

The Lake Merced Task Force

A Restoration Program for Lake Merced

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

The purpose of this memorandum is to:

- Describe the vision, mission, objectives, and strategies of the Lake Merced Task Force (LMTF), a diverse group of community volunteers that will advocate on behalf of Lake Merced.
- Formalize the commitment that each participant organization and its representatives will make to the LMTF.

LMTF Vision Statement

It is the LMTF's vision that this badly deteriorated and neglected City treasure should be restored and preserved, and that it provide the widest variety of beneficial uses to the maximum possible number of San Franciscans.

LMTF Mission Statement

The mission of the Lake Merced Task Force is to advocate the protection, enhancement and restoration of Lake Merced as a natural, aesthetic, recreational and educational resource.

The goals of the Task Force are to:

- Develop and maintain a framework within which the Lake's many stakeholders can communicate and cooperate in a united effort
- Create, refine and update long-term plans and programs for the stewardship of Lake Merced
- Maintain cooperative working partnerships with responsible agencies at all levels of government, assisting in the development and implementation of programs designed to preserve and improve Lake Merced
- Assure the implementation of the stewardship program through advocacy, fundraising, and public outreach

LMTF Objectives

The objectives of the Lake Merced Task Force will be to:

- Restore the water level and water quality of Lake Merced.

- Promote prudent and sustainable water management practices in the Westside Basin Aquifer that supports Lake Merced.
- Promote restoration of plant and wildlife habitats and natural areas for future generations of San Franciscans.
- Restore and improve the recreational opportunities for visitors to Lake Merced.
- Provide an open forum for the stakeholder community to both discuss and help formulate the policies that will result in the restoration of Lake Merced.
- Provide an open forum for public education on the many technical issues that will affect policy development at Lake Merced.
- Effectively advocate the LMTF's policies to influence public officials, commissions, agencies, and regulatory bodies as well as the larger public.
- Serve as a community leader to help procure funding for the many tasks that the LMTF will undertake or support.

LMTF Strategies

The LMTF will successfully advocate for Lake Merced by:

- Maintaining an active working relationship with elected officials, including the Mayor of San Francisco, the S.F. Board of Supervisors, and appropriate officials and agencies from Daly City and San Mateo County.
- Working with City agencies with responsibility for Lake Merced, especially S.F. Department of Recreation and Parks (DRP) and S.F. Public Utilities Commission (PUC), to promote and implement the LMTF's objectives.
- Forcefully articulating the LMTF's policies before decision-making bodies, including commissions of the PUC and DRP.

LMTF Membership

Organizations eligible for membership shall be those that have a stakeholder interest in the well being of Lake Merced and support the mission and goals of the LMTF.

The Task Force shall seek to maintain a balance of interests within its membership that includes, without limitation:

- Neighborhood groups
- Recreational interest groups
- Environmental and scientific groups
- Community/civic groups for which Lake Merced is a major interest
- Educational institutions and associated student organizations
- Governmental agencies and legislative offices

The Membership Committee shall recommend policy that will identify and welcome new stakeholders to the LMTF.

LMTF Organizational Structure

The work of the LMTF continues under the leadership and direction of the Steering Committee as specified in the LMTF's Rules. The various sub-committees will work independently and together to achieve the objectives that will be developed by the LMTF. Additional goals and objectives will arise out of the committees' work, and will be considered, discussed, and adopted by the LMTF at full task force meetings.

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LMTF Committees for 2002-2003

- Steering Committee
- Membership Committee
- Resources Committee
- Recreation Committee
- Nature Committee
- Water Committee

LMTF Commitments and Obligations

By joining the LMTF, it is understood that the delegates from the member organizations will:

1. Participate in the LMTF for a term of at least two years
2. Participate actively in at least one sub-committee. All delegates are encouraged to serve on multiple committees.
3. Attend all full LMTF general meetings. Delegates will notify the Steering Committee in advance if they are unable to attend a LMTF meeting.
4. Pay all dues (voting members only)

As a Member [] or Partner [] of the Lake Merced Task Force, _____
(Organization Name)
concur with and supports the provisions outlined in this Memorandum of
Understanding and agrees to fulfill the responsibilities and commitments of LMTF
membership or Partnership.

Date Submitted: _____

Representative:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-Mail: _____

Alternate 1:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-Mail: _____

Alternate 2:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-Mail: _____

Date of Organization Board Resolution: _____

Authorized signature: _____

Position: _____