

SELECTED COMMENTS FROM THE PETITION TO RESCIND SHARP PARK VETO

Submitted by Dr. Kerry Kriger of SAVE THE FROGS! on February 13th, 2012

Learn more at www.savethefrogs.com/sharp-park

“So many wetlands in California have been destroyed or are under serious threat. It is time for us to start restoring them not continue to destroy them. Frogs are important and delicate indicator species of our ecosystems and our wetlands are important ecosystems in the functioning of our planet for many reasons. Just a few of those are flood prevention, they are natural filters, their flood plane verges create extremely fertile soil, they are home to many important species...”

-- Emily Luscombe – Laytonville, CA

“Wetlands are of vital importance to all ecosystems they are a part of...especially in coastal areas. Draining the Sharp Park Wetlands is damning the California Red-Legged frogs to extinction, as well as placing the crosshairs on other threatened and endangered species inhabiting these wetlands. This is just the environmental side of the argument against Mayor Ed Lee's decision to veto this legislation... The less important (but still largely disturbing) part is that the destruction of the environment is being done to build a golf course... Funded by TAXPAYERS. In a state in massive debt already, I believe this is one of the most stupidest things that could possibly be endorsed...”

-- Zachary Bishop – Monterey, CA

“Dear Mayor Lee - I am an employee and herpetologist for Pacific Gas and Electric Company, which is headquartered in San Francisco. I work on projects throughout the Bay Area and am very familiar with how few populations of California red-legged frogs remain . Please do all you can to protect the Sharp Park population! Thank you.”

-- Andrea Herman – Oakland, CA

“I was born and raised in San Francisco, a beautiful city that has a long history of caring for it's environment. Golf courses can be relocated, but endangered red-legged frogs have very few places left to live. Please show that San Francisco will live up to it's patron Saint's love of and care for all creatures, especially the red-legged frog. Thank you!”

-- Diane Beaulaurier – Placerille, CA

“I am familiar with Sharp Park from the 1970s when I was conducting research on Coast and San Francisco Garter Snakes. It is one of the few remaining habitats for the latter species and the California Red-legged Frog, both of which are highly endangered. The plan to convert Sharp Park to a National Park Service property, where it would be managed for its natural values, would ensure that the property is fully restored to a wetlands habitat. This is critically important for the survival of the endangered garter snake and frog, and is supported by City

Council. The City of San Francisco is well known for its progressive values and it makes no sense for you, as Mayor, to veto this project. Please reverse your decision!"

-- Glenn Stewart, Ph.D., Professor Emeritus of Zoology and Environmental Science Biological Sciences Department, California State Polytechnic University, Pomona, CA

"We need frogs and wetlands and responsible mayors! WE DO NOT NEED GOLF COURSES!!!! Save biodiversity = save ourselves!"

-- Lydia Pelin-Redway, CA

"Destruction of wetlands, valuable habitat, and amphibious species is unacceptable, especially for such a worse than useless venture as creating a publicly funded, taxpayer money wasting golf course."

Laurel Ashley-Sacramento, CA

"I lived in the area of Sharp Park in the 50's. I helped with others to incorporate Pacifica. The area is beautiful and its creatures deserve protection."

-- Terelle Terry - Sacramento, CA

"Endangered species are more important than creating golf course acreage. FAR more important, don't you think? Not to mention preserving natural habitat in SF. Thank you."

-- Charles Kaz - San Francisco, CA

"We need areas everybody can enjoy. Not just the rich."

-- Andrew DiMedio-San Francisco, CA

"Mayor Lee, I hope and pray that you will demonstrate courage and leadership by preserving the precious frog habitat at Sharp Park. Our red-legged frogs have seen their populations decimated by loss of habitat. We do not suffer from a shortage of golf courses, and their expansion should not come at such a steep cost to our few remaining indigenous frogs! Please reconsider, and act to protect our legally protected frogs, rather than to continue to illegally kill them. Please act to uphold San Francisco's reputation as a city that respects the environment and all our creatures. Thank you!"

-- Louisa Jaskulski, San Francisco, CA

"Dear Mayor Lee, Please preserve our wetlands and save our frogs. As you know, frogs are a crucial link in the ecosystem. They help control insects and are a food source to mammals. Thank you very much for being an excellent mayor. Sincerely,"

-- Elisabeth Ochs, RN, San Francisco, CA, The Castro"

"Dear Honorable Mayor Lee, My husband has been an active, passionate golf player of the S.F. Bay Area for 40 years and firmly believes that if a golf course is not monetarily sustainable,

the golf facility should not be allowed to continue its unprofitable operations. San Francisco's Sharp Park Golf Course is not only financially unsound and unbeneficial for the majority of its public citizens, but wholly unfavorable to the environment, and detrimentally disastrous to the endangered amphibian and reptile species who deserve Nature's respect and mitigative actions for mankind's past unknowing, destruction of wetland habitats. You, as Mayor of San Francisco, have the power to do what is right and to acknowledge the long overdue need for a balanced ecosystem that Nature intended. Respectfully yours,"

-- Denise East – San Francisco, CA

"Enough of our wetlands have already been destroyed, & numerous endangered species lost forever! We have plenty of golf courses, & an abundance of mayors, who can, by the way be voted out of office. Let's save what precious environment we have left!"

-- Sharon Clevenger – Hemet, CA

"I am an avid golfer and I love the game, but I don't believe a mayor should have the right to just write off an environmental foothold in his city."

-- Benjamin Boles–San Jose, CA

"As a biologist who has worked with California red-legged frogs for the past 10 years, I am painfully aware that the only chance we have of conserving them is to conserve their quickly diminishing patches of habitat. Once we destroy their habitat, it is incredibly difficult and expensive to construct truly suitable habitat for them to persist into the future. We, including you, Mayor Lee, have a moral obligation to protect the places where rare and not-so-rare species currently exist. If we do not, they are unlikely to persist with the bevy of threats we are heaping upon them. Mayor Lee, I urge you to protect this patch of unpaved, undeveloped earth and wetland for this fragile species."

Valentine Hemingway, Santa Cruz, CA

Frogs are a vital creature for a healthy ecosystem. Golf courses are not a necessity. Please rethink your decision to destroy more fragile wetlands just to knock around a few balls!"

-- Amy Carletti– Claymont, DE

"It is outrageous that wetlands and an endangered species are being sacrificed at taxpayer expense for a golf course. What century does this mayor live in?"

-- Carolyn Bennatti – Orland, ME

"WHY are you supporting a LOSING PROPOSITION?? Being a 27 year veteran of the FL Dept. Of Environmental Protection, and seeing first hand the effects to the environment when endangered species actually became extinct, I am appalled at your NOT SUPPORTING the endangered California Red-Legged Frog!! PLEASE, PLEASE, for the sake of this endangered

species. Rescind your veto! Please show that you are a responsible steward of the environment!"

-- Aurelia Gasher, Spring, TX

"Amphibians are going extinct all over the globe, yet they are so important for a healthy ecosystem. PLEASE reconsider your veto. Wetlands are important to environmental health, and to sacrifice your wetlands, and the creatures who live within them, for a golf course, is a terrible shame."

-- Grace Holden, Arlington, VA

"California Red-Legged Frogs are endangered; golfers are not."

-- Mary Ann McFarland, Lorton, VA

"Frogs and water are important to the earth; golf is not."

-- Lenore Bussing, Carlton, WA

"A taxpayer-funded golf course? One that loses over \$100,000 per year? This is madness. Why tax poor citizens so that the rich can have their fun? This taxpayer-funded golf course is definitely an act of pure thievery; thievery from people, creatures, and the entire environment. Such things must stop. We are dooming ourselves just so a very few rich people can have what they consider ""fun""!!!!!"

-- Barbara Tomlinson - Seattle, WA

"Golf course or Saving the red legged frog? Obvious answer! Save the frogs! What are you teaching your children and grandchildren? That hitting a tiny ball into a hole for enjoyment is more important than an endangered species? Pretty much. Let's start to keep our promise to future generations to leave this planet better than we found it. No more golf courses/save the fantastic frog! Now!!!!!"

Robin Wurtzel - Seattle, WA

"Population of frogs are facing threats all over the world. These are the creatures who brought us from water to land as first real tetrapods. In real sense these are the real ancestors of all the tetrapods on earth including man. Unfortunately, human activities have started severe problems for their survival. I strongly support Mission Save the Frogs on this planet."

-- Dr. Krishan Sharma - Ajmer, India

"I was a citizen of San Francisco for many years and always appreciated that San Francisco was ahead of the rest of the country when it came to protecting their environment. Don't set us in line with cities in states like Texas by destroying endangered species habitat for a money losing proposal when there are already so many local golf courses. If local golf courses refuse

to compromise by working around the local environment like some excellent international ones have, then perhaps they should be shown the door.”

-- Thomas Knight – Auckland, New Zealand

“I am signing this petition because I have seen the devastation caused to native species of both flora and fauna following the reclaiming of swamp/wetland areas near my home. The most affected are the sensitive frogs, which no longer can be found anywhere near the areas. The resultant loss of so many species - to the point of extinction in some cases - is too sad to contemplate. We share this planet, we need to respect ALL life-forms as having their role in our web of life. Thank you for reading my request. You can stop this!”

-- Shauna Baker – Belmont, Australia

“Personal reasons (a desire to play more golf) cannot stand in the way of saving important landscapes. We humans destroy so much, we have to stop!”

-- Jessica Jansen – Biddinghuizen, Neterlands

“Golf is just a game - there's always another course. Extinction is forever. We may never know what we've lost until it's gone.”

-- Lorna Lazenby – Drongan, United Kingdom

“Our task must be to free ourselves... by widening our circle of compassion to embrace all living creatures and the whole of nature and its beauty. -- Albert Einstein

-- Estie Kretschmer – Linden, South Africa

“Wetlands must be protected as the health of amphibians is directly related to our health. As they decline so do we. This is scientific fact..”

-- Susan Mitruk– Nairobi, Kenya

“Surely there are already enough golf courses? It is our responsibility to ensure environments like this are preserved to a degree - not just for the frogs, but for future generations and just for the benefit of this world we live in”

-- Belinda Williams – Ningi, Australia

“I was born in San Francisco, where I got my interest in frogs by finding tadpoles in the san francisco parks. I now live in Denmark and work for conservation of frogs in many countries in Europe. I hope that san francisco will conserve their wetland so future generations can experince those nice animals even inside the city.”

-- Lars Briggs – Odense, Denmark

“The world doesn't belong to humans alone; we're only a part of the interconnected ecosystems that make up life on Earth. I'm signing this petition as an environmental science student who wants to make a difference. “

-- Nancy Abou-Chahine – Ottawa, Canada

“Leaders all over the world need to start paying attention to the natural environment and our fellow creatures if we are to save our planet. We are part of nature, not above her, for we have evolved along with all other living things. How are we going to explain to future generations that there used to be frogs and there used to be polar bears and there used to be tigers and there used to be black rhinos? But they all disappeared on our watch - and we could have saved them!”

-- William Preston – Winnipeg, Canada

“Frogs and other amphibians are disappearing fast and they are an irreplaceable warning system of changes in our climate and environment. They are canaries in a cage like the mires use to warn them of bad air in the tunnels. They are also high on the list of food other animals depend on. Please don't hasten their demise, save and protect them instead.”

-- Dusty Stepanski

“As SAVE THE FROGS! University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point Chapter President, I speak on behalf of all our members when I say what you are doing is completely inappropriate and wrong. Our Chapter of undergraduate students is knowledgeable enough to understand the drastic problems amphibians around the world are facing and we are doing all that we can to help. To know that political leaders of our country do not understand these issues, or ignore the information, both saddens and baffles us. You must recognize the environmental and social consequences that will come from vetoing the legislation to protect the Sharp Park and the beautiful creatures that live there. Please rescind the Sharp Park Veto and be a positive example for students everywhere.”

-- Spencer Siddons, Stevens Point, WI

“When San Francisco is such a leader in so many arenas, why jam the car into reverse when it comes to Sharp Park? Please do the right thing and protect California Red-Legged Frogs- you'll make San Franciscans, and all Californians, proud.”

-- Tara Parker-Essig

“It is irresponsible Mr Mayor for you to support a losing money golf course and not protect the wildlife that is dependent on the marsh in order for them to live. People like you don't see that once wildlife are gone they are gone never to return. I would hate for there to be only humans on the planet, but if it keeps up, that is all that will be here, Humans and their food animals. And you will have contributed to this. It is like eating the seedcorn, like logging and destroying

3500 year old Sequoia trees for a few useless (compared to the majesty of the trees they came from) boards. Please reconsider your actions and join the council and revoke your veto."

-- Raymond Nash

"I am very disappointed that you, Mr. Lee, Mayor of San Francisco have not favorably responded to the 4,000 people who feel and think strongly about not draining the wetlands and killing the endangered frogs. The question to ask yourself is: "Why do I refuse to be a mature, compassionate, steward of the Earth?" Something to think about deeply, Mr. Lee."

-- Bonnie Barfield

"Mr. Mayor, Sharp Park is not just a plot of land that can be mutilated and warped to our preferences; it is a safe haven for thousands of creatures who depend on it for survival. It is home to many important, yet endangered species such as the California Red-Legged Frog. In transforming this wildlife area, you will be obliterating one of the few strongholds for these species, thus driving them closer to extinction. I strongly urge you to stop the changing of these wetlands into a golf course and to consider putting this precious land under the care of the National Park Service. Thank you for your time and consideration."

-- Andy Parks

"Golf courses serve only those who play golf, while everyone benefits from biological diversity. This frog is found only in California, and with the way so many amphibians are disappearing from the country, it would be short-sighted to ruin this habitat and add lose another California native."

-- Mary Fazekas

"Dear Mayor - In all due respect - you can't be serious! Are you really draining wetlands for a golf course??? Where are your priorities??? Have you not heard that natural habitat is scarce and many species of plants, animals, and insects live in wetlands? Don't do it! Don't drain the land for a golf course. This just looks bad on your part. It looks completely out-of-touch with how people actually feel about our natural environments. You will gain a lot of respect if you halt plans to drain the wetlands. Respectfully."

-- Jeanie Vogelzang, Santa Cruz, CA

"Preserving natural wildlife is far more important than human enjoyment on a trivial scale."

-- Jisoo Kim

"Dear Mayor Ed Lee: I was disappointed to learn that you vetoed legislation passed by the Board of Supervisors to protect the California Red-Legged Frog, a federally protected species. It is listed under the Endangered Species Act as a threatened species throughout its range in California. So serious is its fragile conservation status that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has seen fit to designate Critical Habitat for it. But the few thousand acres that are now

protected are insufficient. We, as stewards of our planet, have an ethical and moral duty to protect it and its habitat wherever it occurs if it's physically possible to do so. A viable population of this species now exists in Sharp Park wetlands and is in peril if not protected. History will judge us harshly for the wildlife we have failed to preserve. Please reconsider your veto and place yourself on the right side of history in this matter. Sincerely,"

-- Jim Van Abbema, Executive Board of New York Turtle and Tortoise Society

"Dear Mayor Ed Lee and staff - I am writing on behalf of the innocent California red legged frogs who have no voice yet play a vital part in the balance of nature. Please demonstrate your enlightened leadership by acting responsibly and passing legislation needed to save the frogs of Sharp Park from human carelessness."

-- Yvonne Adalian - Canada

"Mayor Lee, I respectfully request that you reverse your previous veto of the legislation that would end further development of Sharpe Park as a golf course. I believe it is crucially important that we preserve these wetlands as habitat for endangered species like Red-Legged Frogs as well as for their inherent value as natural spaces of beauty and peace that are the legacy of future generations.

-- Lorelei Saylor, Former Wildlife Biologist, Arizona Game & Fish Dept., Nongame Branch, Amphibians & Reptiles Program"

"Scientists tell us that the health of the environment is directly connected with the frog population. Please preserve your frogs to help preserve a healthy environment for all."

-- Gillian Van Wyk

"Human beings can enjoy this land as a park without golf. The red-legged frogs cannot enjoy this land with a golf course whose pumps dry out their egg-laying habitat and suck the tadpoles out to sea. Please make this land a park that both humans and frogs can enjoy. The majority of your councilors, or legislators, understood this, but you vetoed their majority vote. Please rescind your veto."

-- Anita Romaniuk

" Dear Sir: This is the 21st century. It is time to adopt some ethics towards our land, our water, and the many other species that inhabit this earth. We must stop the deliberate murder of Nature. ""

-- Rick O'Neill, Biologist, North Carolina

"Please close Sharp Park as a golf course and turn it over to the National Park service. We have plenty of golf courses but not enough frogs. Unlike golf courses they cannot be replaced. It is our duty as stewards of the earth to consider all creatures that live in it - especially those who

need protection from our way of life. Many thanks for taking this serious case into consideration.”

-- Judyth Greensburgh

“Please do not drain wetlands and kill the frogs. Frogs are dying all over our planet. This is affecting the web of life. Everything depends on other things to survive and when you take out a species then the other things that depend on it fail also. Ultimately, we will all lose. Please reconsider the ramifications of your actions!!”

-- Janis Keller

"Dear Mayor Ed Lee, Would you please consider the option for Sharp Park to pass to from the current golf course ownership to the National Park Service to maintain it?. Perhaps it may not seem important to you to save a single species of frog but our world is all connected and amphibians are such a hallmark species to climate change and diversity. In the food web we are all interconnected and removing even a single species from it has ripple effects for us all in the jigsaw puzzle of life. I ask you to please reconsider. I have been to San Fransisco and it is a beautiful city and would remain even more so with all of its native species. “

-- Jo-Anne Clark

“It's easy to overlook or forget frogs but do not undervalue them. Each kind of frog has a special, vital role in the ecosystem of its habitat. Please work with Save the Frogs to conserve the red-legged species, which you've heretofore ignored as inconsequential. They are not inconsequential. We need them and their kindred for the maintenance of normalcy.”

-- Val Marjoricastle

“There are plenty of golf courses, but the red-legged frog, which we're blessed to have as our very own true San Francisco native, is in very short supply. I realize that many groups, from golfers to dog owners, who can let their dogs run unpoliced (though the area is legally off limits to them) are fighting for "more," when they already have plenty of space. The frog has nothing except a few people to stand up for it. I'm one such person and I'm urging you to be another. Otherwise, the so-called "environmentally conscious" label our city has will become a joke. Extinction is forever.”

-- Alice Polesky

“The California Red-Legged frog, as well as all other amphibians, is an important member of the eco-system. Frogs eat insects that carry disease, including mosquitoes which are known to carry West Nile Virus and Equine Encephalitis. Draining their habitat at Sharp Park would be disastrous for the area.”

-- Heidi Mead

"I find it reprehensible that you vetoed legislation that would have protected the endangered California Red-Legged Frogs the city is illegally killing! Draining wetlands and killing frogs is very irresponsible-show some compassion and realize we are all connected in the web of life!"

-- Denise Lytle

"Please rescind your veto of the legislation that would allow the National Park Service to provide stewardship for the Sharp Park Wetlands. The San Francisco Board of Supervisors have voted to pass this legislation three times indicating a clear commitment to protecting the Wetlands. If you so blatantly disregard the decisions of your elected officials, you will ultimately undermine the people's confidence in your ability to make the kinds of decisions that reflect their values and concerns. Conservation is an incredibly important issue and people care about the fate of their amphibians. And so should you. Please rescind your veto and prove to the people that the Mayor does appreciate their conservation efforts."

-- Kristen Brochu

"This is the second letter I've submitted. Bottom line: we the people don't need another golf course. We do need healthy ecosystems. Draining wetlands kills the geese that lay the golden eggs. Develop wisdom; grow a spine; do the right thing."

-- Sue Tarjan

"I would like to address the impact that losing the frog population would do for the inhabitants of this planet. Frogs are an indicator that the environment is healthy. If the frogs are dying off, then that environment is dangerous for both frogs and humans alike. My work exposes me to customers who have many health problems, some that could kill them. A unhealthy environment is the major factor to some of these killing health issues. Please help us save the frogs, so they may in turn save us. Thank-you.

-- Wendy Mendiola

"Dear Mr. Mayor, Although I am not a resident of San Francisco, I would like to still urge you to do everything that you can to promote preservation and sustainability of your wetlands, state parks and the vulnerable species that rely on these areas for their survival. You are in a unique position of authority to influence positive, productive change in your community and the wonderful outreach and support activities of the Save The Frogs organization should be a great asset to you. Please help these frail, endangered species to thrive once again and help to restore some balance to the delicate ecosystems within your region. I would like to thank you very much for your time and consideration on this matter."

-- Rachel Nelson

"Dear Mayor Lee, By vetoing the Sharp Park legislation, you have severely disappointed the citizens of San Francisco and those of us who love the city for its reputation as progressive and innovative. Pumping out the Sharp Park Wetlands is a death sentence for these

endangered frog species. San Francisco has an international reputation as a defender of human rights - a place of tolerance and creativity for its human citizens. The city should extend that protection to all of its residents - including the smallest and most vulnerable !

Please rethink this decision. Sincerely, “

-- Janet Smith, Canada

