

General Manager
San Francisco Recreation and Parks Department
501 Stanyan Street
San Francisco, CA 94117

RE: Sharp Park

Dear General Manager:

On behalf of the National Japanese American Historical Society, I urge the City and County of San Francisco to conduct full restoration of Sharp Park Golf Course as the Department considers methods to protect the environment and restore services to San Francisco's neighborhood parks.

Sharp Park Golf Course has a long history of environmental problems, largely because of its poor design and unfortunate placement. To create the course, the Department dredged some of the lowest points within a large watershed for 14 months. The course has had problems with flooding and drainage ever since: the ceremonial opening day was delayed twice due to wet playing conditions; major coastal floods have occurred destroying several holes on the course; and normal winter rains flood the course nearly every year. To address the flooding, the Department has not only radically altered Alister MacKenzie's original landscaping and design, but also created new and grave environmental impacts. The current operation of the golf course harms the habitat and causes take of two species protected by the federal Endangered Species Act, the California red-legged frog and the San Francisco garter snake.

Restoration and the creation of a new public park at this area provides the best option for Sharp Park. Restoration will provide access to hiking trails, picnicking spots, camping facilities and educational opportunities sorely needed in San Mateo County; it will ensure the continued existence and abundance of endangered species that San Francisco is charged with protecting; it will improve access to precious coastal resources; and it will make the coastline more resistant to the expected environmental changes that will be wrought by global climate change and sea level rise.

Restoration will also prove to be the most fiscally responsible method of managing Sharp Park. Compared to the costs of implementing capital improvements necessary to maintain the golf course and the high potential for massive civil penalties for harming endangered species, a restored and new public park is the most fiscally prudent method for retaining recreational uses of the area. With the money saved, San Francisco can reinvest in our neighborhood parks in desperate need of capital improvements.

Again, please conduct full restoration of Sharp Park as a method to protect the environment and restore services to San Francisco's neighborhood parks. Thank you for this opportunity to express our concerns and to give our support for a new public park at Sharp Park.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rosalyn Tonai', is centered within a light gray rectangular box.

Rosalyn Tonai
Executive Director

cc: Leeland Yee
455 Golden Gate Avenue, Suite 14200
San Francisco, CA 94102

Nancy Pelosi
450 Golden Gate Ave. 14th Floor
San Francisco, CA 94102

Jackie Spier
400 S. El Camino Real, Suite 410
San Mateo, CA 94402

Mayor Gavin Newsom
City Hall, Room 200
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco, CA 94102

David Chiu, President, Board of Supervisors
City Hall
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 244
San Francisco, Ca 94102-4689

Larry Martin, President, Recreation and Parks Commission
San Francisco Recreation and Park Commission
501 Stanyan Street
San Francisco, CA 94117