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To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this letter as the author of *The Missing Links: America's Greatest Lost Golf Courses & Holes* (Sleeping Bear Press, 2000), a volume which, I understand, is being invoked in the current public debate over the future of Sharp Park by persons who advocate closing the golf course.

Missing Links was designed to profile great pre-World War II American courses which either no longer exist, or have been substantially altered from their original configurations. That Dr. Alister MacKenzie's original Sharp Park design was included in such a volume was not meant to imply that the course is entirely gone; indeed, many profiled facilities retain significant portions of their initial layouts, including the first course in its sister volume *Lost Links*, Augusta National. However, it appears that some confusion has arisen from a closing section of the Sharp Park text, which reads: "...and no appreciable trace of [MacKenzie's] strategy remains in play" -- so let me take a moment to clarify two important points.

First, in retrospect, this choice of words was not ideal, as the word "strategy" was intended to refer to tee-to-green strategy, which is today somewhat changed, particularly with a handful of lagoon- and seaside holes no longer being in play. It was absolutely *not* intended to refer to the corridors of play or the green complexes, a great number of which remain very much in their vintage MacKenzie forms. And this is a highly noteworthy point as original greens on a municipal course this old are a relative rarity -- and MacKenzie's green complexes were perhaps the single most significant aspect of his renowned design style.


Second, more than a decade has passed since *Missing Links* was researched, and much new information on Sharp Park has since come to light. In re-assessing the golf course today, we know, for example, that most changes have been made by man, quite deliberately, and not by some massive early storm, as was the accepted wisdom back in 1999. We also know that as many as 12 holes remain substantially in their original forms -- and nearly all of these could be made virtually original with a relatively modest degree of restoration.

I relate all of this because in using *Missing Links* to bolster any assertion that Sharp Park should be closed, those pushing such an agenda are, unfortunately, mischaracterizing the purpose and spirit of my words. Indeed, as one of only two municipal golf courses ever built by MacKenzie in the United States, Sharp Park is an historic facility which virtually any city would be thrilled to boast of, offering enough vintage playing characteristics to provide all classes of golfer with a real taste of a Hall-of-Fame designer's work. Further, with a bit of restoration and marketing, it is the sort of classically important

facility which can easily become a drawing card for the City of San Francisco, resulting in economic benefits well in excess of simple greens fee revenue.

It is difficult for me to imagine that a city as public-spirited as San Francisco could possibly be doing its thousands of golfers a service by closing Sharp Park, and from an historical perspective, shuttering so venerable a facility would represent one of the sadder moments in the annals of American public golf. But to do so based in any way upon either a misunderstanding or misrepresentation of what was written in *The Missing Links* would be especially unfortunate, and I would urge the relevant parties *not* to fall victim to any such mischaracterizations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Wexler', written in a cursive style.

Daniel Wexler