

1 [Maintaining Recreational Activities and Environmental Protection at Ocean Beach]

2
3 **Resolution urging the establishment of fair and effective guidelines for beach fires at**
4 **Ocean Beach that protect the public’s access to recreational activities and support**
5 **environmental protection.**

6
7 WHEREAS, For generations, beach fires held at Ocean Beach have offered affordable
8 and unique recreational opportunity for individuals and families throughout San Francisco and
9 Northern California; and

10 WHEREAS, Ocean Beach is under the jurisdiction of the National Park Service (NPS)
11 as a part of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area and plays a critical role in San
12 Francisco’s recreational system; and

13 WHEREAS, Historical records show beach fires at Ocean Beach dating at least as far
14 back as 1890; and

15 WHEREAS, The NPS has a responsibility to listen to and work in partnership with of
16 San Franciscans and others who frequent and appreciate Ocean Beach; and

17 WHEREAS, In the spirit of shared responsibility for Ocean Beach’s welfare, the City
18 and County of San Francisco allocated \$50,000 to the Recreation and Parks Department
19 (RPD) in FY2014-2015 and an additional \$185,000 in FY2015-2016 to conduct janitorial and
20 maintenance services and a robust outreach and education campaign to ensure compliance
21 with regulations; and

22 WHEREAS, In 2014, the NPS piloted new regulations to mitigate the impact of the
23 beach fires at Ocean Beach and will use the data collected to inform new guidelines; and

24
25

1 WHEREAS, From calendar year 2013 through 2015 only 15 citations were issued by
2 the NPS for illegal fires on Ocean Beach; and

3 WHEREAS, That, while regulations should aid in Ocean Beach's environmental
4 protection, they must also protect the public's access to recreational activities they have long
5 appreciated and enjoyed; now, therefore, be it

6 RESOLVED, That the City and County of San Francisco urges the National Park
7 Service to establish fair and effective guidelines for beach fires at Ocean Beach that maintain
8 the level of affordability and access San Franciscans are acclimated to; and, be it further

9 RESOLVED, That the City and County of San Francisco urges the National Park
10 Service to not implement its current proposal, to create a fee-based permitting system to
11 reserve fire rings, as it limits access and creates a financial barrier that will adversely impact
12 the equitable nature of the Ocean Beach recreation experience; and, be it further

13 RESOLVED, Honoring the shared responsibility for safety and maintenance at Ocean
14 Beach between residents, community organizations, the NPS, and local government, the City
15 and County of San Francisco is committed to working with the NPS to protect the environment
16 and to providing access to recreational activities at Ocean Beach.

FILE NO. 150102



SUBMITTED VIA
EMAIL +
PRESENTED IN
COMMITTEE
11/19/2015

The Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA) under the National Parks Service (NPS) was created in 1972 to "provide for the maintenance of needed recreational open space" for the people of the Bay Area. Congress stated that the purpose of the creation was to "assure the preservation of open space...to provide public access along the waterfront, and to expand to the maximum extent possible the outdoor recreation opportunities available to the region." NPS is performing what is more like ownership rather than appropriate management on behalf of the taxpaying public to enjoy its open recreational areas, parks and spaces.

San Francisco has limited open space to recreate thus the GGNRA is our backyard and recreation area plus is our only beachfront to enjoy the famous West Coast sunsets. The People of SF did not give NPS rights to maintenance and stewardship of our shoreline to cordon it from public use which these restrictions are slowly but surely seeking to do. This is not a national park in the middle of a wilderness area. It is an official "Recreational Area" adjacent to one of the most dense metropolitan and destination cities in the nation and world, San Francisco. It is highly inappropriate for NPS to treat it or even refer to the GGNRA as a "National Park," and it is not referred to as such in law.

NPS has implemented a General Management Plan (GMP) that makes restrictions on many forms of recreation in the GGNRA with the most recent major change at Ocean Beach by requiring an expensive permit and inconvenient reservation system for the long-time tradition of family outings and recreational bonfires on the beach which have been without significant incident to warrant such restrictions. Soon, NPS will be instituting even more highly restrictive rules despite thousands of Bay Area residents in opposition. The general public has not made any requests for such restrictions.

DogPAC of SF urges all SF Supervisors to SUPPORT this resolution to once again send a strong, earnest message and our collective voice as a City to cease and desist from instituting restrictions to public access in our publicly funded national open spaces.

Yours,

Bruce Wolfe, President
DogPAC of SF

BOARD of SUPERVISORS



City Hall
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Rm 244
San Francisco 94102-4689
Tel. No. 554-5184
Fax No. 554-5163
TDD/TTY No. 554-5227

MEMORANDUM

TO: Phil Ginsburg, General Manager, Recreation and Parks Department
Joanne Hayes-White, Chief, Fire Department

FROM: Derek Evans, Assistant Clerk

DATE: February 18, 2015

SUBJECT: LEGISLATION INTRODUCED

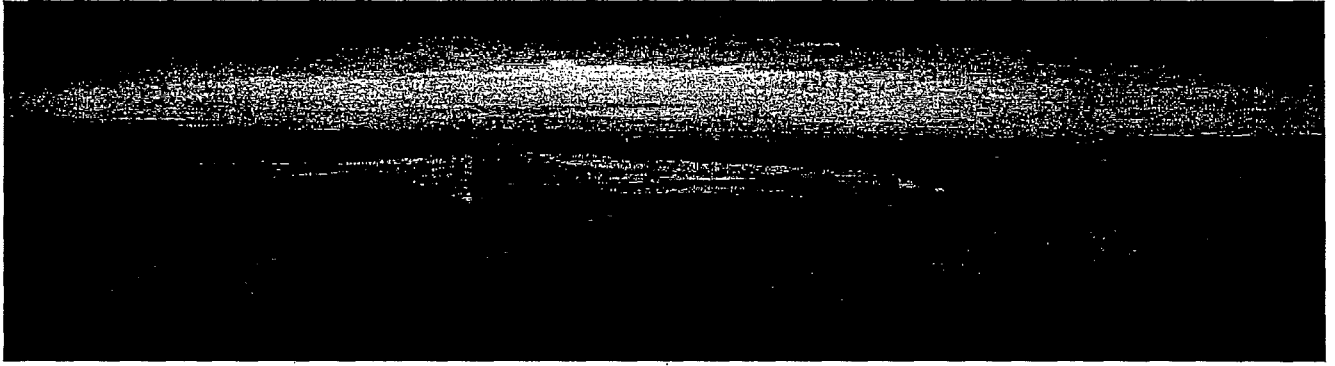
The Board of Supervisors Neighborhood Services and Safety Committee received the following legislation, which is being referred to your department for your information.

File No. 150162

Resolution urging the establishment of fair and effective guidelines for beach fires at Ocean Beach that protect the public's access to recreational activities and support environmental protection.

Please submit any comments or reports to the Board of Supervisors, City Hall, Room 244, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, San Francisco, CA 94102.

Cc: Sarah Ballard, Recreation and Parks Department
Margaret McArthur, Recreation and Parks Commission
Kelly Alves, Fire Department
Monica Quattrin, Fire Commission



National Recreation Area | California

Park Alerts ▼

Beach Fire and Campfire Regulations

Beach Fire Regulations

Beach fires are only permitted at:

- **Muir Beach:** The number of fire rings available changes seasonally. May - November: 6 fire rings are available. December - April: 3 fire rings are available. They are located on the beach near the south end of the parking lot. Fires are allowed beginning at 9:00 am and must be cleared and groups must vacate the beach by 1-hour after sunset.
- **Ocean Beach:** Only in the fire rings provided, between Stairwells 15 and 20. See below for more details.

Fires on Ocean Beach

Notice of Proposed Changes to Ocean Beach Fire Program

The National Park Service is proposing changes to the recreational fire program at Ocean Beach in order to create a safe and sustainable program that addresses environmental impacts and public safety concerns while creating a high quality user experience. Key elements of the proposed program include a permit system, winter restrictions to promote better air quality, more durable fire rings and a maintenance and educational partnership with the San Francisco Recreation and Parks Department.

To review the proposal and provide a comment, visit <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/OBfireprogram> (<http://parkplanning.nps.gov/OBfireprogram>). You may also make your comment to:

Golden Gate National Recreation Area
Attention: Ocean Beach Fire Program
Building 201 Fort Mason
San Francisco, CA 94123

The comment period for this proposal ends on **November 20, 2015**.

Following the comment period, the park will evaluate all feedback before finalizing the Ocean Beach Fire Program.

Rules for Beach Fires:

- **Fires are only allowed WITHIN the provided concrete fire rings.** Any fires created outside of these rings are illegal.
- **NO GLASS OR ALCOHOL** is allowed on the beach.
- Fires must be out by **9:00 PM**.
- **The parking lots at Ocean Beach close at 10:00 PM each night** and are owned and managed by the City of San Francisco.

- **Fires are not allowed on "Spare the Air" days.** When air pollution reaches unhealthy levels, the Bay Area Air Quality Management District notifies the public by declaring a "Spare the Air day." To find out if today is a "Spare the Air" day, visit www.sparetheair.org or call 1-800-HELP-AIR.
- Fires must be **extinguished with WATER ONLY**. Bring a bucket to collect ocean water or bring your own water. Covering the fire with sand only insulates the hot coals and fills pits with sand.
- Burn only untreated, unpainted wood.
- Don't burn pallets or any wood containing nails or other hardware.
- Bring your own firewood. Gathering, cutting or scavenging of firewood or kindling is not permitted at the beach or in the park. Locally grown firewood is best.
- Burn Clean. Do not use accelerants such as lighter fluid, as they leave pollution and poison in the sand and the air. Paper and kindling are preferred fire starter material.
- Don't burn trash or debris. Most trash gives off pollution and poisonous gases.
- Refuse must be removed from the beach. **LEAVE NO TRACE**.
- Fires shall be attended at all times by a responsible adult (18 year of age or older).
- Minors must be supervised by one person 21 or over for each 10 people under 18.
- Groups of more than 25 people must obtain a permit by calling 415-561-4700. The administrative cost for the permit is \$50.00.
- Large-scale events may require more extensive review by National Park Service staff. If it is determined that your event will require extensive review, the administrative cost may be higher. Observe all posted regulations.

Volunteer Beach Cleanup Days

The 3rd Saturday of each month join our Ocean Beach Interpretive Ranger:

- Meet at 10:00 AM at Stairwell 17
- Clean up concludes around noon.
- All supplies provided.
- Please **[click here to register \(http://www.parksconservancy.org/get-involved/volunteer/drop-in-programs/ocean-beach-cleanup.html\)](http://www.parksconservancy.org/get-involved/volunteer/drop-in-programs/ocean-beach-cleanup.html)**.
- Have questions? Call 415-561-4751

Groups are always welcome to schedule their own cleanup day as well. Contact the phone number listed above for more details.

[Top of Page \(http://www.nps.gov/goga/learn/management/fire_beachfireregs.htm# topdoc\)](http://www.nps.gov/goga/learn/management/fire_beachfireregs.htm#topdoc)

Universal Access

Golden Gate National Recreation Area is committed to universal access for all visitors. The City of San Francisco provides designated Accessible Parking Spaces at Stairwells 15/16. For more

information about accessibility and beach wheelchairs, click [here \(http://www.nps.gov/goga/planyourvisit/beach-wheelchairs.htm\)](http://www.nps.gov/goga/planyourvisit/beach-wheelchairs.htm).

Campfire regulations

- Permitted only at the Kirby Cove Campground & Picnic Area in the fire grills provided by park. Only wood or charcoal may be burned in these grills.
- No gathering, cutting or scavenging of firewood or kindling is permitted in the park from any source. All firewood must be brought into the park
- Chemically treated wood, painted wood, wood with nails or staples shall not be used in a fire.
- Before departure, campfires must be completely extinguished with water, using the "drov stir and feel" method.
- During very hot, dry weather conditions, "Spare the Air" days, strong winds, and extreme fire danger days or by order of the Superintendent, fires of any type may not be allowed anywhere in the park.

Charcoal fire regulations

Charcoal fires are permitted in fixed grills provided by the park or visitor-provided portable barbecues in established picnic areas, in the Kirby Cove Campground, or at Muir and Ocean beaches unless signed or prohibited otherwise. Debris burning is not permitted. Grill/Stove f coals must be extinguished and disposed of in receptacles provided by the park.

Park-provided charcoal grills may be found at the following picnic areas:

- Baker Beach
- Battery Wallace
- China Beach
- Kirby Cove
- Rodeo Beach
- Muir Beach

Only liquid fuel stoves are permitted in Haypress Campground, Hawk Campground and Bicentennial Campground. Campers staying at Bicentennial Campground may use charcoal in the barbecue grills in the nearby Battery Wallace picnic area.

[Top of Page \(http://www.nps.gov/goga/learn/management/fire_beachfireregs.htm# topdoc\)](http://www.nps.gov/goga/learn/management/fire_beachfireregs.htm#topdoc)

Print Form

Introduction Form

By a Member of the Board of Supervisors or the Mayor

Time stamp
or meeting date

I hereby submit the following item for introduction (select only one):

- 1. For reference to Committee. (An Ordinance, Resolution, Motion, or Charter Amendment)
- 2. Request for next printed agenda Without Reference to Committee.
- 3. Request for hearing on a subject matter at Committee.
- 4. Request for letter beginning "Supervisor [] inquires"
- 5. City Attorney request.
- 6. Call File No. [] from Committee.
- 7. Budget Analyst request (attach written motion).
- 8. Substitute Legislation File No. []
- 9. Reactivate File No. []
- 10. Question(s) submitted for Mayoral Appearance before the BOS on []

Please check the appropriate boxes. The proposed legislation should be forwarded to the following:

- Small Business Commission Youth Commission Ethics Commission
- Planning Commission Building Inspection Commission

Note: For the Imperative Agenda (a resolution not on the printed agenda), use a Imperative Form.

Sponsor(s):


Mar, Tang, Yee, Avalos, Wiener

Subject:

Maintaining Recreational Activities and Environmental Protection at Ocean Beach

The text is listed below or attached:

See Attached

Signature of Sponsoring Supervisor: 

For Clerk's Use Only: