

June 16, 2010

Supervisor John Avalos
Chair, Budget and Finance Committee
City Hall, Room 244
San Francisco, CA 94102

RE: Responsible San Francisco Budget; Sharp Park Analysis Requested

Dear Chairman Avalos:

Thank you for your leadership on the Budget and Finance Committee and your support of our City's neighborhood, youth, social, and recreational services. We are organizations that support and prioritize a healthy and equitable San Francisco budget – one that supports those in our society who are most at-risk of being left behind by anticipated budget cuts. We write to you because, as the City's budget during these trying economic times will no doubt affect the health of these services, we wish to see well-informed dialogue involving the Board of Supervisors and the general public.

One specific area that we believe merits greater financial scrutiny during this year's budget discussions is Sharp Park Golf Course, which is owned by the City of San Francisco, but located in Pacifica/San Mateo County. This is a clear example of how the City is spending resources in places that do not support the needs of those in San Francisco (see attached RPD survey). San Francisco-based recreation centers, youth services, after-school programs, and services for the homeless and the elderly are being cut yet the City is proposing to support a Pacifica-based golf course that has lost up to several hundred thousand dollars a year, and will incur tens-of-millions in capital costs.

We ask that a priority be placed on the responsible action to return financial resources to San Francisco's neighborhood services that are being cut.

Through greater financial scrutiny of Sharp Park Golf Course and other questionable proposals, decision makers and the public can better invest City funds into services that benefit San Francisco communities.

Sincerely,

Dawn Stueckle
Executive Director
Sunset Youth Services

Tracy Brown
Youth Program Director
Arriba Juntos

Nicholas Quesada
Chair
San Francisco Youth Commission

Alex T. Tom
Executive Director
Chinese Progressive Association

Valerie Tulier, J.D.
Director
Mission Beacon Community Center

Alejandra Calderon
Executive Director
H.O.M.E.Y. (Homies Organizing the Mission to Empower Youth)

Chelsea Boilard
Family Policy Associate
Coleman Advocates for Children & Youth

Judy Young
Executive Director
Vietnamese Youth Development Center

Alfredo Najera
Mission Community Peace Collaborative

Cc: Budget and Finance Committee members

Need For Recreation Facilities in San Francisco

From the list of 19 recreation facilities, respondents were asked to indicate which ones they and members of their household have a need for. The graph below summarizes key findings on the previous page by the number of households having a need for various recreation facilities in the City of San Francisco, based on 337,710 households in the City.

