



**CITY OF SAN DIEGO
M E M O R A N D U M**

DATE: December 6, 2010

TO: Jay Goldstone, Chief Operating Officer

FROM: Council President Pro Tem Kevin L. Faulconer
Councilmember Sherri Lightner
Councilmember Lorie Zapf

SUBJECT: Fiesta Island Master Plan

Kevin L. Faulconer
Sherri Lightner
Lorie Zapf

The City of San Diego has many fine parks and recreation areas throughout its communities, and none is as important as Mission Bay Park. Attracting millions of local residents and tourists alike, the park maintains a good balance for individuals and families to enjoy numerous water and land activities such as bike riding, picnicking, boating and dog walking. Maintaining that balance has been a top priority for the City and one that we strive to maintain.

Many discussions have taken place on the appropriate use for the Mission Bay Park's Fiesta Island, particularly the balance between paddlers and dog enthusiasts, since the City has embarked on a master plan for the small island. At issue is a proposed access road to the paddling launch area that bisects the gated off-leash portion of the park. Dog owners have enjoyed using a gated 93-acre portion of Fiesta Island for many years, and maintaining the existing contiguous gated area for off-leash use is very important.

Fiesta Island has proven to be a very unique commodity to the dog enthusiastic community as it allows for a large area where dogs and their owners can exercise together on land and in the water while providing ample space to train one's dog. There is no other leash-free dog park in an urban setting that allows for such exercise possibilities.

As the councilmembers who represent the City's coastal areas, we support allowing the existing acreage for the gated off-leash dog park to remain with the paddlers' storage and launch area moved to South Shores. South Shores has existing infrastructure in place including adequate parking, access roads and beaches. The location on South Shores offers calm waters that are protected from potentially dangerous motorboat traffic.

We will continue to support the endeavors of dog owners to maintain current off-leash dog areas and South Shores as an appropriate location for the paddling community.

cc: Mission Bay Park Committee

KLF:tc