

DISCLOSURE OF EX PARTE COMMUNICATIONS

Name or description of project:

Appeal No. A-2012-NF-12-020 (San Francisco Recreation and Park Department, San Francisco Co.) Beach Chalet Soccer Fields, Golden Gate Park

Date and time of receipt of communication:

May 3, 2013; 5:00pm

Type of communication:

Telephone conversation

Person initiating communication:

Phil Ting

Person(s) receiving communication:

Carole Groom

Detailed substantive description of the content of communication:

(Attach a copy of the complete text of any written material received.)

Assemblymember Ting, who represents the area where the project is located, called to voice his support for the project as proposed by the applicant, indicating it was necessary to accommodate a lack of playing fields for children in San Francisco.

Date: May 7, 2013

Signature of Commissioner: _____

Carole Groom

DISCLOSURE OF EX PARTE COMMUNICATIONS

Name or description of project:

Appeal No. A-2-SNF-12-020 (San Francisco Recreation and Park Department, San Francisco Co.) Beach Chalet Soccer Fields, Golden Gate park

Date and time of receipt of communication:

May 2, 2013 at 11:30 am

Location of communication:

San Mateo County Board of Supervisors Office, Redwood City

Type of communication:

In person meeting

Person(s) in attendance at time of communication:

Phil Ginsburg, Patrick Hannan, Susan Hirsch, Dan Mauer, Susan McCabe

Person(s) receiving communication:

Carole Groom

Detailed substantive description of the content of communication:

(Attach a copy of the complete text of any written material received.)

Applicant representatives presented their rebuttals to four common objections to this project:

1) Lights

- a. Design, location, and height (60 feet rather than standard 80 feet) were specifically chosen to minimize impacts to public views, wildlife, and surrounding neighbors. The lighting proposal was carefully evaluated in the project EIR.

2) Non-conformity with the site's 'pastoral' and 'naturalistic' character

- a. This location has been used as an athletic field for more than 75 years. That is its intended use. While these athletic fields may be 'perceived' as "pastoral open space", this belies the fact that the fields' intended and historical use is to accommodate active recreational pursuits such as soccer and lacrosse. There is nothing 'pastoral' or 'naturalistic' about a non-native grass species specifically chosen for its qualities which accommodate athletics and requires gallons of pesticides and tons fertilizers to maintain.

3) Maintenance & Care

- a. There are no maintenance techniques that will enable grass fields to accommodate the hours of play needed by the applicant to meet the recreational demand for soccer in the City & County of San Francisco. That is why they are proposing the use of synthetic turf.

4) Alternative Sites

- a. The West Sunset playground cannot accommodate the hours of play needed to meet the City's recreational demand for soccer unless one or more of its baseball fields are removed. To displace baseball with soccer is a zero-sum proposition for the city's residents.

The applicant requests a finding of No Substantial Issue and stresses that acceptance of staff's recommendation is tantamount to a denial of the entire project, and with it the opportunity to expand and improve coastal access at the west end of Golden Gate Park.

Date: May 7, 2013

Signature of Commissioner: Carla Gove

DISCLOSURE OF EX PARTE COMMUNICATIONS

Name or description of project:

Appeal No. A-2-SNF-12-020 (San Francisco Recreation and Park Department, San Francisco Co.) Beach Chalet Soccer Fields, Golden Gate Park

Date and time of receipt of communication:

April 29, 2013; 10:00am

Location of communication:

San Mateo County Board of Supervisors Office, Redwood City

Type of communication:

In person meeting

Person(s) in attendance at time of communication:

Mark Massara, Katherine Howard, Lennie Roberts

Person(s) receiving communication:

Carole Groom

Detailed substantive description of the content of communication:

(Attach a copy of the complete text of any written material received.)

Appellants presented four specific objections to this project:

1) Lights

- a. Appellants claim the lighting impacts were not adequately studied in the project EIR and claim that heavy fog or inclement weather conditions enhance the lights' luminosity, distracting birds migrating across the Pacific Flyway.

2) Non-conformity with the site's 'pastoral' and 'naturalistic' character

- a. Appellants are opposed to the use of synthetic turf and lighting, arguing such elements do not conform with the LCP.

3) Maintenance & Care

- a. Appellants assert the use of gopher wire and improved maintenance techniques would enable the existing grass fields to accommodate a higher frequency of use

4) Alternative Sites

- a. Appellants assert that a renovated West Sunset playground is a viable alternative to the proposed Beach Chalet project.

Date: May 7, 2013

Signature of Commissioner: _____

Carole Groom

STATE CAPITOL
P.O. BOX 942849
SACRAMENTO, CA 94249-0019
(916) 319-2019
FAX (916) 319-2119

Assembly
California Legislature



PHILIP Y. TING
ASSEMBLYMEMBER, NINETEENTH DISTRICT

RECEIVED

MAY 06 2013

CALIFORNIA
COASTAL COMMISSION
NORTH CENTRAL COAST

April 30, 2013

Mary Shallenberger, Chair
California Coastal Commission
45 Fremont Street, Suite 2000
San Francisco, CA 94105-2219

Re: Beach Chalet Athletic Fields Renovation (Coastal Permit Appeal No. A-2-SNF-12-020)

Dear Chair Shallenberger,

I'm writing to express my support for the proposed renovation of the Beach Chalet Athletic Fields in San Francisco, and encourage you to make a "no substantial issue" determination when you consider an appeal of the project's Coastal Permit in May.

The project includes a large natural landscaping plan specifically designed to continue a long-term reforestation program around the soccer fields in the west end of the Park. More than 200 trees and 1,000 new plants will replace 14 trees and 44 bushes slated for removal. The surrounding woodlands will remain woodlands.

Additionally, most of the project site is not a natural meadow or woodland but a man-made, fenced, seeded and mowed turf grass field maintained with public dollars and open to the public for just a few hours each day. Only a portion of the turf grass is being replaced with synthetic turf to allow for more recreation on these fields at a reduced cost to tax payers.

Increasing recreation on these fields will allow more children and athletes to play, bring more visitors to the west end of the Park, create a safer public space by discouraging the illegal activities that have long occurred near the fields, and reduce cost to San Francisco tax payers.

I ask that you support our community and this important and beneficial project by voting for a "no substantial issue" determination when you consider the Coastal Permit appeal for the Beach Chalet Athletic Fields renovation.

Thank you,

Philip Y. Ting
Assemblymember, 19th District



California Coastal Commission
725 Front Street, Suite 300
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

RECEIVED

MAY 06 2013

CALIFORNIA
COASTAL COMMISSION
CENTRAL COAST AREA

ITEM Th 15c
PERMIT A-2-SNF-12-020
ROBERT T. ANDERSON
IN FAVOR OF PROJECT

Re: Permit Number A-2-SNF-12-020
Golden Gate Park Athletic Fields Renovation
Submission of Written Testimony

Dear Commissioners:

I am a San Francisco Parent and also a life-long conservationist. My family and I have an extensive familiarity and a continuous history of usage and care taking of not only the soccer fields in question but also Ocean Beach, the Beach Chalet, and the "west end" of Golden Gate Park in general. It is our opinion, after much consideration, that the proposed synthetic turf renovation of the soccer fields would be appropriate and beneficial to Golden Gate Park and San Francisco. We feel that many of the objections to the development are overblown and impertinent: the area in question is not untrammelled habitat or wilderness, it is a human dominated urban park/playground. The area is already highly and continuously illuminated, as is necessary for the existing 24 hour a day usage of the adjacent beach and highway.

Furthermore, though we whole heartedly support coastal conservation, we question whether it is appropriate in this case for the Coastal Commission to even be involved in second guessing the already prolonged and well vetted proceedings of the government agencies properly responsible for this decision concerning an existing urban facility. Please do not let the Coastal Commission be dragged into the pseudo-naturalists' and NIMBY's last chance "Hail Mary" ploy to keep the soccer fields dysfunctional and locked up half the year.

Sincerely,

Robert T. Anderson

Robert T Anderson
221 Douglass St.
San Francisco, CA 94114

RECEIVED

MAY 08 2013

CALIFORNIA
COASTAL COMMISSION

May 6, 2013
Mary Shallenberger, Chair
California Coastal Commission
45 Fremont Street, Suite 2000
San Francisco, CA 94105-2219

Re: Beach Chalet Athletic Fields Renovation (Coastal Permit Appeal No. A-2-SNF-12-020)

Dear Chair Shallenberger and members of Coastal Commission,

I am one of the thousands of San Franciscans who support the renovation of the Beach Chalet Athletic Fields.

Please vote "No Substantial Issue" on the coastal permit appeal and let us fix our fields.

Currently, the Beach Chalet fields are not serving their purpose as a public space. The fields are in awful, even dangerous condition, and they are closed to the public except by paid reservation. It is in the interest of the public good to make these fields available to everyone. The new improved Beach Chalet fields will have "open play" hours so that everyone can use this space, not just those who can pay for it.

Renovating the Beach Chalet fields will also improve public safety in the area. The area surrounding the Beach Chalet fields has seen an increase in crime, including a murder last summer. Increasing the lighting and improving the facilities will help to alleviate these issues and make it safer for children who play there and neighbors who live nearby.

This renovation is also the right choice for the environment. The Recreation and Parks Department has committed to replacing the 16 trees and 44 plants being removed with an impressive 200 trees and 1000 additional plants. Additionally, installing synthetic turf will save about 5.7 millions gallons of water each year.

The project is in line with the intended use of the space. It has been used as a soccer field since the 1930s, and this is a project that the majority of San Franciscans want. Last May, 300 kids and 100 adults testified at a hearing in support of this project. Please do not let a small but vocal minority hold this project back when the good of the city is at stake.

Please vote "No Substantial Issue" on the Coastal permit appeal and let us move forward as a city.

Thanks,



Helen Pui Kwong, San Francisco

Representative
Correspondence
from 12 individuals

Our soccer team is constantly battling to have quality soccer fields in San Francisco. Please vote "no substantial issue" and renovate Beach Chalet Athletic Field.

Matt Wendau
SFVig

From: ernst.feibusch
To: [CoastalBeachChaletAppeal](#)
Cc: ricolivas@juno.com
Subject: beach chalet approval by coastal comission
Date: Tuesday, May 07, 2013 7:16:59 PM

I kicked my first soccer ball as a 12 yr.old @ B'Chalet in 1937. Played and coached on it after that. Sufferd with the footing by virtue of gopher holes. The fields w ere often closed--by US Army during WWII and patially during the Korean War; by Rec & Park to "fix" it; by other city agencies to allow consturctiuon of a sewer line (since removed to Fleischackers) for SW Sewer Facilities. I can remember being admonished by a "civilian" on a horse (stables were nearby) as whether " I knew my place." Now when there is still a chance, I would liketo play on it, i.e., soccer, as an 88 year old. YES!! The footing of a plostic pitch is excellent. Come on out and see. I'll be happy to have some of my betters interview me as to footing (no pun intended.) My group is playing at CrockerAmazon tonight and next Tuesday 8:00. After that we'll return to South Sunset Plgrd, 8pm.The plastic pitch is the best thing ever invented whether it annoys the Oligarchs and their minions or not. .For that matter, why is the meeting being heldin Marin County when the discussion deals w/ matters of SF. It must be nice to have money and power and have paid stooges work for me. For more soccer Ernst M. Feibusch, 2821 Taraval St. SF 94116, 415 564-3588

From: [Andrew Solow \(Gladding & Michel\)](#)
To: [Kahn, Kevin@Coastal](#); [mary.shallenberger@coastal.ca.gov](#); [carol.groom@coastal.ca.gov](#)
Cc: [Lester, Charles@Coastal](#); [Carl, Dan@Coastal](#); [Craig, Susan@Coastal](#)
Subject: {Appeal #: A-2-SNF-12-020 // Th15c} - Examiner Editorial: Coastal Commission should allow city's plan for soccer fields to proceed_5.2.2013
Date: Wednesday, May 08, 2013 1:41:11 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[Coastal Commission should allow city's plan for soccer fields to proceed 5.2.2013.pdf](#)

CA Coastal Commission re:
Appeal #: A-2-SNF-12-020 // Th15c
Calendared for Consideration: May 9, 2013

Honorable Commissioners and Staff,

I hereby request that the CA Coastal Commission take formal notice of the attached San Francisco Examiner Editorial dated May 2, 2013 - see text of Editorial below.

I also request that the CA Coastal Commission take formal notice of the rendering of the Beach Chalet Soccer Fields as designed by the CA Coastal Commission Staff shown below.

Coastal Commission should allow city's plan for soccer fields to proceed

By: SF Examiner Editorial | 05/02/13 10:46 PM
SF Examiner Editorial .

A recent report by staff members of the state agency that controls development along California's coastline argues against a plan for new playing fields near the Beach Chalet in Golden Gate Park. But the document is flawed in its reasoning and its recommendations should be rejected.

When the California Coastal Commission takes up the issue of the Beach Chalet soccer fields during its Thursday meeting, the members of the agency will have before them a document based on a false understanding of what this portion of the park was, is and should be.

The 9.4-acre playing fields sit on the western side of Golden Gate Park, where athletic fields of some sort have existed for more than 75 years. The fields are among the most used in The City, but poor drainage and wear forces them to be closed roughly half of the time, according to the Recreation and Park Department. One of the four fields is typically closed at all times to allow the grass to regrow.

To extend the playing time at the fields, the parks department has entered into a public-private funding proposal with the City Fields Foundation that would pay to replace the grass with artificial turf. The site would also receive new lights to illuminate the fields for more hours, a new children's playground, new seating and revamped restrooms. These improvements would add more than 9,500 hours of playing time at the fields, which are much needed in a city where field space and time are both at a premium.

The plan has been approved locally, but an appeal to the Coastal Commission prompted

the report. In that document, agency staff members erroneously refer to the existing fields as “pastoral landscape,” arguing that features of the playing field, including the lines that mark the athletic fields, could be harmful to wildlife.

Opponents of this plan and now the Coastal Commission’s staff make it appear as though the Recreation and Park Department is clear-cutting virgin forest in an isolated area to make way for a mega development. The truth is that the site, which comprises less than 1 percent of the total space in Golden Gate Park, is already a playing field with marked lines. The arguments against lighting range from the light pollution it could cause to the impacts the lights would have on migrating birds. The report even objects to the sideline seating from which parents would be able to watch their children play sports. Oh, yes, and the new soccer fields are too rectangular!

The report’s main is that the area should remain natural, as is called for in a Golden Gate Park master plan. But, of course, a truly natural Golden Gate Park would consist of the sand dunes that used to dominate the area before the park was created. Others argue that the area should consist of trees and walking paths. However the Coastal Commission staff argues that nine acres of mowed grass — but not artificial turf — would be natural.

This paper has argued before that if there were not already playing fields at this location, this project would be an inappropriate one. But given the history of the past 75 years, this project wisely upgrades the existing use to make it more usable for the children and adults who need more space for sports in The City. The remaining 99 percent of Golden Gate Park is there for everything else.

Read more at the San Francisco Examiner: <http://www.sfexaminer.com/opinion/op-eds/2013/05/coastal-commission-should-allow-city-s-plan-soccer-fields-proceed#ixzz2SgfaG869>

Beach Chalet Soccer Fields as designed by the CA Coastal Commission Staff

sfpix.com



sfpix.com

Andrew Solow
Past President and Co-Founder
Mission Youth Soccer League (MYSL)
San Francisco, CA 94131
Cell 415-722-3047

Beth Lewis
571 25th Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94121

Hon. Mary Shallenberger, Chair
California Coastal Commission
45 Fremont Street, Suite 2000
San Francisco, CA 94105-2219

May 7, 2013

Subject: Beach Chalet Athletic Fields, Golden Gate Park, San Francisco, CA
Staff has been copied on this letter

Dear Ms. Shallenberger,

Please uphold the recommendations of the Coastal Commission staff report which finds the current proposed project to renovate the Beach Chalet Athletic Fields in Golden Gate Park in violation of the goals of the California Coastal Commission. The project is also inconsistent with the 1998 Golden Gate Master Plan, The 2004 National Register Listing, The City of San Francisco's Coastal Plan and The 2012 Ocean Beach Master Plan.

You will hear a lot of arguments on May 9th why the proposed project is flawed. A lot of Bay Area projects may look like a good idea at first: The Embarcadero Freeway, which was later torn down; Filling the SF Bay was once considered a good idea; Even a proposal to develop the Marin Headlands with housing for 30,000 people was planned, but was thankfully stopped and instead is now open space.

It can take a decade or more for government bodies to acknowledge that certain kinds of development are inappropriate in certain areas. Reversing projects that have already been implemented is very costly.

The paving over of 7 acres of Golden Gate Park right where it interfaces with the Ocean with toxic tires, plastic grass and 150,000 watts of lights constitutes inappropriate development in a very special place. It is an open space resource that should be protected for present and future generations by you, our Coastal Commission Supervisors. You have that power on May 9, 2013. Please support the findings of your own staff!

Sincerely,

Beth Lewis

From: [Abela Carlos](#)
To: [Kahn, Kevin@Coastal](mailto:Kahn.Kevin@Coastal)
Subject: Beach Chalet Athletic Fields, Golden Gate Park, San Francisco
Date: Tuesday, May 07, 2013 3:05:20 PM

May 6, 2013

Hon. Mary Shallenberger, Chair
California Coastal Commission
45 Fremont Street, Suite 2000
San Francisco, CA 94105-2219

Subject: Beach Chalet Athletic Fields, Golden Gate Park, San Francisco, CA
May 9th, 2013 CCC Hearing
Agenda Item 15 c. Appeal No. A-2-SNF-12-020

Dear Ms. Shallenberger,

I am very much opposed to the proposed soccer field development in Golden Gate Park. The tall lighting will ruin the natural and wild nature of Golden Gate Park and also the ruin the coastline. Golden Gate Park was built to bring some wilderness into our city, and this project will take that away. Paving over more of the park is also an anathema to the purpose of the park. I am also an avid soccer player and I do not think that putting down astro turf on the field will be of any benefit. If the City of SF only spent a little time maintaining the existing field they could easily eliminate the problem of gopher holes. Our California coastline is slowly being destroyed with developments such as this proposal and I urge you to help prevent the City from destroying our historic and wonderful Golden Gate Park.

Sincerely,

Carlos Abela
1266 40th Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94122

cc: Kevin Kahn, Coastal Planner, North Central Coast District
Kevin.Kahn@coastal.ca.gov

From: [James Forcier](#)
To: [Kahn, Kevin@Coastal](mailto:Kahn_Kevin@Coastal)
Subject: Beach Chalet Athletic Fields, Golden Gate Park, San Francisco
Date: Tuesday, May 07, 2013 5:46:58 PM

Hon. Mary Shallenberger, Chair
California Coastal Commission
45 Fremont Street, Suite 2000
San Francisco, CA 94105-2219

May 7, 2013

Dear Ms. Shallenberger,

I'm writing to ask that you accept the recommendations in the Coastal Commission staff report which finds the proposed project to renovate the Beach Chalet Athletic Fields in Golden Gate Park to be in violation of the goals of the California Coastal Commission. The project is also inconsistent with the 1998 Golden Gate Master Plan, the 2004 National Register Listing, the City of San Francisco's Coastal Plan and the 2012 Ocean Beach Master Plan.

In particular, paving over 7 acres of Golden Gate Park using plastic grass and material created from automobile tires, and illuminating the area with 150,000 watts of light, is inappropriate in this park setting. This part of the park where it meets the Pacific Ocean should be maintained as open space. Please support the staff's findings.

Sincerely,

James Forcier
2953 Broderick Street
San Francisco, CA 94123h

From: [SF Playfields](#)
To: Kahn_Kevin@Coastal; 2d4@sbcglobal.net; kw021605@sbcglobal.net
Subject: re: Appeal Number: A-2-SNF-12-020 / Beach Chalet athletic fields
Date: Tuesday, May 07, 2013 5:52:41 PM

Because this letter is being submitted after 4:00 Monday, May 6th,
I will submit copies to the Commissioners and to the record at the hearing on
5/9/2013

CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION CENTRAL COAST
5/9/2013

AND NORTH CENTRAL COAST DISTRICT OFFICES Th15c

Appeal Number: A-2-SNF-12-020 / Beach Chalet athletic fields, Golden Gate
Park

Submitted by Kelley Watts, @SHPFC, on 5/9/2013

re; the proposed project's SBR crumb infill material

The project's SBR crumb infill contains carcinogenic toxins. Herein I will
address only one, **carbon black**.

- 1) SBR crumb contains **carbon black** as its principal ingredient, (at least 20%).
- 2) **Carbon black** was added to the World Health Organization, the International Agency for Research on Cancer, (IARC), and the California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA) lists of substances known to the State to cause cancer. In this form it is found on the Prop 65 list of materials known to cause cancer.
- 3) **Carbon black** is composed of microscopic particles which are not only small enough to be inhaled but small enough to be absorbed through the skin.
- 4) The quantity of **carbon black** to be introduced by this project into the coastal environment by the SBR crumb infill will be in the 100s of tons spread over 9 acres.

- 5) The infill material will be loose and exposed in the coastal environment where, (and I quote the San Francisco Beach Chalet Environmental Impact Report), “where wind will easily disperse the particulate matter” - .
-

Proposition 65 - CRNR Notices

Chemical Listed Effective February 21, 2003
as Known to the State of California to Cause Cancer:
Carbon Black (airborne, unbound particles of respirable size)
[02/21/03]

Excerpts from the **San Francisco Beach Chalet Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR)**

(DEIR page IV.H-2);

“The SBR material also contains **carbon black**, an industrial chemical used in the manufacturing of automobile tires and other plastic materials.”

(DEIR page IV.H-2);

“It, (**carbon black**), is composed of nanoparticles that are much smaller than PM10 and PM2.5 (nanoparticles vary in size from 1 to 100 nanometers, with a billion nanometers forming a meter).”

(DEIR page IV.H-3);

“Fine particulates small enough to be inhaled into the deepest parts of the human lung can cause adverse health effects, and studies have shown that elevated particulate levels contribute to the death of approximately 200 to 500 people per year in the Bay Area. High levels of particulates have also been known to exacerbate chronic respiratory ailments, such as bronchitis and asthma, and have been associated with increased emergency room visits and hospital admissions.”

(DEIR page IV.H-3);

“wind will easily disperse the particulate matter”

From: [Deborah Howard-Page](#)
To: Kahn_Kevin@Coastal
Subject: No Astroturf in park land-- think of the wildlife!
Date: Tuesday, May 07, 2013 10:15:23 PM

I urge the Coastal Commission to consider any and all alternative options, such as repairing other soccer fields close by. Please consider the flora and fauna. Thank you!

Sincerely,

Deborah Howard-Page
547 Arkansas St.
S.F., CA 94107

Memo to: Coastal Commissioners
From: Isabel Wade, Ph.D.
Founder, San Francisco Neighborhood Parks Council
Re: Beach Chalet
Date: May 5, 2013

Unfortunately I will be out of town when the hearing on San Francisco's Beach Chalet is held next week. I am writing to urge you to respect the work of your staff and the concerns of many thousands of San Francisco residents (including myself) about the inappropriate project proposed for the Beach Chalet.

As the founder of the Neighborhood Parks Council, a 501©3 organization now merged to form the SF Parks Alliance, I am well aware of the challenge of balancing various recreation needs on very limited land while also maintaining habitat and other values in our park system. I am also not necessarily an opponent of artificial turf in some circumstances. I strongly support expansion of soccer facilities in our city. However, I do not support the proposed project of artificial turf in Golden Gate Park that I believe is in violation of the Master Plan. In addition, the planned lighting for this facility will not only violate the plan's stated intent for the west end of the park, but also is in violation of federal policies aimed at reducing light impact on the night sky. We have such a unique opportunity for observing the cosmos at night in San Francisco as compared to almost any other major metropolitan area; we should protect and enhance this very important resource for the public and respect the national policy in this regard.

The continued insistence by the Recreation and Park Department that the Beach Chalet is the only site in San Francisco for this soccer facility is just not correct. The West Sunset Playground has been identified as another good site, less than a dozen blocks away but in an urban setting more appropriate for the lights. In addition, there is considerable land at Candlestick Point – a new defunct stadium setting with no apparent funding for the planned development. There are undoubtedly others.

I urge you to respect your mandate to protect the Coast and reject this project that will harm our coastal resources, the night sky, and the quiet end of Golden Gate park.

Thank You.

4 pages

RECEIVED

MAY 08 2013

CALIFORNIA
COASTAL COMMISSION
CENTRAL COAST AREA

18 Southfield Road
Glen Cove, NY, 11542
May 5, 2013

Hon. Mary Shallenberger, Chair
California Coastal Commission
45 Fremont Street, Suite 2000
San Francisco, CA 94105-2219

Subject: Beach Chalet Athletic Fields, Golden Gate Park, San Francisco, CA
Appeal Number: A-2-SNF-12-020

Dear Ms. Shallenberger,

I have read the California Coastal Commission Appeal Staff Report and find it very thorough. I appreciate the time and effort taken in reviewing the concerns about this project, and I agree with your conclusions and recommendations.

I submitted my concerns for the past public hearing and will not repeat them. However I failed to note the fact that the fields were fenced (even though I did see them on visiting the site in the past.

Fenced fields with locked gates make the fields inaccessible to the public; the taxpayers who pay for them and who have the right of free access. By fencing them the fields become the "property" of the soccer teams (or others) that apparently control access by preventing anyone who is not on the schedule from using the fields. This is now the case even when the fields are not in use. This makes them private use fields in a public park.

This lockout should not be permitted. While scheduled events should be able to be held, at all other times the fields should be open to anyone to use.

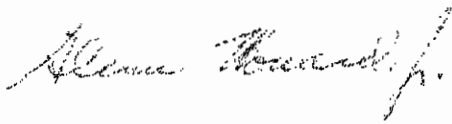
I fully support the West Sunset Playground alternative (referred to as the Hybrid Alternative) as practical, and economically and environmentally sound.

As an added note, the City argued that grass fields were difficult to maintain. In reviewing the images on Google Earth™ of the fields over the past 20 years it is obvious that the fields, when properly maintained, were in excellent shape, but when poorly maintained looked like crop circles or worse indicating that the Park Management was inconsistent in upkeep and made it appear that the grass fields were not sustainable. See attached Google Earth™ images from June 2012, June 2011, September 2010 and June 2010.

Note that in all images the golf course (on the right) is in good shape at all times while the sports fields vary widely in simply being watered and cared for properly.

Again I thank you for your excellent and thorough report and support your recommendations.

Sincerely,

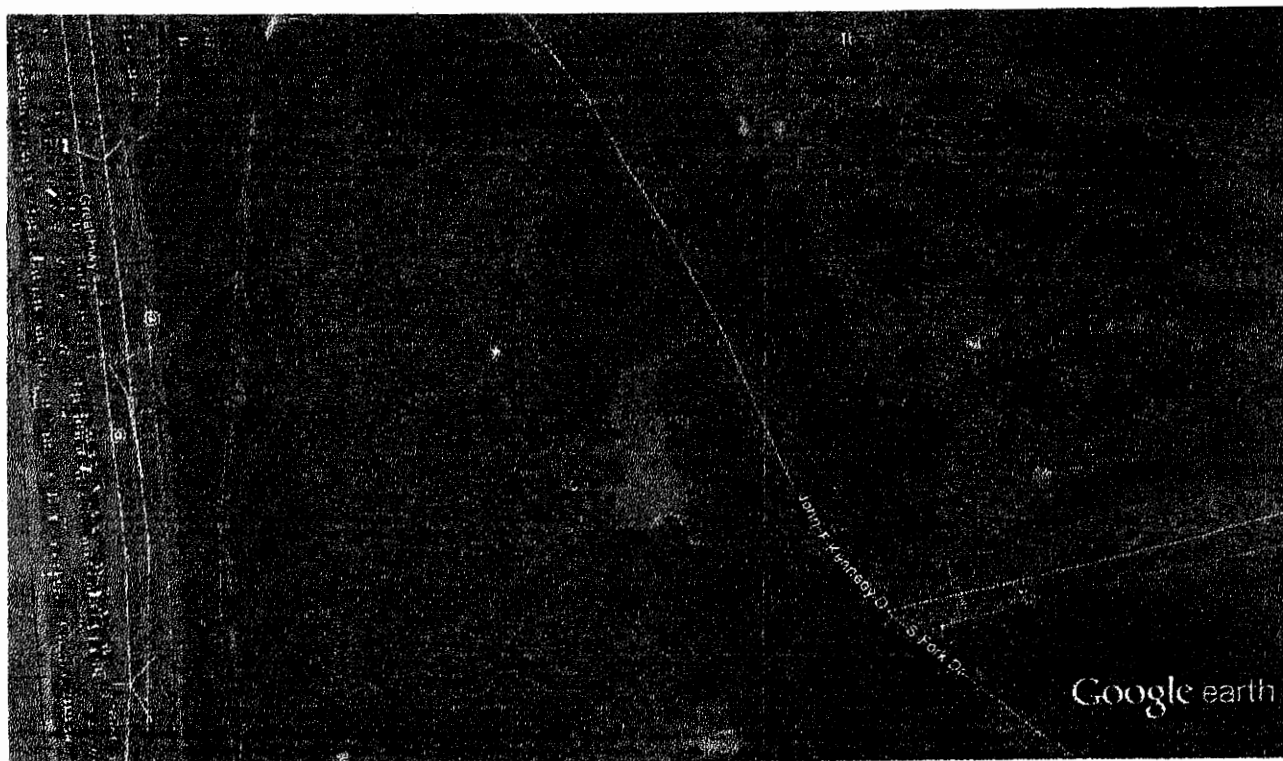
A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Glenn W. Howard, Jr.", written in dark ink.

Glenn W. Howard, Jr., Ph.D.
516-759-1640

Cc: Kevin.Kahn@coastal.ca.gov
SF Ocean Edge <sfoceanedge@earthlink.net>



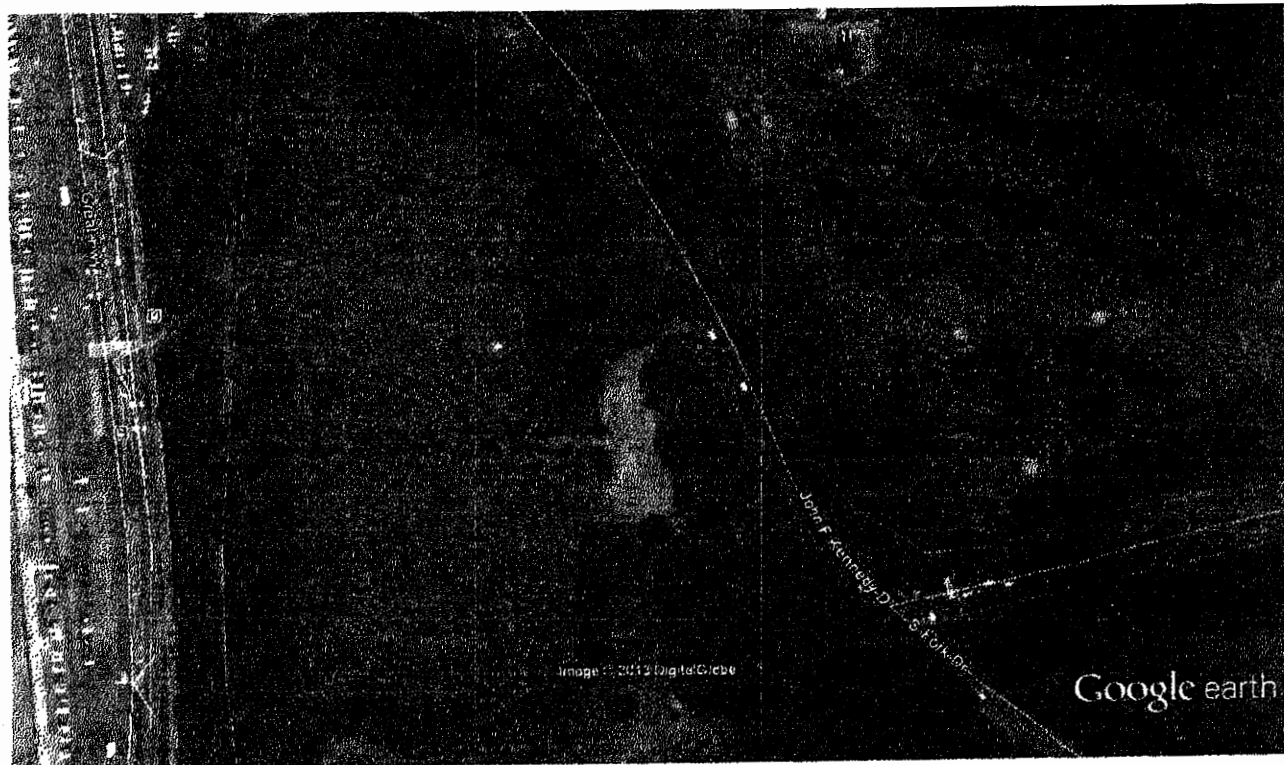
June 2012 (Google Earth)



June 2011 (Google Earth)



September 2010 (Google Earth)



June 2010 (Google Earth)

From: [Donald Dodge](#)
To: [CoastalBeachChaletAppeal](#)
Subject: GG park soccer fields
Date: Wednesday, May 08, 2013 10:26:03 AM

Dear commissioners

I believe that GG Park and GGNRA is not the place for artificial turf and high intensity lighting right next to the coast.

Thank you

Donald Dodge
300 Caselli Ave
San Francisco 94114

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Rebecca Evans](#)
To: [CoastalBeachChaletAppeal](#)
Cc: [Rebecca Evans](#)
Subject: Support for the staff report
Date: Tuesday, May 07, 2013 9:58:25 PM

Chair Shallenberger: I have read the staff report on the Beach Chalet and find it accurate and intelligent. I hope that the Coastal Commission supports the staff recommendations in their entirety.

You clearly have the impetus and the authority to protect this part of our precious coastal area as San Francisco has failed to do.

In the early 1970s I worked for the passage of the Coastal Act. I am pleased that the Commission and its staff are still doing exemplary work.

Rebecca Evans
San Francisco



San Francisco Tomorrow

Since 1970, Working to Protect the Urban Environment

May 3, 2013

Hon. Mary Shallenberger, Chair
California Coastal Commission
45 Fremont Street, Suite 2000
San Francisco, CA 94105-2219

Kevin Kahn, Coastal Planner
North Central Coast District
45 Fremont Street, Suite 2000
San Francisco, CA 94105-2219

Re: Beach Chalet Athletic Fields, Golden Gate Park, San Francisco, California
Subject: Support Recommendation of California Coastal Commission Staff Report

Dear Ms. Shallenberger and Mr. Kahn:

Simply put, San Francisco Tomorrow supports the California Coastal Commission staff report recommending rejection of artificial turf and stadium lights at the Beach Chalet Athletic Fields, which adversely impact the naturalistic landscape and open spaces that link the Pacific Ocean, Golden Gate Park, Panhandle and urban greenways and provide important habitat for nesting and migrating birds.

As one of San Francisco's oldest environmental organizations, we have steadfastly advocated for open space, recreational areas, environmental responsibility, environmental justice and San Francisco's unique qualities. Like our battles against freeway construction and waterfront development, San Francisco Tomorrow has fought for better environmental alternatives, which have ultimately proved beneficial for future generations. At any given moment in time, financial and short-term expediency may blind one's vision for the long-term. The California Coastal Commission was created to guide our coastal destiny, independent of local politics and financial intrigue. We urge you to guide the City towards better alternatives, such as:

- The Hybrid Alternative that moves artificial turf to the West Sunset Playground, while renovating the Beach Chalet soccer fields with real grass, drainage/ field improvements and minimal lights;
- Renovating the Beach Chalet fields with real grass and use remaining funds to upgrade play fields throughout San Francisco;
- Evaluating new development sites, which may enable larger and more cost-efficient fields, such as at Treasure Island, Mission Bay and Hunters Point, in addition to neighborhood parks;
- Better distribution of fields to meet the requirements of disadvantaged communities, rather than a fiscal emphasis on league teams from outside San Francisco.

Will you want to live in San Francisco – tomorrow?

44 Woodland Ave
(415) 566-7050

San Francisco, CA 94117



San Francisco Tomorrow

Since 1970, Working to Protect the Urban Environment

Fundamentally, in line with the Local Coastal Program, the Golden Gate Park Master Plan and the Ocean Beach Master Plan, we see the greatest public good in preserving the western end of Golden Gate Park in its historic form as a low-impact open space that provides respite for visitors and shelter for species to replace lost habitat. The environmental continuity, from ocean to park to streetscapes, is an environmental pathway too important to lose.

Especially with viable alternatives that serve the programmatic needs of even more San Franciscans, we urge the rejection of artificial turf and stadium lights at the Beach Chalet Athletic Fields.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Clary, President
44 Woodland Avenue, SF, CA 94117

cc: SF Ocean Edge
1243 42nd Avenue
San Francisco, Ca 94122

Will you want to live in San Francisco – tomorrow?

44 Woodland Ave
(415) 566-7050

San Francisco, CA 94117

From: [Celia Taupin](#)
To: [Kahn, Kevin@Coastal](mailto:Kahn.Kevin@Coastal)
Subject: BEACH CHALET ATHLETIC FIELDS
Date: Wednesday, May 08, 2013 12:37:25 PM

Hon. Mary Shallenberger, Chair
California Coastal Commission
45 Fremont Street, Suite 2000
San Francisco, CA 94105-2219

May 7, 2013

Subject: Beach Chalet Athletic Fields, Golden Gate Park, San Francisco, CA

Dear Ms. Shallenberger,

Please uphold the recommendations of the Coastal Commission staff report which finds the current proposed project to renovate the Beach Chalet Athletic Fields in Golden Gate Park in violation of the goals of the California Coastal Commission. The project is also inconsistent with the 1998 Golden Gate Master Plan, The 2004 National Register Listing, The City of San Francisco's Coastal Plan and The 2012 Ocean Beach Master Plan.

The paving over of 7 acres of Golden Gate Park right where it interfaces with the Ocean with toxic tires, plastic grass and 150,000 watts of lights constitutes inappropriate development in a very special place. It is an open space resource that should be protected for present and future generations by you, our Coastal Commission officials. You have that power on May 9, 2013. Please support the findings of your own staff!

Sincerely,

Celia Thompson Taupin
3435 Cesar Chavez, Studio 320
San Francisco,
CA 94110

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MAY 06 2013

CALIFORNIA
COASTAL COMMISSION

May 6, 2013

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CALIFORNIA
COASTAL COMMISSION

California Coastal Commission:

RE: **Don't light up the night in Golden Gate Park**

I see that the San Francisco Chronicle is attempting to launch an email campaign against the staff opinion on the artificial turf/night lighting proposal by SF Park & Rec. for Golden Gate Park. This is unfortunate, as this matter should be decided on the merits, not on some write in campaign. But since this avenue is being advocated, I thought I should weigh in.

The Park & Rec. folks have alternative locations for their artificial turf fields, but have bullheadedly persisted with their idea to put this in Golden Gate Park (GGP). So, if the Commission puts an end to their plan, nothing is really lost for the soccer advocates.

But failure to act by the Commission would mean a great loss to the nature of GGP.

I must add that years of neglect by Park and Rec. to the existing fields should hardly be justification for the current solution. If they want soccer fields in GGP, then they should maintain the ones they have.

Please vote against the artificial turf/night lighting proposal. You will be doing The City a favor, as efforts can then be devoted to alternative locations, which should have occurred voluntarily.

*Larry Roles*2428 Union Street
San Francisco, CA 94123
415-346-2798

barbara berman

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MAY 06 2013

May 1, 2013

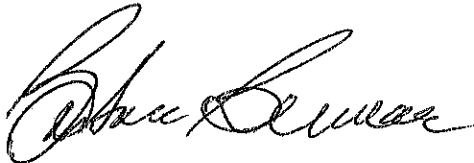
CALIFORNIA
COASTAL COMMISSION
NORTH CENTRAL COAST

TO ALL MEMBERS OF COASTAL COMMISSION AND STAFF :

Please do not replace the grass near the Beach Chalet with artificial turf. Please do not install high-powered lighting. My husband and I live near Golden Gate Park and we treasure it. We also support athletic activities in San Francisco green spaces. HOWEVER we believe that a solution that takes into account both the habitat of birds, and the health of San Francisco citizens, is possible.

THANK YOU

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Barbara Berman', written in dark ink.

Barbara Berman

568 fifth avenue san francisco california 944118
415-668-2409 bbgabe@aol.com

2, May 2013

Dear Dan,

This letter is to oppose the the plan to put astro turf to the Beach Chalet soccer field. I'm also apposed to the lighting. I have played in these fields as a kid and had no problems with the field. I think if you took the money (20,000,000.00 from the City and 28,000,000.00 from the City fields foundation) and put it into the maintenance of the field it would go a long way. Hire somebody full time to maintain it. Please do not turn the city's parks into sterile copy's of what should be natural. There are enough parks with astro turf and plastic.

Sincerely,

Dennis J. Regan
543 Chenery St.
S.F. CA 94131
(415) 587-4415

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MAY 06 2013

CALIFORNIA
COASTAL COMMISSION
NORTH CENTRAL COAST

Agenda Item # 15-C
Katherine W Jarrett

California Coastal Commission
Mary K. Shallenberger, Chair and Dan Carl, Deputy Manager
45 Fremont Street, Suite 2000
San Francisco, CA 94105-2219

Dear Coastal Commission members and staff:

Please do NOT replace the natural grass soccer fields at Beach Chalet with artificial turf and 60-foot-tall lights. (Agenda Item # 15-C). I support the alternative of adding soccer facilities off-site, while improving the grass fields and preserving wildlife habitat at Beach Chalet. The western end of Golden Gate Park was intended to remain more natural and less developed. Birds use this site, which is located adjacent to Ocean Beach along the Pacific Flyway.

Let's find a way to meet SF's soccer needs without destroying this natural legacy and jeopardizing precious local wildlife.

Katherine W Jarrett
5511 Golden Gate Ave
Oakland, CA 94618

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May 2, 2013

MAY 06 2013

Hon. Mary Shallenberger, Chair
California Coastal Commission
45 Fremont Street, Suite 2000
San Francisco, CA 94105-2219

CALIFORNIA
COASTAL COMMISSION
NORTH CENTRAL COAST

Subject: Beach Chalet Athletic Fields, Golden Gate Park, San Francisco, CA
Staff has been copied on this letter

Dear Ms. Shallenberger,

I have been a homeowner and resident of San Francisco for over 43 years in Eureka Valley. I am active in my local neighborhood and am a Board Member of the Castro/Eureka Valley Neighborhood Association. I am also a long-time, active member of the San Francisco Preservation Consortium.

Today I am writing to you as an individual out of my concern for the preservation of Golden Gate Park as a precious natural resource for all the residents of the City. I live in a neighborhood that is saturated with people and automobiles. Over the years GGPark has afforded me access to spacious nature for walking, watching birds, learning about plant life, and getting reminded of our essential natural environment that all depends on.

I ask the Coastal Commission to use whatever powers you may have to disallow the proposed athletic field in Golden Gate Park with artificial turf, stadium seating for some 1000 persons, and intense lighting at night. Recreation is certainly important in the City but so is the beauty and peacefulness of nature for all to enjoy.

As the City becomes more and more dense in population and built environment, the preservation of Golden Gate Park as a large natural oasis takes on urgent importance. Surely there are alternate ways of providing recreational facilities without degrading an environment rich in birds and other wildlife and plants and without the loss of natural open space that connects all of us urban dwellers with our own underlying original habitat.

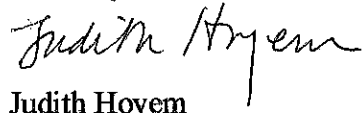
I am concerned not only about the loss of a large meadow but also the toxic effects of the proposed use of astro-turf and what might leach into the ground and the ground water. I understand that because of the uncertainty about this, the run-off from rain water falling on fields will need to be piped to sewage plants for treatment. This will be a maintenance cost. Why not simply plant grass and let the rain water restore the aquifer naturally? Grass of course has to be maintained, too, but has a cost comparison been done? Have the benefits of grass been considered? And doesn't astroturf have to be replaced every so often? Another cost to the City without the benefit of enhancing the natural environment of the park.

The proposed intense night lighting is especially objectionable, as it will ruin the ambience of the park at night and will disturb the peaceful enjoyment of their homes for nearby residents. I also believe that the light poles will be visible at a distance, creating a visible eyesore.

Stadium seating for 1000 persons suggests planning for an inappropriate over-use of the area for passive spectating rather than active recreation. Encouraging large crowds to congregate, bringing cars, noise and trash, is an offensive treatment for our precious park. Organized sports are a public delight and necessity, but they belong in arenas away from protected nature.

Golden Gate Park is one of the great treasures of San Francisco. Let us not chip away at it with uses that are incompatible and destructive to the nature that it preserves. Please help us save it.

Sincerely,



Judith Hoyem
4042 17th Street
San Francisco, CA 94114

cc: Kevin Kahn, Coastal Planner, North Central Coast District
45 Fremont Street, Suite 2000
San Francisco, CA 94105-2219

cc: SF Ocean Edge
1243 42nd Avenue
San Francisco, Ca 94122

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CALIFORNIA
COASTAL COMMISSION
NORTH CENTRAL COAST

To:

California Coastal Commission
Mary K. Shallenberger, Chair and
Dan Carl, Deputy Manager
45 Fremont Street, Suite 2000
San Francisco, CA 94105-2219

May 1, 2013

RE: Beach Chalet Fields (Agenda Item # 15-C)

Dear Coastal Commission members and staff:

I support the alternative of adding soccer facilities off-site, while improving the grass fields and preserving wildlife habitat at Beach Chalet. Please do NOT replace the natural grass soccer fields at Beach Chalet with artificial turf and 60-foot-tall lights. The western end of Golden Gate Park was intended to remain more natural and less developed. Birds use this site, which is located adjacent to Ocean Beach along the Pacific Flyway.

Please, can we find a way to meet SF's soccer needs without destroying this natural legacy and jeopardizing precious local wildlife.

Yours truly,



Chris Nakashima

Carson Cox
Agenda Item # 15-C

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CALIFORNIA
COASTAL COMMISSION
NORTH CENTRAL COAST

California Coastal Commission
Mary K. Shallenberger, Chair and
Dan Carl, Deputy Manager
45 Fremont Street, Suite 2000
San Francisco, CA 94105-2219

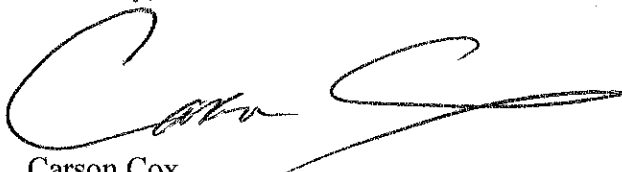
Dear Coastal Commission members and staff:

I normally do not write these kinds of letters, but I wanted to urge you to please NOT replace the natural grass soccer fields at Beach Chalet with artificial turf and 60-foot-tall lights. (Agenda Item # 15-C). I support the alternative of adding soccer facilities off-site, while improving the grass fields and preserving wildlife habitat at Beach Chalet.

Although I don't live in San Francisco, I do use the park regularly and consider it a regional treasure. Is my understanding that the western end of Golden Gate Park was intended to remain more natural and less developed. Also birds use this site, which is located adjacent to Ocean Beach along the Pacific Flyway.

Given that there appear to be other nearby options for developing lighted artificial turf soccer fields, let's find a way to meet SF's soccer needs without destroying this natural legacy and jeopardizing precious local wildlife.

Sincerely,



Carson Cox
491 Throckmorton Ave.
Mill Valley, CA 94941

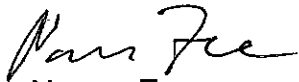
✓ Agenda Item #
15-C

Dear Coastal Commission members and staff:

As a parent of a soccer player and a San Franciscan who has enjoyed Beach Chalet for decades, I urge you to and request that you please NOT replace the natural grass soccer fields at Beach Chalet with artificial turf and 60-foot-tall lights. (Agenda Item # 15-C). I support the alternative of adding soccer facilities off-site, while improving the grass fields and preserving wildlife habitat at Beach Chalet. The western end of Golden Gate Park was intended to remain more natural and less developed. Birds use this site, which is located adjacent to Ocean Beach along the Pacific Flyway. Staff and volunteers from the Surfrider Foundation, Golden Gate Audubon, GGNRA, and other community organizations have worked so hard to keep this corridor as a place which delicately balances the need for viable wildlife habitat and for human recreation and relaxation.

Let's not undo their thoughtful efforts but find a way to meet San Francisco's soccer needs without destroying this natural legacy and jeopardizing precious local and migrating wildlife.

Sincerely,



Nancy Fee
1105 Greenwich Street
San Francisco, CA 94109

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NORTH CENTRAL COAST

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MAY 10 2013

COASTAL COMMISSION
NORTH CENTRAL COAST

1 May 2013

Hon. Mary Shallenberger, Chair

California Coastal Commission

45 Fremont Street, Suite 2000

San Francisco, CA 94105-2219

Subject: Beach Chalet Athletic Fields, Golden Gate Park, San Francisco, CA

Staff has been copied on this letter

AGENDA ITEM #: Th15c

PERMIT NUMBER: A-2-SNF-12-020

NAME: Michael Murphy

POSITION: Oppose the project

Honorable Chairperson::

I wish to express my opposition to the proposal under consideration for renovation of existing athletic fields in San Francisco's Golden Gate Park at 1500 John F. Kennedy Drive.

I am a gardener and landscaper with an educational background which includes courses of study in ecology, geography, and philosophy. I am a long-time resident of the Outer Sunset, a former collegiate football and club lacrosse player, and father. It is my informed opinion that the proposed project does not protect the "naturalistic quality" of the westernmost part of Golden Gate Park. Were it to be permitted, the stadium-style layout, stadium-style lighting (which would be visible above existing trees) and play surface comprised of plastic over chopped scrap tires would all but eliminate any natural elements from an area which is now 7 1/2 acres of natural turf.

I encourage you act as recommended in the Staff Report on this Appeal with respect to the Substantial Issue Determination. I would like to thank those who drafted the Report for their thoughtful consideration of the issues at hand. I would also like to thank you for your thoughtful consideration of this Appeal.

In addition, please consider the following as my testimony regarding issues which have been brought to light in the Appeal.

1) Replacement of Natural Turf with Synthetic Play Surface:

As proposed, were it to proceed, replacement of living turf grass growing on living soil with a plastic-fiber-over-scrap-tire play surface would be irresponsible. The proposed project would introduce potentially toxic material (polyethylene, styrene butadiene rubber with trace heavy metals) with a limited life span into a living system over an aquifer into which wells were drilled and which was used for irrigation (powered by windmills at the Park's inception). Producing, shipping, and installing this material represent unnecessary real and hidden (ecological) costs. How the material degrades over the course of its limited life span and its effects on the watershed are unknown. Its removal, should it be found that it is no longer serviceable or that its replacement is no longer cost effective, would represent additional costs both real and hidden. The distinct advantage of a healthy grass pitch is that it is renewable. Since the Great Sand Banks (as the area was once known) were transformed, generations of San Franciscans and visitors would testify to that fact. The fact that the fields in question have been ostensibly derelicted only points to the fact that they need to be renewed again, not replaced with a questionable synthetic surface.

Additionally, the living grass system which needs renewal approximates a meadow. It is a habitat--

forage and hunting grounds. The past few Annual Bird Counts have seen a noticeable decline in numbers of raptors in the Western Neighborhoods and San Francisco. Resident species such as American kestrel, Cooper's hawk, Red-tailed hawk, and Red-shouldered hawk can be seen in the Park and nearby, including those areas bordering the West Sunset Rec Fields (the hybrid-alternative location). Other species, once occasionally encountered, such as the Western Screech Owl, have disappeared due to habitat degradation. If further degradation occurs, our species may encounter them less frequently, or never again, in San Francisco in our part of the Pacific Flyway.

2) Stadium Lighting

In addition to aesthetic considerations (the tranquil darkness that shrouds and seems to quiet the neighborhoods near the Pacific) taken into consideration, stadium lighting (daylighting the fields of play until 10pm each night until adult competitors retire), will degrade the habitat of nocturnal animals and migratory birds. If we care to preserve the naturalistic character of the area of the proposed project, this type of field lighting or, indeed, lighting of any kind, should be avoided due to that fact.

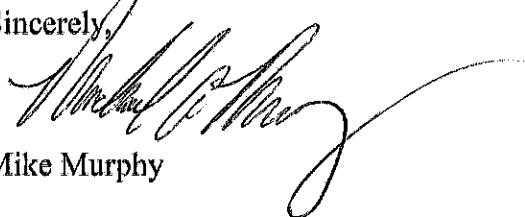
3) Anecdotal evidence in support of Staff Recommendation to renew natural grass fields

I formerly participated in the sports of football and lacrosse at the collegiate level. I had the unfortunate experience of witnessing first hand the commonality of repetitive stress and acute injuries incurred on the artificial turf we practiced and played on. Turf toe, knee pain, shin splints, and, worse, ligament and muscle tears and sprains were all too common amongst members of the teams I played on. Such injuries were uncommon or far less common among those who practiced and competed more often on real grass. Given even the congruity of artificial surfaces and its effect on expectations regarding body mechanics and the ball in play, almost to a man, most advanced level athletes preferred to play on natural grass rather than to suffer such artificial turf related injuries.

I am the proud father of a 5 year old son. When he was an infant and, later, a toddler, we often took strolls on the western side of the Beach Chalet fields. He attempted to learn and imitate the songs and calls of birds along the trail there. He experienced bees at work and butterflies in flight for the first times there. Later, he took some of his initial wobbly strolls on the grass in that meadow-like field. He has grown into a perceptive Kindergartener with a special affinity for the natural world and participates in group sports such as baseball and basketball. Together, we play lacrosse. At the community garden where we frequently volunteer, he shows new gardeners which native plants are edible and calls them by name. The experience of nature in the "naturalistic setting" which would be diminished by the proposed removal of a natural system has a value that cannot be quantified. Similarly unquantified are the results of early development of the proprioceptive sense (the sense of how our limbs are oriented in space which predetermines our ability to learn new motor skills) on living grass. As a parent, I find it objectionable that at least one generation (the useful life of an unreplaced artificial playing field) of parents would not be allowed to afford their children the same quality of experience I have been fortunate to have had with my son. It is my justified belief that to allow the project as proposed to go forward would be a decision lacking aesthetic sense and, more importantly, common sense.

Thank you for your time and attention in the matter of this Appeal and to my testimony.

Sincerely,



Mike Murphy

Resident, 1511 44th Ave, Outer Sunset Neighborhood, San Francisco.

cc: Kevin Kahn, Coastal Planner, North Central Coast District

45 Fremont Street, Suite 2000
San Francisco, CA 94105-2219

cc: SF Ocean Edge
1243 42nd Avenue
San Francisco, Ca 94122

BEACH CHALET SOCCER COMPLEX

OPPOSED TO PROJECT A-2-SNF-12-020

Item: **Th15c**

May 9th 2013

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MAY 06 2013

Aaron Goodman

25 Lisbon St.

San Francisco, CA 94112

Tel: 415.786.6929

E: amgodman@yahoo.com

**CALIFORNIA
COASTAL COMMISSION
CENTRAL COAST AREA**

California Coastal Commission
Central Coast and North Central Coast District Offices
725 Front Street Suite 300
Santa Cruz CA, 95060

Re: ITEM# Th15c

Application: A-2-SNF-12-020

Position: Opposed to the project

California Coastal Commissioners;

I write to you briefly in opposition to the renovation of the Golden Gate Park proposed renovations by the SF Recreation and Park Department for the following reasons;

- a) It affects negatively a primary park and migratory area along the coast.
- b) Multiple other projects have been approved without appropriately looking at the loss of tree canopy, and migratory landing areas in the District 7 area of San Francisco.
- c) There have been proposed by the appellants significant alternatives that have been ignored by the city and county of SF, which must be considered as options per CEQA.
- d) The city has started on a major project within the coastal areas without an EIR through a letter of determination issued improperly (see Westside Observer Judge Quentin Kopp's article on 800 Brotherhood Way adjacent to Lake Merced, and a prior PUBLIC PARK!
- e) Parkmerced's proposed project negatively affects bird migratory areas and ongoing tree removal is occurring while a CEQA case has yet to be determined.
- f) SFSU-CSU has already embarked on additional demolitions in the area adjacent to Lake Merced affecting tree and migratory areas (see prior Frederick Burke Elementary School which was recently changed to an artificial turf and lighted recreation area)

We strongly support the efforts of SF Ocean Edge, and other organizations on this issue and hope that you will focus your efforts on the alternatives that were proposed by the appellants as a basis for a community based resolution that protects the environment.

Sincerely

Aaron Goodman



Agenda # Th 15c
Application # A-2-SNF-12-020

OPPOSE

I OPPOSE The proposed changes.

Cheryl Richard my name: Cheryl Richard
940 San Jose Ave. No. 4
SF, CA 94110

April 30, 2013

California Coastal Commission

Re: Beach Chalet Fields

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MAY 06 2013

CALIFORNIA
COASTAL COMMISSION
CENTRAL COAST AREA

I do not want:

1. astroturf or concrete paths
2. bright lights
3. stadium seating, bleachers, etc.
4. a gated soccer field
5. a soccer field that requires disturbing the ecology of the meadow, including prey for raptors, like gophers and mice
6. a soccer field that requires toxic chemicals for maintenance
7. a new or larger parking lot
8. more traffic congestion
9. more competition for parking due to crowds descending

May 6, 2013, 2013

RECEIVED

MAY 08 2013

CALIFORNIA
COASTAL COMMISSION

Mary Shallenberger, Chair
California Coastal Commission
45 Fremont Street, Suite 2000
San Francisco, CA 94105-2219

Re: Beach Chalet Athletic Fields Renovation (Coastal Permit Appeal No. A-2-SNF-12-020)

Dear Chair Shallenberger and members of Coastal Commission,

I am one of the thousands of San Franciscans who support the renovation of the Beach Chalet Athletic Fields.

Please vote "No Substantial Issue" on the coastal permit appeal and let us fix our fields.

As an environmentalist, I am deeply invested in our natural resources and wildlife. For years, I have advocated to minimize our impact on our natural environment and to make smart public policy decisions to protect it. I consider every development project very carefully and I am confident that the Beach Chalet Athletic Fields renovation project is the right one for city residents and environmentalists alike.

Renovating the fields will have a miniscule impact on the surrounding environment, since the Beach Chalet Fields make up less than one percent of the total area of Golden Gate Park. Not only are the fields a fraction of the entire park, but they are also separated from the beach by a busy, four-lane, illuminated highway. Unless someone is playing soccer on the fields or cheering on their friends or family in the stands, they will likely never even realize that these fields exist.

The plan to renovate the fields is both environmentally safe and responsible. An EIR determined that the project will not diminish the historic character of the park and that the use of synthetic turf on the fields is safe. Synthetic turf fields reduce landfill waste and are recyclable. Additionally, using turf will save about 5.7 millions gallons of water each year. The conservation of water is an environmental advantage we will only gain through renovating the Beach Chalet Fields **with synthetic turf**.

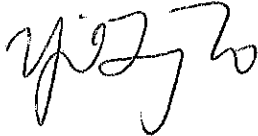
The EIR concluded that the impact of traffic along the field will be virtually undetectable, helping to ensure that wildlife are undisturbed. In addition, the Recreation and Parks Department has committed to replacing the 16 trees and 44 plants being removed with an impressive 200 trees and 1000 additional plants.

And as an amateur soccer player myself, the synthetic turf minimizes injury to the players and low maintenance due to no watering for the grass (hence NO carbon footprint), it is an absolutely ideal approach to this site and project.

Renovating the fields will only improve the surrounding environment, not destroy it.
Please vote "No Substantial Issue" on the Coastal permit appeal and let us move
forward as a city.

Thank You for your time and support

Yours,

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

Yiu To
LEED Professional (Building Design and Construction)
3318 Rivera Street,
San Francisco

May 6, 2013

Commissioner Brian Brennan
California Coastal Commission
45 Fremont St., Suite 2000
San Francisco, CA 94105

RECEIVED

MAY 08 2013

CALIFORNIA
COASTAL COMMISSION

Re: CCC hearing on May 8, 2013 regarding Beach Chalet soccer field in Golden Gate Park of San Francisco

Dear Commissioner Brennan,

Hello. I strongly urge you and the rest of the California Coastal Commission (CCC) to rule that replacing the existing seven acres of natural grass and soil at the Beach Chalet soccer fields at the west end of Golden Gate Park in San Francisco with artificial turf and at least 600,000 pounds of rubber crumb (small tire particles) will not be allowed due to the probable contamination of Ocean Beach in San Francisco from the tire particles.

The fence on the western side of the existing soccer field there now is only 165 yards (495 feet) to where the sand begins at Ocean Beach. If this ill-conceived project occurs, the artificial turf and rubber particles will probably extend another 60 feet to the west and thus be only 450 feet or less from the sand at Ocean Beach.

There's a gradual downward slope of the ground from the west edge of the existing grass field to the beach and thus rain and gravity would bring these toxic tire particles to the sand of Ocean Beach (and ultimately to the Pacific Ocean) as rain water (on days of heavy rain) drains from the field to Ocean Beach carrying the small particles with it.

As the study from the consultant below states, toxic substances from the tire particles will become water soluble in the rain water and thus will go wherever the rain water goes. Because some of this rain water will drain back to the beach from gravity, some of the contaminated water will go into the water at Ocean Beach. As the excerpt from the 2006 consultant's report below shows, water contaminated from tires is toxic to some aquatic organisms.

The consultant's report was submitted on March 28, 2006 by Ardea Consulting (Woodland, CA) to the Turfgrass Producers International (East Dundee, IL) that was titled, **An Assessment of Environmental Toxicity and Potential Contamination from Artificial Turf using Shredded or Crumb Rubber.** This report discusses the toxicity of tire rubber and small rubber particles from tires.

It's a 43 page report that can be read here:

[http://www.ardeacon.com/pdf/Assessment Environmental Toxicity Report.pdf](http://www.ardeacon.com/pdf/Assessment%20Environmental%20Toxicity%20Report.pdf)

Here's what the report says about the toxicity of tire and tire particles on aquatic organisms (page 17):

***** start of excerpt *****

Aquatic Toxicity

Laboratory research has been performed to determine whether substances toxic to aquatic organisms could be leached from tire rubber. Both whole tires were soaked in water, and tire pieces were used. Organisms were exposed to just the leachate, or were exposed to the water with the tire rubber present.

In one study, tires were cut into 5 to 10-cm pieces with a ratio of 200 g of tire material to 1 L of water. Almost all rainbow trout fry exposed in this manner died in the first 24 hours and most of the remainder died within the following 24 hours. Water was replaced and same tire scraps were extracted over a 52-day period, leading to similar mortality throughout the entire period. When the tests were repeated with the same water, but the tire scraps removed, the water was still toxic to fish indicating the toxic substance from the tire was water soluble (Goudey and Barton 1992).

In a related study, Daphnia and Ceriodaphnia, two species of freshwater invertebrates commonly used for toxicity testing, were exposed in small containers with 1 scrap of tire and 10 mL of water. A single organism was exposed within each test vessel. Ceriodaphnia were highly sensitive with 100% mortality occurring within 24 hrs. Daphnia were not as sensitive, and showed different sensitivities to different brands of tires. Two tire types had no discernable effect, two other brands caused 100% mortality and an additional two brands produced 60 to 70% mortality after 48 hours. The results were the same whether or not the tire pieces remained within the test vessels (Goudey and Barton 1992).

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May 6, 2013

Commissioner Mark Vargas
California Coastal Commission
45 Fremont St, Ste 2000
San Francisco, CA 94105

RECEIVED

MAY 08 2013

CALIFORNIA
COASTAL COMMISSION

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Commissioner Dayna Bochco
California Coastal Commission
45 Fremont St., Suite 2000
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RECEIVED

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45 Fremont St., Suite 2000
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- (“Park Landscape” link - pg 4-15) “Any changes in turf areas should be reviewed to assess the impact on the park’s overall landscape design.”
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- (“Park Management” link - pg 11-1) “The goal of the park’s naturalistic design is to look as if nature created the meadows, forests, and vistas.” (my comment: Nature certainly didn’t create the 7 acres of dead plastic turf or the 600,000 lbs of tiny toxic tire particles.)

As I have just shown, this project from the getgo was a massive violation of the Master Plan of Golden Gate Park. But because a few people with power in SF City government wanted it, they ignored this Master Plan (all the while claiming they weren’t violating it).

It is up to the CCC – an agency free from the politics of SF government - to correct a terrible, politically-based decision by a few people who were or are in San Francisco government. This correction is needed so that the environment of Ocean Beach, including the organisms that reside there, will not be terribly damaged from this environmentally reckless and not-well-thought-out plan.

Thank you for your service on the CCC and for reading my comments. I wish you well.

William Crowley
 San Francisco
 bc1961@sbcglobal.net

May 6, 2013

Commissioner Steve Blank
California Coastal Commission
45 Fremont St., Suite 2000
San Francisco, CA 94105

RECEIVED

MAY 08 2013

CALIFORNIA
COASTAL COMMISSION

Re: CCC hearing on May 8, 2013 regarding Beach Chalet soccer field in Golden Gate Park of San Francisco

Dear Commissioner Blank,

Hello. I strongly urge you and the rest of the California Coastal Commission (CCC) to rule that replacing the existing seven acres of natural grass and soil at the Beach Chalet soccer fields at the west end of Golden Gate Park in San Francisco with artificial turf and at least 600,000 pounds of rubber crumb (small tire particles) will not be allowed due to the probable contamination of Ocean Beach in San Francisco from the tire particles.

The fence on the western side of the existing soccer field there now is only 165 yards (495 feet) to where the sand begins at Ocean Beach. If this ill-conceived project occurs, the artificial turf and rubber particles will probably extend another 60 feet to the west and thus be only 450 feet or less from the sand at Ocean Beach.

There's a gradual downward slope of the ground from the west edge of the existing grass field to the beach and thus rain and gravity would bring these toxic tire particles to the sand of Ocean Beach (and ultimately to the Pacific Ocean) as rain water (on days of heavy rain) drains from the field to Ocean Beach carrying the small particles with it.

As the study from the consultant below states, toxic substances from the tire particles will become water soluble in the rain water and thus will go wherever the rain water goes. Because some of this rain water will drain back to the beach from gravity, some of the contaminated water will go into the water at Ocean Beach. As the excerpt from the 2006 consultant's report below shows, water contaminated from tires is toxic to some aquatic organisms.

The consultant's report was submitted on March 28, 2006 by Ardea Consulting (Woodland, CA) to the Turfgrass Producers International (East Dundee, IL) that was titled, **An Assessment of Environmental Toxicity and Potential Contamination from Artificial Turf using Shredded or Crumb Rubber**. This report discusses the toxicity of tire rubber and small rubber particles from tires.

It's a 43 page report that can be read here:

http://www.ardeacon.com/pdf/Assessment_Environmental_Toxicity_Report.pdf

Here's what the report says about the toxicity of tire and tire particles on aquatic organisms (page 17):

***** start of excerpt *****

Aquatic Toxicity

Laboratory research has been performed to determine whether substances toxic to aquatic organisms could be leached from tire rubber. Both whole tires were soaked in water, and tire pieces were used. Organisms were exposed to just the leachate, or were exposed to the water with the tire rubber present.

In one study, tires were cut into 5 to 10-cm pieces with a ratio of 200 g of tire material to 1 L of water. Almost all rainbow trout fry exposed in this manner died in the first 24 hours and most of the remainder died within the following 24 hours. Water was replaced and same tire scraps were extracted over a 52-day period, leading to similar mortality throughout the entire period. When the tests were repeated with the same water, but the tire scraps removed, the water was still toxic to fish indicating the toxic substance from the tire was water soluble (Goudey and Barton 1992).

In a related study, Daphnia and Ceriodaphnia, two species of freshwater invertebrates commonly used for toxicity testing, were exposed in small containers with 1 scrap of tire and 10 mL of water. A single organism was exposed within each test vessel. Ceriodaphnia were highly sensitive with 100% mortality occurring within 24 hrs. Daphnia were not as sensitive, and showed different sensitivities to different brands of tires. Two tire types had no discernable effect, two other brands caused 100% mortality and an additional two brands produced 60 to 70% mortality after 48 hours. The results were the same whether or not the tire pieces remained within the test vessels (Goudey and Barton 1992).

A bioluminescent bacterium was exposed to the water from the rainbow trout or Daphnia tests because the bacteria could not be exposed directly to the tire scraps. Water from both the trout and Daphnia tests suppressed the bioluminescence of the bacteria, indicating toxicity. The suppression did not increase with the duration of exposure, suggesting the toxicity was not caused by metals since exposure to metals usually will produced increased suppression of bioluminescence over time. The different brands of tires produced similar relative toxicity for the bacteria as they did for the Daphnia (Goudey and Barton 1992).

***** end of excerpt *****

This terribly ill-conceived project that was pushed forward by the late billionaire, Don Fisher (founder of The Gap clothing chain) did not consider the possible or probable environmental consequences of this project because the elderly Mr. Fisher knew how to run a clothing company, not the environmental effects of a technology (fields using a rubber crumb base) that was essentially brand new at the time he was pushing for the soccer fields in San Francisco to be changed from natural grass and soil to plastic turf and crumb rubber.

It so happened that Mr. Fisher was a political and financial supporter of Gavin Newsom, the mayor of San Francisco at the time, who decided to use the City's resources to help Mr. Fisher in his objective in replacing natural grass and soil in all of the soccer fields with plastic turf and crumb rubber.

Then-Mayor Gavin Newsom's Chief of Staff at the time, Phil Ginsburg, was appointed to head the San Francisco Recreation and Park Department despite no experience with that department or with any other organization related to parks.

Mr. Ginsburg then pushed for this ill-conceived project probably due to the strong backing of it by then-Mayor Gavin Newsom, the late Don Fisher, and the organization run by Mr. Fisher's three sons, the City Fields Foundation that was started at this time for the effort to change the fields of the soccer fields in San Francisco.

This project was pushed by a few top people who were, in effect, working more for Mr. Fisher and the Fisher family's City Fields Foundation, than they were for the people of San Francisco. This is clear when one sees how blatantly this project is a violation of the text and spirit of the Golden Gate Park Master Plan (GGPMP).

I could go on and on about how this project violates the GGPMP but instead I'll just give a few examples of text in the GGPMP that clearly shows the corruptness of the process that approved this ill-conceived plan that is an environmental danger to Ocean Beach.

Here's the address to the GGPMP:

<http://sfrecpark.org/GGPMasterPlan.aspx>

Examples showing this project blatantly violates the text and spirit of the GGPMP

- ("Utilities and Infrastructure" link - pg 9-5) "**Lighting is for safety purposes and is not intended to increase night use.**" (my comment: can't get any more clearer than that that putting 60 foot high lights whose whole purpose is to increase night use shows this project from the getgo was a massive violation of the text and spirit of the GGPMP – a master plan that the City of SF and the SF Recreation and Park Department is supposed to follow.)
- ("Objectives and Policies" link - pg 3-9) "The major design feature of Golden Gate Park and the framework within which all park activities occur is its pastoral and sylvan landscape. **The integrity of the pastoral and sylvan landscape must be maintained and remain unaltered.**"
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It is up to the CCC – an agency free from the politics of SF government - to correct a terrible, politically-based decision by a few people who were or are in San Francisco government. This correction is needed so that the environment of Ocean Beach, including the organisms that reside there, will not be terribly damaged from this environmentally reckless and not-well-thought-out plan.

Thank you for your service on the CCC and for reading my comments. I wish you well.

William Crowley
 San Francisco
 bc1961@sbcglobal.net

Agenda Number: Th15c
Application Number: A-2-SNF-12-020
Name: Mary Purpura
Position: Opposed

April 30, 2013

RECEIVED

MAY 06 2013

CALIFORNIA
COASTAL COMMISSION
CENTRAL COAST AREA

California Coastal Commission
Central Coast and North Central Coast District Offices
725 Front Street, Suite 300
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Dear California Coastal Commission:

As a San Francisco resident for 27 years, and a San Francisco homeowner for 18 years, I am unequivocally opposed to the proposal to "renovate" the Beach Chalet soccer fields in western Golden Gate Park with astroturf and overhead lighting.

We know that astroturf is plastic. Replacing what is currently a biologically diverse area of soil with dead, petroleum-based plastic feels like the kind of grotesque proposal one would encounter in a state with less of a commitment to ecological preservation and diversity than California has. The proposed lighting will completely change the feel of that part of the city and disturb the Pacific flyway flight patterns of countless birds whose ancestors have no doubt travelled that route for millennia.

Please decide in favor of ecological diversity; health of the local ecosystem and its inhabitants; and preservation of the quality of this beautiful park, and oppose this project.

Thank you,



Mary Purpura
1481 De Haro Street
San Francisco, CA 94107

RECEIVED

5 May 2013

MAY 07 2013

California Coastal Commission
45 Fremont
San Francisco CA 94105-2219

CALIFORNIA
COASTAL COMMISSION
NORTH CENTRAL COAST

Concerning May 9 Session, Item 15c, Appeal A-2-SNF-09-006

This appeal, by the Sierra Club and others, should be upheld by the Coastal Commission.

San Francisco City and County should not install artificial turf, floodlighting, more parking space, and other development in proximity to the coast.

Sincerely,



William Stanley
3131 Cabrillo Street
San Francisco, California 94121-3507

415-668-3343

RECEIVED

MAY 07 2013

CALIFORNIA
COASTAL COMMISSION

May 5, 2013

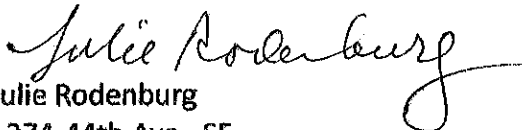
Re: Golden Gate Soccer Field

I applaud your opinion to keep Golden Gate Park a park. We used to call it the SF Parks & Recreation Dept., now parks seem to be second to recreation. and the parks are for sale to the highest bidder. I live a few blocks from the soccer field, and none of the neighbors I have talked to support this. Even my nephews who play soccer say they do not like to play on synthetic turf.

I truly hope this project does not go through – the plastic turf, big lights, new buildings, parking, etc., is one more step in devaluing the park and what it stands for = experiencing nature, the plants, the birds, the peaceful respite. It's hard to believe that the City Fields Foundation is pouring millions into this project while the park, especially the western end, is in such sorry shape. The park has become severely understaffed and these "millions" could pay for some gardeners to maintain the soccer field and nearby vegetation. Why is stadium lighting needed? Why do we need soccer games until 10 p.m. every day, all year? Fear of gopher holes is a poor argument – they're everywhere in this area, and there's nothing that can be done about the weather. Another venue should be chosen for this project.

Don't give up the fight!

Sincerely,



Julie Rodenburg
1274-44th Ave., SF

RECEIVED

MAY 06 2013

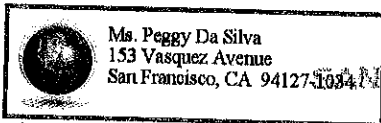
CALIFORNIA
COASTAL COMMISSION
NORTH CENTRAL COAST

May 1, 2013

Dan Karl, Deputy Director:

- I am concerned regarding project
"Beach Chet" - I and many others are
opposed to this project.

Sincerely,
Anne Dinelli.



SAN FRANCISCO, CA
SAN FRANCISCO



Dear Ms Shallenberger, Please
do not approve SF Rec + the
proposal for soccer field w/
artificial turf and lights in
Golden Gate Park west end.
We need the wild, free and
dark end of the park. Kids
can play on grass, during
the day. And they (and the
birds) will benefit from
preserving a more natural
open space. (Peggy da Silva)

Hon. Mary Shallenberger, Chair
CA Coastal Comm.
45 Fremont St.

Re: Suite 2000
SF CA MAY 10 2013
RECEIVED
CALIFORNIA
COASTAL COMMISSION



Ms. Peggy Da Silva
153 Vasquez Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94127-1034

Association

on inspires and
empowers people to travel by bicycle

Dear Mr Kohn - I am completely opposed to the soccer field w/ lights and artificial turf being proposed for the west end of Golden Gate Park. As a child, I enjoyed the wild and free nature of the west end. Our children still need that. Please do not approve Rec + Park permit. Thanks.

Peggy da Silva



Kevin Kohn
Coastal Planner
North Central
Coast District
Calif Coastal Comm.
45 Fremont St #2000

SPR 94105 -
RECEIVED 2219

MAY 14 2013
CALIFORNIA
COASTAL

RECEIVED

MAY 06 2013

CALIFORNIA
COASTAL COMMISSION
CENTRAL COAST AREA

Oppose project

Agenda Th15c

App # A-2-SNF12-020

Agenda Th15c

App # A-2-SNF-

12-020

Kamille Nixon

Oppose Project

- Coast Commissioners,

1 oppose the project and support

2 Recommendations to keep the most

Park Beach Chalet Soccer Fields

as natural.

Please do not let them put in
turf, massive lighting, and the rest.

The alternative plan for meeting
my concerns of the kid soccer players

k.nixon@gmail.com

247.4813

Sincerely,

Kamille Nixon

From: [Sierra Club](#) on behalf of [Jessica Dervin-Ackerman](#)
To: [CoastalBeachChaletAppeal](#)
Subject: Renovate the Beach Chalet fields with natural grass and minimal or no lighting
Date: Tuesday, May 07, 2013 1:08:28 PM

May 7, 2013

Honorable Mary Shallenberger
CA

Dear Honorable Shallenberger,

RE: May 9th, 2013 CCC Hearing and Agenda Item 15 c. Appeal No.
A-2-SNF-12-020

I support the Staff Report, and I encourage you to do so also.

Renovating the Beach Chalet fields with natural grass and minimal or no lighting is a practical solution to the needs for a playing field within Golden Gate Park and the Coastal Zone.

However, the Beach Chalet project as proposed would not only destroy the naturalistic character of the western end of Golden Gate Park, but it would also directly destroy over 7 acres of habitat and have a negative impact on habitat for a much wider area. The proposed artificial turf soccer complex limits use by the general public of a public area that should be open to everyone for multi-use. The 150,000 watts of stadium lights on 60 foot poles would light up the western edge of the Park and the beach, impacting the enjoyment of this area, which is now used by families for enjoying the sunset, strolling along the Promenade at dusk, sitting by a fire ring or learning about astronomy through star-gazing.

The Staff Report addresses all of those issues in a practical, feasible manner, and I recommend that you adopt it.

I also encourage you to look at alternatives, in particular the proposed Hybrid Alternative. This alternative will provide hours of play for our children while protecting the habitat and naturalistic character of Golden Gate Park and the beauty of Ocean Beach.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Ms. Jessica Dervin-Ackerman
548 43rd St Apt A
Oakland, CA 94609-2072