

Dear Mayor Edwin Lee and the San Francisco Board of Supervisors,

I represent all the members of SAVE THE FROGS! (www.savethefrogs.com), America's first and only public charity dedicated to protecting amphibians. I also write on behalf of all Californians who rely on healthy ecosystems, and all those who enjoy nature and wildlife for its intrinsic values and its ability to bring peace and inspiration to us – qualities that are increasingly fleeting in urban areas, especially in the computer age.

I am writing to express support for recently introduced legislation by Supervisor John Avalos and to urge you to shut down the Sharp Park Golf Course and turn the management of the Sharp Park Wetlands over to the National Park Service.

Frogs are the world's most rapidly disappearing group of animals, and wetlands are one of the most rapidly disappearing ecosystems. Currently the city of San Francisco's Sharp Park Golf Course is responsible for the illegal killing of frogs, through the draining of the Sharp Park Wetlands, which leaves hundreds of Federally Endangered California Red-Legged Frogs' egg masses stranded on land, where many of them desiccate and die; while the City does relocate some of the egg masses, no human can find a better place to lay frog eggs than the female frog who specifically chose the location, and thus the relocation introduces a major impediment to survival. To make matters worse, tadpoles are likely pumped out to sea in the process, as the pumps are located in the most important breeding pond on the property. Furthermore, the golf courses' mowing activities destroy habitat that frogs rely on, and can directly kill frogs by inadvertently slicing the frogs. All this is being subsidized by taxpayers. This is ethically wrong.

If San Francisco, California cannot act to save its own namesake endangered species, the California Red-Legged Frog and the San Francisco Garter Snake, how and why would we expect any other place on the planet to protect their native wildlife? San Francisco is emulated and admired by people all around the world, because San Francisco has a long history of taking the lead in numerous programs that benefit society and bring us into the modern era.

I write you to urge you to turn the management of the Sharp Park Wetlands over to the National Park Service:

- The National Park Service can properly manage the endangered species.
- The new public park would be accessible to the multitude of people who enjoy walking in coastal areas, and not just the comparatively small number of people who can afford and want to play golf.
- The new park would be much more picturesque than the man-made golf course with its monotony of manicured greens.
- The city would unleash itself of a money-losing operation that has no chance of being financially successful in the near future. This money can be directed to important programs back home in San Francisco.

Sincerely,



Kerry Kriger, Ph.D. 31-October-2011



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