

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION IX
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105-3901

December 5, 2011

Frank Dean, General Superintendent
Golden Gate National Recreation Area
Building 201, Fort Mason
San Francisco, CA 94123
Attn: General Management Plan

Subject: Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Golden Gate National Recreation Area
General Management Plan, Marin, San Francisco, and San Mateo Counties, California
(CEQ# 20110298)

Dear Mr. Dean:

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has reviewed the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the above project. Our review and comments are pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations (40 CFR Parts 1500-1508), and Section 309 of the Clean Air Act.

EPA understands that a new General Management Plan (GMP) is needed to incorporate new lands that have been acquired by Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA), to address increased public demand for open spaces, and to adopt new strategies regarding climate change and transportation demands. The preferred alternative (Alternative 1 for lands in Marin, San Francisco, and San Mateo and Alternative 3 for Alcatraz Island and Muir Woods) is the environmentally preferred alternative and would provide the greatest number of visitor opportunities while still maintaining the integrity of natural and cultural resources. Based on our review, EPA has rated the document Lack of Objections (see enclosed "Summary of EPA Rating Definitions").

Master planning efforts provide an excellent opportunity to incorporate sustainability into long-term decision-making. EPA understands that with attempts to upgrade new facilities and to increase and expand visitor use in the park under Alternative 1, there could be long-term increases in energy consumption and related emissions (volume II, p. 224). We support green infrastructure as part of the remodels and renovations, such as, for example, the proposal to provide green sustainable infrastructure to replace the diesel generators on Alcatraz Island (volume I, p. 170). Decreasing emissions is also an important part of the transportation plan, and expanding shuttle and bicycle access, as is proposed, will lead to great benefits for the park.

We appreciate the opportunity to review this Draft EIS. Should you have any questions regarding our comments, please contact me at (415) 972-3521, or contact Stephanie Skophammer, the lead reviewer for the project. Stephanie can be reached at (415) 972-3098 or skophammer.stephanie@epa.gov.

Sincerely,

/s/

Kathleen Martyn Goforth, Manager
Environmental Review Office
Communities and Ecosystems Division

Enclosures: Summary of EPA Rating Definitions