

MEMORANDUM

March 30, 2011

TO: WATERFRONT COMMITTEE

FROM: Ann Chaney, Community Development Director

SUBJECT: What We Learned Regarding Dog Management

In the last year, the Waterfront Committee gathered a great deal of information by holding public meetings, hearing from park users, conducting surveys and research, and talking with state, regional and local park agencies and enforcers. From these efforts, a lot has been learned.

The following is a summary of some of the facts, concerns and comments that have been expressed regarding dog management at the Waterfront.

Comments and Concerns

- Need better communication with the public
- Point Isabel is too crowded
- EB Park Police not actively enforcing dog rules
- Dogs need exercise; inhumane not to allow off-leash
- Sensitive wildlife areas and off-leash dogs don't mix
- State Parks does not have funding for enforcement
- Create off-leash area at waterfront
- Dog issue is significant to the community
- Amount of dogs and those not under control is not safe for children
Thank you to those who clean up after their dogs Use Cesar Chavez as model; we license, self regulate
- More dog bites a result of higher concentration
- There are people who don't use area because of the number of dogs
- Albany owns 80' right of way through state park
- Eastshore State Park general plan sets forth policies
- Enforcement is real issue; if no enforcement, what's the hurry?
- Majority of dog owners using waterfront live outside Albany
- People who don't follow the rules ruin it for the rest
- Point Isabel created as part of ESP plan to meet off-leash dog demand
- Need longer time to understand the effects of the policy
- Make area accessible to disabled and older persons
- Provide exemptions for service dogs
Need to develop wish list for park improvements
- People who walk dogs at waterfront also use Albany shops and restaurants
- Need to find funding to support enforcement
- Need to share

City and District staff have not yet had an opportunity to meet about this issue, as requested by the Committee. In the meantime, there are other issues the Committee has expressed interest in, or that require your attention, such as funding opportunities for waterfront improvements, the Golden Gate Fields response to the LBNL proposal and its relationship to Voices to Vision recommendations, Bay Trail gap closure planning, beach restoration feasibility study. Because of these pressing issues, and additional staff time needed to respond to dog management questions, it is suggested that the Committee agendaize this issue for later this year.