



July 29, 2011

San Francisco Board of Supervisors
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
City Hall, Room 244
Mayor Edwin Lee
City Hall, Room 200
San Francisco, CA 94102-4689

Re: Restoration of Sharp Park

Dear Board of Supervisors:

As a representative of the California Coast Resilient Habitats Campaign for the Sierra Club, I am writing to you regarding the future of Sharp Park in the City of Pacifica. The Resilient Habitats campaign is identifying and protecting key ecosystems that are threatened by sea-level rise, but have the potential to migrate inland and continue to provide their vital function. In the case of Sharp Park, not only do we find a threatened ecosystem, but also endangered species, the California red-legged frog and the San Francisco garter snake. Many individuals and organizations see so much value at Sharp Park, that they have funded a peer-reviewed scientific report and restoration plan. The Sierra Club California Coast Resilient Habitats Campaign adds our voice to theirs in asking you to seize this opportunity to restore and preserve Sharp Park for the endangered species, natural protection from sea-level rise for the adjacent community and appropriate recreation.

We contend that the peer-reviewed scientific report and proposed restoration plan prepared by ESA-PWA with Dr. Peter Baye and Dawn Reis Ecological Studies in February 2011, *Conceptual Ecosystem Restoration Plan and Feasibility Assessment for Laguna Salada*, contains the best available science on the ecology of the Laguna Salada and surrounding natural features at Sharp Park, as well as the impacts of the management of the Sharp Park Golf Course on endangered species and their habitats at the site.

The restoration of Sharp Park wetlands and uplands habitats and connectivity with protected adjacent open space, as proposed in the ESA-PWA report, is the best option to ensure the long term survival of the San Francisco garter snake and the California red-legged frog in the area.

Conversely, the San Francisco Park Department recommendation for Sharp Park released in 2009 was to maintain 18 holes of the golf course while making small changes in the course layout to address environmental concerns, construct a multi-million dollar seawall along the coast, and invest millions of dollars into course improvements. This would have negative consequences for endangered species and their habitats, increase the potential for flooding, result in the loss of the Sharp Park beach and incur significant costs to the City's budget, all in order to maximize golf opportunities.





It is our conclusion that the minimal habitat enhancement proposed by the Park Department in their preferred 18-hole alternative is inadequate to allow the recovery of the San Francisco garter snake and red-legged frog at the site, and is set up to fail with climate change and sea-level rise.

Sharp Park contains unique coastal wetlands habitat features and is important habitat for two interdependent federally listed species. The extremely endangered San Francisco garter snake, confined to six areas on the upper San Francisco Peninsula, is federally and state listed as endangered. The California red-legged frog, found in wetlands in lowlands in central California, is federally listed as threatened. We concur with the ESA-PWA 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."

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dave Grubb".

Dave Grubb, Co-Lead
California Coast Resilient Habitats Campaign