

January 28, 2002

Dear Members of the Pacifica City Council,

Re: Suzanne Valente

We, the members of the Animal Advisory Commission, are asking for the immediate removal of Suzanne Valente as a member of this commission.

The reasons are as follows:

We have had many instances where Ms. Valente has gone against the policies of the commission. At the recent Fog Fest, Suzanne was approached by a police officer on two occasions and told to remove her dog. As a commissioner she knows that dogs are not permitted at this event. She was not cited and she did not remove her animal from the premises. She then put the dog in our booth while she worked. When other commissioners voiced their disapproval, she said "What's done is done."

Another problem arose when City Council and the commissioners met to discuss the possibilities of dog recreation areas. That evening there was a very large group of citizens wanting to give their input. Previous to our joint meeting with Council, we had two meetings with the public to see what they felt their animals needed. Based on these meetings we were prepared to meet with Council to state our plan. We did not know that the public would come forward again, at our joint meeting with council to repeat all that had already been discussed and voted upon by our commission. But since they did not like our vote, Suzanne Valente and the dog group once again started the whole procedure again. It looked as if we had never had those two meetings and now you urged us to meet once again.

The Commission met once again in Council Chambers.

Suzanne was furious at that meeting, standing up and shouting, "we owe it to our constituents, and you need to listen to them." Commissioner St. Germain-Hall told her we did listen but the Animal Advisory board has voted 4 to 1 not to have dogs on Linda Mar State Beach. We want two dog parks and a designated off-leash beach but not Linda Mar State Beach.

Ms. Valente let us know that she was speaking on behalf of all off-leash dog owners. At several meetings, the Chair needed to stop her from monopolizing the meetings. The Chair let her know that the other members of the commission were trying to voice their opinions.

She was never able to see any other viewpoint but her own. The other commissioners never agreed totally with her plans of action. We believe that is why she asked so many people to attend our joint meeting.

Third, we had a meeting devoted solely to education. If the dog park and off-leash areas were approved by City Council, we would need to educate the public on dog etiquette for off-leash areas, and a dog park. At that meeting we discussed articles for the Tribune, Channel 26, the city's web site and brochures that would be located at the sites. Also we would hold classes at these sites.

Unbeknownst to staff, and us Ms. Valente appeared on Channel 26 on the education spotlight #31 and spoke as Suzanne Valente, Animal Advisory Commission. The Animal Advisory Commission did not sanction this action. Also Ms. Valente gave two interviews to the Pacifica Tribune speaking on behalf of the Commission without the knowledge or consent of the other members of this Commission.

Ms Valente is not a team player. When an issue is resolved, she refuses to accept the majority's conclusion.

For all the above reasons, we are asking for her immediate dismissal.

Sincerely Yours,

Marilyn St. Germain Hall
Jake Durkin
Paula...
Betty A Scheel
Grand
Valerio...