



CONSENT CALENDAR

March 18, 2025

To: Honorable Members of the City Council

From: Councilmember Lunaparra (author)

Subject: California Triathlon Club: Relinquishment of Council Office Budget Funds to General Fund and Grant of Such Funds

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution approving the expenditure of an amount not to exceed \$500 per Councilmember, including \$500 from Councilmember Lunaparra's discretionary fund and funds from any other Councilmembers who would like to contribute to the California Triathlon Club (Cal Tri) for the Fall 2025 Bearathlon Triathlon event with funds relinquished to the City's general fund for this purpose.

BACKGROUND

The Bearathlon Triathlon, hosted by Cal Tri, is an annual endurance event that brings together student-athletes, community members, and elite competitors from across the region. As one of the premier collegiate triathlons on the West Coast, Bearathlon has provided a competitive and accessible race experience for athletes of all backgrounds while promoting fitness, community engagement, and environmental sustainability.

Beyond the exciting race atmosphere, the Bearathlon Triathlon unites a broad spectrum of the community—local families, amateur athletes, and professional competitors—in a single venue that showcases the best of Berkeley's waterfront. This event not only promotes a healthy, active lifestyle but also fosters neighborhood pride and supports local businesses.

The event takes place at the Berkeley Marina, featuring a swim in the San Francisco Bay, a bike course along the waterfront, and a scenic run through César Chávez Park. Bearathlon has a longstanding history of fostering a welcoming environment for participants of all skill levels, from first-time triathletes to national champions. Additionally, the race serves as a critical fundraising source for the UC Berkeley Triathlon Team, which offers training, mentorship, and leadership development opportunities for student-athletes. With the cost of hosting the event rising since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, the team has struggled to barely break even each year.

Cal Tri is one of the largest sports clubs at UC Berkeley, among the top 3 largest triathlon teams in the nation, and one of the most decorated collegiate triathlon teams in history. Since 1989, the team has grown to over 200 members, including National Champions and Olympic hopefuls as well as first ever swimmers, cyclists, and runners

trying out the sport. The team has won two overall national titles, six women's national titles, one men's national title, two mixed team relay national titles, and two individual nationals winners – 13 titles in total. In September of 2023, the team was ranked third best triathlon program in the country by Triathlon Magazine. Cal Tri is open to all skill levels and abilities and highly encourages beginners to participate.

### CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

Despite its success, the rising costs of hosting a large-scale endurance event—including permitting fees, safety measures, and infrastructure—have placed a financial strain on the organizing team. Specifically, ever-increasing city fees have caused the Bearathlon organizers to consider moving the event to a location outside of Berkeley. They are seeking financial support to offset the growing expenses associated with event logistics, including but not limited to:

- Permit and safety fees (including police, waterfront usage, and road closures)
- Equipment rental for race setup and athlete support
- Hydration and nutrition stations for participants
- Medals, T-shirts, and awards to enhance athlete experience

With the cost of hosting the event exceeding \$30,000, financial support to offset rising city fees would help ensure Bearathlon's continued success and allow the team to focus on delivering a high-quality event without excessive financial burden or having to move the event away from Berkeley.

### FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

No General Fund impact. \$500 is available from the Councilmember's office budget discretionary account.

### ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

Bearathlon prioritizes environmental responsibility by implementing waste reduction strategies, such as using compostable race materials, minimizing single-use plastics, and organizing post-race cleanup efforts to preserve the natural beauty of the Berkeley Marina.

### ATTACHMENTS

1. Resolution

### CONTACT PERSON

Councilmember Cecilia Lunaparra, 510-981-7170  
Jonah Gottlieb, Chief of Staff

RESOLUTION NO. ##,###-N.S.

SUPPORT FOR THE CALIFORNIA TRIATHLON CLUB'S FALL 2025 BEARATHLON TRIATHLON

WHEREAS, the California Triathlon Club (Cal Tri), a registered 501c(3) organization is one of the largest sports clubs at UC Berkeley, among the top 3 largest triathlon teams in the nation, and one of the most decorated collegiate triathlon teams in history; and

WHEREAS, The Bearathlon Triathlon, hosted by Cal Tri, is an annual endurance event that brings together student-athletes, community members, and elite competitors from across the region; and

WHEREAS, rising costs, including increased city fees, could force Bearathlon organizers to move the 2025 event away from Berkeley; and

WHEREAS, Councilmember Lunaparra has surplus funds in her office expenditure account.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Berkeley City Council that up to \$500 relinquished by Councilmembers – including \$500 from Councilmember Lunaparra – shall be granted to the California Triathlon Club for the 2025 Bearathlon Triathlon.

