isn't around because she knows I love it and need it; and when I'm happy, she's happy. And when she's happy, she gives me treats when we get home!! But I don't want Joan to get into trouble with "the man"—they might take her to the crazy place and then what would happen to me and my sister Jazzy the Cat?

Won't you please let me and my friends come to the beach & parks to play and not have to wear paper bags over our heads? Or have to run and give Joan another heart attack (she's kinda old and chubby, and has a few problems running away). We promise to be good, to not fight, and to not knock anybody over. We do sometimes poop, but that stuff must be worth a LOT of money because all the dog moms & dads run up to us right as we are finishing and scoop it up in a bag and keep it! We don't know what they do with it, but I'm guessing Joan sells mine and uses the money to buy me dog food or Snausages.

Joan says we might end up getting to go play on the beach during only certain hours so that the people who don't like us (*there are people who don't like us??*) can have the beach to themselves. Well that's OK with me because then I can still go mornings and evenings, when Joan can take me after I've waited for her to get home from work!

I'm a good dog. I make Joan happy when I'm having fun. But I can't help that I'm big and fast, and that I was born to chase little things like squirrels and balls. I'm just happy I got out of the crazy place and I have enough food, a warm place to sleep, and someone who loves me so much she'll just about do anything for me, including writing letters for me (she knows I can read, but I can't write).



Sincerely,  
Daisy Mae Fuhry (identity hidden for obvious reasons!)

I hope you can see this photo of Daisy with a paper bag over her head

Meg Gudgeirsson



May 14, 2013  
Commissioner Mariah Roberts, Commissioner Kate Minotti  
Commissioner Jim Lang, Commissioner Steve Bennett,  
Commissioner Dave Mercer  
Co. Santa Cruz Parks, Open Spaces & Cultural Services  
979 17th Avenue  
Santa Cruz CA 95062

Dear Commissioners,

My name is Meg Gudgeirsson and I am the puppy parent to puggle Sami and mixed breed Gus. We live off 17th Avenue, just a few minutes from 20th Street Beach. My husband and I regularly walk the beach with the dogs and enjoy our community. The dogs love running on the sand, meeting other dogs, and getting time outside at our local beach. We always clean up after our dogs and value our community.

I am writing in support of LOOLA (Live Oak Off Leash Advocates) proposal to compromise for a off leash period between sunrise and 10:00am and 4:00pm and sunset daily at the Live Oak beaches. I have been walking this stretch for the past two years I have lived here and during these times (especially in the morning) there are very few people at the beach who are not walking their dogs. Most dog owners have well behaved dogs and clean up after their pets. Allowing our dogs off leash teaches our dogs good behavior traits and helps provide them the exercise important to their health. This quality time with our pups also helps improve our relationships. Many of us also have small yards that do not adequately provide a good space for off leash play. Finally, there are no local, fenced dog parks that we can take our dogs as easily as we can take our dogs to the beach. Mr. Leopold, as an overseer of our beaches, I implore that you support this proposal.

Santa Cruz is a community of dog owners and dog lovers. Please support your constituents and legalize this favorite activity of human and dog residents.

Sincerely yours,

Meg Gudgeirsson

CC: John Leopold  
Zoch Friend  
Neil Country  
Greg Coput  
Bruce McPherson

May 21, 2013

## Reference: Public Safety in Santa Cruz County Parks

Dear County Parks Board of Directors,

The photo below shows a typical weekend day stroll (taken last weekend) on the county beach by about 23<sup>rd</sup> Ave. With all those dogs running off leash, we ended up turning around. **One should not have to worry constantly about safety in a Santa Cruz County Park Area!**



Dogs are unpredictable creatures and when the owners do not have direct control via a leash, anything can happen and usually does. There have been countless articles of dogs attacking children and other innocents when dogs are allowed to roam free. I'm surprised the county is not concerned about possible liability issues as there has been minimal enforcement of the existing leash laws.

In addition to the public safety issues, there are also the issues concerning environmental damage—the native birds use the beach area for feeding and nesting. The dogs are constantly harassing the native wildlife which should not be allowed especially in a federal sanctuary (Monterey Bay Wildlife Sanctuary). It's an oxymoron to

call it a "sanctuary" where the dogs are allowed off-leash to chase birds trying to feed along the shoreline or destroying nests nearby. Dogs are a non-native species being introduced to a wildlife area by humans....**how many times do we need to learn this lesson!**

Please do not allow any changes to the current regulations and re-enforce the need for patrols by Animal Control Services to curtail these violations in SC County Parks especially along the beaches.

Erik Symons

411 Hickman Court

Santa Cruz, CA 95062



[REDACTED]  
Santa Cruz  
CA 95062  
May 27, 2013

Staff, Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission  
County Parks Department  
Parks Department Offices  
979 17th Avenue, Santa Cruz, 95062

Your Reference: June 10, 2013 Meeting – Off Leash Dog proposals

Dear Commissioners,

Please ensure that each commissioner receives a copy of this testimony and that it is part of the official record of the June 10, 2013 Commission meeting.

I wish to strongly oppose any and all off-leash dog use on Santa Cruz county beaches.

Rather than propose changes to existing county leash law I urge you to make a two part recommendation:

improve public safety by

- increased enforcement of existing leash laws; and
- additional exploration of fenced, non-beach areas for possible off-leash dog use.

I have been a home owner within a block of the beach in Live Oak for the last thirty years. In that time I have seen significantly increased danger to public safety and to wildlife in the federal Marine Sanctuary , directly caused by the large number of out-of-control, off-leash dogs on the beach. It was only a matter of time before an incident like the recent Rio Del Mar child mauling occurred. And it will occur again unless effective enforcement is increased.

I enclose my testimony to last year's Animal Shelter Board hearings on the subject. It became completely clear during those hearings that the over-riding issue is public safety (and ultimately County liability having publically recorded that safety is an issue). This directly produced the Animal Shelter Board motion to maintain current leash laws and to explore additional enclosed, fenced, off-leash areas.

At those hearings I presented my personal record of dog numbers and attack incidents. On my local 20<sup>th</sup> Avenue – Moran Lake beach the average number of dogs was over twenty three and the average number on-leash was under two. Interestingly in the remainder of 2012, while the total number of dogs declined slightly, the general behavior of dogs and owners seemed to worsen. I was attacked an astounding seventeen times. And I witnessed my worst ever single incident where a dog mauled a young cormorant to death in a tide-pool at 41<sup>st</sup> avenue while its owner stood right by and yelled at me to leave his dog alone.

In testimony today, I'm sure you'll hear to attractive but misleading arguments:

1) "Selected locations and hours for off-leash beach use is a good compromise between unrestricted use and the current full-time leash laws." The correct end points for a compromise are unrestricted use and a complete ban on dogs – which results in exactly the compromise of the current leash laws. If you want to try an experimental pilot, the one that's never been tried in Santa Cruz County is a complete ban on dogs on the beach. We have many examples of unrestricted use.

2) "Why can't we all get along and share?" Off-leash dogs have no concept of sharing. They think they own the entire beach, and the safety and enjoyment of all other users – human and wildlife - is immediately endangered. And owners have consistently shown themselves to be unable or unwilling to control all dogs.

Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ian Walton". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Dr. Ian Walton

Cc: SCCAS General Manager Melanie Sobel  
Supervisor John Leopold

Testimony to Santa Cruz County Animal Shelter Board  
Agenda Item 6.1, April 9, 2012

Ian Walton, 4 [REDACTED] Way, Santa Cruz, CA 95062

Good afternoon. My name is Ian Walton.

I'd like to commend the Board for their recent action to provide minimal enforcement of the existing County leash ordinance at Live Oak beaches. I'm formally requesting you to maintain, or better, to increase that enforcement. And I'm strongly opposed to any weakening of the ordinance by creating off leash hours and locations. Unleashed dogs simply do not belong on the beaches of our new marine sanctuary.

I've been a homeowner off 26th Avenue for over thirty years. In that time I've seen the beach from Corcoran to Moran lagoons change from a community beach suitable for families and wildlife to one that is terrorized by large groups of unleashed dogs.

I have three separate reasons for opposing your staff recommendation.

1) Firstly it creates an increased danger for people using the beach. Let me tell you about some of my experiences. I've been monitoring dog use on my random visits to the beach since 2010. The average number of dogs on that short stretch of beach is over 23. The high last month was an astonishing 63. The average number on leash is 1.7. The only time every dog was on leash was when Officer Stosuy was standing on the beach. In that time I've been charged by dogs 30 times. I've been scratched, tripped up and knocked flat on my face on the sand. Just one time is too many. It's already an unsafe environment for the young and the elderly and your proposal will make it worse.

2) Secondly, it creates an increased danger for wildlife in our federal marine sanctuary. I've watched dogs chase feeding birds along the waterline and back. I've watch them rush out into the water to disturb birds sitting in the surfline. Sanctuary regulation 922.132 (5) prohibits harassing any marine mammal, sea turtle, or bird within or above the Sanctuary. So I believe any off leash ordinance would violate the county's agreement to enforce sanctuary regulations on its beaches. I suggest you need to do a full environmental impact report before you go any further. It's already an unsafe environment for sanctuary wildlife and your proposal will make it worse.

3) And thirdly there's the practical effect. My survey shows that 95% of dog owners ignore the current leash law. The real effect of your proposal will be to make the 5% feel better. The remaining 95% will continue to ignore the law - unless you're willing to patrol all the hours when leashes are required. All other users will lose out. Sharing our beaches does not mean turning them into an off-leash dog park. The question is not whether dogs need open space. The question is whether public land should be used for that purpose since it severely impacts all other uses.

Please vote against this recommendation. Thank you for your attention.

Hollye Hurst, PhD  
2355 Brommer St. #44  
Santa Cruz, CA 95062

May 22, 1013

Santa Cruz County Department of Public Works  
Parks, Open Space and Cultural Services Division  
979 17th Ave  
Santa Cruz, CA 95062

Director and Commissioners:

Thank you for your efforts to maintain our parks and recreation system particularly in this fiscally limited time. I am a resident of Live Oak and writing about the issue of off leash dog activity.

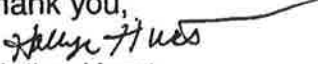
I have studied the perspectives of those opposing any consideration of off leash activity and those citizens in favor of it. My viewpoint is that Santa Cruz County needs more off leash areas and that, although more "dog parks" can be helpful they aren't for everyone, and our miles and miles of beaches offer us a unique opportunity to provide places for recreation and exercise for families with dogs to enjoy together. It is common knowledge that vigorously exercised dogs are better behaved. I support off leash areas at several beaches, which is in agreement with what has been customary for decades. Among our many miles of beaches that are rarely busy except for summer, I would suggest perhaps one mile in the Rio Del Mar area and one in the Live Oak area, at the least for designated off leash activity. My experience is that the majority of people frequenting the beach enjoy watching dogs off leash having fun and the great majority of dogs are well behaved. However I propose, rather than a "mixed use" area, SC Co. set aside several "dog beaches" for off leash activity - then reasonable people would be alerted to the presence of dogs off leash and therefore have the option of choosing another area for their particular activity if they are concerned. I believe this would greatly decrease the risk of annoying or risky interaction between humans and dogs (danger from dogs in fact are rare\*). The rest of the beach would be for dogs on leash only. In Live Oak, LOOLA has demonstrated their dedication to public education among families with dogs regarding beach maintenance and dog behavior and I am confident that people with dogs can maintain order among themselves and call for help if necessary.

I do not support limited hours for off leash activity because it is discriminatory - many people cannot go to the beach during certain hours and why should families with dogs, particularly the elderly and disabled, be confined to times that are often foggy, cold and potentially high tide? I also think this is not a logical solution since hours of high activity are only during the summer. It is more reasonable to limit off leash activity to the period of Sept-April rather than year long at certain times of the day. I am fully confident that, even with increased patrolling, off leash activity will not stop and its more honest, reasonable and fair to provide limited space for families to exercise vigorously with their dogs for a couple miles among our many miles of beaches. In addition, this issue has so much support I think that, if the the county does not move forward with the times on this issue, it will eventually be challenged by expensive legal action nobody needs to

contend with. I have attached my letter to the Sentinel and an article that ends with bad press for Santa Cruz because of resistance to change in favor of off leash activity.

I appreciate your attention to my letter and am hopeful your careful consideration of this controversy will result in a decision that is reasonable and fair to the majority of families in this county.

thank you,

  
Hollye Hurst

NOTES:

\*The extremely informative **California Research Bureau report "Dogs on the Beach"** states this regarding ***injuries to humans by dogs:***

"In addition, the literature and a recent study of 17 California dog parks conducted by the University of California (UC), Davis, School of Veterinary Medicine conclude that injuries to people from dog bites in off-leash areas are rare. " - pg. 33

This report also states this regarding ***water quality:***

"With a few exceptions, beaches that allow dogs received excellent to very good grades (A or B) for dry weather during the past two grading cycles. (Over 75 percent of all beaches received an F for their wet weather grade.)" - - pg. 30

## Life's a beach for lucky dogs free to run on sand

LOS ANGELES (AP) — When Craig Haverstick approaches the beach with his dog in tow, Stanley instinctively knows he's in for a treat. His ears perk up and he starts sniffing the salty air.

"Chesapeake Bay retrievers are like plants, they need to be watered every now and then," Haverstick said of the 9-year-old he's been taking to the beach in San Diego weekly for eight years. "We have some great dog beaches. Dogs and people both drool over them."

Dog beaches account for a tiny fraction of the thousands of miles of U.S. shoreline, but they are treasured by pet owners and their pooches. "Off-leash dog beaches are a canine's dream come true," said Lisa Porter, owner of Pet Hotels of America, a travel website that lists thousands of beaches and parks where dogs are allowed on leash or can run free.

Every beach has its own draw. San Diego offers three off-leash options: Fiesta Island in Mission Bay is great for swimming; Ocean Beach Dog Beach is good for dogs to play together; and Coronado's Dog Beach is described as magical. Beaches where unleashed dogs are allowed complete freedom are typically fenced, offer drinking water and showers for dogs, bags to pick up dog feces and trash cans. Dog lovers say the biggest problem is that there aren't enough beaches for their pets and parking is often scarce.

Efforts to create more pooch-friendly beaches, such as one that died in Santa Monica two years ago, have run into resistance from California State Parks. Critics say letting beaches go to the dogs threatens species such as shore birds, jeopardizes the safety of visitors, ruins the experience for beachgoers and can pollute water and sand with poop and urine.

Fans who frequent the beaches say they provide a great playground for their hounds and can even be therapeutic. When Carol Kearney first adopted Buddy, an abused 70-pound, 2-year-old Staffordshire terrier mix, he was afraid of noises and terrified of water. "When he heard traffic, it was like he was trying to get out of his skin," Kearney said. Letting him run on the beach less than a mile from her 14th floor home in a Coronado high-rise was the only way to calm him down. Now he digs in the sand, chases his dog pals or swims through the waves to retrieve float toys.

Other top West Coast off-leash dog beaches recommended by Porter include Huntington Dog Beach in Huntington Beach, one of the best known dog surfing beaches in the world; Rosie's Dog Beach in Long Beach; Cannon Beach in Oregon; and Double Bluff Beach on Whidbey Island in Washington.

East Coast recommendations are Duck Beach in Outer Banks, N.C.; Bonita Beach Dog Park in Bonita Springs, Fla.; and Paw Park in South Brohard Beach, Fla.

Some beaches, such as Fisherman's Cove Conservation Area in Manasquan, N.J.,

↓  
SANTA CRUZ

require a leash. That law wasn't enforced until after Superstorm Sandy did a lot of damage and the county decided to start ticketing offenders, said Monmouth County Parks Manager Drew d'Apolito.

Similarly, Live Oak Beach in Santa Cruz County was known as a "don't ask, don't tell" beach until recently, said Ingrid Wander, who let Asia, her chocolate Labrador retriever, run free.

Wander got a \$160 ticket in January. She still takes Asia there at low tide. Wander walks, collects shells, takes photos of sea life and watches out for the law as Asia fetches balls in the water.

<http://www.pethotelsfamerica.com>

**Melissa Henderson**

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**From:** BaJer <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 28, 2013 4:46 PM  
**To:** PRCWeb

Parks Advisory Commission:

We wish to strongly support the leash law on Live Oak beaches. We lived on Sunny Cove for a long while, and found off-leash dogs to be both a physical and environmental threat. Sincerely, Gerard & Barbara Van Hoven

[REDACTED]  
107 Montclair Dr  
Santa Cruz 95060



## Melissa Henderson

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**From:** plumlee@cruzio.com  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 28, 2013 11:57 AM  
**To:** PRCWeb  
**Subject:** Dog's Off Leash-Please forward to all Park Advisory Commissioners

To the Commissioners of the Parks Advisory Commission, I strongly believe that it is in the public interest and necessary for the public's safety that dogs NOT be allowed off leash in county parks and on public beaches. Sadly, this has become abundantly clear by the recent unprovoked attack of a young child by an off leash dog on a public beach.

I have a friend who was attacked by an off leash dog when he was a child.

He is now in his mid 40's and still carries the physical and mental scars of that attack. The dog of another friend, while on leash, was badly maimed by a pack of off leash dogs on a public beach. I am a dog person, I have had dogs most of my life. I can see no justification or reason for dogs to be off leash in public and I urge you to vote to keep dogs on leash in county parks and on public beaches.

David Plumlee

851-464-1010

## Melissa Henderson

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**From:** John Caletti <[REDACTED]@skyhighway.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 28, 2013 10:37 AM  
**To:** PRCWeb  
**Subject:** Dogs at the beach

I understand you are looking at allowing dogs off leash at Live Oak beaches. I'd really like there to be opportunities to have dogs off leash at the beach. I understand the beaches can get crowded during the tourist season and weekends. Perhaps a compromise could be reached to allow off leash use in the mornings before it gets busy or in certain areas. I also saw the opposition to allowing dogs off leash is citing a recent case of a child being hurt by a dog in South County. This is very unfortunate, but I would think that from time to time people get hurt at the beach from drownings, fights, violence, stepping on broken bottles, frisbees and footballs hitting them in the face, cars, etc. So, if we are looking at statistics, to bear in mind that there are a lot of ways people get injured and keep the dog incident in perspective.

Thank you for your time.

John Caletti  
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

## Melissa Henderson

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**From:** andrea ratto <rattoears@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 28, 2013 7:29 AM  
**To:** PRCWeb  
**Subject:** Leash Law and consequences

I have been living in Santa Cruz county for over 30 years and have spent many long hours on all of the beaches and raised my children on Twin Lakes beach. Given the increase in the number of people frequenting Santa Cruz county beaches I cannot imagine adding unleashed dogs in the mix. We have all had dogs disrupt our picnic and frighten children (and adults) on this beach before, but this pales in comparison to having someone attacked. We are a relatively wealthy and priveleged society that has time and money to struggle over issues as to where our leisure pets get to run, however, the majority of Santa Cruz county reidents do not own dogs. Don't we get to have a say in the peace, cleanlines and safety of our beaches?? I suggest that those who own dogs be charged a licensing fee which could support our dog parks and other fenced areas in which dogs can run, but leave the beaches clean and unspoiled for the majority of community members and tourists to come to our area. I suspect the birds would appreciate it as well.

Andrea Ratto

## Melissa Henderson

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**From:** Deana Glenz <deanag73@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 27, 2013 11:55 PM  
**To:** PRCWeb  
**Subject:** Dogs off Leash

Please do not allow dogs to be off their leashes along the Pleasure Point Walkway or Beaches.

I walk that stretch several times a week and have had more than one encounter with a dog off leash and witnessed encounters with dogs on leashes.

For instance:

There is a very large hound dog is often off leash. The woman and man that "own" the dog often have a leash with them but do not use it. This dog does not appear to be vicious but is very curious and does not back off when shooed. I have a bird that I keep on a harness and she rides on my shoulder. The dog always approaches me and will not turn away. The owner does nothing about it. I have also interceded when the dog would not leave a baby in a stroller alone and the child's Mother was freaking out. The dog owner is there but does not call the dog off. I have been tempted to by some mace or pepper spray to use the next time the dog bothers me but I hate to punish the dog because the owner is not doing their job. I have also seen this same dog get in the face of a toddler and scare the poor kid to death.

I have also had a white terrier dog who was walking beside its owner go after a jogger and I helped stop the dog. The jogger had no interaction with the dog prior to the incident. It appeared to be completely unprovoked. I made a comment to the dog owner about having her dog off the leash and they immediately leashed the dog.

It is not uncommon to see dogs who are passing each other while on walks with their owners bark, snap and snarl at each other. Thankfully the incidents that I have witnessed have involved dogs on leashes and the owners were able to pull them apart quickly.

I know that dogs will be curious about the bird and I make every effort to move aside and let them have sufficient passing room. However if the dog is not on a leash there is nothing more I can do.

I understand that owners want a place that their dog can run off leash and play in the surf...maybe one beach can be designated for the dogs. Something that is "secluded" so that they can not easily access a beach that is an "on leash" beach...

Thank you for the time and energy that is being put into this situation. I know that you have a lot on your plate with this issue.

Deana Glenz

## Melissa Henderson

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**From:** Erika Zavaleta <zavaleta@ucsc.edu>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 27, 2013 9:34 PM  
**To:** PRCWeb  
**Subject:** Do not allow dogs off-leash at Live Oak beaches

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing to express my opposition to allowing dogs off-leash at Live Oak beaches. As a Santa Cruz resident who has raised four children (and many pets) here, I have seen a steady rise in both the numbers and impacts of off-leash dogs at beaches (including those where off-leash dogs are not even legal). Unfortunately, this has also been accompanied by changing attitudes among many dog owners. The combination of numbers and changing attitudes have come to pose a tangible threat to public safety. The terrible incident last week at Rio del Mar beach is case in point.

The person in care of that dog last week was obviously grossly negligent, but unfortunately it's more and more likely that others will be similarly inclined and that other such incidents will occur. For example, last year while I was at It's Beach with my youngest (then 2), a man with a boxer on a leash told me that I "might want to pick my kid up," because his dog wasn't "very good with people." I told him that in that case he should keep it on leash. He just walked a short distance away and let his dog off-leash. My daughter and I got out of there.

I realize many, many people have much better judgement than these worst examples. As with other public safety issues, however, policy has to deal with the tails of the distribution as well as the means. That tail -- of people who feel their dogs have a right to run loose in public areas even at risk to other people -- has grown thicker in Santa Cruz in the last decade. Policies need to respond to this change, not just to the counter-arguments that most dog owners and dogs are safe.

Please support solutions that pose less serious threats to public safety, public use, and the environment. For example, Scotts Valley has a great, publicly-funded, fenced dog park at Sky Park, that serves all the basic issues in question here. Do not make Live Oak beaches into off-leash dog areas, even for small parts of the day or the week. It's clear from other city beaches with off-leash restriction that these small concessions quickly expand without serious enforcement, which we all know needs to be focused elsewhere.

Thank you for your time. Please share my comments with all of the Commissioners.

My very best,

Erika Zavaleta

**Melissa Henderson**

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**From:** Lyn Hood <lyhood@cabrillo.edu>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 27, 2013 6:35 PM  
**To:** PRCWeb  
**Subject:** Off leash dog hours at beach

I support off leash hours for dogs on local beaches.

Lyn Hood

36th Ave.  
Santa Cruz

**Melissa Henderson**

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**From:** Eve Roberson <[redacted]@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 27, 2013 6:10 PM  
**To:** PRCWeb  
**Subject:** Dogs on Beaches

To: County Parks Advisory Commission

**Please consider this at your meeting on June 10 as I will be unable to attend. Please do not allow unleashed dogs on our beaches.** I am a dog guardian (owner) and I walk my dog on a leash on Live Oak beaches almost daily and consider that privilege enough for her and for me to be able to enjoy the sand and sea, and I carefully pick up after her. However, if I were to let her run free on the beach, not only would she be in danger of having to be rescued from drowning in a "sleeper wave" (probably causing me to drown as others have done recently while trying to rescue their pups) but I can assure you that she would be a real annoyance if not actual danger to others on the beach. And her curious personality always seems to invite aggression by uncontrolled dogs so I would not feel safe even to bring her to any unleashed dog beach. Families that can now visit the beach without fear of having a stranger's dog unexpectedly run up and harm their young children or grab their food or other belongings, would no longer be comfortable doing that either.

But it is not even our local residents with dogs that I worry about as it is the masses of visitors who frequent our beaches most of the year. Many do not understand how important our beaches are to us and when they see "Dogs off leash welcome", may think, "OK, I can just let my dog run free while I pay attention to other things; i.e., take a little snooze, go out into the water, visit the restrooms or snack shop, etc. Many dogs "poop on the run" so owners would not even be aware of their dog soiling the sand, unless they control them on a leash.

With current security concerns in Santa Cruz, we do not have any law enforcement personnel to spare to respond to calls for assistance with problems that always happen between people and dogs when dogs are loose in public places. We also owe "peaceful enjoyment" of our beaches to our many tourists upon which our economy depends.

Every time I see in the news that some folks really do believe that it is their dog's right to "run free" on our beaches, I cannot understand their reasoning. There are already at least 10 fine parks in our area where dogs are allowed to be off-leash FREE and I wonder why this is not already enough places for them to do that?

**Please consider the needs of all our residents and visitors and of our fragile environment and do not allow unleashed dogs on our beaches. Thank you.**

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Respectfully submitted,

E. L. Roberson, dog guardian  
[redacted]  
[redacted]  
Santa Cruz, CA 95062

## Melissa Henderson

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**From:** Hal & Jody Stanger [mailto:hjstange@pacbell.net]  
**Sent:** Monday, May 27, 2013 4:30 PM  
**To:** PRCWeb  
**Subject:** Against Any Off-Leash Laws

Dear Sirs,

I am unable to attend the upcoming leash law advocates meeting. I want to share my thoughts on any proposal to allow off leash dogs on our beaches. You probably already know off leash dog owners are already out of control, defying the existing laws.

I am a forty-six year resident and home owner in the Live Oak area and have been a daily user of the beaches and parks, especially 38th ave. beach and Brommer Park.

Sometime back, I had to stop taking my grandchildren to both the beach and park due to so many unlawful dogs off their leashes. At 38th ave beach recently, while I was watching, an off leash dog attacked and bit a young boy playing catch with his dad. I had previously politely asked the owner to please put the dog on a leash. She went berserk on me. Almost daily, at lower tides, a person brings two off leash Pit Bull dogs to 38th Ave beach for a "walk." When asked to put his dogs on a leash, the owners is very verbally combative. Plus, there are more off leash dogs on the 38th Ave beach on most low tide days than humans. Some dog owners have 2-3 or more off leash dogs at a time. At Brommer Park, I asked a lady to remove her off leash Bullmastiff dog from the children's play area. She became very verbally abusive to me.

That brings me to this point. When I have asked politely that dog owners put their dogs on a leash, especially when they get in my grand children's faces, I have only gotten verbal abuse from the owners. There has not been one incident when I have asked and not gotten a FU. Yes, FU from off leash dog owners in front of my grandchildren. I believe the dog owners now feel entitled to have their dogs off leash. These off leash advocates are very self centered, disrespectful without consideration/concern to the other park and beach users safety and space.

It is my opinion that these off leash owners are fundamentally naive, very angry people to begin with. One way they manifest their irrational anger is to transfer it via defying leash laws, dis-respect, or interest in others peoples welfare, safety or concerns.

They use the off leash dog as a weapon or threat.

After all, what would these same off leash people think if I wandered around with a loaded weapon to these public areas? An off leash dog is a loaded weapon.

I do believe that we need to get back to the original basic, fundamentals mission, purpose and use of our public beaches and parks. I would think, number one would be they are there for enjoyment, safety and should be protected for all individuals and families. Not for a narrow special, selfish interest group of off leash dogs owners. BTW, what is the mission of county parks and recreation (CP&R)? Their web site "about us" reads under construction. Maybe that's the problem. The county CP&R have failed to establish a mission statement defining what/why they are in the CP&R service business.



Again, I do believe that some of these attack dog breeds are like carrying a loaded weapon ready to go off at anytime with out provocation. For example, the recently unprovoked dog attacking a 5 year old. I know there are many other dog attacks that go unreported in the papers.

The following dog breeds should be banned from public use areas whether on or off leash:

- Pit Bulls
- Rottweilers
- Bullmastiffs
- Presa Canarios

I am sure there are other dog breeds that are historically and statistically prone to attacking.

I would also suggest these "likely" attack breeds should not only be licensed but pay a premium license fee, above and beyond the "average" dog. Plus the owners should have proof and evidence of insurance to even own them. I have to have proof of insurance to get a drivers license, right? Why not for attack dogs? By the way, if off leash laws are passed, what will the liability (my tax money) of the county when someone is attacked. Hmmm?

Simply establish and post at locations a hot line number to report off leash dog owners to enforcement. Start to in force existing leash laws. We do not need more permissive laws such as off the leash, avoiding special interest anger, by copitualting and kicking the ball down the road.

Please provide my comments and feelings to the commissioners.

Regards,

Hal Stanger

## Melissa Henderson

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**From:** Renee <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 27, 2013 4:11 PM  
**To:** PRCWeb  
**Subject:** Leash law

Please retain and enforce leash laws on all beaches. Leashed dogs can be problem enough at times, our family would never be able to enjoy our beaches if dogs were off leash legally. At least now we have the law on our side when rambunctious animals accost the smallest children in our parties.

## Melissa Henderson

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**From:** Claire Sommargren <sommargren@att.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 27, 2013 3:28 PM  
**To:** PRCWeb  
**Subject:** Proposed dog off-leash proposal

Dear Sir or Madam,

I will not be able to attend the upcoming 6/10 meeting during which a proposal on allowing off-leash dogs on Live Oak beaches will be discussed, and I would like to give you my comments on the issue.

As a resident of Live Oak for the past 25 years (and a former dog-owner), I am adamantly opposed to allowing dogs off-leash on our beaches. I feel this way for several reasons:

(1) Sanitation - it has been my personal observation in our beach neighborhood that only about half of dog owners clean up after their dogs. And when they do, they only clean up feces, since there is no way to clean up dog urine. I have had the dubious pleasure of cleaning dog diarrhea off my property because the owner was unable or unwilling to do so. We do not need this new source of contamination of our beach sand, where many children dig and play on a daily basis.

(2) Safety - considering their territorial nature, dogs do sometimes attack other dogs or (as we saw tragically last week in Rio del Mar) human beings. At least when they are on a leash, the owner has some control. There is no way an owner can quickly and successfully intervene in an attack when a dog is not leashed.

(3) Wildlife issues - dogs being dogs, they love chasing birds and other forms of wildlife. This is just not appropriate, especially since we have focused so much on the pristine nature of Monterey Bay as a marine sanctuary. Local bird populations have been plummeting due to disease, and this would be just one more nail in the coffin.

I believe that the county would be opening itself up to huge liability if they allow off-leash dogs on our beautiful beaches. It would be more prudent to plan appropriately fenced park areas where dogs could run with other dogs, but away from children, elderly persons at risk for falls, and people who fear or just do not enjoy being around dogs.

Thank you,  
Claire Sommargren  
Live Oak Resident

## Melissa Henderson

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**From:** Julie Killeen <malpa@sbcglobal.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 27, 2013 2:12 PM  
**To:** PRCWeb  
**Subject:** Leash law

Please add my voice to those supporting leash laws in public spaces and please let all those on the Parks Advisory Commission and Board of Supervisors know my feelings. I am a hard-core lover of animals of all kinds and have had several dogs and cats as loved family members throughout the years. But....I recognize that not everybody has to feel the way I do about animals and that we in Santa Cruz play host to visitors and residents from all sorts of backgrounds and sensitivities. I have no right to impose my loved pet on the person who was attacked as a youth, or on the person who has extreme allergies, or the person who grew up in an area where a loose dog very likely carried rabies. And, yes, I have had someone's loved pet jump up on me with muddy paws, try to snatch food from my picnic, nip my ankle, or corner me with a threatening growl and raised hackles. Each owner dearly loved the pet, but was blind to the pet's misbehavior. Although there are a few owners who have carefully and professionally trained their pets to voice control, most owners overestimate their pets' good behavior and their control over them. Please, for the sake of community and for the sake of visitors, maintain and enforce the leash laws in all public areas. The impact of pets and pet odor on the wild animals in our rural parks is a subject for another day.

Sincerely,  
Julie Killeen  
Felton

**Melissa Henderson**

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**From:** judy harger <judyharger@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 27, 2013 12:41 PM  
**To:** PRCWeb  
**Subject:** Please do not permit dogs without leash.

Attention: Parks Advisory Commission/PLEASE GIVE A COPY OF THIS LETTER TO EVERY COMMISSIONER.

PLEASE DO NOT ALLOW DOGS ON LIVE OAK BEACHES WITHOUT A LEASH. I WOULD PREFER THERE BE NO DOGS ON THESE BEACHES BECAUSE THEY LEAVE THEIR "GIFT" OF URINE THAT THEN GOES INTO THE OCEAN THAT WE ARE TRYING TO PRESERVE. WE MUST AT ALL COST, WORK TO SAVE OUR SALT AND FRESH WATER LAKES AND OCEANS FROM THE URINE FROM ANIMALS.

HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO DRINK WATER THAT IS FROM THE "TO BE BUILT" DESALINATION PLANT, KNOWING IT HAD ANIMAL AND HUMAN URINE IN IT PREVIOUSLY. ???

IN ADDITION, WHEN THE DOGS DO NOT HAVE A LEASH ON THEM I CANNOT WALK SAFELY THERE AS THEY TEND TO TRIP ME. I AM AN OLDER PERSON WHO DOES NOT WANT TO FALL. THE PERCENTAGE OF OLDER FOLKS IN THE WORLD IS GROWING. WE MUST KEEP THEM IN MIND WHEN MAKING DECISIONS REGARDING ANIMALS.

THANK YOU

JUDY HARGER

**Melissa Henderson**

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**From:** Gloria Sams <gr\_sams@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 27, 2013 11:21 AM  
**To:** PRCWeb  
**Subject:** Off-leash dog issue

I ADAMANTLY VOTE 'NO' ON OFF-LEASH DOGS.

Dog owners are of the mistaken and sometimes dangerous belief that their dogs have the ability to choose right from wrong. They do not. To allow a potentially dangerous animal to run loose is akin to aiding and abetting a criminal.

It matters not whether the dog weighs two pounds or fifty pounds; it can and might bite.

This child will be scarred for life, physically and emotionally.

Please make our parks and beaches available and risk-free for all individuals and vote "no" to off-leash.

Gloria Sams  
211 Gault Street  
Santa Cruz  
426-3573

## Melissa Henderson

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**From:** Robert Hull-<rhull@rhull.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 27, 2013 7:55 AM  
**To:** PRCWeb  
**Subject:** Comments on Leash Laws

Commissioners,

Please do not allow dogs off leash at any beach. My children cannot enjoy the beach because of all the off leash dogs. I am tired of explaining to dog owners that my children do not enjoy dogs. Nor do I enjoy asking people to call off their dog when their animal intimidates my children.

Robert Hull  
Aptos

## Melissa Henderson

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**From:** Michelle <mdaveyouse@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 27, 2013 7:46 AM  
**To:** PRCWeb  
**Subject:** Dogs on Leash

Please keep dogs on leashes! I am astonished at how many people and animals have been hurt and killed and that how differently things could have happened if the dog had been on a leash.

Ten years ago my then two year old son was attacked by an off leash three year old golden retriever, requiring 14 facial stitches. It was the most traumatic experience of my life. I suffered from post traumatic syndrome from that event. My son, now 12 years old, is still very fearful of dogs and their bark. The medical bills and therapy that we were responsible for was overwhelming. The thought that if that dog had been on a leash how differently our lives would have been.

As a large dog owner, our dog was attacked twice by off leash dogs.

A friend recently shared a tragic story of how two large, unleashed dogs attacked and killed her small dog in her front yard, where her children's see playing.

I understand that many dog owners are responsible enough to train their dog and have insurance to cover such an incident but many do not or will not. In the case of the Rio del Mar boy who was recently attacked by an off leash rescue dog, this boy and his family have forever been changed, damaged. The actions of the dog's foster provider is far reaching with the financial burden of this tragic event falling upon the rescue organization.

As wonderful as dogs are, I have learned from both my experience as a dog owner and a mother of a victim of a dog attack, that dogs are very unpredictable. How a simple act of responsibility can save others from the trauma and expense of an attack. Please keep dogs on leash in all public settings (with the exceptions of fully contained dog parks). And instill heavy fines for those that insist on putting the rest of us at risk.

Thank you,

Michelle Ouse



## Melissa Henderson

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**From:** Carol Polhamus <polhamus@sbcglobal.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 27, 2013 7:09 AM  
**To:** PRCWeb  
**Subject:** no off leash dogs, please

Hello:

I live close to Its Beach on the west side. I have three dachshunds, who I no longer feel comfortable walking on W Cliff or the beach because of off leash dogs. Three weeks ago, my neighbor's small terrier was killed in an unprovoked attack at Its Beach by an off leash pit bull. I can't tell you how many attacks/events I have observed in the past several years due to off leash dogs and owners who have no control over them. As I mentioned, I no longer feel comfortable walking my dogs on the west side; I leave them in the yard. What a shame.

Please don't allow this to happen in Live Oak--it will result in injuries, misery and sometimes even death due to off leash dogs. Thank you for listening.

Carol Polhamus

Sent from my iPad

## Melissa Henderson

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**From:** Curt Simmons <curtsimmons@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, May 26, 2013 11:37 PM  
**To:** PRCWeb  
**Subject:** Leash laws

I support off-leash hours at specific Santa Cruz city and county beaches. History has shown that off-leash recreation at Live Oak and It's Beach has been beneficial for dogs, dog owners, and the community neighborhood. Specific hours for off-leash time would give both dog lovers and non dog lovers each time to enjoy the beach. That's fair. The recent tragic incident with the foster dog was unfortunately due to the incredible irresponsibility of the foster care giver, who should be held fully accountable. Allowing aggressive dogs or dogs of unknown temperament to roam in an unleashed environment is unacceptable.

Curt Simmons  
Santa Cruz

## Melissa Henderson

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**From:** GRAYDON ROSS <graydonross@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Sunday, May 26, 2013 4:51 PM  
**To:** PRCWeb  
**Cc:** GRAYDON ROSS  
**Subject:** Leash Law on Beaches

Please consider that EVERYONE who walks on beaches does so in the early and late hours of the day. It is extremely unfair to designate these times for off-leach dogs. If there must be some time for these dogs, why not 12 to 2 PM when only mad dogs and Englishmen are present?

**Melissa Henderson**

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**From:** Ellen Aldridge <mailto:emallellen@mac.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, May 25, 2013 7:27 PM  
**To:** PRCWeb  
**Subject:** Just say NO to off leash dogs

Please give these comments to the Commissioners

I do NOT support allowing off leash dogs on County beaches. I am a lifelong resident of Santa Cruz, and off leash dogs in Santa Cruz are a menace to people, regardless of what their well-intentioned owners say. Not all of them pick up their excrement either, especially when it does not occur right in front of them which is required if the dog is on the leash. They are also a menace to the sea birds.

If they want more areas to run their dogs, then they should petition the County/raise funds to create a dog park, where humans do not go unless they want to interact with off leash dogs and their waste.

**DO NOT LET THE COUNTY GO TO THE DOGS!**  
Ellen Aldridge  
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

## Melissa Henderson

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**From:** Kay McCullen <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 24, 2013 8:02 AM  
**To:** PRCWeb  
**Subject:** Dogs on Live Oak beaches

I love dogs but too many are already running around loose by owners who think their dogs are too cute to be a nuisance. As a resident of Live Oak, PLEASE do not consent to the proposed request for off-leash dogs. I understand that people want to exercise their dogs. Santa Cruz has plenty of areas already designated for them including that new park on Chanticleer near Rodriguez.

Last week I was at Seabright Beach and counted seven dogs off-leash, two of which wandered over to me while their owners were oblivious. People just do not take responsibility for their dogs! Therefore, appropriate laws are required.

Sincerely,

Kay McCullen  
[REDACTED]  
1421 Chanticleer Ave

## Melissa Henderson

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**From:** Steve Baloff (ATV) [mailto:SBaloff@ATVCAPITAL.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, May 24, 2013 7:39 AM  
**To:** PRCWeb  
**Subject:** Leash laws at live oak beaches

As a resident of 6th avenue I am strongly opposed to the consideration of allowing unleashed dogs at live oak beaches. As a dog owner, we regularly encounter dogs off leash and have seen first hand how much trouble and mess they cause. Instead of loosening the current laws I suggest you begin enforcing them

Steve Baloff  
41 6th avenue  
Santa Cruz ca.

Sent from my iPhone

**Melissa Henderson**

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**From:** Lefty Lu <leftylu@sbcglobal.net>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 23, 2013 1:01 PM  
**To:** PRCWeb  
**Subject:** leash laws

Hello, Please increase leash laws at our parks and beaches for the safety of the Santa Cruz residents and visitors. In addition, we need our leash laws to be strictly enforced, just like any other violation of the law. We have dedicated dog parks for off leash dogs, why should people be free to allow their dogs run in parks and beaches, potentially putting people at risk?

Thank you,  
Concerned Santa Cruz City resident and parent

**Melissa Henderson**

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**From:** FUJBF@aol.com  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 23, 2013 10:00 AM  
**To:** PRCWeb  
**Subject:** KEEP ALL DOGS ON LEASHES... ALWAYS!!!

NO out of control dogs for me... 30 year resident... business owner...  
gd smith



**Melissa Henderson**

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**From:** Leslie Crook <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 23, 2013 9:59 AM  
**To:** PRCWeb  
**Subject:** County's Parks Advisory Commission - Leash Laws

Good morning -

In regard to this morning's Santa Cruz Patch Article "Off Leash Dog Attacks Boy on Beach," (<http://bit.ly/10VTtEs>) I am sending you my "no" vote regarding the proposal to allow dogs off leash at Live Oak beaches.

As a resident of 16th Avenue and someone who is extremely wary of dogs I don't know, I am often on the beaches - and would find the off leash allowance prohibitive of my enjoying an area I have utilized my entire life.

Please do not allow this proposal to pass, and kindly forward my email to all Commissioners.

Thank you for your time,  
Leslie Crook

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Leslie M. Crook  
Logistics and Administration  
FXpansion USA, Inc.  
[www.fxexpansion.com](http://www.fxexpansion.com)

[REDACTED]  
101 Cooper Street  
Suite 221  
Santa Cruz, CA 95060  
[REDACTED]  
831.440.3578

## Melissa Henderson

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**From:** TERRY ADAMS <erry\_adams@att.net>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 23, 2013 8:12 AM  
**To:** PRCWeb  
**Subject:** LEASH LAWS

PLEASE READ THIS TO THE COMMISSIONERS: DOGS ARE DANGEROUS, ESPECIALLY HERE IN LIVE OAK WHERE THE ARROGANT OWNERS THINK THEY CAN IGNORE THE LAW! THESE IRRESPONSIBLE DOG OWNERS DO WHATEVER THEY CAN GET AWAY WITH...INCLUDING LEAVING THE SCENE OF AN ATTACK. IF ANOTHER CHILD IS ATTACKED THERE WILL BE HELL TO PAY. "KILL YOUR DOG AND SUCK THE SHIT OUT OF ITS ASSHOLE." ...IS OUR SENTIMENT HERE AT PLEASURE POINT.

**Melissa Henderson**

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**From:** Craig Nell <nell@earthlink.net>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 23, 2013 7:29 AM  
**To:** PRCWeb  
**Subject:** From: P. Schroeder - Either have a dog dedicated beach like all the dog parks popping up OR do not have dogs on our beaches. Keep it simple. There is no middle ground on public health & safety.

Either have a dog dedicated beach like all the dog parks popping up OR do not have dogs on our beaches.

- Too many people and children trying to play & have fun & unwind.
- Too many people who really think that their dog is their child & not a dog & is entitled to run free on the beach.

A dog is an animal.

By adding off lease privileges at our residential beaches, we deny the public the safety & health we deserve while we relax & recreate.

Thanks,

Patricia Schroeder-Nell

124 Jewell Street

Santa Cruz, Ca. 95060

831-460-9239

## Melissa Henderson

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**From:** Susan Else <[REDACTED]@pacbell.net>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 22, 2013 7:44 PM  
**To:** John Leopold; Zach Friend; Neal Coonerty; Greg Caput; Bruce McPherson; PRCWeb; PRCWeb; PRCWeb; PRCWeb  
**Subject:** Off-leash Support

I am writing in support of high-quality off-leash spaces for dogs in Santa Cruz County, specifically at Lighthouse Beach and Field and at 20th Avenue Beach. For many years, there were legal off-leash hours at the Lighthouse areas, and 20th Avenue Beach was largely unpatrolled and unticketed. Now both areas are off-limits to off-leash dogs and their owners, with many negative effects to the community and no positive gains that I can see.

I am a long-term Santa Cruz resident. I came here in 1971 to go to college, and I found work at the University when I graduated. After a nearly 20-year career at UCSC, I became a full-time artist, and I have participated in our local Open Studios Art Tour for many years. I raised two children here and volunteered in their public schools. I am a law-abiding, tax-paying, involved citizen. I vote in every election. I care about my community. I am a model Santa Cruz resident in many ways, except for one thing.....I take my dog to the beach during specific hours, and I let her run off leash there. For this I will someday be cited and fined several hundred dollars. What could have turned someone like me into such a scofflaw?

Eight years ago I adopted a dog from the local shelter. She was still young, but fully grown. She was a wonderful dog in most ways: loyal, loving, and eager to please. But when I walked her on leash, she sometimes became aggressive with other dogs: snarling and charging at them. Obedience training helped, but it didn't eliminate the behavior. But one day, on the advice of a friend, I took my dog to Lighthouse Beach during the legal off-leash hours. I unhooked her leash and let her play untethered. To my surprise, she seemed a different dog: polite, playful, and friendly, with no trace of the aggression she displayed on our leashed walks. Unfortunately, the regulations changed a couple of years later, turning our beneficial social outings into a furtive, illegal enterprise.

I have since learned that many dogs who socialize well off leash become nervous and aggressive when the leash changes their body language. My dog is nine years old now, and she still has occasional trouble on-leash. She continues to be the soul of politeness on the beach, however, and she responds instantly when I call her---wheeling away from whatever she's doing and running to me. It's important to our quality of life that she continue to have weekly romps at the beach with other dogs and owners. As a pet owner, I feel a responsibility to provide the space that make her happiest (and most well behaved), at least for a couple of hours a week. So I break the law.

Why can't we all share the beaches? I don't expect legal off-leash hours for more than a few hours a day (and certainly not during prime sun-bathing hours), but I HATE looking over my shoulder for the uniform that will write me a ticket. I am doing a responsible thing for my pet, and yet the powers that be say it's against the law, even though the same behavior used to be legal. What kind of crazy, mixed-up situation is this, and why can't we work our way out of it? Why have years of petitions from responsible pet-owners been stymied by a vocal minority who don't want any dogs on the beaches

ever? Why can't we compromise on a fair-use plan for a community resource that should be available to all of us?

Well, why can't we?

Thank you so much for considering this request.

Susan Else

126 Escalona Drive  
Santa Cruz, CA 95060  
831-423-0515

## **Mail ALL Letter(s) May 12 – 19<sup>th</sup>. LET'S PACK THEIR MAILBOXES!!**

**ACTION 1:** Write your letter - make it easy: write 1 letter with the 5 commissioner's names on it. Do sign your letter including your address.

To:

- Commissioner Mariah Roberts – District 1
- Commissioner Kate Minott – District 2
- Commissioner Jim Lang - District 3
- Commissioner Steve Bennett - District 4
- Commissioner Dave Mercer - District 5

**Dear Commissioners:** (Ted has relayed suggestions for letters: Introduce yourself. Tell YOUR story - who you are. Tell why taking your dog to the beach is important. Tell what this culture and community means to you and that/why you feel LOOLA's off-leash proposal(s) is reasonable and fair to everyone. (No discussing the opposition's arguments against us, ACS, etc.).

**ACTION 2:** Send a copy of this letter to each Parks & Recreation Commissioner (5 letters) at their office

Co. Santa Cruz Parks, Open Spaces & Cultural Services

979 17th Avenue Santa Cruz, CA 95062

Email: [PRCweb@co.santa-cruz.ca.us](mailto:PRCweb@co.santa-cruz.ca.us)

office: 454-7901

YOUR ACTION IN SUPPORT OF OFF-LEASH IS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT! • IF YOU CAN'T SEND LETTERS  
OF COURSE, EMAIL

ACTION 3: Send a copy of your Parks & Recreation Commissioners letter to each member of the Board of Supervisors (5 letters). Send it to their office at 701 Ocean Street - Rm 500, Santa Cruz, CA 95060. The Board of Supervisors will also vote on this issue.

- John Leopold - District 1 John oversees Live Oak Beaches: on your letter add a note asking for him to ADVOCATE for off-leash dog beaches!!
- Zach Friend - District 2
- Neal Coonerty - District 3
- Greg Caput - District 4
- Bruce McPherson - District 5

YOUR ACTION IN SUPPORT OF OFF-LEASH IS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT! • IF YOU CAN'T SEND LETTERS  
OF COURSE, EMAIL

Leopold: [john.leopold@co.santa-cruz.ca.us](mailto:john.leopold@co.santa-cruz.ca.us)

Friend: [zach.friend@co.santa-cruz.ca.us](mailto:zach.friend@co.santa-cruz.ca.us)

Coonerty: [bds031@co.santa-cruz.ca.us](mailto:bds031@co.santa-cruz.ca.us)

Caput: [greg.caput@co.santa-cruz.ca.us](mailto:greg.caput@co.santa-cruz.ca.us)

McPherson: [bruce.mcpherson@co.santa-cruz.ca.us](mailto:bruce.mcpherson@co.santa-cruz.ca.us)

## Melissa Henderson

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**From:** debra dawson <debra92677@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 22, 2013 7:34 PM  
**To:** PRCWeb  
**Subject:** leash law proposal

Hello,

I am opposed to the off-leash hours being proposed for Live Oak beaches. Before 10am is adequate for dedicated dog owners to take their dogs to the beach for a walk & fun. After 5pm is a time when lots of working people come with their kids for a while to enjoy themselves & relax, watch the sunset, etc. It is not relaxing or enjoyable to have to be guarding my toddler grandson from the roaming dogs, including some pit bulls, while he is trying to play. This area is full of young families and I would hate to see injuries occur. Unfortunately, there are some dog owners who have not trained their dogs well who are the problem---but it is more than a few....

I think it is fair to let the dog owners have the mornings.....the beach belongs to all of us. Thanks!!!

## Melissa Henderson

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**From:** Patti Brady <patrizia2@pacbell.net>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 22, 2013 7:29 PM  
**To:** PRCWeb  
**Subject:** Life's a beach for lucky dogs free to run on sand - Yahoo! News  
**Importance:** High

### Life's a beach for lucky dogs free to run on sand - Yahoo! News

Hello P & R: an important request

ASAP PLEASE see that this article is distributed to our 5 Park & Recreation Commissioners.

Live Oak beaches are mentioned in this article.

In advance, many thanks you's , Patti Brady, LOOLA

Your friend patrizia2@pacbell.net has shared a link with you.

### Life's a beach for lucky dogs free to run on sand - Yahoo! News

<http://news.yahoo.com/lifes-beach-lucky-dogs-free-run-sand-170306139.html>

**Read the full story**

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## Melissa Henderson

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**From:** Giancarlo Brignolo <giancarlo.brignolo@hds.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 22, 2013 5:03 PM  
**To:** PRCWeb  
**Subject:** Off leash dog beaches article

<http://news.yahoo.com/lifes-beach-lucky-dogs-free-run-sand-170306139.html>

## Life's a beach for lucky dogs free to run on sand

**AP** By SUE MANNING | Associated Press -- Tue, May 21, 2013

LOS ANGELES (AP) — When Craig Haverstick approaches the beach with his dog in tow, Stanley instinctively knows he's in for a treat. His ears perk up and he starts sniffing the salty air.

"Chesapeake Bay retrievers are like plants, they need to be watered every now and then," Haverstick said of the 9-year-old he's been taking to the beach in San Diego weekly for eight years. "We have some great dog beaches. Dogs and people both drool over them."

Dog beaches account for a tiny fraction of the thousands of miles of U.S. shoreline, but they are treasured by pet owners and their pooches.

"Off-leash dog beaches are a canine's dream come true," said Lisa Porter, owner of Pet Hotels of America, a travel website that lists thousands of beaches and parks where dogs are allowed on leash or can run free.

Every beach has its own draw. San Diego offers three off-leash options: Fiesta Island in Mission Bay is great for swimming; Ocean Beach Dog Beach is good for dogs to play together; and Coronado's Dog Beach is described as magical.

Beaches where unleashed dogs are allowed complete freedom are typically fenced, offer drinking water and showers for dogs, bags to pick up dog feces and trash cans.

Dog lovers say the biggest problem is that there aren't enough beaches for their pets and parking is often scarce.

Efforts to create more pooch-friendly beaches, such as one that died in Santa Monica two years ago, have run into resistance from California State Parks.

Critics say letting beaches go to the dogs threatens species such as shore birds, jeopardizes the safety of visitors, ruins the experience for beachgoers and can pollute water and sand with poop and urine.

Fans who frequent the beaches say they provide a great playground for their hounds and can even be therapeutic.

When Carol Kearney first adopted Buddy, an abused 70-pound, 2-year-old Staffordshire terrier mix, he was afraid of noises and terrified of water.

"When he heard traffic, it was like he was trying to get out of his skin," Kearney said.

Letting him run on the beach less than a mile from her 14th floor home in a Coronado high-rise was the only way to calm him down.

Now he digs in the sand, chases his dog pals or swims through the waves to retrieve float toys.

Other top West Coast off-leash dog beaches recommended by Porter include Huntington Dog Beach in Huntington Beach, one of the best known dog surfing beaches in the world; Rosie's Dog Beach in Long Beach; Cannon Beach in Oregon; and Double Bluff Beach on Whidbey Island in Washington.

East Coast recommendations are Duck Beach in Outer Banks, N.C.; Bonita Beach Dog Park in Bonita Springs, Fla.; and Paw Park in South Brohard Beach, Fla.

Some beaches, such as Fisherman's Cove Conservation Area in Manasquan, N.J., require a leash. That law wasn't enforced until after Superstorm Sandy did a lot of damage and the county decided to start ticketing offenders, said Monmouth County Parks Manager Drew d'Apolito.

Similarly, Live Oak Beach in Santa Cruz County was known as a "don't ask, don't tell" beach until recently, said Ingrid Wander, who let Asia, her chocolate Labrador retriever, run free.

Wander got a \$160 ticket in January.

She still takes Asia there at low tide. Wander walks, collects shells, takes photos of sea life and watches out for the law as Asia fetches balls in the water.

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<http://www.pethotelsofamerica.com>

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[REDACTED]  
Santa Cruz, CA. 95062  
May 15, 2013

Santa Cruz Parks, Open Spaces & Cultural Services  
989 17<sup>th</sup> Ave.  
Santa Cruz, CA. 95062

Dear Commissioner,

I am a 30 year resident and homeowner here in Santa Cruz County and I'm writing you in regards to the off-leash dog issue. I know that I can only poorly convey to you the importance and significance that being able to walk with my dog untethered has had in my life.

After my cancer diagnosis, the exercise, the beautiful distractions and perhaps most importantly the community of other dog walkers I met, helped my recovery and mental well being, more than I can say. It's significance in the quality of my life, was again highlighted as I struggled with the dissolution of my marriage. I guess I was lucky, because at that time it was legal to have your dog off leash at Lighthouse Field and Its Beach and off leash enforcement at the 20<sup>th</sup> Ave. beaches was minimal.

Those opportunities are gone now. Although there is a smattering of small dog parks (more like a collection of wood chipped prison exercise yards), we have lost our most valuable spaces. Where once there was a large community of responsible dog owners who would populate Lighthouse Field during off-leash hours daily, there is now little community use (of a legal nature at least). The beaches of 20<sup>th</sup> Ave. have also seen the dispersal of the responsible dog community. I hate seeing them go the way of Lighthouse Field.

We need to share our park spaces and foster responsible community use. My personal community has been torn apart by the actions of a minority of anti dog activists. I have friends and acquaintances that I never see anymore unless we happen to decide to "go break the law" together. Groups that should be allies are pitted against each other. I'm referring to Animal Control Officers and the community of responsible dog owners. ACS needs the support of the overall dog community in order to effectively do their job and they now have an adversarial relationship. I know the ACS staff recognizes the need for legal off leash recreation although their Board of Directors did not accept it's staff's proposal for setting this up.

Places like the county park at Garland Ranch and Carmel Beach are proof that off leash recreation is possible outside of small fenced in areas. I find it hard to believe that the residents of Santa Cruz County and other dog owners must leave the county to enjoy open space and open beaches with their canine companions. We need a compromise solution!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Robbins".

David Robbins

Dad1994@yahoo.com

Dory Mansfield

[REDACTED]  
Santa Cruz, CA 95062

May 14, 2013

Co. Santa Cruz Parks, Open Spaces & Cultural Services  
979 17th Avenue  
Santa Cruz, CA 95062

To:

Commissioner Michael Rosenberg- District 1

Commissioner Kate Minott - District 2

Commissioner Jim Lang - District 3

Commissioner Steve Bennett - District 4

Commissioner Dave Mercer - District 5

Dear Commissioners,

Our purpose in contacting you today is to support the proposal for off-leash hours for dogs at the Live Oak beach from 20th Avenue to Moran Lake Beach as presented by Live Oak Off Leash Advocates (LOOLA).

Our history with this area goes back almost 20 years, when we adopted our first dog from SCCAS. At the time, we were renting a small place on 17th Ave that didn't have much of a yard. To meet her exercise needs, we started taking our new pup 'Happy' down to the beach and discovered the off leash tolerance. This was a great outlet for us, and we greatly appreciated the opportunity to train and play with our dog off leash. We took her there every day and worked hard with her to be sure she was under voice control. Through regular interactions with other dogs and other people, she turned into a very well socialized, beautiful animal. We were proud of the fact that with a word from either of us, she would stop in her tracks to come back to us.

Happy has moved on and we now have two more adopted pups that greatly enjoy their visits to this beach. Again, through the daily interactions with other dogs and other people, both of these pups are on their way to becoming incredible dogs. A side benefit to our dog walks has been our connection to the incredible community of dog owners that also frequent this beach. We have mad many new friends and as a family feel even more connected to wonderful Live Oak community.

We have always been respectful of the beach, its neighbors and the beach goers not interested in interacting with our dogs and have always avoided peak hours when the beach tends to be more crowded. We are a responsible family; not only do we clean up after our dogs and pack our trash, we regularly pick up the trash from careless visitors that leave their picnic and party remains behind. (It's appalling to see what gets left on this beach!)

As a member of LOOLA and the greater community of dog owners in Live Oak, we are asking Santa Cruz County for off leash hours to be established on the 20<sup>th</sup> Avenue beach area, with the hours to be from sunrise to 10:00 a.m. and 4 p.m. to sunset at Live Oak Beach (from 20th Avenue to Moran Lake Beach) in Santa Cruz California.

As a Santa Cruz Co. dog owner, property owner and tax payer, we feel strongly that the current leash law is outdated and needs to be changed to support the entire community in the form of COMPROMISE, i.e. off-leash hours as proposed by LOOLA. There are far too many dogs and far too few open spaces in the county for us to adequately exercise them.

We are happy to be part of the respectful dog community that frequents this beach and see it as a valuable and treasured resource. Having the freedom and room to allow our dogs to run is of the utmost importance to our family and is an aspect of our lifestyle we consider to be essential. We hope to continue enjoying our dog's freedom during off-leash hours.

Thank you.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dory S. Mansfield', with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Dory S. Mansfield

Kevin I. Mansfield

Max M. Mansfield

Koa & Emma

Cc: John Leopold, District 1; Zach Friend - District 2; Neil Coonerty - District 3; Greg Caput - District 4; Bruce McPherson - District 5

May 16, 2013

Dear Commissioner Mercer,

I would like to make a few of my opinions heard about the off-leash issue in Live Oak. I have not spoken up on the issue until now, but feel that it is time to express the importance of free play for dogs.

It has been proven that dogs need exercise for better physical and mental health. My dog along with most breeds, do not get enough exercise by walking or jogging on leash. They need an off-leash option. Live Oak doesn't have such an option.

The opportunity to have off-leash hours at 20<sup>th</sup> Ave to Moran Beach makes the most sense because it's already there. The dogs are already there. They have been for over 20 years. The environment at the beach is already accustomed to dogs being there. No habitat would be any more endangered with legalizing off-leash, because they already cohabitate with off-leash dogs. Any wildlife threatened by off-leash dogs are already gone from this well used urban beach.

I realize some people fixate on the "poop" issue. I have problems with it as well, but you have to accept the fact that this is a whole other problem related to all dog owners, leash or no leash. This separate issue can actually improve due to peer pressure in numbers. If other dog owners see it, they will intervene.

One more point that I'd like to make is the time factor. In my experience, the majority of beachgoers don't show up at the beach before 11AM. There are surfers on a good surf day and dogs with their owners every day. The infrequent early morning non-dog beachgoers have Twin Lakes Beach to the harbor, just around the corner. We don't have that option. Our dogs need an off-leash option. Please provide for their needs.

My dog means the world to me, and it's important to me that he is happy and healthy. He loves the beach. What am I supposed to tell him?

Sincerely,



Gina Brown

125 Barn Ave  
Santa Cruz, CA, 95073



May 13, 2013

Commissioner Mariah Roberts, District 1  
Commissioner Kate Minott, District 2  
Commissioner Jim Lang, District 3  
Commissioner Steve Bennett, District 4  
Commissioner Dave Mercer, District 5

We are writing in favor of off-leash hours for dogs on the 20<sup>th</sup> Ave. – Moran Beach areas.

We had the opportunity last summer to spend several days at Avila Beach. While it was beautiful and we had a great time, it also made us very sad. They have off-leash hours for dogs on the main beach and a side beach is off-leash 24/7. Watching the dogs having fun playing and running was heartbreaking. Our dog loves running on the beach more than anything, but we are banned from this activity in Santa Cruz. There were no problems on the beach at Avila, and in talking with the locals, they were very supportive of the arrangement.

Santa Cruz likes to talk a lot about community, but the community of dog owners – a very large community - is being dismissed. We (owners and dogs) are being accused of a variety of bad behaviors. The truth is, we are a VERY responsible, caring group with well-behaved dogs. We have put our money and time where our mouths are by adopting the 20<sup>th</sup> Ave. Beach and self-policing the area. It is true that some people just don't like dogs, as is their right. But their rights do not supersede the rights of dog owners. We are only asking to SHARE the beach. Santa Cruz is blessed with many miles of beaches. We are only asking to share a small amount. This is not too much to ask. In fact it is a true community that shares. People who do not care for dogs would be able to freely avoid these areas during "dog hours". A community embraces all of its members, and the community members need to embrace each other.

Thank you,

Janet Harley  
Mark Harley

11 30<sup>th</sup> Ave  
Santa Cruz

May 16, 2013

Dear Commissioner Roberts,

I would like to make a few of my opinions heard about the off-leash issue in Live Oak. I have not spoken up on the issue until now, but feel that it is time to express the importance of free play for dogs.

It has been proven that dogs need exercise for better physical and mental health. My dog along with most breeds, do not get enough exercise by walking or jogging on leash. They need an off-leash option. Live Oak doesn't have such an option.

The opportunity to have off-leash hours at 20<sup>th</sup> Ave to Moran Beach makes the most sense because it's already there. The dogs are already there. They have been for over 20 years. The environment at the beach is already accustomed to dogs being there. No habitat would be any more endangered with legalizing off-leash, because they already cohabitate with off-leash dogs. Any wildlife threatened by off-leash dogs are already gone from this well used urban beach.

I realize some people fixate on the "poop" issue. I have problems with it as well, but you have to accept the fact that this is a whole other problem related to all dog owners, leash or no leash. This separate issue can actually improve due to peer pressure in numbers. If other dog owners see it, they will intervene.

One more point that I'd like to make is the time factor. In my experience, the majority of beachgoers don't show up at the beach before 11AM. There are surfers on a good surf day and dogs with their owners every day. The infrequent early morning non-dog beachgoers have Twin Lakes Beach to the harbor, just around the corner. We don't have that option. Our dogs need an off-leash option. Please provide for their needs.

My dog means the world to me, and it's important to me that he is happy and healthy. He loves the beach. What am I supposed to tell him?

Sincerely,



Gina Brown

1325 Bain Ave  
Santa Cruz, CA. 95073

May 16, 2013

Dear Commissioner Minott,

I would like to make a few of my opinions heard about the off-leash issue in Live Oak. I have not spoken up on the issue until now, but feel that it is time to express the importance of free play for dogs.

It has been proven that dogs need exercise for better physical and mental health. My dog along with most breeds, do not get enough exercise by walking or jogging on leash. They need an off-leash option. Live Oak doesn't have such an option.

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My dog means the world to me, and it's important to me that he is happy and healthy. He loves the beach. What am I supposed to tell him?

Sincerely,



Gina Brown

4325 Bain Ave  
Santa Cruz, CA 95073

May 15, 2013

Dear Santa Cruz County Parks and Recreation Commissioner Roberts, Minott, Lang, Bennett and Mercer,

It is not reasonable to expect that a dog should never exercise off leash, yet it is illegal for my beautiful red merle border collie to do so in any open space common use area of our county.

I live within walking distance of Pleasure Point and Live Oak beaches, Floral Park, Brommer Park, Moran Lake and Corcoran Lagoon yet I am engaging in illegal activity if I play ball with my dog at any of these places!

The doggie park at the Polo Grounds is not large enough to adequately exercise an animal that can run miles per day; this a fenced playground and can be crowded; some dogs (mine included) feel trapped and anxious in such conditions. Additionally, expecting dog owners to drive all the way to the Polo Grounds everyday is a silly reason to put cars on the road and is contrary to trip reduction efforts in our County.

Currently, the proposed Chanticleer park site has off-leash space, but this area is riddled with gopher holes, a danger to running dogs, and is too small to adequately exercise many dog breeds. It too requires a car trip for most and offers little parking space.

The problem is NOT that we have no space for exercising off-leash dogs, it is that our county off-leash ordinance does not allow this activity, even though there is a huge need for it. A large number of people in our county adopt dogs and need to exercise them. The situation has become untenable.

Please consider modifying our existing leash law to designate space and/or times of use at our parks and beaches for off leash activity. It is necessary for those of us that care for canines in our community! While I reside in area I, this letter is being addressed to all five Commissioners as this is a county-wide problem.

Thank you,

*Connie Gardner*

Connie Gardner

4225 Bain Ave (District I)

831-462-3991

connie.gardner@scrcy.com

Maddie B.  
(please help!)



cc: County Supervisors  
Leopold, Friend, Coonerty, Caput and McPherson

May 16, 2013

Dear Commissioners;

I am a current and long time resident of Live Oak. I live here with my 2 children and husband. My daughter and I frequent the beaches in Live Oak on a regular basis and were appalled to see that a group called "LOOLA's Unleash Your Bark" is trying to get the 20<sup>th</sup> Avenue through Moran Lake Beaches to be an off leash area for their dogs.

Here are my reasons for my disapproval to their request and I really hope you can take in to consideration what I am saying.

My many years of going to the beaches has shown me that, as yes there are a few responsible dog owners, the majority of them are not. Many times while walking on the beach we have come across dog poo that was almost stepped in, or while my daughter is digging in the sand she comes across it. And it's not just that. People who have and do let their dogs off leash on these beaches, and there are a lot of them around here, don't take care of paying attention to where their dogs are running off to, don't seem to care that their dogs are running up to small children or other people, and some dogs get more vicious when they come up on other dogs and create children around to be scared.

I personally am not ok with other people's dogs just running up to my child or me without me knowing the dog. I have been bitten in the past as a child from a dog that came running up to me.

Here is the deal. Live Oak has recently made a dog park on Chanticleer for these people that want to have their dogs run off leash. There is a beach on the West Side of Santa Cruz that is an off leash park that they can take their dogs to if this is what they want. There are plenty of other places for them to take their dogs to run off leash that doesn't have to affect the rest of the public that is not ok with this and that equally pays taxes to maintain these beaches and should not have to go to another beach because these "Dog Owners" want to make the beach theirs.

If they want more freedom for their dogs to run then they should consider living on property where they can do so without others being affected. These dog owners are a small few compared to the mass amounts of people that frequent these beaches that don't have or bring dogs.

Thank you for your time and consideration. This should not be made possible just because some people want to let their dogs run loose. I want my child to be able to run along the beach without having to worry about someone's dog running up to her.

Sincerely,

  
Sabrina Carrillo

959 Encina Drive

Santa Cruz, CA 95062

831-475-8891

Sabrina.Carrillo@cox.net

May 16, 2013

Dear Commissioners,

I have written this letter in my head hundreds of times...

Now there's the tragedy. So many hours out walking that should've been spent watching for whales and dolphins, pelicans in V formation, a surfer's good run, mingling with animal lovers, and breathing in the ocean air letting cares dissolve are spent trying to figure out how to convey, to the powers that be, just how integral this freedom is to so many of us.



Before I pick my brain for the highlights of all my past letters in my head, first when Lighthouse field & beach rules changed, and now with the recent crackdown on 20th beach...here's a little about myself.

I moved to Santa Cruz in 1983 to attend UCSC, I knew I wanted to study art, but mostly I came because I fell in love with the redwoods next to the ocean. 30 years later, I have never stopped appreciating this beauty. I often brag that a perfect day starts with a walk on the beach and ends with a walk in the woods. How lucky are we!!!

I have worked at many "classic Santa Cruz institutions". When someone says, "you look familiar"...I have to go thru my Rolodex of possible community-oriented jobs. After attending UCSC, I worked there for 5 years. I worked at the old Saturn Café for years and many of my dearest friends now stem from that job. I cooked and drove for the Bagelry, and now I've been working for the Cabrillo College Art division for 15 years.

I have played softball in park leagues since I arrived here...DeLaveaga, Harvey West, & Jade Street. I volunteered at the SPCA doing "pet therapy", taking dogs weekly to an Alzheimer's home – amazing results!!! I am active in the art community and have volunteered, curated, and/or exhibited at the Pajaro Valley Gallery, SC Art League, Tannery, Artisans, and many others.

I guess I'm trying to get across 30 years of quality cultural community involvement in a place I deeply love (so I'm not written off as a crazy ranting dog lady ☺)

I have a beautiful medium-small dog Joey, before that I had the most wonderful Doddy. Both dogs were SPCA rescues, both voice trained, loving, with me where ever I go & never aggressive. My friends 5-year old twins have been crawling all over Joey since they were babies...never even a growl.



I don't have children, and while calling my dog "my child" seems a bit creepy, I have no problem calling her my family. She is definitely the constant love in my life.

I could write a novel about my love for dogs (animals), but I'm trying to keep you reading this letter I've been writing for years...so I'll focus on this...

Having a dog gets me outside and exercising. It's "for the dog" but really it is the main thing that can draw me out of a funk, give me the focus I need to create or accomplish the more mundane tasks of life, and renew positive energy.



Basically...  
**WALKING OUTSIDE WITH MY DOG HAS THE POWER TO MAKE ME HAPPY WHEN I'M DOWN.**

When I got my first dog Doddy we became quick fans/members of the lovely community that had formed through off-leash hours at Lighthouse field & beach. It was a wonderful way to start the day or during longer daylight hours an after work treat. I built friendships; my dog learned from other dogs and formed her own friendships. I knew every dog's name (and even some humans). The Monday morning crew would clean up trash from the weekend partiers. The beach and field were well loved, well used, and well tended to by a diverse community during NON-peak hours.

Then it all changed...grief over losing a community, my routine, where to go to exercise my dog. Post change...I would drive by Lighthouse field in the morning or afternoon and instead of seeing a large group of community members happily using and appreciating this resource...it would be empty. I have participated in most of the beach clean-up days before and since and I can tell you from experience...after the dog community was driven away we would find so much more refuse: sleeping bags, needles, condoms, & 40oz malt liquor bottles...oh and more cigarette butts than I could count. Dog folks went away.... others came to play.

So as "refugees" we started walking the then dog-friendly 20<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> ave beach. New dog people...new dog names to remember.

So now after some years of weekday morning bliss – by the way I'm totally not interested at being at the beach when it is filled with tourists and sunbathers, picnics and towels. I don't want to worry about my dog being interested in someone's PB & J. Although I'm sure many folks come to Santa Cruz under the misguided information that it is a great place to travel with your dog, and in hopes of playing with them on the beach.

Now 20<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> is becoming an unused open space in the mornings...just like the field. What used to be a lovely morning meet n greet is now a ghost town. I took this picture at what normally would've been a full and vibrant weekday morning.



My chosen low-paying field of education has not afforded me the luxury of buying a house...so as I near 50 (yikes) I'm not where I thought I'd be. I am renting a room in a shared house with not enough of a backyard to throw a ball. I made the choice to stay in a place where I can't afford to own a home because of the natural beauty. I chose this place for quality of life and it's heart-breaking to be told I can't use it with my family.

Well by now...if you are still reading (and THANK YOU if you are!) you might be annoyed saying, "dogs are allowed many places...they just need to be on-leash. She is being dramatic."

Well here is where I should put in all the great quotes and research from animal behaviorist, but I'm going to speak from experience instead. I think most dog owners know very well that **dogs act different on-leash than off**. On leash they have a job to do. They are an extension of you, your protector. They are vulnerable because they are tethered, and they can't do their normal dog protocol when meeting other dogs: butt sniffing, circling, controlling the pace of the meeting.... etc...



So dogs work things out on their own, but when on leash, especially when the owner is pulling them backwards, they can easily become aggressive.

My dog off leash stays near me, has good recall, and has no problem being put back on-leash when the need arises.

Besides being restricted from their natural meet n greet dog patterns, a huge problem is

**You can't play fetch on a leash. Dislocated arm...ouch**

Of course I've had so many great ideas over the years ☺



My favorite that seems like a win-win situation:

**Good dog cards.**

I wish I could take a test with my dog.

- Show off her recall skills
- Try and get her to bite, not gonna happen
- Sign papers that say, "I promise to always have bags, clean-up after her, and take full responsibility for any damage she might do."
- Show that her license & vaccinations are up-to-date.
- Pay my annual fee (**revenue for the city**)
- Get my gold-card for the year!

If I hear one more time...that a few bad dog owners ruin it for the rest of us...my heads gonna explode. As a resident and taxpayer here since 1983, I've supported the community in so many ways. I deserve the right to enjoy our resources as others do. I want to be able to bring my dog out to play with others.

**I want the egregious behavior to be cited, not simplified by making all dogs illegal!**



I have been way more harassed & attacked by men (never by dogs). Do we make men illegal? Of course not...the actions and behaviors are penalized and even then not really. You cannot legislate everything. You have to take care of yourself...live and let live. I'm out living life, and I have a bit of a problem with folks who spend so much time writing letters trying to make other's lives miserable. It's just wrong.

There is PLENTY to share here! Maybe that's the problem, folks are spoiled. There are so many dog-free beach and open space options. I love the shared community space at the beach: surfers, joggers, walkers, kids, & dog folks all enjoying the day.



I sat through many city council meetings in the fight to save off-leash hours at Lighthouse. There was so much amazing pro-dog testimony...from the mail carrier who said he could see a difference in aggression (less) in dogs who had been socialized off leash, to the senior non-dog owner who said she went down there regularly to have some dog time, and on and on.... against a small handful of litigious anti-dog people.

I'm sorry. If I had written actual letters over these many years of fighting in my head...I would've gotten some of this out sooner and this would not be so long.

*If you've made it this far I sincerely thank you!!!  
You deserve a cookie ☺*

Please know that creating a dog beach space and/or hours will meet a huge portion of our citizens needs and foster a healthy, happy, shared cultural community!

**Thank you for your time!**

Janet Fine

151 Bixby Street

Santa Cruz, CA 95060

831.713.6122

janefine@cabrillo.edu



## Melissa Henderson

---

**From:** andrea ratto <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 28, 2013 7:29 AM  
**To:** PRCWeb  
**Subject:** Leash Law and consequences

I have been living in Santa Cruz county for over 30 years and have spent many long hours on all of the beaches and raised my children on Twin Lakes beach. Given the increase in the number of people frequenting Santa Cruz county beaches I cannot imagine adding unleashed dogs in the mix. We have all had dogs disrupt our picnic and frighten children (and adults) on this beach before, but this pales in comparison to having someone attacked. We are a relatively wealthy and privileged society that has time and money to struggle over issues as to where our leisure pets get to run, however, the majority of Santa Cruz county residents do not own dogs. Don't we get to have a say in the peace, cleanliness and safety of our beaches?? I suggest that those who own dogs be charged a licensing fee which could support our dog parks and other fenced areas in which dogs can run, but leave the beaches clean and unspoiled for the majority of community members and tourists to come to our area. I suspect the birds would appreciate it as well.

Andrea Ratto

## Melissa Henderson

---

**From:** Ann Barros <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, June 02, 2013 11:24 AM  
**To:** PRCWeb  
**Subject:** Attention to: June 10 meeting/off leash dog proposal

Dear Santa Cruz County Parks & Rec,

My name is Ann Barros, a resident of Santa Cruz, specifically 26th Avenue beach neighborhood, since 1972. I've lived in my home that I own here on 26th Avenue for 20 years. Our beach (26th Avenue, now aka the dog beach), used to be pristine and peaceful and for over 30 years, I ran everyday at water's edge on the sand. Now it is truly unsafe to run!! (or sometimes even walk if you find yourself in line of a pack of running dogs). There are so many dogs: large dogs, running dogs, oblivious, chasing dogs. I have been knocked over a few times by running, chasing, packing dogs unattended by their owners. It's not fun being knocked over on your own beach.

Dogs are supposed to be leashed, at least that's what the sign says. But everybody knows (especially people living farther away, that's how widespread the rumor is) that nobody ever patrols and enforces the leash law on 26th Avenue Beach, "because they can't get their vehicles down there"...

Our neighbors are constantly weighing in on how drastic the unleashed dog population has become and importantly how something has to be done about it. Please consider us neighbors who own homes on/near 26th Avenue and want to keep the beach a sanctuary for people, not dogs. This is an extremely important public safety issue.

I am not able to be at the public hearing on this issue on June 10, so please make a copy of this letter for each member of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission in support of maintaining and enforcing our current leash laws.

Thank you kindly,  
Ann Barros

## Melissa Henderson

---

**From:** AuxillaryMail@aol.com  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 04, 2013 10:01 PM  
**To:** PRCWeb  
**Subject:** Dogs Off Leash, Why?

Who's idea is this? What is the benefit?

We just can't imagine why this is a proposal at all in the first place. This is asking for trouble. Not all dogs are benign. We do not support a Dogs Off-Lease proposal. There are too many incidents of dog attacks.

Unfortunately, we are unable to attend your June 10 meeting, but here is our vote: "NO Dogs Off Leash"

Nora and Don Alvord,  
2-dog owner family

21682 East Cliff Drive  
Santa Cruz, Ca 95062  
408 810 6672

## Melissa Henderson

---

**From:** Bajer <vanhoven@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 28, 2013 4:46 PM  
**To:** PRCWeb

Parks Advisory Commission:

We wish to strongly support the leash law on Live Oak beaches. We lived on Sunny Cove for a long while, and found off-leash dogs to be both a physical and environmental threat. Sincerely, Gerard & Barbara Van Hoven

107 Montclair Dr  
Santa Cruz 95060

# Dog attacked young boy at Rio del Mar State Beach

By Shanna McCord

Santa Cruz Sentinelsantacruzsentinel.com

Posted: 05/22/2013 03:48:28 PM PDT

RIO DEL MAR -- A 5-year-old boy was attacked by a dog while visiting a Rio del Mar beach with his babysitter Tuesday, according to officials with the Santa Cruz County Animal Shelter.

The dog -- a male boxer-Australian shepherd mix who weighed at least 50 pounds and was not on a leash -- was euthanized soon after the attack, Melanie Sobel of the county Animal Shelter said.

The attack happened about 12:30 p.m. near Rio del Mar State Beach.

According to Sobel, the dog ran up to the boy and grabbed him by the head. He was bitten on the head, neck and arm, she said.

The boy, an Aptos resident, was taken to the hospital with severe injuries.

His condition was unknown Wednesday.

The dog was being taken care of by a shelter volunteer who agreed to foster the canine until a rescue organization could be found for him, Sobel said.

He was due to be moved to a rescue organization in Humboldt County next week, she said.

Shelter officials believed the dog could have become adoptable if taken out of the shelter.

The dog was said to have been "blossoming" in the foster home and reportedly got along well with the volunteer's teen children, Sobel said.

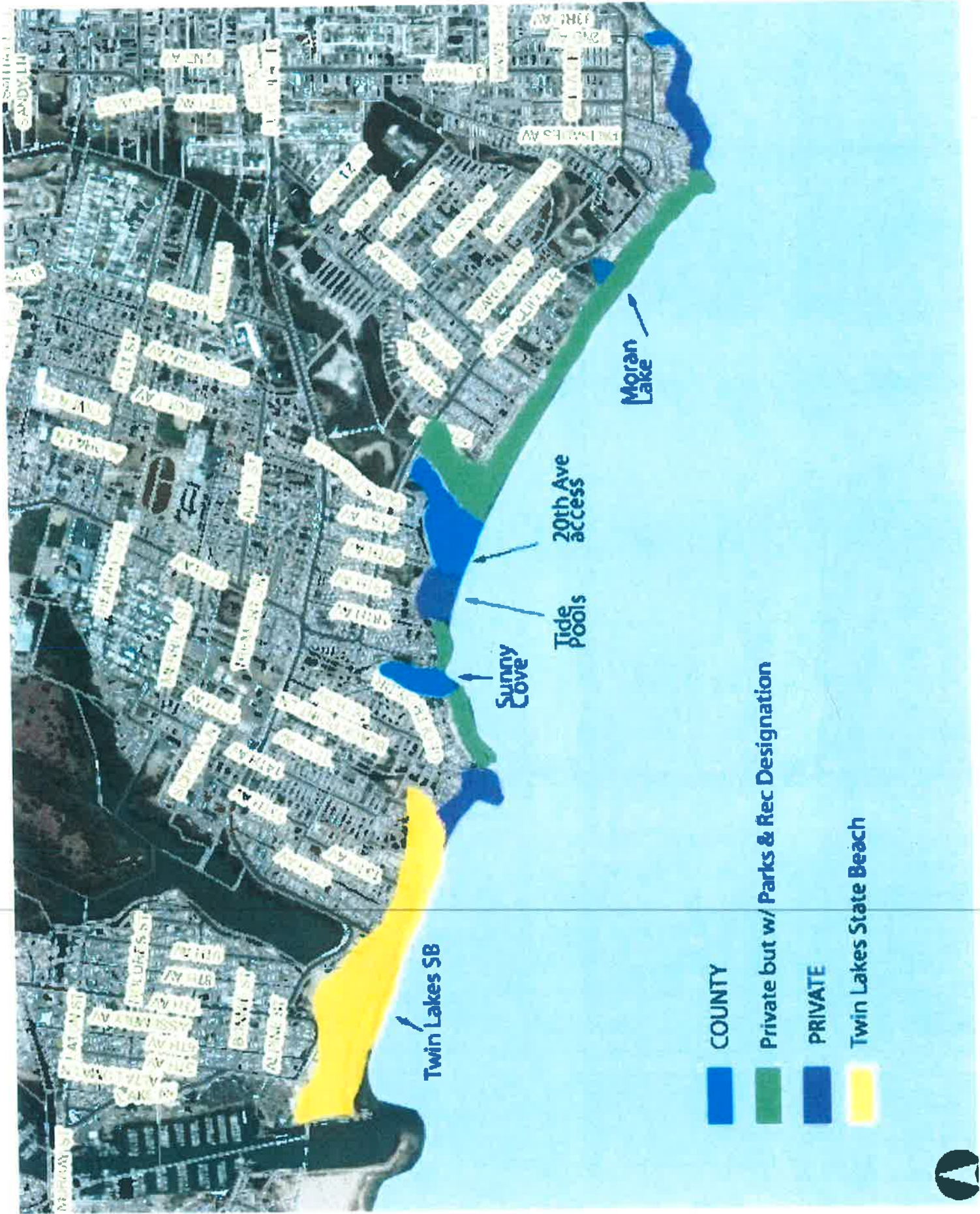
The volunteer violated the foster agreement by allowing the dog to run on the beach without a leash.

She will not be allowed to foster dogs in the future, Sobel said.

Leashes are required at nearly every beach in Santa Cruz County, including Rio del Mar.

"Dogs must be on a leash when they're off your property," Sobel said. "We advocate for dog owners to comply with leash laws."

Attachment 6



Attachment 7

**SANTA CRUZ COUNTY PARK INVENTORY  
UPDATED JUNE 2013**

PARK NAME	APN	ACRES	Year Purch.	Acq. Fund	Year Dev.	B/S Dist	PARK TYPE	PLANNING AREA	EXISTING IMPROVEMENTS	Staff info.
<b>Abbott Square</b> 110 Cooper St. Santa Cruz	005-081-44	758sf	1977	Gift & Prop. Exchng.		3	Leased-City		Urban Square	
<b>Aldridge Lane</b> 20 Aldridge Lane Corralitos	108-071-26 108-081-24	3.0	1990	Purch. \$250K CSA11		2	Neighborhood	Eureka Canyon	2 1/2 Basketball Courts 1 Fitness Equipment 1 Picnic Area 1 Play Area 1 Riding Ring 1 Tennis Court Gravel Parking Area Turf & Landscaping Porta Potty	
<b>Anna Jean Cummings *</b> 461 Soquel San Jose Rd Soquel * Soquel Creek Water	030-341-08 030-341-09 030-341-05	96.5	1989	Purch. \$9M RDA		1	Community	Soquel	2 Restroom Buildings 1 Play Area 2 Soccer Fields 2 Baseball Fields 1 Concession Turf & Landscape Parking Spaces 2 Gazebos Picnic Area	
<b>Aptos Village *</b> 100 Aptos Creek Rd Aptos * Low pressure- need larger meter and service	039-241-02 039-311-56 041-042-12 041-042-17	8.7 1.3 .3	1970 1972 1975	Purch. \$80,750 general fund		2	Neighborhood Community	Aptos	1 Community Meeting Room with Kitchen & Restrooms 1 Group Picnic Area Play Area 34 Parking Spaces 3 Family Picnic Tables 1 Wedding Gazebo Turf & Landscaping	

Attachment 8



PARK NAME	APN	ACRES	Year Purch.	Acq. Fund	Year Dev.	B/S Dist	PARK TYPE	PLANNING AREA	EXISTING IMPROVEMENTS	Staff info.
<b>Ben Lomond</b> 9525 Mill Street Ben Lomond	077-141-17 077-151-21	1.1	1976 1980	Dissolved Rec. Dist.		5	Neighborhood Community San Lorenzo Valley		1 Basketball Court 1 Child Care Center Room with Kitchen & Restrooms 1 Library Building 1 Play Area 1 Swimming Beach and Dam	
<b>Wilder Hall</b> 9527 Mill Street Library Ben Lomond	077-151-08 077-151-30		1976 1980							
<b>Bert Scott Estate</b> 265 Prostrman Way Freedom	108-161-04 108-161-05	30.0	1987	Gift (1)		2	Closed/Facility Rental	Eureka Canyon	Not Open to the Public Turf & Landscaping Meeting Space for Government Agencies	
<b>Brommer</b> 1451 30 <sup>th</sup> Avenue Live Oak	031-091-25	7.6	1980	Purch. \$500K general fund		1	Neighborhood	Live Oak	1 Ball Diamond 2 2 Basketball Courts 1 Play Area 1 Group Picnic Area 39 Parking Spaces 1 Restroom Building 4 Family Picnic Tables 1 Tennis Court Turf & Landscaping	
<b>Chanticleer</b> 1975 Chanticleer Ave. Live Oak	029-071-68	4.5		Purchase		1	Neighborhood	Live Oak	Future Park Site	
<b>Coffee Lane</b> End of Coffee Lane Live Oak	031-031-54	2.7	1977	Purch. \$77K state park bond		1	Neighborhood	Live Oak	1 Basketball Court 9 Parking Spaces 5 Picnic Tables 1 Play Area Turf & Landscaping	
<b>Davenport Landing</b> Access Highway 1, North of Davenport	058-131-07 058-131-08					3	Beach Access		Restroom	

PARK NAME	APN	ACRES	Year Purch.	Acq. Fund	Year Dev.	B/S Dist	PARK TYPE	PLANNING AREA	EXISTING IMPROVEMENTS	Staff info.
<b>Dolphin/Summer Beach</b> Access Dolphin Drive and Summer Avenue in Aptos	054-641-02 054-551-02					2	Beach Access	Aptos		
<b>Farm Park</b> Aptos		5.5				2		Aptos	Interim disc golfs baskets Future Park site	
<b>Felt Street</b> 1904 Felt Street Live Oak	028-041-02 028-041-03	.8 1.0	1985 1987	Purch. \$135,263 park ded. \$165K general fund		1	Neighborhood	Live Oak	Parking Skate Park Play area Turf and Picnic Bocci Ball Community Garden	
<b>Felton Covered Bridge</b> Graham Hill & Mt. Hermon Felton	065-091-04	6.3	1989	Purch. \$280K state park bond, \$50K CSA11		5	Rural Neighborhood	San Lorenzo Valley	33 Parking Spaces 1 Play Area 1 Picnic Area 1 Sand Volleyball Court Turf & Landscaping Porta Potty	
<b>Floral Park</b> 656 38 <sup>th</sup> Avenue Live Oak	032-091-53	.9	1988	Dedicated		1	Neighborhood	Live Oak	3 Picnic Tables 1 Play Area 1 Sand Volleyball Court Turf & Landscaping	
<b>Freedom Lake</b> 2009 Freedom Blvd Freedom	049-071-23	34.0	1976	Tax Sale Gift (1)		2	Regional	Aptos Hills	Lake	
<b>Greyhound Rock Access</b> Highway 1, North of Davenport	057-131-11	70.0				3	Regional Beach		Parking Picnic Restroom	

PARK NAME	APN	ACRES	Year Purch.	Acq. Fund	Year Dev.	B/S Dist	PARK TYPE	PLANNING AREA	EXISTING IMPROVEMENTS	Staff info.
Heart of Soquel	030-153-24	.4		Purchase			Neighborhood	Soquel	Future Park Site	
<b>Hestwood Park</b> 1230 Harper Street Live Oak	026-201-04	.6	1987	Gift (1)		1	Neighborhood	Live Oak	1 Restroom Building 1 Play Area 4 Picnic tables 1 Group Picnic Area 1 Sand Play Area Turf & Landscape	
<b>Hidden Beach</b> End of Cliff Drive Aptos	043-131-39 043-131-41	1.5	1990	Leased		2	Neighborhood	Aptos	8 Parking Spaces 2 Picnic Tables 1 Play Area Turf & Landscaping Porta Potty	
<b>Highlands Senior Center</b> 8500 Highway 9 Ben Lomond	072-061-16	na	1975	Purch. \$346K general fund		5	Leased San Lorenzo Valley		1 Community Building w/kitchen & Restrooms 28 Parking Spaces	
<b>Highlands Park</b> 8500 Highway 9 Ben Lomond	072-061-16	26.1				5	Rural Community	San Lorenzo Valley	2 Ball Diamonds overlap with Soccer Field(s) 1 Community Building w/kitchen and Restrooms 2 Group Picnic Areas 155 Parking Spaces 1 Play Area 8 Picnic tables 1 Restroom Building 2 Swimming Pool	



PARK NAME	APN	ACRES	Year Purch.	Acq. Fund	Year Dev.	B/S Dist	PARK TYPE	PLANNING AREA	EXISTING IMPROVEMENTS	Staff info.
<b>Jose Avenue Park</b> 1435 Jose Avenue Live Oak	026-173-06 026-181-36	2.67	1993	Purch. \$1,074,530 RDA		1	Neighborhood	Live Oak	1 Restroom Building 1 Skate Park 1 Gazebo 1 Sand 1 Sand Volleyball 2 2 Basketball Court 23 Parking Spaces 5 Picnic Tables 1 Horseshoe Court 2 Play Structures	
<b>Simpkins Family Swim Center</b> 979 17 <sup>th</sup> Avenue Live Oak	027-251-10 027-251-12	9.0	1975	\$308K general fund		1	Regional		Community Room with Kitchen & Restrooms 50 Meter Swimming Pool Instructional Pool Wading Pool Water Slide Support Facilities for the Pools Parks Offices Parking	
<b>McGregor</b>	038-081-40	1.25	2007	Purch. \$500,870 combo of state park bonds, Props 12&40, and park ded		2	Neighborhood	Aptos	Future Neighborhood Park	
<b>Mesa Village</b> 790 Green Valley Road Watsonville	051-532-25	2.1	1971	Dedicated		4	Neighborhood	Pajaro	1 Basketball Court 1 Play Area 4 Picnic Tables 1 Restroom Building Turf & Landscaping	
<b>Michael Grey Field</b> 3650 Graham Hill Road at Probation	061-371-14	3.0				5	Regional	San Lorenzo Valley	1 Ball Diamond 1 Group Picnic Area Restroom	

PARK NAME	APN	ACRES	Year Purch.	Acq. Fund	Year Dev.	B/S Dist	PARK TYPE	PLANNING AREA	EXISTING IMPROVEMENTS	Staff info.
<b>Miller Property</b>	085-153-03 085-152-05	190				5	Open Space	San Lorenzo Valley		
<b>Moran Lake</b> East Cliff Drive & Lake Avenue Live Oak	028-281-31 028-281-32	9.2	1975	Purch. \$100K general fund		1	Regional (Neighborhood with Proposed)	Live Oak	40 Parking Spaces 1 Restroom Building Landscaping	
<b>Old Jail/Octagon</b> 118 Cooper Street Santa Cruz	005-081-49	.5	1882	County Property		3	Leased - City		Office Buildings Museum	
<b>Pace Family Wilderness</b>	076-251-17	80				5	Open Space	San Lorenzo Valley		
<b>Pajaro Dune</b> Shell Road Watsonville	052-381-05	5.0	1973	Dedicated		2	San Andreas			
<b>Pinto Lake</b> 757 Green Valley Road Watsonville	050-141-02 050-141-11 050-141-12	183.0	1974	Purch. \$575K general fund		4	Community Regional	Pajaro	1 Fishing Pier 2 Soccer Fields 2 Group Picnic Areas 3 Restroom Buildings 189 Parking Spaces Turf & Landscaping 1 Play Structure	
<b>Place Del Mer</b> La Selva	046-212-33 046-212-40	3.0 .5	1968	Dedicated		2	Neighborhood	La Selva		
<b>Pleasure Point Park</b> Pleasure Point Drive and East Cliff Drive	032-242-10					1	Neighborhood	Live Oak	Restrooms Picnic	

PARK NAME	APN	ACRES	Year Purch.	Acq. Fund	Year Dev.	B/S Dist	PARK TYPE	PLANNING AREA	EXISTING IMPROVEMENTS	Staff info.
<b>Polo Grounds</b> 2255 Huntington Drive Aptos	41-201-04 041-191-35	61.5	1987	Purch. \$2.7M park ded & CSA11		2	Community Regional	Aptos	3 Baseball 3 Soccer Fields Parking Open Space Turf & Landscaping Porta Potty  Bike Jump Park Dog Park	
<b>Quail Hollow Ranch</b> 800 (700) Quail Hollow Road Felton	073-011-03 073-011-04 073-011-07 073-011-08 074-171-01 074-171-02 074-171-04 074-171-05 074-171-08	300.0	1987	Purch. \$700K park ded & CSA11, \$250K state park bond, \$200K state WCB		5	Community Regional	San Lorenzo Valley	Ranch House Stables Pond Gravel Parking Riding Ring Open Space Nature Preserve Restrooms	
<b>Richard Vessey</b> Victory Lane and Maplethorpe Soquel	037-311-41	.5	1978	Dedicated		1	Neighborhood	Soquel	1 Group Picnic Area 4 Picnic Tables 1 Play Area Turf & Landscaping Porta Potty	
<b>Santa Cruz Gardens</b> Katherine Lane Santa Cruz	102-361-18 102-362-10	1.9	1986 1968	Dedicated		1	Neighborhood	Live Oak	2 Picnic Tables 1 Play Area Turf & landscaping	
<b>Scott Creek Beach</b> Highway 1, North of Davenport	057-151-09	39.5				3	Regional Beach		Overlook	
<b>Scott Park</b> 3101 Freedom Blvd Freedom	049-051-08 049-051-09 049-051-20	4.5	1971	Gift (1)		2	Neighborhood	Aptos Hills	Picnic Tables 1 Play Area 1 Restroom Building Gravel Parking	

PARK NAME	APN	ACRES	Year Purch.	Acq. Fund	Year Dev.	B/S Dist	PARK TYPE	PLANNING AREA	EXISTING IMPROVEMENTS	Staff info.
<b>Seascape Park</b> 700 Seascape Resort Dr. Aptos	054-261-10 054-261-21	6.0	1993	Dedicated		2	Neighborhood	Aptos	3 Picnic Tables 1 Play Area 1 Restroom Building 20 Parking Spaces Turf & Landscaping	
<b>Soquel Lions</b> Main Street & East Walnut Soquel	030-231-55	.2	1966	Purch. \$9,170 road fund		1	Neighborhood	Soquel	4 Picnic tables 1 Play Area Porta Potty	
<b>Twin Lakes</b> 520 7 <sup>th</sup> Avenue Live Oak	027-051-22 027-051-23	1.4	1990	Purch. \$1MRDA		1	Neighborhood	Live Oak	1 Basketball Court 3 Picnic tables 1 Play Area 1 Restroom Building 1 Tennis Court Turf & Landscaping	
<b>Valencia Hall &amp; Post Office</b> 2555 Valencia Road Aptos	105-171-05 105-211-06	.8 .5	1977 1986	Purch. \$8,500 general fund, \$100K park ded		2	Neighborhood	Aptos Hills	Community Room with Kitchen & Restrooms	
<b>Veterans= Memorial Building</b> 842 or 846 Front St Santa Cruz	005-052-25	.2	1930 era	Purch. General fund		3	Leased		Community Rooms with Kitchen & Restrooms County Offices	
<b>Willowbrook</b> 2950 Willowbrook Lane Soquel	037-241-42 037-241-44 037-241-45	2.7	1987 1988 1989	Purch. \$103,122 trust, park ded \$272,069, \$129,757 RDA		2	Neighborhood	Soquel	Basketball Court 6 Picnic Tables 1 Play Area 1 Restroom Building 1 Tennis Court Turf & Landscaping	



PARK NAME	APN	ACRES	Year Purch.	Acq. Fund	Year Dev.	B/S Dist	PARK TYPE	PLANNING AREA	EXISTING IMPROVEMENTS	Staff info.
<b>Winkle Farm</b> 3201 Winkle Avenue Live Oak	025-091-01 025-091-51 025-091-52	6.3	1987 1983 1984	Purch. \$260K (87) Purch. \$603K (83/84) park ded, \$197,500 general fund, \$117,475 state park bond, \$319,022 park ded		1	Neighborhood	Live Oak	4 Picnic Tables 1 Play Area Turf & Landscaping Porta Potty	
<b>20<sup>th</sup> Avenue</b> Off East Cliff Drive, Live Oak	028-461-01	2.4				1	Beach Access	Live Oak		
<b>21<sup>st</sup> Avenue</b> Off East Cliff Drive, Live Oak	028-461-03	1.5				1	Beach Access	Live Oak		
<b>41<sup>st</sup> Avenue</b> Off East Cliff Drive, Live Oak	032-181-04 032-182-01					1	Beach Access	Live Oak	Parking Lot Restroom	

**TOTAL ACREAGE: 1222.32**

The following are Beach Access Points have access easements managed by the Santa Cruz County Parks.

District 1 East Cliff Area Coastal Access Points

- 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue, off East Cliff Dr, Live Oak – No Restroom
- 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue, off East Cliff Dr, Live Oak – No Restroom
- 20<sup>th</sup> Avenue, off East Cliff Drive, Live Oak
- 21<sup>th</sup> Avenue, off East Cliff Drive, Live Oak
- 26<sup>th</sup> Avenue, off East Cliff Dr, Live Oak – No Restroom
- Rockview Overlook, off East Cliff Dr, Live Oak – No Restroom
- 35<sup>th</sup> Avenue, off East Cliff Dr, Live Oak – Porta Potty (seasonal)
- 38<sup>th</sup> Avenue, off East Cliff Dr, Live Oak – No Restroom
- Sunny Cove Beach (County owned)

District 2 Seascape Area Coastal Access Points

- Via Palo Alto Access, off Summer Avenue, Aptos – No Restroom
- Dolphin – Summer trail to beach
- Summer Woods Trail to Hidden Beach
- Via Trinita, off Summer Avenue, Aptos - CLOSED

North Coast Beaches  
Bonny Doon Parking Area @ Highway 1 – No Restroom

All Government Buildings:  
701 Ocean Street  
Main Jail on Water Street  
Probation (Juvenile) on Graham Hill Road  
Freedom Government Complex  
Erneline Complex



# County of Santa Cruz

## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS PARKS, OPEN SPACE, AND CULTURAL SERVICES DIVISION

979 17<sup>TH</sup> AVENUE, SANTA CRUZ, CA 95062

(831) 454-7901 FAX: (831) 454-7940 TDD: (831) 454-7978

JOHN J. PRESLEIGH  
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS

AGENDA: JUNE 10, 2013  
June 5, 2013

SANTA CRUZ COUNTY  
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION  
979 17th Avenue  
Santa Cruz, CA 95062

SUBJECT: SANTA CRUZ COUNTY FISCAL YEAR 2013-14 PROPOSED BUDGET

Dear Commissioners:

One of the duties of the Commission is to review the annual budget for Parks, Open Space and Cultural Services, and make recommendations to the Board of Supervisors. Attached is the Santa Cruz County Fiscal Year 2013-14 Proposed Budget for Parks, Open Space and Cultural Services. The entire County Fiscal Year 2013-14 Proposed Budget is available on-line at

[http://sccounty01.co.santa-cruz.ca.us/prop\\_budget2013-14/Proposed\\_Budget\\_2013-2014.pdf](http://sccounty01.co.santa-cruz.ca.us/prop_budget2013-14/Proposed_Budget_2013-2014.pdf)

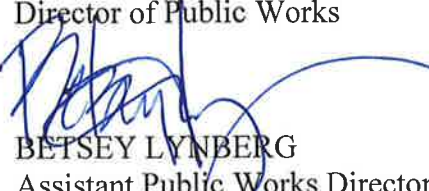
As described in the attached letter from the County Administrative Officer, the County is facing another difficult budget year resulting from the slow economic recovery. The proposed budget reflects a minor increase in net County cost for the Public Works - Parks Division of \$111,938 for a total net County cost of \$2,233,981. One vacant Park Maintenance Worker position is unfunded. In addition, the proposed budget incorporates increased revenues of over \$111,938, offsetting the need for additional staff reductions. The attached narrative describes the accomplishments of the Parks Division over the last fiscal year and recommendations for the coming fiscal year.

It is recommended that your Commission review and discuss the proposed budget and make recommendations to the Board of Supervisors.

Yours truly,

JOHN J. PRESLEIGH  
Director of Public Works

By:

  
BETSEY LYNBERG  
Assistant Public Works Director  
Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services

BAL:mh  
Attachments

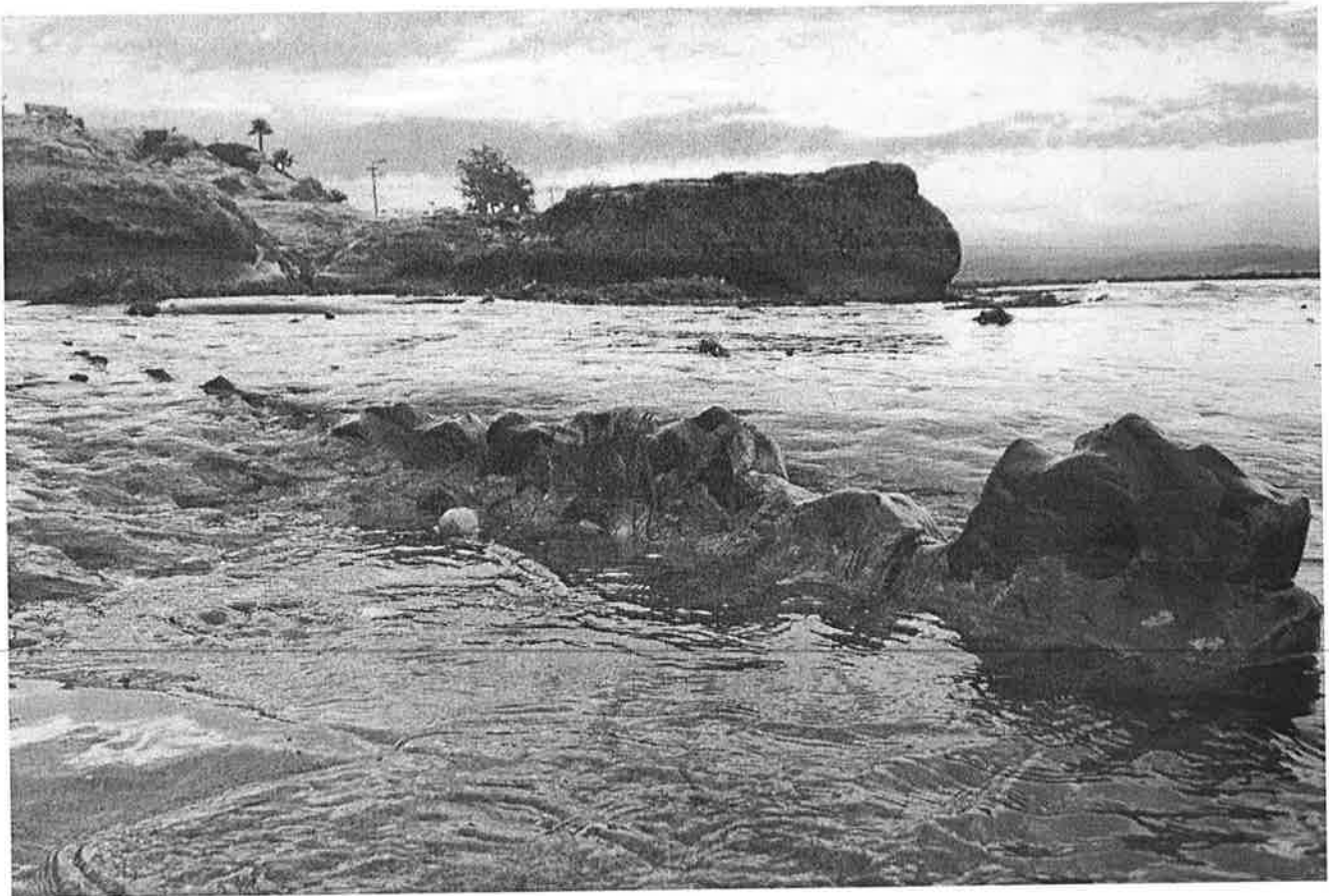
6-10-13 parks budget.doc

# **Santa Cruz County**

## **Fiscal Year 2013-14 Proposed Budget**

**Click on a link to continue:**

- **CAO's Recommendations for the 2013-2014 Budget**
- **Table of Contents**
- **Introduction**



**Presented by  
Susan A. Mauriello  
County Administrative Officer**



# County of Santa Cruz

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## COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

701 OCEAN STREET, SUITE 520, SANTA CRUZ, CA 95060-4073  
(831) 454-2100 · FAX: (831) 454-3420 TDD: (831) 454-2123  
SUSAN A. MAURIELLO, J.D., COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

May 3, 2013

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
County of Santa Cruz  
701 Ocean Street  
Santa Cruz, California 95060

### COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE 2013-14 PROPOSED COUNTY BUDGET

Dear Members of the Board:

This letter transmits the County Administrative Officer's Fiscal Year 2013-14 Proposed Budget for your consideration during Budget Hearings which are scheduled for June 17 through June 27, 2013. The Proposed 2013-14 Budget totals \$628 million, reflecting increases in various Special District Funds. The total General Fund budget is essentially unchanged at \$396 million.

#### 2013-14 COUNTY BUDGET

The Proposed County Budget for 2013-14 reflects another difficult year resulting from the slow economic recovery. While housing prices show modest gains, they are still well below the peak levels of six years ago. Since much of the County's economic base is tied to the housing market, the associated impacts are evident in this proposed budget.

The General Fund is particularly constrained and includes the use of \$6.5 million in carryover fund balance, which represents a reduction of the County's structural deficit by almost 50% from the FY 2012-13 Final Budget. Unknown at this time is the full impact of health care reform, sequestration, and the 2013-14 State Budget.

The recommended Proposed Budget meets the requirements of the County General Fund Budgeting Principles adopted by your Board and prioritizes the public safety, health and welfare of the residents of the County. Overall growth in primary general purpose revenues totals approximately 3% which finances the cost of doing business throughout the budget.

The recommendations in the Proposed Budget are largely accomplished through the following actions:

- Continued reduction in payroll costs of approximately \$5.9 million through negotiated furloughs or equivalent in 2013-14. The continuation of the furlough minimizes position and program reductions and helps address the County's overall deficit,

- Budget reductions of approximately 10% to Net County Cost in many County departments and programs, with the additional requirement that departments absorb any cost increases,
- Changes in fees and charges to reflect the actual cost of doing business,
- Modest increases in General Purpose revenues, and
- Reliance on fund balance to alleviate the need for additional reductions.

A total of 2,342 positions are recommended which represents a net increase of 30 over 2012-13 budgeted positions. The increase results from mid-year additions to implement the Affordable Care Act (ACA) and related health care programs.

### 2013-14 STATE BUDGET

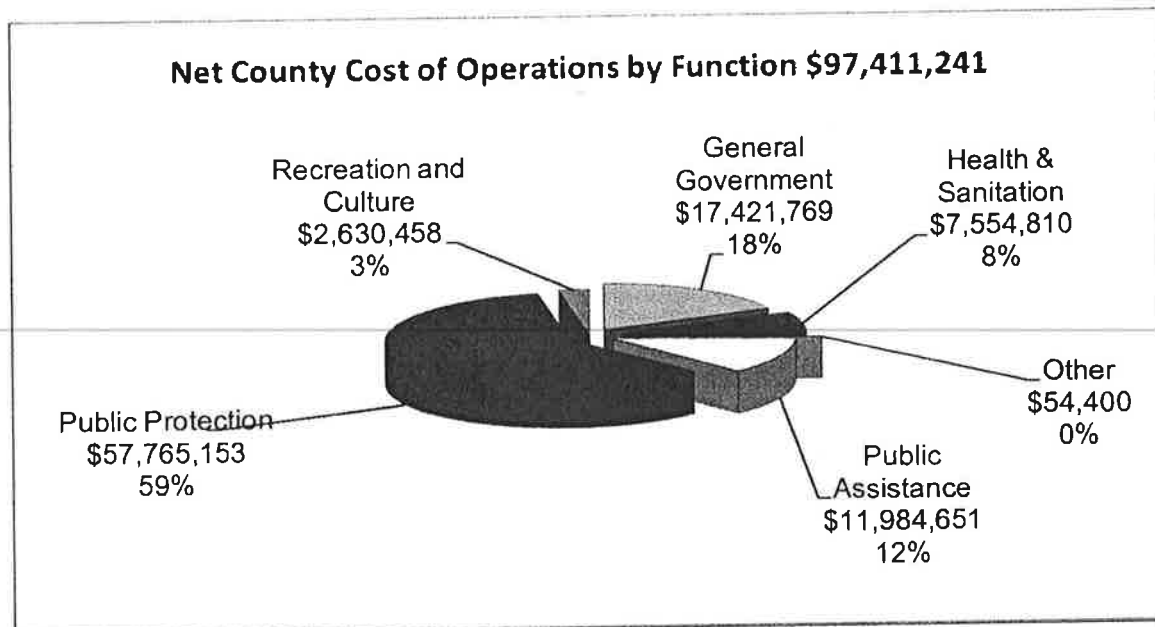
On February 12, 2013, we provided your Board with an overview of the Governor's Proposed 2013-14 Budget. The Revised State Budget is scheduled to be released in mid-May and we will include an updated report with the Supplemental Budget.

### 2014 FEDERAL BUDGET

The impacts of the \$85 billion across the board federal sequestration spending cuts imposed March 1, 2013, are still not finalized at the federal level. These reductions are targeted to impact County discretionary programs such as Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grants, HIV Screening funding and reduction in Workforce Investment Act grants. As details are made available, supplemental budget reports will be provided.

### 2013-14 PROPOSED BUDGET & ALLOCATION OF GENERAL FUND NET COUNTY COST

The 2013-14 allocation of \$97,411,241 Net County Cost of operations included in the Proposed Budget is as shown in the following chart:



## **2013-14 DEPARTMENT AND PROGRAM IMPACTS**

### Public Safety Realignment

Public Safety Realignment (AB 109 implemented in October 2011), realigns qualifying low-level offenders convicted of non-serious, non-violent, non-sex offenders in the adult parole program to counties for supervision, imprisonment and rehabilitation. As of April 2013, 269 individuals have participated in the AB 109 Program, 147 are in the Post Release Community Supervision and 122 were locally sentenced under Penal Code 1170h. AB 109 has provided the opportunity to strengthen partnerships with community justice partner groups. Sixteen service providers throughout the County provide a comprehensive array of services including substance abuse treatment, housing, reentry planning, cognitive behavior treatment and educational programming.

### Redevelopment Successor Agency

In 2012-13, the Redevelopment Successor Agency continued the wind-down of activities, including the positive resolution of the July true-up issue and the approval of both Due Diligence Reviews and the issuance of the Finding of Completion by the State Department of Finance. The Asset Transfer Audit by the State Controller's Office required by AB 1484 is scheduled for completion May 2013. The Long Range Property Management Plan for the remaining three sites owned by the Successor Agency will be completed in 2013-14.

### Health Services Agency (HSA)

#### Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA)

- It is estimated that under federal health care reform, which goes into effect in January 2014, approximately 10,000 County residents will be eligible for Medi-Cal and approximately 12,000 County residents will purchase health insurance with a federal subsidy significantly impacting direct and indirect services at County clinics and through contracted partnership services.
- HSA will transition 8,000 youth from the Healthy Families program into the Medi-Cal program by August 2018. HSA Children's Mental Health (CMH) will be responsible for providing access to medically necessary mental health services for this population.

#### Psychiatric Health Facility

- The construction of the Santa Cruz County Psychiatric Health Facility and the Behavioral Health Evaluation and Treatment Center is scheduled to be completed with operations beginning January 1, 2014.

### Human Services Department (HSD)

#### Healthcare Reform

- HSD efforts, including expanded staff and critical technology enhancement to support increased program demands due to healthcare reform and increased Cal Fresh participation were started in 2012-13 and will continue through 2013-14.

County Clerk

Two elections are scheduled for 2013-14, the November 5<sup>th</sup> Uniform District Election and the June 3<sup>rd</sup> Gubernatorial Primary Election. The Primary will include contests for Superior Court judges and a number of local County offices including Supervisors in the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Districts. Over 50% of eligible voters are expected to vote by mail. This budget includes the purchase of equipment to automate the processing of these ballots which will both contain processing costs and speed the tallying and reporting of mail ballots.

Planning

Significant projects for 2013-14 include the Draft Sustainable Community and Transit Corridor Plan, a Draft CEMEX Site Re-Use Plan, and a Draft Economic Development Strategy.

Public Defender

In 2013-14 and ongoing, savings are anticipated in the cost of discovery due to the implementation of a new discovery delivery system in the District Attorney's office.

**CONCLUSION**

The 2013-14 Recommended Budget makes some progress towards attaining financial stability and structural balance. It is important to note that it does not provide funds to increase the County's reserves, which remain at the minimum level established by your Board. Priority facility maintenance projects, currently estimated at a cost of approximately \$5 million, are again being deferred into the future.

I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the contributions of the County staff and their efforts to deliver essential services to the public with reduced resources. The recommendations set forth below do not represent adoption of the County Budget, but the approval of the budget estimates as a basis for full consideration at the time of final budget hearings scheduled to begin on June 17, 2013.

**IT IS THEREFORE RECOMMENDED** that your Board approve the figures in this document as those that constitute the Proposed County Budget for 2013-14, order publication of the required notices, and set June 17, 2013 as the date the Public Hearings on the 2013-14 Proposed County Budget will begin.

Very truly yours,



SUSAN A. MAURIELLO  
County Administrative Officer

cc: Each Department Head  
Employee Organizations



**PARKS, OPEN SPACE AND CULTURAL SERVICES**

**John J. Presleigh, Director of Public Works**  
 Index Numbers: 491100 - 495900

Fund: General Fund  
 Functio Recreation  
 Title: Parks, Open Space and Cultural Services

Requirements	Actual 2011-12	Appropriated 2012-13	Estimated 2012-13	Requested 2013-14	Recommended 2013-14	Change From 2012-13
Salaries & Benefits	\$3,728,843	\$3,856,721	\$3,695,533	\$3,840,535	\$3,840,535	(\$16,186)
Services & Supplies	\$1,863,123	\$1,813,470	\$1,815,984	\$1,960,181	\$1,960,181	\$146,711
Other Charges	\$0	\$13,000	\$13,000	\$13,000	\$13,000	\$0
Intra-Fund Charges	(\$53,431)	(\$126,831)	(\$126,831)	(\$126,831)	(\$126,831)	\$0
<b>TOTAL EXPEND</b>	<b>\$5,538,535</b>	<b>\$5,556,360</b>	<b>\$5,397,686</b>	<b>\$5,686,885</b>	<b>\$5,686,885</b>	<b>\$130,525</b>
Less: Revenue	(\$2,981,625)	(\$3,340,966)	(\$3,177,496)	(\$3,452,904)	(\$3,452,904)	(\$111,938)
<b>NET COUNTY COST</b>	<b>\$2,556,910</b>	<b>\$2,215,394</b>	<b>\$2,220,190</b>	<b>\$2,233,981</b>	<b>\$2,233,981</b>	<b>\$18,587</b>
Positions		34.80	34.80	33.80	33.80	-1.00
Positions Unfunded		0.0	0.0	1.0	1.0	1.00

Parks was reorganized as a Division of the Department of Public Works in fiscal year 2011-12. The Parks Division continues its mission to acquire, develop and provide safe, well designed and maintained parks while offering a variety of recreational and cultural opportunities for the community. This includes the operation of the County's 1,400 acre park system, Simpkins Family Swim Center, a variety of after-school and summer recreational programs, as well as cultural services programs. Over the last decade the community of Santa Cruz County has seen a 30 percent increase in the number of active parks. These new parks and open space areas provide a wealth of recreational opportunities for residents and non-residents alike. The Parks Division is also responsible for providing staff to the County's Parks and Recreation Commission and the County's Arts Commission. Funding of community programs offered through other providers is included in the Parks Division budget. Staff continues to evaluate and implement new processes and fee structures to improve efficiencies in order to continue to provide quality recreational and cultural opportunities with a smaller workforce.

The Parks Division is divided into four areas with the following responsibilities:

Maintenance and Facilities

This section provides maintenance to all 59 park sites and hosts over 900 functions annually. Park sites range in location from Pinto Lake Park in the south, to Greyhound Rock in the north, and from beach access points along the coast to the 410 acre Miller property located in Boulder Creek. In addition, facilities staff administer the use and rental of all park buildings, beaches and park sites, manage concessionaires and the rentals of private houses in County park sites, provide oversight of community gardens and grazing contracts, horse-boarding activities, and work closely with maintenance staff to maximize the use of public facilities.

Aquatics

Aquatics Program staff manage the Simpkins Family Swim Center programs, including lap and recreational swimming, swim lessons, Junior Lifeguards, Little Guards, Spring Camp, lifeguard training classes, water aerobics classes, adult fitness, and adult drop-in water polo. In addition, the Swim Center hosts a Therapeutic Swim Program through Dominican Hospital, Cabrillo and Santa Cruz County Aquatics swim teams, private swim lessons, physical education swim classes for Shoreline Middle School students, and over 40 private rental pool parties each year. In all, Swim Center visits exceed approximately 110,000 a year. Staff continues to develop new program opportunities to meet the needs of the community and increase participation at the Swim Center. The fee structure and

schedule continue to be evaluated for improvements to better serve the community while reducing net County costs.

#### Recreational and Cultural Services

Recreational Program staff administer Youth Programs, including summer camps and after-school programs; interpretive nature programs centered at Quail Hollow Ranch; Senior Programs, including a variety of well-attended day trips to events such as a Giants game or the Cantor Arts Center and the Capitola Mall Walking and Exercise Program; Cultural Services and Arts Programs, including managing the selection process and installation of public art, coordinating art exhibitions in various County buildings, installation of new pieces of work for the permanent County art collection, and selection of the County Artist of the Year. Finally, Recreation and Cultural Services Program staff conducted a number of annual special events, such as free swim on the 4th of July, the Super Kid Triathlon, and the Holiday Art and Craft Fair.

#### Resource and Development

Resource and Development staff oversee a variety of park planning and park improvement projects and necessary facility repairs. Over the past year, work has included planning for grant funded park improvements, including play area and picnic area improvements at Ben Lomond, Willowbrook, and Pinto Lake parks; habitat and community garden improvements at the Farm Park; re-roofing of the historical Felton Covered Bridge; installation of new mechanical equipment at the Swim Center; inspection of the construction of park improvements at Pleasure Point Park and the East Cliff Drive Parkway; managing needed facility repairs; planning for phased construction of improvements at McGregor and Chanticleer Avenue park sites; as well as assisting with consideration of new proposals such as disc golf and off-leash dog areas. Resource and Development staff also includes three Project Managers responsible for completion of the final redevelopment funded capital improvement projects, including the Center for Public Safety project, the Behavioral Health Unit, East Cliff Drive Parkway, Twin Lakes Beachfront, Heart of Soquel, Upper Porter Street (completed), and coordination with the Live Oak School District and the Boys and Girls Club for a new Youth Center on the Shoreline Middle School campus in Live Oak.

#### 2013-14 RECOMMENDED BUDGET

The 2013-14 recommended budget reflects a slight increase of \$18,597 in the Net County Cost from fiscal year 12-13, primarily due to increased costs in supplies and services associated with the park design projects. The budget provides for an increase of \$130,525 in expenditures offset by an increase of \$111,938 in revenues. The 2013-14 budget places priority on maintaining core park services, facilities, and programs on a year-round basis.

#### Expenditures

The recommended decrease in salaries and benefits in the amount of \$16,186 provides for current staffing and the reduction of one project manager position from full time to .50 to reflect project completion of the Behavioral Health Unit in December 2013 and the unfunding of one vacant parks maintenance worker position.

Increases in the amount of \$146,711 in services and supplies accounts are the result of grant funded professional services for design work associated with the Farm Park and Heart of Soquel projects.

#### Revenues

The recommended increase in revenues of \$111,938 is primarily attributed to revenues from grant funding as well as increased fees for after-school and summer recreation programs, Swim Center programs, and Swim Center classes.

The proposed budget is expected to achieve the following efficiencies and have the following impacts:

#### Maintenance

Maintenance staff will continue to prioritize its reduced workforce on providing clean and usable parks, based on visitor use and public safety. Facilities and park sites that are fee based, such as playfields and community centers, require a higher maintenance priority than smaller parks and remote beach access points. The fiscal year 2013-14 budget and staff reduction will result in the delay in some repairs and annual maintenance needs, adding to an increasing list of deferred maintenance requirements throughout County parks.

#### Aquatics

The recommended budget includes adjustments to the pool schedule resulting in the Swim Center being open seven days a week for seven months beginning March 1 through the end of September, with the exception of the Memorial Day and Labor Day holidays. Operational efficiencies will be achieved with continuation of monthly weekend closures October through February only (resulting in one less weekend closure than in fiscal year 2012-13), and Sunday-Monday closures December through February 28, as was implemented in fiscal year 2009-10 during budget reductions. Additional open hours will be achieved by extending open hours on Saturdays during the fall and spring seasons. Overall, the pool will be open 322 days and 3,674.5 hours, with 44 days of closure during the slower seasons, and the option to close the pool during inclement weather as in previous fiscal years. Fees for lessons and classes are proposed to increase but will remain at or below market for the Santa Cruz area.

These recommendations result in an overall increase in hours that the Swim Center is open and is anticipated to result in increased use and programming, and thus higher revenues during the busy season and a reduction in cost during the slower seasons.

#### Recreational Programs and Cultural Services

Year-round after-school and summer recreation youth programs will continue to be the same as in fiscal year 2012-13. Enrollment policies and staffing continue to be revised as necessary to manage these programs to achieve full cost recovery. Quail Hollow will include summer camps, volunteer support and some weekend programs. Classes continue on a year-round basis, including art, Spanish language, science, and Kreative Kids at Wilder Hall. Arts related programs will include rotating and permanent exhibits at the Governmental Center and the Swim Center, Outside the Box, Artist of the Year, and public art installations per the adopted art program. Participation in senior day trips remains good, and staff continues to revise trip offerings in response to demand. The Capitola Mall Walking and Exercise Program will continue with a limited number of associated events.

#### Resource and Development

Efforts will focus on maximizing County resources for park and facility management, as well as needed improvements by leveraging these resources with outside funding sources where possible and by engaging in community collaboration and partnerships. Staff will continue work on a number of projects utilizing grant funding, including the Felton Covered Bridge, Ben Lomond Park, Farm Park, Heart of Soquel, and Willowbrook Park, as well as phased development of McGregor Park and Chanticleer Avenue Park, and responding to the community's park and recreational needs throughout the County. Significant progress has taken place on the final redevelopment funded capital improvement projects. The remaining work will focus on completing construction of the Behavioral Health Unit, construction of the Center for Public Safety, completing permits and final design of the Heart of Soquel and Twin Lakes Beachfront projects.

STAFFING

Staffing changes for fiscal year 2013-14 in this unit reflect a 1.0 delayed delete as of 12/31/13 for one limited term Project Manager. This reduction is the result of the anticipated completion of the Behavioral Health Unit by December 2013. Additionally, a vacant 1.0 FTE Parks Maintenance Worker II/I will be unfunded. The Assistant Director for DPW-Parks and two fiscal staff, located at the Simpkins Swim Center building, are funded through the Public Works Internal Service Fund.

Position	Salary Range	2012-13 Allowed	Mid Year Change	2012-13 Total	2013-14 Request	2013-14 Recomm	Recomm Change	2013-14 Unfunded
Aquatics Coordinator	Y4	1.00	0.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.00	0.00
Aquatics Supervisor	52	1.00	0.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.00	0.00
Parks Maintenance Supervisor	JM	4.00	0.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	0.00	0.00
Parks Maint Worker II/I	Y8/36	17.00	0.00	17.00	17.00	17.00	0.00	1.00
Parks Maint. Worker III	ES	1.00	0.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.00	0.00
Parks Manager – Maintenance	LP	1.00	0.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.00	0.00
Parks Mgr-Resource & Develop	DH	1.00	0.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.00	0.00
Program Coordinator	BV	2.00	0.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	0.00	0.00
Project Manager *	MY	3.00	0.00	3.00	2.00	2.00	(1.00)	0.00
Recreation Coordinator	Y4	3.80	0.00	3.80	3.80	3.80	0.00	0.00
<b>Parks Division Total</b>		<b>34.80</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>34.80</b>	<b>33.80</b>	<b>33.80</b>	<b>(1.00)</b>	<b>1.00</b>

\* Delayed delete 12-31-13

**CULTURAL RESOURCES**  
**John J. Presleigh, Director of Public Works**  
 Index Number: 134904

Fund: General Fund  
 Function: Recreation  
 Title: Cultural Resources

Requirements	Actual 2011-12	Appropriated 2012-13	Estimated 2012-13	Requested 2013-14	Recommended 2013-14	Change From 2012-13
Other Charges	\$262,206	\$302,822	\$302,822	\$270,818	\$270,818	(\$32,004)
<b>TOTAL EXPEND</b>	<b>\$262,206</b>	<b>\$302,822</b>	<b>\$302,822</b>	<b>\$270,818</b>	<b>\$270,818</b>	<b>(\$32,004)</b>
Less Revenue	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>NET COUNTY COST</b>	<b>\$262,206</b>	<b>\$302,822</b>	<b>\$302,822</b>	<b>\$270,818</b>	<b>\$270,818</b>	<b>(\$32,004)</b>

The Cultural Resources budget funds contracts with the Cultural Council of Santa Cruz County, the Museum of Art & History (MAH) at the McPherson Center, and the Santa Cruz County Veterans Memorial Building Board of Trustees.

2013-14 RECOMMENDED BUDGET

The recommended budget for Cultural Resources reflects no change in funding for the three community programs financed in this budget index.

Cultural Council of Santa Cruz County: The contract with the Cultural Council provides funds for a broad range of arts, entertainment and educational activities benefiting county residents and visitors. These programs include workshops, grants to existing programs such as SPECTRA (Arts in Education), and overall coordination of arts activities in the County. The Arts Commission annually reviews the activities of the Cultural Council. The recommended budget allocates \$125,208 for this contract.

The Museum of Art & History at the McPherson Center: The contract with the MAH provides funds for the operation and maintenance of the MAH, liaison services to the Historical Resources Commission, and development of historic preservation services throughout the County. MAH's strategic vision is to share the excitement and passion of trustees, members, volunteers, and staff for both history and contemporary art to all residents through exhibitions, educational programs, and opportunities for research in the organization's archives. Pursuant to the agreement between the County and MAH, the organization retains any revenues generated by activities under the agreement to expand historical services to County residents. The recommended budget allocates \$110,611 for this contract.

Santa Cruz County Veterans Memorial Building: The contract with the Santa Cruz County Veterans Memorial Building Board of Trustees for the operation and maintenance of the Santa Cruz County Veterans Memorial Building was cancelled on April 2, 2010, due to renovations of the facility. The recommended budget includes appropriations of \$34,999 for ongoing responsibilities for the Veterans' new space at the Emeline complex. This amount reflects a reduction of \$32,004 from fiscal year 2012-13. These funds were carried over to this budget from the previous fiscal year to accommodate additional moving and improvement costs associated with the temporary relocation to the Emeline location.

**ART IN PUBLIC PLACES**  
**John J. Presleigh, Director of Public Works**  
 Index Number: 134909

Fund: Custodial Funds/Parks  
 Function: Recreation & Cultural Services  
 Title: Art in Public Places

<u>Requirements</u>	<u>Actual 2011-12</u>	<u>Appropriated 2012-13</u>	<u>Estimated 2012-13</u>	<u>Requested 2013-14</u>	<u>Recommended 2013-14</u>	<u>Change From 2012-13</u>
<b>Appropriations</b>						
Other Charges	\$39,778	\$125,022	\$114,722	\$9,800	\$9,800	(\$115,222)
Fixed Assets	\$11,125	\$218,201	\$218,701	\$30,258	\$30,258	(\$187,943)
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$50,903</b>	<b>\$343,223</b>	<b>\$333,423</b>	<b>\$40,058</b>	<b>\$40,058</b>	<b>(\$303,165)</b>
Increase Reserve	\$26,198	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>Total Requirements</b>	<b>\$77,101</b>	<b>\$343,223</b>	<b>\$333,423</b>	<b>\$40,058</b>	<b>\$40,058</b>	<b>(\$303,165)</b>
<b>Available Funds</b>						
Fund Balance Avail.	\$143,560	\$109,612	\$109,612	\$9,958	\$9,958	(\$99,654)
Cancel Reserve	\$4,988	\$26,198	\$26,198	\$0	\$0	(\$26,198)
Revenue	\$38,165	\$207,413	\$207,571	\$30,100	\$30,100	(\$177,313)
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$186,713</b>	<b>\$343,223</b>	<b>\$343,381</b>	<b>\$40,058</b>	<b>\$40,058</b>	<b>(\$303,165)</b>

The Art in Public Places budget was established to provide art in the design and development of County building and remodeling projects with construction costs exceeding \$100,000. Public art is located in highly visible public areas or in areas regularly frequented by the general public for their enjoyment.

Projects are considered for the Art in Public Places budget as part of the County's annual budget cycle. If approved, a budget allowance up to 2 percent of the total construction costs may be allocated for works of art for projects subject to this policy.

2013-14 RECOMMENDED BUDGET

The recommended financing includes an estimated June 30, 2013 fund balance of \$9,958, contribution from the Santa Cruz County Sanitation District of \$10,000 for the Hidden Beach Pump Station project, contribution from CSA No. 9 of \$20,000 for Traffic Box Art, and interest earnings of \$100. The recommended appropriations are \$40,058, leaving an estimated \$0 in reserves.

<u>Project</u>	<u>13-14 Recom</u>
Traffic Box Art	\$ 20,000
Heart of Soquel	9,800
Hidden Beach Pump Station	10,000
Public Art Supplies	258
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 40,058</b>

# Santa Cruz County

## PROPOSED 2013/2014 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

5-YEAR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM SUMMARY FOR  
ROADS, ROADSIDE BETTERMENTS, DRAINAGE AND PARKS

SUMMARY OF IDENTIFIED CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS  
NEEDED AT BUILD OUT OF THE COUNTY'S GENERAL PLAN



**OUTSIDE THE BOX ART PROGRAM**

PREPARED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS IN CONJUNCTION  
WITH THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE AND THE PLANNING DEPARTMENT

**COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ  
PROPOSED 2013/14 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM  
- PROGRAMMED PROJECTS-**

<b>APTOS - PROGRAMMED PARK IMPROVEMENTS</b>		2012/13 EST ACTUAL	PROPOSED 2013/14 EXPEND	2014/15 ESTIMATED	2015/16 ESTIMATED	2016/17 ESTIMATED	2017/18 ESTIMATED	FUNDING SOURCE
<b>CIP #</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>							
P0027	POLO GROUNDS - Storage/Pathway/BMX Track/Well Improvements	17,976	0					APDF
P0045	APTOS PARK CENTER IMPROVEMENTS (192015) Including ADA access improvements	20,000	20,000					APDF
P0052	McGREGOR/SEACLIFF PARK - Finalize Master Plan Process	275,605	0					APDF/PLT
P0045	MISCELLANEOUS PARK IMPROVEMENTS	19,594	0					APDF
P0058	SEASCAPE BEACH ACCESS (Via Palo Alto, oth	50,000	0					APDF
P0059	SHORE TRAIL - Trail access improvements	28,623	0					APDF
P0061	CARMICHAEL TRAIL - Plan, Develop & Mitigation	40,000	10,000					APDF
P0062	POLO GROUNDS - Restroom/Concession/Infrastructure Improvements	0	60,000					APDF
		\$451,797	\$90,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	

<b>APTOS HILLS - PROGRAMMED PARK IMPROVEMENTS</b>		2012/13 EST ACTUAL	PROPOSED 2013/14 EXPEND	2014/15 ESTIMATED	2015/16 ESTIMATED	2016/17 ESTIMATED	2017/18 ESTIMATED	FUNDING SOURCE
<b>CIP #</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>							
P0501	VALENCIA HALL & POST OFFICE - Preservation of Structures (192170)	17,703	0					AHPDF
P0505	FREEDOM LAKE WATER HYACINTH REMOVAL	15,000	0					AHPDF
P0507	SCOTT PARK IMPROVEMENTS	13,865	0					AHPDF
P0508	GATE AT VALENCIA HALL / POST OFFICE (192170)	4,200	0					AHPDF
P0509	DEMOLISH STRUCTURES @ FREEDOM LAKE	35,000	0					AHPDF
		\$85,768	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	

<b>BONNY DOON - PROGRAMMED PARK IMPROVEMENTS</b>		2012/13 EST ACTUAL	PROPOSED 2013/14 EXPEND	2014/15 ESTIMATED	2015/16 ESTIMATED	2016/17 ESTIMATED	2017/18 ESTIMATED	FUNDING SOURCE
<b>CIP #</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>							
P1003	BONNY DOON SCHOOL PLAYGROUND IMPRO	20,321	0					BPDF
		\$20,321	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	



**COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ  
PROPOSED 2013/14 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM  
- PROGRAMMED PROJECTS -**

		PROPOSED					FUNDING SOURCE
		2012/13 EST ACTUAL	2013/14 EXPEND	2014/15 ESTIMATED	2015/16 ESTIMATED	2016/17 ESTIMATED	
<b>CARBONERA - PROGRAMMED PARK IMPROVEMENTS</b>							
<b>CIP #</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>						
P1505	MICHAEL GREY PARK - Group Picnic area renov.	26,490	0				CPDF
P1508	OCEAN STREET EXTENSION - Erosion Control/Fencing	20,000	0				CPDF
P1509	HAPPY VALLEY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL - Field Renovation & Walk/Jog	25,000	0				CPDF
		\$71,490	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

		PROPOSED					FUNDING SOURCE
		2012/13 EST ACTUAL	2013/14 EXPEND	2014/15 ESTIMATED	2015/16 ESTIMATED	2016/17 ESTIMATED	
<b>EUREKA CANYON - PROGRAMMED PARK IMPROVEMENTS</b>							
<b>CIP #</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>						
P2002	CORRALITOS PARK (CERTS PAYMENT)	14,522	14,751	14,751	14,784	15,035	CSA 11
P2004	ALDRIDGE LANE PARK IMPROVEMENTS	15,103	0				ECPDF
P2006	BERT SCOTT ESTATE-Public Access Improvements	153,619	7,546				EPCPDF/PLT
		\$183,244	\$22,297	\$14,751	\$14,784	\$15,035	\$15,162

		PROPOSED					FUNDING SOURCE
		2012/13 EST ACTUAL	2013/14 EXPEND	2014/15 ESTIMATED	2015/16 ESTIMATED	2016/17 ESTIMATED	
<b>LIVE OAK - PROGRAMMED PARK &amp; LIBRARY IMPROVEMENTS</b>							
<b>CIP #</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>						
P3002	FELT STREET PARK	434,874	COMPLETE				RSA/FUND 42
P3032	CHANTICLEER AVE. PARK - Acquisition and development	100,497	33,441				LOPDF
P3045	PRINCIPAL AND INTEREST ON CERTS - SIMPKINS SWIM CENTER	92,804	94,263	94,263	94,473	96,079	CSA11
P3056	MORAN LAKE PARK - Master Plan and habitat restoration	6,000	0				LOPDF
P3063	SIMPKINS FAMILY SWIM CENTER - Improvements, Capstones (5-Yr Op	135,520	0				FUND 42
P3063	SIMPKINS FAMILY SWIM CENTER - Trust (1911148)	73,545	0				LOPDF
P3065	FLORAL PARK	0	0				PLT
P3076	ADA IMPROVEMENTS AT WINKLE FARM PARK (191080)	\$3,800	0				LOPDF
		\$847,040	\$127,704	\$94,263	\$94,473	\$96,079	\$96,892

**COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ  
PROPOSED 2013/14 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM  
- PROGRAMMED PROJECTS-**

		PROPOSED					FUNDING SOURCE
		2012/13 EST ACTUAL	2013/14 EXPEND	2014/15 ESTIMATED	2015/16 ESTIMATED	2016/17 ESTIMATED	
<b>NORTH COAST - PROGRAMMED PARK IMPROVEMENTS</b>							
<b>CIP #</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	471	6,608				NCPDF
P3508	NORTH COAST BEACHES IMPROVEMENTS	\$471	\$6,608	\$0	\$0	\$0	

		PROPOSED					FUNDING SOURCE
		2012/13 EST ACTUAL	2013/14 EXPEND	2014/15 ESTIMATED	2015/16 ESTIMATED	2016/17 ESTIMATED	
<b>PAJARO VALLEY - PROGRAMMED PARK IMPROVEMENTS</b>							
<b>CIP #</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	84,292	10,149				PVPDF/SPB
P4014	PINTO LAKE PARK (ADA ACCESS)-Improvements per ADA Plan	10,000	10,000				PVPDF
P4027	PINTO LAKE PARK SEPTIC REPLACEMENT SYSTEM (192135)	0	0				PLT
P4026	PINTO LAKE PARK IMPROVEMENTS (191138/191080)						
		\$94,292	\$20,149	\$0	\$0	\$0	

		PROPOSED					FUNDING SOURCE
		2012/13 EST ACTUAL	2013/14 EXPEND	2014/15 ESTIMATED	2015/16 ESTIMATED	2016/17 ESTIMATED	
<b>SAN LORENZO VALLEY - PROGRAMMED PARK IMPROVEMENTS</b>							
<b>CIP #</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	16,968	17,234	17,234	17,273	17,566	CSA 11
P5505	FELTON COMMONS ACQUISITION CERTS PAYMENT	0	0				SLPDF
P5528	HIGHLANDS PARK PLAYGROUND SURFACING	23,451	5,800				SLPDF/PLT
P5530	FELTON COVERED BRIDGE	9,907	0				SPB
P5529	BEN LOMOND PARK - Picnic Tables	3,000	0				PLT
P5531	BEN LOMOND LIBRARY - Decking/Ramp/Stairs (191080)	0	0				PLT
P5532	HIGHLANDS PARK - Picnic Area Accessibility (191080)	5,000	0				PLT
P5533	QUAIL HOLLOW RANCH - Public Access/Parking (191080)						
		\$58,326	\$23,034	\$17,234	\$17,273	\$17,566	\$17,715

**COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ  
PROPOSED 2013/14 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM  
- PROGRAMMED PROJECTS-**

<b>SOQUEL - PROGRAMMED PARK IMPROVEMENTS</b>		<b>2012/13 EST ACTUAL</b>	<b>PROPOSED 2013/14 EXPEND.</b>	<b>2014/15 ESTIMATED</b>	<b>2015/16 ESTIMATED</b>	<b>2016/17 ESTIMATED</b>	<b>2017/18 ESTIMATED</b>	<b>FUNDING SOURCE</b>
<b>CIP #</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>							
P6505	A. J. CUMMINGS PARK - Improvements	12,100	0					SOPDF
P6522	THE FARM PARK - Development	109,291	995,113					SPB
P6524	DISTRICT PLAYGROUND IMPROVEMENTS	15,502	0					SOPDF/SPB
P6527	SOQUEL LIONS PARK IMPROVEMENTS	17,675	0					SOPDF
P6528	WILLOWBROOK PARK - Play area improvements, surfacing	95,774	0					SOPDF/SPB
P6529	HEART OF SOQUEL - Plaza, traffic and landscape improvements	250,000	1,891,690					SPB/RSA
		\$500,342	\$2,886,803	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	

<b>SUMMIT - PROGRAMMED PARK IMPROVEMENTS</b>		<b>2012/13 EST ACTUAL</b>	<b>PROPOSED 2013/14 EXPEND.</b>	<b>2014/15 ESTIMATED</b>	<b>2015/16 ESTIMATED</b>	<b>2016/17 ESTIMATED</b>	<b>2017/18 ESTIMATED</b>	<b>FUNDING SOURCE</b>
<b>CIP #</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>							
P7001	LOMA PRIETA (SUMMIT) SCHOOL PARK - Acquisition Certs Payment	10,908	11,080	11,080	11,104	11,293	11,389	CSA 11
P7002	LOMA PRIETA SCHOOL FIELD IMPROVEMENTS	18,533	0					SUPDF
		\$29,441	\$11,080	\$11,080	\$11,104	\$11,293	\$11,389	

<b>COUNTYWIDE PROGRAMMED PARK &amp; LIBRARY IMPROVEMENTS:</b>		<b>2012/13</b>	<b>2013/14</b>	<b>2014/15</b>	<b>2015/16</b>	<b>2016/17</b>	<b>2017/18</b>
		\$2,342,532	\$3,187,675	\$137,328	\$137,634	\$139,973	\$141,158

**COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ  
PROPOSED 2013/14 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM  
- PROGRAMMED PROJECTS-**

OTHER PROJECTS		PROPOSED					FUNDING SOURCE
		2012/13 EST ACTUAL	2013/14 EXPEND	2014/15 ESTIMATED	2015/16 ESTIMATED	2016/17 ESTIMATED	
<u>CIP #</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>						
O3000	LIVE OAK RESOURCE CENTER	13,271	0				RSA
O3001	MISCELLANEOUS RDA PROGRAMS AND STUDIES	5,800	0				RSA
O6500	SOQUEL LINEAR PARK & PARKING IMPR (HOS)	0	9,800				APP
O6501	UPPER PORTER	840,000	360,000				RSA
O3003	ARANA GULCH	814,000	0				FUND 42
O3004	SPECIAL STUDIES	61,984	0				FUND 42
		\$1,735,055	\$369,800	\$0	\$0	\$0	
<b>TOTAL COUNTYWIDE PROGRAMMED CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS:</b>		<b>2012/13</b>	<b>2013/14</b>	<b>2014/15</b>	<b>2015/16</b>	<b>2016/17</b>	<b>2017/18</b>
		\$24,442,901	\$50,036,294	\$185,398	\$188,704	\$196,043	\$204,228







**COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ  
PROPOSED 2013/2014 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM  
-FINANCING SUMMARY-**

<b>COUNTY SERVICE AREA #11 FUND - 22290</b>						<b>PROPOSED</b>				
						2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
<b>FISCAL YEAR</b>	<b>FUND BALANCE</b>	<b>REVENUES</b>	<b>EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>CARRYOVER</b>	<b>PROPOSED</b>	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>AVAILABLE</b>	<b>2012/13</b>	<b>2012/13</b>	<b>2012/13</b>	<b>2012/13</b>	<b>2012/13</b>	<b>2013/14</b>	<b>2014/15</b>	<b>2015/16</b>	<b>2016/17</b>	<b>2017/18</b>
FUND BAL. 6/30/2012	CIP EST REVENUE	EST ACT REVENUE	EXP. PR. ENC.	EXPEND.		\$162,910	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
\$0	\$281,197	\$298,112	\$0	\$135,202	\$0	\$135,297	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>CIP #</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>PROJECTED EXPENDITURES</b>								
P2002	PRINCIPAL AND INTEREST ON CERTS - CORRALITOS PARK (Aldridge)	\$14,522				\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
P3045	PRINCIPAL AND INTEREST ON CERTS - SIMPKINS FAMILY SWIM CENTER	\$92,804				\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
P5505	PRINCIPAL AND INTEREST ON CERTS - FELTON COMMONS PARK	\$16,968				\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
P7001	PRINCIPAL AND INTEREST ON CERTS - SUMMIT PARK (Loma Prieta)	\$10,908				\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
	OPERATING TRANSFERS OUT - CERTS RESERVE					\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
	OPERATING TRANSFERS OUT - DEBT SERVICE FUND	\$0				\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES:</b>						\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>DIST. SERVICE CHARGES FOR DEBT SERVICE</b>						\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>TOTAL REVENUES:</b>						\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0



