



**SEQUOIA**  
AUDUBON SOCIETY

September 21, 2011

San Francisco Board of Supervisors  
City Hall, Room 244  
San Francisco, CA 94102  
Via: [Board.of.Supervisors@sfgov.org](mailto:Board.of.Supervisors@sfgov.org)

**RE: Support for Sharp Park Restoration Legislation (Avalos)**

Dear San Francisco Board of Supervisors:

On behalf of the Sequoia Audubon Society and our constituents in San Mateo County, I am writing to express our support for recently introduced legislation by Supervisor John Avalos to restore Sharp Park wetlands and create a new public park in partnership with the National Park Service. Repurposing the failing Sharp Park golf course to a new public park demonstrates sustainability and our best opportunity to protect and recover endangered species – the extremely imperiled San Francisco garter snake and threatened California red-legged frog. The National Park Service (NPS) is our nation's most trusted steward for protecting our national treasures while making them accessible for public enjoyment.

The NPS' stated interest in and ability to fund restoration and create new recreational opportunities, such as new trails, makes this partnership a feasible and attractive solution to the significant ecological and financial liabilities that plague Sharp Park golf course. As well documented, the Sharp Park golf course loses tens to hundreds of thousands of dollars each year and the golf course operations inflict harm on imperiled wildlife.

The legislation also works to address the oversupplied golf market in San Francisco and the Bay Area, which leads to infrastructure maintenance issues as a result, and it encourages more people to play San Francisco courses by offering Pacifica residents San Francisco resident rates to all of the city courses. In short, this legislation also helps the game of golf.

The restoration of Sharp Park 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 Recreation and Park Department's plan for Sharp Park is to maintain 18 holes of the golf course, while dredging the lagoon (which would have a negative impact on migrating waterfowl and shorebirds that use this water feature), reconfiguring the course, and maintaining a seawall along the coast. Such an expensive (tens of millions) and environmentally problematic approach does not demonstrate sound land-use planning and does not help ensure that endangered wildlife will be protected. This would have negative consequences for endangered species and their habitats, incur significant costs to the City's budget, and increase the potential for flooding.

Thank you for considering our views.

Sincerely,  
Nancy Arbuckle  
Conservation Committee  
Sequoia Audubon Society  
(on behalf of the Board of Directors)

Cc: Congresswoman Jackie Speier, c/o Brian Perkins ([brian.perkins@mail.house.gov](mailto:brian.perkins@mail.house.gov))