



Scenic Pacifica  
Incorporated Nov. 22, 1957

---

## CITY OF PACIFICA

170 Santa Maria Avenue • Pacifica, California 94044-2506  
[www.cityofpacifica.org](http://www.cityofpacifica.org)

---

**MAYOR**  
Sue Beckmeyer

**MAYOR PRO TEM**  
Mary Bier

**COUNCIL**  
Mike O'Neill  
Sue Vaterlaus  
Tygarjas Bigstyck

August 4, 2021

Laura Joss  
General Superintendent  
Golden Gate National Recreation Area – National Park Service  
Building 201, Fort Mason  
San Francisco, CA 94123

Subject: Community and Environmental Impacts Experienced in the City of Pacifica Resulting from Increased Visitation To Mori Point

Dear Ms. Laura Joss:

The Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA) owns and manages various lands within the city limits of the City of Pacifica (City). The City appreciates the beautiful setting and various benefits that the GGNRA's lands provide our area. Most notably, throughout this current COVID-19 public health crisis, these lands provided our community and visitors from beyond our City with an ideal destination to visit when many people were inspired to spend more time outside. However, the magnitude of the increase of use and concentration of use at these areas since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in impacts on our community and environment. Mori Point and the surrounding neighborhood is experiencing one of the worst-case scenarios of these impacts.

In October 2020, residents of Fairway West, the residential neighborhood immediately north of Mori Point, started to notify the City of the impacts their neighborhood was experiencing as a result of the increase in visitation rates at Mori Point. Reported impacts include:

- An observed increase of illegally parked cars in the Fairway West neighborhood during Mori Point's peak visitation times blocking driveways, corners, fire hydrants, and adequate clearance for emergency vehicle ingress and egress, particularly on Mori Point Road.
- Traffic congestion and unsafe mixing of vehicles, pedestrians, and cyclists.
- Traffic safety impacts from the parking demand of Mori Point overflowing into the Fairway East neighborhood, which results in pedestrians, unfamiliar with the safer Highway 1 undercrossing, using the street level Highway 1 crosswalk between the Fairway West and Fairway East neighborhoods.
- Lack of trash cans in Mori Point and infrequent emptying of trash cans has led to overflowing trash cans and litter in Mori Point and around the neighborhood during times of peak usage.
- Lack of adequate restrooms in Mori Point may be linked to neighborhood reports of public urination and defecation.

- An observed increase of noise, public drinking, smoking, and “partying.”
- An observed increase of theft and vandalism (bonfires, things disappearing from people’s yards, destruction of private landscaping).
- Increased use of the secluded Pollywog Trail is providing opportunity for vandalism and other public nuisances (e.g., human urination and defecation) that are potentially harmful to the surrounding sensitive habitat.

The City is seeking support from GGNRA to address the impacts on our community and environment that are due to the limited trailhead parking and facilities at Mori Point. While there may be other methods to address these impacts, the City offers the following potential solutions for the parking and traffic, sanitation, and public nuisance related impacts for GGNRA’s consideration.

### **Parking and Traffic**

As you are aware the parking facilities at the Mori Point trailhead are limited to only a few spaces that are quickly occupied. The primary alternative parking options include parking on one side of Mori Point Road, which is a narrow road largely within GGNRA property with two-way traffic, and parking in the Fairway West neighborhood. Mori Point Road and the Fairway West neighborhood are not well suited to handle the increased traffic caused by visitors trying to figure out the next best parking option when they discover the trailhead lot is full. For these reasons, the City offers the following suggested solutions to GGNRA to implement to improve parking near the trailhead and/ or to reduce unnecessary congestion in the area:

- GGNRA to partner with the Moose Lodge (776 Bradford Way) or San Francisco Recreation and Parks Sharp Park Golf Course (2600 Francisco Boulevard) to obtain the necessary permits to make their respective parking lots available to Mori Point visitors when it’s not otherwise in use.
- Prepare a directional signage plan for the adjacent neighborhood for Pacifica’s consideration with the purpose to direct Mori Point visitors to park along Francisco Boulevard or Lundy Way and to direct visitors to the Mori Point trailhead through the safer Highway 1 undercrossing.
- Widen Mori Point Road to adequately accommodate more parking along the road.

### **Sanitation**

The City understands the GGNRA Facilities Division determined that the single, gender-neutral restroom at Mori Point is undersized and needs to be increased. The City also notes and appreciates that the GGNRA maintenance staff spends a reported 14 hours per week (approximately) at Mori Point collecting trash and cleaning bathrooms. The City offers the following suggested solutions to GGNRA to implement to improve sanitation issues on and around Mori Point:

- Maintain an increased waste pickup frequency and install wildlife-proof trash cans.
- Ensure that adequate restrooms are available at Mori Point.
- Improve public outreach and notification through on site signs, maps, and online to direct the public to “leave no trace” from their visit.

### **Public Nuisances**

The City recognizes that some of the reported public nuisances are occurring outside of Mori Point. The Pacifica Police Department has increased patrols in the area to discourage neighborhood confrontations and to address parking issues. The City offers the following suggested solutions to GGNRA to implement to reduce public nuisances experienced within Mori Point and provide support to the City for public nuisances occurring within Fairway West.

- Increase GGNRA patrol of Mori Point and to enforce existing laws and regulations.

- Increase GGNRA patrol and safety measures to reduce vandalism and other public nuisances to the Pacifica residents on Seaside Drive with the Pollywog Path trail located directly behind their homes.
- Reduce current publicly available information (including the GGNRA and GGNPC website and other recreational websites) identifying the Pollywog Path trail as an entrance point to Mori Point or as a primary trail.
- Develop new signage, public outreach, and education campaigns to encourage responsible visitor behavior with respect to the wildlife, habitat, cultural resources, and community at Mori Point.

Thank you for your time and attention to understand the issues the City is experiencing around Mori Point and your consideration of the above suggested solutions and any other additional solutions that GGNRA has to offer to address the issues at Mori Point. Staff is available to assist with any guidance and permitting that GGNRA may need from the City to implement a solution. We look forward to hearing back from GGNRA to discuss any questions or feedback that you may have on this topic or our suggested solutions and can be available for meetings as necessary. Please contact Senior Planner Bonny O'Connor at [boconnor@pacifica.gov](mailto:boconnor@pacifica.gov) with any of your coordination requests.

Sincerely,



KEVIN WOODHOUSE  
City Manager

cc: Pacifica City Council Ad Hoc Subcommittee (Bier and Vaterlaus)

Congresswoman Jackie Speier  
Office of Congresswoman Jackie Speier  
155 Bovet Road  
San Mateo, CA 94402