



*inspiring people to protect
Bay Area birds since 1917*

September 27, 2011

Via Email U.S. Mail

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

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

Re: Support for Sharp Park Restoration Legislation (Avalos) 110966

Dear Supervisors and the Honorable Mayor Lee;

I am writing on behalf of the Golden Gate Audubon Society and its more than 10,000 members and supporters regarding support for the Park Code Long Term Management Agreement with the National Park Service for Sharp Park sponsored by Supervisor Avalos. Our mission is to protect Bay Area birds and other wildlife, to conserve and restore native habitat, and to connect people of all ages with the natural world. This proposed ordinance to restore the Sharp Park wetlands and partner with the National Park Service while retaining this City property offers an excellent solution at Sharp Park for residents, visitors, and for wildlife.

California lost 91 percent of its wetlands between 1780 and 1980.¹ Now, along our coasts, only about 5 percent of wetlands remain. Wetlands provide critical habitat for resident and migratory birds and other wildlife. The endangered San Francisco garter snake and the red-legged frog and other species of birds and wildlife depend on the wetland at Sharp Park.

The National Park Service has successfully restored wetlands at Crissy Field in San Francisco² and Giacomini Wetlands in nearby Marin County.³

¹ Mitch and Gosslink, *Wetlands* 2nd Edition. Van Nostrand Reinhold, 1993

² Crissy Field Salt Marsh Restoration *See* <http://www.nps.gov/goga/naturescience/wetlands.htm>

³ Giacomini Wetland Restoration Project *See* http://www.nps.gov/pore/photosmultimedia/multimedia_gwrp.htm

GOLDEN GATE AUDUBON SOCIETY

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Currently the golf course at Sharp Park is a drain on the City's budget and it is harming the environment. The current golf course management practices of pumping during the rainy season, mowing, and the use of carts, have harmed endangered species. In the future if the golf course remains, the City will face additional costs to improve the golf course and millions to improve the seawall.

San Francisco has an opportunity to eliminate the current financial burden from the Sharp Park Golf Course. The ordinance proposes that the San Francisco Recreation and Parks Department work with the National Park Service to develop a long term management agreement for Sharp Park. The National Park Service manages the adjacent Mori Point. The proposed ordinance is a solution would allow more people to enjoy the recreational activities of hiking and bicycling that are needed by City residents.

We encourage you to support the restoration of Sharp Park. This proposed ordinance is the best solution in that it provides a long term plan for the endangered species while eliminating the City's financial burdens from the Sharp Park golf course, and it creates a coastal wetland and upland park that more people can enjoy to meet their recreational needs.

Respectfully,



Noreen Weeden

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Golden Gate Audubon Society

Cc: Mike Lynes, Conservation Director, Golden Gate Audubon Society