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December 3, 2011

Frank Dean
Superintendent
Golden Gate National Recreation Area
Attn: Draft GMP/EIS
Fort Mason, Building 201
San Francisco, CA 94123

RE: D18 (GOGA-PLAN)

Dear Superintendent Dean:

On behalf of the residents of the village of Stinson Beach, California, the Board of the Stinson Beach Village Association (SBVA) wishes to thank your team for this opportunity to comment on the Golden Gate National Recreation Area Draft General Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement (DGMP/EIS). As a gateway community to possibly the third most visited area in the GGNRA, Stinson Beach, represented by the SBVA, is eager to participate with park staff in identifying and implementing specific actions and improvements to the GGNRA's Stinson Beach site.

Before we begin our comments, it would be appropriate to introduce ourselves. The SBVA was formed in 1976 to pursue the goals and policies of the Stinson Beach Community Plan and provide a forum for local, county, state, and federal agencies to address residents and discuss matters that materially affect the village. The Stinson Beach Community Plan (SBCP), adopted by the Marin County Board of Supervisors on May 4, 1976, evolved from the 1973 Marin County-wide Plan, which set forth broad public planning policies for general application with Marin County and encouraged the development of local plans, addressing issues of local importance in detail. The SBCP was revised and adopted by the Marin County Board of Supervisors June 25, 1985, and amended June 23, 2006. A copy of the SBCP has been included in this response, and it is available on line as an attachment to the SBVA By-laws at <http://stinsonbeachvillage.com/?q=About/By-Laws>. We ask that the SBCP be included in the County and Local Plans (DGMP/EIS, Vol. I, p. 42) as development and implementation of the Management Plan goes forward, and that the GGNRA identify the SBVA as a Partner along with the Stinson Beach County Water District on matters concerning the GGNRA Stinson Beach site.

The SBVA supports the recommendation of your planning staff that of the three alternatives, Alternative 1: Connecting people with the Parks, is the best approach to

manage the GGNRA Stinson Beach site and to solve, or at least mitigate, many of the problems and concerns identified in the Plan.

DGMP/EIS, Vol. III, p. 3: “General management plans are required by law to identify and address implementation commitments for user capacity... define[d]...as the types and levels of visitor use that can be accommodated within a particular national park area while sustaining the quality of park resources and visitor experiences consistent with the purpose of that national park. Managing user capacity in national parks is inherently complex and depends not only on the number of visitors, but also on where the visitors go, what they do, and the ‘footprints’ they leave behind.”

Stinson Beach is one of the most heavily impacted GGNRA sites. On any warm day, 20,000 visitors might flood into this town of 735 residents. There are an estimated 1,100 parking spaces, only a fraction of what is needed. Traffic and parking issues in Stinson Beach are addressed in DGMP/EIS, Vol. II, pp. 156-7, which cites a 2004 report of 4,451 cars at the park entrance on “a single summer day.” The SBVA looks forward to working with the management team to implement their recommendation stated in DGMP/EIS, Vol. II, p. 218: “In the developed beach area, the parking lot would be replaced by a more sustainable parking facility.”

DGMP/EIS, Vol. II, p. 155: “...Marin County Park sites are located within western Marin County...some distance from the county’s developed eastern corridor. Due to this isolation, Golden Gate Recreation Area park sites in Marin County are accessed primarily by automobile...The relative remoteness of Golden Gate National Recreation Area park sites within Marin County contributes to their popularity... However, it also results in severe congestion at most accessible sites... Congestion is compounded by insufficient parking and conflicts between automobile and pedestrians, who often must walk in or alongside roadways...”

The SBVA encourages the GGNRA to continue to partner with the local transportation authorities to develop and enhance public transport access to the Stinson Beach site as an effective way to mitigate automobile congestion and help achieve Climate Change Goals, as identified in DGMP/EIS, Vol. 1 p. 117. We look forward to exploring implementation of Alternative 1: the establishment of a Scenic Corridor Zone, State Route 1 and Panoramic Highway with visitor facilities as described in DGMP/EIS, Vol. 1, p. 204 and Vol. II, p. 322 as an additional mitigating factor to automobile congestion.

We agree with the assessment that “Visitor safety would benefit by... [i]mplementing roadside improvements to State Route 1 and Panoramic Highway with better way finding, overlooks for safe scenic viewing, and more separation between auto and bicycle use.” Vol. II, p. 301 and look forward to working with the management team to develop this site.

DGMP/EIS, Vol. I, p. 203: “At Stinson Beach, the setting and facilities would be improved to better support beach recreation... Sustainable new facilities would replace deteriorated restrooms, showers, picnic areas, and parking lots.”

The main restroom septic system has failed periodically for years and the south restroom has been shuttered for two years due to septic system failure. These facilities are in immediate need of repair and should be put on the fast track for replacement.

The Stinson Beach Village Association looks forward to receiving the *Final General Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement* and to participating in a close working relationship with park staff in the detailed studies and planning that will be necessary in the development of site improvements for the Stinson Beach Park Lands surrounding our community.

Sincerely,

The Stinson Beach Village Association Board

Don Anderson, Coordinator

Tara Evans, Coordinator

Mike Matthews, Coordinator

Sam Matthews, Treasurer

Chris Ruppe, Secretary

Donna Andrews, SBCC Liaison

Belinda Zell, Publicist

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Terry Bryant, Member-at-Large

Encl. (1)

CC: Kerri Cahill
Steve Kinsey