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October 11, 2011

San Francisco Board of Supervisors
City Hall, Room 244
San Francisco, CA 94102
Via: Board.of.Supervisors@sfgov.org

Mayor Edwin Lee
City Hall, Room 200
San Francisco, CA 94102
Via: mayoredwinlee@sfgov.org

RE: Support for Money Saving Sharp Park Legislation (Avalos)

Dear Board of Supervisors and Mayor Lee:

Thank you for your support of our City's community services. We are writing to express our support for recently introduced legislation by Supervisor John Avalos to prevent wasteful spending on the failing Sharp Park golf course in San Mateo County by repurposing the golf course to a new public park managed by the National Park Service. Repurposing Sharp Park will allow the City to avoid spending tens of millions in capital improvements needed to address the failing infrastructure and environmental concerns due to federally protected wildlife that reside there.

In addition to the massive capital costs, the course has an annual operational loss. As a result of this legislation, the tens to hundreds of thousands of dollars lost annually at this San Mateo facility can be redirected to serve our recreation centers, parks, and playgrounds located within our San Francisco neighborhoods. These local services provide benefit to our communities, yet like other community services, they have been subject to proposed cuts each year while wasteful spending outside our communities, such as Sharp Park, occurs.

As a non-profit organization in San Francisco that focuses solely on the needs of the most vulnerable in our community we are thinking of ways to create more sound fiscal decisions that will stave off further cuts to the families we serve. We feel that this is one very viable way for the city to save money that can be invested into services for those that need it the most.

Thank you for considering our views on this legislation and its ability to contribute to an equitable San Francisco budget.

Sincerely,

Dawn Stueckle
Executive Director