

# Help Save Fiesta Island's Off-Leash Area

The city is currently working on a plan to develop Fiesta Island. The current fenced, leash-free area will be divided by a road, fences and parking lots. They plan a paddler/aquatic site and special event areas within our fenced area which will displace us from these areas. FIDO is fighting to have the road removed and to save the off-leash area as one large, continuous area where dog owners and other citizens can exercise by running, walking and biking in a native environment. This is not about the dogs but about how we, their owners, and many other citizens, use this unique resource to exercise.

There is no other large area like Fiesta Island where owners can enjoy public parkland with their off-leash dogs in all of Southern California. Of the 40,000 acres of public parkland in San Diego, less than 41 acres outside of Fiesta Island are available to off-leash use for the county's 700,000 dogs. We cannot afford to lose our space on Fiesta Island. It cannot be replaced with small neighborhood parks. We must convince the city that we are tax paying citizens and valid recreational users of this unique park.

If this plan is approved, not only would we be losing our fenced, leash-free area as it exists, but the projected cost is \$100 million. Furthermore, there has been no mention of the ongoing maintenance costs this project would incur each year. The department of Park and Recreation has had to cut its staff, discontinue programs and close neighborhood swimming pools and rec centers due to lack of money. Eliminating the road and minimizing the development within the current off-leash dog area would help reduce these costs.

## **If you agree with this, join us in our fight to save Fiesta Island. Here's how:**

- 1) Join FIDO. Go to [www.fidosd.org](http://www.fidosd.org) and click on the link to join.
- 2) Volunteer! Contact us at [volunteer@fidosd.org](mailto:volunteer@fidosd.org) for more info
- 3) Call or write the city council and other politicians. (see addresses below)
- 4) Send letters to the editors of our local newspapers.
- 5) Attend upcoming meetings and speak out against the current plan.
- 6) Recruit family, friends, co-workers, neighbors. THERE IS STRENGTH IN NUMBERS
- 7) Make a tax deductible donation at our web site: [www.fidosd.org](http://www.fidosd.org)

## **Political Contact Information:**

Please contact these individuals and ask them to save our off-leash area!

**Mayor Jerry Sanders:** 619-236-6330 [jerrysanders@sanidiego.gov](mailto:jerrysanders@sanidiego.gov) 202 C.St. 11<sup>th</sup> floor, SD 92101

**City Council members:** 202 C. St, MS #10A, SD 92101

Lorie Zapf (Fiesta is her district) 619-236-6616 [lorie@loriezapf.com](mailto:lorie@loriezapf.com)

Kevin Faulconer. (Fiesta is in his district) 619-236-6622 [kevinfaulconer@sanidiego.gov](mailto:kevinfaulconer@sanidiego.gov)

Sherri Lightner 619-236-6611 [sherrilightner@sanidiego.gov](mailto:sherrilightner@sanidiego.gov)

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**Councilmembers Zapf and Faulconer, represent Mission Bay Park and probably are the most invested and interested in Fiesta Island.**