



Gene Fuller
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SENT VIA E-MAIL TO: afield@sandiego.gov

September 17, 2025

Mr. Andy Field
Director, Parks and Recreation
202 C Street, MS 39
San Diego, CA 92101

Re: Crown Point Junior Music Academy – Joint Use Field Temporary Closure

Dear Andy,

San Diego Unified has received the September 9, 2025, letter from Pacific Beach community members and the Crown Point Principal regarding unsafe conditions at the Crown Point Junior Music Academy Joint Use Field.

The concerns point to off-leash dogs as the direct cause of hazardous, unsanitary, and unhealthy conditions on the field.

Effective immediately, the field will remain closed for public use after school hours and on non-school days. We understand a meeting is being organized to bring everyone together to discuss solutions, but until that takes place, the closure will stay in effect.

We do not take this step lightly, but it is necessary to protect the health and safety of our students. We appreciate the community's understanding and partnership as we work toward a long-term solution.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Gene W. Fuller".

Gene Fuller
Director, Real Estate
San Diego Unified School District

c: L. Dulgeroff
S. Smith
J. Abbott
S. Scoggins
T. Tincknell

San Diego City Council
City of San Diego Parks & Recreation Department
Mission Bay & Shoreline Parks Division
Mission Bay Park Committee

September 9, 2025

San Diego Unified Leadership including Mitzi Merino, Area C Superintendent and Cody Petterson, San Diego Unified Board President, District C

Subject: Immediate Action Needed: Unsafe Conditions at Crown Point Joint-Use Field

Dear City Councilmember, Parks & Recreation Leadership, and Members of the Mission Bay Park Committee and San Diego Unified Leadership,

We, the undersigned representatives of the Pacific Beach community, are writing to request/demand you take immediate action to address the unsafe and unlawful conditions at the joint-use field at Crown Point Junior Music Academy. This field is intended for student use during school days, and permitted youth sports, including the Pacific Youth Soccer League, after school.

However, the field has effectively become an off-leash dog park, despite posted regulations and signage. On any given day, there are more than 50 off-leash dogs present, in clear violation of **San Diego Municipal Code §63.0102**. This has resulted in hazardous, unsanitary, and degrading conditions for the children who use this space for education and recreation.

Unleashed dogs dig large, knee-deep holes, which create trip hazards and unsafe playing surfaces. Dog feces are routinely left uncollected across the field, resulting in students stepping in and tracking dog feces into their classrooms. **This is unacceptable, unsanitary, and poses a serious risk to child safety.**

The City of San Diego has a **legal duty of care** to maintain its facilities, particularly school-adjacent fields used by minors, in a safe and accessible condition. This has not been addressed despite years of complaints from parents, community groups and school administration. Continued tolerance of illegal off-leash activity in this environment, despite clear knowledge of the issue, not only violates City ordinances but creates significant liability should a child be injured or become ill due to these conditions.

We respectfully request the following immediate action:

- **Active enforcement** of leash laws at the Crown Point joint-use field through patrols and citations.
- **Suspension of all dog access** during permitted youth activity times.
- **Assessment of physical solutions**, such as installation of fencing or controlled access points, to ensure kids have a safe and dog free area to play.

Our children deserve a safe and sanitary place to learn and play. We ask for your leadership in enforcing City policy and preserving this vital community space.

Thank you for your anticipated courtesy and cooperation in dealing with this issue. We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Charlie A Nieto

President, Pacific Beach Town Council

Saksenah Smith

Principal, Crown Point Junior Music Academy

Kelley D. Gemelli

President, Friends of Crown Point Junior Music Academy

Justin White

Volunteer Board President, Pacific Youth Soccer League

Liz Garcia

Concerned Parent & Community Member