

December 21, 2009

San Francisco Board of Supervisors
Government Audit and Oversight Committee
City Hall
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 244
San Francisco, Ca 94102-4689

City Clerk Alisa Somera, alisa.somera@sfgov.org

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

Re: Impacts of Climate Change to Pacifica, including the Sharp Park Golf Course, and the Sharp Park Conceptual Restoration Alternatives Report (Tetra Tech et al. November 2009)

To the San Francisco Board of Supervisors and SF RPD Gen. Mgr. Phil Ginsburg.

The Pacifica Climate Committee is a group of concerned citizens that has been working since 2007 to study the local impacts of climate change and potential ways to reduce our community's greenhouse gas emissions. We prepared an inventory of non-municipal Pacifica greenhouse gas emissions which complements the City of Pacifica's own inventory of similar emissions resulting from City operations. The Climate Committee then researched and prepared a set of recommendations for a future Pacifica Climate Action Plan.

Our investigation of the impacts of climate change to Pacifica, based in part on the Pacific Institute's study of the impacts of sea-level rise on the California coast (http://www.pacinst.org/reports/sea_level_rise/index.htm), reveals that Sharp Park Golf Course and the surrounding residential neighborhoods are some of the most vulnerable areas on the San Mateo coastline to flooding and erosion from climate change. The results of our research are of great concern as no long-term studies have been conducted on the impacts of climate change to this area of Pacifica. The vulnerability of this geographic area has been irreversibly increased with relatively recent past changes in the natural environment, in particular the addition of a man-made seawall and concomitant loss of natural drainage functionality. Therefore, long-term cooperative planning is essential.

This Committee's ultimate goal in writing this letter is to urge the City and County of San Francisco to commit to long-term planning for the impacts of sea-level rise and climate change to Sharp Park and to delay any planning decisions regarding Sharp Park until such planning is complete. The recently released Sharp Park Conceptual Restoration Alternatives Report omitted any analysis of sea-level rise and climate change impacts and deferred the assessment of the seawall by geotechnical experts for the SFRPD (referenced throughout the Alternatives Report). Therefore, the scope of this report is too narrow upon which to base long-term planning decisions, especially those involving climate change. In addition, the California Environmental Quality Act requires analysis of all significant impacts potentially resulting from proposed changes to the golf course, seawall and beach, as well as impacts from climate change, in the form of an environmental impact report.

The Pacifica Climate Committee recognizes that San Francisco has the responsibility for planning decisions regarding Sharp Park, yet we hope that San Francisco will share the responsibility for planning for climate change impacts with both the City of Pacifica and the National Park Service as whatever future actions San Francisco takes regarding Sharp Park will necessarily impact the climate change planning for this area of Pacifica.

Sincerely,
On Behalf of the Pacifica Climate Committee,



Cynthia Kaufman

252 Berendos Ave.
Pacifica, CA 94044

cc: Hon. Nancy Pelosi
Hon. Jackie Speier
Hon. Leland Yee
Hon. Gavin Newsom
Jim Lazarus, President, Recreation and Parks Commission
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