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Contact: John Curran,  
jc@sanfranciscosoccer.org  
(415) 640-0021

## **Long-Dormant Telegraph Field Opens to the San Francisco Public**

*-- Nonprofit Helps Get Public Access to "Hidden Field" on The Embarcadero --*

SAN FRANCISCO, July 17, 2007 – San Francisco Soccer (a California Nonprofit) announced today the public opening of Telegraph Field, the “hidden field” located in the parking lot on Piers 27-29 of the San Francisco Bay waterfront. Telegraph field was built two years ago with state-of-the-art synthetic turf and night lighting. It is one of the only soccer fields in the entire North Beach/Telegraph Hill area of San Francisco -- which has one of the worst player-field ratios of any city in America. It is nestled behind Teatro ZinZanni, out of sight from the main thoroughfares and for two years has sat locked-up and largely unknown. Until now.

“The Telegraph Hill community doesn’t have a single soccer field, so even this one field makes a big difference,” said San Francisco Soccer founder John Curran. “With brand new turf, year-round playability, a fence to keep the ball inside, and a great view of Coit Tower, this is one of the best fields in the city. And no one even knows about it yet.”

The field, owned by the Port of San Francisco, is now open to the public for hourly rentals for games and practices. The nonprofit will administer field activities and plans to begin a full schedule of classes and youth leagues in September 2007. Programs could include soccer, lacrosse, flag football and field hockey leagues for boys, girls, men, women, and even over-forty and over-fifty leagues. San Francisco Soccer will also offer the nationally renowned child development program, SoccerTots. The SoccerTots program promotes motor skill development in a physically active, non-competitive environment for children 18-months to 6 years old.

“We’ve made a commitment to enhance the quality of life in our community through sports,” said Curran. “It took a lot of work, but I am happy the Port was willing to help make it happen.”

Telegraph Field itself features a revolutionary type of playing surface used by many professional teams that has the look and feel of real grass, but it is softer and easier on the joints than most grass fields. The field boasts an 18,000-square-foot playing area, with sideline room for parents and spectators as well as plenty of parking. The field will be open seven days a week and can be rented for practice, games, clinics, or other sports programs. 10-15 hours per week of field time will be reserved for free use by nonprofit sports programs geared toward children.

Additional information about Telegraph Field rentals, San Francisco Soccer, leagues, programs, and clinics is available by calling John Curran at (415) 640-0021 or visiting the Web site at [www.sanfranciscosoccer.org](http://www.sanfranciscosoccer.org)

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