



San Francisco Tomorrow

Since 1970, Working to Protect the Urban Environment

April 27, 2009

The Honorable Ross Mirkarimi
Supervisors Government Audit and Oversight Committee
City Hall
San Francisco, CA 94102

RE: File number 090329 habitat restoration at Sharp Park

Dear Supervisor Mirkarimi:

On behalf of San Francisco tomorrow, I am writing to support the full restoration of critical habitat at Sharp Park Golf Course.

Sharp Park Golf Course has a long history of environmental problems, largely because of its poor design and unfortunate placement. The current operation of the golf course harms the habitat and causes take of two species protected the federal Endangered Species Act, the California red-legged frog and the San Francisco garter snake.

Restoration of this area to a naturalistic state provides the best option for Sharp Park, providing access to hiking trails, picnicking spots, camping facilities and educational opportunities. It will ensure the continued existence and abundance of endangered species, improve access to precious coastal resources, and make the coastline more resilient to the effects of climate change.

Restoration is also a fiscally responsible method of managing Sharp Park, with revenue available through the sale of wetland mitigation credits and/or through federal and private restoration funds. On the other hand, maintaining the golf course involves high capital costs, and puts San Francisco at risk for incurring penalties for harming endangered species.

Thank you for bringing this important issue forward for study. We appreciate the opportunity to express our concerns and to give our support to finding alternative uses for Sharp Park.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Clary
President

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