



Office of the City Manager

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: Grant Agreement Amendment with State Coastal Conservancy to re-allocate \$1.7M to: a) the Bay Trail Segment at Shorebird Park (design phase); and b) recreation improvements at the Gateway Pier and the J&K Parking Lot

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution authorizing the City Manager to execute a grant agreement amendment with the State Coastal Conservancy (SCC) to re-allocate \$1.7M in unspent funds from the Cesar Chavez Park Perimeter Trail Project to a) the Bay Trail Segment at Shorebird Park (design phase) and b) recreation improvements at the Gateway Pier and the J&K Parking Lot.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

In 2022, the City allocated \$2M of the \$15M State Coastal Conservancy FY2022 surplus funds grant for the design and construction of the Cesar Chavez Perimeter Pathway. Due to ongoing environmental monitoring and compliance activities at Cesar Chavez Park, the Cesar Chavez Park Perimeter Pathway Project is paused at the design phase. The remaining project funds in the amount of \$1.7M will be re-allocated by a grant amendment to a) the Bay Trail Segment at Shorebird Park (design phase) and b) recreation improvements at the Gateway Pier and the J&K Parking Lot.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

In FY2022, the State of California allocated a one-time distribution of state surplus funds to cities and counties throughout California. Berkeley received a one-time allocation of \$15M for Berkeley Waterfront improvement projects and the State Coastal Conservancy (SCC) was selected to administer these funds. On December 13, 2022, the City Council approved the execution of five grant contracts with SCC for five improvement projects at the Berkeley Waterfront and began the design and construction phases (Resolution No. 70,629-N.S.) The five projects included: 1) Dredging of the Marina Main Channel (completion by December 2025); 2) Replacement of D and E Dock system (completion in early 2026); 3) Improvements to Cesar Chavez Park Pathways (design completed); 4) Improvements to the South Cove West Parking Lot (completion by December 2025); and 5) Environmental Review and Design of the Pier-Ferry Project (completion in 2027).

In the spring of 2025, the Cesar Chavez Park Perimeter Pathway Project was paused at the design phase due to ongoing environmental monitoring and compliance activities, leaving \$1.7M in remaining SCC funds. In order to identify a new project that can be completed within the grant deadline (2029), City and SCC staff identified the following two related projects that enhance Bay Trail connectivity that can be completed with this re-allocated funding: a) the Bay Trail Segment at Shorebird Park (design phase), and b) recreation improvements at the Gateway Pier and the J&K Parking Lot.

The Bay Trail Segment at Shorebird Park (design phase) involves enhancing the existing pathway to meet current Bay Trail standards for enhanced durability and ADA accessibility. There is sufficient funding for this design project that will involve community engagement and environmental review. Construction funding will be identified in future years. The design of the remainder of the unconstructed Bay Trail at the Waterfront is already funded by existing grants.

The Gateway Pier Project involves the renovation of the existing Old Pier Wharf platform to enhance public recreation at the Waterfront. Possible recreation enhancements for the Gateway Pier include pickleball courts, basketball courts, youth bike area, exercise equipment area, and other recreation amenities such as table tennis tables, corn hole, etc. The J&K Parking Lot, which serves the public launch area at K Dock, will also serve the Gateway Pier area and renovation. The project will also improve the inner harbor pathway adjacent to the Gateway Pier and J&K Parking Lot for enhanced durability and ADA accessibility. This project will involve a community process and environmental review in the design phase, as well as a construction phase.

It should be noted that the design for the Cesar Chavez Perimeter Pathway has been completed, and could potentially be constructed at a later date when funds have been identified and the issues at Cesar Chavez Park have been resolved.

This funding agreement amendment will be presented to the SCC Board on September 18, 2025 for approval.

## BACKGROUND

In the past 15 years, Council has funded over \$40.2 million in important improvement projects at the Berkeley Waterfront.<sup>1</sup> The following projects have been completed or are currently in-process:

### **Current and Recently Completed Construction Projects**

- South Cove East Parking Lot and Restroom and Bay Trail Project – Completed.
- South Cove Dock Float Pile Replacement Project – Completed.
- South Cove East and West Docks Replacement Project – Completed.
- Marina Streets Project (University Ave / Marina Blvd / Spinnaker Way) – Completed.
- Finger Dock Replacement, Phases 1-4 – Completed.

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<sup>1</sup> See Off Agenda Memo to Council on February 16, 2022: <https://berkeleyca.gov/sites/default/files/2022-04/Waterfront%20CIP%20Projects%20021622.pdf>

- Piling Replacement Project – Completed.
- O and K Dock Electrical System Renovation – currently in construction.
- K Dock Restroom Renovation – currently in construction.
- Dredging of Marina Main Channel and Inner Harbor – currently in construction.
- South Cove West Parking Lot – currently construction.
- South Cove East Dock Pier Pile Repair – currently in construction.
- South Cove Middle Dock ADA Float Replacement – currently in construction.
- D&E Dock Replacement Project – currently in construction.
- N Dock Parking Lot Renovation – in-process.

### **Current Planning-only Projects**

- Cesar Chavez Park Restroom – in-process.
- Cesar Chavez Perimeter Trail – design completed.
- Dredging of the South Sailing Basin – in-process.
- Waterfront Specific Plan – in-process.
- Pier-Ferry Project – in-process.
- South Cove Seawall Replacement – in-process.
- Bay Trail - Marina Blvd Segment – in-process.

### **ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE IMPACTS**

The Berkeley Waterfront improvement projects identified in this report will help the City to further advance the City’s Strategic Plan Goal 1 – to provide state-of-the-art, well-maintained infrastructure, amenities, and facilities.

### **RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION**

In the spring of 2025, due to ongoing environmental monitoring and compliance activities at Cesar Chavez Park, the Cesar Chavez Park Perimeter Pathway Project was paused, leaving \$1.7M in remaining SCC funds. Working with SCC staff, the City has identified two related projects in need of funding that enhance Bay Trail connectivity: a) the Bay Trail Segment at Shorebird Park and b) recreation improvements at the Gateway Pier and the J&K Parking Lot and associated Inner Harbor Pathway.

### **ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS CONSIDERED**

None

### **CONTACT PERSON**

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Attachments:

1: Resolution

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

GRANT AGREEMENT AMENDMENT WITH STATE COASTAL CONSERVANCY TO RE-ALLOCATE \$1.7M TO THE BAY TRAIL SEGMENT AT SHOREBIRD PARK AND RECREATION IMPROVEMENTS AT THE GATEWAY PIER AND J&K PARKING LOT AT THE BERKELEY WATERFRONT

WHEREAS, in FY2022, the State of California allocated a one-time distribution of state surplus funds to cities and counties throughout California; and

WHEREAS, Berkeley received a one-time FY2022 state budget allocation of \$15 million for Berkeley Waterfront improvement projects; and

WHEREAS, the State Coastal Conservancy (SCC) was designated to administer these funds via their grants and contracts program; and

WHEREAS, on December 13, 2022, the City Council approved the execution of five grant contracts with SCC for five improvement projects and began the design and construction phases (Resolution No. 70,629-N.S.); and

WHEREAS, in the spring of 2025, due to ongoing environmental monitoring and compliance activities at Cesar Chavez Park, the Cesar Chavez Park Perimeter Pathway Project was paused at the design phase, leaving \$1.7M in unspent SCC funds; and

WHEREAS, working with SCC staff, the City has identified two related projects that enhance Bay Trail connectivity that can be completed with this re-allocated funding: a) the Bay Trail Segment at Shorebird Park (design phase) and b) recreation improvements at the Gateway Pier and the J&K Parking Lot.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Berkeley that \$1.7M in unspent SCC funds from the FY2022 \$15M allocation to the Berkeley Waterfront will now be re-allocated to a) the Bay Trail Segment at Shorebird Park (design phase) and b) recreation improvements at the Gateway Pier and the J&K Parking Lot; and that the City Manager or their designee is authorized to execute all grant submittal packages, grant contracts and amendments, grant reimbursement submittals, and all other grant project-related documents with the State Coastal Conservancy (SCC) in order to complete these projects. A record signature copy of contracts and any amendments will be on file in the Office of the City Clerk.