



PRESS RELEASE:

January 20, 2011

**SAN FRANCISCO RECREATION & PARK
AND PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSIONS APPROVE
RECYCLED WATER PROJECT FOR SHARP PARK GOLF COURSE**

SAN FRANCISCO – By unanimous 6-0 vote, the San Francisco Recreation & Park Commission today approved a Memorandum of Understanding with the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission to replace freshwater with recycled water to irrigate the city-owned Sharp Park Golf Course, located in the coastside suburb of Pacifica. The Memo of Understanding had been unanimously approved on November 9, 2010 by the Public Utilities Commission.

These were the final political steps in the Pacifica Recycled Water Project, an approximately \$8.8 Million project to provide recycled water from the North Coast County Water District's (NCCWD) Calera Creek sewage treatment facility--located approximately one mile south of Sharp Park in Pacifica--to the golf course and five other nearby recycled water customers. Construction has already begun on a pump station, 3.5 miles of delivery pipelines, and a 400,000-gallon storage tank on Gypsy Hill, east of the golf course; the project is scheduled to be completed in Fall, 2011.

Pursuant to the Memo of Understanding, Rec & Park will receive a \$400,000.00 grant from the Public Utilities Commission to retrofit the golf course's existing irrigation system for recycled water.

A contract for the Pacifica Recycled Water Project was entered between the Public Utilities Commission and the NCCWD in October, 2008. This was pursuant to the PUC's general policy of converting large-scale irrigation sites from fresh to recycled water. However, the Pacifica contract was placed on "hold" in July, 2009, after the San Francisco Board of Supervisors in May, 2009 adopted an ordinance directing the

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Rec and Park Department to study possible conversion of the historic, 18-hole Sharp Park Golf Course to a nature preserve.

After a seven-month study and public hearings, the Rec & Park Commission in December, 2009 adopted a resolution to retain and renovate the 80-year-old, Alister MacKenzie-designed golf course in conjunction with habitat restoration for endangered species in the lakes at the western edge of the golf course. Subsequently the Public Utilities Commission on April 9, 2010 reaffirmed its commitment to the recycled water project in a letter to the NCCWD, and removed the "hold" status from the Project.

In hearings before the Public Utilities Commission on September 28 and November 9, 2010, and before the Rec and Park Commission and its Capital Committee on January 5, and 20, 2011, commissioners heard extensive public testimony both in favor and opposed to the recycled water project. The result was the same at both commissions--unanimous decisions to move forward with recycled water irrigation at Sharp Park.

The Pacifica Recycled Water Project will deliver up to 80,000 gallons of recycled water daily--78 percent of the project's capacity--to irrigate Sharp Park Golf Course. Other recycled water customers will include the playing fields at Oceana High and Lacy Middle Schools, Highway One landscaping, and the Sharp Park Beach Promenade. Project financing includes a \$2.1 Million American Recovery and Reinvestment Act grant, and a \$5.5 Million loan to the North Coast County Water District from the State Water Resources Control Board.

Acknowledging prior to the January 20 Rec & Park hearing that some remain disgruntled about the Rec & Park plan to renovate the golf course, Steve Richie, assistant general manager of water enterprise for the Public Utilities Commission, said: "A year with recycled water is better than a year without it. The sooner the better. We're in the last stages of this, and it really needs to move forward."

"This is another great development for the future of Sharp Park Golf Course and the environment," said San Francisco Public Golf Alliance co-founder Bo Links, reacting to the Commission's decision. "Golfers are friends of nature, and we are pleased that the environmental benefits of water recycling

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are coming to Sharp Park. Not only will the golf course and the drinking water supply benefit, but the ocean and beaches as well, because use of treated water for irrigation will decrease wastewater discharges to the Pacific. We look forward to cooperating with Rec & Park's plans to further protect the environment and wildlife at this historic, beautiful golf course."

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SOURCES:

1. SF Public Utilities Commission Webpage, "Pacifica Sharp Park Recycled Water," http://sfwater.org/msc_main.cfm/MC_ID/13/MSC_ID/378
2. SF Recreation and Park Commission Meeting Agenda, Jan. 20, 2011: <http://sfrecrepark.org/documents/012011Commission.pdf>
3. SF Recreation and Park Commission, Agenda Item #9 document packet for Jan. 20, 2011 meeting: <http://sfrecrepark.org/documents/item9SharpParkMOU012011.pdf>
4. SF Public Utilities Commission Meeting Agenda, Nov. 9, 2010 (See the documents attached to Agenda Items Nos. 11 and 12): http://sfwater.org/detail.cfm/MC_ID/18/MSC_ID/113/MTO_ID/340/C_ID/5257

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