

SAN FRANCISCO
PUBLIC GOLF ALLIANCE



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PRESS RELEASE:

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ENCOURAGING NEWS FOR PUBLIC GOLFERS AT SHARP PARK

SAN FRANCISCO: Frogs, snakes, and an historic, working-class, 18-hole San Francisco city-owned golf course can continue to co-exist at Sharp Park in Pacifica, CA. That is a key message from the "Sharp Park Working Group Statement and List of Findings,"¹ released today by the San Francisco Recreation and Park Department.

"Sharp Park Golf Course has been there since 1932, when history's greatest golf architect Alister MacKenzie built it for the public, with the father of San Francisco Parks, John McLaren," said San Francisco Public Golf Alliance spokesman Richard Harris. "Scientists have been finding the endangered San Francisco Garter Snake there since 1947. That's a long history of co-existence."

The Sharp Park Working Group's Statement and Findings, released today, expressly confirms agreement between public officials from San Francisco, San Mateo County, Pacifica, and the Golden Gate National Recreation Area, that "the golf course could be redesigned to coexist with viable populations of sensitive species in the long term."²

¹ The report can be found here:
<http://sfrecpark.org/documents/SHARPPARKWORKINGGROUPSTATEMENTANDLISTOFFINDINGS.pdf>

² Id., at page 2, Finding (h).

"Golfers are nature-lovers," added Harris. "Golf and improved habitat for the endangered species are compatible. A win/win solution is right there in front of us, and it's what park stewards and elected leaders from San Francisco^{3,4}, San Mateo County⁵, and Pacifica⁶ want as well. We look forward to continuing to work with them toward this goal."

In addition to agreeing that "habitat enhancements and golf could be compatible," the Sharp Park Working Group's two-page "Statement and List of Findings" includes agreement that the "seawall should not be further armored or heightened," and a recommendation for a "technical study... to explore feasible transitions into a naturally managed 'barrier lagoon' without undue risk to the protected species, adjacent property, and human life."

"The situation is complex, and many interests are involved at Sharp Park," Harris said. "The surrounding Pacifica neighborhoods will surely have a lot to say about the need to maintain the sea wall, as will hikers on the California Coastal Trail, which runs atop the sea wall. There are more scientific and engineering and environmental impact studies to be done. The golfers and those who value the historic and artistic and community asset of Alister MacKenzie's great cultural landmark will continue to play an active role in finding a win/win solution at Sharp Park Golf Course."

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³ San Francisco Recreation and Park Commission Resolution No. 0912-018, Agenda Item No. 11, adopted by unanimous 6-0 vote, December 17, 2009: <http://sf-recpark.org/index.aspx?page=965>

⁴ San Francisco PROSAC, Resolutions [Nos. 1 and 2], adopted by votes of 14-1 and 13-2 on Dec. 1, 2009, submitted to Rec & Park Commission on Dec. 3, 2009:

(a) <http://sfpublicgolf.com/LiteratureRetrieve.aspx?ID=44912>

(b) [http://sf-recpark.org/ftp/uploadedfiles/meetings/Park_Recreation_and_Open_Space_Advisory_Committee_\(PROSAC\)/minutes/2009/PROSAC_minutes_Dec1_2009.doc](http://sf-recpark.org/ftp/uploadedfiles/meetings/Park_Recreation_and_Open_Space_Advisory_Committee_(PROSAC)/minutes/2009/PROSAC_minutes_Dec1_2009.doc)

⁵ County of San Mateo, Resolution of Board of Supervisors, December 18, 2007: http://sharppark.savegolf.net/data/smbos_res.pdf

⁶ City of Pacifica, Resolution of City Council, December 10, 2007: http://sharppark.savegolf.net/data/cop_res.pdf