**TAMPA, Fla.** - Further growing the Premier Development League's West Coast presence, the league is thrilled to announce the addition of new member club SF Glens SC for the upcoming 2018 season. The team is the seventh expansion club announced for next year and will compete in the Southwest Division.

"The Premier Development League is excited to continue to grow our strong Western Conference profile with the addition of SF Glens SC," said PDL Co-Director Chris Madden. "Alongside club like the FC Golden State Force and the Fresno Fuego, SF Glens SC will provide another competitive team and established development pathway for players in the Southwest."

RELATED: Utah Youth Soccer Association Joins PDL, Launches Ogden City SC

"Since our founding in 1961, the San Francisco Glens have been a fabric of the San Francisco soccer community for generations," said SF Glens SC General Manager J. Ramon Estevez. "With the club's storied history and the unprecedented growth of our youth operations, joining the Premier Development League provides an exciting new chapter for the club and for all of the city's soccer players, families, and supporters."

With a tradition dating back over half a century, SF Glens SC is primed and poised to deliver an excellent soccer experience to a continuously growing soccer community. The well-established SF Glens Evolution program provides an excellent pathway to professionalism for Bay-area players, and the addition of a PDL team rounds out the club's player development pathway up to the cusp of the pro level.

"It is rare to have an opportunity to work with a club with such a storied past, coupled with excellent and exciting growth, but that's what we have in SF Glens Evolution," said Joel Nash, the USL's Director of Business Development. "Their addition of a PDL franchise, SF Glens SC, shows their impressively relentless desire to further the growth of domestic soccer, specifically within their local community."

"San Francisco Glens Evolution is excited about this addition of a Premier Development League team to our club," said Mike McNeill, San Francisco Glens Evolution U13+ Director of Coaching. "It shows our commitment to player development and our drive to create a soccer culture within our community and club. SFGE is San Francisco's club and we are proud to offer every level of competition from Recreational to the Development Academy, and now our entrance into the PDL with SF Glens SC. We are an ambitious club and are driven to raise the standard of soccer in San Francisco and offer a pathway for all players to professionalism."

SF Glens SC becomes the seventh expansion team announced to begin play in 2018, joining a <u>to-be-named Birmingham franchise</u>, <u>the AHFC Royals</u>, <u>Lansing United</u>, <u>Corpus Christi FC</u>, <u>Lionsbridge FC</u>, and <u>Ogden City SC</u> as previously announced teams.

To learn more about SF Glens SC, follow the club on <u>Facebook</u>, <u>Twitter</u> and <u>Instagram</u>, or visit <u>www.sfglens.com</u>.

A part of the United Soccer Leagues, which also operates the Division II USL, the newly-announced USL Division III and Super Y League, the PDL has served as the proven stepping-stone for aspiring professionals.

Nearly 70 percent of all MLS SuperDraft selections since 2010 have PDL experience, including a total of 59 alums chosen in 2017. Among the many players to have played in the PDL before making their professional debuts include Newcastle United FC defender DeAndre Yedlin, 2017 MLS Goalkeeper of the

Year Tim Melia, 2017 MLS Defender of the Year Ike Opara and U.S. Men's National Team members such as Darlington Nagbe, Brad Guzan, Geoff Cameron and Tim Ream.