



# United States Department of the Interior



NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
Golden Gate National Recreation Area, Interior Region 10  
Building 201, Fort Mason  
San Francisco, CA 94123-0022

IN REPLY REFER TO:  
10.D. (GOGA-SU)

September 15, 2021

Kevin Woodhouse  
City Manager  
City of Pacifica  
170 Santa Maria Avenue  
Pacifica, CA 94044

Dear Mr. Woodhouse,

Thank you very much for your letter of August 4, 2021, regarding city concerns around the recent high visitation at Mori Point because of pandemic conditions.

This past year park areas throughout the Golden Gate National Recreation Area have seen visitation higher than any in recent memory. We understand the public's need over the past year for recreation during pandemic shelter-in-place restrictions and are glad that public lands like these are available for the public during these difficult and tragic times. Our National Park Service maintenance and law enforcement staff and have been doing their best to cope with increased crowds, parking, and refuse across the 82,000 acres of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area over the past year and a half of extreme pandemic use of park areas.

Thank you for expressing your concerns over parking and traffic issues on city and private lands adjacent to the park, and sanitation and visitor incidents on federal park lands. As a result, we have increased the bathroom and trash maintenance frequency in these areas and have increased our staff presence at Mori Point. These efforts have included increasing refuse pickup frequency as well as maintenance of the restroom by NPS and contractor staff. Our law enforcement staffs have reached out to the Pacifica Police Department to discuss joint operations for this area and to increase law enforcement presence at Mori Point as well as our other San Mateo areas. To address parking and traffic issues our field planning staff is working with City of Pacifica planning staff to discuss how we can best support and address the concerns around traffic and parking on city property. We also conducted tree and vegetation fuels reduction activities on the Mori Point trail in July of 2021 to address community concerns around this issue.

We recognize the difficulties pandemic conditions have placed on communities across public lands, particularly popular coastal areas like Pacifica, and are making community concerns a priority. We understand how difficult this past year has been for our communities, and hope that the increase in trash pickup, maintenance, and field staff presence have helped with this issue.

We remain committed to working with your staff to resolve these short-term impacts, as well as long term solutions to access to the very special park lands in the Pacifica and Mori Point areas.

Sincerely,

Laura E. Joss  
General Superintendent  
Golden Gate National Recreation Area

Cc: Congresswoman Jackie Speier