



MICHELA ALIOTO-PIER

February 5, 2008

Dear Residents of San Francisco:

I am fortunate enough to represent District 2, which contains parts of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area ("GGNRA"). For three decades we have been privileged to live next to our Nation's great urban National Park experiment, the GGNRA.

Over the years, the GGNRA has become synonymous with the high quality of life San Franciscans hold dear, intertwined with our identity as much as the Golden Gate Bridge and the 49ers. It provides recreational opportunities for thousands of visitors and creates an oasis for a variety of wildlife species.

The GGNRA is also a superlative biological resource, with many notable distinctions: the San Francisco Bay Area as a whole is one of six biological diversity hotspots in the United States; Conservation International lists the California Floristic Province—in which the GGNRA lies—as a biological diversity "hotspot," making it one of the richest and most threatened reservoirs of plant and animal life on Earth; and the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization ("UNESCO") has made the GGNRA a core component of the Golden Gate Biosphere Reserve, a status also granted to the Central Amazon Rainforests.

The GGNRA also contains more federally protected endangered and threatened species than any other National Park in continental North America: more than Yosemite, Yellowstone, Sequoia, and Kings Canyon National Parks *combined*. This is certainly cause for celebration, as we are fortunate to have such a diverse landscape in public ownership. But it is also a cause for concern, and may indicate that we need to closely examine our relationship to the Park.

In 2008, volunteers from San Francisco, San Mateo, and Marin Counties are hosting an exciting project to help Bay Area Residents explore this relationship. It is called the Golden Gate National Recreation Area Endangered Species Big Year. Through this project, participants can attempt to see each of the 33 endangered species found in the GGNRA while taking 33 discrete action items that will help these species recover.

As an elected representative in an area fortunate enough to contain portions of the GGNRA, I heartily endorse the GGNRA Endangered Species Big Year, and I urge all Bay Area residents to consider participating in these activities. You may find out more at their website at <http://www.ggnrabisyear.org>.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michela Alioto-Pier". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Michela Alioto-Pier
Supervisor, District 2