



# Tuolumne River Trust

## OFFICES

111 New Montgomery  
Suite 205  
San Francisco, CA 94105  
ph 415/882-7252  
fax 415/882-7253

829 Thirteenth Street  
Modesto, CA 95354  
ph 209/236-0330  
fax 209/236-0311

67 Linoberg Street  
Sonora, CA 95370  
ph 209/588-8636  
fax 209/588-8019

[www.tuolumne.org](http://www.tuolumne.org)

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December 14, 2011

Mayor Edwin Lee  
City Hall, Room 200  
San Francisco, CA 94102  
Via: [mayoredwinlee@sfgov.org](mailto:mayoredwinlee@sfgov.org)

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

Dear Mayor Lee:

Thank you for your support of our City's park and recreational services. We are writing to express our support for legislation by Supervisor John Avalos to allow the City to consider partnering with the National Park Service to manage Sharp Park. We believe it is good government policy for the City to examine its options on the future of Sharp Park before we commit to a long-term lease or invest hundreds of thousands to tens of millions in Sharp Park, and this legislation accomplishes that. We urge you to support this legislation and allow the City to make a well-informed choice on the future of Sharp Park that will best address the recreation, budget, and environmental challenges that exist.

To date, the City has yet to examine alternatives to the status quo management of continued golf operations. As well known, 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. We believe that investigating other options for Sharp Park future land use could identify opportunities to protect and recover endangered species and promote sustainable water use at the same time. We support increased reliance on recycled water instead of using water from the wild and scenic Tuolumne River to irrigate golf courses. However, reducing overall demand for water is of even greater benefit, and we look forward to working with the City to promote recycled water along with the highest and best use of that water.

The National Park Service is our nation's most trusted steward for protecting our national treasures while making them accessible for public enjoyment. Their ability to fund restoration and create new recreational opportunities makes this potential partnership a feasible and attractive solution to the significant ecological and financial liabilities that plague Sharp Park golf course.

The main benefit of this ordinance is that it ensures that a popular and potentially problem-solving partnership is explored and brought back to City policy makers so that they can compare that option against other options for Sharp Park future land use. Please support this good government legislation.

Sincerely,

Eric Wesselman