

THE
AMERICAN HIKING SOCIETY

317 Pennsylvania Avenue, S. E., Washington, D. C. 20003



Please reply to 110 Sutter Street, Suite 1003, San Francisco, CA 94104

February 7, 1980

The Honorable Diane Feinstein
Mayor of the City of San Francisco
City Hall
San Francisco, California 94102

Dear Mayor Feinstein:

The American Hiking Society and the Department of Interior's Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service are co-sponsoring a nationwide hiking event called the HikaNation. This event will begin in San Francisco the weekend of April 12th and 13th and will finish 14 months and some 4,000 miles later at the Washington Monument in our nation's Capital.

On Saturday, April 12th, opening day ceremonies will take place at the Polo Grounds in Golden Gate Park. We expect upwards of 10,000 people to attend these ceremonies and then hike together to Ocean Beach and continuing all the way to the Ferry Building by way of Land's End, Baker's Beach, the Golden Gate Bridge and the entire northern coast of San Francisco. After camping out overnight in a guarded parking lot underneath the Bay Bridge near the Fremont Street on-ramp, these opening day hiker/campers, whose numbers will be increased by many more, will begin the Sunday morning crossing of the Bay Bridge to Oakland on two closed traffic lanes provided by CalTrans. For this 6:00 to 9:00 a.m. bridge crossing, we are now conservatively expecting a figure of 15,000 people. This figure could easily be exceeded by another 10,000. Since this will only be the second time the top deck of the Bay Bridge has ever been opened to ordinary hikers and walkers since its original opening day in 1936, the event is sure to catch the imagination of thousands of people throughout the Bay Area.

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The next day, Monday, April 14, the HikaNation, with considerably fewer people, will begin to cross California on a route already scouted by one of our committee members, Dr. Glenn T. Seaborg, Nobel Laureate and Assistant Director at Large of the Lawrence Laboratories of U.C. Berkeley. Additional hikers are planning on joining the HikaNation as it moves across the State, some for a few days and some for a weekend. In essence, the event will take the form of a state-by-state relay hike. Many of the people who begin the trip here in San Francisco will only hike for a day or a week, others are planning on hiking the entire width of California, while still others have told us they want to try for the entire distance to Washington, DC. These hikers will be joined by other groups and individuals as the hike progresses across the nation.

The reason behind all this is to call attention to hiking as a non-energy consuming activity, an activity that entire families can enjoy together, and also to point out the need for more hiking paths and trails throughout both urban and rural areas of the country.

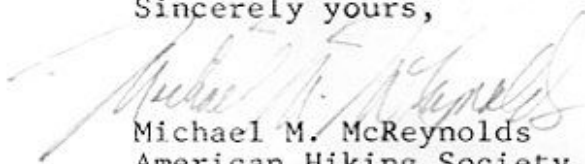
We currently have the support of the majority of Senators and Assemblymen in the Bay Area through the generous help and cooperation of Assemblyman Art Agnos. Assemblyman Agnos will shortly be introducing in the Assembly an Assembly Concurrent Resolution to give State consent to mandate our hike. Supervisor John Molinari will be asked to bring a resolution before the San Francisco Board of Supervisors giving the HikaNation the support of the City of San Francisco. A similiar local ordinance in Alameda County will be carried by Valerie Raymond. San Francisco Parks and Recreation has reserved the Polo Grounds for us and we are working closely with CalTrans to solve the many problems connected with the bridge crossing.

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We also would like to have the prestige of your support to aid us in making our event a total and absolute success. We would most respectfully request your assistance in helping to lobby this particular resolution with respect to individual members of the Board of Supervisors. We would also appreciate your consent as Mayor to the closing of two lanes of the Bay Bridge. Also, we take this opportunity to invite you to be with us as a special guest during our opening day ceremony on April 12th, and to join us in our hike through San Francisco and the next day across the bridge.

If you wish to know more about the American Hiking Society and the HikaNation, please contact me at my office here in San Francisco at 981-0970. Assemblyman Agnos has assigned one of his assistants, Eric Shockman, to assist us in any possible form, and he can be reached at 557-2253.

Sincerely yours,



Michael M. McReynolds
American Hiking Society
Chairman,
Bay Area Committee

MM/ab

cc: James Kern, President, AHS
Assemblyman Art Agnos
Supervisor John Molinari
Supervisor Valarie Raymond

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The Honorable Lionel Wilson
Mayor of the City of Oakland
City Hall
1421 Washington Street
Oakland, California 94612

The 3-page letter above which
was sent to Mayor Diane
Feinstein of San Francisco
was also sent to Lionel
Wilson, Mayor of Oakland.

Dear Mayor Wilson: