

Just an old-fashioned neighborhood water-gun fight

The fight over the future of the Pacific Rod and Gun Club at Lake Merced has been placed in the sights of several local organizations — and it's looking more like an old-fashioned land grab instead of a genuine debate about water policy.

The San Francisco Public Utilities Commission, which is taking over management of the lake, has been holding hearings on the future of the lake — but most of the focus has centered on the 14-acre site, which has been used by the popular gun club for more than 60 years.

A number of groups, including the Neighborhood Parks Council and San Francisco Beautiful — which made its name fighting billboards and blight — are now lobbying to get rid of the gun club, saying that it does not fit the best long-term use of the lake. But the fact is, the gun club has said it would share the property, possibly with crew teams that



Members of the Pacific Rod and Gun Club would like to be able to keep shooting clay pigeons on Lake Merced.

— Examiner file photo

want a new storage facility at the lake.

The Parks Council recently tried to takeover several city-run golf courses because they were losing money for San Francisco. But the gun club is one of the few lakeside facilities that makes money for The City — as politically-incorrect as some view it.

The PUC has been trying — mostly unsuccessfully — to appear neutral regarding future lake management. But a large number of city residents want the gun club to stay, and they can express their sentiments at lakemerced@sfwater.org.