



# United States Department of the Interior

## NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Golden Gate National Recreation Area  
Fort Mason Building 201, San Francisco, California 94123

C38 (GOGA-BMD)

June 19, 2017

Steve Rodrigues  
Partner Representative  
Fellow Feathers Hang Gliding Club

Dear Mr. Rodrigues:

This letter is in response to Fellow Feather's May 21, 2017 request to include Commercial Hang Gliding in Fellow Feather's Special Use Permit (SUP) No. GOGA-8142-17-0510. Upon consideration of the request, including consultation of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA) General Management Plan (GMP), we are not in a position to approve commercial hang gliding at Fort Funston. Introduction of commercial activity will change the intent and spirit of the partnership and introduce a use inconsistent with the GMP as well as unnecessary liabilities for activities on site.

This decision was based on the following:

- **Fort Funston is a recreational park site:** The GMP states Fort Funston is a *Diverse Opportunity Zone*, and this site "would continue to support current recreational activities, including... the unique opportunity for hang gliding in the park." Commercial hang gliding lessons are inconsistent with the planned recreational use of the area.
- **Lessons allowed under current SUP:** The current SUP allows tandem flight. Fellow Feathers is authorized to provide tandem flights specifically as a way to increase interest in and knowledge about hang gliding and/or club membership.
- **The activity is not eligible for a Commercial Use Authorization:**
  - The activity is not appropriate under a current CUA at GGNRA. The park's Guided Services CUA, "includes but is not limited to hiking, biking, kayaking, or horseback riding instruction, education and motivational exercises..."; GGNRA does not consider hang gliding lessons a guided service.
  - New CUAs require National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) and National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) compliance which includes, but not limited to, Project Review, Public Comment, and an Environmental Impact Report.
  - Establishing a hang gliding segment under the GGNRA CUA program would threaten Fellow Feather's exclusive use of Fort Funston as a hang gliding site. Per NPS regulations and policy, the National Park Service cannot limit the number of entities issued CUAs for an approved commercial activity without competition. An unlimited number of CUAs could have an impact on recreational hang gliding activity on site if competition increased for access to the finite area for launching and landing.

Thank you for reaching out but, for the reasons articulated, GGNRA shall not approve commercial hang gliding. If you have questions, please contact James Sword at 415-561-4742, or james\_sword@nps.gov.

Sincerely,

Jessica Carter  
Chief, Business Management Division