



Parks, Recreation, and Waterfront Department

Date: April 19, 2023
To: Honorable Chair and Members of the Planning Commission
From: Scott Ferris, Director, Parks Recreation and Waterfront
Subject: Berkeley Waterfront Specific Plan (WSP) Update

The Waterfront Specific Plan (WSP) project, covering the City's public tidelands, will provide a path for achieving a financially self-sustainable, publicly-owned marina that preserves and enhances infrastructure to support current and future community needs, while adapting to climate change and promoting environmental stewardship. The WSP will designate existing commercial areas for redevelopment and additional recreation opportunities, and will provide design guidelines for future projects.

The WSP is a collaborative effort between staff in the Parks Recreation and Waterfront (PRW) and Planning Departments, the City Attorney's office, and our consultant team led by Hargreaves-Jones.

On March 20, 2023, City Council received a comprehensive worksession update on the project and was asked for feedback relating to: (1) hotel, food and beverage uses, (2) new and enhanced recreational amenities, and (3) funding alternatives. The purpose of this memo is to share the materials from that Council worksession that are now available on the Waterfront Specific Plan project website:

<https://www.cityofberkeley.info/BMASP>:

1. **Update on The Waterfront Specific Plan for the City of Berkeley Public Tidelands Area** (worksession report):
https://berkeleyca.gov/sites/default/files/documents/2023-03-20%20WS%20Item%2001%20Update%20on%20the%20Waterfront%20Specific%20Plan_0.pdf
2. **Waterfront Specific Plan** – (worksession presentation):
<https://berkeleyca.gov/sites/default/files/documents/BWP%20City%20Council%20Worksession%202023-03-20%20Final.pdf>

Council feedback from the March 20, 2023 worksession can be summarized here:

- a) Councilmembers supported the idea that the existing commercial areas would be appropriate for potential re-development;

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- b) Councilmembers supported the idea of enhanced and expanded recreational opportunities along the shoreline and existing recreational areas (Cesar Chavez Park is excluded from this discussion).

In terms of public process, over the past two years, we have held three public meetings, 24 focus groups, and conducted two on-line community questionnaires. Several Planning Commissioners participated in recent focus groups and we look forward to continued engagement with the Commission moving forward.

Next Steps

Upcoming project actions include:

- May 1 and May 3, 2023: Community workshops to receive feedback on design guidelines associated with nature, recreation, commercial redevelopment, and parking opportunities;
- May 10: Discussion at the Parks, Recreation, and Waterfront Commission;
- June 7, 2023: Discussion at the Planning Commission to seek feedback on the draft design guidelines in the draft Waterfront Specific Plan;
- June 14: Discussion at the Parks, Recreation, and Waterfront Commission;
- July 18, 2023: Council worksession to receive feedback on the draft Waterfront Specific Plan and to finalize a project description to initiate the programmatic environmental review;
- In early 2024, a fourth community scoping meeting to launch the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) phase;
- In late 2024, the EIR and final draft of the Waterfront Specific Plan will be brought to Council for approval and adoption.