

Nature in the City
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Thursday, November 3, 2011

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

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

RE: Support for Sharp Park Restoration Legislation (Avalos)

Dear Board of Supervisors and Mayor Lee:

Thank you for your continued support of our City's parks and natural areas. We are writing to express our support for legislation introduced by Supervisor John Avalos to restore Sharp Park wetlands and create a new public park in partnership with the National Park Service.

The National Park Service is our nation's most trusted steward for protecting our national treasures while making them accessible for public enjoyment. The Golden Gate National Recreation Area's (GGNRA) unique ability to fund restoration and create new recreational opportunities makes this partnership a win-win solution - for the City and the GGNRA - to the significant ecological and financial liabilities that plague Sharp Park golf course.

Laguna Salada at Sharp Park is a coastal lagoon ecosystem with wetland habitat features similar to other, less compromised lagoons up and down the Central California coast. The Sharp Park wetlands complex is habitat for two interdependent federally listed species. The extremely endangered San Francisco garter snake, confined to six areas on the northern 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.

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 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. 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."

Sharp Park is in the GGNRA legislative boundary, surrounded on three sides by other GGNRA sites, Mori Point, Cattle Hill, and Milagra and Sweeney Ridges. Partnering with the National Park Service is the most sensible and logical approach to the management of Sharp Park, given its regional ecological and jurisdictional context. The GGNRA has a proven track record of successful natural resource management and for providing the Bay Area public with stellar visitor and recreational activities, including community-based ecological stewardship.

Thank you again for your support for a straightforward and reasonable solution at Sharp Park, and for your acknowledgement of the importance of and for your support for the conservation of the City's indigenous natural environment and wildlife habitats. We hope that you will continue to elevate the prioritization of biodiversity and natural areas conservation and restoration in the years to come.

Sincerely,

Peter Brastow
Founding Director
Nature in the City