



**Municipal Pooling Authority**  
of Northern California



July 5, 2011

Dan Bernie, Public Works Superintendant  
Town of Moraga  
329 Rheem Blvd.  
Moraga, CA 94556

RE: Dog Parks

Dear Dan:

I understand the Town of Moraga is considering revisions to Rancho Laguna Park. As your risk management agency, we recommend that separate areas to address separate park uses be clearly delineated. We would not recommend a general, unfenced off-leash area even if the playgrounds are secured in a fenced area because the children still need to get to and from the playground.

Protection of the children and all park users are a high priority while they are in the park.

The American Kennel Club proposes certain safety measures for dog parks (taken from their website at [http://www.akc.org/canine\\_legislation/dogpark.cfm](http://www.akc.org/canine_legislation/dogpark.cfm))

“The Ideal Dog Park Should Include....

- One acre or more of land surrounded by a four-to six-foot high chain-link fence. Preferably, the fence should be equipped with a double-gated entry to keep dogs from escaping and to facilitate wheelchair access.
- Cleaning supplies, including covered garbage cans, waste bags and pooper scooper stations.
- Shade and water for both dogs and owners, along with benches and tables.
- A safe, accessible location with adequate drainage and a grassy area that is mowed routinely.
- Owners must carry a leash at all times. Dogs should be leashed before entering and prior to leaving the park.”

The AKC site also includes a photo of a recommended double-gated entry system, which provides further protection for all park users (including the dogs and their owners, but also helps prevent dogs escaping the dog area):



Another dog park advocacy site also makes the following recommendations  
(<http://www.4pawsu.com/dogparks.htm>):

“The Threshold Area. Most dog parks have a double gated area to take your dog off-leash before you are both actually in the park.”

Following the above practices will help protect other users in a multi-use park, especially children, and still allow the dogs to run free once inside the designated dog park area.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rick Buys".

Rick Buys  
Liability Claim Manager

cc: Jay Ingram, Recreation Director

MISC: Dog Park Moraga