Board Item No. |

File No. 110966

COMMITTEE/BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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BOARD of SUPERVISORS



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1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 244
San Francisco 94102-4689
Tel. No. 554-5184
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TDD/TTY No. 544-5227

MEMORANDUM

Date:

December 23, 2011

To:

Honorable Members, Board of Supervisors

From:

Angela Calvillo, Clerk of the Board

Subject:

Mayor's Veto - Sharp Park File 110966

On December 19, 2011, the Mayor communicated his veto of File No. 110966 (Park Code - Long Term Management Agreement with the National Park Service for Sharp Park) pursuant to Charter Section 3.103.

Pursuant to Charter Section 2.106, the Board of Supervisors may override said veto if, within 30 days after such veto, not less than two-thirds of the Board of Supervisors shall vote in favor of such measure.

Due to the winter recess and cancelled meetings during the month of January 2012, there is not adequate time to communicate said veto to receive direction. Therefore, pursuant to Board of Supervisors Rule 5.30, when local law requires the Board to act by a certain date, the Clerk of the Board shall place the legislation on the agenda of the full Board.

Please be advised that the above referenced veto will be communicated and agendized at the full Board on Tuesday, January 10, 2012.

Attachment

Office of the Mayor SAN FRANCISCO

TO THE STATE OF TH

BOS-11, La DA C Pasi, Cy AH EDWIN N. LEE MAY DR

December 19, 2011

Members, Board of Supervisors San Francisco City Hall 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Pl San Francisco, California 94102

Dear Supervisors:

This letter communicates my veto of the ordinance pending in File Number 110966, finally passed by the Board of Supervisors on December 13, 2011. This ordinance proposes to amend the Park Code to require the Recreation & Park Department to enter into exclusive negotiations with the National Park Service pertaining to City-owned property at Sharp Park.

The Recreation and Park Department is presently conducting environmental analysis of a project at Sharp Park that would restore 19 acres of habitat. The Department has also been in discussions with the County of San Mateo for some time now to create a mutually beneficial partnership for the long-term management of the golf course that could help find the needed habitat restoration, and continue to support an affordable and popular recreational activity.

The ordinance that I am vetoing would bring these productive discussions to a halt, and instead compel the Department to begin dialogue anew with the National Park Service about closing the folf course at Sharp Park. I believe in striving for equilibrium between environmental and recreational needs. The implicit aim of this legislation — cutting off talks with San Mateo County and envision age the end of golf operations at Sharp Park — is not a balanced approach. Furthermore, the City could voluntarily choose at any time to enter into the type of discussion envisioned by this legislation, further making this ordinance unnecessary.

After lengthy discussions with Congresswoman Jackie Speier, it is clear to me that the Federal government cannot prioritize habitat restoration and recreational development at Sharp Park, and he National Park Service does not have the resources necessary to rehabilitate the natural areas and golf facilities.

San Mateo County officials, however, are ready and willing to partner with us to implement an environmentally responsible approach to species and habitat protection, all while keeping Sharp Park available to a variety of recreational users.

This ordinance explicitly prohibits San Francisco from entering into an agreement with San Mater County, no matter how robust the environmental benefits of such an arrangement may be. For this reason, I am returning this legislation with a veto and encouraging the Board of Supervisors to support a balanced approach to Sharp Park.

Sincerel

Edwin M. Lee

Mayor

cc: Angela Calvillo, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

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| [Park | Code - Long | Term Man | agement | Agreemen | it with the | Nationa | l Park | Service | for Sharp |
|-------|-------------|----------|---------|----------|-------------|---------|--------|---------|-----------|
| Park] | | | | | • | | | | |

Ordinance amending the San Francisco Park Code by amending Section 3.20

1) requiring the Recreation and Park Department to offer a long term management agreement to the National Park Service for certain property under the jurisdiction of the Recreation and Park Commission located in San Mateo County that is within the Golden Gate National Recreation Area's legislative boundary ("Sharp Park"); and 2) making environmental and other findings.

NOTE: Additions are <u>single-underline italics Times New Roman</u>; deletions are <u>strike-through italics Times New Roman</u>.

Board amendment additions are <u>double-underlined</u>; Board amendment deletions are <u>strikethrough normal</u>.

Be it ordained by the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco: Section 1. Environmental Findings.

The Environmental Review Officer has determined that this ordinance is not a project under the California Environmental Quality Act (Cal. Pub. Res. Code Sections 21000 et seq.) ("CEQA"), as set forth in his letter dated December 1, 2011. Said determination is on file with the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors in File No. 110966, and is incorporated herein by reference.

Section 2. The San Francisco Park Code Section 3.20 is hereby repealed in its entirety.

Section 3. The San Francisco Park Code Section 3.20 is hereby replaced, to read as follows:

SEC. 3.20. SHARP PARK LONG TERM MANAGEMENT AGREEMENT.

(a) Findings.

- (1) Entering into a long-term management agreement with the National Park Service ("NPS") to manage property under the jurisdiction of the Recreation and Park Commission located in San Mateo County that is within the legislative boundary of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area ("Sharp Park") could provide San Francisco with the opportunity to further the public purposes of: providing recreation opportunities consistent with modern recreation demands, preserving and allowing for the restoration of wildlife habitats, preserving historical resources, protecting coastal resources, and preserving land for park purposes.
- (2) All Bay Area residents deserve safe, well-maintained, and sustainable parks in which to play, engage in nature exploration, relax, and build community.
- (3) Moreover, San Franciscans deserve parks that supply, insofar as possible, recreation that is consistent with modern recreation demands.
- (4) The City and County of San Francisco must also ensure the equitable distribution of recreation dollars among our neighborhoods. In the 2011-12 Recreation and Park Department

 Operating Budget, the Open Space Fund contribution surpassed the General Fund subsidy for the first time, and the General Fund subsidy has declined 25% over the last 5 years. The decrease in public funding for parks puts pressure on the Recreation and Park Department to meet financial obligations by other means.
- (5) In 2004, the Recreation and Park Department conducted a Recreation Assessment and released a Recreation Assessment Report detailing the recreational preferences of San Francisco residents. The report found that the number one recreation demand in San Francisco is for more walking and biking trails.
- (6) In 2010, the Neighborhood Parks Council surveyed 1,443 San Francisco residents, asking dozens of questions about San Francisco's parks. In one question, respondents were asked to list three priorities for park funding. Of the nearly 100 different responses, sustainability came in fifth, behind only general park maintenance, better athletic fields, more programming, and improved safety.

- (7) Sharp Park is increasingly at risk as the climate warms and the sea level rises. San

 Francisco can adapt to climate change by protecting viable migratory paths for wetlands, inland and upland from the coast, and by prioritizing the creation and protection of habitat linkages that connect natural areas and parks.
- (8) San Francisco also has a responsibility to protect sensitive species and their habitats, and encourage their recovery. At Sharp Park, San Francisco has a special opportunity to implement the recovery goals and objectives for the endangered San Francisco garter snake and the threatened California red-legged frog, as established by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service's recovery plans for each species.
- (9) Experts on coastal wetlands restoration have declared that Sharp Park "represents one of the best opportunities in the Central Coast region to improve and restore impaired lagoon wetland habitats for endangered species." (PWA-ESA 2011). Because of the existence and potential for significant restoration for endangered species, of which the "restoration of garter snake habitat at Sharp Park has been identified as a key recovery goal by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service" (USFWS 1985), restoration and development of habitat-compatible recreation can attract federal and state endangered species recovery and ecosystem restoration funding."
- (10) Working in partnership with the NPS, San Francisco has an opportunity to: provide recreational opportunities that are consistent with modern recreational demands, equitably distribute scarce recreation resources in San Francisco, address land management challenges posed by climate change and sea level rise, protect and recover endangered species and create a more sustainable and resilient public park at Sharp Park.
- (11) Approval of this ordinance is a preliminary step in the process of potentially entering into an agreement with NPS for long-term management of Sharp Park. Approval of such an agreement is contingent upon a number of subsequent steps, including but not limited to NPS agreeing to develop the Agreement, as defined below, the successful development of the Agreement, approval of the Agreement,

Supervisor Avalos

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

following the completion of any required environmental analysis by the City and County of San

Francisco("City") under CEQA and by NPS under the National Environmental Policy Act ("NEPA").

Nothing in this Ordinance implements any approvals of the Agreement, or grants any entitlements to the NPS, nor does adoption of this Ordinance foreclose the possibility of considering alternatives or mitigation measures to the Agreement, including a no action alternative or an alternative that includes retention of all or portions of Sharp Park Golf Course, and while this Ordinance sets forth many of the potential terms of a proposed Agreement, it does not set forth all of the material terms and conditions of a project proposal. A transaction of the type contemplated in this ordinance involves many terms and conditions that have not yet been agreed upon, and it is expressly contemplated by the Board of Supervisors that binding agreements will have to be negotiated, agreed and ultimately approved through applicable public processes, including approval by the Board of Supervisors.

agreement with the NPS shall not proceed unless and until the City and NPS negotiate, execute and deliver mutually acceptable agreements based upon information produced from any required CEOA and NEPA environmental review processes, other public review and hearing processes, and subject to all applicable governmental approvals. The City retains the absolute sole discretion to propose terms, consistent with this ordinance, for inclusion in the Agreement, and as may be necessary to comply with CEOA, if applicable. Approval of this ordinance grants NPS no vested rights, does not authorize or require any construction or other physical alteration of Sharp Park, results in no approved development plan for Sharp Park, and no legal obligations will exist unless and until the City and NPS negotiate, execute and deliver mutually acceptable agreements based upon information produced from applicable environmental review processes, and on other public review and hearing processes, subject to all applicable governmental approvals.

(b) In order to provide recreation benefits consistent with the modern recreational needs of all San Franciscans, Bay Area residents, and visitors, no later than March 1, 2012, the General Manager Supervisor Avalos
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(c) The General Manager shall consult with the NPS and develop a collaborative plan policy that achieves the following objectives and goals of the City: (i) ensures that Sharp Park remains secure, free of vandalism and incompatible uses, and is properly maintained during the period of negotiations over any Agreement; (ii) identifies actions the Department and NPS will take prior to implementation of an agreement to propose an Agreement with the City for Sharp Park, (iii) creates a schedule and financial strategies road map, to be incorporated into any Agreement, for each party to complete those actions specified in subsection (ii); (iv) discusses terms, which may be incorporated into the

Agreement, that ensure that the NPS utilizes existing facilities to provide compatible and public-serving uses such as a community and visitor center with appropriate and feasible recreation; (v) discusses terms, which may be incorporated into the Agreement, that provide for trail-based recreation, support stewardship of park lands, enhance nature-based educational opportunities, and provide other public recreation opportunities where appropriate and feasible; (vi) establishes proposed dates, to be incorporated into the Agreement, to end existing uses inconsistent with the Agreement, and to fully transition land management to the NPS as specified in subsection (b) above; and (vii) discusses terms, which may be incorporated into the Agreement, that ensure that the NPS provides public recreation opportunities consistent with the National Park Service's Organic Act, 16 U.S.C. Sections 1 et seq., GGNRA's enabling legislation, Public Law 92-589, NPS Management Policies, and GGNRA's Mori Point, Sweeney Ridge, and Milagra Ridge management plans.

- (d) In the course of exploring an agreement with NPS for the long-term management of Sharp Park, the Board of Supervisors shall consider, in addition to the items listed in subsection (c) above, affording all City of Pacifica residents the right to purchase San Francisco resident golf cards and to play at all of San Francisco's municipal courses at San Francisco resident rates for a minimum of five Years in order to reduce recreational impacts that could result from closure of Sharp Park Golf Course should the Board of Supervisors approve an agreement with NPS which provides for the closure of Sharp Park Golf Course.
- (e) In the event an agreement between the City and NPS for the long-term management of

 Sharp Park is approved and Sharp Park Golf Course is closed as a result, the City shall offer positions
 to all City employees employed at Sharp Park Golf Course, consistent with applicable civil service
 rules and collective bargaining agreements.
- (f) This ordinance shall not apply to Sharp Park lands currently operated for archery purposes unless a Memorandum of Agreement is entered into between the organizations operating the archery range and NPS.

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(g) The General Manager shall provide a written report to the Board of Supervisors on the status of negotiations with NPS regarding a potential agreement for the long-term management of Sharp Park including discussions on the option to close Sharp Park Golf Course, by June 1, 2012, and quarterly thereafter until such time as negotiations are complete.

(h) Nothing in this ordinance precludes the General Manager from entering into negotiations with other third parties for the lease, contract or agreement for operation of the golf course, subject to the restriction on new leases set forth in subsection (b), above. Any such agreement shall also be subject to the approval of the Board of Supervisors.

APPROVED AS TO FORM: DENNIS J. HERRERA, City Attorney

VIRGINIA DARIO ELIZONDO

Deputy City Attorney

FILE NO. 110966

LEGISLATIVE DIGEST

[Park Code - Long Term Management Agreement with the National Park Service for Sharp Park]

Ordinance amending the San Francisco Park Code by amending Section 3.20 1) requiring the Recreation and Park Department to offer a long term management agreement to the National Park Service for certain property under the jurisdiction of the Recreation and Park Commission located in San Mateo County that is within the Golden Gate National Recreation Area's legislative boundary ("Sharp Park"); and 2) making environmental and other findings.

Existing Law

In May 2009, the Board enacted legislation requiring the Recreation and Park Department to: develop a plan, schedule, and budget for restoring the habitat for the California red-legged frog and the San Francisco garter snake in Sharp Park, and for transferring Sharp Park to, or developing a joint management agreement with, the Golden Gate National Recreation Area and the City of Pacifica and/or San Mateo County. The plan must comply with all regulatory requirements, including the federal Endangered Species Act, and be in accord with the deed granting Sharp Park to San Francisco, as well as with the San Francisco Administrative Code. The plan must include alternatives that retain or redesign the Sharp Park Golf Course and that eliminate it.

In November 2009, the Recreation and Park Department produced the Sharp Park Conceptual Restoration Alternatives Report.

Amendments to Current Law

Park Code section 3.20 is replaced in its entirety to:

- Require the General Manager of the Recreation and Park Department offer to the National Park Service (NPS) to enter into a long term management agreement for Sharp Park, which: 1)provides trail-based recreation, 2) supports stewardship of the park, 3) enhances nature-based educational opportunities, all consistent with the NPS' and the Golden Gate National Recreation Area's enabling legislation and management policies, and 4) includes an option to terminate use of the golf course.
- Prohibit the City from entering into any new leases, contracts or agreements for the operation of the golf course.
- Offer City of Pacifica residents the right to purchase San Francisco resident golf cards and play all of S.F. municipal golf courses at S.F. resident rates for 5 years.
- Require the City to offer positions to all City employees at Sharp Park Golf Course consistent with applicable civil service rules and collective bargaining agreements.

- Require the RPD GM to provide a report to the Board of Supervisors on the development of the transition plan status of negotiations with the NPS on June 1, 2012, including discussions on the option to close the golf course, and quarterly thereafter until the transition is negotiations are complete.
- Proposed agreement with the NPS shall not proceed unless and until the City and NPS negotiate, execute and deliver mutually acceptable agreements based upon information produced from any required CEQA and NEPA environmental review processes, other public review and hearing processes, and subject to all applicable governmental approvals. The City retains the absolute sole discretion to propose terms, consistent with this ordinance, for inclusion in the Agreement, and as may be necessary to comply with CEQA, if applicable. Approval of this ordinance grants NPS no vested rights, does not authorize or require any construction or other physical alteration of Sharp Park, results in no approved development plan for Sharp Park, and no legal obligations will exist unless and until the City and NPS negotiate, execute and deliver mutually acceptable agreements based upon information produced from applicable environmental review processes, and on other public review and hearing processes, subject to all applicable governmental approvals.
- The General Manager may enter into negotiations with other third parties for the lease.

 contract or agreement for operation of the golf course, subject to the restriction on new leases set forth above. Any such agreement shall also be subject to the approval of the Board of Supervisors.

Background Information

Sharp Park ("Park") was deeded to the City for public recreation purposes in 1917, is located in the City of Pacifica, San Mateo County, and bisected by Highway 1. The Park is approximately 410 acres, and includes a golf course, archery range, and open space. Areas of the Park are habitat to the California red-legged frog, listed as a threatened species under the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA), and the San Francisco garter snake, listed as an endangered species under ESA.

Sharp Park is also within the legislative boundaries of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area.



PLANNING DEPARTMENT

December 1, 2011

Dear Supervisor Avalos:

I am in receipt of your letter to me dated December 1, 2011, that sets forth the amendments to your proposed Sharp Park ordinance (File #110966) you have indicated that you will introduce at the City Operations and Neighborhood Services Committee on Monday, December 5, 2011. I have thoroughly reviewed these proposed amendments and have determined that the Sharp Park ordinance would not be a project under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) if this ordinance were revised to incorporate the amendments you are now proposing.

The legislation as proposed to be amended is not considered an approval under CEQA because it does not commit the City to a definite course of action with respect to Sharp Park. It instructs the General Manager of the Recreation and Park Department to offer to the NPS the opportunity to create a long-term management agreement, including an option for closure of the golf course. The legislation specifically provides that adoption of the ordinance is a preliminary step in the process of potentially entering into an agreement with the NPS. It does not approve any agreement or grant any entitlements to the NPS, and it acknowledges that approval of any agreement would be contingent upon a number of subsequent steps, including completion of any required environmental review under CEQA and NEPA and the Board of Supervisors' review of the terms of any proposed agreement.

Adoption of the legislation as proposed to be amended itself would not result in direct or indirect physical changes in the environment, or a reasonably foreseeable change in the environment. Since the legislation does not commit the City to a course of action, any physical changes that may result if an agreement is negotiated will not be known until the terms of the agreement are negotiated and the agreement is subjected to environmental review.

Sincerely,

Bill Wycko

Environmental Review Officer

San Francisco Planning Department

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