

**House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee
Water Resources Development Act
High Priority Projects Request Form**

**Office of Congresswoman Jackie Speier (CA-12)
211 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515
Tel.: 202-225-3531
Fax: 202-226-4183**

DEADLINE: Tuesday, December 1, 2009 @ 9:00 p.m. (P.S.T.)

(Return via email to Cookab.Hashemi@mail.house.gov AND Brian.Perkins@mail.house.gov.)

Please include your full contact information in all correspondence with the Congresswoman's office.

Organizations must provide complete responses to all questions on this form. Incomplete proposals will NOT be considered. Organizations must adhere to word limitations for each question.

Date submitted: December 1, 2009

Project name: Sharp Park San Francisco Garter Snake Recovery Effort

Local contact(s) *(Please provide full contact information, including email addresses and any relevant phone extensions, and indicate if there is a separate D.C. contact.):*

Dawn Kamalanathan, Planning Director
San Francisco Recreation & Park Department
McLaren Lodge Annex
501 Stanyan St.
San Francisco, CA 94122
415 831 2743
dawn.kamalanathan@sfgov.org

QUESTION #1: Member's Office:

Rep. Jackie Speier, CA – 12

QUESTION #2: Staff Contact(s):

Cookab Hashemi, Chief of Staff
W: 202-225-3531
Email: Cookab.Hashemi@mail.house.gov

Brian Perkins, Senior Policy Advisor
W: 650-342-0300
Email: Brian.Perkins@mail.house.gov

QUESTION #3: Corps Information:

Please enter the contact information pertaining to the Corps District responsible for the project, as well as contact information for the Corps employee most familiar with the project.

Corps District San Francisco

Corps Contact: Tom Kendell

Corps Phone number: (415) 503 6822

Corps Contact Email address: tom.kendell@us.army.mil

QUESTION #4: Project Location:

Please enter the city and counties in which the project will be carried out. If there are multiple cities and counties in which this project will be carried out, please enter them below.

City: Pacifica

County: San Mateo

State: **California**

QUESTION #5: Non-federal Sponsor:

Please enter all contact information for the non-federal sponsor of the project.

Name of Non-federal sponsor:
City and County of San Francisco
Recreation and Park Department

Name of Non-federal sponsor staff contact: Dawn Kamalanathan, Planning Director

Non-federal sponsor phone number: 415 831 2743

Non-federal sponsor email address: dawn.kamalanathan@sfgov.org

Non-federal sponsor address:

McLaren Lodge Annex

501 Stanyan St.

San Francisco, CA 94122

QUESTION #6: Project details/purposes: *(You may choose more than one. Please highlight section below.)*

Project purpose:

- Navigation
- Environmental Protection and Restoration
- Flood damage reduction
- Hurricane and Storm Damage Reduction
- Shoreline Protection
- Hydroelectric Power
- Water Supply
- Recreation
- Aquatic Plant Control
- Environmental Infrastructure

Project description: (150 words or less)

The Sharp Park San Francisco Recovery Effort will restore critical wetlands habitat for the San Francisco Garter Snake (SFGS), the most endangered snake species in North America. Sharp Park is the location of one of six remaining populations of SFGS. The project will address persistent hydrological challenges at Laguna Salada and Horsetable Pond, dramatically increase necessary uplands habitat, and establish a strong connection to the neighboring SFGS population at Mori Point. This project will require dredging to remove the sedimentation that has prevented Laguna Salada from functioning effectively as a wetlands habitat for the species.

With the restoration of the Sharp Park habitat, SFRPD hopes to make a significant contribution towards meeting the goals outlined in the 1985 US Fish and Wildlife Recovery Plan for the San Francisco Garter Snake.

Authorization Amount requested: \$5,000,000

QUESTION 7: Project timeline

Please provide project timeline. (150 words or less).

The San Francisco Recreation and Park Department (SFRPD) anticipates construction beginning in 2 years. SFRPD is in the midst of the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the project, and anticipates the completion of CEQA review by November 2010. Between November 2010 and November 2011, SFRPD will pursue a series of permits required to initiate the recovery effort from the Army Corps of Engineers, the Coastal Commission, and other local agencies.

QUESTION #8: Describe the benefits of this project to the 12th Congressional District. *(500 words or less.)*

The Sharp Park San Francisco Garter Snake Recovery Effort will benefits to constituents of District 12 in nine important ways.

First, the project would preserve and enhance critical habitat for the federally endangered San Francisco garter snake (SFGS) and the federally threatened California red-legged Frog (CRLF). Sharp Park contains one of only six recognized populations the SFGS, often called the most endangered snake in North America. The project will expand the existing SFGS habitat into upland areas and thereby provide a strong connection to the neighboring population of SFGS at Mori Point.

Second, the project would protect and improve wildlife habitat, and provide for a long-term, beneficial management and maintenance of this wetland. Laguna Salada is also home to two other garter snakes and several other species. As a wetland, it helps control flooding by storing flood waters, dissipating energy of flood flows, and improving water quality.

Third, the development of a water management plan as part of this project will protect the natural resources of the park and adjacent properties while addressing flood control needs on-site.

Fourth, this venture would protect recreational golfing in a scenic setting. Golf is one of the few outdoor sports played by people of all ages and backgrounds – benefiting senior citizens in particular - and Sharp Park's historic course, designed by Allistair McKenzie, offers wonderful views of the surrounding scenery.

Fifth, this proposal would protect a nationally significant historical landscape. Sharp Park Golf Course has been designated as a nationally-significant at-risk cultural landscape by the Washington D.C.-based Cultural Landscape Foundation. The project will allow the facility to continue operations while managing the natural resources

Sixth, rehabilitation of the habitat would provide opportunities for experts to continue studying these endangered and threatened species in their natural setting.

Seventh, this project offers possible opportunities to educate the public on the benefits of wetlands and the role they serve in water management.

Eighth, by preserving the golf course, the project would increase revenue generated on site due to reduced flooding. Currently, the golf operations are suspended during flood periods. Water management on site will reduce or eliminate flooding on the golf course.

Ninth and finally, the project would manage public access to promote views of the site and use that is compatible with the natural resource values of the site and with the golf course operations.

QUESTION #9: Previous Federal Funding for project

Has this project received previous funding from the federal government? Yes or No? NO.

If yes, please list amount and source?

QUESTION #10: Miscellaneous Information:

Are there multiple Members of Congress requesting this project? Yes or No? NO.

If yes, please list other Members and Congressional Districts:

Letter or Support from Non-federal sponsor. Attach a letter of support from the non-federal sponsor. Must be in PDF format.



December 1, 2009

The Honorable Jackie Speier
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Speier,

On behalf of the City and County of San Francisco, thank you for the opportunity to submit project requests for the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA). WRDA is a major federal funding tool available to assist San Francisco with its attempts to reconstruct the Sharp Park Seawall, a structure critical to our efforts to protect the homes of Pacifica and to rehabilitate the habitat of the federally endangered San Francisco Garter Snake and the federally threatened California Red-Legged Frog. The City's proposed authorization would be a lifeline to these animals, their habitat and to the community. It is a project of extraordinary value to the City, the region, and the nation.

I respectfully request your support for the City's request for WRDA funding authorization for environmental protection and restoration of the wetlands within Sharp Park. Over the past several months, the City has worked with a team of consultants and experts on the SFGS to develop plans for restoring these species at Sharp Park. *The Sharp Park Conceptual Restoration Alternatives Report* issued in November 2009 states that the SFGS and the CRLF can not only survive but would flourish in Sharp Park by restoring a transitional wetland area and a connection to a nearby habitat area.

The City's request, \$5 million, would revitalize the wetlands, maintain the existing recreational amenities provided by the golf course, and allow these federally threatened and endangered species to prosper.

Thank you for strong consideration of this request, for your long-standing commitment to the City and County of San Francisco, and for your leadership in securing these resources to preserve our wildlife and our ecosystem.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gavin Newsom", written over a horizontal line.

Gavin Newsom
Mayor