

BEACH CHALET SOCCER COMPLEX

**PLEASE WRITE A LETTER *TODAY* to the CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION  
asking them to PROTECT GOLDEN GATE PARK and OCEAN BEACH**

*Since time is running out, please also e-mail to us, and we will try to submit your letter.*

**TEMPLATE**

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April 22, 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**

Dear Ms. Shallenberger,

*[ why you are writing - to protest the project/ask for changes/ support the Hybrid Alternative, etc ]*

*{ Your background, organizational affiliations, family, etc. }*

*[ Your specific concerns - The Coastal Commission is concerned with impacts to the coast and the Park from loss of access by the general public to open space, wildlife impacts, night lighting impacts, water quality concerns. See the next page for some general categories you might address, but please use your own words. ]*

*[ DESCRIBE YOUR PERSONAL EXPERIENCES -- LET THE COMMISSIONERS KNOW THAT THIS IS IMPORTANT TO YOU AND TO MEMBERS OF YOUR FAMILY, AND WHY. This is the time to express your heartfelt concerns and love for Ocean Beach and Golden Gate Park.]*

*[Remember that the City is framing this issue as if organized sports were more important for kids than any other family activity in a park. If your kids have comments, please include them! ]*

*[ If you or your kids play/ have played soccer, it is useful to mention that fact -- we need to remind the CCC that we support soccer, but kids need nature experiences, too!]*

Sincerely,

Your signature  
Your name  
Your address

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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### Suggestions for topics, but use your own words and feelings!

Here are some suggestions -- just in case you are having writers' block. NOTE - DO NOT COPY THIS WORD FOR WORD-- form letters will not be helpful. Use your own words and express your own concerns and feelings. *This is probably your last chance* to communicate with officials who care about the coast and about the environment, and can protect Golden Gate Park and Ocean Beach!

- A. Local Coastal Program states that GGP should be kept naturalistic
  - a. GGP Master Plan and Ocean Beach Master Plan 's main themes are recreation in a naturalistic setting
- B. Negative impacts of project on Golden Gate Park and Ocean Beach:
  - a. LOSS OF HABITAT: Artificial turf is equal to asphalt in lack of environmental value. Sports and other new lighting degrade habitat for birds and other wildlife.
  - b. LOSS OF MAJOR OPEN SPACE: This project destroys one of the few large meadows and the resultant edge conditions in Golden Gate Park.
  - c. INTRODUCES MORE CARS TO GGP AND OCEAN BEACH. Ocean Beach already fills up on sunny days and during all the events planned for the park and the beach.
  - d. SPORTS AND OTHER LIGHTS destroy habitat for wild animals and birds, AND have negative impact on nighttime experience for beach visitors:
  - e. SEATING: Planned seating for over 1,000 destroys parkland feeling of the area and means that more cars and traffic will be brought into the park and the beach, as well as the surrounding neighborhoods.
  - f. TREES: Over 55 trees will be removed; trees provide habitat and are important for windbreak for the Park.
  - g. TOXICITY: Runoff from the artificial turf fields will be piped to sewage plant for treatment, because the City is uncertain of toxicity of artificial turf and infill. Rainwater that now percolates into the aquifer will be treated at the sewage plant. This costs extra money. What happens to the aquifer when the SBR rubber blows around the western end of the Park and the irrigation and rainwater for the surrounding grass soaks into the aquifer?
  - h. WATER USAGE: Project will pipe rainwater that currently falls on fields to sewage plant, resulting in loss of aquifer recharge from rainwater.
  - i. LOSS OF CARBON SEQUESTRATION BY LOSS OF living GRASS. It would take over 7,000 trees, growing for 10 years, to replace the carbon sequestration of the living grass.
  - j. LOSS OF USE FOR A WIDER PUBLIC: How will this project deprive you of use of this area? do you hike by here? did you come out here for picnics or dog-walking before RPD started locking the fence 24/7?
  - k. LOSS OF HISTORIC CHARACTER OF THE SITE:
  - l. LOSS OF AESTHETIC CHARACTER OF THE AREA AND OF OCEAN BEACH DUE TO 150,000 WATTS OF SPORTS LIGHTING, INCLUDING VIEWS FROM CLIFF HOUSE AND SUTRO HEIGHTS.
- C. Alternatives:
  - a. Support the Hybrid Alternative - move artificial turf to West Sunset Playground and renovate Beach Chalet soccer fields with real grass, better field construction and NO lights.
  - b. OR RENOVATE Beach Chalet with real grass and use remainder of funding to fix up playing fields all over SF.