

**Regional Parks Department**  
Jeffrey R. Leatherman, Director



**Divisions**  
Administration  
Golf  
Leisure Services  
Maintenance  
Rangers  
Therapeutic Recreation Services

## County of Sacramento

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### Proposed Change to the “Animals” ordinance Sacramento County Code Section 9.36.061

April 4, 2013

Greetings,

This letter is to notify you of proposed changes to Sacramento County Ordinance 9.36.061(d). This ordinance provides a legal framework to manage various animal issues in our parks. Section (d) in particular addresses dogs. This section requires that dogs be leashed at all times and stay at least 15 feet away from both the equestrian trails as well as the asphalt multi-use trail.

Background:

Complaints of dogs off leash are common within County parks. Visitors experience dog attacks, threatening dogs and a general fear of unknown dogs off leash impacting their recreation experience. Similarly, off leash dogs impact wildlife and the natural environment of the parks. The Park Rangers have committed to enforcing the off leash dog ordinance but have been made aware of inconsistencies with the ordinance and daily use of the County park facilities.

The ordinance as currently written requires dogs to be (1) on a leash in any park facility no longer than 6 feet in length and (2) not within 15 feet of any bike trail, horse trail, or nature study area. In our efforts to enforce this ordinance it became apparent that most park visitors and regular users were not aware of the 15 foot restriction on trails. Most dog owners who visit County park facilities used the multitude of trails in County parks with their dogs as a way to enjoy park. The 15 foot restriction is in contrast with past practice and normal everyday use.

Parks staff met with the American River Parkway Coalition as well as the Dry Creek Parkway Advisory Committee and discussed this issue. It was the consensus of both groups that the Department should seek an amendment to the ordinance creating an exception for the American River Parkway and Dry Creek Parkway. The recommendation included striking the prohibition of dogs 15 feet from trails, while keeping the limitation wherein dogs must be on leash everywhere in the park.

See the attached document to view the existing ordinance and the proposed change.

Public Testimony:

The American River Parkway Advisory Committee will hear public testimony on April 19, 2013 and forward a recommendation to the Recreation and Park Commission.

Location: 5700 Arden Way, Carmichael, CA 95608

Time: 9:00 a.m.

Recreation and Parks Commission will hear public testimony on April 25, 2013 and forward a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors for consideration.

Location: Board of Supervisors Chambers, 700 H St, Sacramento, CA 95814

Time: 6:00 p.m.

For more information, contact Chief Ranger Stan Lumsden at (916) 875-3030 or email at [lumsdens@saccounty.net](mailto:lumsdens@saccounty.net)

Attachment (1) Ordinance Amendment