

# Midcoast Community Council

*An elected Advisory Council to the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors*

*representing Montara, Moss Beach, El Granada, Princeton, and Miramar*

PO Box 248, Moss Beach, CA 94038-0248 | [midcoastcommunitycouncil.org](http://midcoastcommunitycouncil.org)

**Claire Toutant** | **Gregg Dieguez** | **Michelle Weil** | **Len Erickson** | **Dave Olson** | **Jill Grant** | **Dan Haggerty**  
Chair                      Vice-Chair                      Treasurer                      Secretary

Date:                      January 26, 2022  
To:                              Mike Schaller, Nicholas Calderon, Planning Commission, Erik Martinez (CCC)  
From:                        Midcoast Community Council  
Subject:                    Comments on the Pilot Off-Leash Dog-Walking Program

Thank you for sending a referral for PLN2021-00333 (Pilot Off-Leash Dog-Walking Program for Quarry Park and Pillar Point Bluffs) to the Midcoast Community Council.

**We agree that Quarry Park is ideal for a Pilot Off-Leash Dog-Walking Program.** The large 577-acre Quarry Park is sufficient in size to accommodate the numerous new visitors drawn to the coast by publicizing the off-leash dog park. Visitors to the coast will enjoy running their dogs in the grassy meadows and along the dirt trails through a towering forest instead of the typical ball field or residential park. With little sensitive habitat, the MCC agrees that overcrowding by visitors and dogs will not damage limited resources and appreciate how Quarry Park has already been prepared for problem cases, where off-leash dogs are not well trained and/or controlled by the dog owner, with installation of permanent fencing around the community garden and children's playground to prevent dog access and allow families with small children to freely and safely use the Quarry Park "play area for tots" and community crops are not tainted by dog waste.

**While we are in favor of the pilot program at Quarry Park, we strongly oppose the Pilot Program at Pillar Point Bluff.**

The 220-acre Pillar Point Bluff is dominated by California native vegetation and borders highly sensitive habitats where dogs are NOT allowed; Fitzgerald marine preserve and Ross' Cove, Pillar Point Marsh, Denniston Creek and other wetland features. The Bluff location has over one hundred occurrences (CNDDDB, iNaturalist observations within 1 mile of Bluff) of use by California special status species including migratory birds of prey (Osprey, Peregrine falcon, burrowing owl), the fully protected, state and federally endangered San Francisco garter snake, the federally threatened California red-legged frog (Fitzgerald, Denniston Creek, Airport Drive wetland features). Documented violations of the Marine Mammal Act have occurred in these sensitive habitats from off-leash dog attack on protected harbor seal pups that haul out along the rocky beaches which are easily accessed by informal trails leading from the bluffs to the beach. An off-leash dog program at Pillar Point Bluff will bring negative environmental consequences and no enforcement resources are currently provided as the County Ordinance Code (Chapter 3.68) does not authorize park rangers to remove persons from a park if the situation warrants it.

The Project Location of Pillar Point Bluff stated in the Negative Declaration, states "that Pillar Point Bluff is bordered along the western edge by the Pacific Ocean and protected tidepools of the Fitzgerald Marine Reserve. The Half Moon Bay Airport and the Pillar Ridge Manufactured Home

Community border the park along the eastern edge. The lands to the north and south of the park are mixed commercial and residential use areas." This description fails to mention the protected NO DOG areas of Pillar Point Marsh and Denniston Creek along the southern border where two large parking lots are located.

Maps and descriptions of the environmental characteristics of that park do not adequately reflect the flora and fauna that is actually present, which makes it hard to know what to protect. Much of the park contains highly-sensitive and well-developed coastal scrub, as well as coastal prairie which warrants protection (the Neg Dec fails to mention the coastal prairie, even though it appears in earlier studies such as the 2002 Fitzgerald Marine Reserve studies). Watersheds there are complex. Drainage of dog waste to wetlands is a problem that will increase in magnitude as more dogs are present, particularly since the southern cross-trail goes through a seasonal wetland. Informal side-trails are an invitation to expand dog-access areas beyond what is noted on maps.

If this Pilot Program were to proceed at Pillar Point Bluffs, we would ask that signage be extremely clear in delineating which trails are open to on- and off-leash dogs. We think that the cross-trails that run east-west must only allow dogs on-leash, because they lead to the Ross Cove trail, which is on-leash only, and they traverse sensitive habitat, including seasonal wetlands. These east-west trails must be clearly signed at the east end of the side-trails.

We would also ask for additional in-person enforcement in order to ensure that the standards listed in the plan are heeded. It seems especially important to limit the size of any group of people with dogs in order to provide better supervision of dogs.

We recognize the huge amount of work and coordination San Mateo County Parks and community members have devoted to get to this point. We know that dogs play an important part in the lives of many people in our community and that recreating with dogs off-leash can be a value to both people and animals and that is why we support the Pilot Off-Leash Dog-Walking Program at Quarry Park.

Unfortunately, the MCC must weigh the needs of pet owners against the needs of our entire community including minorities, the elderly or disabled, families with children, and non-dog owners who use the bluffs for recreation (meditation, family walks, and photography as it is one of the few bluff locations with an ADA accessible dirt-packed trail where a person can view a sunset over the ocean while watching the full moon rise over the harbor). By approval of a pilot program and subsequent publication of Pillar Point Bluff as uniquely available for off-leash dogs on numerous social media sites, this will bring new dog owners to the coast which will discourage non-dog owners from freely and safely using these parks.

We can all agree that Pillar Point Bluff is a rare environmental and geological resource, one that should be shared with locals and visitors alike. Opening the area to off-leash dogs would force many people, including those who have been using these trails for years, to go somewhere safer.

**Therefore, we strongly oppose an Off-Leash Dog-Walking Program at Pillar Point Bluff.**

MIDCOAST COMMUNITY COUNCIL

s/Claire Toutant, Chair

Date: February 6, 2022

To: Chair Manuel Ramirez and fellow Planning Commissioners Gupta and Hansson

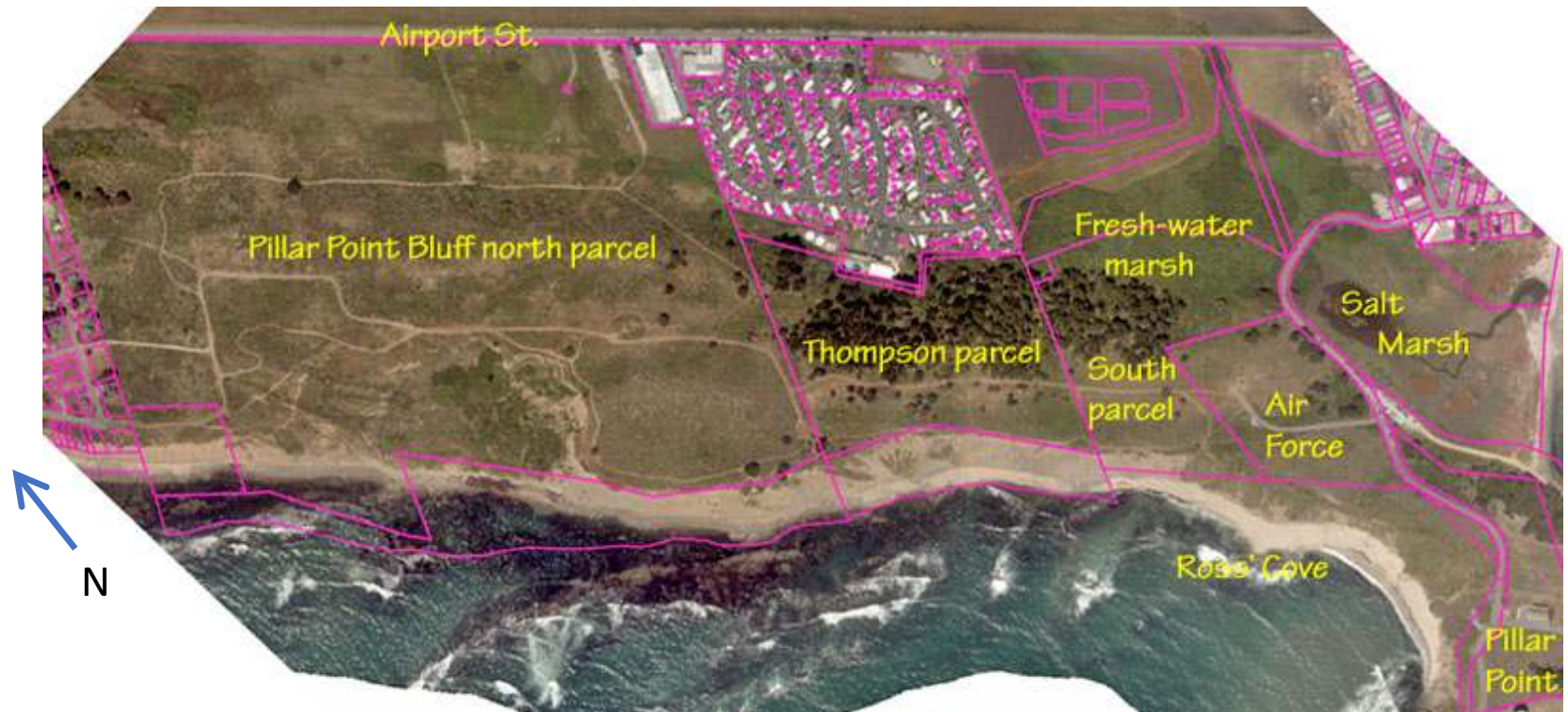
From: Commissioner Lisa Ketcham

Re: Off-Leash Dog Pilot Program for Pillar Point Bluff (PPB)

The attached images are provided to illustrate the type and condition of vegetation on Pillar Point Bluff, particularly the two southern-most parcels. A comprehensive biological resources report has never been done for the Thompson parcel and South Parcel, the last two bluff parcels to be acquired from private owners.

My comments are based on my professional experience in horticulture and thorough familiarity with this blufftop vegetation in all seasons through extensive volunteer habitat restoration (weeding), 2008-2018. I have lived adjacent to PPB since 1997.

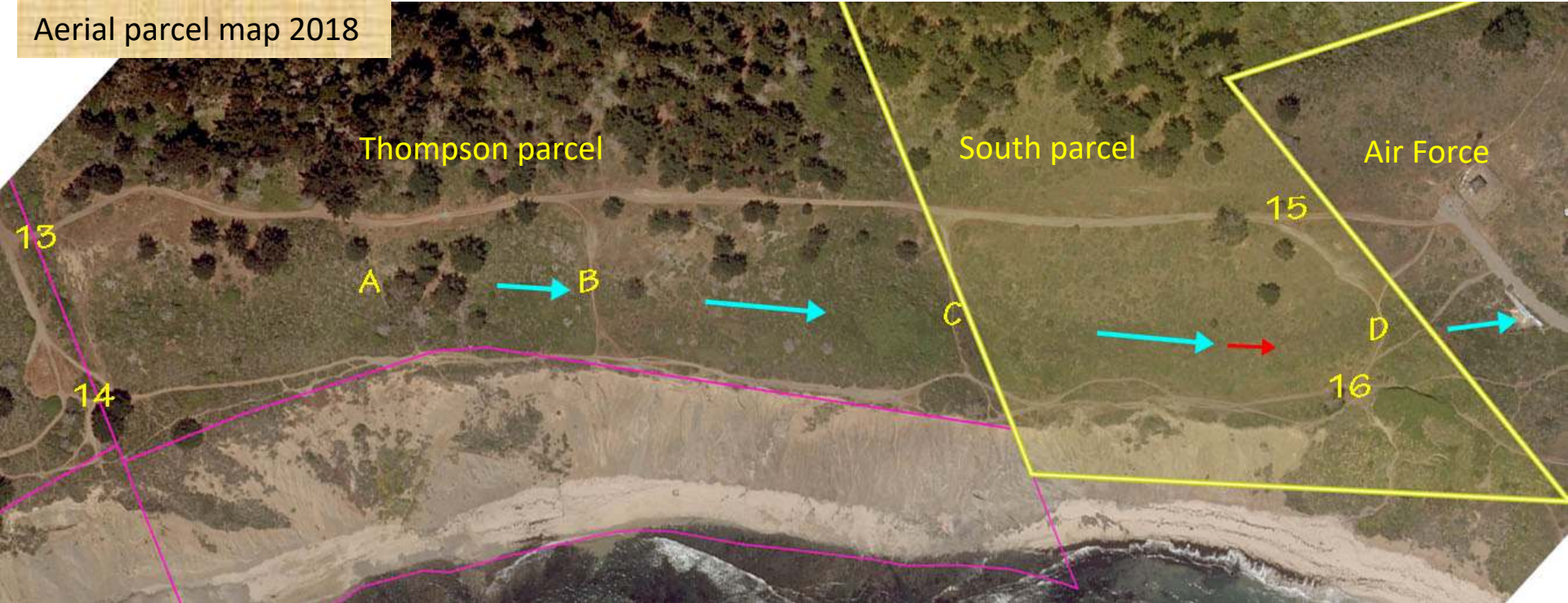
For good stewardship, a thorough and accurate biological evaluation of species and habitats on PPB is needed.





This annotated aerial image is to help place my photos which follow.

Aerial parcel map 2018



**Trail Segment 13-15** is southern portion of Jean Lauer Trail / gravel service road.

**Trail Segment 14-16** is portion of Ross' Cove Trail, an informal dirt trail.

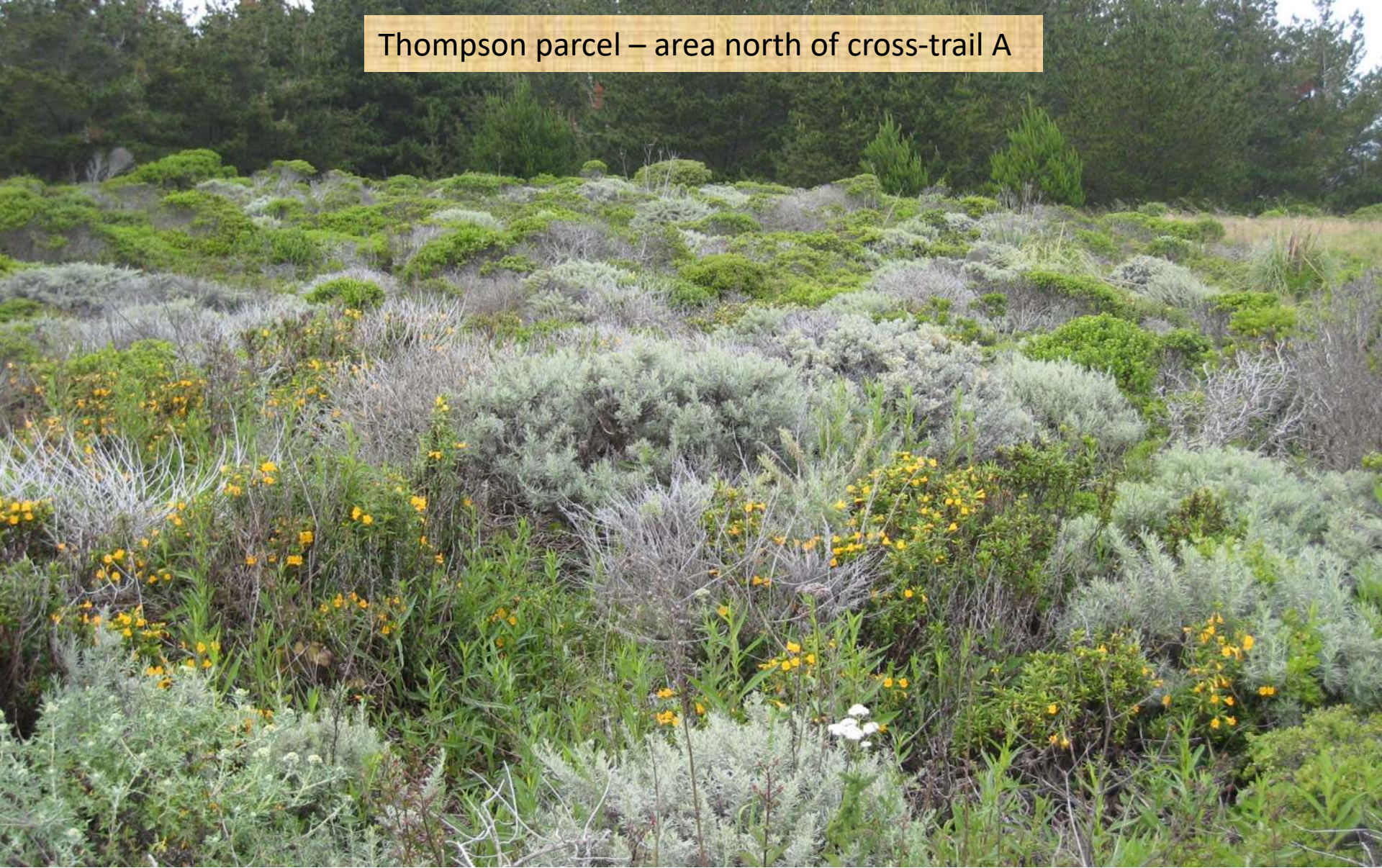
**Blue arrows** = drainage route (~10-20'W) between Jean Lauer & Ross' Cove Trails (to marsh).

**Red arrow** = erosional gully

**A-D** indicate informal dirt cross-trails, not shown on Parks trail map, but trails at **B**, **C**, **D** are shown on 2020 WRA habitat map, and **D** has County Parks wayfinding signage.



Thompson parcel – area north of cross-trail A



View from Ross' Cove Trail: full cover California coastal scrub species: Coyote brush, lizard tail, monkey flower, sage, aster, yarrow



Thompson parcel between trails B & C



View from Ross' Cove Trail: Large swath of blooming California beach strawberry – This LCP-protected species has an extensive presence on the Thompson and South Parcels, but is not even mentioned for Pillar Point Bluff in the 2020 WRA Biological Resources Report.



South Parcel

View from Ross' Cove Trail:  
Varicolor lupine blooms on Coastal Prairie





## South Parcel – Coastal Prairie & Seasonal Wetlands

Note dark line of wetland indicator rushes where runoff collects and runs down towards marsh.





Cross-trail C  
at boundary between Thompson and South Parcel  
– seasonal wetland



A low boardwalk through the low section of trail would retain the convenient choice of loop trail and provide close views of the habitat without damaging it.





## Cross-trail D (between Junctions 15 & 16)

Wayfinding signage to the marsh parking lot from Ross' Cove Trail Junction 16 points to this heavily-used informal trail, with caution: "Sensitive Habitats- Keep On Trail."

Winter runoff sheets across the lowest section of trail, leading hikers/bikers to trample the seasonal wetland vegetation in attempt to avoid slippery mud or shallow pond.





Low 5-ft wide bridge across wetland from Airport St. trailhead parking lot installed by POST .





Sabrina Brennan  
165 La Grande Ave.  
Moss Beach, Ca 94038

Tuesday, February 8, 2022

Chair Manuel Ramirez and Members of the  
San Mateo County Planning Commission  
455 County Government Center, 2nd Floor  
Redwood City, CA 94063

**Re: Off-Leash Dog Walking Pilot Program: Feb 9, 2022 Agenda, Item 3: File No. PLN2021-00333**

Dear Chair Ramirez and Commissioners,

Please deny the CDP for the proposed off-leash dog pilot program at Pillar Point Bluff.

Off-leash dogs on the Pillar Point Bluff segment of the California Coastal Trail have attacked and bitten people, killed wildlife and disturbed habitat. **I experienced a dog attack while riding my bike on Pillar Point Bluff.** A pit bull split from a pack of dogs hunting rabbits and ran towards my bike and chomped down hard on my right thigh. I sustained multiple puncture wounds. I kicked the dog to get away. At the time, I was bike riding with a neighbor, he witnessed the attack.

At the time of the attack the pit bull's owner was out of sight. Following the attack, the dog owner eventually arrived and managed to leash three of her five dogs. The out-of-control pit bull continued to run around the bluff. I insisted the dog owner look at the deep puncture wound on my thigh. No apology was offered. The pack owner lives on the east side on Highway 1 in Moss Beach, I reported the incident to the County, and nothing was done. I paid my own medical expenses. If a child had been attacked by the same dog, they might have needed surgery or worse.

Another Pillar Point Bluff off-leash dog incident stands out in my memory. A man was jogging with a large off-leash dog. The dog was running ahead of its owner. The off-leash dog approached a woman on a blind curve in the trail. The jogger was out of sight. The woman was afraid of the off-leash dog, her husband attempted to protect her from the dog by air kicking towards the dog. The jogger caught up with his off-leash dog and physically attacked the couple. He beat the woman and her husband on the trail and pushed the woman facedown into the coyote brush and punched her husband in the nose. The husband was injured and bleeding from the attack. The couple called 911 and reported the incident to San Mateo County Sheriff deputies who arrived at the trailhead. I reported what I witnessed to the Sheriff along with another neighbor from Moss Beach.

I'm concerned about recreational displacement caused by elevated risks to public safety. Families with young children often use the Pillar Point Bluff segment of the California Coastal Trail for recreation and exercise. Why should families concerned about off-leash dog attacks be forced to stop using the Pillar Point Bluff trail system? Who will pay medical expenses for low-income families including surgery and years of therapy to recover from the emotional distress caused by a dog



attack? And what if someone is killed by an off-leash dog? How will their loved ones be compensated for loss of life?

**Please protect families and wildlife from off-leash dogs on this important segment of the California Coastal Trail. Please don't allow off-leash dogs to disrupt and hunt wildlife and disturb sensitive habitat at Pillar Point Bluff.**

There is a significant lack of enforcement by San Mateo County Parks as well as problems with the County's reporting system for violations of County Park rules and violations of the Marine Mammal Protection Act.

The following 8 videos are from late January 2022 and early February 2022. There is a very concerning off-leash dog problem, dog poop problem and poaching problem at Pillar Point Bluff and the Fitzgerald Marine Reserve.

**Aggressive Off-Leash Dog**

Location: Fitzgerald Marine Reserve. North of Ross' Cove this is the same area where another off-leash dog (Luna) killed a seal pup.

Incident Date: 1-23-2022

Reported: San Mateo County Sheriff's Office

Incident Report Number: SH22-5419

Deputy J. BABA

<https://youtu.be/ZJtk1FibuhU>

**SMC Park Rangers MIA at Fitzgerald Marine Reserve**

Location: Fitzgerald Marine Reserve, reef south of Seal Cove beach

Date: 1-29-2022

<https://youtu.be/vfXnxo2OFz4>

**Marine Mammal Protection Act Violations: Fitzgerald Marine Reserve**

Location: Fitzgerald Marine Reserve. South of Seal Cove Beach

Date: 1-29-2022

<https://youtu.be/ulrcLX6SsKU>

**SMC Parks Understaffed at the Fitzgerald Marine Reserve**

Location: Fitzgerald Marine Reserve

Date: Jan 30, 2022

<https://youtu.be/wXyjOb7KxiQ>

**Off-Leash Dog: Fitzgerald Marine Reserve**

Location: Fitzgerald Marine Reserve. North of Ross' Cove, this is the same area where another off-leash dog (Luna) killed a seal pup.

Date: 1-29-2022

[https://youtu.be/wALdwD\\_F9-0](https://youtu.be/wALdwD_F9-0)

**Poachers: Fitzgerald Marine Reserve**

Location: Fitzgerald Marine Reserve, reef south of Seal Cove beach

Date: Jan 30, 2022

<https://youtu.be/RE9IEvrUOQ>



**Off-Leash Dog: Fitzgerald Marine Reserve—Ross' Cove Beach**

Location: Fitzgerald Marine Reserve—Ross' Cove

Date: Feb 6, 2022

Reported: SMC Park Ranger at time of incident

<https://youtu.be/0lsM46pJhLg>

**Off-leash Dogs Poop on Pillar Point Bluff**

Location: Pillar Point Bluff, Seal Cove trailhead

Date: Jan 29, 2022 - 5:47pm

<https://youtu.be/gaiwWkm8lrY>

The photos below (Poaching Exhibit A) include one of three people I discovered poaching on 1-29-2022 at the Fitzgerald Marine Reserve reef near the area where the seal pup was killed by an off-leash dog (Luna). The poacher grabbed his machete and threatened me before walking away. I spoke on the phone with the Fish and Game warden around the time of the incident and texted him photos of three poachers. I also reported the incident to SMC Sheriff Deputy John Baba.

This is not the first time I have experienced scary interactions with poachers at the Fitzgerald Marine Reserve. There were many other incidents of poaching and off-leash dogs at the Fitzgerald Marine Reserve in January 2022 and this month that I did not document on video.

**Poaching: Exhibit A**



Sincerely,

Sabrina Brennan  
Seal Cove—Moss Beach



Date: February 7, 2022

To: San Mateo County Planning Commissioners

From: Janet E. Dudley, Esq.  
Founding Member of the Peninsula Dog PAC

RE: Planning Commission Meeting February 9, 2022  
Please Grant a Coastal Development Permit for the Off-Leash Pilot Program (PLN2021-00333)

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## **WHY THE PLANNING COMMISSION SHOULD GRANT A CDP FOR THE OFF-LEASH PILOT PROGRAM (PLN2021-00333)**

### **Displacement:**

- In 2019 San Mateo County had approximately 280,450 households (owned or rented).
- In 1998 there were 70,000 licensed dogs in San Mateo County (*The California Dog Lover's Companion* 3rd Ed. (1998)). NOTE, that was in 1998 and almost a quarter of a century later, it is safe to say that the number of licensed dogs has probably doubled and after Covid, probably tripled. The ASPCA estimates that for every licensed dog there are 2-3 unlicensed dogs, which would mean that back in 1998 San Mateo County would have had over 140,000 dogs (around 50% of households).
- According to the ASPCA, approximately 44% of all households in the United States have a dog. (citing source: American Pet Products Association 2015-2016 (APPA)).
- San Mateo County currently permits dogs to access only 8% of trails in its County Park system and that is after adding two (2) parks pursuant to the Dog Work Group recommendations for on-leash pilots recently.
- The East Bay Regional Park District permits dogs on 91% of its trail system. (ebayparks.org)
- Santa Clara County allows dogs on 71% of its park trails.  
<https://www.sccgov.org/sites/parks/activities/dogparks/pages/dogparks.aspx>
- Sonoma County permits dogs access to 90% of its parks.  
[\(http://parks.sonomacounty.ca.gov/visit/find-a-park/\)](http://parks.sonomacounty.ca.gov/visit/find-a-park/)

It is the dog-owning community who have been displaced from County Parks by the lack of dog access in San Mateo County. Equestrians, making up only a tiny percentage of the population in San Mateo County, have access to over 55% of the trails in the County Parks.

### **Environment:**

California has 2,427 miles of coastline (www.worldatlas.com) and if the leadership of Green Foothills had its way, every one of those would be protected and preserved for nobody to walk on or use ever. Sometimes trade-offs must be made. The Local Coastal Program strives to increase access by the public to lands on the coast, while preserving and protecting those lands. We are asking for fair use of multi-purpose trails on a mile of trail at the Bluffs and a couple of miles in Quarry Park. The proposed Pilot Programs at Pillar Point Bluffs and Quarry Park were reviewed and an environmental study conducted showing that (1) both parks permitted dogs long before the parks were absorbed into the County Park system, (2) the proposed dog activities will not impact the environment any more than current human use of the parks, and (3) the project warranted an IS/MND document rather than a full environmental impact assessment. In addition



to showing up in the photo credits on the front page of at least 4 separate web articles coming out against the proposed Pilot at the Bluffs, Commissioner Lisa Ketcham submitted 9 anti Off-Leash Pilot Program comments to the draft IS/MND (showing a clear common law bias against this Project in violation of ethics and policy standards for Planning Commissioners). Each complaint was evaluated and addressed. "Coastal Prairie habitat and wetlands in the southern Pillar Point Bluff parcel will not result in a new or more substantial impact." All environmentally sensitive habitat areas will be protected by using a myriad of tools and designs. "The Project would occur within an existing trail network where dog walking is already occurring. The Project would include installation of signage and fencing around ESHAs to protect existing habitats. Impacts to existing habitats would be less than significant."

## **EXTENSIVE PROJECT HISTORY**

"In 2018, the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors took the first step in amending County ordinance sections governing dog recreation to align with current dog management practices in designated San Mateo County Parks. The amendments reflect recommendations by Parks staff and the work of the Dog Management Committee along with changes made by the supervisors during the Oct. 23, 2018 Board meeting. The [*Parks Dept.*] appointed the Dog Management Committee as part of its efforts to update and clarify dog management policies and meet the Department's mission to protect natural resources while providing recreational opportunities for all to enjoy... The County opted to explore dog management options to make currently disparate approaches consistent. Current County ordinance sections prohibit dogs in county parks. Yet, the Parks Department acquired properties from other agencies that allowed dogs on leash [*and in custom and practice, off-leash*] at Pillar Point Bluff and Quarry Park." [*SMC Parks Homepage Oct 18 2018*] <https://parks.smcgov.org/press-release/dog-ordinance-changes-approved>

The Dog Work Group evaluated each and every one of the then- 22 County parks and after interminable discussion and evaluation of each, nominated Pillar Point Bluffs and Quarry Parks for a test period (the Pilot Programs) to see if off-leash dog access would work on a legal, permanent basis. The Dog Work Group and the Parks Dept. carefully drafted rules and restrictions to protect wildlife, other non-dog users of the areas, the environment, and tried to address every possible concern that permitting off-leash dogs to access the two parks might cause.

Parks Director Nicholas Calderon and his staff took the Group's recommendations and further narrowed and honed the plan. The Parks Commission approved the Pilot Programs on February 6, 2020. The CEQA process required the Parks Dept. to conduct an environmental review and generate a negative declaration ***IF no adverse impact is projected***, or an environmental impact report. The thorough environmental study took almost a year and concluded that the impact of off-leash dogs in the two parks is no greater than the impact of human use. In November 2021, the Board of Supervisors, in a 4 to 1 vote, certified the IS/MND and approved the pilot program, authorizing off-leash dog recreation on specified trails at Quarry Park and Pillar Point Bluff.

## **PLANNING COMMISSION**



As you can see from the history of this project described in this and other documents, many smart, caring, invested people from multi-disciplinary backgrounds have considered the Pilot Program Project before you and, as it is currently carefully crafted, decided it is appropriate to proceed. It is NOT for the Planning Commission to vote personal likes and preferences, or dislikes, as the case may be. One or more of you may live next to the Bluffs and believe your land values may decrease if use of the Bluff trails increases as a result of the Pilot Program. However, as Commissioners, you are tasked with proceeding in the public interest, for the good of the majority of the people residing in San Mateo County. After over 5 years of “process”, the Planning Commissioners are to simply decide if all of those people working on this project have crafted a program that complies with the Local Coastal Program (general plan). It does. Please approve the Coastal Development Permit so that the “test” may commence to see if recreational off-leash dog access is appropriate for San Mateo County parkland.



I urge the planning commission to grant the Coastal Development Permit for the two off-leash pilot programs that were approved by a supermajority (4-1) vote of the Board of Supervisors. The Supervisors realized that the default “no dogs in any County Park” is unfair to the taxpayers who have dogs, which amount to about 40% of households in the County. Parks in Marin and the East Bay allow families with dogs to access more than 90% of the parks trails, while San Mateo Parks grants access to less than 10% of trails.

This is a test or pilot program supervised by the Parks department with strict rules, developed after a 5+ year public process of a task force composed of equestrians, environmentalists, cyclists, hikers and dog owners. The last minute objections are largely from groups that did not participate in the public process that was designed to provide fair access to a limited set of trails in the two parks. Quarry Park is a hilly hike in a eucalyptus forest, while the two designated trails on the Bluffs are more suitable for seniors or families with a dog. Dog walking occurred in a continuous and interrupted manner for decades before the area was taken over by the SMC Parks and the arcane “no-dogs” rules came into play. The CEQA report shows that off-leash recreation can once again take place at both sites with minimal impacts on the environment.

As a representative of the non-profit Peninsula DOG group, we often conduct pet-food drives to distribute to those less fortunate or financially secure, such as seniors and the homeless. This year, we have distributed pet food to Coastside Seniors, Coastside Hope, the Street Dog Coalition and a safe parking space in Redwood City. I say this to emphasize that dog owners are a very diverse group that range across every socio-economic group who deserve fair access to the County parks.

Please support granting the Coastal Development Permit for the San Mateo County Park’s off-leash pilot programs.

Peter Griffin

President and co-Founder, Peninsula DOG, a 501(c)3 Corporation.

[www.peninsuladogpac.org](http://www.peninsuladogpac.org)





February 4, 2022

San Mateo County Planning Department

*Submitted via email*

RE: Please Grant a CDP for County Parks' Off-Leash Pilot Program at Pillar Point Bluff and Quarry Park (PLN2021-00333)

Dear Planning Commissioners,

On behalf of Coastside DOG of San Mateo County ([www.coastsidedog.org](http://www.coastsidedog.org)), I am writing in support of granting the Coastal Development Permit (CDP) for San Mateo County Parks' proposed 12-month off-leash pilot program at Quarry Park and Pillar Point Bluff (PLN2021-00333). The off-leash pilots plan has undergone a rigorous public and environmental review process, including CEQA review. It contains the strictest off-leash dog walking polices in California, with compromises made, and the result is a solid plan that should move forward.

Coastside residents have walked their dogs off-leash at Quarry Park and Pillar Point Bluff for 50+ years. It is valuable part of the Coastside's culture and large contributor to the quality of life for our dog-friendly community. Dog owners care deeply about protecting these spaces and have served as the primary stewards of these lands picking up trash and working with Peninsula Open Space Trust to protect Pillar Point Blufftop from development before County Parks acquired it.

After decades of de facto off-leash dog walking, County Parks' off-leash pilots program offers a chance to test and manage this long-practiced activity at Quarry Park and Pillar Point Bluff. It is a solid plan that you should feel confident in supporting for the following reasons:

- **The off-leash plan and dog walking rules were developed via a multi-year, intensive public process. Since fall 2016, County Parks has held 31 public Dog Work Group/Committee meetings.**
- **The process was led by San Mateo County Parks in conjunction with its multi-stakeholder Dog Work Group composed of environmental, equestrian, dog walking, mountain biking, and other community group representatives, as well as two Parks Commissioners and three park rangers.** Within parameters provided by County Parks, the Dog Work Group was required to reach consensus on every aspect of its off-leash pilots recommendation from the park sites to the trail plan to the off-leash rules. This required thorough discussion, studying of the issues, and compromise to reach a plan that all members support.
- **Areas at Pillar Point Bluff and Quarry Park that are included in the off-leash pilot are NOT environmentally sensitive.** Pillar Point Bluff is a former dairy farm and zoned agricultural according to San Mateo County's LCP. Quarry Park is mostly eucalyptus forest. Dogs have been walked off-leash at both sites for 50+ years. During the Dog Work Group process, County Parks' Natural Resource staff conducted an environmental review of both Quarry Park and Pillar Point Bluff. Off-leash trails were designated only in areas not deemed sensitive or allowing access to potentially sensitive areas

(wetlands) within the parks. In addition, a CEQA review, including the development of an Adaptive Management Plan (AMP), was conducted by consulting firm WRA. As a result, no potential significant environmental impacts are expected from the pilot program. Lastly, according to San Mateo County's LCP Midcoast Sensitive Habitats map, the off-leash pilot program is not in sensitive habitat areas.

- **The off-leash pilot program will provide greater environmental and visitor use protection to Pillar Point Bluffs and Quarry Park.** For decades, off-leash dog walking (the norm) has been unmanaged at both sites. For the first time, the pilot project will provide dog owners with clear demarcation of which trails are okay for recreational off-leash dog walking and which are not. It also lays out strict guidelines for dogs and their owners to minimize impact on the environment and on others without dogs or leashed dogs. The pilot includes the strictest off-leash rules in CA and limits the number of dogs that can be off-leash at two per person. It includes a detailed monitoring plan to track any impacts.
- **There is overwhelming public support for off-leash trails at both Quarry Park and Pillar Point Bluff.** Members of the public wrote comments and showed up to every single off-leash pilot meeting to voice their support for legal off-leash trails at Pillar Point Bluff and Quarry Park, far outnumbering the few in opposition. Residents presented a petition to County Parks with more than 250 signatures in support of off-leash dog walking, specifically at Pillar Point Bluff. According to a Midcoast Community Council (MCC) member, midcoast residents who sent emails to the MCC prior to their January 26 meeting overwhelmingly support the off-leash pilot studies at BOTH locations.
- **The off-leash pilot program is NOT expected to significantly increase park usage.** Other Bay Area counties offer a wealth of off-leash dog walking trails for their residents to enjoy on their doorsteps—a more enticing option than navigating heavy weekend traffic. In addition, the pilot's strict rules and two-dog limit will keep many dog owners away.

We sincerely hope that you trust in this four-year public, multi-stakeholder process and grant a CDP for County Parks' off-leash pilot plan. The off-leash pilot rules, trail plan, and CEQA AMP address any concerns that were brought up by members of the public and environmental groups. The plan is supported by the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors (4-1 vote) and the San Mateo County Parks Commission.

Thank you for your consideration. Coastside DOG hopes to have the opportunity to work with the San Mateo County Parks Department to make the pilot program a success.

Sincerely,

*Amy Tezza*

Amy Tezza  
Coastside DOG of San Mateo County



**From:** [Christopher Tyler](#)  
**To:** [Planning Commission](#)  
**Subject:** Come walk with us before you decide.  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 8, 2022 8:11:58 AM  
**Attachments:** [Screen Shot 2022-02-08 at 8.01.35 AM.png](#)

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

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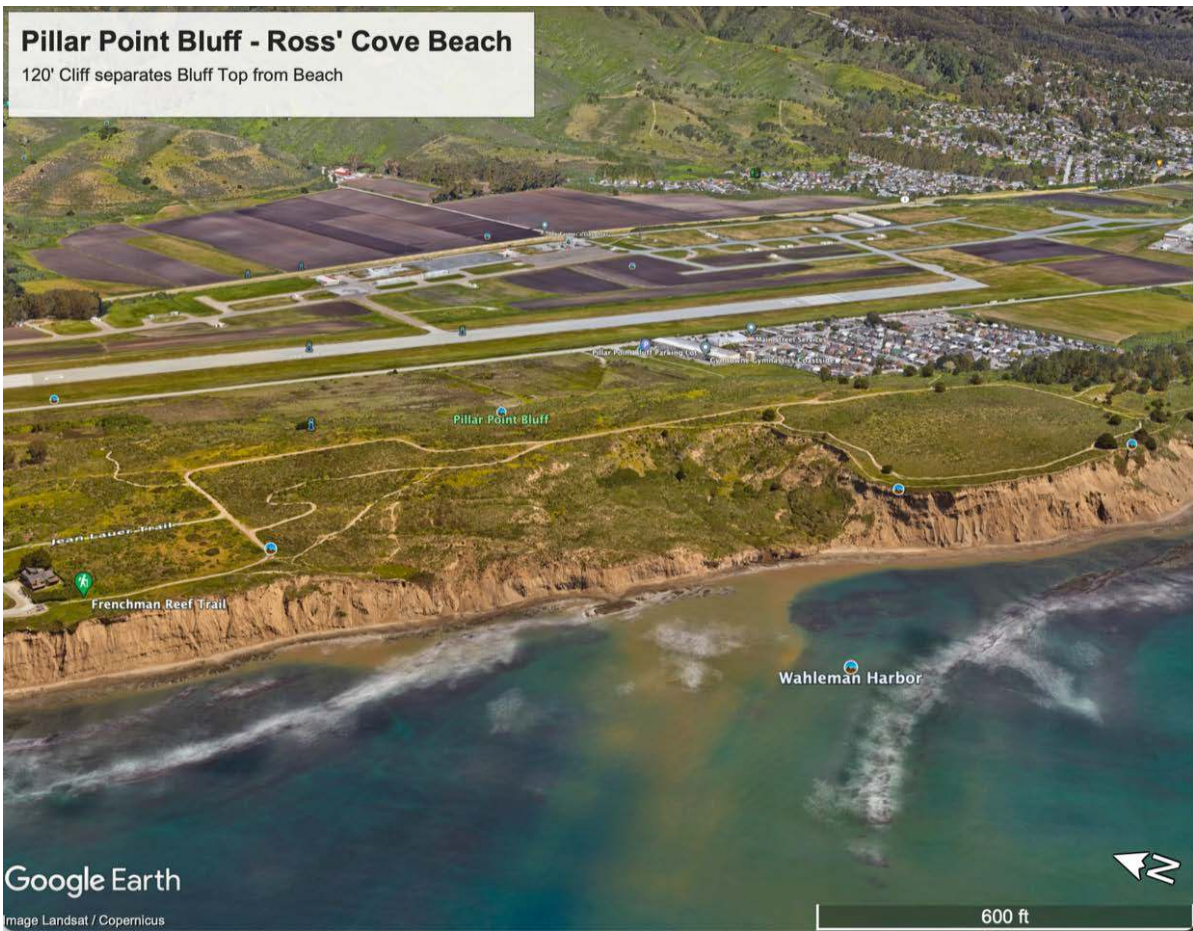
One last request. Please come walk with us.  
You will hear many outrageous claims of rampant environmental destruction and violence at the public hearing about the off-leash pilot.  
Come see with your own eyes and get past the unhinged rhetoric. You can enjoy our company (and our dogs), witness our community, see how we engage other walkers, observe the environment, and stand at the cliff's edge and see the beach 120' below. Seeing is believing.  
Come walk with us.

Chris Tyler



# Pillar Point Bluff - Ross' Cove Beach

120' Cliff separates Bluff Top from Beach





**From:** [Marsha Cohen](#)  
**To:** [Planning Commission](#)  
**Subject:** Comment to Agenda Item # 3, 2/9/22 Agenda  
**Date:** Monday, February 7, 2022 3:47:19 PM  
**Attachments:** [Planning Commis Comment 2-9-22.pdf](#)  
[Ranger Log Books.pdf](#)

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I would like to submit my attached letter and spreadsheet as a comment to Item #3, February 9, 2022 Agenda Item, Off-Leash Dog Pilot Program.

I will attend the meeting via Zoom and intend to provide a public comment.

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Marsha Cohen  
650-796-5390

**From:** [Birgitta Bower](#)  
**To:** [Planning Commission](#); [Nicholas Calderon](#); [Michael Schaller](#); [Martinez, Erik@Coastal; midcoastcommunitycouncil@gmail.com](mailto:Martinez_Erik@Coastal_midcoastcommunitycouncil@gmail.com); [info@greenfoothills.org](mailto:info@greenfoothills.org)  
**Subject:** Concerning the Off Leash Pilot issue on the agenda for Wednesday, February 9th. Commenting on Leni Robert's (Green Foothills) Letter of 2/6/2022  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 8, 2022 9:15:12 AM

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If you are “white and aging” this is about you. As supporters of Green Foothills - previously - we received Leni Roberts email yesterday with a link to her letter to the Planning Commission and her objection to the one year off leash dog Pilot at Pillar Point Bluff. Pillar Point Bluff has now turned into a race issue for Green Foothills:

Robert writes:“ Most importantly, from an equity and environmental justice standpoint, are the pilot program’s consequences of disproportionate exclusion of non-White people who make up the majority of San Mateo County’s population.”

Roberts then refers to a letter by ecologist James Lee:

“As James Lee eloquently points out, in his January 24, 2022 letter to your Commission (attached), parks all across the nation, including in San Mateo County, suffer from racial disparities in access to, and time spent, in nature.”

In his letter James Lee mentions he is a “scientist of color”. His letter has 10 footnotes. At the beginning of the letter he declares :

“A majority of park visitors are white and aging.” (I would think everybody, whatever age, is aging, so I am presuming he means “old”. )

“Dog owners who advocate for off-leash privileges in sensitive habitats and on stunning coastal trails like those found at Pillar Point Bluff are like the average park user: disproportionately white and aging. Meanwhile, sociological studies have found that by reinforcing white, middle-class relationships with the outdoors and with nature, white residents use dogs 'to maintain interracial boundaries and feelings of safety'. ”

The quote is from the #3 footnote, a ‘Sociological Forum’ and a study (‘Whose Best Friend? Dogs and Racial Boundary Maintenance in a Multiracial Neighborhood’) of visitors to a park in Durham, North Carolina.

James Lee continues: “In light of this information our nation’s historical, cultural contexts, it’s not surprising that when a Black activist on Twitter polled both white and Black dog owners, the data showed that white respondents overwhelmingly welcomed behavior from dogs that Black respondents would not tolerate or allow.”

The #6 footnote link goes to “Dog Gate”- The Divide Between Liberal White People & Black People”. In that article you can read that 62% of white people said they let their dog sleep in bed, while only 33% of black people said so. The author, DarkSkyLady’, explains:

“These numbers were not surprising, particularly if you were on social media when white people talked about not washing their ENTIRE bodies when they shower. Nor do many of them use washcloths or even loofahs, so of course they would roll around in bed with their dog.”

Lee brings up the infamous Amy Cooper incident, black birdwatcher asking white woman to leash her dog, she calls the police because she feels “threatened”. Indeed, that was an ugly event.

Lee writes: “It is critical to understand that ‘maximum public access’ and ‘public safety’ does not mean reinforcing the cultural norms and interactional relationships with nature that belong to a select demographic of an already overrepresented group in San Mateo County. There are many of us who aren’t white and aging.”

This is a lot to take in when you thought we were discussing a short trail in our local neighborhood that people and dogs would like to continue to enjoy as they have. The Parks Department has worked hard to do as much as they can in order to make the pilot a success with a lot of rules to go with it. As with most things, it’s a matter of using common sense when walking a dog and a bit of empathy. I don’t think you necessarily have to take away something from someone, as in white old people, to give something to someone else. Dog ownership is not decreasing. Somehow we have to let the 37%-47% of households with a dog (using numbers from footnote #3) have somewhere to go.

To be clear: There is no denying systemic racism exists and that Black Lives Matter.





**From:** [Zoe Kersteen-Tucker](#)  
**To:** [Planning Commission](#)  
**Subject:** County File Number: PLN2021-00333—Off-Leash Dog Recreation Pilot Program  
**Date:** Monday, February 7, 2022 2:34:21 PM

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Dear Commissioners,

I offer the following comments on the Off-Leash Dog Walking PILOT Program:

--[if !supportLists]-->• <!--[endif]-->The County has proceeded in a very deliberate and prudent fashion by evaluating this expanded public use through a year-long Pilot Program. In this data-driven age, I believe it is important to let the data derived from this Pilot Program inform public policy. This Adaptive Management approach will enable the County to evaluate the degree to which park users are adhering to the new regulations and make management adjustments as needed to avoid impacts to the environment. **If, at the end of this year-long pilot, the program is deemed a failure, then the Coastal Development permit need not be renewed.**

--[if !supportLists]-->• <!--[endif]-->At the Pillar Point Bluffs, I agree with the Midcoast Community Council's initial recommendation that east-west trails be limited only to on-leash use with prominent signage at the east end of the trails. Furthermore, it will be important for the County to increase its Ranger presence in both locations both to help educate the public about the natural resources in the area, and to enforce rules for off-leash dog walking.

--[if !supportLists]-->• <!--[endif]-->Given the increasing demand for off-leash dog walking areas, if some well-considered additional areas aren't permitted for this activity, more and more people will resort to walking their dogs illegally in restricted areas—areas containing far more fragile and imperiled natural resources. The cumulative environmental impacts resulting from unregulated off-leash dog access in restricted areas is of far greater concern than those associated with this Pilot Program.

As Midcoast residents, my family and I have walked our dogs at both Quarry Park and Pillar Point Bluff for decades. We believe this Pilot Program is important both to test off-leash dog-walkers commitment to adhering to these possible new regulations and to learn from the data this Program will yield.

**Please support a Coastal Development Permit for San Mateo County Parks' 12-month off-leash Pilot Program.**

Sincerely,

Zoe Kersteen-Tucker

Moss Beach





**From:** [Jill Grant](#)  
**To:** [Planning Commission](#)  
**Subject:** Deny off-leash dogs at Pillar Point Bluffs - Please read my comments at the Wednesday meeting  
**Date:** Monday, February 7, 2022 10:00:45 PM

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**My name is Jill Grant. I am a member of the MCC but these comments are my own.**

**1) There are 14 informal trails from the bluffs to the Beach**

Many of these informal routes from the bluffs to the beach are used by surfers. Some are used by dog owners as it is an easy trek for a 4-legged beast such as a dog. There are also two major slumps where both humans and dogs could walk through the native coastal scrub vegetation down to the beach. One of these slumps has resulted in a Parks and Recreation closure of the bluff trail due to safety concerns. The trail is blocked so now runners, bicyclists, and families on a stroll must use the Jean Louer Trail - the trail proposed for off leash dogs. There are no plans to fix these slumps.



**There is little to no enforcement by Park Rangers on the bluffs or adjacent habitat.**

More roaming off-leash dogs would require more enforcement from the rangers not less. More rangers would be needed to deal with the increase in negative interactions between dogs and people and dogs and wildlife. Pillar Point Bluff does have sensitive habitat. It surrounds the bluffs on all sides and exists between the on-leash dog trail and the proposed off-leash dog trail. More enforcement would be needed to curb conflict. Unfortunately, San Mateo County has not allocated appropriate funds for Park Rangers to enforce regulations along the bluffs or on the beaches where we currently already have an off-leash dog problem. Why invite more off leash dogs to this area when we cannot control the ones that use the area illegally now?

**I believe Quarry Park is a much better fit for off-leash dogs with little sensitive habitat and no protected wildlife. It is a good compromise to give the Coastside Dog group this much larger park area than to give them a smaller but much more valuable natural resource like the Pillar Point Bluffs, with sensitive habitat (see sign) including wetland features and upland habitat, habitat for many protected species.**





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**Sincere regards,**

**Jill Grant**

**From:** [Rick Sakuda](#)  
**To:** [Planning Commission](#); [Janneth Lujan](#); [Martinez, Erik@Coastal](#)  
**Subject:** I am in SUPPORT of the Off-Leash Pilot Program at Pillar Point Bluff & Quarry Park  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 8, 2022 9:27:05 AM

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To the members of the SMC Planning Commission:

I strongly support the off-leash Dog Recreation Pilot Program at BOTH Pillar Point Bluffs and Quarry Park. The Pilot Program was carefully crafted by the SMC Parks Department in compliance with all State, County, and Local Coastal Program rules and policies. The Planning Commission should grant the Coastal Development Permit for this program.

There is no opposition to off-leash trails at Quarry Park, a hilly eucalyptus forest, so my comments are solely on the Pillar Point Bluff trails, a level area perfect for a casual, easy stroll with a dog. Of the 24 SMC parks in the system, The Dog Work Group, Parks Department and the Board of Supervisors chose both parks for the Pilot Program because they meet the needs of different users and will provide a true test of whether off-leash trails are viable. The elderly, handicapped and families with children need off-leash trails too, and the Pillar Point Bluff trails are the perfect location for these groups.

County Parks have a default rule "No dogs allowed in any Park". Before the Bluffs were purchased by POST and given to the County, off-leash walking on the trails occurred on a continuous and uninterrupted basis, so this is not a new use, as noted by Supervisor Horsley (District 3) when the BOS voted by 4-1 to approve the Pilot Program.

Sanctioning 1.8 miles of trails on the Bluff will dramatically reduce off-leash dogs in the other parts of the Bluff. The Pilot Program includes entry fencing and additional signage clearly delineating where off-leash dogs are not permitted. Dog owners will have trails for their controlled off-leash dogs, a loop, so there is no need to use other Bluff trails. The clear demarcation of the off-leash and on-leash trails will also make enforcement easier.

Responsible dog owners will help police the few bad park users who cause problems. Dog owners want to keep sanctioned off-leash trails, and know that if off-leash dogs misbehave or dog owners don't follow the pilot program rules (stay on trails, pick up waste, etc), they will lose their legal off-leash trails and any future off-leash opportunities.

The Pilot Program only includes sections of two Bluff trails. This land is zoned agricultural and not protected sensitive habitat. One of the reasons the multi-stakeholder Dog Work Group, after 5 years and 31 public meetings, recommended these particular trails (and the BOS agreed) is that there is NO access to the beach, ocean or Fitzgerald Marine Reserve near these trails. Nature has provided the perfect barrier, a cliff. The environmentalist on



the Work Group favored these off-leash trails at the Bluff (and Quarry Park) noting that they had less environmental impact than other SMC parks.

Thank you for recognizing the need for the first ever County off-leash dog trails at the two parks carefully selected as perfect places for the Pilot Program.

**be safe and well, nothing else is more important**

Rick Sakuda

San Mateo

**From:** [martha ketterer](#)  
**To:** [Planning Commission](#)  
**Subject:** I support off leash dogs at Pillar Point bluff  
**Date:** Monday, February 7, 2022 3:27:34 PM

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Hi,

I am a Moss Beach resident and support off leash dogs at Pillar Point Bluffs since I use the trails to walk my walk many times a week.

Thank You,  
Martha Ketterer  
210 Wienke Way  
Moss Beach, Ca. 94038



**From:** [Amy Kona](#)  
**To:** [Planning Commission](#); [Janneth Lujan](#); [Martinez, Erik@Coastal](#)  
**Subject:** I SUPPORT the Off-Leash Pilot Program at Pillar Point Bluff & Quarry Park  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 8, 2022 12:41:08 PM

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Hello-- I am a resident of San Mateo County living on the Coast where these pilot programs are, and we should have off-leash open spaces for dogs, just like every other county around us:  
--Fort Funston in San Francisco  
--Oyster Point waterfront in East Bay  
--multiple off-leash dog beaches and trails in Marin county  
--off-leash hiking in Palo Alto (Windy Hill)-- Santa Clara County  
--off leash beaches in Santa Cruz County and Carmel

Our county is behind on this issue, and residents and dog owners deserve a place to exercise their dogs. Many large breed puppies, young dogs, retrievers need a lot of space to run and our county needs to provide this. It would reduce neglect/abuse of animals and encourage people to care for their dogs properly.

Most of the people on our street own dogs, and dog ownership in general in San Mateo County is high. As residents in this area, many of us need this type of exercise for our dogs.

Thank you,  
Amy

I strongly support the off-leash Dog Recreation Pilot Program at BOTH Pillar Point Bluffs and Quarry Park. The Pilot Program was carefully crafted by the SMC Parks Department in compliance with all State, County, and Local Coastal Program rules and policies. The Planning Commission should grant the Coastal Development Permit for this program.

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Responsible dog owners will help police the few bad park users who cause problems. Dog owners want to keep sanctioned off-leash trails, and know that if off-leash dogs misbehave or dog owners don't follow the pilot program rules (stay on trails, pick up waste, etc), they will lose their legal off-leash trails and any future off-leash opportunities.

The Pilot Program only includes sections of two Bluff trails. This land is zoned agricultural and not protected sensitive habitat. One of the reasons the multi-stakeholder Dog Work Group, after 5 years and 31 public meetings, recommended these particular trails (and the BOS agreed) is that there is NO access to the beach, ocean or Fitzgerald Marine Reserve near these trails. Nature has provided the perfect barrier, a cliff. The environmentalist on the Work Group favored these off-leash trails at the Bluff (and Quarry Park) noting that they had less environmental impact than other SMC parks.

Thank you for recognizing the need for the first ever County off-leash dog trails at the two parks carefully selected as perfect places for the Pilot Program.

**From:** [LINDA JUDGE](#)  
**To:** [Planning Commission](#)  
**Cc:** [info@PeninsulaDogPAC.org](mailto:info@PeninsulaDogPAC.org)  
**Subject:** I SUPPORT the Off-Leash Pilot Program at Pillar Point Bluff & Quarry Park  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 8, 2022 2:25:59 PM

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Linda Judge  
lrjudge@comcast.net

**From:** [Margaret Hirst](#)  
**To:** [Planning Commission](#); [Janneth Lujan](#); [Martinez, Erik@Coastal](#)  
**Subject:** I SUPPORT the Off-Leash Pilot Program at Pillar Point Bluff & Quarry Park  
**Date:** Monday, February 7, 2022 2:37:52 PM

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Margaret Hirst  
[maggiehurst@gmail.com](mailto:maggiehurst@gmail.com)



**From:** [Sarah Biser](#)  
**To:** [Planning Commission](#); [Janneth Lujan](#); [Martinez, Erik@Coastal](#)  
**Subject:** I SUPPORT the Off-Leash Pilot Program at Pillar Point Bluff & Quarry Park  
**Date:** Monday, February 7, 2022 2:42:39 PM

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Thank you for recognizing the need for the first ever County off-leash dog trails at the two parks carefully selected as perfect places for the Pilot Program.

Sincerely,  
Sarah B.

[slbiser@gmail.com](mailto:slbiser@gmail.com)

**From:** [Mightymouse3x](#)  
**To:** [Planning Commission](#); [Janneth Lujan](#); [Martinez, Erik@Coastal](#)  
**Subject:** I SUPPORT the Off-Leash Pilot Program at Pillar Point Bluff & Quarry Park  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 8, 2022 9:30:08 AM

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Thank you for recognizing the need for the first ever County off-leash dog trails at the two parks carefully selected as perfect places for the Pilot Program.

*Peggy Mizono*

[mightymouse3x@gmail.com](mailto:mightymouse3x@gmail.com)

**From:** [Mrinmoy Hazarika](#)  
**To:** [Planning Commission](#); [Janneth Lujan](#); [Martinez, Erik@Coastal](#)  
**Subject:** I SUPPORT the Off-Leash Pilot Program at Pillar Point Bluff & Quarry Park  
**Date:** Monday, February 7, 2022 3:05:51 PM

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Sanctioning 1.8 miles of trails on the Bluff will dramatically reduce off-leash dogs in the other parts of the Bluff. The Pilot Program includes entry fencing and additional signage clearly delineating where off-leash dogs are not permitted. Dog owners will have trails for their controlled off-leash dogs, a loop, so there is no need to use other Bluff trails. The clear demarcation of the off-leash and on-leash trails will also make enforcement easier.

Responsible dog owners will help police the few bad park users who cause problems. Dog owners want to keep sanctioned off-leash trails, and know that if off-leash dogs misbehave or dog owners don't follow the pilot program rules (stay on trails, pick up waste, etc), they will lose their legal off-leash trails and any future off-leash opportunities.

The Pilot Program only includes sections of two Bluff trails. This land is zoned agricultural and not protected sensitive habitat. One of the reasons the multi-stakeholder Dog Work Group, after 5 years and 31 public meetings, recommended these particular trails (and the BOS agreed) is that there is NO access to the beach, ocean or Fitzgerald Marine Reserve

near these trails. Nature has provided the perfect barrier, a cliff. The environmentalist on the Work Group favored these off-leash trails at the Bluff (and Quarry Park) noting that they had less environmental impact than other SMC parks.

Thank you for recognizing the need for the first ever County off-leash dog trails at the two parks carefully selected as perfect places for the Pilot Program.

Mrinmoy Hazarika  
Belmont 94002 | [mrinmoy.hazarika@gmail.com](mailto:mrinmoy.hazarika@gmail.com)



**From:** [Matthias Hernandez](#)  
**To:** [Planning Commission](#); [Janneth Lujan](#); [Martinez, Erik@Coastal](#)  
**Subject:** I SUPPORT the Off-Leash Pilot Program at Pillar Point Bluff & Quarry Park  
**Date:** Monday, February 7, 2022 7:40:46 PM

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

To the members of the SMC Planning Commission:

I strongly support the off-leash Dog Recreation Pilot Program at BOTH Pillar Point Bluffs and Quarry Park. The Pilot Program was carefully crafted by the SMC Parks Department in compliance with all State, County, and Local Coastal Program rules and policies. The Planning Commission should grant the Coastal Development Permit for this program.

There is no opposition to off-leash trails at Quarry Park, a hilly eucalyptus forest, so my comments are solely on the Pillar Point Bluff trails, a level area perfect for a casual, easy stroll with a dog. Of the 24 SMC parks in the system, The Dog Work Group, Parks Department and the Board of Supervisors chose both parks for the Pilot Program because they meet the needs of different users and will provide a true test of whether off-leash trails are viable. The elderly, handicapped and families with children need off-leash trails too, and the Pillar Point Bluff trails are the perfect location for these groups.

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Responsible dog owners will help police the few bad park users who cause problems. Dog owners want to keep sanctioned off-leash trails, and know that if off-leash dogs misbehave or dog owners don't follow the pilot program rules (stay on trails, pick up waste, etc), they will lose their legal off-leash trails and any future off-leash opportunities.

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Thank you for recognizing the need for the first ever County off-leash dog trails at the two parks carefully selected as perfect places for the Pilot Program.

Matthias Hernandez  
matthias\_hernandez@icloud.com

**From:** [Nancy Eagan](#)  
**To:** [Planning Commission](#); [Janneth Lujan](#); [Martinez, Erik@Coastal](#)  
**Subject:** I SUPPORT the Off-Leash Pilot Program at Pillar Point Bluff & Quarry Park  
**Date:** Monday, February 7, 2022 7:52:22 PM

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Honorable members of SMC Planning Commission,

I strongly support the off-leash Dog Recreation Pilot Program at BOTH Pillar Point Bluffs and Quarry Park. The Pilot Program was carefully crafted by the SMC Parks Department in compliance with all State, County, and Local Coastal Program rules and policies. Now it is time for the Planning Commission to grant the Coastal Development Permit for this program.

There is no opposition to off-leash trails at Quarry Park, a hilly eucalyptus forest, so my comments are solely on the Pillar Point Bluff trails, a level area perfect for a casual, easy stroll with a dog. Of the 24 SMC parks in the system, The Dog Work Group, Parks Department and the Board of Supervisors chose both parks for the Pilot Program because they meet the needs of different users and will provide a true test of whether off-leash trails are viable. The elderly, handicapped and families with children need off-leash trails too, and the Pillar Point Bluff trails are the perfect location for these groups.

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Sanctioning 1.8 miles of trails on the Bluff will dramatically reduce off-leash dogs in the other parts of the Bluff. The Pilot Program includes entry fencing and additional signage clearly delineating where off-leash dogs are not permitted. Dog owners will be enabled to exercise their controlled off-leash dogs, on a loop, so there is no need to use other Bluff trails. Clear demarcation of off-leash and on-leash trails will facilitate compliance.

Responsible dog owners commit to you that we will advocate for on-leash compliance to those few park users who may fail to follow the pilot rules. We want to keep sanctioned off-leash trails, and know that if off-leash dogs misbehave or dog owners don't follow the pilot program rules (stay on trails, pick up waste, etc.), we will lose our legal off-leash trails and any future off-leash opportunities.

The Pilot Program only includes sections of two Bluff trails. This land is zoned agricultural and found not to be protected sensitive habitat. One of the reasons the multi-stakeholder

Dog Work Group -- after 5 years and 31 public meetings --recommended these particular trails (and the BOS agreed) is there is NO access to the beach, ocean or Fitzgerald Marine Reserve near these trails. Nature has provided the perfect barrier, a steep cliff. The environmentalist on the Work Group favored these off-leash trails at the Bluff (and Quarry Park) noting that they had less environmental impact than other SMC parks.

Thank you for recognizing the need for the first ever County off-leash dog trails at the two parks carefully selected as perfect places for the Pilot Program.

Gratefully,

Nancy Eagan  
San Mateo Constituent  
Responsible Dog Owner



**From:** [Suzanne Ogata](#)  
**To:** [Janneth Lujan](#); [Planning Commission](#); [Martinez.Erik@Coastal](mailto:Martinez.Erik@Coastal)  
**Subject:** I SUPPORT the Off-Leash Pilot Program at Pillar Point Bluff & Quarry Park  
**Date:** Monday, February 7, 2022 8:22:26 PM

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Thank you for recognizing the need for the first ever County off-leash dog trails at the two parks carefully selected as perfect places for the Pilot Program.

signed  
Suzgotit@comcast.net

**From:** [NDNU School of Education](#)  
**To:** [Planning Commission](#); [Janneth Lujan](#); [Martinez, Erik@Coastal](#)  
**Cc:** [info@peninsuladogpac.org](mailto:info@peninsuladogpac.org)  
**Subject:** I SUPPORT the Off-Leash Pilot Program at Pillar Point Bluff & Quarry Park  
**Date:** Monday, February 7, 2022 8:47:26 PM

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the Work Group favored these off-leash trails at the Bluff (and Quarry Park) noting that they had less environmental impact than other SMC parks.

Thank you for recognizing the need for the first ever County off-leash dog trails at the two pilot

Warm regards,

Aspo Normantas  
Executive Assistant to the Dean  
Credentials Analyst Assistant



Notre Dame de Namur University

**School of Education & Psychology**

St. Joseph's Hall - Room 123

1500 Ralston Ave. Belmont, CA 94002 | P: [650-508-3430](tel:650-508-3430)



**From:** [Bernadette "Bette" Houtchens](#)  
**To:** [Planning Commission](#); [Janneth Lujan](#); [Martinez.Erik@Coastal](mailto:Martinez.Erik@Coastal)  
**Subject:** I SUPPORT the Off-Leash Pilot Program at Pillar Point Bluff & Quarry Park  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 8, 2022 4:26:15 AM

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Thank you for recognizing the need for the first ever County off-leash dog trails at the two parks carefully selected as perfect places for the Pilot Program.

Bette Houtchens

[bette30k@gmail.com](mailto:bette30k@gmail.com)

**From:** [Mightymouse3x](#)  
**To:** [Planning Commission](#); [Janneth Lujan](#); [Martinez, Erik@Coastal](#)  
**Subject:** I SUPPORT the Off-Leash Pilot Program at Pillar Point Bluff & Quarry Park  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 8, 2022 9:30:10 AM

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*Peggy Mizono*

[mightymouse3x@gmail.com](mailto:mightymouse3x@gmail.com)



**From:** [Poi Dogg](#)  
**To:** [Planning Commission](#); [Janneth Lujan](#); [Martinez, Erik@Coastal](#)  
**Subject:** I SUPPORT the Off-Leash Pilot Program at Pillar Point Bluff & Quarry Park  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 8, 2022 9:46:22 AM

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Dogg Keanu

San Mateo, CA

**From:** [Poi Dogg](#)  
**To:** [Planning Commission](#); [Janneth Lujan](#); [Martinez, Erik@Coastal](#)  
**Subject:** I SUPPORT the Off-Leash Pilot Program at Pillar Point Bluff & Quarry Park  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 8, 2022 9:46:22 AM

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Dogg Keanu

San Mateo, CA



**From:** [LINDA JUDGE](#)  
**To:** [Janneth Lujan](#)  
**Cc:** [info@PeninsulaDogPAC.org](mailto:info@PeninsulaDogPAC.org)  
**Subject:** I SUPPORT the Off-Leash Pilot Program at Pillar Point Bluff & Quarry Park  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 8, 2022 2:25:54 PM

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Linda Judge  
lrjudge@comcast.net

**From:** [Amy Kona](#)  
**To:** [Planning Commission](#); [Janneth Lujan](#); [Martinez, Erik@Coastal](#)  
**Subject:** I SUPPORT the Off-Leash Pilot Program at Pillar Point Bluff & Quarry Park  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 8, 2022 12:41:09 PM

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Hello-- I am a resident of San Mateo County living on the Coast where these pilot programs are, and we should have off-leash open spaces for dogs, just like every other county around us:  
--Fort Funston in San Francisco  
--Oyster Point waterfront in East Bay  
--multiple off-leash dog beaches and trails in Marin county  
--off-leash hiking in Palo Alto (Windy Hill)-- Santa Clara County  
--off leash beaches in Santa Cruz County and Carmel

Our county is behind on this issue, and residents and dog owners deserve a place to exercise their dogs. Many large breed puppies, young dogs, retrievers need a lot of space to run and our county needs to provide this. It would reduce neglect/abuse of animals and encourage people to care for their dogs properly.

Most of the people on our street own dogs, and dog ownership in general in San Mateo County is high. As residents in this area, many of us need this type of exercise for our dogs.

Thank you,  
Amy

I strongly support the off-leash Dog Recreation Pilot Program at BOTH Pillar Point Bluffs and Quarry Park. The Pilot Program was carefully crafted by the SMC Parks Department in compliance with all State, County, and Local Coastal Program rules and policies. The Planning Commission should grant the Coastal Development Permit for this program.

There is no opposition to off-leash trails at Quarry Park, a hilly eucalyptus forest, so my comments are solely on the Pillar Point Bluff trails, a level area perfect for a casual, easy stroll with a dog. Of the 24 SMC parks in the system, The Dog Work Group, Parks Department and the Board of Supervisors chose both parks for the Pilot Program because they meet the needs of different users and will provide a true test of whether off-leash trails are viable. The elderly, handicapped and families with children need off-leash trails too, and the Pillar Point Bluff trails are the perfect location for these groups.

County Parks have a default rule "No dogs allowed in any Park". Before the Bluffs were purchased by POST and given to the County, off-leash walking on the trails occurred on a continuous and uninterrupted basis, so this is not a new use, as noted by Supervisor Horsley (District 3) when the BOS voted by 4-1 to approve the Pilot Program.

Sanctioning 1.8 miles of trails on the Bluff will dramatically reduce off-leash dogs in the other parts of the Bluff. The Pilot Program includes entry fencing and additional signage clearly delineating where off-leash dogs are not permitted. Dog owners will have trails for their controlled off-leash dogs, a loop, so there is no need to use other Bluff trails. The clear demarcation of the off-leash and on-leash trails will also make enforcement easier.

Responsible dog owners will help police the few bad park users who cause problems. Dog owners want to keep sanctioned off-leash trails, and know that if off-leash dogs misbehave or dog owners don't follow the pilot program rules (stay on trails, pick up waste, etc), they will lose their legal off-leash trails and any future off-leash opportunities.

The Pilot Program only includes sections of two Bluff trails. This land is zoned agricultural and not protected sensitive habitat. One of the reasons the multi-stakeholder Dog Work Group, after 5 years and 31 public meetings, recommended these particular trails (and the BOS agreed) is that there is NO access to the beach, ocean or Fitzgerald Marine Reserve near these trails. Nature has provided the perfect barrier, a cliff. The environmentalist on the Work Group favored these off-leash trails at the Bluff (and Quarry Park) noting that they had less environmental impact than other SMC parks.

Thank you for recognizing the need for the first ever County off-leash dog trails at the two parks carefully selected as perfect places for the Pilot Program.



**From:** [Bernadette "Bette" Houtchens](#)  
**To:** [Planning Commission](#); [Janneth Lujan](#); [Martinez, Erik@Coastal](#)  
**Subject:** I SUPPORT the Off-Leash Pilot Program at Pillar Point Bluff & Quarry Park  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 8, 2022 4:26:13 AM

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To the members of the SMC Planning Commission:

I strongly support the off-leash Dog Recreation Pilot Program at BOTH Pillar Point Bluffs and Quarry Park. The Pilot Program was carefully crafted by the SMC Parks Department in compliance with all State, County, and Local Coastal Program rules and policies. The Planning Commission should grant the Coastal Development Permit for this program. There is no opposition to off-leash trails at Quarry Park, a hilly eucalyptus forest, so my comments are solely on the Pillar Point Bluff trails, a level area perfect for a casual, easy stroll with a dog. Of the 24 SMC parks in the system, The Dog Work Group, Parks Department and the Board of Supervisors chose both parks for the Pilot Program because they meet the needs of different users and will provide a true test of whether off-leash trails are viable. The elderly, handicapped and families with children need off-leash trails too, and the Pillar Point Bluff trails are the perfect location for these groups.

County Parks have a default rule "No dogs allowed in any Park". Before the Bluffs were purchased by POST and given to the County, off-leash walking on the trails occurred on a continuous and uninterrupted basis, so this is not a new use, as noted by Supervisor Horsley (District 3) when the BOS voted by 4-1 to approve the Pilot Program.

Sanctioning 1.8 miles of trails on the Bluff will dramatically reduce off-leash dogs in the other parts of the Bluff. The Pilot Program includes entry fencing and additional signage clearly delineating where off-leash dogs are not permitted. Dog owners will have trails for their controlled off-leash dogs, a loop, so there is no need to use other Bluff trails. The clear demarcation of the off-leash and on-leash trails will also make enforcement easier.

Responsible dog owners will help police the few bad park users who cause problems. Dog owners want to keep sanctioned off-leash trails, and know that if off-leash dogs misbehave or dog owners don't follow the pilot program rules (stay on trails, pick up waste, etc), they will lose their legal off-leash trails and any future off-leash opportunities.

The Pilot Program only includes sections of two Bluff trails. This land is zoned agricultural and not protected sensitive habitat. One of the reasons the multi-stakeholder Dog Work Group, after 5 years and 31 public meetings, recommended these particular trails (and the BOS agreed) is that there is NO access to the beach, ocean or Fitzgerald Marine Reserve near these trails. Nature has provided the perfect barrier, a cliff. The environmentalist on the Work Group favored these off-leash trails at the Bluff (and Quarry Park) noting that they had less environmental impact than other SMC parks.

Thank you for recognizing the need for the first ever County off-leash dog trails at the two parks carefully selected as perfect places for the Pilot Program.

Bette Houtchens

[bette30k@gmail.com](mailto:bette30k@gmail.com)

**From:** [Sam Bower](#)  
**To:** [Planning Commission](#)  
**Subject:** I support the Off Leash Pilot Program!  
**Date:** Monday, February 7, 2022 11:02:41 PM

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I am writing in support of granting a Coastal Development Permit (PLN2021-00333) for San Mateo County Parks' 12-month off-leash pilot program. Pillar Point and Quarry Park are wonderful places for dog owners to get outside. I understand that it is important to protect wildlife but there should also be a balance that considers human users and dog owners.

There are many other parks with stricter rules that do not allow dogs such as Fitzgerald Marine Reserve, but Pillar Point is not a part of Fitzgerald Marine Reserve. It's directly adjacent to a manmade harbor that has accelerated erosion on the coastside. Quarry Park is even less natural, it's a quarry that was later planted with hundreds of non-native Australian eucalyptus trees that were intended for timber.

Like it or not, leashing dogs will suddenly make land pristine again. I hope that myself and other dog owners will be able to continue using these wonderful spaces to recreate with our dogs.

Date: February 7, 2022

To: San Mateo County Planning Commissioners

From: Janet E. Dudley, Esq.  
Founding Member of the Peninsula Dog PAC

RE: Planning Commission Meeting February 9, 2022  
Please Grant a Coastal Development Permit for the Off-Leash Pilot Program (PLN2021-00333)

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## **WHY THE PLANNING COMMISSION SHOULD GRANT A CDP FOR THE OFF-LEASH PILOT PROGRAM (PLN2021-00333)**

### **Displacement:**

- In 2019 San Mateo County had approximately 280,450 households (owned or rented).
- In 1998 there were 70,000 licensed dogs in San Mateo County (*The California Dog Lover's Companion* 3rd Ed. (1998)). NOTE, that was in 1998 and almost a quarter of a century later, it is safe to say that the number of licensed dogs has probably doubled and after Covid, probably tripled. The ASPCA estimates that for every licensed dog there are 2-3 unlicensed dogs, which would mean that back in 1998 San Mateo County would have had over 140,000 dogs (around 50% of households).
- According to the ASPCA, approximately 44% of all households in the United States have a dog. (citing source: American Pet Products Association 2015-2016 (APPA)).
- San Mateo County currently permits dogs to access only 8% of trails in its County Park system and that is after adding two (2) parks pursuant to the Dog Work Group recommendations for on-leash pilots recently.
- The East Bay Regional Park District permits dogs on 91% of its trail system. (ebayparks.org)
- Santa Clara County allows dogs on 71% of its park trails.  
<https://www.sccgov.org/sites/parks/activities/dogparks/pages/dogparks.aspx>
- Sonoma County permits dogs access to 90% of its parks.  
[\(http://parks.sonomacounty.ca.gov/visit/find-a-park/\)](http://parks.sonomacounty.ca.gov/visit/find-a-park/)

It is the dog-owning community who have been displaced from County Parks by the lack of dog access in San Mateo County. Equestrians, making up only a tiny percentage of the population in San Mateo County, have access to over 55% of the trails in the County Parks.

### **Environment:**

California has 2,427 miles of coastline (www.worldatlas.com) and if the leadership of Green Foothills had its way, every one of those would be protected and preserved for nobody to walk on or use ever. Sometimes trade-offs must be made. The Local Coastal Program strives to increase access by the public to lands on the coast, while preserving and protecting those lands. We are asking for fair use of multi-purpose trails on a mile of trail at the Bluffs and a couple of miles in Quarry Park. The proposed Pilot Programs at Pillar Point Bluffs and Quarry Park were reviewed and an environmental study conducted showing that (1) both parks permitted dogs long before the parks were absorbed into the County Park system, (2) the proposed dog activities will not impact the environment any more than current human use of the parks, and (3) the project warranted an IS/MND document rather than a full environmental impact assessment. In addition



to showing up in the photo credits on the front page of at least 4 separate web articles coming out against the proposed Pilot at the Bluffs, Commissioner Lisa Ketcham submitted 9 anti Off-Leash Pilot Program comments to the draft IS/MND (showing a clear common law bias against this Project in violation of ethics and policy standards for Planning Commissioners). Each complaint was evaluated and addressed. “Coastal Prairie habitat and wetlands in the southern Pillar Point Bluff parcel will not result in a new or more substantial impact.” All environmentally sensitive habitat areas will be protected by using a myriad of tools and designs. “The Project would occur within an existing trail network where dog walking is already occurring. The Project would include installation of signage and fencing around ESHAs to protect existing habitats. Impacts to existing habitats would be less than significant.”

## **EXTENSIVE PROJECT HISTORY**

“In 2018, the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors took the first step in amending County ordinance sections governing dog recreation to align with current dog management practices in designated San Mateo County Parks. The amendments reflect recommendations by Parks staff and the work of the Dog Management Committee along with changes made by the supervisors during the Oct. 23, 2018 Board meeting. The [*Parks Dept.*] appointed the Dog Management Committee as part of its efforts to update and clarify dog management policies and meet the Department’s mission to protect natural resources while providing recreational opportunities for all to enjoy... The County opted to explore dog management options to make currently disparate approaches consistent. Current County ordinance sections prohibit dogs in county parks. Yet, the Parks Department acquired properties from other agencies that allowed dogs on leash [*and in custom and practice, off-leash*] at Pillar Point Bluff and Quarry Park.” [*SMC Parks Homepage Oct 18 2018*] <https://parks.smcgov.org/press-release/dog-ordinance-changes-approved>

The Dog Work Group evaluated each and every one of the then- 22 County parks and after interminable discussion and evaluation of each, nominated Pillar Point Bluffs and Quarry Parks for a test period (the Pilot Programs) to see if off-leash dog access would work on a legal, permanent basis. The Dog Work Group and the Parks Dept. carefully drafted rules and restrictions to protect wildlife, other non-dog users of the areas, the environment, and tried to address every possible concern that permitting off-leash dogs to access the two parks might cause.

Parks Director Nicholas Calderon and his staff took the Group’s recommendations and further narrowed and honed the plan. The Parks Commission approved the Pilot Programs on February 6, 2020. The CEQA process required the Parks Dept. to conduct an environmental review and generate a negative declaration ***IF no adverse impact is projected***, or an environmental impact report. The thorough environmental study took almost a year and concluded that the impact of off-leash dogs in the two parks is no greater than the impact of human use. In November 2021, the Board of Supervisors, in a 4 to 1 vote, certified the IS/MND and approved the pilot program, authorizing off-leash dog recreation on specified trails at Quarry Park and Pillar Point Bluff.

## **PLANNING COMMISSION**

As you can see from the history of this project described in this and other documents, many smart, caring, invested people from multi-disciplinary backgrounds have considered the Pilot Program Project before you and, as it is currently carefully crafted, decided it is appropriate to proceed. It is NOT for the Planning Commission to vote personal likes and preferences, or dislikes, as the case may be. One or more of you may live next to the Bluffs and believe your land values may decrease if use of the Bluff trails increases as a result of the Pilot Program. However, as Commissioners, you are tasked with proceeding in the public interest, for the good of the majority of the people residing in San Mateo County. After over 5 years of “process”, the Planning Commissioners are to simply decide if all of those people working on this project have crafted a program that complies with the Local Coastal Program (general plan). It does. Please approve the Coastal Development Permit so that the “test” may commence to see if recreational off-leash dog access is appropriate for San Mateo County parkland.

**From:** [Adam Lokar](#)  
**To:** [Planning Commission](#); [Janneth Lujan](#); [Martinez, Erik@Coastal](#)  
**Subject:** Off-leash dog pilot  
**Date:** Monday, February 7, 2022 2:16:39 PM

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Hello,

I am writing to express my support for the off-leash dog pilot program at Pillar Point and Quarry Park.

I love trail running with my dog but struggle to find places to go with him where I can let him off leash. I frequently drive up to Marin or Alameda just to find open space where I can run with him as there is such a lack of good off-leash parks in San Mateo County.

I understand the need to balance the impacts dogs have on ecosystems and other park visitors and appreciate the discussion and work being done to consider this balance. As a dog owner I take the responsibility to mitigate these impacts seriously and encourage others to do the same.

In this instance I believe the benefits the pilot program would provide to park attendees and their pets largely outweigh the negatives.

Thank you for the consideration,  
Adam

--

Adam Lokar  
Redwood City, CA  
Phone: 612-716-2613

**From:** [John Ward](#)  
**To:** [Planning Commission](#)  
**Subject:** Pillar Point  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 8, 2022 2:33:26 PM

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Dear Commissioners,

Please accept this e-mail in connection with your public hearing on February 9 regarding a CDP request for allowing off-leash dogs at Pillar Point Bluff. Let me join many others in urging you to deny the request in the interest of protecting wildlife, sensitive habitats and the environmental justice policies established by the County and California Coastal Commission. Thank you.

John M. Ward  
former County Supervisor (1975-1986)

February 7, 2022

Chair Manuel Ramirez and Members of the  
San Mateo County Planning Commission  
455 Government Center  
Redwood City, CA 94063  
PlanningCommission@smcgov.org

Re: Item #3, February 9, 2022 Deny Coastal Development Permit (CDP) for San Mateo County Parks Department Off-Leash Dog Pilot Program (Program) at Pillar Point Bluff.

Dear Chair Ramirez and Planning Commissioners:

I have served on the Board of the Friends of Fitzgerald Marine Reserve for 12 years and am a second-generation Volunteer Naturalist with the Friends. I oppose issuing a CDP for the Program because the Program is inconsistent with the Fitzgerald Marine Reserve Master Plan and the Adaptive Management Plan is vague and ambiguous and based on inadequate findings.

**Pillar Point Bluff trails are part of the Fitzgerald Marine Reserve (FMR) where dogs are prohibited**

Per Policy 11 of the Final FMR Master Plan (May 2002) states that dogs, on or off leash, are specifically prohibited within the boundaries of the Fitzgerald Marine Reserve. "Due to the potential for impacts to biological resources from predation or disease, dogs and other non-native species are not allowed within the Reserve." Dogs are only allowed on the California Coastal Trail and only on-leash.

Advocates for this Program state that the Pillar Point Bluffs are not part of Fitzgerald Marine Reserve. That is incorrect.

The MCC website contains a press release from August 15, 2011 regarding POST's purchase of the "**Habitat-rich Bluff Top Added to Fitzgerald Marine Reserve**". The posting goes on to state "The county purchased the land for inclusion in the James V. Fitzgerald Marine Reserve with a \$3 million grant from the Wildlife Conservation Board."

In the Planning Commission Staff Recommendation report of January, 2015 for the Pillar Point Bluff (Thompson) Acquisition, the Project Summary states: "... County Parks Department holds the previously purchased properties **as part of the Fitzgerald Marine Reserve** (emphasis added)." These parcels comprise the PPB.



From SMC Parks web site: "San Mateo County Parks Department acquired Pillar Point Bluff with a grant from the Wildlife Conservation Board as an addition to Fitzgerald Marine Reserve in 2011."

The Pillar Point Bluff trails are a natural extension of the Reserve and are recognized as such by POST and County Parks. The issuance of a CDP for the Program is expressly contradictory to the terms and conditions for which the property was originally purchased and is contradictory to the FMR Master Plan.

### **Adaptive Management Plan measures are inadequate .**

Planning Commission Staff recommend issuance of the CDP based on mitigation measures articulated in the IS/MND for the Program. However, issuance of a CDP for the Pillar Point Bluff trails portion of the Program would enable a substantial increase in the severity of negative environmental effects and the preventive mitigation measures identified in the IS/MND document for this Program are inadequate.

Please refer to the attached SMC Parks Ranger Log Book compilations for the Fitzgerald Marine Reserve, including the Pillar Point Bluff trails. This data was collected by reviewing each page of the Log Books from January 2018-November 2021, and photographing each page where an improper dog encounter was noted. The number of occurrences was tallied and summarized on the attached spreadsheets. The data shows, among other things, the number of dog contacts (not the number of dogs) in areas that are part of SMC Park Rangers daily routine and are off-limits to on and off-leash dogs within the Reserve. The numbers are shocking. And, the total number of encounters are undercounted. The Ranger Log Books do not include contacts made by Friends of Fitzgerald Marine Reserve Volunteer Naturalist who regularly encounter dogs in prohibited areas.

The mitigation measures proposed in the AMP include installing split-rail fencing, posting signage, performing regular maintenance and conducting daily patrols by Rangers and volunteers. All of these measures have been in effect at the Main Ramp, Bluff Trail and Seal Cove areas of Fitzgerald Marine Reserve for decades. The Ranger Log Book entries demonstrate that these mitigation measures are ineffective at curbing significant rule breaking by dog owners.

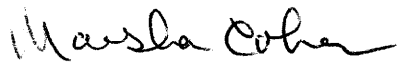
### **California Department of Fish And Wildlife Concerns**

DF&W have submitted their concerns, which I share, about potential significant impacts of the Program that have not been addressed. The IS/MND Comment Letter submitted by Stacy Sherman, Acting Regional Manager, Bay Delta Region on August 21, 2021, details many sub-standard measures that are the foundation of the Program, such as

inadequacies in using the proposed split rail fencing (see above comments) as a habitat protective measure.

In conclusion, no matter what the Program promises in the way of implementation of mitigation measures, this area is too fragile to handle any amount of non-compliance. I request that this Planning Commission deny the CDP for the proposed off-leash dog program at the Pillar Point Bluffs.

Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Marsha Cohen".

Marsha Cohen  
Volunteer Naturalist  
Friends of Fitzgerald Marine Reserve  
cohevann@gmail.com

I urge the planning commission to grant the Coastal Development Permit for the two off-leash pilot programs that were approved by a supermajority (4-1) vote of the Board of Supervisors. The Supervisors realized that the default “no dogs in any County Park” is unfair to the taxpayers who have dogs, which amount to about 40% of households in the County. Parks in Marin and the East Bay allow families with dogs to access more than 90% of the parks trails, while San Mateo Parks grants access to less than 10% of trails.

This is a test or pilot program supervised by the Parks department with strict rules, developed after a 5+ year public process of a task force composed of equestrians, environmentalists, cyclists, hikers and dog owners. The last minute objections are largely from groups that did not participate in the public process that was designed to provide fair access to a limited set of trails in the two parks. Quarry Park is a hilly hike in a eucalyptus forest, while the two designated trails on the Bluffs are more suitable for seniors or families with a dog. Dog walking occurred in a continuous and interrupted manner for decades before the area was taken over by the SMC Parks and the arcane “no-dogs” rules came into play. The CEQA report shows that off-leash recreation can once again take place at both sites with minimal impacts on the environment.

As a representative of the non-profit Peninsula DOG group, we often conduct pet-food drives to distribute to those less fortunate or financially secure, such as seniors and the homeless. This year, we have distributed pet food to Coastside Seniors, Coastside Hope, the Street Dog Coalition and a safe parking space in Redwood City. I say this to emphasize that dog owners are a very diverse group that range across every socio-economic group who deserve fair access to the County parks.

Please support granting the Coastal Development Permit for the San Mateo County Park’s off-leash pilot programs.

Peter Griffin

President and co-Founder, Peninsula DOG, a 501(c)3 Corporation.

[www.peninsuladogpac.org](http://www.peninsuladogpac.org)

February 4, 2022  
Off Leash Dog Walking Pilot Program  
Sue Hawley and Rusty Rosenberg

Dear Honorable Commissioners:

We are writing you today to encourage your support for the SMC Parks off leash dog pilot program. My husband and I fully support this pilot, we do not have an off leash dog.

I am not going to repeat all of the standard lines that you are receiving in support of this pilot program. What I would like to make sure is very clear are the facts that led to the final draft and that surround the controversy for the area at Pillar Point Bluff (PPB). We do hope that each of you has read the entirety of the document presented to you as we do not think the all of the MCC members did, based on their comments during the meeting and in their letter to you.

We attended almost all of the meetings where this program was created by a diverse group of interested parties as well as county parks officials. This committee worked tirelessly for over 4 years and the members listened to each other and worked with each other. It is was a beautiful example of how people of differing philosophies can find common ground. What is true is that this process was widely advertised, some of the currently more outspoken proponents were not only kept up to date with the progress of the committee, they also declined to participate as they did not think that this would come to fruition. Many of the current arguments against reveal that some of the most vocal have not even read the process it took or read the very thoroughly thought out and restrictive guidelines proposed in the pilot.

We have heard:

- “Why didn’t they choose one of the other County Parks?” or they are even naming other areas that are not under jurisdiction of county parks. **Fact:** 22 SMC parks were on the list and one by one they were eliminated leaving PPB and Quarry Park.
- “I tried to speak at the meetings and I was shouted down by aggressive dog people”. **Fact:** Just did not happen, but sounds dramatic. However, a proponent, suspected to be an unnamed former Harbor Commissioner, has attempted to publicly shame me. She posted a copywritten photo of me on Instagram, where I am tending to an anesthetized harbor seal pup, and officially elected me as “Hippocrate of the Year”.
- “This is an environmentally important and sensitive habitat why didn’t they do studies?” and “What about the seasonal wetlands?” **Fact:** studies were done, both seasonal wetlands have been considered and the plan includes mitigation for any potential intrusions. This is, historically, cattle grazing area and subsequently an off leash dog area until it came under the purvey of SMC parks. Wildlife has thrived. If wildlife is the biggest concern, then hikers, bikes, kites and ranger vehicles should be eliminated from the trail too. It’s always “go somewhere else”.
- “Dogs do not belong on the beach at Ross cove they will run away and attack the seals, it’s happened before.” **Fact:** The proposed off leash trail is not next to the 100 foot drop off bluff nor near the one of only two very southern access points. Yes, April 2018, a harbor seal was attacked and killed at Frenchman’s Reef in Ross Cove by an off leash dog. The perpetrator stated to authorities, as his dog was taken into custody, that she got off her leash and ran down and killed the seal. He later recanted this statement, while under oath, in court, a matter of public record. As a direct witness and having seen the full video of the attack, I (Sue) can state

that the perps took two dogs to the no dog beach, walked past the seals that were hauled out on the reef. It was on their walk returning to the only access trail at the southern end of the beach that the attack happened. They were beach combing, the dogs ran ahead, Luna saw the movement of the seals on the reef, swam/ran out and caught a seal that was unable to escape. It was awful and no responsible dog owner condones attacks on wildlife of any kind. Responsible dog owners should not be penalized for bad actors. Roads are not closed to cars because speeding or drunk driving, trails are not closed to hikers because of littering, bicycles are not restricted from trails due to complaints of speeders or the ones that do not let you know they are coming from behind.

- “Why didn’t they just create a dog park?” **Fact:** The purpose was to create a program for off leash dog walking. A dog park to off leash walkers is like telling a mountain biker to go to a pump track or a hiker to go to a stadium and walk in circles. It’s time for recreational equity for this group of tax paying county residents. The existing few choices for legal off leash dog walking in San Mateo County are mostly difficult to access or out of the way. Esplanade beach has a very steep trail that is frequently washed out. The beach is inaccessible at low tide. Even the proposed Quarry Park has limited access because of how steep it is. PPB offers accessibility for those that cannot negotiate steep trails.
- “Off leash dogs scare me” or “I was bitten by a dog before” or “my kids are afraid of dogs”. **Fact:** While we are sympathetic, these recreationalists have a multitude of choices for trails that do not allow dogs, at all. This program will provide inclusion for a marginalized population of recreational dog walking and yes, this might mean that others who have many, many choices may have to choose somewhere else if they do not want to be around dogs that under the program guidelines would be leashed up on their approach.

Please provide recreation equity and give off leash dog walkers an accessible place to enjoy walking with their dogs, getting to see them run, play and socialize with other dogs, and have an opportunity to socialize with other of like mind. They are just asking for a little bit of space, during a pilot program, with extremely restrictive guidelines to prove that they can be good stewards of the land and responsible citizens.

Thank you for your consideration:

Sue Hawley

Rusty Rosenberg

Montara Residents



**From:** [Mario Caceres](#)  
**To:** [Planning Commission](#)  
**Cc:** [Janneth Lujan](#)  
**Subject:** Please Approve the CDP for County Parks&# 39; Off-Leash Pilot Program (PLN2021-00333)  
**Date:** Monday, February 7, 2022 11:25:01 PM

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Dear Commissioners, I am writing to express my full support for San Mateo County Parks' 12-month off-leash dog pilot program at both Pillar Point Bluff and Quarry Park, and to urge you to grant a Coastal Development Permit (PLN2021-00333). Families, seniors, and others have walked their dogs off-leash at both sites for 50+ years. This long-practiced recreational activity is a valuable part of San Mateo County's coastal culture. San Mateo County Parks' off-leash pilot program and dog walking rules were developed via a four-year, multi-stakeholder public process. Quarry Park and Pillar Point Bluff trails were selected for the pilot based on their long history of off-leash recreation, overwhelming public support for legal off-leash trails at these sites, and natural resource considerations. Quarry Park is mostly eucalyptus forest and Pillar Point Bluff is former agricultural/grazing land sandwiched between industrial Airport Street and a 150-foot cliff. A CEQA environmental review was completed for the pilot program, including the development of an Adaptive Management Plan. As a result, no significant environmental impacts are expected from the off-leash pilot program. Moreover, San Mateo County Parks believes that providing some sanctioned off-leash access will not displace other recreational users. On February 9, I am asking that you please vote in support of a Coastal Development Permit for County Parks' 12-month off-leash pilot program, which has been approved by the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors and the San Mateo County Parks Commission. Thank you for your consideration.

**From:** [martha ketterer](#)  
**To:** [Planning Commission](#)  
**Cc:** [Janneth Lujan](#)  
**Subject:** Please Approve the CDP for County Parks' Off-Leash Pilot Program (PLN2021-00333)  
**Date:** Monday, February 7, 2022 3:29:09 PM

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Dear Commissioners,

I am writing to express my full support for San Mateo County Parks' 12-month off-leash dog pilot program at both Pillar Point Bluff and Quarry Park, and to urge you to grant a Coastal Development Permit (PLN2021-00333). Families, seniors, and others have walked their dogs off-leash at both sites for 50+ years. This long-practiced recreational activity is a valuable part of San Mateo County's coastal culture.

San Mateo County Parks' off-leash pilot program and dog walking rules were developed via a four-year, multi-stakeholder public process. Quarry Park and Pillar Point Bluff trails were selected for the pilot based on their long history of off-leash recreation, overwhelming public support for legal off-leash trails at these sites, and natural resource considerations. Quarry Park is mostly eucalyptus forest and Pillar Point Bluff is former agricultural/grazing land sandwiched between industrial Airport Street and a 150-foot cliff.

A CEQA environmental review was completed for the pilot program, including the development of an Adaptive Management Plan. As a result, no significant environmental impacts are expected from the off-leash pilot program. Moreover, San Mateo County Parks believes that providing some sanctioned off-leash access will not displace other recreational users.

On February 9, I am asking that you please vote in support of a Coastal Development Permit for County Parks' 12-month off-leash pilot program, which has been approved by the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors and the San Mateo County Parks Commission.

Thank you for your consideration.

Martha Ketterer  
210 Wienke Way  
Moss Beach, Ca. 94038

**From:** [Mike Schelp](#)  
**To:** [Planning Commission](#)  
**Cc:** [Janneth Lujan](#)  
**Subject:** Please Approve the CDP for County Parks' Off-Leash Pilot Program (PLN2021-00333)  
**Date:** Monday, February 7, 2022 3:46:46 PM

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Dear Commissioners,

I am writing to express my full support for San Mateo County Parks' 12-month off-leash dog pilot program at both Pillar Point Bluff and Quarry Park, and to urge you to grant a Coastal Development Permit (PLN2021-00333). Families, seniors, and others have walked their dogs off-leash at both sites for 50+ years. This long-practiced recreational activity is a valuable part of San Mateo County's coastal culture.

San Mateo County Parks' off-leash pilot program and dog walking rules were developed via a four-year, multi-stakeholder public process. Quarry Park and Pillar Point Bluff trails were selected for the pilot based on their long history of off-leash recreation, overwhelming public support for legal off-leash trails at these sites, and natural resource considerations. Quarry Park is mostly eucalyptus forest and Pillar Point Bluff is former agricultural/grazing land sandwiched between industrial Airport Street and a 150-foot cliff.

A CEQA environmental review was completed for the pilot program, including the development of an Adaptive Management Plan. As a result, no significant environmental impacts are expected from the off-leash pilot program. Moreover, San Mateo County Parks believes that providing some sanctioned off-leash access will not displace other recreational users.

On February 9, I am asking that you please vote in support of a Coastal Development Permit for County Parks' 12-month off-leash pilot program, which has been approved by the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors and the San Mateo County Parks Commission.

Thank you for your consideration.

25 year coastside resident.

Michael Schelp  
210 Wienke Way  
Moss Beach, CA 94038

**From:** [Alan Fothergill](#)  
**To:** [Planning Commission](#)  
**Cc:** [Janneth Lujan](#)  
**Subject:** Please Approve the CDP for County Parks' Off-Leash Pilot Program (PLN2021-00333)  
**Date:** Monday, February 7, 2022 3:50:05 PM

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Dear Commissioners,

I am writing to express my full support for San Mateo County Parks' 12-month off-leash dog pilot program at both Pillar Point Bluff and Quarry Park, and to urge you to grant a Coastal Development Permit (PLN2021-00333). Families, seniors, and others have walked their dogs off-leash at both sites for 50+ years. This long-practiced recreational activity is a valuable part of San Mateo County's coastal culture.

San Mateo County Parks' off-leash pilot program and dog walking rules were developed via a four-year, multi-stakeholder public process. Quarry Park and Pillar Point Bluff trails were selected for the pilot based on their long history of off-leash recreation, overwhelming public support for legal off-leash trails at these sites, and natural resource considerations. Quarry Park is mostly eucalyptus forest and Pillar Point Bluff is former agricultural/grazing land sandwiched between industrial Airport Street and a 150-foot cliff.

A CEQA environmental review was completed for the pilot program, including the development of an Adaptive Management Plan. As a result, no significant environmental impacts are expected from the off-leash pilot program. Moreover, San Mateo County Parks believes that providing some sanctioned off-leash access will not displace other recreational users.

On February 9, I am asking that you please vote in support of a Coastal Development Permit for County Parks' 12-month off-leash pilot program, which has been approved by the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors and the San Mateo County Parks Commission.

Thank you for your consideration.

Thanks,  
Alan

**From:** [Keiros](#)  
**To:** [Planning Commission](#)  
**Cc:** [Janneth Lujan](#)  
**Subject:** Please Approve the CDP for County Parks' Off-Leash Pilot Program (PLN2021-00333)  
**Date:** Monday, February 7, 2022 4:55:26 PM

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Dear Commissioners,

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On February 9, I am asking that you please vote in support of a Coastal Development Permit for County Parks' 12-month off-leash pilot program, which has been approved by the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors and the San Mateo County Parks Commission.

Thank you for your consideration.

Regards

Andrew Keighery



**From:** [Richard Tabor](#)  
**To:** [Planning Commission](#)  
**Cc:** [Janneth Lujan](#)  
**Subject:** Please Approve the CDP for County Parks" Off-Leash Pilot Program (PLN2021-00333)  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 8, 2022 8:19:58 AM

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Dear Commissioners,

I am writing to express my support for San Mateo County Parks' 12-month off-leash dog pilot program at both Pillar Point Bluff and Quarry Park, and to urge you to grant a Coastal Development Permit (PLN2021-00333). While I do not have dogs right now, I have walked my dogs on the bluffs for 40+ years both on and off leash and will have to say that for dog owners, off leash is great for both the dogs and the humans!!!

I have not been following the development of this plan over the last four years but am happy to see that the trail maps include unleash near the main access points for the bluff trails. I would have liked to have seen the trail between markers 2 and 5 to have been on leash. But this is a minor point.

I do not know if there was any thought to making some days leash only, but that might be something to evaluate the next time around.

Richard Tabor

**From:** [jonathan wong](#)  
**To:** [Planning Commission](#)  
**Subject:** Please Approve the CDP for County Parks' Off-Leash Pilot Program (PLN2021-00333)  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 8, 2022 10:57:27 AM

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Dear Commissioners:

I am writing to express my full support for San Mateo County Parks' 12-month off-leash dog pilot program at both Pillar Point Bluff and Quarry Park, and to urge you to grant a Coastal Development Permit (PLN2021-00333). Families, seniors, and others have walked their dogs off-leash at both sites for 50+ years. This long-practiced recreational activity is a valuable part of San Mateo County's coastal culture. San Mateo County Parks' off-leash pilot program and dog walking rules were developed via a four-year, multi-stakeholder public process. Quarry Park and Pillar Point Bluff trails were selected for the pilot based on their long history of off-leash recreation, overwhelming public support for legal off-leash trails at these sites, and natural resource considerations. Quarry Park is mostly eucalyptus forest and Pillar Point Bluff is former agricultural/grazing land sandwiched between industrial Airport Street and a 150-foot cliff. A CEQA environmental review was completed for the pilot program, including the development of an Adaptive Management Plan. As a result, no significant environmental impacts are expected from the off-leash pilot program. Moreover, San Mateo County Parks believes that providing some sanctioned off-leash access will not displace other recreational users. On February 9, I am asking that you please vote in support of a Coastal Development Permit for County Parks' 12-month off-leash pilot program, which has been approved by the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors and the San Mateo County Parks Commission. Thank you for your consideration.

Jonathan Wong

**From:** [Mario Caceres](#)  
**To:** [Planning Commission](#)  
**Cc:** [Janneth Lujan](#)  
**Subject:** Please Approve the CDP for County Parks&# 39; Off-Leash Pilot Program (PLN2021-00333)  
**Date:** Monday, February 7, 2022 11:25:00 PM

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Dear Commissioners, I am writing to express my full support for San Mateo County Parks' 12-month off-leash dog pilot program at both Pillar Point Bluff and Quarry Park, and to urge you to grant a Coastal Development Permit (PLN2021-00333). Families, seniors, and others have walked their dogs off-leash at both sites for 50+ years. This long-practiced recreational activity is a valuable part of San Mateo County's coastal culture. San Mateo County Parks' off-leash pilot program and dog walking rules were developed via a four-year, multi-stakeholder public process. Quarry Park and Pillar Point Bluff trails were selected for the pilot based on their long history of off-leash recreation, overwhelming public support for legal off-leash trails at these sites, and natural resource considerations. Quarry Park is mostly eucalyptus forest and Pillar Point Bluff is former agricultural/grazing land sandwiched between industrial Airport Street and a 150-foot cliff. A CEQA environmental review was completed for the pilot program, including the development of an Adaptive Management Plan. As a result, no significant environmental impacts are expected from the off-leash pilot program. Moreover, San Mateo County Parks believes that providing some sanctioned off-leash access will not displace other recreational users. On February 9, I am asking that you please vote in support of a Coastal Development Permit for County Parks' 12-month off-leash pilot program, which has been approved by the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors and the San Mateo County Parks Commission. Thank you for your consideration.

**From:** [Rebecca Michael](#)  
**To:** [Planning Commission](#)  
**Cc:** [Janneth Lujan](#)  
**Subject:** Please Approve the CDP for County Parks' Off-Leash Pilot Program (PLN2021-00333)  
**Date:** Monday, February 7, 2022 3:29:00 PM

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Dear Commissioners,

I am writing to express my full support for San Mateo County Parks' 12-month off-leash dog pilot program at both Pillar Point Bluff and Quarry Park, and to urge you to grant a Coastal Development Permit (PLN2021-00333). Families, seniors, and others have walked their dogs off-leash at both sites for 50+ years. This long-practiced recreational activity is a valuable part of San Mateo County's coastal culture.

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On February 9, I am asking that you please vote in support of a Coastal Development Permit for County Parks' 12-month off-leash pilot program, which has been approved by the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors and the San Mateo County Parks Commission.

Thank you for your consideration.

Rebecca Michael

**From:** [Don Hows](#)  
**To:** [Planning Commission](#)  
**Cc:** [Janneth Lujan](#)  
**Subject:** Please Grant a CDP for the Off-Leash Pilot Program (PLN2021-00333)  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 8, 2022 9:31:34 AM

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As a 26-year residents of Moss Beach I'm writing to voice strong support for granting a Coastal Development Permit for San Mateo County Parks' 12-month off-leash pilot program which would provide much-needed legal off-leash trails at both Quarry Park and Pillar Point Bluff. I live just two blocks from Pillar Point Bluff and have used this open space to walk my dogs off-leash since moving here in 1996.

The off-leash pilots' trail plan and rules were developed over a five-year public process. I attended many of the public meetings held by San Mateo County Parks in conjunction with stakeholders from environmental, equestrian, dog walking, mountain biking, and other community representatives, as well as San Mateo County Parks Commissioners and park rangers.

As a result of intensive public input, environmental review, and historic use considerations, County Parks recommended that trails at both Quarry Park and Pillar Point Bluff be included in the off-leash pilot.

Every conceivable interest group was involved in this process and the end result was an approval by the County Board of Supervisors by a 4 to 1 vote to move the off-leash pilot program forward.

Let me reiterate this last point. A five-year SMC process that was well publicized and open to all interested parties, heard from a diverse collection of stakeholders and collectively agreed to make a recommendation to the Supervisors which was approved by a 4 to 1 vote.

All concerns were voiced and debated. Inaccuracies were replaced with facts. Misunderstandings were corrected. Nothing was hidden from view.

Now, at this juncture of the approval process, Midcoast Community Council, and I assume the SMC Planning Commission as well, have been inundated with false and misleading information in an attempt to stop the off-leash pilot program in its tracks.

This cannot stand. Good people are entitled to their opinions, BUT NOT THEIR OWN FACTS!  
And the key facts are as follows:



- Areas at Pillar Point Bluff and Quarry Park that are included in the off-leash pilot are NOT environmentally sensitive. A CEQA review, including the development of an Adaptive Management Plan (AMP), was conducted by consulting firm WRA. As a result, no potential significant environmental impacts are expected from the pilot program.
- Contrary to some claims, unaccompanied off-leash dogs are NOT running from Pillar Point Bluff down to the Fitzgerald Marine Reserve beach, where dogs are not allowed. There is a 100+ foot cliff separating the Blufftop from the Marine Reserve—nature’s best "fence." Access to the Fitzgerald Marine Reserve is only possible at the most southerly end of Pillar Point Park, which is why County Parks has mandated that the section of trail leading to that point be on-leash only.
- The off-leash pilot program is NOT expected to significantly increase park usage. The pilot's strict rules and two-dog limit will keep many out-of-area dog owners away.
- The off-leash pilot program will provide greater environmental and visitor use protection to Pillar Point Bluffs and Quarry Park. For decades, off-leash dog walking (the norm) has been unmanaged at both sites. For the first time, the pilot project will provide dog owners with clear demarcation of which trails are for recreational off-leash dog walking and which are not. It also lays out strict guidelines for dogs and their owners to minimize impact on the environment and on others without dogs or leashed dogs. The pilot includes the strictest off-leash rules in CA and limits the number of dogs that can be off-leash at two per person. It includes a detailed monitoring plan to track any impacts.
- “The Planning and Building Department's mission is to plan and regulate land use and development within the unincorporated areas of the County so that diverse and livable communities can thrive. We serve the County's residents, businesses, and visitors through the preparation and administration of land use plans and regulations, and by reviewing land use proposals to ensure they are consistent with those plans and regulations.” While Planning may have not been fully engaged with the current proposal from the outset, every part of your Mission Statement was considered and incorporated into the development of the Off-Leash Pilot Program.

I respectfully request that you carefully review comments and assertions made against the pilot program, and compare them to the facts. Separate the hyperbole from the truth. If you have doubts or questions, refer them to County Parks. Believe me when I say, County Parks was exhaustive and rigorous in their study on this pilot program. Don’t trust the angry voices. They weren’t there. They didn’t participate.

**So whose words should you trust?** Clearly that would be County Parks and the Board of Supervisors. This is not the time to second-guess the decision-making process. This is time to accept the work that has transpired over a five-year period and the resulting 4 to 1 approval by the Board of Supervisors. They own the decisions leading to this proposal and they will be held accountable for the pilots' successful launch, review, and operation. **TRUST** the people that produced and approved this proposal.

I urge you to grant a Coastal Development Permit for San Mateo County Parks' 12-month off-leash pilot program.

Sincerely,  
Donald Hows  
Proud and Lifelong Dog Caretaker  
66 Madrone Ave  
Moss Beach, CA 94038

**From:** [PATTY HOWS](#)  
**To:** [Planning Commission](#)  
**Cc:** [Janneth Lujan](#)  
**Subject:** Please Grant a CDP for the Off-Leash Pilot Program (PLN2021-00333)  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 8, 2022 3:18:49 PM

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Dear Planning Commission:

I have only three facts that I would like state;

1. I am a longtime Coastside resident
2. I am a dog owner
3. I vote

I am strongly urging you to grant a CDP for the Off-Leash Pilot Program for Quarry Park and Pillar Point Bluff.

Sincerely,

Patricia Egan-Hows  
66 Madrone Ave  
Moss Beach, CA 94038

**From:** [Sally Stephens](#)  
**To:** [Planning Commission](#)  
**Cc:** [Janneth Lujan](#)  
**Subject:** Please Grant a CDP for the Off-Leash Pilot Program (PLN2021-00333)  
**Date:** Monday, February 7, 2022 11:51:23 PM

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I am writing in support of granting a Coastal Development Permit (PLN2021-00333) for San Mateo County Park's off-leash pilot program. There is a huge pent-up demand for off-leash recreational opportunities in San Mateo County parks, and little opportunities, especially on the Coast. It is long past time for some reasonable access in county parks for people who enjoy recreating with their dogs.

The proposed pilot program, which would allow off-leash recreational access in only two county parks, is the result of a long, nearly five-year process of meetings of a task force composed of the various stakeholders who use and enjoy San Mateo County parks. Dog advocates were a distinct minority on the advisory group. And yet, this diverse task force ultimately was able to reach consensus on the proposed off-leash pilot program.

The task force did not meet in secret. Its meetings were well publicized and anyone could attend or submit comments. And many did, including a sitting Planning Commissioner who submitted extensive comments outlining her concerns about proposals for off-leash recreational access. A final plan and CEQA report has been approved by the Board of Supervisors and the Parks Commission. There's nothing new in the issues and objections that are before the Planning Commission. County Parks staff and members of the task force seriously considered these issues and decided — by consensus, with everyone voting yes — that off-leash recreation could take place, with minimal impacts on the environment and public safety — at Quarry Park and Pillar Point Bluff.

Please support the process and issue the Coastal Development Permit for the off-leash pilot program.

I write this comment as the Chair of the San Francisco Dog Owners Group (SFDOG), a non-profit that advocates for responsible dog ownership and off-leash access for people whose dogs are under voice control. The same arguments that are being made now against the San Mateo County Park's off-leash pilot program have been raised in San Francisco over the past decades whenever off-leash was considered for various parks and open space in the city.

Our experience in San Francisco is that the claims of environmental degradation, public safety concerns, and issues of social equity made by opponents trying to stop off-leash access never came to pass. Please learn from our experiences — there's no legitimate reason to not proceed with the proposed off-leash pilot program in San Mateo County parks.

It has also been our experience that people walking with dogs represent an extremely diverse group of park users. Among people walking with dogs, you'll see people of all races and all ages (including kids and seniors). You'll see people from different religions, ethnicities, and sexual orientations, as well as people from every socio-economic class — people who own start-ups mixing with people who work minimum wage jobs. Yet, despite all these differences, this diverse group of park users gets along well, talking and laughing together, united in their shared love of dogs. I cannot think of another recreational park user group that can match the rich diversity of people who enjoy walking with their dogs.

Please support granting the Coastal Development Permit for the San Mateo County Park's off-leash pilot program.

Sally Stephens  
Chair, San Francisco Dog Owners Group

**From:** [Don Hows](#)  
**To:** [Planning Commission](#)  
**Cc:** [Janneth Lujan](#)  
**Subject:** Please Grant a CDP for the Off-Leash Pilot Program (PLN2021-00333)  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 8, 2022 9:31:32 AM

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The off-leash pilots' trail plan and rules were developed over a five-year public process. I attended many of the public meetings held by San Mateo County Parks in conjunction with stakeholders from environmental, equestrian, dog walking, mountain biking, and other community representatives, as well as San Mateo County Parks Commissioners and park rangers.

As a result of intensive public input, environmental review, and historic use considerations, County Parks recommended that trails at both Quarry Park and Pillar Point Bluff be included in the off-leash pilot.

Every conceivable interest group was involved in this process and the end result was an approval by the County Board of Supervisors by a 4 to 1 vote to move the off-leash pilot program forward.

Let me reiterate this last point. A five-year SMC process that was well publicized and open to all interested parties, heard from a diverse collection of stakeholders and collectively agreed to make a recommendation to the Supervisors which was approved by a 4 to 1 vote.

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**So whose words should you trust?** Clearly that would be County Parks and the Board of Supervisors. This is not the time to second-guess the decision-making process. This is time to accept the work that has transpired over a five-year period and the resulting 4 to 1 approval by the Board of Supervisors. They own the decisions leading to this proposal and they will be held accountable for the pilots' successful launch, review, and operation. **TRUST** the people that produced and approved this proposal.

I urge you to grant a Coastal Development Permit for San Mateo County Parks' 12-month off-leash pilot program.

Sincerely,  
Donald Hows  
Proud and Lifelong Dog Caretaker  
66 Madrone Ave  
Moss Beach, CA 94038

**From:** [Sally Stephens](#)  
**To:** [Planning Commission](#)  
**Cc:** [Janneth Lujan](#)  
**Subject:** Please Grant a CDP for the Off-Leash Pilot Program (PLN2021-00333)  
**Date:** Monday, February 7, 2022 11:51:23 PM

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The proposed pilot program, which would allow off-leash recreational access in only two county parks, is the result of a long, nearly five-year process of meetings of a task force composed of the various stakeholders who use and enjoy San Mateo County parks. Dog advocates were a distinct minority on the advisory group. And yet, this diverse task force ultimately was able to reach consensus on the proposed off-leash pilot program.

The task force did not meet in secret. Its meetings were well publicized and anyone could attend or submit comments. And many did, including a sitting Planning Commissioner who submitted extensive comments outlining her concerns about proposals for off-leash recreational access. A final plan and CEQA report has been approved by the Board of Supervisors and the Parks Commission. There's nothing new in the issues and objections that are before the Planning Commission. County Parks staff and members of the task force seriously considered these issues and decided — by consensus, with everyone voting yes — that off-leash recreation could take place, with minimal impacts on the environment and public safety — at Quarry Park and Pillar Point Bluff.

Please support the process and issue the Coastal Development Permit for the off-leash pilot program.

I write this comment as the Chair of the San Francisco Dog Owners Group (SFDOG), a non-profit that advocates for responsible dog ownership and off-leash access for people whose dogs are under voice control. The same arguments that are being made now against the San Mateo County Park's off-leash pilot program have been raised in San Francisco over the past decades whenever off-leash was considered for various parks and open space in the city.

Our experience in San Francisco is that the claims of environmental degradation, public safety concerns, and issues of social equity made by opponents trying to stop off-leash access never came to pass. Please learn from our experiences — there's no legitimate reason to not proceed with the proposed off-leash pilot program in San Mateo County parks.

It has also been our experience that people walking with dogs represent an extremely diverse group of park users. Among people walking with dogs, you'll see people of all races and all ages (including kids and seniors). You'll see people from different religions, ethnicities, and sexual orientations, as well as people from every socio-economic class — people who own start-ups mixing with people who work minimum wage jobs. Yet, despite all these differences, this diverse group of park users gets along well, talking and laughing together, united in their shared love of dogs. I cannot think of another recreational park user group that can match the rich diversity of people who enjoy walking with their dogs.

Please support granting the Coastal Development Permit for the San Mateo County Park's off-leash pilot program.

Sally Stephens  
Chair, San Francisco Dog Owners Group

**From:** [Michael Patrick](#)  
**To:** [Planning Commission](#); [Janneth Lujan](#)  
**Cc:** [Michael Patrick](#)  
**Subject:** Please support the Off-Leash Dog Recreation Pilot Program  
**Date:** Monday, February 7, 2022 6:14:12 PM

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

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To the members of the SMC Planning Commission:

I am a resident of San Carlos and a dog owner.

I strongly support the off-leash dog recreation Pilot Program at both Pillar Point Bluffs and Quarry Park. The Pilot Program was carefully crafted by the SMC Parks Department in compliance with all State, County, and Local Coastal Program rules and policies. The Planning Commission should grant the Coastal Development Permit for this program.

The Pilot Program is a result of months and months of careful planning done by the SMC Dog Work Group -- a diverse group of representatives in our county. Please don't throw away their good work and stop two desperately needed parks from going to off-leash dog use!!! San Mateo County woefully underrepresents dog owners - a growing group in our community that needs options to take our dogs off-leash. Less than 10% of county parks are open to dogs - even just for leashed access. This percentage is significantly lower than nearby counties in Marin and the East Bay. Marin has 64% of their trails open to dogs; Santa Clara 79%, and the East Bay 91%.

With the pandemic, dog ownership has only increased in our area. If dog owners do not have a place to take their dogs off-leash, then there will be an increasing burden placed on existing dog parks and city parks which do not have the capacity to safely support the growing number of dogs in our county. The Dog Work Group, which was appointed by the County Board of Supervisors, identified Quarry Park and Pillar Point Bluff trails (both parks!) after extensive research, review, and discussion. I think we should follow their recommendations. It should be noted that the Board of Supervisors voted in favor of the Pilot Program at both of these parks by a 4 to 1 margin.

Additionally, there is a long history of owners using these two parks for off-leash dog access for many years. If we provide the 1.8 miles of trails on the Bluffs, we will also reduce the dog activity on other more sensitive parts of the Bluffs. The Pilot Program includes entry fencing and additional signage clearly delineating where off-leash dogs are not permitted, and there is NO access to the beach, ocean, or Fitzgerald Marine Reserve near these trails. This Pilot Program is well designed, giving dog owners a place to take their dogs considerably far from the beach and sensitive habitat. Nature has provided the perfect barrier, a cliff. Even the environmentalist on the Dog Work Group, Jerry Hearn, an advisory board member of Green Foothills, promoted these off-leash trails at the Bluff (and Quarry Park) noting that they had less environmental impact than other SMC parks.

Thank you for listening to my position on this matter and for supporting the Pilot Program at both County Parks: Quarry Point and Pillar Point Bluffs.

Michael Patrick  
108 Sunnydale Ave.  
San Carlos, CA 94070  
[mjpatrick108@gmail.com](mailto:mjpatrick108@gmail.com)

**From:** [Brenda Kesler](#)  
**To:** [Planning Commission](#); [Janneth Lujan](#); [Martinez, Erik@Coastal](#)  
**Subject:** Please Support the off-leash dog trails  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 8, 2022 6:11:44 AM

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Hello SMC Planning Commission, as a long-time resident of SMC and the owner of two brilliant rescue dogs, I'm asking for your support of off-leash trails that are good for dogs and good for humans! I hope you all have had the joy of having pets in your lives, but regardless, the joy of being able to experience the outdoors together with our pets is not just sanity-saving during these years of COVID, but healthy for everyone during normal times.

Being an avid scuba diver and keenly aware of environmental impacts humans have, I am impressed with the thought and care that has gone into the selection of this particular location as a pilot program and thoughtfully ask for you support.

Thank you and stay safe,

Brenda Kesler  
[brenda.kesler@gmail.com](mailto:brenda.kesler@gmail.com)

**From:** [Brenda Kesler](#)  
**To:** [Planning Commission](#); [Janneth Lujan](#); [Martinez, Erik@Coastal](#)  
**Subject:** Please Support the off-leash dog trails  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 8, 2022 6:11:43 AM

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Hello SMC Planning Commission, as a long-time resident of SMC and the owner of two brilliant rescue dogs, I'm asking for your support of off-leash trails that are good for dogs and good for humans! I hope you all have had the joy of having pets in your lives, but regardless, the joy of being able to experience the outdoors together with our pets is not just sanity-saving during these years of COVID, but healthy for everyone during normal times.

Being an avid scuba diver and keenly aware of environmental impacts humans have, I am impressed with the thought and care that has gone into the selection of this particular location as a pilot program and thoughtfully ask for you support.

Thank you and stay safe,

Brenda Kesler  
[brenda.kesler@gmail.com](mailto:brenda.kesler@gmail.com)



**From:** [Winnie Cheung Heslin](#)  
**To:** [Planning Commission](#); [Janneth Lujan](#)  
**Subject:** Please support the Off-Leash Pilot Program at Pillar Point Bluffs & Quarry Park  
**Date:** Monday, February 7, 2022 3:32:39 PM

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To the members of the SMC Planning Commission:

I strongly support the off-leash dog recreation Pilot Program at both Pillar Point Bluffs and Quarry Park. The Pilot Program was carefully crafted by the SMC Parks Department in compliance with all State, County, and Local Coastal Program rules and policies. The Planning Commission should grant the Coastal Development Permit for this program.

The Pilot Program is a result of months and months of careful planning done by the SMC Dog Work Group -- a diverse group of representatives in our county. Please don't throw away their good work and stop two desperately needed parks from going to off-leash dog use!!! San Mateo County woefully underrepresents dog owners - a growing group in our community that needs options to take our dogs off-leash. Less than 10% of county parks are open to dogs - even just for leashed access. This percentage is significantly lower than nearby counties in Marin and the East Bay. Marin has 64% of their trails open to dogs; Santa Clara 79%, and the East Bay 91%.

With the pandemic, dog ownership has only increased in our area. If dog owners do not have a place to take their dogs off-leash, then there will be an increasing burden placed on existing dog parks and city parks which do not have the capacity to safely support the growing number of dogs in our county. The Dog Work Group, which was appointed by the County Board of Supervisors, identified Quarry Park and Pillar Point Bluff trails (both parks!) after extensive research, review, and discussion. I think we should follow their recommendations. It should be noted that the Board of Supervisors voted in favor of the Pilot Program at both of these parks by a 4 to 1 margin.

Additionally, there is a long history of owners using these two parks for off-leash dog access for many years. If we provide the 1.8 miles of trails on the Bluffs, we will also reduce the dog activity on other more sensitive parts of the Bluffs. The Pilot Program includes entry fencing and additional signage clearly delineating where off-leash dogs are not permitted, and there is NO access to the beach, ocean, or Fitzgerald Marine Reserve near these trails. This Pilot Program is well designed, giving dog owners a place to take their dogs considerably far from the beach and sensitive habitat. Nature has provided the perfect barrier, a cliff. Even the environmentalist on the Dog Work Group, Jerry Hearn, an advisory board member of Green Foothills, promoted these off-leash trails at the Bluff (and Quarry Park) noting that they had less environmental impact than other SMC parks.

Thank you for listening to my position on this matter and for supporting the Pilot Program at both County Parks: Quarry Point and Pillar Point Bluffs.

Regards,  
Winnie Cheung Heslin



**From:** [Matt Lethin](#)  
**To:** [Planning Commission](#)  
**Subject:** Please support the Off-Leash Pilot Program at Pillar Point Bluffs & Quarry Park!!!  
**Date:** Monday, February 7, 2022 1:53:10 PM

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To the members of the SMC Planning Commission:

I strongly support the off-leash dog recreation Pilot Program at both Pillar Point Bluffs and Quarry Park. The Pilot Program was carefully crafted by the SMC Parks Department in compliance with all State, County, and Local Coastal Program rules and policies. The Planning Commission should grant the Coastal Development Permit for this program.

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Thank you for listening to my position on this matter and for supporting the Pilot Program at both County Parks: Quarry Point and Pillar Point Bluffs.

Matt Lethin

**From:** [Held Messages](#)  
**To:** [Planning Commission](#)  
**Subject:** [Postmaster] Messages on hold for planning\_commission@smcgov.org  
**Date:** Monday, February 7, 2022 2:12:42 PM

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The following messages, addressed to you, are currently on hold within the Mimecast service awaiting further action.

For further instructions on how to use the links associated with each email, please review the following points:

**Release:** This will release the current email On Hold to your Inbox, but future emails from this sender will still be placed On Hold

**Block:** Rejects the email, and adds the sender's address to your personal Block list to block future emails from this sender

**Permit:** Delivers the email to your Inbox, and adds the sender's address to your personal Permit list, so future emails are not put On Hold (for SPAM management policies only)

For more information on the Mimecast digest, please refer to this [article](#)

From	Subject	Date	Reason	Release	Block	Permit
<a href="mailto:c*****@everyactioncustom.com">c*****@everyactioncustom.com</a>	Re: Item #3 on February 9 Agenda: Deny Coastal Development Permit for the proposed 12-month Off-Leash Dog Pilot program at Pillar Point Bluff	2022- 02-07 15:37	Spam Policy	<a href="#">Release</a>	<a href="#">Block</a>	<a href="#">Permit</a>



2019 FMR RANGER LOG BOOK  
DOG CONTACTS

	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Total:Location					
LOCATION																		
Pillar Point Bluff	18	10	3	5	1	3		1	2				43					
Ross'/Frenchmen's	2	1	2	4	2	4	3		2				20					
Seal Cove	7		7	2	1	3	1	2	3				26					
Bluff/Cypress Trail	4	1	4	2	1	6	2	2					22					
Main Ramp/Beach	3	3	4	2		5		2					19					
Dardanelle	1												1					
PP Marsh	2												2					
Total:Month	37	15	20	15	5	21	6	7	7	0	0	0						
<b>Total:Year</b>																		
	133																	
Note 1: On Jan 12 at PPB there were 10 dog contacts!																		
Note 2: No entries of dog contacts after Sept 2.																		
Note 3: These numbers indicate separate "contacts" with dogs in unauthorized areas or off-leash, but do not indicate the number of dogs/contact. Often there are multiple dogs/owner.																		
Note 4: These numbers do not include "contacts" made by FFMR docents while roving or on tours at Seal Cove, Main Ramp, Bluff/Cypress Trail.																		



2020 FMR RANGER LOG BOOK  
DOG CONTACTS

	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Total:Location				
LOCATION																	
Pillar Point Bluff						4	3			1		1					9
Ross' Cove	2	1	2	6	11	9	1										32
Seal Cove		1		1	1	3	2			1		4					13
Bluff/Cypress Trail			5	5	2	2				1							15
Main Ramp/Beach	1			2	3	2		2									10
Tunitas							5										5
Total:Month	3	2	7	14	21	24	3	2	2	1	5	0					
<b>Total:Year</b>																	
	<b>84</b>																
Note 1: There were no reports of dog contacts for December																	
Note 2: FMR COVID closure March 20																	
Note 3: These numbers indicate separate "contacts" with dogs in unauthorized areas or off-leash, but do not indicate the number of dogs/contact. Often there are multiple dogs/owner.																	
Note 4: These numbers do not include "contacts" made by FFMR docents while roving or on tours at Seal Cove, Main Ramp, Bluff/Cypress Trail.																	

2021 FMR RANGER LOG BOOK  
DOG CONTACTS

	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Total:Location					
LOCATION																		
Pillar Point Bluff						1						4						5
Ross'/Frenchmen's	5	5	3	1	1	2		1		1	2							21
Seal Cove		1			2	3	1	2	2		1	1						13
Bluff/Cypress Trail					1		1	2	1	1		1						7
Main Ramp/Beach	1		1			1	1	1				1						6
Dardanelle		1																1
Tunitas				2			1	1										4
Total:Month	6	7	6	4	6	6	6	4	1	2	9	0						
<b>Total:Year</b>																		
	57																	
Note 1: FMR COVID closure Jan 1-May																		
Note 2: Report of dog contacts Jan 1-Nov 28 only																		
Note 3: These numbers indicate separate "contacts" with dogs in unauthorized areas or off-leash, but do not indicate the number of dogs/contact. Often there are multiple dogs/owner.																		
Note 4: These numbers do not include "contacts" made by FFMR docents while roving or on tours at Seal Cove, Main Ramp, Bluff/Cypress Trail.																		

**From:** [Nancy Eagan](#)  
**To:** [Martinez, Erik@Coastal](mailto:Martinez.Erik@Coastal); [Janneth Lujan](#); [Planning Commission](#)  
**Subject:** Re: I SUPPORT the Off-Leash Pilot Program at Pillar Point Bluff & Quarry Park  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 8, 2022 11:53:33 AM

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On Mon, Feb 7, 2022 at 7:52 PM Nancy Eagan <[baysidecrittersitter@gmail.com](mailto:baysidecrittersitter@gmail.com)> wrote:  
Honorable members of SMC Planning Commission,

I strongly support the off-leash Dog Recreation Pilot Program at BOTH Pillar Point Bluffs and Quarry Park. The Pilot Program was carefully crafted by the SMC Parks Department in compliance with all State, County, and Local Coastal Program rules and policies. Now it is time for the Planning Commission to grant the Coastal Development Permit for this program.

There is no opposition to off-leash trails at Quarry Park, a hilly eucalyptus forest, so my comments are solely on the Pillar Point Bluff trails, a level area perfect for a casual, easy stroll with a dog. Of the 24 SMC parks in the system, The Dog Work Group, Parks Department and the Board of Supervisors chose both parks for the Pilot Program because they meet the needs of different users and will provide a true test of whether off-leash trails are viable. The elderly, handicapped and families with children need off-leash trails too, and the Pillar Point Bluff trails are the perfect location for these groups.

County Parks have a default rule "No dogs allowed in any Park." Before the Bluffs were purchased by POST and given to the County, off-leash walking on the trails occurred on a continuous and uninterrupted basis, so this is not a new use, as noted by Supervisor Horsley (District 3) when the BOS voted by 4-1 to approve the Pilot Program.

Sanctioning 1.8 miles of trails on the Bluff will dramatically reduce off-leash dogs in the other parts of the Bluff. The Pilot Program includes entry fencing and additional signage clearly delineating where off-leash dogs are not permitted. Dog owners will be enabled to exercise their controlled off-leash dogs, on a loop, so there is no need to use other Bluff trails. Clear demarcation of off-leash and on-leash trails will facilitate compliance.

Responsible dog owners commit to you that we will advocate for on-leash compliance to those few park users who may fail to follow the pilot rules. We want to keep sanctioned off-leash trails, and know that if off-leash dogs misbehave or dog owners don't follow the pilot program rules (stay on trails, pick up waste, etc.), we will lose our legal off-leash trails and any future off-leash opportunities.

The Pilot Program only includes sections of two Bluff trails. This land is zoned agricultural

and found not to be protected sensitive habitat. One of the reasons the multi-stakeholder Dog Work Group -- after 5 years and 31 public meetings --recommended these particular trails (and the BOS agreed) is there is NO access to the beach, ocean or Fitzgerald Marine Reserve near these trails. Nature has provided the perfect barrier, a steep cliff. The environmentalist on the Work Group favored these off-leash trails at the Bluff (and Quarry Park) noting that they had less environmental impact than other SMC parks.

Thank you for recognizing the need for the first ever County off-leash dog trails at the two parks carefully selected as perfect places for the Pilot Program.

Gratefully,

Nancy Eagan  
San Mateo Constituent  
Responsible Dog Owner

**From:** [Nancy Eagan](#)  
**To:** [Martinez, Erik@Coastal](mailto:Martinez.Erik@Coastal); [Janneth Lujan](#); [Planning Commission](#)  
**Subject:** Re: I SUPPORT the Off-Leash Pilot Program at Pillar Point Bluff & Quarry Park  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 8, 2022 11:53:35 AM

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On Mon, Feb 7, 2022 at 7:52 PM Nancy Eagan <[baysidecrittersitter@gmail.com](mailto:baysidecrittersitter@gmail.com)> wrote:  
Honorable members of SMC Planning Commission,

I strongly support the off-leash Dog Recreation Pilot Program at BOTH Pillar Point Bluffs and Quarry Park. The Pilot Program was carefully crafted by the SMC Parks Department in compliance with all State, County, and Local Coastal Program rules and policies. Now it is time for the Planning Commission to grant the Coastal Development Permit for this program.

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and found not to be protected sensitive habitat. One of the reasons the multi-stakeholder Dog Work Group -- after 5 years and 31 public meetings --recommended these particular trails (and the BOS agreed) is there is NO access to the beach, ocean or Fitzgerald Marine Reserve near these trails. Nature has provided the perfect barrier, a steep cliff. The environmentalist on the Work Group favored these off-leash trails at the Bluff (and Quarry Park) noting that they had less environmental impact than other SMC parks.

Thank you for recognizing the need for the first ever County off-leash dog trails at the two parks carefully selected as perfect places for the Pilot Program.

Gratefully,

Nancy Eagan  
San Mateo Constituent  
Responsible Dog Owner



**From:** [jbapplewhite@everyactioncustom.com](mailto:jbapplewhite@everyactioncustom.com) on behalf of [Juliette Applewhite](#)  
**To:** [Planning Commission](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Item #3 on February 9 Agenda: Deny Coastal Development Permit for the proposed 12-month Off-Leash Dog Pilot program at Pillar Point Bluff  
**Date:** Monday, February 7, 2022 2:31:41 PM

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

Dear Planning Commissioners,

Please protect wildlife, sensitive habitats, and public safety while ensuring maximum public access for all people at Pillar Point Bluff by voting "No" on the Coastal Development Permit for off-leash dogs at Pillar Point Bluff.

I have had dogs all my life and LOVE them. Unfortunately, I have rarely found a dog whose recall off-leash has been stellar. I can't count the number of time I have heard 'oh, she's friendly' only to have to race to pick up my dog or intervene as the 'friendly dog attacks. So, what do I do, I don't go to dog parks or off leash areas. I truly hope you do not extend the off-leash trial to the pillar point bluffs !

The County Local Coastal Program only allows resource-dependent uses in sensitive habitat areas. There is too much at risk to wildlife and associated habitats on the Bluff and adjacent Ross' Cove/Fitzgerald Marine Reserve. The Coastal Act's maximum public access requirements for all people are not applicable to dogs.

We support effective and consistent enforcement of longstanding County Leash Laws at Pillar Point Bluff and the prohibition of dogs at Fitzgerald Marine Reserve.

We do not object to the proposed Off-Leash Dog Pilot Program at Quarry Park, with the proviso that some of its 8 miles of trails should be off-limits to dogs, in order for all people to safely enjoy this community park.

Sincerely,  
Juliette Applewhite  
400 Roosevelt Blvd Half Moon Bay, CA 94019-1321  
[jbapplewhite@gmail.com](mailto:jbapplewhite@gmail.com)

**From:** [karenaifeh@everyactioncustom.com](mailto:karenaifeh@everyactioncustom.com) on behalf of [Karen Naifeh](#)  
**To:** [Planning Commission](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Item # 3 on February 9 Agenda: Deny Coastal Development Permit for the proposed 12-month Off-Leash Dog Pilot program at Pillar Point Bluff  
**Date:** Monday, February 7, 2022 2:33:46 PM

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

Dear Planning Commissioners,

I am writing to strongly urge you to protect wildlife, sensitive habitats, and public safety while ensuring maximum public access for all people at Pillar Point Bluff by voting “No” on the Coastal Development Permit for off-leash dogs at Pillar Point Bluff.

The County Local Coastal Program only allows resource-dependent uses in sensitive habitat areas. There is too much at risk to wildlife and associated habitats on the Bluff and adjacent Ross’ Cove/Fitzgerald Marine Reserve. The Coastal Act’s maximum public access requirements for all people are not applicable to dogs.

We support effective and consistent enforcement of longstanding County Leash Laws at Pillar Point Bluff and the prohibition of dogs at Fitzgerald Marine Reserve.

We do not object to the proposed Off-Leash Dog Pilot Program at Quarry Park, with the proviso that some of its 8 miles of trails should be off-limits to dogs, in order for all people to safely enjoy this community park.

Sincerely,  
Karen Naifeh  
2059 New Brunswick Dr San Mateo, CA 94402-4043  
[karenaifeh@sbcglobal.net](mailto:karenaifeh@sbcglobal.net)

**From:** [noahhaydon@everyactioncustom.com](mailto:noahhaydon@everyactioncustom.com) on behalf of [Noah Haydon](#)  
**To:** [Planning Commission](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Item #3 on February 9 Agenda: Deny Coastal Development Permit for the proposed 12-month Off-Leash Dog Pilot program at Pillar Point Bluff  
**Date:** Monday, February 7, 2022 2:34:39 PM

---

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

Dear Planning Commissioners,

Please protect wildlife, sensitive habitats, and public safety while ensuring maximum public access for all people at Pillar Point Bluff by voting "No" on the Coastal Development Permit for off-leash dogs at Pillar Point Bluff.

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Sincerely,  
Noah Haydon  
405 91st St Apt 11 Daly City, CA 94015-1956  
[noahhaydon@gmail.com](mailto:noahhaydon@gmail.com)

**From:** [godsouza@everyactioncustom.com](mailto:godsouza@everyactioncustom.com) on behalf of [Gladwyn d'Souza](#)  
**To:** [Planning Commission](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Item #3 on February 9 Agenda: Deny Coastal Development Permit for the proposed 12-month Off-Leash Dog Pilot program at Pillar Point Bluff  
**Date:** Monday, February 7, 2022 2:42:52 PM

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

Dear Planning Commissioners,

Please deny the CDP for off-leash dogs. Please protect wildlife, sensitive habitats, and public safety while ensuring maximum public access for all people at Pillar Point Bluff by voting "No" on the Coastal Development Permit for off-leash dogs at Pillar Point Bluff.

The County Local Coastal Program only allows resource-dependent uses in sensitive habitat areas. There is too much at risk to wildlife and associated habitats on the Bluff and adjacent Ross' Cove/Fitzgerald Marine Reserve. The Coastal Act's maximum public access requirements for all people are not applicable to dogs.

We support effective and consistent enforcement of longstanding County Leash Laws at Pillar Point Bluff and the prohibition of dogs at Fitzgerald Marine Reserve.

We do not object to the proposed Off-Leash Dog Pilot Program at Quarry Park, with the proviso that some of its 8 miles of trails should be off-limits to dogs, in order for all people to safely enjoy this community park.

Sincerely,  
Gladwyn d'Souza  
1473 Sixth Ave Belmont, CA 94002-3819  
[godsouza@yahoo.com](mailto:godsouza@yahoo.com)

**From:** [mwasano@everyactioncustom.com](mailto:mwasano@everyactioncustom.com) on behalf of [Mitsu Wasano](#)  
**To:** [Planning Commission](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Item #3 on February 9 Agenda: Deny Coastal Development Permit for the proposed 12-month Off-Leash Dog Pilot program at Pillar Point Bluff  
**Date:** Monday, February 7, 2022 2:52:39 PM

---

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

Dear Planning Commissioners,

Please protect wildlife, sensitive habitats, and public safety while ensuring maximum public access for all people at Pillar Point Bluff by voting "No" on the Coastal Development Permit for off-leash dogs at Pillar Point Bluff.

The County Local Coastal Program only allows resource-dependent uses in sensitive habitat areas. There is too much at risk to wildlife and associated habitats on the Bluff and adjacent Ross' Cove/Fitzgerald Marine Reserve. The Coastal Act's maximum public access requirements for all people are not applicable to dogs.

We support effective and consistent enforcement of longstanding County Leash Laws at Pillar Point Bluff and the prohibition of dogs at Fitzgerald Marine Reserve.

We do not object to the proposed Off-Leash Dog Pilot Program at Quarry Park, with the proviso that some of its 8 miles of trails should be off-limits to dogs, in order for all people to safely enjoy this community park.

Sincerely,  
Mitsu Wasano  
4016 Cherry Ave San Jose, CA 95118-1715  
[mwasano@yahoo.com](mailto:mwasano@yahoo.com)

**From:** [marianmiller@everyactioncustom.com](mailto:marianmiller@everyactioncustom.com) on behalf of [Marian Miller](#)  
**To:** [Planning Commission](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Item #3 on February 9 Agenda: Deny Coastal Development Permit for the proposed 12-month Off-Leash Dog Pilot program at Pillar Point Bluff  
**Date:** Monday, February 7, 2022 3:18:55 PM

---

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

Dear Planning Commissioners,

Please protect wildlife, sensitive habitats, and public safety while ensuring maximum public access for all people at Pillar Point Bluff by voting "No" on the Coastal Development Permit for off-leash dogs at Pillar Point Bluff.

I support effective and consistent enforcement of longstanding County Leash Laws at Pillar Point Bluff and the prohibition of dogs at Fitzgerald Marine Reserve.

I do not object to the proposed Off-Leash Dog Pilot Program at Quarry Park, with the proviso that some of its 8 miles of trails should be off-limits to dogs, in order for all people to safely enjoy this community park.

There are other beaches for dog owners to take their dogs to for off-leash exercise in Half Moon Bay. Ross' Cove/Fitzgerald Marine Reserve is a unique habitat with harbor seals rearing their young and living there year-round. The presence of dogs threatens the seals, so I urge you to vote "No" on the Coastal Development Permit for Off-leash dogs at Pillar Point Bluff.

Sincerely,  
Marian Miller

Sincerely,  
Marian Miller  
1515 Brandywine Rd San Mateo, CA 94402-3802  
[marianmiller@sbcglobal.net](mailto:marianmiller@sbcglobal.net)



**From:** [trwhiting@everyactioncustom.com](mailto:trwhiting@everyactioncustom.com) on behalf of [Thomas R Whiting](#)  
**To:** [Planning Commission](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Item #3 on February 9 Agenda: Deny Coastal Development Permit for the proposed 12-month Off-Leash Dog Pilot program at Pillar Point Bluff  
**Date:** Monday, February 7, 2022 3:36:17 PM

---

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

Dear Planning Commissioners,

Please protect wildlife, sensitive habitats, and public safety while ensuring maximum public access for all people at Pillar Point Bluff by voting "No" on the Coastal Development Permit for off-leash dogs at Pillar Point Bluff.

The County Local Coastal Program only allows resource-dependent uses in sensitive habitat areas. There is too much at risk to wildlife and associated habitats on the Bluff and adjacent Ross' Cove/Fitzgerald Marine Reserve. The Coastal Act's maximum public access requirements for all people are not applicable to dogs.

We support effective and consistent enforcement of longstanding County Leash Laws at Pillar Point Bluff and the prohibition of dogs at Fitzgerald Marine Reserve.

We do not object to the proposed Off-Leash Dog Pilot Program at Quarry Park, with the proviso that some of its 8 miles of trails should be off-limits to dogs, in order for all people to safely enjoy this community park.

I have lived in EG for 52 years and walked many times on those bluffs. I have been threatened by off-leash dogs and seen dogs running wild after wildlife...please protect this area for all, thank you.

Sincerely,  
Thomas R Whiting  
PO Box 684 El Granada, CA 94018-0684  
[trwhiting@comcast.net](mailto:trwhiting@comcast.net)

**From:** [woodsorrel649@everyactioncustom.com](mailto:woodsorrel649@everyactioncustom.com) on behalf of [Suzanne Elliott](#)  
**To:** [Planning Commission](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Item #3 on February 9 Agenda: Deny Coastal Development Permit for the proposed 12-month Off-Leash Dog Pilot program at Pillar Point Bluff  
**Date:** Monday, February 7, 2022 3:51:53 PM

---

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

Dear Planning Commissioners,

Please protect wildlife, sensitive habitats, and public safety while ensuring maximum public access for all people at Pillar Point Bluff by voting "No" on the Coastal Development Permit for off-leash dogs at Pillar Point Bluff. Unfortunately, not all owners are respectful when it comes to the behavior of their dogs and allowing off-leash opens up more possibilities of bad behavior.

The County Local Coastal Program only allows resource-dependent uses in sensitive habitat areas. There is too much at risk to wildlife and associated habitats on the Bluff and adjacent Ross' Cove/Fitzgerald Marine Reserve. The Coastal Act's maximum public access requirements for all people are not applicable to dogs.

We support effective and consistent enforcement of longstanding County Leash Laws at Pillar Point Bluff and the prohibition of dogs at Fitzgerald Marine Reserve.

We do not object to the proposed Off-Leash Dog Pilot Program at Quarry Park, with the proviso that some of its 8 miles of trails should be off-limits to dogs, in order for all people to safely enjoy this community park.

Sincerely,  
Suzanne Elliott

Sincerely,  
Suzanne Elliott  
649 The Alameda El Granada, CA 94018-8060  
[woodsorrel649@gmail.com](mailto:woodsorrel649@gmail.com)

**From:** [jbenioff@everyactioncustom.com](mailto:jbenioff@everyactioncustom.com) on behalf of [Jeanne Benioff](#)  
**To:** [Planning Commission](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Item #3 on February 9 Agenda: Deny Coastal Development Permit for the proposed 12-month Off-Leash Dog Pilot program at Pillar Point Bluff  
**Date:** Monday, February 7, 2022 4:31:30 PM

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

Dear Planning Commissioners,

Please protect wildlife, sensitive habitats, and public safety while ensuring maximum public access for all people at Pillar Point Bluff by voting "No" on the Coastal Development Permit for off-leash dogs at Pillar Point Bluff.

The County Local Coastal Program only allows resource-dependent uses in sensitive habitat areas. There is too much at risk to wildlife and associated habitats on the Bluff and adjacent Ross' Cove/Fitzgerald Marine Reserve. The Coastal Act's maximum public access requirements for all people are not applicable to dogs.

We support effective and consistent enforcement of longstanding County Leash Laws at Pillar Point Bluff and the prohibition of dogs at Fitzgerald Marine Reserve.

We do not object to the proposed Off-Leash Dog Pilot Program at Quarry Park, with the proviso that some of its 8 miles of trails should be off-limits to dogs, in order for all people to safely enjoy this community park.

Sincerely,  
Jeanne Benioff  
765 Upland Rd Redwood City, CA 94062-3042  
[jbenioff@comcast.net](mailto:jbenioff@comcast.net)

**From:** [lance@everyactioncustom.com](mailto:lance@everyactioncustom.com) on behalf of [Lance Amato](#)  
**To:** [Planning Commission](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Item #3 on February 9 Agenda: Deny Coastal Development Permit for the proposed 12-month Off-Leash Dog Pilot program at Pillar Point Bluff  
**Date:** Monday, February 7, 2022 5:07:13 PM

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

Dear Planning Commissioners,

Please protect wildlife, sensitive habitats, and public safety while ensuring maximum public access for all people at Pillar Point Bluff by voting "No" on the Coastal Development Permit for off-leash dogs at Pillar Point Bluff.

The County Local Coastal Program only allows resource-dependent uses in sensitive habitat areas. There is too much at risk to wildlife and associated habitats on the Bluff and adjacent Ross' Cove/Fitzgerald Marine Reserve. The Coastal Act's maximum public access requirements for all people are not applicable to dogs.

We support effective and consistent enforcement of longstanding County Leash Laws at Pillar Point Bluff and the prohibition of dogs at Fitzgerald Marine Reserve.

We do not object to the proposed Off-Leash Dog Pilot Program at Quarry Park, with the proviso that some of its 8 miles of trails should be off-limits to dogs, in order for all people to safely enjoy this community park.

Sincerely,  
Lance Amato  
175 Harvard Ave Half Moon Bay, CA 94019-4030  
[lance@htecompany.com](mailto:lance@htecompany.com)

**From:** [gecbrew@everyactioncustom.com](mailto:gecbrew@everyactioncustom.com) on behalf of [Graham Brew](#)  
**To:** [Planning Commission](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Item #3 on February 9 Agenda: Deny Coastal Development Permit for the proposed 12-month Off-Leash Dog Pilot program at Pillar Point Bluff  
**Date:** Monday, February 7, 2022 2:07:06 PM

---

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

Dear Planning Commissioners,

Please do not open Pillar Point Bluffs to off leash dogs. Such a change will unavoidably mean more off leash dogs on the beaches below Pillar Point. Thus putting our precious marine wildlife at risk. There are already too many dogs on those beaches -- enforcement is sparse. Will enforcement of the off-leash rule be any better? Given the huge pressures that our County Rangers are already under, why would you willfully make their job so much more difficult? Will the rule change come with a great deal more resources for the Rangers? That seems very unlikely.

I do not object to the proposed Off-Leash Dog Pilot Program at Quarry Park. But for a second off leash area why not choose another County Park elsewhere where the change will not threaten engaged marine mammals?

Sincerely,  
Graham Brew  
PO Box 371509 Montara, CA 94037-1509  
[gecbrew@yahoo.com](mailto:gecbrew@yahoo.com)

**From:** [sandy.sloan@everyactioncustom.com](mailto:sandy.sloan@everyactioncustom.com) on behalf of [Sandy Sloan](#)  
**To:** [Planning Commission](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Item #3 on February 9 Agenda: Deny Coastal Development Permit for the proposed 12-month Off-Leash Dog Pilot program at Pillar Point Bluff  
**Date:** Monday, February 7, 2022 5:15:14 PM

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

Dear Planning Commissioners,

I am writing to request that you NOT approve the Coastal Development Permit for off-leash dogs at Pillar Point Bluff.

The County LCP only allows resource-dependent uses in sensitive habitat areas and there is too much at risk to wildlife and associated habitats on the Bluff. Additionally, off-leash dogs pose a safety threat to the elderly and small children. We were recently enjoying Pillar Point Bluff with our two small grandchildren and a woman with three (3) off-leash dogs had everyone in tears as they ran wild around us, barking ferociously

We have no objection to dogs on leash in this area, but dogs should be controlled at all times.

Thanks you,  
Sandy Sloan

Sincerely,  
Sandy Sloan  
321 Stanford Ave Menlo Park, CA 94025-6239  
[sandy.sloan@gmail.com](mailto:sandy.sloan@gmail.com)

**From:** [linddaliebes@everyactioncustom.com](mailto:linddaliebes@everyactioncustom.com) on behalf of [Linda Liebes](#)  
**To:** [Planning Commission](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Item # 3 on February 9 Agenda: Deny Coastal Development Permit for the proposed 12-month Off-Leash Dog Pilot program at Pillar Point Bluff  
**Date:** Monday, February 7, 2022 5:34:43 PM

---

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

Dear Planning Commissioners,

Please protect wildlife, sensitive habitats, and public safety while ensuring maximum public access for all people at Pillar Point Bluff by voting "No" on the Coastal Development Permit for off-leash dogs at Pillar Point Bluff.

The County Local Coastal Program only allows resource-dependent uses in sensitive habitat areas. There is too much at risk to wildlife and associated habitats on the Bluff and adjacent Ross' Cove/Fitzgerald Marine Reserve. The Coastal Act's maximum public access requirements for all people are not applicable to dogs.

We support effective and consistent enforcement of longstanding County Leash Laws at Pillar Point Bluff and the prohibition of dogs at Fitzgerald Marine Reserve.

We do not object to the proposed Off-Leash Dog Pilot Program at Quarry Park, with the proviso that some of its 8 miles of trails should be off-limits to dogs, in order for all people to safely enjoy this community park.

With much appreciation,  
Linda and Sid Liebes

Sincerely,  
Linda Liebes  
501 Portola Rd Portola Valley, CA 94028-7600  
[linddaliebes@comcast.net](mailto:linddaliebes@comcast.net)



**From:** [theinek@everyactioncustom.com](mailto:theinek@everyactioncustom.com) on behalf of [kristin.thiene](#)  
**To:** [Planning Commission](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Item #3 on February 9 Agenda: Deny Coastal Development Permit for the proposed 12-month Off-Leash Dog Pilot program at Pillar Point Bluff  
**Date:** Monday, February 7, 2022 5:42:32 PM

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

Dear Planning Commissioners,

Please protect wildlife, sensitive habitats, and public safety while ensuring maximum public access for all people at Pillar Point Bluff by voting "No" on the Coastal Development Permit for off-leash dogs at Pillar Point Bluff. Dogs are great but they don't know about trail boundaries and cannot compute sensitive wildlife habitats. They are dogs.

The County Local Coastal Program only allows resource-dependent uses in sensitive habitat areas. There is too much at risk to wildlife and associated habitats on the Bluff and adjacent Ross' Cove/Fitzgerald Marine Reserve. The Coastal Act's maximum public access requirements for all people are not applicable to dogs.

We support effective and consistent enforcement of longstanding County Leash Laws at Pillar Point Bluff and the prohibition of dogs at Fitzgerald Marine Reserve.

We do not object to the proposed Off-Leash Dog Pilot Program at Quarry Park, with the proviso that some of its 8 miles of trails should be off-limits to dogs, in order for all people to safely enjoy this community park.

Sincerely,  
kristin thiene  
122 Del Monte Rd Half Moon Bay, CA 94019  
[theinek@comcast.net](mailto:theinek@comcast.net)

**From:** [cekcrow@everyactioncustom.com](mailto:cekcrow@everyactioncustom.com) on behalf of [Carolyn Crow](#)  
**To:** [Planning Commission](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Item #3 on February 9 Agenda: Deny Coastal Development Permit for the proposed 12-month Off-Leash Dog Pilot program at Pillar Point Bluff  
**Date:** Monday, February 7, 2022 5:44:13 PM

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

Dear Planning Commissioners,

Please protect wildlife, sensitive habitats, and public safety while ensuring maximum public access for all people at Pillar Point Bluff by voting "No" on the Coastal Development Permit for off-leash dogs at Pillar Point Bluff.

The County Local Coastal Program only allows resource-dependent uses in sensitive habitat areas. There is too much at risk to wildlife and associated habitats on the Bluff and adjacent Ross' Cove/Fitzgerald Marine Reserve. The Coastal Act's maximum public access requirements for all people are not applicable to dogs.

We support effective and consistent enforcement of longstanding County Leash Laws at Pillar Point Bluff and the prohibition of dogs at Fitzgerald Marine Reserve.

We do not object to the proposed Off-Leash Dog Pilot Program at Quarry Park, with the proviso that some of its 8 miles of trails should be off-limits to dogs, in order for all people to safely enjoy this community park.

Sincerely,  
Carolyn Crow  
1512 La Mesa Ln Burlingame, CA 94010-5973  
[cekcrow@comcast.net](mailto:cekcrow@comcast.net)

**From:** [millersky352@everyactioncustom.com](mailto:millersky352@everyactioncustom.com) on behalf of [Patricia Miller](#)  
**To:** [Planning Commission](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Item #3 on February 9 Agenda: Deny Coastal Development Permit for the proposed 12-month Off-Leash Dog Pilot program at Pillar Point Bluff  
**Date:** Monday, February 7, 2022 6:34:46 PM

---

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

Dear Planning Commissioners,

Please protect wildlife, sensitive habitats, and public safety while ensuring maximum public access for all people at Pillar Point Bluff by voting "No" on the Coastal Development Permit for off-leash dogs at Pillar Point Bluff.

The County Local Coastal Program only allows resource-dependent uses in sensitive habitat areas. There is too much at risk to wildlife and associated habitats on the Bluff and adjacent Ross' Cove/Fitzgerald Marine Reserve. The Coastal Act's maximum public access requirements for all people are not applicable to dogs.

We support effective and consistent enforcement of longstanding County Leash Laws at Pillar Point Bluff and the prohibition of dogs at Fitzgerald Marine Reserve.

We do not object to the proposed Off-Leash Dog Pilot Program at Quarry Park, with the proviso that some of its 8 miles of trails should be off-limits to dogs, in order for all people to safely enjoy this community park.

Sincerely,  
Patricia Miller  
291 Shelter Cove Dr Half Moon Bay, CA 94019-4228  
[millersky352@coast.net](mailto:millersky352@coast.net)

**From:** [towildwood@everyactioncustom.com](mailto:towildwood@everyactioncustom.com) on behalf of [Freda Hofland](#)  
**To:** [Planning Commission](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Item #3 on February 9 Agenda: Deny Coastal Development Permit for the proposed 12-month Off-Leash Dog Pilot program at Pillar Point Bluff  
**Date:** Monday, February 7, 2022 6:39:07 PM

---

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

Dear Planning Commissioners,

Please protect wildlife, sensitive habitats, and public safety while ensuring maximum public access for all people at Pillar Point Bluff by voting "No" on the Coastal Development Permit for off-leash dogs at Pillar Point Bluff.

The County Local Coastal Program only allows resource-dependent uses in sensitive habitat areas. There is too much at risk to wildlife and associated habitats on the Bluff and adjacent Ross' Cove/Fitzgerald Marine Reserve. The Coastal Act's maximum public access requirements for all people are not applicable to dogs.

I support effective and consistent enforcement of longstanding County Leash Laws at Pillar Point Bluff and the prohibition of dogs at Fitzgerald Marine Reserve.

I do not object to the proposed Off-Leash Dog Pilot Program at Quarry Park, with the proviso that some of its 8 miles of trails should be off-limits to dogs, in order for all people to safely enjoy this community park.

Please deny the CDP for off-leash dogs at Pillar Point Bluff. Off-leash dogs do not meet the LCP and Coastal Act fundamental policies of protecting sensitive habitats and public access for all.

Sincerely,  
Freda Hofland  
27070 Sherlock Rd Los Altos Hills, CA 94022-4239  
[towildwood@aol.com](mailto:towildwood@aol.com)

**From:** [marbeach@everyactioncustom.com](mailto:marbeach@everyactioncustom.com) on behalf of [David and Mimi Paste Pasternak](#)  
**To:** [Planning Commission](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Item #3 on February 9 Agenda: Deny Coastal Development Permit for the proposed 12-month Off-Leash Dog Pilot program at Pillar Point Bluff  
**Date:** Monday, February 7, 2022 6:56:59 PM

---

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

Dear Planning Commissioners,

We have lived here for 45 years, and enjoy the Pillar Point Bluffs and adjoining beaches & coves. We have noted the increasing numbers of locals & visitors who share that enjoyment.

I, David, enjoy the company of well behaved dogs. Mimi does not, having been bitten some years ago by an unleashed Irish Setter in Moss Beach.

We strongly object to the "experimental" off leash proposal, not only because of Mimi's inability to enjoy an area that includes unleashed dogs, but because of our observations of unruly canine behavior at Martins Beach over the past decades. There have been dog fights, "disrupted" picnics, and several bites of humans, all committed by dogs whose owners swear that the dog in question had never before exhibited such behavior. Dogs need a place to run free. Humans and wildlife need a safe space in nature. These needs are not compatible on and around the Pillar Point Bluffs.

Sincerely,  
David & Mimi Pasternak

Sincerely,  
David and Mimi Paste Pasternak  
350 Martins Beach Rd Half Moon Bay, CA 94019-2514  
[marbeach@coastside.net](mailto:marbeach@coastside.net)

**From:** [sally@everyactioncustom.com](mailto:sally@everyactioncustom.com) on behalf of [Sarah Coverdell](#)  
**To:** [Planning Commission](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Item #3 on February 9 Agenda: Deny Coastal Development Permit for the proposed 12-month Off-Leash Dog Pilot program at Pillar Point Bluff  
**Date:** Monday, February 7, 2022 7:06:38 PM

---

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

Dear Planning Commissioners,

Please protect wildlife, sensitive habitats, and public safety while ensuring maximum public access for all people at Pillar Point Bluff by voting "No" on the Coastal Development Permit for off-leash dogs at Pillar Point Bluff.

The County Local Coastal Program only allows resource-dependent uses in sensitive habitat areas. There is too much at risk to wildlife and associated habitats on the Bluff and adjacent Ross' Cove/Fitzgerald Marine Reserve. The Coastal Act's maximum public access requirements for all people are not applicable to dogs.

We support effective and consistent enforcement of longstanding County Leash Laws at Pillar Point Bluff and the prohibition of dogs at Fitzgerald Marine Reserve.

We do not object to the proposed Off-Leash Dog Pilot Program at Quarry Park, with the proviso that some of its 8 miles of trails should be off-limits to dogs, in order for all people to safely enjoy this community park.

Sincerely,  
Sarah Coverdell  
501 Purisima Way Half Moon Bay, CA 94019-9710  
[sally@blueskydesignsinc.com](mailto:sally@blueskydesignsinc.com)

**From:** [autumn.amato@everyactioncustom.com](mailto:autumn.amato@everyactioncustom.com) on behalf of [Autumn Haas](#)  
**To:** [Planning Commission](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Item #3 on February 9 Agenda: Deny Coastal Development Permit for the proposed 12-month Off-Leash Dog Pilot program at Pillar Point Bluff  
**Date:** Monday, February 7, 2022 7:13:38 PM

---

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

Dear Planning Commissioners,

Please protect wildlife, sensitive habitats, and public safety while ensuring maximum public access for all people at Pillar Point Bluff by voting "No" on the Coastal Development Permit for off-leash dogs at Pillar Point Bluff.

The County Local Coastal Program only allows resource-dependent uses in sensitive habitat areas. There is too much at risk to wildlife and associated habitats on the Bluff and adjacent Ross' Cove/Fitzgerald Marine Reserve. The Coastal Act's maximum public access requirements for all people are not applicable to dogs.

We support effective and consistent enforcement of longstanding County Leash Laws at Pillar Point Bluff and the prohibition of dogs at Fitzgerald Marine Reserve.

We do not object to the proposed Off-Leash Dog Pilot Program at Quarry Park, with the proviso that some of its 8 miles of trails should be off-limits to dogs, in order for all people to safely enjoy this community park.

Sincerely,  
Autumn Haas  
211 Bridgeport Dr Half Moon Bay, CA 94019-4238  
[autumn.amato@gmail.com](mailto:autumn.amato@gmail.com)



**From:** [alisagreene@everyactioncustom.com](mailto:alisagreene@everyactioncustom.com) on behalf of [Alisa MacAvoy](#)  
**To:** [Planning Commission](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Item #3 on February 9 Agenda: Deny Coastal Development Permit for the proposed 12-month Off-Leash Dog Pilot program at Pillar Point Bluff  
**Date:** Monday, February 7, 2022 7:36:45 PM

---

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

Dear Planning Commissioners,

Thank you for your service to our community. I appreciate what you do in helping to protect our amazing, diverse CA coast for the now and the future. This is a heavy responsibility. I implore you to take our comments seriously and protect our natural resource and WONDER for all. There are places for dogs and places where dogs should not be in order to protect the wildlife and other humans.

Please protect wildlife, sensitive habitats, and public safety while ensuring maximum public access for all people at Pillar Point Bluff by voting "No" on the Coastal Development Permit for off-leash dogs at Pillar Point Bluff.

The County Local Coastal Program only allows resource-dependent uses in sensitive habitat areas. There is too much at risk to wildlife and associated habitats on the Bluff and adjacent Ross' Cove/Fitzgerald Marine Reserve. The Coastal Act's maximum public access requirements for all people are not applicable to dogs.

We support effective and consistent enforcement of longstanding County Leash Laws at Pillar Point Bluff and the prohibition of dogs at Fitzgerald Marine Reserve.

We do not object to the proposed Off-Leash Dog Pilot Program at Quarry Park, with the proviso that some of its 8 miles of trails should be off-limits to dogs, in order for all people to safely enjoy this community park.

Sincerely,  
Alisa MacAvoy  
258 Ferndale Way Emerald Hills, CA 94062-3906  
[alisagreene@yahoo.com](mailto:alisagreene@yahoo.com)

**From:** [gcrouse@everyactioncustom.com](mailto:gcrouse@everyactioncustom.com) on behalf of [Geoffrey Crouse](#)  
**To:** [Planning Commission](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Item #3 on February 9 Agenda: Deny Coastal Development Permit for the proposed 12-month Off-Leash Dog Pilot program at Pillar Point Bluff  
**Date:** Monday, February 7, 2022 2:04:41 PM

---

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

Dear Planning Commissioners,

Please protect wildlife, sensitive habitats, and public safety while ensuring maximum public access for all people at Pillar Point Bluff by voting "No" on the Coastal Development Permit for off-leash dogs at Pillar Point Bluff.

The County Local Coastal Program only allows resource-dependent uses in sensitive habitat areas. There is too much at risk to wildlife and associated habitats on the Bluff and adjacent Ross' Cove/Fitzgerald Marine Reserve. The Coastal Act's maximum public access requirements for all people are not applicable to dogs.

We support effective and consistent enforcement of longstanding County Leash Laws at Pillar Point Bluff and the prohibition of dogs at Fitzgerald Marine Reserve.

We do not object to the proposed Off-Leash Dog Pilot Program at Quarry Park, with the proviso that some of its 8 miles of trails should be off-limits to dogs, in order for all people to safely enjoy this community park.

Sincerely,  
Geoffrey Crouse  
468 Westridge Dr Portola Valley, CA 94028-7719  
[gcrouse@mac.com](mailto:gcrouse@mac.com)

**From:** [efporzig@everyactioncustom.com](mailto:efporzig@everyactioncustom.com) on behalf of [Ellen Porzig](#)  
**To:** [Planning Commission](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Item #3 on February 9 Agenda: Deny Coastal Development Permit for the proposed 12-month Off-Leash Dog Pilot program at Pillar Point Bluff  
**Date:** Monday, February 7, 2022 7:38:30 PM

---

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

Dear Planning Commissioners,

Please protect wildlife, sensitive habitats, and public safety We hope that in the future you will increase public access for all people at Pillar Point Bluff by voting “No” on the Coastal Development Permit for off-leash dogs at Pillar Point Bluff. Off leash dogs can be aggressive to children as well as to wildlife.

The County Local Coastal Program only allows resource-dependent uses in sensitive habitat areas. There is too much at risk to wildlife and associated habitats on the Bluff and adjacent Ross’ Cove/Fitzgerald Marine Reserve. The Coastal Act’s maximum public access requirements for all people are not applicable to dogs. Our family do have dogs, and we know that they should never roam in natural areas where birds are nesting.

We support effective and consistent enforcement of longstanding County Leash Laws at Pillar Point Bluff and the prohibition of dogs at Fitzgerald Marine Reserve.

We do not object to the proposed Off-Leash Dog Pilot Program at Quarry Park, with the proviso that some of its 8 miles of trails should be off-limits to dogs, in order for all people to safely enjoy this community park. We support the letter submitted by Green Foothills which is the basis for this.

Thank you for your consideration. Ellen and Klaus Porzig

Sincerely,  
Ellen Porzig  
872 La Mesa Dr Portola Valley, CA 94028-7421  
[efporzig@comcast.net](mailto:efporzig@comcast.net)

**From:** [dianamorgan4@everyactioncustom.com](mailto:dianamorgan4@everyactioncustom.com) on behalf of [Diana Morgan-Hickey](#)  
**To:** [Planning Commission](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Item #3 on February 9 Agenda: Deny Coastal Development Permit for the proposed 12-month Off-Leash Dog Pilot program at Pillar Point Bluff  
**Date:** Monday, February 7, 2022 7:51:54 PM

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

Dear Planning Commissioners,

Please protect wildlife, sensitive habitats, and public safety while ensuring maximum public access for all people at Pillar Point Bluff by voting "No" on the Coastal Development Permit for off-leash dogs at Pillar Point Bluff.

The County Local Coastal Program only allows resource-dependent uses in sensitive habitat areas. There is too much at risk to wildlife and associated habitats on the Bluff and adjacent Ross' Cove/Fitzgerald Marine Reserve. The Coastal Act's maximum public access requirements for all people are not applicable to dogs.

We support effective and consistent enforcement of longstanding County Leash Laws at Pillar Point Bluff and the prohibition of dogs at Fitzgerald Marine Reserve.

We do not object to the proposed Off-Leash Dog Pilot Program at Quarry Park, with the proviso that some of its 8 miles of trails should be off-limits to dogs, in order for all people to safely enjoy this community park.

Sincerely,  
Diana Morgan-Hickey  
520 Wagman Dr San Jose, CA 95129-1856  
[dianamorgan4@icloud.com](mailto:dianamorgan4@icloud.com)

**From:** [hyer4hire@everyactioncustom.com](mailto:hyer4hire@everyactioncustom.com) on behalf of [jeanette hyer](#)  
**To:** [Planning Commission](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Item #3 on February 9 Agenda: Deny Coastal Development Permit for the proposed 12-month Off-Leash Dog Pilot program at Pillar Point Bluff  
**Date:** Monday, February 7, 2022 8:50:37 PM

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Dear Planning Commissioners,

A letter on the subject of proposed off-leash dogs at Pillar Point Bluffs

I am writing with some concern about the plan to turn the Pillar Point Bluffs into an off-leash dog area. The Planning Commission should reject the County Park's request for a Coastal Development permit for this project.

My first concern is that the Bluffs will immediately be on everyone's radar as a lovely place to go off-leash walking with their dog. Unfortunately, the Bluffs is not a wide-open space, like the Fort Funston beach, or other large field spaces or beaches. On the bluffs, the majority of the area is a series of small trails, which force dogs into close proximity, which can create problems. The trails contain sensitive habitat and endangered species and are adjacent to the beaches below, which are sites where harbor seals haul out.

My second concern, as a person who has highly trained dogs that do respond (mostly) to voice control, is that there is no consensus as to what a well-trained dog is. I have encountered MANY times, people who think that their dog is well trained, when in fact they are not. This covers young dogs, dogs who respond as long as there are no distractions, and dogs who do not have enough experience being in an off-leash setting to remember their training. It is simply ridiculous to have a large unfenced area, and assume that every dog owner can accurately self-proclaim that their off-leash dogs is under voice control. There needs to be a licensing approach to allowing off-leash dogs into this sensitive area.

My final concern is that I don't think that any thought has been given to the expected crowds that might come from SF and other areas, to use the bluffs as a dog park. Already, we have all seen the explosive growth of local tourism into the area, that renders almost every weekend and holiday a horrendous traffic nightmare from Pacifica through HMB. There are many folks who would love to come with their dogs, with the idea of an off-leash park as a destination. Has any comparison been made to the situation at Fort Funston, where dogs under voice control still fall down the cliffs (41 rescues in 2017 as reported by SFFD)? I think a quick google search will confirm for you that Fort Funston is a major destination for anyone in the Bay Area. Is the infrastructure and personnel in place to handle increasing crowds at the Bluffs? Without these, it is likely that there will be widespread deterioration before any changes can be put into effect. And, is the county committed to monitoring this area forever, through good budgets and bad?

The Pillar Point Bluffs is a lovely small area, that is perfectly lovely for walking dogs on-leash. It is a terrible area for off-leash dogs. I am a dog owner and I love walking my dog off-leash, but not all places are appropriate, and Pillar Point Bluffs is too small for this experiment.

Regards,  
Jeanette hyer

Sincerely,  
jeanette hyer  
140 Forest View Rd Woodside, CA 94062-4515  
[hyer4hire@hotmail.com](mailto:hyer4hire@hotmail.com)



**From:** [pegspak@everyactioncustom.com](mailto:pegspak@everyactioncustom.com) on behalf of [margaret spak](#)  
**To:** [Planning Commission](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Item #3 on February 9 Agenda: Deny Coastal Development Permit for the proposed 12-month Off-Leash Dog Pilot program at Pillar Point Bluff  
**Date:** Monday, February 7, 2022 8:51:47 PM

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Dear Planning Commissioners,

Please protect wildlife, sensitive habitats, and public safety while ensuring maximum public access for all people at Pillar Point Bluff by voting "No" on the Coastal Development Permit for off-leash dogs at Pillar Point Bluff.

The County Local Coastal Program only allows resource-dependent uses in sensitive habitat areas. There is too much at risk to wildlife and associated habitats on the Bluff and adjacent Ross' Cove/Fitzgerald Marine Reserve. The Coastal Act's maximum public access requirements for all people are not applicable to dogs.

We support effective and consistent enforcement of longstanding County Leash Laws at Pillar Point Bluff and the prohibition of dogs at Fitzgerald Marine Reserve.

We do not object to the proposed Off-Leash Dog Pilot Program at Quarry Park, with the proviso that some of its 8 miles of trails should be off-limits to dogs, in order for all people to safely enjoy this community park.

Sincerely,  
margaret spak  
381 Santa Margarita Ave Menlo Park, CA 94025-2739  
[pegspak@sonic.net](mailto:pegspak@sonic.net)



**From:** [katherinewarne@everyactioncustom.com](mailto:katherinewarne@everyactioncustom.com) on behalf of [Kathy Warne](#)  
**To:** [Planning Commission](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Item #3 on February 9 Agenda: Deny Coastal Development Permit for the proposed 12-month Off-Leash Dog Pilot program at Pillar Point Bluff  
**Date:** Monday, February 7, 2022 8:58:09 PM

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Dear Planning Commissioners,

Please protect wildlife, sensitive habitats, and public safety while ensuring maximum public access for all people at Pillar Point Bluff by voting "No" on the Coastal Development Permit for off-leash dogs at Pillar Point Bluff.

The County Local Coastal Program only allows resource-dependent uses in sensitive habitat areas. There is too much at risk to wildlife and associated habitats on the Bluff and adjacent Ross' Cove/Fitzgerald Marine Reserve. The Coastal Act's maximum public access requirements for all people are not applicable to dogs.

We support effective and consistent enforcement of longstanding County Leash Laws at Pillar Point Bluff and the prohibition of dogs at Fitzgerald Marine Reserve.

We do not object to the proposed Off-Leash Dog Pilot Program at Quarry Park, with the proviso that some of its 8 miles of trails should be off-limits to dogs, in order for all people to safely enjoy this community park.

Sincerely,  
Kathy Warne  
253 Oak Ave Apt C Redwood City, CA 94061-2341  
[katherinewarne@gmail.com](mailto:katherinewarne@gmail.com)

**From:** [karenzamel@everyactioncustom.com](mailto:karenzamel@everyactioncustom.com) on behalf of [karen zamel](#)  
**To:** [Planning Commission](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Item #3 on February 9 Agenda: Deny Coastal Development Permit for the proposed 12-month Off-Leash Dog Pilot program at Pillar Point Bluff  
**Date:** Monday, February 7, 2022 9:23:36 PM

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Dear Planning Commissioners,

Please protect wildlife, sensitive habitats, and public safety while ensuring maximum public access for all people at Pillar Point Bluff by voting "No" on the Coastal Development Permit for off-leash dogs at Pillar Point Bluff.

The County Local Coastal Program only allows resource-dependent uses in sensitive habitat areas. There is too much at risk to wildlife and associated habitats on the Bluff and adjacent Ross' Cove/Fitzgerald Marine Reserve. The Coastal Act's maximum public access requirements for all people are not applicable to dogs.

We support effective and consistent enforcement of longstanding County Leash Laws at Pillar Point Bluff and the prohibition of dogs at Fitzgerald Marine Reserve.

We do not object to the proposed Off-Leash Dog Pilot Program at Quarry Park, with the proviso that some of its 8 miles of trails should be off-limits to dogs, in order for all people to safely enjoy this community park.

Sincerely,  
karen zamel  
2690 Goodwin Ave Redwood City, CA 94061-2520  
[karenzamel@gmail.com](mailto:karenzamel@gmail.com)

**From:** [chipbgoldstein@everyactioncustom.com](mailto:chipbgoldstein@everyactioncustom.com) on behalf of [Chip Goldstein](#)  
**To:** [Planning Commission](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Item # 3 on February 9 Agenda: Deny Coastal Development Permit for the proposed 12-month Off-Leash Dog Pilot program at Pillar Point Bluff  
**Date:** Monday, February 7, 2022 9:25:54 PM

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

Dear Planning Commissioners,

Please protect wildlife, sensitive habitats, and public safety while ensuring maximum public access for all people at Pillar Point Bluff by voting "No" on the Coastal Development Permit for off-leash dogs at Pillar Point Bluff.

The County Local Coastal Program only allows resource-dependent uses in sensitive habitat areas. There is too much at risk to wildlife and associated habitats on the Bluff and adjacent Ross' Cove/Fitzgerald Marine Reserve. The Coastal Act's maximum public access requirements for all people are not applicable to dogs.

We support effective and consistent enforcement of longstanding County Leash Laws at Pillar Point Bluff and the prohibition of dogs at Fitzgerald Marine Reserve.

We do not object to the proposed Off-Leash Dog Pilot Program at Quarry Park, with the proviso that some of its 8 miles of trails should be off-limits to dogs, in order for all people to safely enjoy this community park.

Sincerely,  
Chip Goldstein  
181 Creekside Dr Half Moon Bay, CA 94019-2348  
[chipbgoldstein@gmail.com](mailto:chipbgoldstein@gmail.com)

**From:** [McDougall.don@everyactioncustom.com](mailto:McDougall.don@everyactioncustom.com) on behalf of [Don McDougall](#)  
**To:** [Planning Commission](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Item #3 on February 9 Agenda: Deny Coastal Development Permit for the proposed 12-month Off-Leash Dog Pilot program at Pillar Point Bluff  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 8, 2022 8:56:38 AM

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

Dear Planning Commissioners,

I am an active Point Lobos nature interpreter/volunteer, co-chair of Environmental Volunteers, a nature education non-profit based in Palo Alto, past chair of the Palo Alto Parks Commission and part time Carmel resident. I have experienced off-leash decisions and experiences.

Off-leash obviously allows dogs to run free and to socialize. Running free and socializing (playing, chasing) does not keep dogs on trails and out of natural habitat. Effective off-leash situations that I have seen are usually in relatively enclosed areas. Point Lobos only allows service dogs on leash, Carmel beach allows dogs off-leash but the beach is basically enclosed. Burlingame and Palo Alto off-leash areas are generally well define and enclosed.

Dogs running free is an environmental risk to coastal habitats and wildlife at the Bluff and adjacent Ross' Cove/Fitzgerald Marine Reserve. (Environmental Volunteers brings kids from the Bay Area to Fitzgerald). Please continue to protect habitats, especially coastal habitats, while ensuring inclusive public access at Pillar Point Bluff by voting "No" on the Coastal Development Permit for off-leash dogs at Pillar Point Bluff. Please maintain the effective and consistent enforcement of longstanding County Leash Laws at Pillar Point Bluff and the prohibition of dogs at Fitzgerald Marine Reserve.

Please also consider limiting some as you consider the Off-Leash Dog Pilot Program at Quarry Park, with the proviso that some of its 8 miles of trails should be off-limits to dogs, in order for all people to safely enjoy this community park.

Thank you for listening,

Don McDougall  
1499 Oak Grove Ave,  
Burlingame, CA  
650 815 1455

Sincerely,  
Don McDougall  
1499 Oak Grove Ave Burlingame, CA 94010-3787  
[McDougall.don@gmail.com](mailto:McDougall.don@gmail.com)

**From:** [majdajones@everyactioncustom.com](mailto:majdajones@everyactioncustom.com) on behalf of [Majda Jones](#)  
**To:** [Planning Commission](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Item # 3 on February 9 Agenda: Deny Coastal Development Permit for the proposed 12-month Off-Leash Dog Pilot program at Pillar Point Bluff  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 8, 2022 9:00:56 AM

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

Dear Planning Commissioners,

I am writing to ask that off leash dogs NOT be permitted at Pillar Point Bluff, for several reasons:  
First, the area contains habitat both rare and sensitive to intrusions. Off leash dogs will not stay on the designated paths and will intrude on such areas.  
Second, wildlife is always affected by the presence of dogs, but most severely by off leash dogs. I have seen this first hand here in Portola Valley. The areas where wildlife can find breeding areas and respite are diminishing rapidly. The killing of a seal pup by an off leash dog is the most egregious example.  
Third, many people are afraid of off leash dogs, both for themselves and for their on-leash dogs.

for themselves and for their own on-leash dogs. Please protect wildlife, sensitive habitats, and public safety while ensuring maximum public access for all people at Pillar Point Bluff by voting "No" on the Coastal Development Permit for off-leash dogs at Pillar Point Bluff.

The County Local Coastal Program only allows resource-dependent uses in sensitive habitat areas. There is too much at risk to wildlife and associated habitats on the Bluff and adjacent Ross' Cove/Fitzgerald Marine Reserve. The Coastal Act's maximum public access requirements for all people are not applicable to dogs.

We support effective and consistent enforcement of longstanding County Leash Laws at Pillar Point Bluff and the prohibition of dogs at Fitzgerald Marine Reserve.

We do not object to the proposed Off-Leash Dog Pilot Program at Quarry Park, with the proviso that some of its 8 miles of trails should be off-limits to dogs, in order for all people to safely enjoy this community park.

Sincerely,  
Majda Jones  
8 Longspur St Portola Valley, CA 94028-8038  
[majdajones@gmail.com](mailto:majdajones@gmail.com)

**From:** [marsha.moutrie@everyactioncustom.com](mailto:marsha.moutrie@everyactioncustom.com) on behalf of [Marsha Moutrie](#)  
**To:** [Planning Commission](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Item #3 on February 9 Agenda: Deny Coastal Development Permit for the proposed 12-month Off-Leash Dog Pilot program at Pillar Point Bluff  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 8, 2022 10:08:15 AM

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Dear Planning Commissioners,

Planning Commission Members,

First, thank you for your service in what I know is difficult work, requiring the effort to constantly balance important and competing interests.

I am writing to urge you to deny a coastal development permit for the proposed use of the Pillar Point Bluff as an off-leash dog park for at least 12 months. Please do not turn this public treasure into a specialized park.

My husband and I are very fortunate to own land adjacent to the protected bluff area. Presently we visit the bluff once or twice a month and plan to return to San Mateo County (which is my home) as permanent residents within the year. However, we have no wish to keep the public off the bluff. It is a treasure which should continue to be shared, enjoyed, and stewarded by all. And, at present, it is. Based on our many visits over the last year, we know that many, many dog owners and professional dog walkers regularly visit the Bluff with dogs. We are happy that they do.

However, as a matter of environmental responsibility and stewardship, we strongly believe that the animals, birds, and plants that are native to the bluff and the shoreline must be assiduously protected. Also, elderly, disabled, and very young visitors, who cannot socialize comfortably with all dogs must remain welcome. We believe that this can only be accomplished by maintaining and enforcing the present rule which allows for dogs but requires leashing. Of course San Mateo County should have an off-leash dog park, but surely that important goal can be accomplished without endangering a precious, sensitive, vibrant, and rare natural habitat or by limiting its access to those comfortable with dogs.

Continuing the Bluffs present usage rules would conform to the dictates of the Coastal Act, which balances the important goals of human access and coastal habitat protection. It would also fulfill the important goal of ensuring that the Bluff trails are suitable for the largest possible numbers of humans. Given these realities, choosing areas of Quarry Park for off leash dog usage seems like a better choice, more consistent with the dictates of the Act and with basic principles of environmental stewardship.

Thank you for considering my comments and, again, for your service.

With gratitude and respect,  
Marsha Jones Moutrie

Sincerely,  
Marsha Moutrie  
2081 Glastonbury Rd CA91361 Westlake Village, CA 91361-3546  
[marsha.moutrie@gmail.com](mailto:marsha.moutrie@gmail.com)

**From:** [nbarnby@everyactioncustom.com](mailto:nbarnby@everyactioncustom.com) on behalf of [Nancy Barnby](#)  
**To:** [Planning Commission](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Item #3 on February 9 Agenda: Deny Coastal Development Permit for the proposed 12-month Off-Leash Dog Pilot program at Pillar Point Bluff  
**Date:** Monday, February 7, 2022 2:04:39 PM

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

Dear Planning Commissioners,

Please protect wildlife, sensitive habitats, and public safety and continue to ensure maximum public access for all people at Pillar Point Bluff by voting "No" on the Coastal Development Permit for off-leash dogs at Pillar Point Bluff.

Off-leash dogs often threaten wildlife species and their habitats as well as human beings, such as elders and the disabled. There are many areas in the cities of San Mateo County where dogs can run off-leash. Owners must accept the fact, when they buy a dog, that it may not always run free.

The County Local Coastal Program only allows resource-dependent uses in sensitive habitat areas. There is too much at risk to wildlife and associated habitats on the Bluff and adjacent Ross' Cove/Fitzgerald Marine Reserve. The Coastal Act's maximum public access requirements for all people are not applicable to dogs.

My husband and I fully support effective and consistent enforcement of longstanding County Leash Laws at Pillar Point Bluff and the prohibition of dogs at Fitzgerald Marine Reserve. Hence, we do not object to the proposed Off-Leash Dog Pilot Program at Quarry Park, with the proviso that some of its 8 miles of trails should be off-limits to dogs, in order for all human beings to safely enjoy this community park.

Thank you.

Sincerely,  
Nancy Barnby  
169 Spruce Ave Menlo Park, CA 94025-3039  
[nbarnby@comcast.net](mailto:nbarnby@comcast.net)



**From:** [lawco@everyactioncustom.com](mailto:lawco@everyactioncustom.com) on behalf of [Jody Lawler](#)  
**To:** [Planning Commission](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Item #3 on February 9 Agenda: Deny Coastal Development Permit for the proposed 12-month Off-Leash Dog Pilot program at Pillar Point Bluff  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 8, 2022 12:14:14 PM

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

Dear Planning Commissioners,

I can tell you first hand how dogs interact with endangered species. I have lived on a large parcel that has thousands of trees and 3 ponds on it, all with red legged frogs and other critical species. For years people thought it was open and trespassed. The pond nearest to the road was the usual spot that people took their dogs, thinking no one lived here and that it was perhaps open space. Perfect to let their beloved animals get exercise!

I have personally caught people bring their hunting dogs to learn to hunt, not just for exercise. The local heron was one target. These dogs were always after the birds and anything that moved.

We also gated the access to stop the harassment and endangerment of the habitat.

There are already canine distemper, influenza, parvo and leptospirosis exposure in dog parks. Now Covid has moved into deer populations at a high rate, and can infect dogs. Why would you risk sensitive area to this unknown. I keep our dogs away from sensitive areas on my own property.

Please do not allow off leash dogs at Pillar Point Bluff.

Please protect wildlife, sensitive habitats, and public safety while ensuring maximum public access for all people at Pillar Point Bluff by voting "No" on the Coastal Development Permit for off-leash dogs at Pillar Point Bluff.

The County Local Coastal Program only allows resource-dependent uses in sensitive habitat areas. There is too much at risk to wildlife and associated habitats on the Bluff and adjacent Ross' Cove/Fitzgerald Marine Reserve. The Coastal Act's maximum public access requirements for all people are not applicable to dogs.

We support effective and consistent enforcement of longstanding County Leash Laws at Pillar Point Bluff and the prohibition of dogs at Fitzgerald Marine Reserve.

We do not object to the proposed Off-Leash Dog Pilot Program at Quarry Park, with the proviso that some of its 8 miles of trails should be off-limits to dogs, in order for all people to safely enjoy this community park.

Sincerely,  
Jody Lawler  
PO Box 620254 Redwood City, CA 94062-0254  
[lawco@mac.com](mailto:lawco@mac.com)

**From:** [margaret@everyactioncustom.com](mailto:margaret@everyactioncustom.com) on behalf of [Margaret MacNiven](#)  
**To:** [Planning Commission](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Item #3 on February 9 Agenda: Deny Coastal Development Permit for the proposed 12-month Off-Leash Dog Pilot program at Pillar Point Bluff  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 8, 2022 12:20:03 PM

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

Dear Planning Commissioners,

Please protect wildlife, sensitive habitats, and public safety while ensuring maximum public access for all people at Pillar Point Bluff by voting "No" on the Coastal Development Permit for off-leash dogs at Pillar Point Bluff.

The County Local Coastal Program only allows resource-dependent uses in sensitive habitat areas. There is too much at risk to wildlife and associated habitats on the Bluff and adjacent Ross' Cove/Fitzgerald Marine Reserve. The Coastal Act's maximum public access requirements for all people are not applicable to dogs.

We support effective and consistent enforcement of longstanding County Leash Laws at Pillar Point Bluff and the prohibition of dogs at Fitzgerald Marine Reserve.

We do not object to the proposed Off-Leash Dog Pilot Program at Quarry Park, with the proviso that some of its 8 miles of trails should be off-limits to dogs, in order for all people to safely enjoy this community park.

Sincerely,  
Margaret MacNiven  
22400 Skyline Blvd La Honda, CA 94020-9731  
[margaret@buckswoodside.com](mailto:margaret@buckswoodside.com)

**From:** [dianetalbert@everyactioncustom.com](mailto:dianetalbert@everyactioncustom.com) on behalf of [Diane Talbert](#)  
**To:** [Planning Commission](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Item #3 on February 9 Agenda: Deny Coastal Development Permit for the proposed 12-month Off-Leash Dog Pilot program at Pillar Point Bluff  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 8, 2022 3:21:56 PM

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

Dear Planning Commissioners,

As a dog owner and as someone who grew up in this area, I urge you to deny the permit for the off-leash pilot program at Pillar Point Bluff. You cannot undo what has the potential to be destroyed within this habit during this “trial” period of assessing the impact of an off-leash dog program. Please consider a more appropriate and resilient landscape for this pilot program.

Sincerely,  
Diane Talbert

Sincerely,  
Diane Talbert  
45 Turkey Farm Ln Woodside, CA 94062-2529  
[dianetalbert@me.com](mailto:dianetalbert@me.com)

**From:** [jecarlson1@everyactioncustom.com](mailto:jecarlson1@everyactioncustom.com) on behalf of [Joyce Carlson](#)  
**To:** [Planning Commission](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Item #3 on February 9 Agenda: Deny Coastal Development Permit for the proposed 12-month Off-Leash Dog Pilot program at Pillar Point Bluff  
**Date:** Monday, February 7, 2022 1:27:29 PM

---

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

Dear Planning Commissioners,

Please protect wildlife, sensitive habitats, and public safety while ensuring maximum public access for all people at Pillar Point Bluff by voting "No" on the Coastal Development Permit for off-leash dogs at Pillar Point Bluff.

The County Local Coastal Program only allows resource-dependent uses in sensitive habitat areas. There is too much at risk to wildlife and associated habitats on the Bluff and adjacent Ross' Cove/Fitzgerald Marine Reserve. The Coastal Act's maximum public access requirements for all people are not applicable to dogs.

We support effective and consistent enforcement of longstanding County Leash Laws at Pillar Point Bluff and the prohibition of dogs at Fitzgerald Marine Reserve.

We do not object to the proposed Off-Leash Dog Pilot Program at Quarry Park, with the proviso that some of its 8 miles of trails should be off-limits to dogs, in order for all people to safely enjoy this community park.

Sincerely,  
Joyce Carlson  
1834 Elizabeth St San Carlos, CA 94070-2968  
[jecarlson1@aol.com](mailto:jecarlson1@aol.com)

**From:** [wendyh17@everyactioncustom.com](mailto:wendyh17@everyactioncustom.com) on behalf of [Wendy Hafkenschiel](#)  
**To:** [Planning Commission](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Item #3 on February 9 Agenda: Deny Coastal Development Permit for the proposed 12-month Off-Leash Dog Pilot program at Pillar Point Bluff  
**Date:** Monday, February 7, 2022 1:54:46 PM

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

Dear Planning Commissioners,

Please protect wildlife, sensitive habitats, and public safety while ensuring maximum public access for all people at Pillar Point Bluff by voting "No" on the Coastal Development Permit for off-leash dogs at Pillar Point Bluff.

The County Local Coastal Program only allows resource-dependent uses in sensitive habitat areas. There is too much at risk to wildlife and associated habitats on the Bluff and adjacent Ross' Cove/Fitzgerald Marine Reserve. The Coastal Act's maximum public access requirements for all people are not applicable to dogs.

We support effective and consistent enforcement of longstanding County Leash Laws at Pillar Point Bluff and the prohibition of dogs at Fitzgerald Marine Reserve.

We do not object to the proposed Off-Leash Dog Pilot Program at Quarry Park, with the proviso that some of its 8 miles of trails should be off-limits to dogs, in order for all people to safely enjoy this community park.

Sincerely,  
Wendy Hafkenschiel  
1100 Westridge Dr La Honda, CA 94020  
[wendyh17@gmail.com](mailto:wendyh17@gmail.com)

**From:** [cala3319@everyactioncustom.com](mailto:cala3319@everyactioncustom.com) on behalf of [Cindy Abbott](#)  
**To:** [Planning Commission](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Item # 3 on February 9 Agenda: Deny Coastal Development Permit for the proposed 12-month Off-Leash Dog Pilot program at Pillar Point Bluff  
**Date:** Monday, February 7, 2022 1:51:10 PM

---

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

Dear Planning Commissioners,

Please protect wildlife, sensitive habitats, and public safety while ensuring maximum public access for all PEOPLE at Pillar Point Bluff by voting "No" on the Coastal Development Permit for off-leash dogs at Pillar Point Bluff.

The County Local Coastal Program only allows resource-dependent uses in sensitive habitat areas. There is too much at risk to wildlife and associated habitats on the Bluff and adjacent Ross' Cove/Fitzgerald Marine Reserve. The Coastal Act's maximum public access requirements for all people are not applicable to dogs.

I support effective and consistent enforcement of longstanding County Leash Laws at Pillar Point Bluff and the prohibition of dogs at Fitzgerald Marine Reserve.

I do not object to the proposed Off-Leash Dog Pilot Program at Quarry Park, with the proviso that some of its 8 miles of trails should be off-limits to dogs, in order for all people to safely enjoy this community park.

Sincerely,  
Cindy Abbott  
51 Salada Ave Pacifica, CA 94044-2527  
[cala3319@gmail.com](mailto:cala3319@gmail.com)

**From:** [allenolivo@everyactioncustom.com](mailto:allenolivo@everyactioncustom.com) on behalf of [allen olivo](#)  
**To:** [Planning Commission](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Item #3 on February 9 Agenda: Deny Coastal Development Permit for the proposed 12-month Off-Leash Dog Pilot program at Pillar Point Bluff  
**Date:** Monday, February 7, 2022 2:12:51 PM

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

Dear Planning Commissioners,

As a long-time hiker and dog owner who has spent many hours hiking the bluff, I urge you to please protect wildlife, sensitive habitats, and public safety while ensuring maximum public access for all people at Pillar Point Bluff by voting "No" on the Coastal Development Permit for off-leash dogs at Pillar Point Bluff.

Dogs on-leash allow all people and animals to enjoy the bluff to the maximum level. Dogs off-leash create an unpredictable and uncomfortable atmosphere with the concern of aggressive dogs choosing a path of harm to other dogs and wildlife. I have seen off-leash dogs slide over the bluff edge, causing first-responders to put their lives at risk rappelling down to rescue the dogs. I have also seen several instances of commercial dog walkers unleash their (more than three) dogs at the gate entrance and let them run loose across the bluff.

The County Local Coastal Program only allows resource-dependent uses in sensitive habitat areas. There is too much at risk to wildlife and associated habitats on the Bluff and adjacent Ross' Cove/Fitzgerald Marine Reserve. The Coastal Act's maximum public access requirements for all people are not applicable to dogs.

We support effective and consistent enforcement of longstanding County Leash Laws at Pillar Point Bluff and the prohibition of dogs at Fitzgerald Marine Reserve.

I do not object to the proposed Off-Leash Dog Pilot Program at Quarry Park, with the proviso that some of its 8 miles of trails should be off-limits to dogs, in order for all people to safely enjoy this community park.

Sincerely,  
allen olivo  
531 San Juan Ave Half Moon Bay, CA 94019-4555  
[allenolivo@comcast.net](mailto:allenolivo@comcast.net)



**From:** [lmw\\_us@everyactioncustom.com](mailto:lmw_us@everyactioncustom.com) on behalf of [L watson](#)  
**To:** [Planning Commission](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Item #3 on February 9 Agenda: Deny Coastal Development Permit for the proposed 12-month Off-Leash Dog Pilot program at Pillar Point Bluff  
**Date:** Monday, February 7, 2022 2:16:51 PM

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

Dear Planning Commissioners,

Please protect wildlife, sensitive habitats, and public safety while ensuring maximum public access for all people at Pillar Point Bluff by voting "No" on the Coastal Development Permit for off-leash dogs at Pillar Point Bluff.

The County Local Coastal Program only allows resource-dependent uses in sensitive habitat areas. There is too much at risk to wildlife and associated habitats on the Bluff and adjacent Ross' Cove/Fitzgerald Marine Reserve. The Coastal Act's maximum public access requirements for all people are not applicable to dogs.

We support effective and consistent enforcement of longstanding County Leash Laws at Pillar Point Bluff and the prohibition of dogs at Fitzgerald Marine Reserve.

We do not object to the proposed Off-Leash Dog Pilot Program at Quarry Park, with the proviso that some of its 8 miles of trails should be off-limits to dogs, in order for all people to safely enjoy this community park.

Sincerely,  
L watson  
PO Box 1081 Half Moon Bay, CA 94019-1081  
[lmw\\_us@yahoo.com](mailto:lmw_us@yahoo.com)

**From:** [alohatstyles@everyactioncustom.com](mailto:alohatstyles@everyactioncustom.com) on behalf of [Taletha Derrington](#)  
**To:** [Planning Commission](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Item #3 on February 9 Agenda: Deny Coastal Development Permit for the proposed 12-month Off-Leash Dog Pilot program at Pillar Point Bluff  
**Date:** Monday, February 7, 2022 2:19:51 PM

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

Dear Planning Commissioners,

Please protect wildlife, sensitive habitats, and public safety while ensuring maximum public access for all people at Pillar Point Bluff by voting "No" on the Coastal Development Permit for off-leash dogs at Pillar Point Bluff.

The County Local Coastal Program only allows resource-dependent uses in sensitive habitat areas. There is too much at risk to wildlife and associated habitats on the Bluff and adjacent Ross' Cove/Fitzgerald Marine Reserve. The Coastal Act's maximum public access requirements for all people are not applicable to dogs.

We support effective and consistent enforcement of longstanding County Leash Laws at Pillar Point Bluff and the prohibition of dogs at Fitzgerald Marine Reserve.

We do not object to the proposed Off-Leash Dog Pilot Program at Quarry Park, with the proviso that some of its 8 miles of trails should be off-limits to dogs, in order for all people to safely enjoy this community park.

Sincerely,  
Taletha Derrington  
122 Madrid Ave El Granada, CA 94018-8043  
[alohatstyles@gmail.com](mailto:alohatstyles@gmail.com)

**From:** [alkeller715@everyactioncustom.com](mailto:alkeller715@everyactioncustom.com) on behalf of [Anne Keller](#)  
**To:** [Planning Commission](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Item #3 on February 9 Agenda: Deny Coastal Development Permit for the proposed 12-month Off-Leash Dog Pilot program at Pillar Point Bluff  
**Date:** Monday, February 7, 2022 2:30:51 PM

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

Dear Planning Commissioners,

Please vote "NO". I am a dog owner and a dog walker, but this sensitive area must be protected from the potential damage that off-leash dogs can do.

Please protect wildlife, sensitive habitats, and public safety while ensuring maximum public access for all people at Pillar Point Bluff by voting "No" on the Coastal Development Permit for off-leash dogs at Pillar Point Bluff.

The County Local Coastal Program only allows resource-dependent uses in sensitive habitat areas. There is too much at risk to wildlife and associated habitats on the Bluff and adjacent Ross' Cove/Fitzgerald Marine Reserve. The Coastal Act's maximum public access requirements for all people are not applicable to dogs.

We support effective and consistent enforcement of longstanding County Leash Laws at Pillar Point Bluff and the prohibition of dogs at Fitzgerald Marine Reserve.

We do not object to the proposed Off-Leash Dog Pilot Program at Quarry Park, with the proviso that some of its 8 miles of trails should be off-limits to dogs, in order for all people to safely enjoy this community park.

Sincerely,

Anne Keller  
306 Roosevelt Blvd.  
Half Moon Bay 94019

Sincerely,  
Anne Keller  
306 Roosevelt Blvd Half Moon Bay, CA 94019-1344  
[alkeller715@gmail.com](mailto:alkeller715@gmail.com)

**From:** [carolejg@everyactioncustom.com](mailto:carolejg@everyactioncustom.com) on behalf of [Carole Gonsalves](#)  
**To:** [Planning Commission](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Item #3 on February 9 Agenda: Deny Coastal Development Permit for the proposed 12-month Off-Leash Dog Pilot program at Pillar Point Bluff  
**Date:** Monday, February 7, 2022 1:26:06 PM

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

Dear Planning Commissioners,

Please protect wildlife, sensitive habitats, and public safety while ensuring maximum public access for all people at Pillar Point Bluff by voting "No" on the Coastal Development Permit for off-leash dogs at Pillar Point Bluff. I am 80 years old and would not feel comfortable walking the bluffs with large off-leash dogs. I am also concerned about the continuing losses of our habitat and wildlife.

The County Local Coastal Program only allows resource-dependent uses in sensitive habitat areas. There is too much at risk to wildlife and associated habitats on the Bluff and adjacent Ross' Cove/Fitzgerald Marine Reserve. The Coastal Act's maximum public access requirements for all people are not applicable to dogs.

We support effective and consistent enforcement of longstanding County Leash Laws at Pillar Point Bluff and the prohibition of dogs at Fitzgerald Marine Reserve.

We do not object to the proposed Off-Leash Dog Pilot Program at Quarry Park, with the proviso that some of its 8 miles of trails should be off-limits to dogs, in order for all people to safely enjoy this community park.

Sincerely,  
Carole Gonsalves  
1497 Los Rios Dr San Jose, CA 95120-4825  
[carolejg@mac.com](mailto:carolejg@mac.com)

**From:** [1recyclequeen@everyactioncustom.com](mailto:1recyclequeen@everyactioncustom.com) on behalf of [Merrily Robinson](#)  
**To:** [Planning Commission](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Item #3 on February 9 Agenda: Deny Coastal Development Permit for the proposed 12-month Off-Leash Dog Pilot program at Pillar Point Bluff  
**Date:** Monday, February 7, 2022 2:10:47 PM

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

Dear Planning Commissioners,

Please protect wildlife, sensitive habitats, and public safety while ensuring maximum public access for all people at Pillar Point Bluff by voting "No" on the Coastal Development Permit for off-leash dogs at Pillar Point Bluff.

The County Local Coastal Program only allows resource-dependent uses in sensitive habitat areas. There is too much at risk to wildlife and associated habitats on the Bluff and adjacent Ross' Cove/Fitzgerald Marine Reserve. The Coastal Act's maximum public access requirements for all people are not applicable to dogs.

We support effective and consistent enforcement of longstanding County Leash Laws at Pillar Point Bluff and the prohibition of dogs at Fitzgerald Marine Reserve.

We do not object to the proposed Off-Leash Dog Pilot Program at Quarry Park, with the proviso that some of its 8 miles of trails should be off-limits to dogs, in order for all people to safely enjoy this community park.

Sincerely,  
Merrily Robinson  
952 Ruby St Redwood City, CA 94061-1430  
[1recyclequeen@gmail.com](mailto:1recyclequeen@gmail.com)

**From:** [Thomas Ciotti](#)  
**To:** [Planning Commission](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Opposition to Granting San Mateo County Parks Department a Permit For Their Proposed Off-leash Dog Program at FMR's Pillar Point Bluff Trails  
**Date:** Thursday, February 3, 2022 11:28:20 AM  
**Attachments:** [Ranger Log Books.pdf](#)

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I have lived in Montara for over 30 years (25 of which with dogs) and am an almost 20 year long Volunteer Naturalist and Board Member of the Friends of Fitzgerald Marine Reserve.

**1. The 2004 Fitzgerald Marine Reserve (FMR) Master Plan (MP) applies to the Pillar Point Bluffs (PPB) and restricts dog presence there to only on-leash dog walking on the CA Coastal Trail.** San Mateo County Parks' (Parks) website relating to PPB states, "When San Mateo County adopted the MP in 2004, it had identified these lands for acquisition... Parks acquired PPB with a grant from the Wildlife Conservation Board as an addition to FMR in 2011." So PPB is a part of FMR and the MP anticipated it being so.

The Natural Resource Management Program section of the MP (pg 41) states, "The primary goal of the MP is to preserve the natural resources of the Reserve and to enhance them through careful management."

In other words, preservation and enhancement of the Reserve's natural resources was prioritized above everything else, including recreational activities. Policy 11 (pg 45) recognizes that dogs are detrimental to the Reserve's natural resources, stating: "Due to the potential for impacts to biological resources from predation or disease, dogs are not allowed within the Reserve. This policy will prevent interference with and mortality of native species. Dogs will be allowed only on leash

on the California Coastal Trail”.

So when PPB became part of FMR in 2011 Parks became responsible for preserving the PPB’s natural resources in accordance with Policy 11. This is so regardless of the facts that PPB was once pasture land and that PPB is zoned Agriculture by San Mateo County and whether or not it includes “sensitive habitat”.

**2. There has been an ongoing, continuous pattern of violations of Parks’ dog policy.**

FFMR Board Members inspected Parks’ FMR Ranger’s Log Books for 2018-2021 for reports of dog policy violations. The results of those inspections in tabulated form are attached hereto. In brief, they evidence frequent and continuing violations at FMR areas that have been clearly restricted for decades, including Ross’ Cove/Frenchman’s Reef, Seal Cove, the Bluff Top Trail, and the Main Entrance Ramp. The tabulations also evidence frequent and continuing violations of the on-leash only policy at the PPB Trails. Also proponents of the subject Program admit that the Coastside community has been walking dogs off leash at PPB for 50+ years. Since PPB became part of FMR 10 years ago, that activity has been unlawful! They now ironically ask Parks to reward 10+ years of bad behavior by legitimizing it by implementing the subject Program.

The tabulation also shows that Parks has been unable to effectively manage FMR dog policy to prevent violations because many dog owners ignore that policy.

**3. Having a more lax dog policy for PPB than the rest of FMR is irrational, inconsistent, and confusing.**

The MP mandates that there should be uniform preservation of natural resources and only one dog policy for all of FMR. Are dogs less detrimental to the PPB natural resources than to those at the rest of FMR? Are the natural resources at PPB more dog-proof than those at the rest of FMR? Are the

natural resources at PPB less worthy of preservation than those at the rest of FMR? NO, NO, NO. FMR natural resources preservation would be better served by having Rangers spend time enforcing Policy 11 rather than on trying, per the monitoring provisions of the subject Program, to determine if a dog is only off trail less than 10 feet, is within 25 feet of its owner, or takes less than 10 seconds to respond to a voice call-back, or whether an owner who is looking at his/her cell phone is in vision control of his/her dog.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas Ciotti, Co-Vice President Friends of  
Fitzgerald Marine Reserve

Sent from my iPad



Sabrina Brennan  
165 La Grande Ave.  
Moss Beach, Ca 94038

Tuesday, February 8, 2022

Chair Manuel Ramirez and Members of the  
San Mateo County Planning Commission  
455 County Government Center, 2nd Floor  
Redwood City, CA 94063

**Re: Off-Leash Dog Walking Pilot Program: Feb 9, 2022 Agenda, Item 3: File No. PLN2021-00333**

Dear Chair Ramirez and Commissioners,

Please deny the CDP for the proposed off-leash dog pilot program at Pillar Point Bluff.

Off-leash dogs on the Pillar Point Bluff segment of the California Coastal Trail have attacked and bitten people, killed wildlife and disturbed habitat. **I experienced a dog attack while riding my bike on Pillar Point Bluff.** A pit bull split from a pack of dogs hunting rabbits and ran towards my bike and chomped down hard on my right thigh. I sustained multiple puncture wounds. I kicked the dog to get away. At the time, I was bike riding with a neighbor, he witnessed the attack.

At the time of the attack the pit bull's owner was out of sight. Following the attack, the dog owner eventually arrived and managed to leash three of her five dogs. The out-of-control pit bull continued to run around the bluff. I insisted the dog owner look at the deep puncture wound on my thigh. No apology was offered. The pack owner lives on the east side on Highway 1 in Moss Beach, I reported the incident to the County, and nothing was done. I paid my own medical expenses. If a child had been attacked by the same dog, they might have needed surgery or worse.

Another Pillar Point Bluff off-leash dog incident stands out in my memory. A man was jogging with a large off-leash dog. The dog was running ahead of its owner. The off-leash dog approached a woman on a blind curve in the trail. The jogger was out of sight. The woman was afraid of the off-leash dog, her husband attempted to protect her from the dog by air kicking towards the dog. The jogger caught up with his off-leash dog and physically attacked the couple. He beat the woman and her husband on the trail and pushed the woman facedown into the coyote brush and punched her husband in the nose. The husband was injured and bleeding from the attack. The couple called 911 and reported the incident to San Mateo County Sheriff deputies who arrived at the trailhead. I reported what I witnessed to the Sheriff along with another neighbor from Moss Beach.

I'm concerned about recreational displacement caused by elevated risks to public safety. Families with young children often use the Pillar Point Bluff segment of the California Coastal Trail for recreation and exercise. Why should families concerned about off-leash dog attacks be forced to stop using the Pillar Point Bluff trail system? Who will pay medical expenses for low-income families including surgery and years of therapy to recover from the emotional distress caused by a dog

attack? And what if someone is killed by an off-leash dog? How will their loved ones be compensated for loss of life?

**Please protect families and wildlife from off-leash dogs on this important segment of the California Coastal Trail. Please don't allow off-leash dogs to disrupt and hunt wildlife and disturb sensitive habitat at Pillar Point Bluff.**

There is a significant lack of enforcement by San Mateo County Parks as well as problems with the County's reporting system for violations of County Park rules and violations of the Marine Mammal Protection Act.

The following 8 videos are from late January 2022 and early February 2022. There is a very concerning off-leash dog problem, dog poop problem and poaching problem at Pillar Point Bluff and the Fitzgerald Marine Reserve.

**Aggressive Off-Leash Dog**

Location: Fitzgerald Marine Reserve. North of Ross' Cove this is the same area where another off-leash dog (Luna) killed a seal pup.

Incident Date: 1-23-2022

Reported: San Mateo County Sheriff's Office

Incident Report Number: SH22-5419

Deputy J. BABA

<https://youtu.be/ZJtk1FibuhU>

**SMC Park Rangers MIA at Fitzgerald Marine Reserve**

Location: Fitzgerald Marine Reserve, reef south of Seal Cove beach

Date: 1-29-2022

<https://youtu.be/vfXnxo2OFz4>

**Marine Mammal Protection Act Violations: Fitzgerald Marine Reserve**

Location: Fitzgerald Marine Reserve. South of Seal Cove Beach

Date: 1-29-2022

<https://youtu.be/ulrcLX6SsKU>

**SMC Parks Understaffed at the Fitzgerald Marine Reserve**

Location: Fitzgerald Marine Reserve

Date: Jan 30, 2022

<https://youtu.be/wXyjOb7KxiQ>

**Off-Leash Dog: Fitzgerald Marine Reserve**

Location: Fitzgerald Marine Reserve. North of Ross' Cove, this is the same area where another off-leash dog (Luna) killed a seal pup.

Date: 1-29-2022

[https://youtu.be/wALdwD\\_F9-0](https://youtu.be/wALdwD_F9-0)

**Poachers: Fitzgerald Marine Reserve**

Location: Fitzgerald Marine Reserve, reef south of Seal Cove beach

Date: Jan 30, 2022

<https://youtu.be/RE9IEvrUOQ>

**Off-Leash Dog: Fitzgerald Marine Reserve—Ross' Cove Beach**

Location: Fitzgerald Marine Reserve—Ross' Cove

Date: Feb 6, 2022

Reported: SMC Park Ranger at time of incident

<https://youtu.be/0lsM46pJhLg>

**Off-leash Dogs Poop on Pillar Point Bluff**

Location: Pillar Point Bluff, Seal Cove trailhead

Date: Jan 29, 2022 - 5:47pm

<https://youtu.be/gaiwWkm8lrY>

The photos below (Poaching Exhibit A) include one of three people I discovered poaching on 1-29-2022 at the Fitzgerald Marine Reserve reef near the area where the seal pup was killed by an off-leash dog (Luna). The poacher grabbed his machete and threatened me before walking away. I spoke on the phone with the Fish and Game warden around the time of the incident and texted him photos of three poachers. I also reported the incident to SMC Sheriff Deputy John Baba.

This is not the first time I have experienced scary interactions with poachers at the Fitzgerald Marine Reserve. There were many other incidents of poaching and off-leash dogs at the Fitzgerald Marine Reserve in January 2022 and this month that I did not document on video.

**Poaching: Exhibit A**



Sincerely,

Sabrina Brennan  
Seal Cove—Moss Beach



Serving San Mateo County for over 70 years

February 8, 2022

Chair Manuel Ramirez and Members  
San Mateo County Planning Commission  
455 County Government Center, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Redwood City, CA 94063

Re: County File Number: PLN2021-00333 – Off-leash Dog Walking Pilot Program

Dear Chair Ramirez and Commissioners,

On behalf of the Sequoia Audubon Society, serving San Mateo County for over 70 years, I write to you to request that you do not approve the proposed off-leash dog pilot program at the Pillar Point Bluff (PPB) primarily because it does not best serve the goals of preserving our environment nor the citizens of San Mateo County to that end. Numerous technical and legal reasons for not approving this proposal have been presented to the San Mateo County Planning Commission that clearly outline many reasons to not approve the proposal for off-leash dog use at PPB and will not be repeated here. We do present here additional important considerations.

Approval of the off-leash proposal would undoubtedly be a magnet for largely increasing the presence of dogs that will be a serious continual encroachment and degradation of this sensitive environment as well as the adjacent Fitzgerald Marine Preserve through nearly unavoidable incursions through informal and formal shared paths. Increasing usage by off-leash dogs will further impact this sensitive environment.

Further, allowing off-leash dogs on PPB will undoubtedly be widely publicized and will encourage even more visitors with unleashed dogs to visit. To make PPB a magnet for wider off-leash dogs will undoubtedly degrade this area that should be protected and improved. It is not reasonable to assume that increasing off-leash dog traffic, with the inevitable publicizing of this as more dog owners become aware of its sanction will not lead to more habitat degradation.

Those who use these and many other trails quite frequently observe dog owners who disregard regulations designed to protect habitats, wildlife and other visitors. To allow off-leash dogs on PPB is essentially a guarantee of more such disregard for regulations and for degradation of this valuable area by habitat destruction, including dog waste not being picked up by owners, thereby endangering other dogs and wildlife, intimidation of other dogs and human visitors to these paths.

Some have advanced the argument that this area has been used for decades for off-leash use without any harm to the area. This clearly cannot be substantiated and no evidence has been provided to show what the area was like before off-leash dog use as well as human use occurred. It is clear that the area is not in as good condition as before this type of usage, and it is further clear that continued high level usage will continue to cause environmental damage to this area.

The recently issued draft guidance “Pathways to 30 x 30 California” (12/22) by the Administration of Governor Newsom’s Administration to preserve 30% of our lands and environment by 2030, clearly indicates that we must keep these goals uppermost during consideration of our decisions on natural areas, of which these areas under consideration are an important component.

At this time, as we all have become more acutely aware that climate change and habitat degradation are intimately connected, it is important to try to prevent, rather than increase habitat degradation, and improve it whenever possible. This is clearly one instance in which we believe this can and should be done.

For all of the reasons stated, we respectfully request that the off-leash proposal for PPB not be approved by your Commission.

Sincerely,

*Marshall Dinowitz*

Marshall Dinowitz

Chair, Sequoia Audubon Chapter Conservation Committee

**From:** [Christine Corwin](#)  
**To:** [Planning Commission](#)  
**Cc:** [Janneth Lujan](#)  
**Subject:** Support for Off-Leash Pilots - Pls Issue the CDP (Email from Dog Work Group Member)  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 8, 2022 1:29:53 PM

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

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Dear San Mateo County Planning Commissioners:

**As a member of San Mateo County Parks' Dog Work Group, I am writing in full support of County Parks' 12-month off-leash pilot program at Quarry Park and Pillar Point Bluff and to respectfully request that the Planning Commission please grant a Coastal Development Permit for the pilot program at both sites (PLN2021-00333 – Feb. 9 Agenda Item #3).**

The off-leash pilots plan is a result of a four-year public process led by San Mateo County Parks in conjunction with its multi-stakeholder Dog Work Group. As head of Coastside DOG, I was the only dog owner representative on the 10-member Dog Work Group. It was a diverse group composed of environmental, equestrian, mountain biking, and community group representatives, as well as two San Mateo County Parks Commissioners and three park rangers. Well-respected environmental veteran, Jerry Hearn, served as the environmental representative.

Within parameters provided by County Parks and with ongoing public input, the Dog Work Group was required to reach consensus on every aspect of the off-leash pilot program. This required hours upon hours of discussion, studying the issues and visitor use scenarios, and compromise to reach a plan that all members and County Parks support. As a result, the off-leash pilot program contains the strictest off-leash dog walking rules in California.

Quarry Park and Pillar Point Bluff were selected as the off-leash pilot sites based on their long history of off-leash use, overwhelming public support for off-leash trails at both sites, and natural resource considerations (other county parks had more sensitive habitat and/or did not allow dogs). The Dog Work Group selected two sites for the pilot to avoid overcrowding and to ensure that off-leash dog walking recreation would be available to people of all physical abilities (some people are unable to scale the steep hills at Quarry Park).

Unfortunately, right now a few groups and individuals (many of whom chose not to participate in the long public process) are coming in at the 11<sup>th</sup> hour and making vague claims about the environmental sensitivity of Pillar Point Bluff to try to derail the Coastal Development Permit. They are conflating Pillar Point Bluff with the Fitzgerald Marine Reserve, and making unsubstantiated claims about the environmental and visitor use impacts of voice control dog walking—an activity which has regularly taken place at Pillar Point Bluff for generations.

At this point, I urge the Planning Commission to focus on the merits of the project and the science and data provided by natural resource and park professionals. During the Dog Work Group process, County Parks' Natural Resource staff conducted an environmental review of both Quarry Park and Pillar Point Bluff. Off-leash trails were designated only in areas not deemed sensitive. In addition, a

CEQA review, including the development of an Adaptive Management Plan (AMP), was conducted by consulting firm WRA and County Parks. As a result, no potential significant environmental impacts are expected from the pilot program.

In terms of park equity, right now only 8% of San Mateo County Parks trails allow dogs (horses are allowed on 90% of our county park trails). San Mateo County is woefully behind other Bay Area counties that provide 70-90% trails access for people with dogs, as well as legal off-leash trails. Providing some sanctioned off-leash trails via pilots at two out of the 23 San Mateo County Parks is progress.

At this time, I sincerely hope that the Planning Commission trusts in the San Mateo County Parks Department, the four-year public Dog Work Group process, and the CEQA Review and Adaptive Management Plan, and issues the CDP. The reality is that off-leash dog walking is common throughout California and our country (even Central Park in New York City has off-leash hours on its trails). It is also common practice on the San Mateo County Coast. People have walked their dogs off-leash at Quarry Park and Pillar Point Bluff for 50+ years.

County Parks, the Dog Work Group, and public have put in the hard work to craft these pilot studies. It has been a thorough and transparent public process in which all due diligence has been done. It is a 12-month pilot program that should be allowed to move forward.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,  
Christine Corwin  
San Mateo County Parks Dog Work Group Member

**From:** [Christine Corwin](#)  
**To:** [Planning Commission](#)  
**Cc:** [Janneth Lujan](#)  
**Subject:** Support for Off-Leash Pilots - Pls Issue the CDP (Email from Dog Work Group Member)  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 8, 2022 1:29:55 PM

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

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Dear San Mateo County Planning Commissioners:

**As a member of San Mateo County Parks' Dog Work Group, I am writing in full support of County Parks' 12-month off-leash pilot program at Quarry Park and Pillar Point Bluff and to respectfully request that the Planning Commission please grant a Coastal Development Permit for the pilot program at both sites (PLN2021-00333 – Feb. 9 Agenda Item #3).**

The off-leash pilots plan is a result of a four-year public process led by San Mateo County Parks in conjunction with its multi-stakeholder Dog Work Group. As head of Coastside DOG, I was the only dog owner representative on the 10-member Dog Work Group. It was a diverse group composed of environmental, equestrian, mountain biking, and community group representatives, as well as two San Mateo County Parks Commissioners and three park rangers. Well-respected environmental veteran, Jerry Hearn, served as the environmental representative.

Within parameters provided by County Parks and with ongoing public input, the Dog Work Group was required to reach consensus on every aspect of the off-leash pilot program. This required hours upon hours of discussion, studying the issues and visitor use scenarios, and compromise to reach a plan that all members and County Parks support. As a result, the off-leash pilot program contains the strictest off-leash dog walking rules in California.

Quarry Park and Pillar Point Bluff were selected as the off-leash pilot sites based on their long history of off-leash use, overwhelming public support for off-leash trails at both sites, and natural resource considerations (other county parks had more sensitive habitat and/or did not allow dogs). The Dog Work Group selected two sites for the pilot to avoid overcrowding and to ensure that off-leash dog walking recreation would be available to people of all physical abilities (some people are unable to scale the steep hills at Quarry Park).

Unfortunately, right now a few groups and individuals (many of whom chose not to participate in the long public process) are coming in at the 11<sup>th</sup> hour and making vague claims about the environmental sensitivity of Pillar Point Bluff to try to derail the Coastal Development Permit. They are conflating Pillar Point Bluff with the Fitzgerald Marine Reserve, and making unsubstantiated claims about the environmental and visitor use impacts of voice control dog walking—an activity which has regularly taken place at Pillar Point Bluff for generations.

At this point, I urge the Planning Commission to focus on the merits of the project and the science and data provided by natural resource and park professionals. During the Dog Work Group process, County Parks' Natural Resource staff conducted an environmental review of both Quarry Park and Pillar Point Bluff. Off-leash trails were designated only in areas not deemed sensitive. In addition, a



CEQA review, including the development of an Adaptive Management Plan (AMP), was conducted by consulting firm WRA and County Parks. As a result, no potential significant environmental impacts are expected from the pilot program.

In terms of park equity, right now only 8% of San Mateo County Parks trails allow dogs (horses are allowed on 90% of our county park trails). San Mateo County is woefully behind other Bay Area counties that provide 70-90% trails access for people with dogs, as well as legal off-leash trails. Providing some sanctioned off-leash trails via pilots at two out of the 23 San Mateo County Parks is progress.

At this time, I sincerely hope that the Planning Commission trusts in the San Mateo County Parks Department, the four-year public Dog Work Group process, and the CEQA Review and Adaptive Management Plan, and issues the CDP. The reality is that off-leash dog walking is common throughout California and our country (even Central Park in New York City has off-leash hours on its trails). It is also common practice on the San Mateo County Coast. People have walked their dogs off-leash at Quarry Park and Pillar Point Bluff for 50+ years.

County Parks, the Dog Work Group, and public have put in the hard work to craft these pilot studies. It has been a thorough and transparent public process in which all due diligence has been done. It is a 12-month pilot program that should be allowed to move forward.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,  
Christine Corwin  
San Mateo County Parks Dog Work Group Member

**From:** [Adrian Brandt](#)  
**To:** [Martinez, Erik@Coastal](mailto:Martinez.Erik@Coastal); [Janneth Lujan](#); [Planning Commission](#)  
**Subject:** Support off-leash dog trail pilot  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 8, 2022 11:16:44 AM

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As a lifelong county resident and relatively new owner of a pair of well-behaved but energetic rescue puppies, I'm asking for your support of off-leash trails that provide excellent and safe outdoor exercise for dogs and humans! The joy of being able to responsibly experience our beautiful outdoors together with our pets is not just sanity-saving during these years of COVID, but healthy for everyone — even during normal non-pandemic times.

Being a passionate environmentalist keenly aware of the impacts humans can have, I am impressed with the thought and care that has gone into the selection of this particular location as a pilot program and respectfully ask for your support.

The pups and I hope to see you on the trails soon!

Adrian Brandt  
Redwood City

**From:** [Mary Grace Yao](#)  
**To:** [Planning Commission](#); [Janneth Lujan](#); [Martinez, Erik@Coastal](#)  
**Subject:** Vote for Off-Leash Pilot Program! Stop targeting dog owners specifically!!  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 8, 2022 9:41:22 AM

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To whom it may concern,

Quite frankly, I do not understand SMC Planning Commission and their actions to specifically target dog owners and dogs against beaches and trails. Fort Funston and Carmel Beach are both legal off-leash dog beaches and they are the happiest place in the world! It is a shame we have to go that far to enjoy a legal off-leash beach. It is even more shameful that the SMC Planning Commission thinks it is acceptable to only offer 7% of the hiking trails in the county considering there are a lot of dog owners in the county!

Dog poops are issues on the beach but never mind the huge horse poop in Half Moon Bay State Beach or any other trails which scream gross. Even yuckier due to their size and the number of flies they attract. The hypocrisy should be called out! Targeting dogs owners specifically, for what?

Pulgas Ridge is an off-leash area and there are no issues in enforcing the off-leash rule there. If any, we have more complaints about cyclists who illegally go there with their bicycles!

Anyway, I strongly support the off-leash Dog Recreation Pilot Program at BOTH Pillar Point Bluffs and Quarry Park. The Pilot Program was carefully crafted by the SMC Parks Department in compliance with all State, County, and Local Coastal Program rules and policies. The Planning Commission should grant the Coastal Development Permit for this program.

There is no opposition to off-leash trails at Quarry Park, a hilly eucalyptus forest, so my comments are solely on the Pillar Point Bluff trails, a level area perfect for a casual, easy stroll with a dog. Of the 24 SMC parks in the system, The Dog Work Group, Parks Department and the Board of Supervisors chose both parks for the Pilot Program because they meet the needs of different users and will provide a true test of whether off-leash trails are viable. The elderly, handicapped and families with children need off-leash trails too, and the Pillar Point Bluff trails are the perfect location for these groups.

County Parks have a default rule "No dogs allowed in any Park". Before the Bluffs were

purchased by POST and given to the County, off-leash walking on the trails occurred on a continuous and uninterrupted basis, so this is not a new use, as noted by Supervisor Horsley (District 3) when the BOS voted by 4-1 to approve the Pilot Program.

Sanctioning 1.8 miles of trails on the Bluff will dramatically reduce off-leash dogs in the other parts of the Bluff. The Pilot Program includes entry fencing and additional signage clearly delineating where off-leash dogs are not permitted. Dog owners will have trails for their controlled off-leash dogs, a loop, so there is no need to use other Bluff trails. The clear demarcation of the off-leash and on-leash trails will also make enforcement easier.

Responsible dog owners will help police the few bad park users who cause problems. Dog owners want to keep sanctioned off-leash trails, and know that if off-leash dogs misbehave or dog owners don't follow the pilot program rules (stay on trails, pick up waste, etc), they will lose their legal off-leash trails and any future off-leash opportunities.

The Pilot Program only includes sections of two Bluff trails. This land is zoned agricultural and not protected sensitive habitat. One of the reasons the multi-stakeholder Dog Work Group, after 5 years and 31 public meetings, recommended these particular trails (and the BOS agreed) is that there is NO access to the beach, ocean or Fitzgerald Marine Reserve near these trails. Nature has provided the perfect barrier, a cliff. The environmentalist on the Work Group favored these off-leash trails at the Bluff (and Quarry Park) noting that they had less environmental impact than other SMC parks.

Thank you for recognizing the need for the first-ever County off-leash dog trails at the two parks carefully selected as perfect places for the Pilot Program.

Sincerely,  
Mary Yao