

September 23, 2011

San Francisco Board of Supervisors  
City Hall, Room 244  
San Francisco, CA 94102

Mayor Edwin Lee  
City Hall, Room 200  
San Francisco, CA 94102

RE: Support for Sharp Park Restoration Legislation (Avalos)

Dear Board of Supervisors and Mayor Lee:

I am writing to express my support for the recently introduced legislation by Supervisor John Avalos to restore Sharp Park wetlands and create a new public park in partnership with the National Park Service. The National Park Service is our nation's most trusted steward for protecting our national treasures while making them accessible for public enjoyment. The Park Service's ability to fund restoration and create new recreational opportunities makes this partnership an attractive solution to the significant ecological and financial liabilities that plague the golf course.

Sharp Park golf course costs the City thousands of dollars each year while endangering two rare local species. The California red-legged frog is listed as threatened. The San Francisco garter snake is listed as endangered. The restoration of the park is the best option to ensure the long term survival of both these species.

*Conceptual Ecosystem Restoration Plan and Feasibility Assessment for Laguna Salada*, the peer-reviewed restoration plan prepared by Dr. Peter Baye and Dawn Reis Ecological Studies in February contains the best available science on the ecology of the natural features at Sharp Park. I concur with the report that "Laguna Salada represents one of the best opportunities in the Central Coast region to improve and restore impaired lagoon wetland habitats for endangered species." We have an opportunity today to preserve this place and these species for all time. I look forward to the day when I can bring my grandkids to the park and tell them how we did our part to create it.

Sincerely,  
Patrick Schlemmer  
San Francisco Naturalist Society President  
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