



PARKS, RECREATION, AND WATERFRONT COMMISSION

Regular Meeting

Wednesday, June 11, 2025, 7:00 P.M.
Frances Albrier Community Center - auditorium
2800 Park Street, Berkeley, CA 94702

Agenda

- The Commissions may discuss any items listed on the agenda, but may take action only on items identified as Action.
- Public Comment on agenda items shall be heard at each item (2 minutes per speaker).

1. **Call to Order** (Chair).
2. **Roll Call** (Secretary).
3. **Land Acknowledgement:** The City of Berkeley recognizes that the community we live in was built on the territory of xučyun (Huchiun (Hooch-yoon)), the ancestral and unceded land of the Chochenyo (Cho-chen-yo)-speaking Ohlone (Oh-low-nee) people, the ancestors and descendants of the sovereign Verona Band of Alameda County. This land was and continues to be of great importance to all of the Ohlone Tribes and descendants of the Verona Band. As we begin our meeting tonight, we acknowledge and honor the original inhabitants of Berkeley, the documented 5,000-year history of a vibrant community at the West Berkeley Shellmound, and the Ohlone people who continue to reside in the East Bay. We recognize that Berkeley's residents have and continue to benefit from the use and occupation of this unceded stolen land since the City of Berkeley's incorporation in 1878. As stewards of the laws regulating the City of Berkeley, it is not only vital that we recognize the history of this land, but also recognize that the Ohlone people are present members of Berkeley and other East Bay communities today. The City of Berkeley will continue to build relationships with the Lisjan Tribe and to create meaningful actions that uphold the intention of this land acknowledgement.
4. **Action: Approval of Agenda** (Kawczynska).
5. **Action: Approval of Minutes** for Thursday, May 14, 2025 (Kawczynska).*
6. **Public Comment** (2 min each).
7. **Vice Chair's Report.** (Kawczynska).
8. **Director's Report:** Update on special events, community engagement, capital and maintenance projects, forestry, recreation, and Measure FF and Y projects (Ferris).
9. **Discussion/Action:** New Restrictions at Cesar Chavez Park – impacts to users and projects (Ferris).*
10. **Discussion:** Update on status of Cesar Chavez Park ReVision Plan (Ferris).
11. **Discussion/Action:** Update from dog park subcommittee (Kawczynska).*
12. **Discussion/Action:** Report on proposed FY2026 Waterfront User Parking Fees (Ferris/Kawczynska).*
13. **Information Reports:** Recent PRW Council Reports.*
14. **Future Agenda Items:** Appointee to Civic Arts Commission; Update on Waterfront Specific Plan; Public Art in Aquatic Park (Lavvorn); Citywide Accessibility Plan; Locations for Dog Parks.
15. **Communications.** Re: marina parking fees: Jeff Malmuth, 5-30-25; Amy Thomson, 5-30-25; Deborah Scott, 5-31-25; Catharine A, 5/31/25; Edward Schlesinger, 6/1/25; Joyce Freedman, 6/1/25; Robert Ofsevit, 6/1/25; Gordon Stout, 6/1/25; Paul Kamen, 6/2/25; Irene Huang, 6/2/25; Sara Elzea, 6/2/25; Kathleen Gee, 6/2/25; Stefani Berger, 6/2/25; Wini Williams, 6/3/25; Siggy Zerweckh, 6/3/25; Dana Ludwig, 6/3/25; Camille Antinori, 6/6/25; Scott Ferris, 6/5/2025.
16. **Next PRW Commission meeting:** Wednesday, July 11, 2025.
17. **Adjournment.**
 - * document is attached to agenda packet and on the commission website.
 - ** document will be provided at the meeting.

ADA Disclaimer: This meeting is being held in a wheelchair accessible location. To request disability-related accommodations to participate in the meeting, including auxiliary aids or services, please contact the Disability Services specialist at 981-6418 (V) or 981-6347 (TDD) at least three business days before the meeting date. Please refrain from wearing scented products to this meeting.

SB343 Disclaimer: Any writings or documents provided to a majority of the Commission regarding any item on this agenda will be made available for public inspection at Parks Recreation & Waterfront Department Office at 2180 Milvia Street, Berkeley, CA.

Communications Disclaimer: Communications to Berkeley boards, commissions or committees are public record and will become part of the City’s electronic records, which are accessible through the City’s website. **Please note: e-mail addresses, names, addresses, and other contact information are not required, but if included in any communication to a City board, commission or committee, will become part of the public record.** All communications to the Commission should be received at least 10 days before the meeting date. If you do not want your e-mail address or any other contact information to be made public, you may deliver communications via U.S. Postal Service or in person to the secretary of the relevant board, commission or committee. If you do not want your contact information included in the public record, please do not include that information in your communication. Please contact the secretary to the commission or committee for further information.

Commission Information: The agenda packets for the Parks and Recreation Commission and the Waterfront Commission are available for review at www.cityofberkeley.info/commissions; the Berkeley Main Library and the Parks Recreation & Waterfront Department Office at 2180 Milvia Street –3rd Floor, during their normal business hours. If you have questions, call Commission Secretary, Roger Miller at 981-6704 at 2180 Milvia Street, Berkeley, CA 94704 or by email at rmiller@cityofberkeley.info.

MISSION STATEMENT – PARKS AND WATERFRONT: Reviews and advises the City Council on issues related to all City/public parks, open space, greenery, pools, programs, recreation centers, the Waterfront, and resident camps: their physical conditions, policies, projects, programs, planning efforts, activities, and funding; early childhood education programs; and animal care issues in parks.

COMMISSION MEMBERS

Mayor-	District 3 -	District 6 - Liliana Cardile
District 1 - Carrie Rybczynski	District 4 - Erin Diehm	District 7 - Alyssa Hurtado
District 2 - Claudia Kawczynska	District 5 - Brennan Cox	District 8 - Allan Abshez

Current assignments

Subcomm on dogs and parks (06-12-2024)

Liaison - Civic Center Planning – Erin Diehm
Liaison - Civic Arts in Parks – Brennan Cox

2025 Commission Meeting Dates

Name of Commission: Parks, Recreation, and Waterfront Commission

Commission Secretary: Roger Miller

Location: Frances Albrier Community Center, 2800 Park St

Month	Meeting Day and Date (2 nd Wednesday per month)	Time	Notes
2025			
January	Wednesday, January 8	7:00 p.m.	Regular Mtg
February	Thursday, February 6	8:30am	Special (park site visits)
February	Thursday, February 13	7:00 p.m.	Regular Mtg
March	Wednesday, March 12	7:00 p.m.	Regular Mtg
April	Wednesday, April 9	7:00 p.m.	Regular Mtg
April 10	Thursday, April 10	8:30am	Special (park site visits)
May	Wednesday, May 14	7:00 p.m.	Regular Mtg
June	Wednesday, June 11	7:00 p.m.	Regular Mtg
July	Wednesday, July 9	7:00 p.m.	Regular Mtg
August	No meeting		
September	Wednesday, September 10	7:00 p.m.	Regular Mtg
October	Wednesday, October 8	7:00 p.m.	Regular Mtg
November	Wednesday, November 12	7:00 p.m.	Regular Mtg
December	No Meeting		
2026			
January	<i>Wednesday, January 14</i>	<i>7:00 p.m.</i>	<i>Regular Mtg</i>

**PARKS, RECREATION AND WATERFRONT COMMISSION
Regular Meeting**

Wednesday, May 14, 2025, 7:00 P.M., Frances Albrier Community Center, 2800 Park St

Minutes - Draft

1. **Call to Order** (Chair): 7:00pm.
2. **Roll Call** (Secretary): Present: Abshez; Diehm; Kawczynska; Rybczynski; Absent: Cox; Cardile; Hurtado.
3. **Land Acknowledgement:**
4. **Action: Approval of Agenda** (Abshez). M/S/C: Kawczynska/Diehm/U) Ayes: Abshez; Diehm; Kawczynska; Rybszynski; Noes: None: Absent: Cox; Cardile; Hurtado.
5. **Action: Approval of Minutes** for Thursday, April 9, 2025 (Abshez).* M/S/C: Rybczynski/Kawczynska/U) Ayes: Abshez; Diehm; Kawczynska; Rybszynski; Noes: None: Absent: Cox; Cardile; Hurtado.
6. **Public Comment** (2 min each). A) Paul Kamen, ferry feasibility; b) Laurel, marina; c) Jim McGrath, 10/12; d) Virginia Brown, Cesar Chavez Park; e) Julie Allen, marina ferry and rec amenities; f) Kelly Hammargren, fire department presentation on Thursday.
7. **Chair's Report.** (Abshez). Bay Festival (Abshez).
8. **Director's Report:** Update on special events, community engagement, capital and maintenance projects, forestry, and recreation (Ferris). Update was provided.
9. **Presentation:** PRW Spring/Summer 2025 Special Events (J. Bedon).* Presentation was provided.
10. **Discussion:** Update on Waterfront Parking TDM Study Addendum (L. McNulty).* Update was provided. Public Comment: a) Bill Feight; b) Julie Allen; c) Paul Kamen; d) Gordon Stout.
11. **Discussion:** Marina Fund Update (Ferris). Update was provided.
12. **Discussion/Action:** Proposed PRW Fee Increases FY2025 (Erickson).* Public Comment: a) a) Laurel; b) Paul Kamen; c) Kelly Hammargren. M/S/C to support increases for current programs, but need more time for marina fees, and create subcommittee to study marina fees (Allen and Claudia). Ayes: Abshez; Diehm; Kawczynska; Rybszynski; Noes: None: Absent: Cox; Cardile; Hurtado.
13. **Discussion:** Water Transportation Pier-Ferry Project Notice of Preparation (NOP) (Abshez).* Discussion was held.
14. **Information Reports:** Recent PRW Council Reports.*
15. **Future Agenda Items:** Update on Waterfront Specific Plan; Public Art in Aquatic Park (Lavvorn); Citywide Accessibility Plan; Locations for Dog Parks; Dog subcommittee.
16. **Communications.** R. Osevit, 2025-05-08; G. Reiger, 2025-05-09.
17. **Next PRW Commission meeting:** Wednesday, June 11, 2025.
18. **Adjournment.** 9:26pm.

* document is attached to agenda packet and on the commission website.

** document will be provided at the meeting.

- Commissioners in attendance: 4 of 7 appointed.
- Public in attendance: 11
- Public speakers: 9

***Note:** For any handouts distributed at the meeting, please see the Draft Minutes for April 9, 2025, on the Parks, Recreation, and Waterfront Commission webpage at the following link online:

<https://berkeleyca.gov/your-government/boards-commissions/parks-recreation-and-waterfront-commission>



Office of the City Manager

June 5, 2025

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Paul Buddenhagen, City Manager

Re: Environmental Compliance Updates at former Landfill at César Chávez Park

SUMMARY

This memorandum is part of ongoing efforts to provide updates on: environmental monitoring and compliance activities at the former landfill at César Chávez Park; the status of efforts to respond to orders issued by regulatory agencies; and modifications to select park activities to comply with permits that govern how the City manages and operates the park and capped landfill.

HISTORY

From 1961 to 1983, the City of Berkeley operated a 90-acre Class II sanitary landfill at the current site of César Chávez Park. This landfill was sealed with a clay cap and formally closed in phases between 1981 and 1989, in accordance with the regulatory requirements at that time. In 1991, North Waterfront Park, now known as César Chávez Park, was opened atop the closed landfill site.

The closed landfill is regulated by three agencies: the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB), Bay Area Air Quality Management Quality District (BAAQMD), and California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle).

BACKGROUND THROUGH MAY 2025

Landfill gas is a natural byproduct of the decomposition of organic material in landfills. According to the Environmental Protection Agency, landfill gas is composed of roughly 50 percent methane (the primary component of natural gas), 50 percent carbon dioxide (CO2) and a small amount of non-methane organic compounds.¹ Methane regulation is a concern because it is a potent greenhouse gas.²

¹ <https://www.epa.gov/lmop/basic-information-about-landfill-gas>

981-7099

² <https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar5/syr/>

While the methane gasses inside the capped landfill have diminished over the past 42 years, the City uses a flare station to burn off the accumulated methane. Between August 2019 and May 2025, BAAQMD issued 25 notices of violation (NOVs) to the City, primarily related to non-continuous flare operations.

These NOVs are not confirmed findings of non-compliance. The City has requested that BAAQMD reconsider or rescind two that are not related to flare operations.

On February 16, 2024, BAAQMD issued the Order of Abatement Docket No. 3747 (AO) to the City. The City continues to address the requirements of this order, some of which have been mutually deferred in order to perform additional due diligence. The City is also conducting assessments to address environmental concerns raised by BAAQMD.

The DoubleTree Hotel property is outside of the landfill boundary, but methane monitoring and control measures were installed surrounding the hotel during its original construction due to indications of illegal dumping of unclassified refuse outside of the formal landfill boundary.

The City recently hired a new environmental engineering consultant, GeoSyntec, and they have produced a Health and Safety Plan with protocols for how all maintenance and repair work may be conducted at the capped landfill. According to the Health and Safety Plan, significant disturbance of the surface soils at Cesar Chavez Park could breach the landfill cap, which triggers the requirement for fully trained staff equipped with protective equipment for any work while the environmental investigations continue. As such, any current or proposed activities at the landfill that involve any disturbance of the surface soils are now prohibited.

REGULATORY INVESTIGATIONS

Radiological Investigation (RWQCB)

On January 18, 2024, the RWQCB issued the City of Berkeley a letter indicating that industrial waste materials from the Stauffer Chemical Company (later known as Zeneca) Richmond Plant may have been disposed at the former landfill between 1960 and 1971. Neither the City nor the RWQCB were previously aware of the potential placement of industrial waste at the former landfill.

Results from the City's December 30, 2024 Completion Report (included in Attachment A as a part of a previous Off Agenda Memo, issued on December 30, 2024, titled, "Results of Radiological Testing at Cesar Chavez Park") indicated no above ground radiological activity exceeding typical background levels. This was confirmed via a Gamma Drone Survey that was conducted in partnership with the U.C. Berkeley Nuclear Engineering program. However, groundwater and leachate samples showed elevated levels of Radium-226.

On January 28, 2025, the RWQCB sent a letter to the City requiring a technical report documenting the results of additional sampling and analysis of leachate and groundwater collected at the closed Berkeley Landfill/ César Chávez Park using different analytical testing methods from those previously employed. The letter also included a requirement for the City to collect and analyze samples of landfill gas for radon, which is a decay product of radium-226.

In response, the City's consultant, Geosyntec, submitted a revised Work Plan proposing an alternative sampling approach that is currently awaiting RWQCB approval.

Once the sampling and laboratory testing have been completed in accordance with the submitted Work Plan, the City's consultants will evaluate the data and prepare a technical report. This report will be an addendum to the City's completion report submitted to the RWQCB on December 30, 2024.

Leachate and PFAs (RWQCB)

In an October 3, 2024 letter, RWQCB required a Work Plan outlining the current leachate levels and requirements for a Corrective Action Plan. On March 11, 2025, RWQCB also requested a Work Plan to determine the presence of Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS), an emerging concern in landfill leachate. The City submitted an updated Work Plan on May 9, 2025, and is awaiting approval.

Methane Monitoring (BAAQMD)

On May 20 - 21, 2025, Sniffer Robotics conducted methane testing using EPA-approved drone and handheld technologies. Handheld surveys revealed localized methane exceedances above the established CalRecycle regulatory monitoring threshold level of 500 parts per million (ppm). Methane gas at this level does not represent an immediate human or pet health or safety issue, but does require corrective action because of its environmental impact.

The planned corrective actions will include maintenance such as regrading the park soil, or making adjustment or repairs to the gas collection system and flare. These repairs are scheduled to occur throughout the summer of 2025. Ongoing monitoring will occur to ensure public safety.

REGULATORY COORDINATION AND NEXT STEPS

The City remains committed to resolving all outstanding compliance matters with RWQCB, BAAQMD, and CalRecycle. Following the initial radiological assessment, City staff began planning for long-term system upgrades and environmental improvements to enhance the efficiency and longevity of the gas extraction system.

To ensure public safety, the City is modifying certain park uses in alignment with Berkeley Municipal Code Chapter 12.29.040 (Precautionary Principle). These temporary adjustments are detailed in Table 1 on the following page:

Table 1 – Modifications to Park Uses	
Existing Use	Modification
Off-Leash Dog Area	Off-leash activity can still be allowed <i>only</i> if owners maintain control of their dogs and stop them from digging into the landfill cap (e.g., surface soils).
Volunteer Planting	Planting and digging into the landfill cap (e.g., surface soils) is prohibited until additional subsurface radiological testing is completed.
Routine operations and maintenance by PRW staff	Operations and maintenance activities that involve penetrating the ground surface will transition from City staff to a contractor with an appropriate health and safety plan, training, and expertise until the radiological testing is completed.
Rodent burrowing	The City will revisit existing policies on control of burrowing animal species at César Chávez Park in an effort to reduce ground penetrating burrows onsite.
Burrowing Owls	To be determined. Burrowing owls are present in the park generally from October to March and typically do not create their own burrows.
Trail Maintenance	Perimeter pathway maintenance will consist of mill and overlay of existing asphalt but cannot disturb the underlying soil.
Perimeter Pathway Capital Project	The Perimeter Pathway Project is cancelled because the design involves excavation of underlying soils to allow for full depth reclamation to improve the sub-grade. Instead, pavement patching will occur in accordance with what is outlined in “Trail Maintenance” above.
New Restroom Capital Project	The restroom project is being relocated to south of Spinnaker Way to avoid excavation within the footprint of the closed landfill.

These modifications apply to activities involving ground disturbance, in response to subsurface detections of certain radionuclides. Above-ground activities remain safe.

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June 5, 2025

Re: Environmental Compliance Updates at former Landfill at César Chávez Park

Staff will provide further updates through off-agenda memos and will continue to coordinate closely with regulators to ensure ongoing compliance and public safety at César Chávez Park and the Berkeley Marina.

The health and safety protocols for soil disturbance at César Chávez Park may be adjusted in the future, pending the results of the additional testing that is currently underway over the next two years.

Attachment: December 30, 2024 Off Agenda Memo

Note: for attachments, please visit the following link on the City's website: <https://berkeleyca.gov/sites/default/files/documents/2025-06-05%20%20%20Environmental%20Compliance%20Updates%20at%20former%20Landfill%20at%20C%C3%A9sar%20Ch%C3%A1vez%20Park.pdf>

cc: David White, Deputy City Manager
Terrance Davis, Public Works Director
Scott Ferris, Parks, Recreation, Waterfront
Director Jenny Wong, City Auditor
Farimah Brown, City Attorney
Mark Numainville, City Clerk
Matthai Chakko, Assistant to the City Manager



December 30, 2024

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
From: Paul Buddenhagen, City Manager
Subject: Results of Radiological Testing at Cesar Chavez Park

SUMMARY

This memo provides an update on the results of radiological testing performed at Cesar Chavez Park, the site of the former City of Berkeley Landfill. The San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board (Water Board), in a letter dated January 18, 2024 (Attachment A), required tests to assess potential impacts from industrial waste materials delivered more than a half-century ago from a Richmond business, then known as Stauffer Chemical Company, to five former Bay Area landfills: Albany, Benicia, Berkeley, and two in Richmond.

The tests are intended to provide the Water Board with information of potential exposure to radiation in publicly accessible areas above ground and check for radiation and pesticides below ground. The City has met all regulatory requirements and has collaborated closely with regulators throughout the process.

Between September 30, 2024 and October 4, 2024, City of Berkeley staff and UC Berkeley Nuclear Engineering researchers conducted a Gamma Drone Survey (GDS) over the former landfill site, capturing above-ground radiation levels. An additional survey using hand instrumentation was conducted on October 18, 2024 on select locations in need of additional data.

The survey results taken at the site were consistent with natural background levels and there were no areas of concern. These results are also consistent with a previous statement from the Water Board that there is “no information to suggest that the sites pose a risk to water quality or human health.”

Results focused on the site’s gravel roads were high relative to the rest of the landfill, but they were still consistent with naturally occurring background levels to be expected of typical imported construction materials used for these access roads. Given these results,

Results of Radiological Testing at Cesar Chavez Park

December 30, 2024

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public access to Cesar Chavez Park has been and continues to be safe. The City will continue its due diligence and collaboration with the regulators to ensure all environmental concerns in the park are addressed.

In addition to the GDS, groundwater and leachate – liquids that are 6 feet to 34 feet below the ground surface – were tested. The tests of these liquids for specified radionuclides and organochlorine pesticides (OCP) also followed Water Board guidance. The groundwater and leachate sampling did not detect any OCPs, but did detect radionuclides, with Radium-226 being the primary constituent observed. Subsequently, additional sampling of the groundwater and leachate using an alternative test method to measure Radium-226 will be performed. While the initial sampling did show detectable levels of radionuclides, it is important to note that the groundwater and leachate at the site is contained below ground, and is not easily accessible by the public. All access points to the monitoring wells are secured with caps, lids, locks and other security features. In order to come into contact with the liquids, one would need to tamper with the security features and excavate with heavy construction equipment.

The report was submitted to the Water Board on December 30, 2024. The report proposes additional groundwater and leachate sampling for Radium-226. The City will look for concurrence or further discussion on this proposed next step from the Water Board.

Context and Timeline

The Water Board believes that from 1960 to 1971, Berkeley's landfill may have accepted waste that could present a health or environmental risk. The Water Board stated that the hypothesis for the presence of these toxic elements is based on historic documents suggesting that Stauffer sent industrial waste materials to the Berkeley Landfill. Currently the Water Board has no information to suggest that the former Berkeley landfill poses a risk to water quality or human health.

At this time, the City has met all regulatory requirements. The following timeline shows work to date:

- December 2023, Water Board contacted the City to set up a meeting.
- January 18, 2024, Water Board sent a letter to the City, Requirement for Technical Reports Pursuant to Water Code Section 13267
- April 1, 2024, the City submitted a draft testing work plan
- May 16, 2024, the Water Board informed the City to provide revised work plan by July 1, 2024
- June 11, 2024, the City and UC Berkeley conducted a Gamma Drone Survey Pilot Test Flight at the former City of Berkeley Landfill to establish background levels
- July 1, 2024, the City submitted a revised work plan to the Water Board
- July 2, 2024, the Water Board provided comments on the revised work plan via email
- July 3, 2024, the City resubmitted the revised work plan
- July 15, 2024, the Water Board sent questions on the revised work plan via email

Results of Radiological Testing at Cesar Chavez Park

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- July 23, 2024, the City provided UC Berkeley's answers to the Water Board via email
 - July 26, 2024, the Water Board informed the City to provide a revised work plan
 - August 1, 2024, the City provided the proposed work plan revision language to the Water Board
 - August 5, 2024, the Water Board confirmed that the proposed revision language addressed their comments
 - August 6, 2024, the City submitted a revised work plan to the Water Board
 - August 13, 2024, the Water Board sent a letter accepting the revised work plan
 - September 30-October, 4, 2024, the City and UC Berkeley scientists conducted a Gamma Drone Survey at Cesar Chavez Park
 - October 18, 2024, an additional survey using hand instrumentation was conducted
 - December 20, 2024 a Completion Report was submitted to the Water Board

SUMMARY OF TESTING

The plan developed in collaboration with the Water Board required the City to perform an initial survey of above ground radiation, and sampling below ground, to investigate the presence of the following based on testing done at the Blair Landfill in Richmond:

- Radionuclides (including, but not limited to) Thorium-232, uranium-238, and uranium-235
- Pesticides (including, but not limited to) 4-4'-DDT, and dieldrin

SUMMARY OF RESULTS

Testing was performed in accordance with the approved Revised Work Plan for TENORM and OCP Health and Safety Survey, Closed Berkeley Landfill (Attachment B), and the results are summarized below and further discussed in detail in the Completion Report (Attachment C), which was submitted to the Water Board on December 30, 2024.

The preliminary site investigation consisted of a full site GDS to identify sources of radiation on or near ground surface and liquids sampling and analysis of the site groundwater and leachate. The results of the liquids sampling and drone survey were reviewed by the City's consultants and the UC Berkeley Nuclear Engineering researchers who prepared the Completion Report.

The full site GDS data shows typical readings in the range of 2-4 microR/hr ($\mu\text{R/hr}$), with the exception of one 20-second long sequence of reading 6 $\mu\text{R/hr}$ and a brief reading of 9 $\mu\text{R/hr}$. These readings are roughly equivalent to 15-30 millirem/yr, 46 millirem/yr, and 69 millirem/yr, respectively. These readings are consistent with expected, naturally occurring background levels. To provide additional context, according to the US Department of Energy (DOE) the average American receives about 620 millirem/yr from all sources. Some example radiation doses from common sources per the National

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Council on Radiation Protection and Measurements, *Ionizing Radiation Exposure of the Population of the United States, Report No. 160, 2009* are:

1. Building materials – 7 millirem/yr
2. Soil – 21 millirem/yr
3. Cosmic radiation (at sea level) – 30 millirem/yr
4. Cosmic radiation (in Denver, CO) – 80 millirem/yr

Radiation occurs naturally in the environment. The results from the testing indicate that exposure to radioactivity from visiting Cesar Chavez Park matches typical, naturally occurring background levels.

The liquids sampling and analysis of groundwater and leachate consisted of testing for OCPs and the following radionuclides: Lead-210, Radium-226, Radium-228, Thorium-228, Thorium-230, Thorium-232, Uranium-234, Uranium-235, and Uranium-238, at 9 sample locations. OCPs were not detected in any of the groundwater or leachate samples. There were detections of Lead-210 in 1 sample, Radium-226 in 8 samples, Radium-228 in 1 sample, and Thorium-230 in 4 samples. Given the results, which can be found in the Completion Report (Attachment C), Radium-226 was determined to be the main constituent observed. Moving forward the City proposes to perform additional sampling using an alternative method to measure Radium-226. This proposal for additional testing has been included as part of the Completion Report, and the City awaits correspondence from the Water Board on the proposed next step.

While there were radionuclides detected in the liquid samples, it is important to note again that the groundwater and leachate on-site is completely contained underground and not easily accessible by the public due to the depth of the liquids and the security features present at each of the access points. At this time, the City will perform follow-up testing and will continue to work in close coordination with the regulators and provide communication to the City Council and community as the additional testing results are known.

ATTACHMENT:

- A. Water Board January 18, 2024 Letter – Berkeley Landfill, Berkeley, Alameda County – Requirement for Technical Reports Pursuant to Water Code Section 13267
- B. Revised Work Plan for TENORM and OCP Health and Safety Survey Closed Berkeley Landfill
- C. Completion Report – TENORM and OCP Health and Safety Survey Closed Berkeley Landfill/Cesar Chavez Park

cc: Anne Cardwell, Deputy City Manager
Jenny Wong, City Auditor
Farimah Brown, City Attorney
Mark Numainville, City Clerk
Matthai Chakko, Assistant to the City Manager
Terrance Davis, Public Works Director

To: Parks, Recreation and Waterfront Commission
From: Dog Parks Subcommittee
Re: The Need for More Dog Parks in Berkeley
Date: June 11, 2025

FIRST DRAFT

Executive Summary

Berkeley is a city that values equity, public health, and community engagement. As dog ownership rises and urban density increases, the demand for off-leash recreation areas has outpaced available space. Berkeley currently only has 2 dog parks, the first one, Ohlone Dog Park, was established in 1979 and was one of the first in the nation. Then in 1998 the 17-acre Off Leash Area in Cesar Chavez Park started a trial period, and in 2000 it was formally authorized as an designated Off-Leash Area. This proposal urges the City of Berkeley to prioritize the creation and expansion of dedicated dog parks/dog play areas to support public health, safety, and neighborhood vitality.

The Need for More Dog Parks

Currently, Berkeley has limited off-leash dog areas, which are often overcrowded or located far from many residential neighborhoods, such as Cesar Chavez Park. This shortage can create tension in shared-use parks, encourages off-leash activity in inappropriate areas and diminishes the quality of life for both dog owners and non-dog owners alike.

What are the Benefits of Expanding Dog Parks in Berkeley?

1. Public Health and Wellness

- Supports mental health through outdoor activity, stress relief and routine social interaction.
- Reduces behavioral problems in dogs by providing essential outlets for exercise and socialization.

2. Community Safety and Crime Reduction

- Increased use of park spaces enhances “eyes on the park,” discouraging illicit behavior and increasing perceived safety.
- Dog parks help reclaim underutilized or neglected parcels of land, transforming them into safe, vibrant, and well-patrolled community assets.
- Designated off-leash spaces reduce conflict in general-use parks and minimize leash law violations.

3. Social Cohesion and Civic Engagement

- Dog parks serve as informal community centers, creating opportunities for residents to connect across age, income and diversity lines.
- Frequent interactions in shared spaces foster a sense of belonging, neighborhood pride and mutual responsibility.
- Well-used parks often self-regulate, with users upholding cleanliness, safety, and park rules.

4. Support for Responsible Pet Ownership

- Provides a safe, fenced environment where dogs can be trained, exercised and socialized.
- Centralizes dog activity, reducing environmental impacts (waste, digging) in multi-use areas.
- Enables public outreach opportunities for local animal services and education/training campaigns.

5. Environmental and Economic Benefits

- Green spaces enhance local air quality and mitigate urban heat.
- Proximity to dog parks can increase property values and attract new residents, especially renters and homeowners with pets.
- Enhances overall park system efficiency by reducing wear on sports fields, playgrounds and walking paths.

Opportunities for Expansion

The City should evaluate a variety of new spaces throughout the city:

- Underutilized corners of existing parks (San Pablo, James Kenney, Berkeley Way etc).
- Vacant or transitional parcels suitable for pocket dog parks such as So. Adeline (under Bart), the 9th St (near Heinz) greenway alongside a bike pathway, South Aquatic Park
- Areas already under design Sante Fe Right-of-Way
- Shared-use models with time-based off-leash hours in select parks, where space for full dog parks is unavailable.
- Additional spaces will be identified in future discussion with the community, the PRW staff and the Berkeley Animal Care Services.
- We will also be developing protocols for the public to petition for an inclusion of dog parks in their neighborhoods.

Community Support

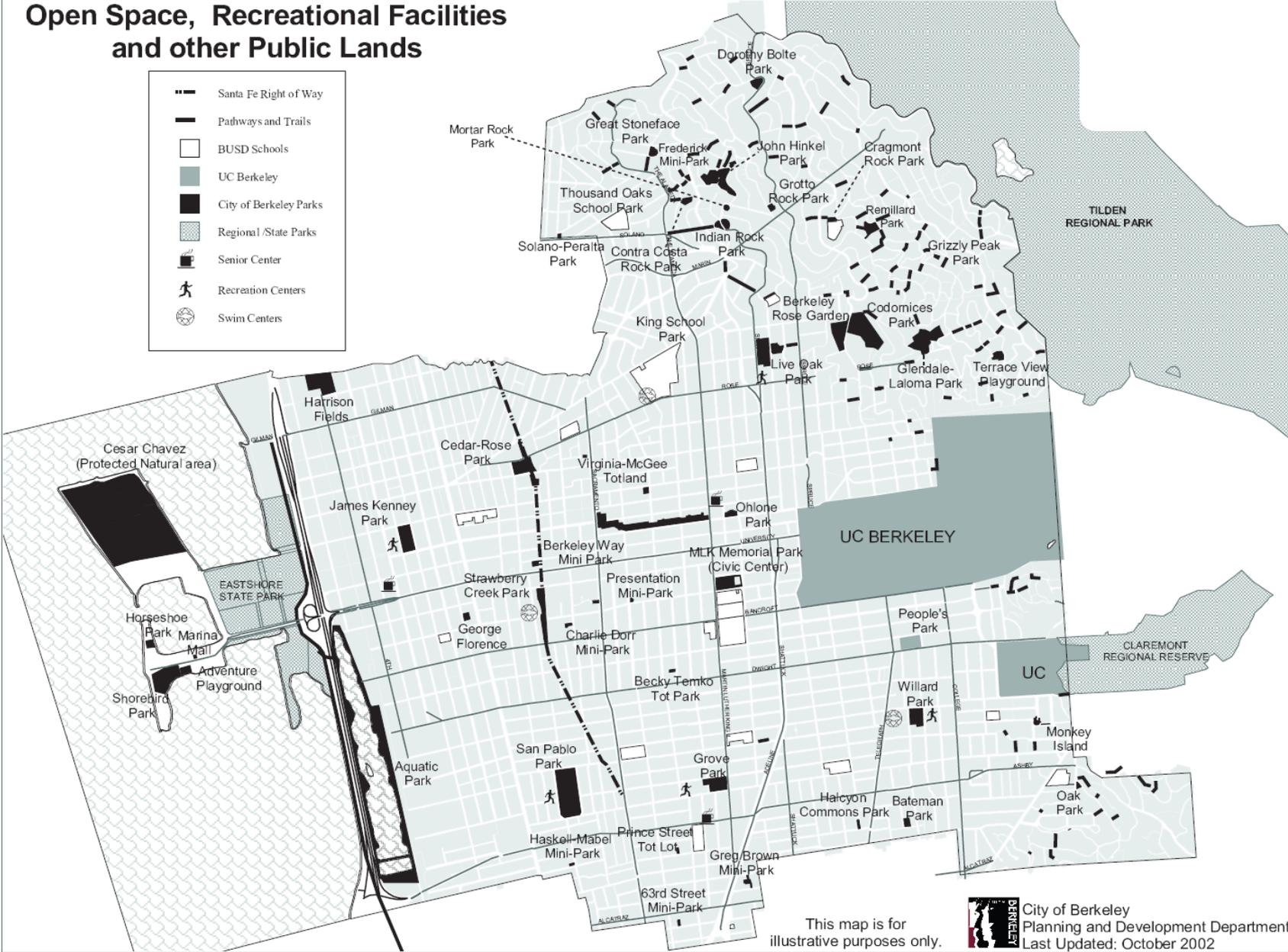
Surveys from across the Bay Area show that dog parks are consistently among the most-requested amenities in urban planning. Berkeley residents have long advocated for improved access to safe, legal off-leash areas that reflect the city's values of inclusivity, livability, and environmental stewardship. San Francisco has 36 designated dog play areas managed by the San Francisco Recreation and Park Department. The City of Oakland's Parks, Recreation & Youth Development Department, the city provides 5 fenced dog play areas, 4 off-leash parks, and 18 on-leash areas for community use.

Conclusion

By investing in more dog parks, Berkeley has an opportunity to improve public safety, promote health, reduce park conflicts, and meet the evolving needs of its residents. We urge the City Council to make equitable access to off-leash recreation a priority in its park planning and land-use strategies.

Open Space, Recreational Facilities and other Public Lands

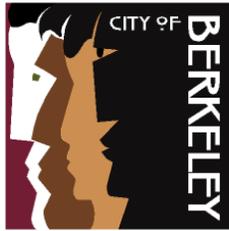
-  Santa Fe Right of Way
-  Pathways and Trails
-  BUSD Schools
-  UC Berkeley
-  City of Berkeley Parks
-  Regional /State Parks
-  Senior Center
-  Recreation Centers
-  Swim Centers



This map is for illustrative purposes only.



City of Berkeley
Planning and Development Department
Last Updated: October 2002



Office of the City Manager

PUBLIC HEARING
June 17, 2025

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
 From: Paul Buddenhagen, City Manager
 Submitted by: Scott Ferris, Director, Parks Recreation and Waterfront
 Subject: Selected Marina Fee Increases

RECOMMENDATION

Conduct a public hearing and upon conclusion, adopt a Resolution approving new fees and increasing current fees for select Marina fees; and rescinding Resolution No. 70,868-N.S. and all amendatory resolutions.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

These fee increases are important in helping the City recover a greater share of the Marina’s operating costs and are estimated to add \$188,950 in annual revenue to the Marina Fund (Fund 608). The Marina Fund supports Waterfront operations including the Marina, facilities, roads, recreation programs and special events.

Summary of Estimated Annual Increase in Revenue

Fee	Marina Fee (Fund 608)
Waterfront parking fee	\$182,500
Waterfront rental area	\$750
Organized group use fee	\$5,000
Commercial business fee	\$700
TOTAL	\$188,950

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

The Marina Fee Schedule was last updated in May 2023, when Council adopted Resolution No. 70,868-N.S., which increased several Marina fees including Berth Fees, Surcharges, as well as Skiff, Dry Storage, Liveaboard, Visitor Berths (11-30 nights), and Launch Ramp fees. Modifications to new slip holder incentive fees were added, as well as one new fee for Abandoned Vessels. These new fees are needed to offset the cost of impacts from additional uses of the Waterfront, including parking, organized groups, and businesses. The proposed fee increases are needed to offset the costs of maintaining the related infrastructure and staffing to support those uses. For all Waterfront fees, there is no distinction between resident and non-resident fees; that distinction is not permitted on public trust lands.

Selected Marina Fee Increases

PUBLIC HEARING
June 17, 2025

Waterfront Parking Fee

Currently, the three public parking lots that are most heavily used at the Waterfront are the South Cove East, South Cove West, and J/K lots. The South Cove East and West lots are public parking, while the J/K lot requires a Waterfront parking permit (provided to tenants and slipholders) between the hours of 12 AM -10 AM. In the summer and on weekends, these lots typically fill early in the morning.

The proposed parking fee of \$1/ hour or \$6/day would provide revenue to offset the costs of operating and maintaining those lots and related staffing. We also propose an option of a \$500/year Waterfront Parking Pass, available to purchase for those who are not tenants or slipholders.

The proposed fee is lower than all City-owned parking lots and a majority of City parking meters, (see Table 2). These fees would not apply to those with Waterfront parking passes.

Table 2 – Proposed Waterfront Parking Fees (bold) and comparisons

Parking Location	Price	Source
Between 8 th St and San Pablo Ave	\$1/ hour	City of Berkeley Parking
Between 4 th St and 8 th St	\$.50/ hour	City of Berkeley Parking
On 4 th St, between Hearst St and Virginia St	\$3/ hour	City of Berkeley Parking
Downtown Berkeley, surrounding 2180 Milvia St	\$4/ hour	City of Berkeley Parking
Center St Garage	\$3/hour	City of Berkeley Parking
Oxford Parking Garage	\$3/hour	City of Berkeley Parking
Current Fee	N/A	
Proposed Hourly Fee	\$1/ hour	
Proposed Daily Fee	\$6/day	
Proposed Annual Fee (Waterfront Parking Pass)	\$500/ year	

Waterfront Rental Area Fee

There are four areas in the Waterfront that are proposed to be reservable, at a fee of \$150 per 4-hour period:

- The Gateway Pier (also known as the old ferry dock) is a 100 ft x 200 ft concrete platform at the southwest corner of the Berkeley Marina Harbor.
- The South Cove Eastern Shoreline is a large, flat, grass area located off the Bay Trail, providing views of the City while being adjacent to the shoreline.
- The Marina Mall has two large, flat grass areas with benches and trash receptacles.
- The South Cesar Chavez Peninsula is a large, grass area located west of the Berkeley Marine Center off of the pathway, with a clear view of the Golden Gate Bridge.

Currently, the proposed spaces are only reservable through a Special Event Permit. Planning, issuing, and managing these permits takes hours of staff time and coordination between multiple departments, making using these spaces inaccessible to low impact, smaller group rentals. This fee would streamline the management and oversight process and provide a cost-effective way for the public to access these unique spaces, see Table 3. The proposed fee would cover the costs of reservation administration, wear and tear, monitoring, communication,

Selected Marina Fee Increases

PUBLIC HEARING
June 17, 2025

and impact on facilities including adjacent restrooms and parking. Currently, all of the proposed spaces are underutilized, and could provide an additional and unique space for public reservation.

Table 3 – Waterfront Rental Areas

Location	Rate	Source
Cesar Chavez Site #2	\$220/4 hours	City of Berkeley Recreation Registration
Shorebird Site #4	\$75/4 hours	City of Berkeley Recreation Registration
Horseshoe Park Wedding site	\$450/4 hours	City of Berkeley Recreation Registration
Gateway Pier (16,000 sq. ft) (Proposed)	\$150/4 hours	
South Cove Eastern Shoreline (5,000 sq. ft) (Proposed)	\$150/4 hours	
Marina Mall (10,500 sq. ft) (Proposed)	\$150/4 hours	
South Cesar Chavez Peninsula (27,000 sq. ft) (Proposed)	\$150/4 hours	

Organized Group Use Fee

A new fee is proposed for the use of Waterfront property by organized groups conducting revenue-generating activities, including open-water swimming operators, water-based recreation program operators, fitness classes, boot camps, and similar activities that operate out of the Waterfront.

Currently, there is no charge for these types of commercial and nonprofit operators, whose increased use leads to higher costs for maintenance, parking management, coordination with other activities, and cleaning and restocking restrooms. In comparison, charter boats who use similar resources are required to apply for a permit and pay fees based on trips and number of passengers each month.

This proposed new fee for the use of Waterfront property is modeled off similar fees in San Francisco and the East Bay Regional Park District, (see Table 4). The fee would apply to organizations or individuals regularly operating revenue-generating activities at the Waterfront (i.e. more than 4 times over a two month period). There would be a one-time \$250 application fee, plus a \$50/day fee for up to 50 participants.

The fee will offset costs from their group’s use of the Waterfront, including maintenance, parking management, coordination with other activities, and cleaning and restocking restrooms.

Selected Marina Fee Increases

PUBLIC HEARING
June 17, 2025

Table 4 – Organized Group Use Fees

Location	Rate	Source
San Francisco Parks	\$250/annual \$25/hour for 4+ participants	https://sfrecpark.org/1537/Adult-Outdoor-Fitness
California State Parks	\$1,000/annual for 9 or less 1-2 times/week \$4,000/annual for 10-20 1-2 times/week \$7,500/annual for 9 or less daily \$10,000/annual for 10-20 daily	https://www.parks.ca.gov/pages/644/files/CCSP-Commercial%20Use%20Permit-w-equipment.pdf
EBRPD	\$250/annual	https://www.parks.ca.gov/pages/644/files/CCSP-Commercial%20Use%20Permit-w-equipment.pdf https://www.ebparks.org/sites/default/files/2025-Fee-Schedule.pdf
Berkeley (Proposed)	\$250/annual \$50/day Group per Day Fee for up to 50 participants	

Commercial Business Fee – Docks

A new fee is proposed for commercial businesses operating off of Berkeley Marina docks. Currently, there is no fee when commercial businesses operate off of Berkeley Marina docks. This leads to limited tracking of what vendors are operating, and little control over best management practices.

The proposed fee is \$25/year, similar to that of San Francisco, (see Table 5). The fee would offset a portion of the staff cost to oversee these operators, and would support staff efforts to identify vendors, track access, and manage security on private and public docks.

The vendor will need to provide the following: a completed application, a City of Berkeley business license, proof of liability insurance, an identification card for all staff members, parking permit application, and sign off on code of conduct confirmations/understanding. If paperwork expires (business license and/or insurance) without updating, the permit will expire and a new fee will be required. This permit fee would offset staff costs of administrating this permit.

Table 5 – Commercial Business Fee - Docks

Marina	Rate	Notes
San Mateo County Harbor District	\$64/year	San Mateo County Harbor District Fee Schedule
Port of San Francisco	\$25/year	South Beach Harbor Vendor Permit Application
Brisbane Marina	\$0	Brisbane Marina Resource List & Phone call to Marina Office
Marina Bay	\$0	Phone call to Marina Office
Berkeley (Proposed)	\$25/year	

Selected Marina Fee Increases

PUBLIC HEARING
June 17, 2025

BACKGROUND

The Marina Fund covers all Waterfront operations including the Marina, facilities, roads, recreation programs and special events. Specific examples include the daily maintenance of over 1,000 berths, repairs to docks, pilings and buildings, staffing in Shorebird Nature Center and Adventure playground and the daily administration of what essentially is a “small city”. These costs are paid via revenues from berth fees, special fees, and commercial leases and licenses. Marina fees combined comprise approximately 70% of Marina Fund revenue.

The proposed fees were brought before the Parks, Recreation & Waterfront Commission on May 14, 2025 at their regular meeting.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE IMPACTS

The proposed fee increases will improve the City’s ability to manage and operate the Berkeley Waterfront, where the City provides unique recreational and educational opportunities for the community to engage with and learn about the Bay and local marine environment.

CONTACT PERSON

Scott Ferris, Director, Parks, Recreation and Waterfront, 510-981-6700

Attachments:

1. Waterfront Fees: Current vs. Proposed
2. Resolution
Exhibit A: Fee Schedule
3. Notice of Public Hearing

Selected Marina Fee Increases

PUBLIC HEARING
June 17, 2025

ATTACHMENT 1

Waterfront Fees: Current vs. Proposed

Fee	Current	Proposed	Notes:
1. Waterfront Parking Fees	None	Location	Fee
		Parking at South Cove East, South Cove West, and J/K lots	\$1/ hour \$6/day
		Yearly Waterfront Parking Pass	\$500/ year
2. Waterfront Rental Areas	None	Location	Fee
		Gateway Pier (16,000 sq. ft)	\$150/4 hours
		South Cove Eastern Shoreline (5,000 sq. ft)	\$150/4 hours
		Marina Mall (10,500 sq. ft)	\$150/4 hours
		South Cesar Chavez Peninsula (27,000 sq. ft)	\$150/4 hours
3. Organized Group Use Fees	None	\$250/annual \$50/day Group per Day Fee for up to 50 participants	New Fee
4. Commercial Business Fee - Docks	None	\$25/ year	New Fee

ATTACHMENT 2

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

ESTABLISHING FEES FOR GOODS AND SERVICES PROVIDED AT THE BERKELEY MARINA AND RESCINDING RESOLUTION NO. 70,868-N.S.

WHEREAS, on May 23, 2023, Council adopted the new Marina Fee Schedule (Resolution No. 70,868-N.S.); and

WHEREAS, the City's costs to operate facilities, provide services and undertake capital improvements at the Berkeley Marina have increased with inflation, rising staff costs, and an aging infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, the Waterfront parking fee, rental area, organized group use and commercial business fees are required to offset those costs and the additional revenue will be deposited to the Marina Fund.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Berkeley that the attached rate structure (Exhibit A) is hereby established for use by the general public for facilities and services at the Berkeley Marina, effective June 18, 2025.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Resolution No. 70,868-N.S. and all amendatory resolutions are hereby rescinded effective June 18, 2025.

Exhibit A: Fee Schedule

Exhibit A: Fee Schedule

Marina Rate Schedule
(effective June 18, 2025)

Berth Fee per size of boat (in feet)	Berths \$/ft	Power \$/ft
20' – 21'	8.96	0
22' – 24'	9.48	0.20
25' – 29'	10.66	0.40
30' – 39'	11.30	0.60
40' – 49'	11.97	0.80
50' – 59'	12.69	1.00
60' – 69'	13.47	1.20
70' – 79'	14.24	1.40
80' – 89'	15.09	1.60
90' +	18.04	1.60

Surcharges	Base Rate Per Foot
Upwind Berth*	10% added to the base rate
Single Berth (Double Finger Berth)	10% added to the base rate
Upwind & Single Berth	20% added to the base rate
Catamaran/ Trimaran/ or End Tie Fees	20% added to the base rate
Discounts	Base Rate Per Foot
Multiple Berth Discount > 20	-30% off Base Berth Rent
Multiple Berth Discount 11-20	-20% off Base Berth Rent
Multiple Berth Discount 5-10	-10% off Base Berth Rent
Incentive: Referral Discount **	-\$250 on first month of berth fees
Incentive: New Slip Holders***	- 100% off of monthly slip fees for the first December and January
New Customer Discount	No slip fees December & January plus \$75 gift card

Other Fees	Amount
Abandoned Vessel Fee	\$1000
Commercial Business Fee - Docks	\$25/year
Chaining Fee (per occurrence)	\$120/occurrence
Charter Boat Fee	\$35/event + \$1/person
Dry Storage (22' length or less)	\$200/month
Dry Storage (23-27' length)	\$220/month
Dry Storage (28-40' length)	\$240/month
Dry Storage (40' length or more)	\$280/month
Electronic key pass (initial 1-2 keys)	\$15/key
Electronic key pass (additional keys)	\$75/key
Group key fee (Organizations)	\$15/key
Floating Home Sewer Charge – monthly	\$25/month
Food Booth Fee	\$500/event
Impound Fee	\$55/day
Insurance – Outdated / Inadequate	\$75/month
Labor Fees	\$75/hour
Launch Ramp – Monthly	\$105/month
Launch Ramp – Seasonal	\$350 per 6-month period

Other Fees	Amount
Launch Ramp – Daily	\$17/day
Lien Fee	\$100/occurrence
Limited Access Berth	Vessel Length x Rate
Liveaboard Fee – boat (monthly) ++	\$220/month
Liveaboard Fee – floating home (monthly) ++	\$220/month
Locker Fee	\$30/month
Merchandise Booth Fee	\$100/event
Organized Group Use Fees	See table below
Registration/Documentation – Outdated/Inadequate	\$75/month
Skiff <20' length	\$140/month
Slip Transfer Fee	\$30/occurrence
Small Scale Ferry Service Fee	See table below
Visitor Berth Fees (11 – 30 nights) up to 29'	\$.50/ft/night
Visitor Berth Fees (11 – 30 nights) 30'-49'	\$.60/ft/night
Visitor Berth Fees (11 – 30 nights) 50' or more	\$.70/ft/night
Visitor Berth Fees (10 nights or less)	\$1/foot/night
Waterfront Parking Fee (hourly)	\$1/hour
Waterfront Parking Fee (daily)	\$6/day
Waterfront Parking Pass Yearly	\$500/year
Waterfront Rental Areas	See table below
Waterfront Special Event Fees	See table below.

*Houseboats excepted

**Fee credit offered on first month of slip fees to both a new slip holder (that has not previously held a slip at the Berkeley Marina) and an existing customer who made the referral.

***One time 100% off of the first December and January monthly slip fees for a new slip holder (that has not held a slip at the Berkeley Marina in the past 5 years), redeemable after 3 months of monthly berth fees paid on time and in full.

** Boaters may apply for a refund of any Liveaboard fee increase that takes effect from FY 2016 onward through the City's Very Low-Income Refund policy.

Organized Group Use Fees

Annual Fee	\$250/year
Group per Day Fee (up to 50 people)	\$50/day

Small-Scale Ferry Service Fee

Landings Per Day	Daily Landing Fee		Landings per Day	Daily Landing Fee
1	\$14.34		11	\$68.83
2	\$25.80		12	\$70.27
3	\$35.84		13	\$71.70
4	\$44.44		14	\$73.15
5	\$51.61		15	\$74.58
6	\$57.35		16	\$76.02
7	\$61.65		17	\$77.46
8	\$64.52		18	\$78.89
9	\$65.96		19	\$80.33
10	\$67.40		20	\$81.77

For each additional SSFS landing in excess of 20 landings, the daily landing fee would increase by \$2.88.

Waterfront Rental Areas

Location	Fee
Gateway Pier (16,000 sq. ft)	\$150/4 hours
South Cove Eastern Shoreline (5,000 sq. ft)	\$150/4 hours
Marina Mall (10,500 sq. ft)	\$150/4 hours
South Cesar Chavez Peninsula (27,000 sq. ft)	\$150/4 hours

Waterfront Special Event Fees

Venue Fee	
- 1-99 attendees	\$350/day
- 100-249 attendees	\$500/day
- 250-499 attendees	\$700/day
- 500-999 attendees	\$1,000/day
- 1000-4999 attendees	\$5,000/day
- 5000-9999 attendees	\$10,000/day
- 10,000-14,999 attendees	\$15,000/day
- Over 15,000 attendees	\$20,000/day
Additional fees	
- Road closure request	\$500
- Road closure	\$2,000
- Participant fee (for event w/alcohol)	\$5/person or \$1000/day*
- Exclusive Use Parking	\$10/space/day
- Attended Parking	\$20/vehicle less than 17'; \$50/vehicle for vehicles and trailers in excess of 17'
- Concession Fee	10% of gross sales including ticket sales
- Event clean up deposit	\$1,000
Pass-Through Costs	
- Operations staff to plan & monitor event	Actual costs
- Parking attendants	
- Parks staff to prepare site, inspect after event, and make any necessary repairs	
- Custodial staff	
- Signage, rentals, equipment, green waste, and other goods or services required for the event.	

*Whichever is higher.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
BERKELEY CITY COUNCIL

Marina Fee Increases

Notice is hereby given by the City Council of the City of Berkeley that a public hearing will be conducted by said city council of the City of Berkeley at which time and place all persons may attend and be heard upon the following:

The Department of Parks, Recreation & Waterfront is proposing to increase selected Marina fees, as contained in the attached Marina Fee Schedule and summarized below:

Table 1 - Current vs. Proposed Fees

Fee	Current	Proposed		Notes:
1. Waterfront Parking Fees	None	Location	Fee	New Fee
		Parking at South Cove East, South Cove West, and J/K lots	\$1/ hour \$6/day	
		Yearly Waterfront Parking Pass	\$500/ year	
2. Waterfront Rental Areas	None	Location	Fee	New Fee
		Gateway Pier (16,000 sq. ft)	\$150/4 hours	
		South Cove Eastern Shoreline (5,000 sq. ft)	\$150/4 hours	
		Marina Mall (10,500 sq. ft)	\$150/4 hours	
		South Cesar Chavez Peninsula (27,000 sq. ft)	\$150/4 hours	
3. Organized Group Use Fees	None	\$250/annual \$50/day Group per Day Fee for up to 50 participants		New Fee
4. Commercial Business Fee - Docks	None	\$25/ year		New Fee

The hearing will be held June 17, 2025 at 6:00 pm in the School District Board Room, 1231 Addison Street, Berkeley, CA 94702.

For further information, please contact **Alexandra Endress at 510-981-6737**.

A copy of the agenda material for this hearing will be available on the City's website at <https://berkeleyca.gov/> as of June 5, 2025. **Once posted, the agenda for this meeting will**

include a link for public participation using Zoom video technology, as well as any health and safety requirements for in-person attendance.

Written comments should be mailed or delivered directly to the City Clerk, 2180 Milvia Street, Berkeley, CA 94704, or e-mailed to council@berkeleyca.gov in order to ensure delivery to all Councilmembers and inclusion in the agenda packet.

Communications to the Berkeley City Council are public record and will become part of the City’s electronic records, which are accessible through the City’s website. **Please note: e-mail addresses, names, addresses, and other contact information are not required, but if included in any communication to the City Council, will become part of the public record.** If you do not want your e-mail address or any other contact information to be made public, you may deliver communications via U.S. Postal Service. If you do not want your contact information included in the public record, please do not include that information in your communication. Please contact the City Clerk at (510) 981-6900 or clerk@berkeleyca.gov for further information.

If you challenge the above in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised at the public hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the City of Berkeley at, or prior to, the public hearing. Background information concerning this proposal will be available at the City Clerk Department and posted on the City of Berkeley webpage at least 12 days prior to the public hearing.

Published: May 30 and June 6, 2025 – The Berkeley Voice
Published pursuant to Government Code 6062a

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I hereby certify that the Notice for this Public Hearing of the Berkeley City Council was posted at the display case located near the walkway in front of the Maudelle Shirek Building, 2134 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, as well as on the City’s website, on June 5, 2025.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mark Numainville, City Clerk

**PARKS, RECREATION AND WATERFRONT COMMISSION**

**RECENT COUNCIL REPORTS**

The following recent PRW council reports can be accessed from the City Council Website by using the following URL's:

**June 3, 2025 (regular)**

14.-Contract 31900042 Amendment: CivicPlus for an Online Recreation Registration and Reservation System (CivicRec)

URL: <https://berkeleyca.gov/sites/default/files/documents/2025-06-03%20Item%2014%20Contract%2031900042%20Amendment.pdf>

15.-Contract: BayGreen, Inc. for Mobile Pumpout and Related Services

URL: <https://berkeleyca.gov/sites/default/files/documents/2025-06-03%20Item%2015%20Contract%20%20BayGreen%2C%20Inc.%20for%20Mobile.pdf>

16.-Contract: Cazadero Performing Arts Camp (CPAC) for Erosion Control Improvements

URL: <https://berkeleyca.gov/sites/default/files/documents/2025-06-03%20Item%2016%20Contract%20Cazadero%20Performing%20Arts%20Camp.pdf>

17.-Contract: E.F. Brett & Company, Inc. for MLK Jr. Youth Services Center/Y.A.P Seismic Retrofit and Renovation Project

URL: <https://berkeleyca.gov/sites/default/files/documents/2025-06-03%20Item%2017%20Contract%20%20E.F.%20Brett%20Company%2C%20Inc.%20for%20MLK%20Jr.pdf>

**June 17, 2025 (regular)**

12.-FY 2026 Tax Rate: Fund the Maintenance of Parks, City Trees and Landscaping

URL: <https://berkeleyca.gov/sites/default/files/documents/2025-06-17%20Item%2012%20FY%202026%20Tax%20Rate%20Fund%20the%20Maintenance.pdf>

23a.-Cesar Chavez Park Nature and Recreation-Based Conceptual Plan

URL: <https://berkeleyca.gov/sites/default/files/documents/2025-06-17%20Item%2023a%20Cesar%20Chavez%20Park%20Nature.pdf>

23b.-Companion Report: Cesar Chavez Park Nature and Recreation-Based Conceptual Plan

URL: <https://berkeleyca.gov/sites/default/files/documents/2025-06-17%20Item%2023b%20Companion%20Report%20Cesar%20Chavez.pdf>

37.-Selected Marina Fee Increases

URL: <https://berkeleyca.gov/sites/default/files/documents/2025-06-17%20Item%2037%20Selected%20Marina%20Fee%20Increases.pdf>

38.-Changes to Selected Recreation Facilities and Camps Program Fees

URL: <https://berkeleyca.gov/sites/default/files/documents/2025-06-17%20Item%2038%20Changes%20to%20Selected%20Recreation.pdf>

**Miller, Roger**

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**From:** Save CC <savecc6@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 30, 2025 2:31 PM  
**To:** Miller, Roger; All Council; Kesarwani, Rashi  
**Subject:** Opposition to parking fee at César Chávez Park

**WARNING:** This is not a City of Berkeley email. Do not click links or attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mr. Miller and the PRW Commission:

Please add me to the email list for notifications about all future meetings and please send this email to all Parks, Recreation, and Waterfront (PRW) commissioners. Thank you.

I have been a long-time user of Cesar Chavez Park. Perhaps 18 years or more. During this time I have had the wonderful opportunity to personally meet many hundreds of people who frequent the park. One of the unique aspects of the people who visit the park is the near impossibility of knowing their personal histories without asking. In this respect, the park couldn't be more egalitarian. Over the years I have met and continue to meet college professors, doctors with a Ph.D., medical doctors, lawyers, scientists, architects, engineers, computer experts, and a wide range of other professionals.

I understand that Berkeley is considering instituting a parking fee at Cesar Chavez Park. Frankly, I would not mind paying a parking fee, even if it was a \$5.00 flat fee for the day. I can afford the fee. In speaking to others at the park this last week, I met others who also would have no problem paying a parking fee at César Chávez Park. However, the purpose of this email is to inform you that I personally know many non-professionals and people at other crossroads, who would be financially burdened to pay what amounts to "user fee" to visit César Chávez Park.

In my opinion César Chávez Park should remain free to everyone to use and remain unencumbered with parking fees. If Berkeley were to proceed with a parking fee plan for Cesar Chavez Park I know for certain that many people would not be able to afford the visit regardless of if the amount was \$5 a day, \$2 a day or some other number. A park fee would have the effect of turning the park from an egalitarian oasis to one of exclusivity. As just one example, last year a very large group of César Chávez Park goers contributed to a GoFundMe for people who couldn't afford vet bills. Donations ranged from \$5 to \$200. I fear that a parking fee for César Chávez Park would unwittingly end up excluding many people who now can enjoy all that the park has to offer without having to think about additional costs in their lives.

Regarding potential rates, there is also an inherent injustice to a flat fee. A flat fee would mean that someone who uses the park for 30 minutes or less would pay the same as someone who spends 8 hours or more at the park! If this were to happen it would mean that César Chávez Park would be the only park in Berkeley that has such a fee, which definitely isn't in the spirit that Berkeley likes to promote.

César Chávez, the park's namesake, advocated for justice and fairness for many people. His legacy should remain as a park that welcomes everyone regardless of social status or ability to pay a parking fee to visit.

Berkeley is a member of "*Parks Make Life Better.*" The California Park & Recreation Society released a public awareness campaign, "*Parks Make Life Better!*®" to inform citizens of the importance of access to local parks, trails, open space, and facilities for the health, wellness, development, inspiration, and safety of all Californians. Let's hope that Berkeley continues to provide unlimited access to César Chávez Park equally for everyone and not just those that can afford a parking fee to visit.

<https://www.cprs.org/about-us-cprs/board-of-directors/advocacy/pmlb>

Sincerely,

Jeff Malmuth and Daniela Calciolari

District #1

**Miller, Roger**

---

**From:** Amy Thomson <amy@amythomsonnp.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 30, 2025 7:03 PM  
**To:** Miller, Roger  
**Cc:** Save CC  
**Subject:** Opposition to parking fee at César Chávez Park

**WARNING:** This is not a City of Berkeley email. Do not click links or attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mr. Miller and the PRW Commission:

I understand the City of Berkeley is considering a daily fee to park at Cesar Chavez Park. While I can afford to pay a parking fee, I know many fellow dog walkers who cannot.

I would like to see Cesar Chavez Park remain accessible to all who come here without a parking fee. There are less and less options for people with limited incomes to engage in community recreation. This fee will be a barrier to many and limit accessibility to those with the fewest options. This group has been gathering for two decades and at this time of polarization in our culture we need this area more than ever to support our mental and physical health.

Cesar Chavez advocated and dedicated his life to support those who have the least amongst us. A parking fee feels anathema to his legacy.

Please add me to the email list for notifications about all future meetings; Please send this email to all the Parks, Recreation, and Waterfront (PRW) commissioners.

Thank you for your time and consideration.  
Warmly,

Amy Thomson  
Oakland Resident

--

Amy Thomson, PMHNP-BC  
Psychiatric Medication Management & Psychotherapy  
[amythomsonnp.com](http://amythomsonnp.com)  
Simple Practice portal [amythomson.clientsecure.me](http://amythomson.clientsecure.me)  
phone 888.834.3959  
fax 866.983.1744

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**Medical Needs:** Emails to Amy Thomson, NP will be addressed **within 48-72 hours during her office hours on Monday - Thursday**. Please be aware that Amy Thomson, NP cannot provide any medical consultation via email unless it is to clarify **a recent and existing treatment protocol**. All other medical issues must be addressed in a formal appointment.

**Emergency Care:** If you are experiencing a medical emergency please call 911 or go to your nearest hospital. Call 988 if you need support with a mental health crisis.

**Miller, Roger**

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**From:** Deborah Scott <debwscott@sbcglobal.net>  
**Sent:** Saturday, May 31, 2025 8:05 PM  
**To:** Miller, Roger  
**Cc:** ttaplin@cberkeleyca.gov; All Council; Jeff Malmuth  
**Subject:** Strong opposition to proposed parking fee at Cesar Chavez Park

**WARNING:** This is not a City of Berkeley email. Do not click links or attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mr. Miller and the PRW Commission:

My name is Deborah Scott and I live at 2230 Tenth Street in Berkeley, District 2. Please add me to the email list for notifications about all future meetings. Please send this email to all of the Parks, Recreation & Waterfront (PRW) commissioners.

I am at Cesar Chavez Park early every morning, rain or shine, to walk the outer path. No matter what time I've visited the park (and sometimes it has been in the afternoon or at dusk), I am never alone. There are always, always other people walking the path, walking their dogs, flying drones, running, biking, or fishing -- and sometimes even swimming off-shore! I have friends from El Cerrito, Concord, Oakland, and Emeryville who also make use of the paths around the park. It is a destination.

I was horrified to learn that the PRW is considering a daily parking fee of \$5.00. Parks should be -- and mostly are -- free! This allows them to be accessible to **all**. A parking fee like this will keep many many people away, and I don't believe that's the point of having a park.

If Berkeley truly believes -- as the signs all around the park announce -- "Parks Make Life Better!" -- this is absolutely not in that spirit. Parks truly do make life better, in countless ways.

I first began to walk my dogs at the park in the OLA in 2001. My dogs are long gone, but I continue to walk for my health, for my spirit and for solace through many of life's losses and challenges. I live about 8 minutes from the park, so it couldn't be more convenient for me. I'd be hard pressed to find such another such place to walk. There is no fee at the Emeryville Marina, or at Pt. Isabel. But that requires a longer drive, and more gas.

Several years ago many people who make use of the park let the PRW know how they felt when the Commission was considering 'developing' the park with all kinds of outlandish ideas. Our voices were heard, and we were told that it wouldn't happen. Yet here we are again, with a more subtle form of 'development.'

Please hear our voices -- I know we are many, but many may not be aware of this development.

Respectfully,  
Deborah Scott

**Miller, Roger**

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**From:** cathy a <cathya99@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, May 31, 2025 10:23 PM  
**To:** claudia94710@gmail.com; erindiehm@hotmail.com; allanabshez@sbcglobal.net; Miller, Roger; Ishii, Adena; Berkeley Mayor's Office; All Council; Taplin, Terry; Kesarwani, Rashi; Bartlett, Ben; Lunaparra, Cecilia; Humbert, Mark; Tregub, Igor; Blackaby, Brent; O'Keefe, Shoshana; Ferris, Scott; Lam, Nelson; McNulty, Liza; Manager, C; BMASP; Berkeley City Council Policy Committee  
**Cc:** cathya99@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** RE: Please do not add a parking fee in the south basin

**WARNING:** This is not a City of Berkeley email. Do not click links or attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Good evening everyone,

As a marina user, I am dismayed to hear your plan to add a parking fee in the south basin. Adding parking fees will decrease—no increase—marina's revenues. South part of marina is "Berkeley's backyard" and provides affordable access to diverse Berkeley residents and the public, many of them will stop coming to the marina because of the parking fees. Fewer people visiting means lower revenues for vendors, coupled with the recent elimination of marina security, resulting in less safe marina. As a result, boat owners will likely to rent berths somewhere else instead.

Further, collecting parking fees does not generate "free" money. Just look at the city's parking program, which is a money losing business. Collecting parking fees and enforcing payment cost more money than the collected fees.

We are all experiencing lots of stress during this political and economic uncertain time. Please leave south basin alone, and let Berkeley residents and the public enjoy the marina without parking fees. It helps all marina users and the city itself.

Respectfully,  
Catherine

**Miller, Roger**

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**From:** Edward Schlesinger <edwardschlesinger@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, June 1, 2025 4:10 PM  
**To:** Berkeley City Council Policy Committee  
**Subject:** Please do not impose parking fees in the Berkeley Marina

**WARNING:** This is not a City of Berkeley email. Do not click links or attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear City of Berkeley

I write to urge you against imposing parking fees in the South Basin Lots at the Berkeley Marina.

I do not live in Berkeley, but I regularly make the trip across the Bay to participate in the lessons and activities at Cal Sailing Club. Almost every time I visit Berkeley to go sailing, I spend money at local businesses such as the Seabreeze Market on University Ave or Berkeley Bowl on Heinz Ave.

If there was a parking fee in the South Basin Lot, it would likely reduce the amount of visits I make to go sailing, due to the additional cost of recreation in Berkeley. The knock-on effect is I would likely make less visits to local businesses.

There are a great many people who use the South Basin lots to windsurf, sail, kayak and simply enjoy the beautiful location. All of these people would be impacted by a parking fee.

I urge the policy committee to consider new ways to revitalize the area and bring in money by renting out vacant marina berths. Reinstating the security patrols is one step in this direction. The Bay Area is a world-class sailing destination and Berkeley has an opportunity to become a place for people of all income levels to visit and enjoy amazing facilities.

Thank you,

Edward Schlesinger

San Carlos, California

**Miller, Roger**

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**From:** Joyce Freedman <rejoycef@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, June 1, 2025 8:22 PM  
**To:** Miller, Roger  
**Cc:** All Council  
**Subject:** Opposition to parking fee at César Chávez Park

WARNING: This is not a City of Berkeley email. Do not click links or attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Council and Commissioners,  
Please add me to the email list for notifications about all future meetings. Please send this email to all parks, recreation, and waterfront (PRW) commissioners.

I am concerned that there may be a parking fee imposed at César Chávez Park. And an imposition it would be to those of us who walk regularly, often daily at César. During the week there is ample parking throughout the day, and even on the weekends there is always a place to be found, and being that parking is free makes César welcoming and accessible. The park attracts a wide range of folks and should be easily enjoyed by us older folks (I'm 75 on a fixed income) and youngins alike ( a small group of toddlers and their caretakers meet daily, plus many people from around the Bay and visitors from the hotel nearby. ) Please keep parking free at César Chávez Park, this jewel in Berkeley's crown. As I have lived in Berkeley (District 3) for over 40 years, I would hope that some of my property taxes go toward supporting upkeep at the park. Everybody should be able to visit the park without paying a fee.

I understand with all the cuts being imposed by our President, the parks may have lost funding. I'm sure there are other ways to raise money if César is in jeopardy of losing proper caretaking and custodial services.

Keep parking FREE at César Chávez Park.

Sincerely,  
Joyce Freedman  
2922 Lorina St.  
Berk, Ca 94705

Sent from my iPad

**Miller, Roger**

**From:** Robert <robert@alamolighting.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, June 1, 2025 8:35 PM  
**To:** Claudia Kawczynska; Erin Diehm; allanabshez@sbcglobal.net; Miller, Roger; Ishii, Adena; Berkeley Mayor's Office; All Council; Taplin, Terry; Kesarwani, Rashi; Bartlett, Ben; Lunaparra, Cecilia; Humbert, Mark; Tregub, Igor; Blackaby, Brent; O'Keefe, Shoshana; Ferris, Scott; Ferris, Scott; Lam, Nelson; Lam, Nelson; McNulty, Liza; Manager, C; BMASP; BMASP; Berkeley City Council Policy Committee  
**Subject:** Marina Parking: Keep It Accessible and Free

**WARNING:** This is not a City of Berkeley email. Do not click links or attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

I am writing to oppose plans to charge for parking in the Berkeley marina.

I also wish to associate with the key points made by Jim McGrath in his letter to you. Few people have his long experience and knowledge, from all sides of these issues.

I was distressed to learn officials are considering charging for parking, and to make matters worse, targeting those fees only in the south basin lots. This idea, while well-intentioned, is premised, like other many other revenue-generating plans, on the incorrect perception that the marina has to be self-sustaining financially. Can we finally move on from that mistaken premise? Staff even conceded this misconception in the *Update on the Waterfront Specific Plan, Nov. 18, 2024, p.30*:

"Q12: Is the Berkeley Waterfront required to be financially self-sufficient?"

"City Response: There is no requirement that the Berkeley Waterfront be financially self-sufficient." (They continue here stating there is only an *expectation* of self-sufficiency. That's a big difference.)

Marina users, particularly south basin recreational users, should not be expected to disproportionately bear the burden for a city-wide resource, particularly one that is actually held in trust for all Californians.

It is questionable whether these future parking revenues will even turn a net profit, if any profit at all, after expenses creating and administering the program. Compare to other Berkeley parking fee programs. It is simply not worth the headache and heartache to try this experiment, given such questionable benefits, while raising the community access barrier.

**Cal Sailing Club: Revenue Generator**

With renewed focus on CSC, it is worth noting once more that the Cal Sailing Club already consistently contributes financially to the City of Berkeley, year after year, decade after decade. Countless Berkeley and Bay Area citizens come to the Berkeley marina in the first place, only because of the Cal Sailing Club, owing to its unique accessibility, singular dinghy and keelboat programs and social camaraderie. The Club is a revenue conduit, as many of these same clubmates have gone on to buy their own keelboats, stay in Berkeley and pay annual rent in the Berkeley marina. In the year 2022 alone those fees, conservatively calculated, \* exceeded \$125,000, or over \$100K net of our discounted dock fees. Candidly, it is somewhat frustrating to see this ongoing contribution either ignored or casually challenged without basis. I offer again to review this data in detail with anyone interested. In fairness, these revenue contributions should be considered in context of the current discussion.

CSC delivers the most accessible community sailing program in the US, which ostensibly meets City objectives. We do so as volunteers, without city employees or direct city funding, like the Lake Merritt program in Oakland. Don't upset the applecart by now charging access fees to participate, including to those who volunteer most, beyond Club requirements. Note: It is also impractical to suggest that CSC and other community members can "drop off their gear" in the south basin and park near the Cesar Chavez park; please stop by during typical busy Saturday morning lessons (when the tide is high), and consider the impracticality of this idea.

In conclusion, our non-commercial, free open spaces are our greatest community assets. Now, more than ever, for our physical and mental health, during times of increasing financial and social stress, we should focus on making such spaces more accessible, not less. The Berkeley marina, particularly the south basin community of swimmers, wingsurfers, windsurfers, sailors and strollers, is a finely tuned ecosystem that works pretty well. Let's keep working, accessible for all.

Thank you for your consideration,

Robert Ofsevit  
Cruising Skipper  
Cal Sailing Club

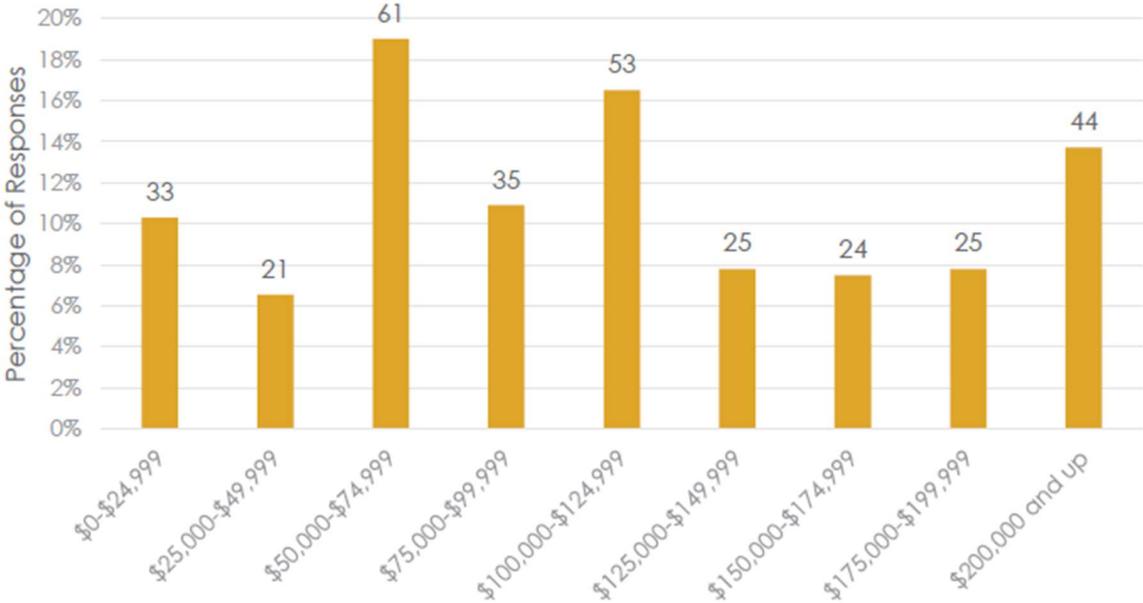
***\*Leaving out, for example, 10% adder fee for upwind slips.***

### Paid Parking at the Berkeley Marina

Gordon Stout 01 June 2025

Kittelson conducted an Intercept Survey that asked about household income and frequency of trips to the Marina.

Figure 34: What is your approximate average household income?



Number of responses: 321  
Source: Kittelson and Associates, Inc. 2024

**Arithmetic:** 33 respondents (33 / 321 = 10.3%) reported a household income of \$25,000. From Figure 31, 130 respondents (130 / 447 = 29%) visit “a few times a week”, let’s say 3 visits per week. For eight good weather months (x 4 = 32 weeks) of the year, 3 visits/week x 32 weeks = 96 visits per year. If parking were set at \$10 per visit, the parking for the 96 visits would be \$960, a crazy expense on a \$25K annual income. People would visit a lot less often, what a shame.

### How much would it cost to collect the parking fees?

From January 2022 Nelson/Nygaard study:

Table 1 Preliminary Nelson/Nygaard and City of Berkeley cost/revenue estimates

|                       | NN Estimate | City Estimate |
|-----------------------|-------------|---------------|
| Annual revenue        | \$780,000   | \$550,000     |
| Annual operating cost | \$340,000   | \$550,000     |
| Net annual revenue    | \$440,000   | \$0           |

From April 2, 2019 proposal for \$10 parking fee:

“The cumulative impact of the new South Cove Parking Fee is estimated to add \$26,000 in annual revenue to the Marina Fund (Fund 608). This revenue will offset the City’s cost to collect the fee and maintain the parking lot. This fee is not expected to make a significant impact on the Marina Fund’s \$1M structural deficit and projected insolvency within the next two years.”

Looks like a very inefficient form of taxation, I do not think we will fix the marina’s finances like this.

**What is Fair?** When I windsurf in the South Cove, I see young families bringing kids to Adventure Playground or picnics to Shorebird Cove. I think about my mother, so many decades ago, taking us kids to the Golden Gate Park Panhandle and the other nearby free city parks. I also think about my sister, living in Berkeley as a single mom, working as a waitress, vet tech and art teacher, raising two sons on a shoestring. Please don't ask people like my mom or sister to pay for parking at the Berkeley Marina or any other city park. People need parks to stay healthy—don’t erect financial barriers to keep them away.

For the last ten years I have had a boat on J-Dock, and at ~\$320 per month I have cheerfully paid the Marina about \$38,400 for those ten years of slip fees. That actually makes financial sense.

**A WETA ferry** will make a profound change in the quality of time spent at the marina. Instead of sailing, walking, relaxing, and enjoying a magnificent place, there will be a constant push to figure out how to make do with parking that just does not work. You see it in the suggestion, made recently by marina management, that people headed for the South Cove lots should drop off their gear (or their kids?), then go park up on Marina Boulevard, and walk back down. I don’t look forward to that version of the Marina.

Add up all the money spent on BMASP and the WETA Ferry, how much difference would it have made if it had gone directly into the Marina Fund instead of glitzy, distracting pipe dreams?

## On Paid Parking and Marina Berth Fees

by Paul Kamen, Naval Architect, P.E.

Marina berther since 1977, and six-term Chair of the Berkeley Waterfront Commission, 1999-2018.

June 2, 2025

Berthing fee increases are the most appropriate revenue adjustment to address the ongoing Marina Fund deficit, especially for the larger and newer boats we hope to attract to the new D- and E-Docks. Price sensitivity is much less of a factor for large boats than for small boats. Carefully crafted fee increases, e.g. steepening the progressive rate structure, smoothing the cost v. size price curve, and increasing the surcharge for optional berth features are relatively low-impact adjustments that will generate far more revenue than parking fees.

However, if parking fees are to be implemented, it is critical to minimize the cost of parking fee collection and enforcement. Recent policies that attempt to charge ferry passengers for South Cove parking have been break-even at best, and City staff have indicated on multiple occasions that parking fees are for “parking management” rather than to generate revenue.

If parking fees have to happen, there are designs that will add minimal staffing cost and produce minimal objection from current park users.

The most efficient system would be a card reader/plate scanner at the main Marina entrance. Scan a card going in, scan again going out. License plate is read if you don't have a card (Clipper? Fastrak? Credit or debit card?) and billed just like at toll booths. No need for marina visitors to guess in advance how long they will need the parking space, which is the major inconvenience at meters and paystations. No need to patrol individual lots for enforcement, because all lots are treated equally. Minimal staff time required. Easy to program "first three hours

free" or similar price structure manipulations to accommodate short-term park visitors. Compatible with selling annual passes for Berkeley residents or frequent users, etc. Maximum adaptability with minimal staffing cost.

The in-and-out card swipe and/or plate reader would sacrifice privacy (depending on how long the info is retained, etc.) but it would improve security, probably very significantly. I think it's a good trade, I'm sure others will disagree. But if we expect to hold on to big expensive boats paying increased fees, we need to do something about car break-ins, catalytic converter thefts, and car thefts. Same with restaurant customers; they don't come back if their car's window has been smashed just once. (Actually, time limit enforcement lot-by-lot might also involve license plate readers, so the privacy concern is not just for the entry/exit kiosk plate reader.)

Car break-ins discourage marina attendance at all income levels. This is part of an overall equity issue. But please no free pass for ferry passengers... That will never fly on an equity basis.

Paul Kamen, Naval Architect, P.E.  
1224 Campus Drive, Berkeley, California 94708  
[pk@well.com](mailto:pk@well.com) 510-540-7968 510-219-8106 (cell)

**Miller, Roger**

---

**From:** Irene Huang <jung.irene@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 2, 2025 10:53 AM  
**To:** Miller, Roger  
**Cc:** All Council; Tregub, Igor; Save CC  
**Subject:** Opposition to parking fee at Cesar Chavez Park

**WARNING:** This is not a City of Berkeley email. Do not click links or attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mr. Miller and the PRW Commission:

I'm writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed parking fee at César Chávez Park.

As a Berkeley resident and frequent visitor to the park, I've spent countless mornings, and weekends there with my husband, our two young children (now 6 and 2.5), and our German Shepherd-Husky. César Chávez Park is one of the few open spaces in the area where our family can enjoy nature freely, without financial stress or logistical barriers. The wide trails, stunning views, and welcoming environment have become a grounding part of our family life.

A parking fee—regardless of amount—would undermine that accessibility. Not all families can absorb even a small, recurring cost. Instituting a fee for a public park effectively puts a price tag on access to open space. It adds yet another hurdle for working parents, low-income residents, seniors, and others already navigating tight budgets and limited recreational options.

Berkeley prides itself on inclusivity, equity, and environmental stewardship. Charging for access to a public green space contradicts those values. It would disproportionately impact those who rely on cars due to distance, disability, or caregiving responsibilities—people like myself, juggling two small kids and a dog, who do not have the option of biking or taking public transit.

Public parks should remain free and open to everyone. César Chávez Park is not just a place—it's a shared resource that builds community, promotes wellness, and supports families. Introducing a parking fee would erode that purpose.

I urge the Commission to reject any proposal to implement parking fees at César Chávez Park and to continue prioritizing open access to this vital public space.

Thank you for your time and service.

Sincerely,

Irene Jung-Huang  
Resident of District #4

**Miller, Roger**

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**From:** Sarah Elzea <sarahelzea@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 2, 2025 2:24 PM  
**To:** Miller, Roger  
**Cc:** Save CC; All Council; Humbert, Mark  
**Subject:** Opposition to Parking Fee at Cesar Chavez Park

**WARNING:** This is not a City of Berkeley email. Do not click links or attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mr. Miller and the PRW Commission:

I am writing as a resident of Richmond and as a regular downtown Berkeley worker. I am writing to address the proposed implementation of new parking fees. While I understand the intent behind this proposal—whether to raise revenue, manage traffic, or encourage alternative transportation—I must express strong opposition due to the harmful and exclusionary effects it will have on low-income residents and everyday community members like myself.

As someone who uses Cesar Chavez Park regularly—at least three times a week—I know firsthand how vital these spaces are. They're not just green areas or places to exercise. They're gathering spaces where people from all walks of life come together. Over time, a strong sense of community has developed among regular park users—parents, seniors, kids, joggers, dog walkers, and neighbors. We exchange greetings, share resources, and offer one another a sense of belonging in an increasingly disconnected world.

Introducing parking fees threatens to dismantle this. When you make access to public parks more expensive, even by a few dollars, you start excluding people. Those living paycheck to paycheck may be forced to stop coming—not because they want to, but because they simply can't afford to pay every time they want a moment of fresh air or a chance to see their neighbors. The casual, welcoming environment that makes this park so special will vanish if fewer people can afford to be there.

Parking fees may appear modest, but they represent a real burden to low-income families, seniors on fixed incomes, and workers with tight budgets. These fees function like a regressive tax, hitting the most financially vulnerable residents hardest.

Parks are meant to be open to everyone. They are one of the last truly public spaces where people of all incomes, backgrounds, and ages come together freely. If fees are implemented I will have to look for other parks to use. Please don't take access away from me and the many others who will no longer be able to access Cesar Chavez Park if parking fees are implemented.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,  
Sarah Elzea  
(916) 949-0189  
[sarahelzea@gmail.com](mailto:sarahelzea@gmail.com)

**Miller, Roger**

---

**From:** Kathleen Gee LAST\_NAME <kegee@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 2, 2025 3:14 PM  
**To:** Miller, Roger  
**Cc:** All Council  
**Subject:** Opposition to parking fee at Cesar Chavez Park

**WARNING:** This is not a City of Berkeley email. Do not click links or attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

To: Roger Miller, Secretary, Parks, Recreation and Waterfront Commission (PRW)

**Subject: Opposition to parking fee at César Chávez Park**

Dear Mr. Miller and the PRW Commission:

Please send this email to all Parks, Recreation. and Waterfront (PRW) commissioners. Thank you.

My husband and I are long-time users of Cesar Chavez Park. We go there almost daily now that he is retired, and I am partially retired. The park is used by many people, coming from various backgrounds and means. We see families there on weekends flying kites and having picnics and birthday parties. We see people with their dogs, people running, and many elderly folks on fixed incomes who take walks and get exercise in a safe environment, which is so important. We see individuals in wheelchairs, on bicycles, and many young parents pushing strollers or carrying babies.

We heard that Berkeley is considering instituting a parking fee at Cesar Chavez Park. This would be an undue financial burden for many of us on fixed incomes and those of us with lower paying jobs. None of the other parks in Berkeley require residents to pay a fee for use -- Codornices Park doesn't, King Park doesn't, San Pablo Park doesn't, nor any of the other parks. As a long-time Berkeley resident, I can tell you this policy would be so "unlike Berkeley." This would promote exclusion and would keep out lower income individuals. That is not what César Chávez stood for!

We hope that Berkeley continues to provide equal access to César Chávez Park for everyone just like its other parks.

Sincerely,

Kathy Gee

CC: Berkeley City council [council@berkeleyca.gov](mailto:council@berkeleyca.gov)

**Miller, Roger**

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**From:** Stefani Berger <stefaniberger43@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 2, 2025 3:47 PM  
**To:** Miller, Roger  
**Cc:** All Council; Save CC  
**Subject:** I oppose parking fee at Cesar Chavez Park

**WARNING:** This is not a City of Berkeley email. Do not click links or attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

To whom it may concern,

I have been walking at Cesar Chavez Park ever since its early inception in the 90's. I took my children to the Park as they were growing up, and now I take my grandchildren. I take my dogs to the off leash area daily. Whether flying kites, bicycling, dog walking or just enjoying the beauty of the Bay, Cesar Chavez Park has always been the go to place for me and my family!

Perhaps my greatest appreciation for the Park is how it is an open space for so many constituents to enjoy without any worry of cost, or in this case, a parking fee. Imagine my dismay when I learned that the city of Berkeley is considering instituting a parking fee. This could dramatically change the 'public space' aspect of this beautiful and beloved park. All things **not being equal**, not everyone has the money for this fee. I live on my Social Security check. Some may easily be able to afford the parking fees, while others might find it prohibitive.

As a longtime resident of Berkeley, (since 1983) I implore you to keep Cesar Chavez Park a public Park where all can **equally** enjoy.

Best,

In dance!

**Stefani**

*"In this time of crisis, the arts give us hope, elevate our spirits  
and help us transcend the difficulties facing us now."*

**Miller, Roger**

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**From:** wini williams <wini\_working4you@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 3, 2025 8:10 AM  
**To:** Miller, Roger  
**Subject:** paid parking Cesar Chavez

**WARNING:** This is not a City of Berkeley email. Do not click links or attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear R Miller

I am an elderly, disabled very long time resident of Berkeley. I moved here from my childhood home because Berkeley was a place of sanctuary for me and others. I am ashamed of what we have become.

Please do not start charging people to play at the Marina. That would eliminate so many people from utilizing a public space. What other park requires a fee? So many diverse people come to the park for a variety of reasons.

Berkeley claims to be a city of refuge and yet has moved on the homeless, upped it's housing costs and eliminated many parking places. The elderly, the poor and the disabled are being pushed away. This would be one more nail in the coffin of our refugee status.

Please find other ways to find money - stop spending on frivolous things and start supporting your citizens again.

Win Williams,  
2765 Mathews St  
Berkeley, 94702

**Miller, Roger**

---

**From:** Siggzy Zerweckh <siggyzerweckh@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 3, 2025 3:12 PM  
**To:** Miller, Roger  
**Cc:** All Council; Taplin, Terry; savecc6@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Opposition to parking fee at Cesar Chavez

**WARNING:** This is not a City of Berkeley email. Do not click links or attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mr. Miller and the PRW Commission:

Please add me to the email list for notifications about all future meetings; Please send this email to all the Parks, Recreation, and Waterfront (PRW) commissioners. Thank you.

I am writing to you as a long-time resident of the city of Berkeley.

**I am opposed to parking fees at Cesar Chavez park** base on two simple considerations:

1. Being true to the motto of "Parks Make Life Better", I have to say that "Parking Fees Make Life Worse"
2. Parking fees at Cesar Chavez park would introduce further barriers of park usage by the community of the City of Berkeley and surrounding communities. Cesar Chavez park supports so many use cases (from dog walking to walking and biking, bird watching, kiting to flying RC models) which contribute directly to "Making Life Better" - Let's keep it that way!

Sincerely,

Siegfried Zerweckh (and Mimi Brubeck, residents of District 2)

**Miller, Roger**

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**From:** Dana Ludwig <dana.ludwig@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 3, 2025 11:41 PM  
**To:** Miller, Roger  
**Cc:** Save CC  
**Subject:** I am opposed to auto parking fees at Cesar Chavez park

**WARNING:** This is not a City of Berkeley email. Do not click links or attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mr. Miller and the PRW Commission:

I am a resident of Berkeley for the last 10 years. About 2 years ago I got a rescue dog who had been abandoned by his prior owner. He is a high energy very kind dog and at 73 years old, he is keeping me alive. But the only way I can give him the activity he needs is to take him to the off-leash dog park and let him play with the other high energy dogs. He has done this for over a year, and we come every day to Cesar Chavez to keep both of us healthy.

If a parking fee is imposed, many Berkeley residents will not be able to afford to use their park on a regular basis, and many of those people are not young enough to walk or ride a bike to the park. I anticipate that the use of the park will go down significantly, and the paid parking spots will go largely unused. The park is very popular, and yet the free parking spaces are rarely completely full. So it doesn't make sense to charge a user fee for a service that is not severely limited. If you do this, I expect your parking lot will look like the vastly empty parking lots of the DoubleTree Hotel, which also charges their own guests for their parking spaces. The use of the parking and of Cesar Chavez Park will go down, and the taxpayers of Berkeley will not understand why they are paying for your staff to maintain a park that is under-used. Layoffs would be required, and things could spiral downwards to where it could eventually look like the trash dump that it was just a few decades ago.

In my entire 73 years, I can't remember ever seeing a city park that has paid parking. If the City of Berkeley chooses to be an innovator in park management by charging tax payers additional fees to use their park, it will be a black eye for the reputation of the Berkeley city government, and will generate hostility among residents toward their government.

On the other hand, if the parking remains free, it will support the increased use of recreational opportunities in Berkeley, which will generate additional opportunities for community gatherings, which will increase the appeal of Berkeley as a place to live and visit, and that will increase your tax base from residential property and business taxes. Please do the right and wise thing and keep the parking free.

Best Regards,  
Dana Ludwig  
Berkeley, CA

**Miller, Roger**

**From:** Camille Antinori <camilleantinori@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, June 6, 2025 9:31 AM  
**To:** Ishii, Adena; Berkeley Mayor's Office; All Council; Taplin, Terry; Kesarwani, Rashi; Bartlett, Ben; Lunaparra, Cecilia; Humbert, Mark; Tregub, Igor; Blackaby, Brent; O'Keefe, Shoshana; Ferris, Scott; Lam, Nelson; McNulty, Liza; Manager, C; BMASP; Berkeley City Council Policy Committee  
**Cc:** Claudia Kawczynska; Allan Abshez; E Diehm; Miller, Roger  
**Subject:** CC agenda for June 17, 2025: marina fees

**WARNING:** This is not a City of Berkeley email. Do not click links or attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Berkeley City Council:

I am saddened to hear that, once again, a proposal in on the table that does not reach its stated goal and at the same time aims to kill a historically affordable open space recreational area. My concern is the parking proposal on the City Council Agenda for June 17, Item #37 of the Action Calendar, to initiate and focus parking fees in the south lots of the marina. By marina, I refer to the entire Berkeley waterfront area.

This area is historically a low-cost area for visitors from around the region to enjoy watersports and “bluespace” recreation. By targeting the south of the marina and only the south, the proposal undermines social equity in outdoor recreation. For example:

- Fishers come to patronize the bait shop and the sportfishing boats and to fish around the marina area, mostly the south area.
- In a survey of 194 fishers along Seawall, over 50% said they fished for food. These fishers are coming from significantly farther away in their cars than those just fishing for fun. (*I can provide a report on these statistics upon request.*)
- The marina area is a major urban open space shoreline park close to formerly redlined neighborhoods and provides historical greenspace/bluespace for Berkeley’s Equity Zone neighborhoods.
- The area is public trust lands and is not to be taken over for purely local purposes (much like the Berkeley traffic enforcement department should not have taken over L&M lots).
- The area hosts affordable recreational opportunities for those who could not otherwise access the water: shoreline picnic areas for families, walking and biking trails, Shorebird Park education programs, docks for swimmers and small craft boaters, and low-cost community sailing programs, which offer regular free events to introduce the public to wind and water sports. It was a mecca for sanity during COVID.

**Further, the proposal is built on so many false premises:**

- “Marina Fund = Waterfront.” No, the Marina Fund does NOT equal the waterfront. Many parks expenses are forced onto the marina fund. This may include future paving of any streets which should be in the Public Works Department, personnel for Adventure Playground, days camps in the marina and Shorebird Park which should be in the Parks Department budget. The parks tax only partially covers marina parks maintenance.
- “The Marina Fund has to be self-sustaining.” No. Quoting other public comments you received from Robert Ofsevit on this issue:

*“Staff even conceded this misconception in the Update on the Waterfront Specific Plan, Nov. 18, 2024, p.30:*

**"Q12: Is the Berkeley Waterfront required to be financially self-sufficient?"**

**"City Response:** *There is no requirement that the Berkeley Waterfront be financially self-sufficient.” (They continue here stating there is only an expectation of self-sufficiency. That’s a big difference.)*

- “This will bring in revenue.” Okay, sure. Like making shell jewelry to sell on Etsy. The point is **NET revenue**. This will cost. It is not free money. Check out parking enforcement costs for other places in Berkeley. No **net** revenue. And for that you burden families and recreationists below Berkeley’s average income?

Staff realize that there is high demand for parking in the south lots for recreation. They’ve locked up most of Hs Lordships parking lot for years, so no surprise. Only recently did they start opening part of it on weekends. They also know this interferes, under BCDC shoreline recreation rules, with the ferry plan. It seems as if this proposal is to reduce recreation so that there is less recreation interference with the ferry plan. I certainly hope this is not the intention, but the continued and pointed neglect of the south marina area makes one wonder.

The south marina area hosts a socioeconomically diverse group of visitors who come to enjoy the outdoors. Do not continue patterns of inequity in access to waterfront and coastline area. In the age of climate change and growing social awareness of historical inequities, why would Berkeley perpetuate such exclusivity?

Respectfully,

Camille Antinori

Berkeley resident, District 3

BHS parent

Frequent marina user

**Miller, Roger**

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**From:** Miller, Roger  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 5, 2025 5:20 PM  
**Subject:** Message to all Cesar Chavez Park Stakeholders

To: PRW Commissioners  
From: Roger / Scott Ferris  
Re: Message to all Cesar Chavez Park Stakeholders

We are sending out the following email to all Cesar Chavez Park Stakeholders.

Cesar Chavez Park Stakeholders:

Please see the Off-Agenda memo from the City Manager to the Mayor and City Council at the following [link](#). To ensure environmental compliance at the closed landfill underneath Cesar Chavez Park, effective immediately, any disturbance of the surface soils at Cesar Chavez Park (e.g. planting, staking, dogs digging, etc.) is now prohibited until further notice. This applies to all City staff, park volunteers, and park users. Disturbances of the surface soils violate the current regulatory permits for the landfill underneath Cesar Chavez Park and could result in significant financial penalties for the City. City landscaping staff is currently permitted to conduct mowing and vegetation trimming that does not involve digging into the surface soils at Cesar Chavez Park. If digging is necessary for maintenance and public safety, the City will engage a qualified contractor with expertise in the maintenance of closed landfills, which requires additional safety measures.

The City will be considering new fines for violations of this policy and adding associated signage in the upcoming weeks. In the meantime, please help us spread the word to all your constituents. Further details and reports about our environmental work at the former landfill can be found on our website at [Cesar Chavez Park Closed Landfill Improvement Project](#).

Thank you.

Scott Ferris  
Director, Parks, Recreation, and Waterfront Department  
City of Berkeley