



Office of the City Manager

RECESS ITEM
CONSENT CALENDAR
September 9, 2025

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Paul Buddenhagen, City Manager

Submitted by: Scott Ferris, Director, Parks Recreation & Waterfront

Subject: Contract: Throne Lab Portable Toilet Pilot Program

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution ratifying the action taken by the City Manager during recess authorizing the City Manager to execute a contract and any amendments with Throne Lab, Inc. to provide a pilot program of portable toilet services for a total amount not to exceed \$70,000.

NEGATIVE EFFECT IF ACTION IS DELAYED UNTIL AFTER COUNCIL RECESS

The portable toilets from Throne Lab, Inc. have technology that provides information to evaluate this service and decide on next steps. A delay would mean that sufficient data will not be collected during the higher-use months of the Fall.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

Funds for the four-month portable toilet pilot program will be provided by the General Fund (011) (\$35,000) and Parks Tax Fund (138) (\$35,000).

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

In the summer of 2025, after reviewing a range of vendors of portable restrooms, staff found Throne Labs, Inc., a vendor with high quality portable restrooms with electronic access controls and monitoring capabilities already being successfully operated in Los Angeles, Michigan, Washington D.C., and the Bay Area, including Martinez, Palo Alto, Redwood City and Sunnyvale. Sufficient funds have been identified to conduct a four (4) month pilot program to operate two Throne Lab portable restrooms and collect usage data at Cesar Chavez Park and Civic Center Park in Berkeley. Staff will evaluate Throne's restrooms' effectiveness, impact and comparative cost to other temporary and permanent restroom solutions.

BACKGROUND

The Citywide Restroom Study of 2020 performed an evaluation of existing public restrooms, a community input process, and research into ecologically-friendly restrooms

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with the goal of providing recommended locations and types and conceptual designs for upgrades of existing and new public restroom solutions in Berkeley.¹ The study recommends monitoring permanent and portable restrooms to provide information about how many people use which restrooms when, and what was their experience. This information can help the City better meet the needs of the public with optimized hours of operation and frequency of cleaning.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE IMPACTS

Providing public restrooms may help reduce open defecation which impacts stormwater and public health. There are no identifiable climate impacts associated with the recommendation contained in this report.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

Throne Labs, Inc. has been successful in providing effective portable public toilets with electronic access controls and data monitoring capabilities in Los Angeles, Michigan, Washington D.C., and the Bay Area, including Martinez, Palo Alto, Redwood City and Sunnyvale. A four-month pilot program in Berkeley will provide the City with the information needed to evaluate Throne's restrooms' effectiveness and help the City potentially expand cost-effective public restroom amenities that best meet the City's needs in the future.

ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS CONSIDERED

None

CONTACT PERSON

Scott Ferris, Director, Parks, Recreation & Waterfront Department, 981-6700

Attachments:

1: Resolution

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<https://berkeleyca.gov/sites/default/files/documents/Citywide%20Restroom%20Study%20and%20Executive%20Summary%20-%202020-10-06%20-%20Final.pdf>

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

CONTRACT: THRONE LAB PORTABLE TOILET PILOT PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the Citywide Restroom Study of 2020 performed an evaluation of existing public restrooms, a community input process, and research into ecologically-friendly restrooms with the goal of providing recommended locations and types and conceptual designs for upgrades of existing and new public restroom solutions in Berkeley; and

WHEREAS, the study recommends understanding how many people use which restrooms when, and what was their experience. This information can help the City better meet the needs of the public with optimized hours of operation and frequency of cleaning; and

WHEREAS, in the summer of 2025, after reviewing a range of vendors of portable restrooms, staff found Throne Labs, Inc., a vendor with high quality portable restrooms with electronic access controls and data monitoring capabilities already being successfully operated in Los Angeles, Michigan, and Washington D.C., and the Bay Area; and

WHEREAS, sufficient funds are available in the General Fund 011 (\$35,000) and the Parks Tax Fund 138 (\$35,000) to conduct a four-month pilot program to operate two Throne Lab portable restrooms at Cesar Chavez Park and Civic Center Park.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Berkeley that the Council ratifies the action taken by the City Manager during recess to execute a contract and any amendments with Throne Lab, Inc. to provide a pilot program of portable toilet services for a total amount not to exceed \$70,000. A record signature copy of said contract and any amendments to be on file in the Office of the City Clerk.

