



January 11, 2014

Superintendent Frank Dean
Golden Gate National Recreation Area
Fort Mason Building 201
San Francisco, CA 94123

Dear Superintendent Dean,

The City of Mill Valley would like to add to our original correspondence dated October 2, 2013, to further communicate our concerns and the concerns of Mill Valley residents regarding the National Park Service's proposals for a range of possible operational and physical improvements to mitigate parking and roadway congestion in Muir Woods.

On November 4, 2013, the Mill Valley City Council heard an informational update on the issue, listened to public comments, and gave staff direction for further action. City Councilmembers were uniformly concerned about the initial project proposals and their impacts on traffic, safety, and quality of life for Mill Valley residents. Councilmembers directed staff to continue to monitor the issue and participate in the National Park Service California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process as appropriate. We therefore request that the National Park Service include the City of Mill Valley in all agency-level communications on this matter throughout the planning process.

We have also reviewed the recent letter from Marin County Board of Supervisors Kate Sears and Steve Kinsey, dated January 7, 2014, and concur with them on several points. We request that the National Park Service provide additional study of the parkland's capacity, and support further development of a reservation system which incorporates a visitation cap to control annual visitor numbers. We request a multi-agency approach to enhance and expand existing shuttle services to provide transportation alternatives that minimize impacts to roadways in the Southern Marin area. We also support the expansion of shuttle services that collect visitors closer to their point of origin, such as in San Francisco, at ferry landings, and the current Muir Woods Shuttle staging area. We also request careful consideration to issues of safety, evacuation planning and emergency response, as roadway congestion can significantly impact egress routes and the response times of emergency personnel.

We thank National Park Service representatives for listening to resident concerns and eliminating the option of a permanent parking lot and park-run shuttle stop located on Panormaic Highway. We also thank National Park Service representatives for hosting a public meeting and encourage strong communication and outreach efforts to keep the public fully informed and engaged in the decision-making process.

We strongly encourage National Park Service representatives to take into consideration our concerns, and those of local residents. We all share in the appreciation and desire to protect the beauty and ecological uniqueness of Muir Woods and the greater natural environment of Mount Tamalpais and the Golden Gate National Recreation Area. We look forward to working in partnership with you to find solutions to these issues.

I would like to thank Brian Aviles, Senior Planner, for his assistance and helpful information he has supplied City staff. Further correspondence may be sent to my assistant, Linn Walsh, at lwalsh@cityofmillvalley.org or (415) 388-4033.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jim McCann". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Jim" being particularly prominent.

Jim McCann, City Manager
City of Mill Valley

cc: City Council

encl: October 2, 2013 Letter from City Manager Jim McCann



GGNRA

**Attn: Muir Woods Transportation Projects
Fort Mason, Building 201
San Francisco CA, 94123**

October 2, 2013

The City of Mill Valley would like to communicate our concerns and the concerns of Mill Valley residents regarding the National Park Service's proposals for a range of possible operational and physical improvements to mitigate parking congestion in Muir Woods.

Guided by their Core Values of healthy natural environment with emphasis on conservation, open space, climate protection and sustainability, the Mill Valley City Council has established environmental conservation, traffic mitigation, and effective communication as key issues. The City of Mill Valley has a long-standing commitment when it comes to environmental protection and other sustainability related initiatives, and has a history of encouraging thoughtful transportation planning and multi-modal transportation options.

City officials are monitoring the project and would like to communicate with National Park Service representatives regarding our concerns and the concerns of our residents related to potential traffic and environmental impacts of the proposed options. We would also like to encourage National Park Service representatives to extend and enhance public communication efforts to ensure that the decision-making process includes all viewpoints.

We have received the attached comments from community members expressing concerns regarding the proposals. I urge you to consider these concerns in your design and review process. Further, please note that the City of Mill Valley greatly appreciates the beauty of Muir Woods and the greater natural environment of Mount Tamalpais and the Golden Gate National Recreation Area. We recognize the attractiveness of these national treasures and we understand the need to better address access, circulation, and parking facilities (and applaud a proactive approach to problem solving). We request that any programs or improvements do no damage or impact the very special nature and appearance of the Panoramic Highway and not increase traffic or congestion on the streets within Mill Valley or our immediate vicinity.

We would be happy to meet with National Park Service staff to discuss this matter at your earliest convenience. Kindly send your response to my assistant, Linn Walsh, at lwalsh@cityofmillvalley.org or (415) 388-4033.

Sincerely,


**Jim McCann, City Manager
City of Mill Valley**

**Encl: Correspondence from residents
CC: City Council**