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## PARKS, RECREATION, AND WATERFRONT COMMISSION Regular Meeting

Wednesday, April 8, 2026, 7:00 P.M.  
Willard Community Center  
2720 Hillegass Ave, Berkeley, CA 94705

### 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. **City of Berkeley Land Acknowledgement:**<sup>1</sup>
  4. **Action: Approval of Agenda.** (chair)
  5. **Action: Approval of Minutes** for Wednesday, March 11, 2026 (chair).\*
  6. **Public Comment** (2 min each).
  7. **Chair's Report/Discussion.**
  8. **Director's Report:** Update on special events, community engagement, capital and maintenance projects, forestry, recreation, budget, fees (Ferris/Erickson).
  9. **Discussion:** Update on Union Pacific Railroad Trackbed Replacement Project at southern end of Aquatic Park (Ferris).
  10. **Discussion/Action:** Update on PRW CIP Plan for FY2027-28 (Ferris).\*\*
  11. **Discussion/Action:** Update from Commission Subcommittee studying the need for increased parks facilities in Berkeley's Southeast Quadrant (Abshez).\*
  12. **Discussion/Action:** Update on potential facilities bond measure for Nov 2026 (Ferris).\*
  13. **Discussion/Action:** Commission review and consideration of proposed comments prepared by Commission Subcommittee to Draft EIR for Pier Water Transportation Project (Muszynski).\*
  14. **Discussion/Action:** Update from on Commission Subcommittee developing State of the Parks communication (Abshez).
  15. **Discussion/Action:** Commission consideration of renaming Cesar Chavez Park (Ferris).\*
  16. **Discussion/Action:** Create Commission Subcommittee to track the acquisition and development of Golden Gate Fields by East Bay Regional Parks District (Abshez).
  17. **Information Reports:** Recent PRW Council Reports.\*
  18. **Future Agenda Items:** Pier-Ferry Project; Workplan; Nexus Study; Public Art in Aq Park.
  19. **Communications.**\* Behavioral Health Services Act Event, 03-25-2026.
  20. **Next PRW Commission meeting:** Wed, May 13, 2026 (Regular).

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<sup>1</sup> Land Acknowledgement Statement: 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.

**21. 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](http://www.cityofberkeley.info/commissions); the Berkeley Main Library and the Parks Recreation & Waterfront Department Office at 2180 Milvia Street –3<sup>rd</sup> 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@berkeleyca.gov](mailto:rmiller@berkeleyca.gov)

**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**

<b>Mayor</b>	<b>District 3</b> Ben Nash	<b>District 6</b>
<b>District 1</b> Carrie Rybczynski	<b>District 4</b> Mary Muszynski	<b>District 7</b> Ysabela Philip
<b>District 2</b> Leigh Stewart	<b>District 5</b> Allen Samelson	<b>District 8</b> Allan Abshez

**Current assignments**

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Subcomm on dogs and parks (07-09-2025) (Nash; Stewart)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Liaison - Civic Arts in Parks (Carrie Rybczynski)</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Subcomm on parks impact fee (07-09-2025) (Abshez; Rybczynski)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Subcomm on State of the Parks (2/11/26) (Abshez; Rybczynski; Samelson)</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Subcomm on Waterfront Fees (10-08-2025) (Abshez; Philip)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Subcomm on underserved Southeast quadrant (03-11-2026) (Abshez; Nash; Philip).</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Subcomm on City bond measure 2026 (10-08-25) (Muszynski; Nash; Samelson; Stewart)</li> </ul>	

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## 2026 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 <sup>nd</sup> Wednesday per month)	Time	Notes
<b>2026</b>			
<b>January</b>	Tuesday, January 13	7:00 p.m.	Special Mtg
<b>February</b>	Wednesday, February 11	7:00 p.m.	Regular Mtg
<b>March</b>	Wednesday, March 11	7:00 p.m.	Regular Mtg
<b>April</b>	Wednesday, April 8	7:00 p.m.	Regular Mtg, Willard Ctr
<b>May</b>	Wednesday, May 13	7:00 p.m.	Regular Mtg
<b>June</b>	Wednesday, June 10	7:00 p.m.	Regular Mtg
<b>July</b>	Wednesday, July 8	7:00 p.m.	Regular Mtg
<b>August</b>	No meeting		
<b>September</b>	Wednesday, September 9	7:00 p.m.	Regular Mtg
<b>October</b>	Wednesday, October 14	7:00 p.m.	Regular Mtg
<b>November</b>	Tuesday, November 10	7:00 p.m.	Regular Mtg
<b>December</b>	No Meeting		
<b>2027</b>			
<b>January</b>	Wednesday, January 13	7:00 p.m.	Regular Mtg



**PARKS, RECREATION, AND WATERFRONT COMMISSION**  
**Regular Meeting**  
 Wednesday, March 11, 2026, 7:00 P.M.  
 Frances Albrier Community Center - auditorium  
 2800 Park Street, Berkeley, CA 94702

**Minutes - Draft**

1. **Call to Order** (chair): 7pm.
2. **Roll Call** (Secretary). Present: Abshez; Nash; Rybczynski; Samelson; Stewart; Absent: Muszynski (LOA); Philip.
3. **City of Berkeley Land Acknowledgement:** <sup>2</sup>
4. **Action: Election of Officers** (chair).  
 (M/S/C: Rybczynski/Musczynski/U) to appoint Commissioner Abshez as Chair; Ayes: Muszynski; Nash; Philip; Rybczynski; Stewart; Noes: none; Absent: none.  
 (M/S/C: Rybczynski/Musczynski/U) to appoint Commissioner Rybczynski as Vice-Chair; Ayes: Muszynski; Nash; Philip; Rybczynski; Stewart; Noes: none; Absent: none.
5. **Action: Approval of Agenda.** (chair) (M/S/C: Rybczynski/Muszynski/U) to approve agenda and move items 14 (PRW CIP Plan) and 15 (Misc Rec and Waterfront Fees) up to before item 9; Ayes: Muszynski; Nash; Philip; Rybczynski; Stewart; Noes: none; Absent: none.
6. **Action: Approval of Minutes** for Wednesday, February 11, 2026 (chair).\* (M/S/C: Stewart/ Rybczynski/U); Ayes: Muszynski; Nash; Philip; Rybczynski; Stewart; Noes: none; Absent: none.
7. **Public Comment** (2 min each). a) Paul Kamen, Marina berth marketability; b) Gordon Stout, Marina Parking Plan; c) David Fraser, EIR/Ferry; d) Emily Strauss, Ferry; e) Jim McGrath, Draft EIR Pier-Ferry; f) Kelly Hammargren, Non-agenda items; g) Dana Buntrock, District 8 parks; h) Court Jackson, San Pablo Park tot lot.
8. **Chair's Report/Discussion.** No update was provided.
9. **Discussion:** PRW CIP Plan for FY2027-28 (Ferris/Erickson).\*\* Update was provided. Public Comment: Kelly Hammargren.
10. **Discussion:** Miscellaneous Recreation and Waterfront Fees for FY2027 (Ferris/Erickson).\*\* Update was provided.
11. **Director's Report:** Update on special events, community engagement, capital and maintenance projects, forestry, recreation, budget, fees (Ferris). Update was provided.
12. **Discussion/Action:** Consideration of Subcommittee Report on potential facilities bond measure for Nov 2026 and Commission recommendation to Council (Stewart).\*\* Update was provided. Public Comment: a) Erin Diehm; b) Paul Kamen; c) Kelly Hammargren. (M/S/C: Stewart/Nash/U) to submit the subcommittee report as an Information Item to Council meeting of April 14, 2026; Ayes: Muszynski; Nash; Philip; Rybczynski; Stewart; Noes: none; Absent: none.
13. **Discussion/Action:** Consideration of Subcommittee Report on potential dog park locations and Commission recommendation to Council (Nash).\* Update was provided. Public Comment: a) Erin Diehm; b) Emily Strauss; e) Nancy Okada; d) Court Jackson.

<sup>2</sup> Text of the City of Berkeley Land Acknowledgement:

<https://berkeleyca.gov/sites/default/files/legislative-body-meeting-agendas/SSCOC%20Agenda%20and%20Memorandum%20July%202025.pdf>

(M/S/C: Nash/ Muszcynski/U) to send the subcommittee report on dog parks as an attachment to the subcommittee report on the bond measure for the Council meeting of April 14, 2026; Ayes: Muszcynski; Nash; Philip; Rybczynski; Stewart; Noes: none; Absent: none.

16. **Discussion/Action:** Formation of Subcommittee to study the provision of new park and recreation facilities to serve the underserved SE quadrant of the City (Abshez (District 8), Nash (District 3), Philip (District 7)). The commission M/S/C (Rybczynski/Nash) to create a subcommittee for one year comprised of the following commissioners (Abshez; Nash; Philip); Ayes: Muszcynski; Nash; Philip; Rybczynski; Stewart; Noes: none; Absent: none.
17. **Discussion/Action:** Potentially form subcommittee to prepare written comments on Draft EIR for Pier Water Transportation Project (Muszcynski). The commission M/S/C (Rybczynski/Stewart/U) to create a subcommittee comprised of the following commissioners (Muszcynski; Philips) for a three month period; Ayes: Muszcynski; Nash; Philip; Rybczynski; Stewart; Noes: none; Absent: none. Public Comment: a) Emily Strauss; b) Erin Diehm; c) Kelly Hammargren; d) Nancy Okada; e) Kelly Hammargren; f) Emily Strauss; g) Erin Diehm; h) Paul Kamen i) Laurel.
18. **Information Reports:** Recent PRW Council Reports.\*
19. **Future Agenda Items:** Comments on Draft EIR for Pier Water Transportation Project; Bond Measure 2026; underserved SE quadrant of Berkeley; State of the Parks; Workplan; Nexus Study; Public Art in Aquatic Park.
20. **Communications.\***
21. **Next PRW Commission meetings:** Wed, April 8, 2026 (Regular).
22. **Adjournment.** 9:40pm.

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

\*\* document will be provided at the meeting.

- Commissioners in attendance: 5 of 5 appointed.
- Public in attendance: 16
- Public speakers: 24

**\*Note:** For any handouts distributed at the meeting, please see the Draft Minutes for March 11, 2026, 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>

Investing in the Youth, Health & Future of the Adeline Community: The Potential for a New Public Swimming Pool as Part of the Ashby BART Station Project

- Berkeley has one of the lowest parks service standards in California (2 acres of parks per 1,000 residents). Most California cities plan for roughly 3–5 acres of parks per 1,000 residents. With a population of 122,580 and only 230 acres of parks, Berkeley is currently short of its own modest parks service standard (Source: Berkeley General Plan, 2002).
- Moreover, Berkeley plans to add 8,934 new residential units in the next several years, which will bring the City’s population to 140,935. To meet its own low park service standard, Berkeley will need 282 acres of parks by 2040, or 52 acres of additional parks (Source: Berkeley Housing Element).
- Compounding these deficiencies is the fact that Berkeley’s parks facilities are not equally distributed. Per the City’s own 2016 Equitable Future Report: “*The SE Quadrant has the fewest facilities both by number and acreage. Most of the City’s parks and facilities (sports courts, fields, children’s play areas, picnic areas) are in the NE, NW and SW Quadrants, within these quadrants, facilities are fairly evenly distributed, the SE quadrant has significantly fewer facilities.*”
- The City of Berkeley’s 2019 Citywide Pools Master Plan calls for three City swimming pools: King Pool, serving North Berkeley; West Campus Pool, serving West Berkeley; and Willard Pool, serving Southeast Berkeley.

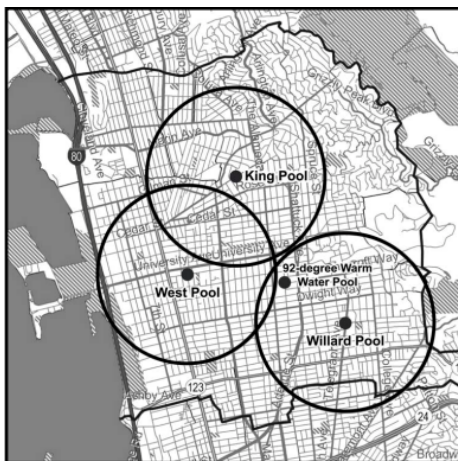


Figure 1: Pool Location and Walking Distance

- **Willard Pool was defunded by the city and closed in 2010.** BUSD subsequently took the pool site back and now plans it for other uses.
- Lack of access to public pools and swimming education disproportionately impacts communities of color. For example, according to the CDC, Black youth are almost 6 times as likely as white children to drown in a swimming pool. USA Swimming reports that 69% of Black children have little to no swimming ability, compared with 42% of white children.

- The major challenge to replacing the Willard Pool is finding an available site that is suitably located. The Ashby BART Station Project, which has yet to be designed, provides such a site.
- The City of Berkeley should not miss its own opportunity to create a legacy by including a major new public amenity – such as a new public swimming pool – into the Ashby BART Station Project.



- By way of comparison, it was recently announced that the City of El Cerrito successfully negotiated multiple major public benefit opportunities into its BART Station project. Specifically, in addition to 743 new housing units (half of which will be rented at below-market levels), the BART El Cerrito project will provide 22,000 square feet of new public open space, including a new community plaza .5 acre in size. The project will also include 2,100 square feet of commercial space and **a new 20,000-square-foot public library adjacent to the community plaza if the city can identify funding.**  
<https://www.elcerrito.gov/1381/Transit-Oriented-Development-TOD>
- A new swimming pool at the Ashby BART Station site would replace Willard Pool, provide a wonderful community amenity, and anchor further rejuvenation of the Adeline Corridor in furtherance of the Adeline Corridor Specific Plan.
- Public benefits in projects often include improvements in infrastructure, affordable housing, and community facilities. The Ashby BART preliminary design standards include affordable housing and space for community-based organizations, including the Berkeley Flea Market.
- If provision for a new swimming pool can be planned into the Ashby BART Station Project, funds can subsequently be provided through a future bond measure. The estimated cost of a new pool is approximately \$16.5 million.
- The SE Quadrant of Berkeley has been long deprived of its fair share of parks and recreation facilities. Section 6.42 of the Municipal Code, including Section 6.42.020.C, which states: “That those census tracts containing less than the master plan provision of two acres of parks and open space per one thousand population shall be singled out as having a high priority for funding the acquisition, development and maintenance of parks and recreational facilities.



Parks and Waterfront  
Commission

## INFORMATION CALENDAR

April 14, 2026

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council  
From: Parks, Recreation, and Waterfront Commission  
Submitted by: Carrie Rybczynski, Vice-Chair, Park, Recreation and Waterfront  
Commission  
Subject: Bond Measure Subcommittee — Final Report

### INTRODUCTION

The Parks, Recreation, and Waterfront (PRW) Commission is responsible for reviewing and advising the City Council on the policies, projects, planning efforts, activities, funding, and the physical condition of parks, pools, camps, recreation centers, the Marina, and public greenery.

### CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

Over the past two months, the PRW subcommittee on the 2026 bond measure has participated in the community process for the 2026 bond measure and has produced a report that evaluates the proposed bond program. In addition, the PRW subcommittee on potential dog park locations has produced a report with preliminary recommendations.

At its regular meeting on March 11, 2026, the Parks, Recreation, and Waterfront Commission took action to send the two reports to Council as an Information Item: M/S/C: Stewart/Nash/U) Ayes: Muszynski; Nash; Philips; Rybczynski; Stewart. Noes: None; Absent: None.

### Attachments:

- 1: Bond Measure Subcommittee — Final Report
- 2: PRWC Dog Park Subcommittee Recommendations

2180 Milvia Street, Berkeley, CA 94704 • Tel: (510) 981-7000 • TDD: (510) 981-6903 • Fax: (510) 981-7099  
E-Mail: [manager@CityofBerkeley.info](mailto:manager@CityofBerkeley.info) Website: <http://www.CityofBerkeley.info/Manager>

## Parks, Recreation, and Waterfront Commission

### Bond Measure Subcommittee — Final Report

**Prepared by:** Leigh Stewart, Mary Muszynski, Ben Nash

**Date:** March 11, 2026

**To:** Parks, Recreation, and Waterfront Commission, for transmittal to City Council

#### 1. Summary

Berkeley has approximately \$1.65 billion in unfunded capital liabilities, including roughly \$340 million for Parks, Recreation, and Waterfront alone.<sup>[^1]</sup> Construction costs continue to rise. A \$300 million infrastructure bond is the right response — and the city has done serious work to get it right.

The City contracted with a professional survey company to conduct a 500-resident poll, held community meetings, consulted six commissions, and convened four focus groups with targeted constituencies. The \$300 million figure polled at 72% support — stronger, notably, than \$200 million.<sup>[^2]</sup> The defined-project-list approach directly addresses what went wrong with Measure L, which failed at 59% in 2022 after being criticized as too large, too vague, and too bundled.<sup>[^3]</sup> There is appetite for this.

This report focuses on the 20 PRW projects (\$107.6 million) and offers five recommendations: clarify the pool strategy, improve selection transparency, strengthen climate framing, reconsider the Civic Center allocation, and address the Southeast Berkeley gap.

The commission enthusiastically supports this bond — the need, the process, and the great majority of the project list. We want it to pass. The recommendations below are offered in that spirit — we believe addressing them will strengthen the bond and improve its chances with voters.

#### 2. PRW Project Review

The subcommittee has reviewed all 20 PRW projects through meetings with the PRW Director, community outreach sessions, subcommittee discussion, and review of the December 2 staff report and supporting materials. Below is our assessment of each project.

##### Community Facilities

**Frances Albrier Community Center — \$30M.** This is a major community facility serving West Berkeley. Based on resident feedback and commissioner input, this is one of the strongest items on the list.

**King Pool & Locker Room Replacement — \$25M.** The pool itself is needed — King is an outdated 1960s facility. However, the subcommittee has concerns about the pool strategy that go beyond this single line item. The city does not own the land at King; it sits on BUSD property. The question is not just whether to upgrade King, but whether the city's overall pool plan is resilient — particularly given the risk of leaving the flats with no pool at all. See Section 3A.

### Shoreline & Sea Level Rise

**South Cove Seawall — \$5M.** Critical infrastructure. As the PRW Director noted in discussions with the subcommittee, if this seawall fails — which he described as a real risk given its condition — the entire landmass where the sailing clubs operate becomes unusable, and the city would have to fund repairs later at higher cost.<sup>[4]</sup> The shoreline projects are well-positioned for state and federal matching grants. Measure T1 demonstrated this model: \$100 million in bond funds leveraged an additional \$80 million in grants, producing over \$183 million in total infrastructure investment.<sup>[1]</sup>

**University Ave / Seawall Dr / Bay Trail / Plaza — \$5M.** Supports climate resilience and sea level rise adaptation. Highly competitive for existing state grants.

**Marina Docks Timber Pile Replacement — \$6M.** Critical for maintaining the marina as a revenue source for the Waterfront. This is a deferred maintenance that is not eligible for known grants or Parks Tax — it can only be funded through general fund or bond or the Marina Fund.<sup>[5]</sup>

**Marina Blvd Sea Level Rise & Bay Trail — \$1.9M.** Climate resilience infrastructure that protects access to the north side of the Waterfront, Cesar Chavez Park, and prevents SLR damage to important commercial tenants (Doubletree, Marine Center, and berth slips). Highly competitive for existing state grants.

**University Ave Sea Level Rise – Bike Park — \$2.75M.** Supports climate goals and adds a new Bike Park (on newly-vacant land) and has gone through an extensive community planning process . Highly competitive for existing state grants.

### Park Amenities & Open Space

**Adeline Corridor Open Space — \$6M.** One of the strongest items on the list. South Berkeley is projected for significant residential growth and needs more green space as a matter of equity. In a landlocked city, opportunities to create new open space are rare — this is one of them. Per the PRW Director, a \$825,000 federal earmark has already been secured for design.<sup>[4]</sup>

**Glendale-La Loma Park Improvements — \$3.5M.** Safety and ADA improvements to playgrounds, parking lot, and pathways.<sup>[5]</sup> Playstructure is close to 50 years old, needs replacement. Play structures are consistently among the highest-demand categories in community feedback, particularly popular with families.

**Cesar Chavez Park Restroom & Pathway — \$3M.** This is a high-use waterfront park and it urgently needs a proper bathroom. The pathway has deteriorated significantly and does not meet current ADA accessible codes, and needs replacement. Only 60% of the project cost comes from the bond; the project is highly competitive for State Coastal Conservancy grants.<sup>[5]</sup>

**Cedar Rose Play Structure — \$2.5M.** The play structure has not been replaced in almost three decades. Play structures are extremely popular with families — high-use, high-visibility improvements that generate broad support.

**Aquatic Park Dreamland Area — \$2.1M.** One of the best returns on bond investment. The full Dreamland project totals \$8.4 million — including a bioswale, parking, restroom, and an expanded play area roughly 175% the size of the current one.<sup>[4]</sup> The bond's \$2.1 million serves as the 25% local match with over \$6 million likely from a local developer.<sup>[5]</sup> Very popular with families.

**Dog Parks (4–6 sites citywide) — \$2.5M.** Dogs using regular parks creates significant conflict among residents. Dedicated dog parks are a relatively inexpensive way to address a real and widespread problem, and distributing sites citywide means broad benefit.

**Restrooms: Cedar Rose (\$500K), Codornices (\$500K), Harrison (\$750K) — \$1.75M total.** Overdue bathroom replacements at well-used parks.<sup>[5]</sup> Public restrooms are a critical basic service.

### Sports Facilities

**Harrison Field Turf Conversion — \$6M.** Strong community support. Harrison is a heavily used field; conversion to artificial turf would roughly double usable field capacity and significantly reduce maintenance and irrigation costs — and may increase revenue as well. Berkeley used to have a reputation for having the best sports fields in the region. It's important to keep investing here.

**Live Oak Soccer/Basketball/Lighting — \$3M.** Needed modernization at a well-used facility — re-levels uneven basketball courts, converts soccer field to turf, and adds lighting.<sup>[5]</sup> Popular with families and youth sports. 66% of the project cost comes from the bond; the remainder may be funded with Parks Tax.<sup>[5]</sup>

**San Pablo Sports Field Irrigation & Drainage — \$1.6M.** Critical system upgrade. Will significantly reduce maintenance and irrigation costs and allow this very popular, heavily used park to serve even more residents.

## 3. Recommendations

### A. The pool strategy needs more work

The bond proposes upgrading King Pool for \$25 million. Upgrading our existing pools is reasonable — but the current plan doesn't account for the fact that the city doesn't control any of its pool sites, and that creates real risk.

Both remaining city-operated pool sites — King and West Campus — sit on BUSD land.<sup>[6]</sup> The city does not own any pool site. Willard has already been lost; BUSD reclaimed the site in 2010. West Campus has only four years remaining on its lease, and BUSD could choose not to renew — as it did with Willard. King has 24 years on its lease, but the City Attorney requires a minimum 25-year lease for bond-funded construction, meaning the lease would need to be renegotiated before bond funds could be spent.<sup>[4]</sup>

The Frances Albrier Community Center Replacement Project included an option for a 25-meter community pool with play elements.<sup>[^4]</sup> It is the only potential pool site where the city owns the land outright.

If West Campus is lost, the city could end up with only one pool — at King, in Northeast Berkeley, the area that already has the highest park density in the city. The flats would have no pool at all.

If the city is confident that both leases will be secure for the long term, then upgrading King is reasonable. But even in that case, the city should seriously consider building a pool at San Pablo Park. It would put aquatic infrastructure on city-owned land, and its location near Southeast Berkeley adds particular value — SE has the fewest city park facilities of any quadrant and zero PRW projects on the current bond list.

If there is any doubt about whether West Campus will be available for the next decade, then a pool at San Pablo Park is essential. Staff estimates suggest the cost difference between replacing King and building new at San Pablo would not justify the risk of depending entirely on BUSD's continued cooperation.

The PRW Director has had preliminary conversations with the BUSD superintendent, who indicated that the district has no current plans for the King or West Campus sites and is willing to discuss sale, trade, or longer leases.<sup>[^4]</sup> This is encouraging, but informal — it is not a binding commitment, and the history with Willard shows how quickly circumstances can change.

The city should have more confidence in its pool site agreements before going to voters. In particular, the commission urges Council to assess the long-term viability of the West Campus lease, given that losing it would leave King as the city's only pool.

## **B. The selection process needs more transparency**

The December 2 staff report lists five selection criteria: health, life, and safety needs; critical infrastructure condition and accessibility; community use and equity; geographic distribution; and potential to leverage external or matching funds.<sup>[^1]</sup> These are good criteria. The problem is that the staff report does not document how the criteria were applied — no scoring, no weighting, no documented analysis of how individual projects were evaluated against each criterion. The PRW Director confirmed in discussions with the subcommittee that there was no formal scoring system.<sup>[^4]</sup>

This matters because when multiple reasonable criteria point in different directions — as they inevitably do — the lack of a transparent process makes it impossible to understand why certain trade-offs were made. Southeast Berkeley is one example — see Section 3E.

The commission recommends that Council document how the selection criteria were balanced or applied.

## **C. Climate framing is an opportunity**

Many projects on the list have significant climate benefits — electrification, sea level rise protection, resilient infrastructure — but these are not being communicated to voters.

Polling shows that environmental and climate infrastructure is among the most popular

categories with residents, while waterfront projects poll poorly.<sup>[^2]</sup> But waterfront projects *are* climate projects — the seawall, the Bay Trail, the sea level rise adaptation work. This is a communication gap that may be leaving support on the table.

The seawall is the clearest example: if it fails, the city loses an entire recreation area, disproportionately affecting users of low-cost activities like sailing and windsurfing — and then has to pay to fix it anyway, at higher cost. That's climate resilience, equity, and fiscal responsibility in one project.

Several shoreline projects in the bond list are also consistent with the regional shoreline adaptation planning now required by the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission, reinforcing their importance as long term climate resilience infrastructure.

Finally, many facility projects also involve electrification and gas removal. These climate benefits are real but invisible in the current framing.

The commission recommends that the city make the climate benefits of these projects visible to voters. This does not change the project list — it changes how the list is presented, and it aligns with what polls best.

#### **D. Civic Center improvements are difficult to justify**

Old City Hall and Veterans Memorial Building are included in the bond for seismic work. The commission has significant concerns about this allocation.

Community reaction to these projects has been consistently tepid to negative — met with skepticism at the Willard community meeting and across focus groups and commission consultations. These are closed buildings that are not currently serving the public.

The bond covers seismic work only. But seismic investment in closed buildings creates an implicit commitment to full rehabilitation, which would cost hundreds of millions more.<sup>[^4]</sup> This is not just a one-time expense — it is the first installment on a much larger obligation.

Berkeley has \$1.65 billion in unfunded capital liabilities. PRW alone has a \$340 million backlog.<sup>[^1]</sup> With that much deferred maintenance on active-use facilities — pools, playgrounds, parks that residents use every day — it is hard to see why seismic work on closed buildings should take priority.

These are Public Works projects, not PRW. But they share a ballot, and they affect whether the bond reaches the two-thirds threshold it needs. Voters who see money going to buildings they don't use may be harder to persuade on the rest of the bond.

The commission recommends that Council either provide a substantially stronger public justification for these projects — one that explains why they should take priority given the scale of unfunded needs elsewhere — or consider reallocating those funds to higher-impact items.

#### **E. Southeast Berkeley deserves a closer look**

Southeast Berkeley had the fewest city park facilities of any quadrant.<sup>[^7]</sup> BMC 6.42.020.C establishes a standard of two acres of parks and open space per 1,000 residents, with areas

below that standard designated as high priority for investment. The *Equitable Future* report (2016), produced by this commission, documents the SE deficit in detail.<sup>[^7]</sup> It is not referenced in the staff report.

The word "southeast" does not appear anywhere in the 50-page staff report.<sup>[^1]</sup> Neither does "quadrant." No census tract analysis was performed. "Geographic distribution" appears exactly once — as a criterion name — with no supporting analysis.

The result is zero PRW projects in the quadrant with the fewest city park facilities. This is also consistent with a pattern: Measure T1 was similarly light on Southeast Berkeley improvements. This may reflect legitimate trade-offs against other criteria — but without a transparent process, there is no way to know.

The commission recommends that Council specifically address the SE quadrant omission and explain how geographic distribution was weighed against other criteria in the selection process.

#### 4. Conclusion

This bond is necessary and well-structured. The commission is enthusiastic about the vast majority of the PRW project list and believes this bond can and should pass. The recommendations above are intended to make it stronger — to close gaps in the pool strategy, improve transparency, sharpen the climate case, address geographic equity, and ensure every dollar on the ballot can be defended to voters. We urge Council to address these items before the bond goes to voters.

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#### Sources

- [^1]: City of Berkeley, "Discussion Regarding Potential Ballot Measures for the November 3, 2026, General Municipal Election," Staff Report, December 2, 2025.
- [^2]: Polling results presented by PRW Director to subcommittee, March 3, 2026. Results not yet public at time of writing; expected to be presented to Council March 17.
- [^3]: Ballotpedia, "Berkeley, California, Measure L, Housing and Infrastructure Bond Measure (November 2022)." 26,545 yes (59.42%) / 18,130 no (40.58%).
- [^4]: PRW Director Scott Ferris, in discussions with the subcommittee (January–March 2026).
- [^5]: City of Berkeley, "Discussion Regarding Potential Ballot Measures — Supplemental," December 2, 2025. (Attachment 5, corrected project details.)
- [^6]: City of Berkeley, *Citywide Pools Master Plan*, 2009, p. 7: "These are all pool venues currently operated by City of Berkeley and located on BUSD property."
- [^7]: Parks & Waterfront Commission Subcommittee on Planning, *Berkeley Parks Planning for an Equitable Future*, July 2016.
- [^8]: City of Berkeley, *Frances Albrier Community Center Replacement Project — Executive Summary with Attachments*, Siegel and Strain Architects, 2019. Design goals include "net-zero and all-electric strategies"; existing gas equipment flagged as conflicting with the city's all-electric goal.

## Addendum A: Selection Criteria Analysis — PRW Bond Projects

The December 2 staff report lists five core criteria used to evaluate projects for the bond, plus additional criteria from the Vision 2050 framework.<sup>[^1]</sup> No definitions are provided in the report. The following definitions are inferred from project descriptions, the bond's category structure, and city context. Each PRW project is then assessed against these criteria.

### Criteria Definitions

- 1. Health, Life, and Safety (HLS)** Does this project protect the public from physical harm? Seismic hazards, structural failure, ADA non-compliance, lack of basic sanitation. Across the full bond, the paradigm case is fire stations — not just because the buildings are aging, but because without functional fire infrastructure, the city's ability to protect residents is compromised. For parks: seawall failure risk, safety hazards at aging facilities, missing restrooms.
- 2. Critical Infrastructure Condition and Accessibility (CICA)** How deteriorated is the asset, and can the public actually use it? This covers the deferred maintenance backlog — assets that are failing or approaching failure — and the rising cost of maintaining them in their current state. The "accessibility" piece includes ADA compliance and the \$48M backlog identified in the city's Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan. Distinct from HLS: this is about asset condition and cost trajectory, not immediate danger to people.
- 3. Community Use and Equity (CUE)** How many people does this serve, and does it reach underserved populations? This criterion blends two things: raw usage volume and distributional fairness. These can pull in opposite directions — a heavily used Northeast Berkeley facility scores high on use but low on equity if NE already has the highest park density. Bundling them as a single criterion means the trade-off between the two is never made explicit.
- 4. Potential to Leverage External or Matching Funds (LEV)** Can this bond dollar unlock additional dollars? Grant eligibility and matching fund ratios — where bond funds serve as local match to access state or federal grants. The inverse also matters: some projects (marina docks, King Pool) have no alternative funding path, meaning the bond is the only option.
- 5. Climate Resiliency and Sustainability (CRS)** Does this project protect against climate impacts or advance decarbonization? Sea level rise adaptation, electrification, gas removal, stormwater management. For parks, this is strongest in the shoreline projects. Many facility rehabs likely include electrification as part of modernization, but this is not documented in current project descriptions.

**Geographic Distribution** is omitted from the per-project analysis below. It is a portfolio-level criterion — applied to the overall project list rather than scored per project. The staff report lists it as a criterion but provides no supporting analysis. See Sections 3B and 3E of this report for a full discussion.

**Per-Project Assessment**

***Shoreline & Sea Level Rise***

<b>Project</b>	<b>HLS</b>	<b>CICA</b>	<b>CUE</b>	<b>LEV</b>	<b>CRS</b>
South Cove Seawall \$5M	Yes — "imminent failure," immediate safety	Yes — full replacement	Moderate — low-cost recreation, equity angle	Yes — 20% match unlocks state/federal grants	Yes
Univ Ave / Seawall Dr / Bay Trail \$5M	Low — proactive adaptation	Moderate	Yes — major public trail, high traffic	Yes — 20% match, grant-eligible	Yes
Marina Timber Piles \$6M	Moderate — structural	Yes — timber piles, 50+ yr fix	Moderate — marina users, but revenue source	No — not eligible for grants <sup>[^5]</sup>	Moderate
Marina Blvd Sea Level Rise \$1.9M	Low — proactive adaptation	Moderate	Yes — Bay Trail connection, high traffic	Yes — 50% match, grant-eligible	Yes
Univ Ave Bike Park \$2.75M	Low — proactive adaptation	Moderate	Yes — Bump track elements for youth	Yes — 50% match, grant-eligible	Yes

***Community Facilities***

<b>Project</b>	<b>HLS</b>	<b>CICA</b>	<b>CUE</b>	<b>LEV</b>	<b>CRS</b>
Albrier \$30M	Moderate — seismic; only major community center not rebuilt or upgraded; emergency shelter	Yes — dramatically undersized, aging	Yes — high-use facility, West Berkeley (equity)	Low — limited eligibility for FEMA/sustainable energy grants <sup>[^5]</sup>	Yes — conceptual design targets net-zero and all-electric; includes heat pumps, 216 kW solar

					array[^8]
King Pool \$25M	Low	Yes — 1960s facility, full replacement	Yes on use (doubles programmatic capacity), weak on equity (NE has highest park density)	No — difficult to secure grants for pool facilities[^5]	Likely — modernization, but not documented

**Park Amenities & Open Space**

Project	HLS	CICA	CUE	LEV	CRS
Adeline Corridor \$6M	Low — new construction	No — new construction	Yes — equity-priority area, South Berkeley growth, rare new open space	Moderate — federal earmark for design secured[^4]	High - new green space in urban area reduces Urban Heat Island, new trees absorb CO2
Glendale-La Loma Play \$3.5M	Moderate — safety/ADA	Yes — aging, ADA access	Yes — play structures, families	Low	Low
Cesar Chavez Pathway and Restroom \$3M	Moderate — basic sanitation (portable toilets)	Yes — pathways deteriorating, do not meet ADA codes	Yes — high-use waterfront park	Yes — 60% bond, highly competitive for State Coastal Conservancy grants[^5]	Low

Cedar Rose Play \$2.5M	Low	Moderate — heavily used play area needs safety/accessibility upgrade	Yes — families, high-visibility	Low	Low
Dreamland \$2.1M	Low	Moderate	Yes — expanded play area	Yes — 25% local match, with \$6M+ likely from additional sources <sup>[^5]</sup>	Moderate — bioswale
Dog Parks \$2.5M	Low	No — new construction	Yes — citywide, addresses significant community demand	Low	Low
Restrooms \$1.75M	Moderate — public health, basic sanitation	Yes — aging/overdue	Yes — well-used parks	Low	Low

**Sports Facilities**

Project	HLS	CICA	CUE	LEV	CRS
Harrison Turf \$6M	Low	Yes — failing natural fields	Yes — heavily used, doubles capacity	Low	Moderate – water savings
Live Oak \$3M	Low	Moderate — modernization	Yes — families, youth sports	Low	Low – water savings from turf
San Pablo Irrigation and Drainage \$1.6M	Low	Yes — failing irrigation/drainage, most used sports fields in the city	Yes — most used sports fields	No — not eligible for grants <sup>[^5]</sup>	Low

**ATTACHMENT 2**

**PRWC Dog Park Subcommittee Recommendations**

**Executive Summary**

Between October and November 2025, Dog Park Subcommittee members visited several locations identified by the Parks, Recreation, and Waterfront Department (PRWD) as potential dog park locations. Our reviews and recommendations are below. All locations have existing parks; based on PRWD guidance, Subcommittee members recommend converting a portion of the following parks to dog parks.

**Subcommittee Mission**

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 a 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, encourage off-leash activity in inappropriate areas, and diminish the quality of life for both dog owners and non-dog owners alike.

**Dog Park Site Recommendations**

1. King School Park
2. Glendale La Loma Park
3. Berkeley Way Mini Park
4. San Pablo Park
5. Aquatic Park

## King School Park

Staff-provided description of proposed dog area: West side of King Park (small)

Address: 1700 Hopkins Street

Neighborhood: Hopkins

District: 5

Councilmember: Shoshana O'Keefe

Approx. Park Acreage: 1.72 acres | 74,920 sq. ft.

Topography: Flat

Ground Surface: Grass

### Site Conditions

Fencing Feasibility: Good ease of enclosure with low fencing (too low for dogs) existing along two edges, so within existing paths. A new dog fence system is needed. Though there is room for this, and possibly a planted setback strip along the main path and sidewalk edges.

Water Source: Existing fountain or irrigation tap likely

Drainage: No signs of ponding or erosion; slight slope toward Hopkins; relatively flat and elevated above sidewalk and path.

Shade / Trees: Existing street and park trees around perimeter, sunny.

Ground Cover Condition: Natural turf is not well-maintained. A minimal scope could support DG or gravel.

Potential Conflicts: Proximity to picnic and play areas.

Neighborhood Receptivity: Observed dog activity on leash.

Other notes

- Community input is needed. This is a well-used park throughout the day. It's not clear how much this lawn area is used. It was empty while the rest of the park was active. The area size would support split small and large dog areas or one big area.

### Photos



King West looking from the sidewalk at Hopkins



King West toward the play area

## Glendale La Loma Park

Staff-provided description of proposed dog area: Second level of Glendale, La Loma Park (medium-sized park)

Address: 1300 Glendale Ave

District: 6 Councilmember: Brent Blackaby

Approx. Park Acreage: 5.61 acres | 244,400 sq. ft.

Topography: Sloped - Terraced

Ground Surface: Grass

### Site Context

Surrounding Land Uses: Residential

Access: Street frontage, street parking, ADA access, neighborhood

Visibility & Safety: Slope interrupts sightlines from the lower terrace, but “eyes on the park” from neighbors overlooking spaces.

Fencing Feasibility: Good.

Water Source: unknown

Drainage: No signs of ponding or erosion; minimal to steep slopes.

Shade / Trees: Mostly sunny. Some shade from surrounding trees.

Ground Cover Condition: Natural grass turf not well-maintained. Possibly not irrigated.

Potential Conflicts: Proximity to homes for noise.

Neighborhood Receptivity: Unknown.

### Photos – Glendale La Loma Park



Berkeley Way Mini Park

Photos





## San Pablo North of Ballpark

### Site Conditions

Existing park: Yes

Surrounding neighborhood: Yes

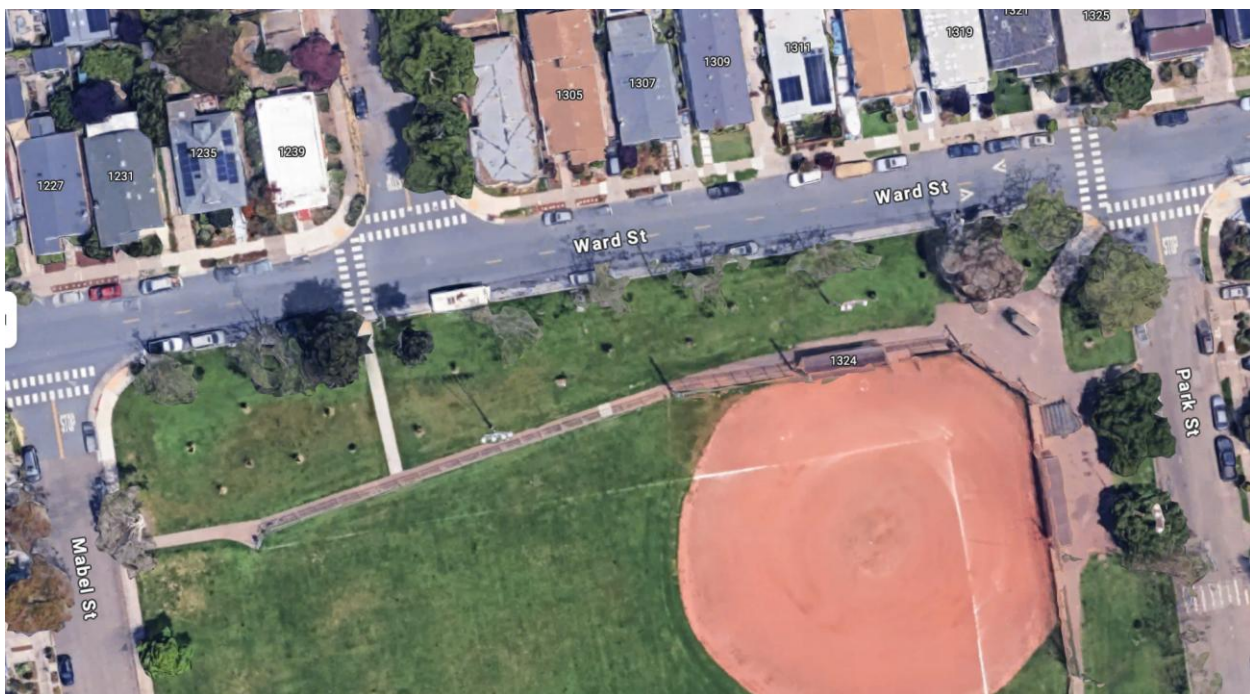
Flat land: partly

Ground material: Grass

Other notes

- Two halves of this grassy strip are separated by a walking path that leads from the sidewalk to the park
- One half has a slope (closer to the baseball dugout)
- Lots of dogs play at this park

### Photos





## Aquatic Park

### Site conditions

Existing park: Yes

Surrounding neighborhood: No

Flat land: Partly

Ground material: Dirt and grass

Other notes

- Existing water fountain (not flowing) with ground level dog bowl.
- The open space next to the parking lot and train tracks is pretty flat with a slight grade and a few trees as you walk further along the path.
- Mostly small hills, but the pictured section is flat.

### Photos





## **PRW Commission — Pre-Meeting Brief**

Berkeley Water Transportation Pier Ferry Project — Draft EIR Comments

For the April 8, 2026 Regular Meeting

**Prepared for:** PRW Commissioners

**Prepared by:** Mary Muszynski, Ysabela Philip

**Date:** April 2, 2026

**Meeting:** Wednesday, April 8, 2026, 7:00 PM

**Action requested:** Amend, if needed, and authorize transmittal

### **Purpose of this brief**

This brief prepares you for the April 8 agenda item on the Draft EIR for the Berkeley Water Transportation Pier Ferry Project. The EIR Subcommittee has prepared proposed comments and questions for response by the EIR preparers.

The comments and questions are purely informational and take no position on the merits of the project.

After the Final EIR is prepared, the Commission will be able to review the merits of the Project and make appropriate comments and recommendations to the City Council.

Please read this brief and both documents before the meeting.

At the April 8 meeting, the full Commission will:

1. Propose and vote on any amendments commissioners wish to make
2. Adopt the final comments as an official Commission document
3. Authorize the Chair to sign and submit the formal CEQA comments before the April 28, 2026 deadline

### **Key context for discussion**

**These comments will not delay the project.** CEQA comments submitted during the public comment period require written responses in the Final EIR, nothing more. They don't trigger recirculation or delay certification. The subcommittee specifically avoided requesting recirculation.

**The comment deadline was extended to April 28, 2026.** The original deadline was April 13. Staff confirmed the two-week extension was granted at public request. This gives the Commission adequate time after the April 8 vote to finalize and submit.

**The Commission has jurisdiction.** The PRW Commission’s advisory role over waterfront access, recreation, parks, and marina-related infrastructure under BMC Chapter 3.26 directly covers the subject matter of these comments.

### **What commissioners should do before April 8**

1. Read the Formal CEQA Comments.
2. Note any concerns, questions, or proposed amendments. Bring them to the meeting. Amendments can be adopted by motion.
3. Come prepared to vote on adopting the comments and authorizing submission.

### **Motion needed at the April 8 meeting**

#### **Motion: Adopt and Authorize Submission of Formal CEQA Comments**

“I move that the Parks, Recreation and Waterfront Commission adopt the Formal CEQA Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Report for the Berkeley Water Transportation Pier Ferry Project, State Clearinghouse Number 2025040995 [*with the amendments discussed tonight*], and authorize the Chair to sign and transmit the Formal CEQA Comments to Liza McNulty, PE, Capital Improvement Program Manager, Parks, Recreation and Waterfront Department, for inclusion in the public record, to be received before the April 28, 2026 comment deadline.”

*Add “with the amendments discussed tonight” if any amendments were adopted during discussion. If the document is adopted as presented, omit.*

### **Timeline**

<b>Apr 8</b>	Commission reviews, amends if needed, adopts, and authorizes submission
<b>Apr 9–11</b>	Staff incorporates any amendments; Chair signs; Staff transmits
<b>Apr 28</b>	EIR comment period closes (hard deadline for submission to Liza)
<b>Jul–Sep</b>	Final EIR anticipated; Commission may review the merits of the Project and make appropriate comments and recommendations to the City Council

### **Questions?**

Contact Commission Secretary Roger Miller (510-981-6704, [RMiller@berkeleyca.gov](mailto:RMiller@berkeleyca.gov)) for procedural questions, or the EIR Subcommittee for questions about the substance of the comments.

## **PARKS, RECREATION AND WATERFRONT COMMISSION**

City of Berkeley

Liza McNulty, PE  
Capital Improvement Program Manager  
Parks, Recreation & Waterfront Department  
City of Berkeley  
2180 Milvia Street, 3rd Floor  
Berkeley, CA 94704  
lmcnulty@berkeleyca.gov

**RE:** Parks, Recreation and Waterfront Commission — Formal Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Report, Berkeley Water Transportation Pier Ferry Project (State Clearinghouse No. 2025040995)

**Comment Deadline:** April 28, 2026, 5:00 p.m.

### **Formal Comments on the Draft EIR**

The Parks, Recreation and Waterfront Commission submits the following formal comments on the Draft EIR for the Berkeley Water Transportation Pier Ferry Project. These comments are organized by topic area and are intended for inclusion in the public record and response in the Final EIR. The Commission requests written responses to each comment pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21104 and CEQA Guidelines Section 15088.

#### **Section A: Project Delineation and Description**

##### **Comment A-1: Incomplete Project Description — Universal Charging Float**

EIR Section 2.5.1 and Figure 2-4 (footnote 5) describe the proposed Universal Charging Float (UCF) as a key piece of ferry infrastructure, noting it would feature a 1.351 MWh Echandia battery weighing approximately 47,554 pounds. However, Figure 2-4 states that "the UCF has not yet been designed" and that "UCF dimensions may differ from what is shown" in renderings. The UCF is not included in the project renderings.

The EIR should disclose the UCF's size, configuration, placement, and operational characteristics, analyze the associated environmental impacts, and identify appropriate mitigation measures.

##### **Comment A-2: Marina Master Plan Consistency Requires Clarification**

The 2003 Berkeley Marina Master Plan governs permitted uses at the project site (EIR Section 3.9.2). The Plan restricts new development to replacing and remodeling existing commercial and non-profit facilities, with limited expansion on a case-by-case basis. The Plan does not identify a commercial ferry terminal as a permitted use. EIR Section 3.9.4 (Impact LU-2) evaluates the project against individual Master Plan policies but does not analyze whether a commercial ferry terminal is a permitted use under the Plan's development restrictions. The EIR should provide that analysis.

## **Section B: Parks and Open Space Impacts**

### **Comment B-1: Significant and Unavoidable Recreation Impacts Lack Recreation-Specific Mitigation**

EIR Section 3.11.4 (Impact REC-2) finds significant and unavoidable construction impacts on the surrounding recreational environment. The mitigation measures listed for this impact are drawn entirely from other chapters (noise, air quality, biology, etc.) and none specifically addresses the loss of recreational access during construction. The EIR should identify construction-period mitigation measures that directly address recreational displacement, including maintenance of access to adjacent parks, wayfinding for recreational users, and scheduling protocols to reduce disruption during peak use periods.

### **Comment B-2: Impacts on Existing Recreational Fishing Are Inadequately Analyzed**

EIR Section 3.11.4 (Impact REC-1) identifies the restoration of pier fishing as a project benefit but does not analyze how fishing activities will coexist with the gated ferry boarding areas described in Section 2.5.1. The EIR should demonstrate how the pier layout accommodates recreational fishing alongside ferry operations and should address construction phasing to minimize the period during which no pier fishing access is available.

### **Comment B-3: Construction Noise Mitigation Does Not Address Named Adjacent Parks**

EIR Section 2.2 identifies the project site as immediately adjacent to several heavily used parks and recreational facilities, including the waterfront park (referred to in the EIR as César E. Chávez Park), Horseshoe Park, Shorebird Park, Marina Mall, Adventure Playground, and portions of the Bay Trail Extension.

EIR Section 3.10.4 (Impact NOI-1) and Section 3.11.4 (Impact REC-2) confirm that construction noise, particularly pile driving, would exceed applicable Berkeley Municipal Code thresholds at sensitive receptors. Mitigation Measure NOI-1 requires a Construction Noise Management Plan but does not reference any of the named adjacent parks or require park-specific protections. NOI-1 should be revised to include park-specific protections for each adjacent park.

The EIR should disclose the expected construction noise levels at each park with those protections in place.

## **Section C: Environmental and Biological Impacts**

### **Comment C-1: Eelgrass Survey Findings Must Be Disclosed and Mitigated**

EIR Section 3.3 concludes that no eelgrass is currently present within the project site based on baywide inventories from 2003, 2009, and 2014. However, Figure 3.3-2 identifies areas of potential eelgrass habitat within the project footprint, and no site-specific eelgrass delineation survey has been conducted. Eelgrass beds in San Francisco Bay constitute Essential Fish Habitat under the Magnuson-Stevens Act (EIR Section 3.3).

The EIR should require a pre-construction eelgrass delineation survey, analyze potential impacts, and identify mitigation measures addressing NOAA Essential Fish Habitat consultation requirements.

### **Comment C-2: Ferry Wake and Vessel Disturbance Impacts on Waterbirds and Shorebird Park**

EIR Section 3.3 concludes that ferry wake would be "consistent with existing vessel operations" and finds operational biological impacts less than significant. This conclusion is not supported by any quantitative wake comparison, species-specific assessment, or analysis of foraging disruption along the transit corridor. The vessel approach speed protocol referenced in the analysis was designed for water quality and turbidity, not biological protection.

The EIR should provide a quantitative operational biological impact analysis that addresses the combined disturbance from vessel operations — including wake, noise, lighting, vehicle traffic, and passenger activity — on foraging and roosting waterbird populations, special-status fish, and marine mammals along the transit corridor.

### **Comment C-3: Jurisdictional Waters Compensatory Mitigation Baseline Needs Clarification**

EIR Section 3.3 (Mitigation Measure BIO-3) requires compensatory mitigation for impacts to jurisdictional waters at a 1:1 ratio, to be achieved through demolition of portions of the existing pier, but defers the supporting mitigation plan entirely to a post-approval process. CEQA requires that mitigation measures be sufficiently defined to allow meaningful evaluation prior to project approval.

The EIR should include a preliminary calculation comparing the footprint of new fill against proposed demolition to demonstrate the 1:1 ratio is achievable, clarify whether the ratio applies to piling area, deck area, or both, and specify whether the mitigation plan will be subject to public review and agency approval prior to construction.

### **Comment C-4: Tree Removal Analysis Is Inadequate and Mitigation Is Undefined**

EIR Section 3.3 (Impact BIO-5) discloses that approximately 39 of 61 trees on the project site would be removed, but the analysis is limited to confirming that no coast live oaks are among the trees to be removed and that a removal permit will be obtained. The EIR should provide a tree-by-tree inventory identifying each tree proposed for removal by species, diameter at breast height (DBH), condition rating, or location in order to enable the public to evaluate whether individual trees qualify for protection under Berkeley Municipal Code Chapter 12.44.

The EIR does not address the functional recreational role of the trees proposed for removal. The EIR should analyze whether removal of the Seawall Drive tree canopy would change wind exposure conditions at the South Sailing Basin and whether those changes would affect the safety of recreational water users, and identify appropriate mitigation measures.

The EIR defers the Urban Forestry Unit's replacement evaluation entirely to post-approval, stating only that "it is expected that some replacement would be required" (EIR Section 3.3).

Unlike other biological resource impacts addressed in this EIR, Impact BIO-5 includes no standalone mitigation measure for tree removal. The proposed replacement list is identified in the project description (EIR Section 2.5.3) but is not incorporated into any mitigation measure, commitment, or condition of approval. The EIR should be revised to identify protected trees, potential impacts from their removal and appropriate mitigation measures.

## **Section D: Operational Impacts on the Multi-Use Recreation Area**

### **Comment D-1: Ferry Wake Impacts on Non-Motorized Watercraft and Open-Water Swimmers Not Analyzed for Operations**

EIR Section 3.11.4 notes that the Berkeley Marina serves kayaks, sea kayaks, sailboards, paddleboards, and windsurfers, and that open-water swimmers use the waters around the marina coves. EIR Section 3.11 does not identify open-water swimming in its baseline characterization of existing recreational uses, a baseline adequacy issue under CEQA Guidelines Section 15125.

EIR Section 3.11.4 concludes that ferry wake “would not be noticeable within the context of the Berkeley Waterfront area and existing sailboat, motorized boats, and other recreational craft use.” This conclusion is not supported by any quantitative wake height or wake energy analysis at locations where swimmers and non-motorized watercraft users are present. The vessel speed protocol referenced in Section 3.11.4 is analyzed in Section 3.8.4 for turbidity and sediment resuspension, not for physical safety effects on people in the water. This is a permanent operational impact that will exist for the life of the project.

The EIR should provide quantitative wake analysis for all recreational use locations, including locations used by open water swimmers. The EIR should also identify the physical effects of ferry wake on water conditions at kayak launch areas and sailboard launch zones. Vessel speed protocols should be adopted as mitigation measures to protect the safety of each recreational user group.

### **Comment D-2: Maritime Security Exclusion Zone Impacts on Recreational Access Are Not Addressed**

The EIR does not address operational access restrictions that may arise from Maritime Transportation Security Act (MTSA) compliance. Under 33 CFR § 105.200, passenger vessel facilities serving vessels of 150 gross tons or more are subject to security zone requirements that can extend 25 to 100 meters into surrounding waters. The EIR does not identify the gross tonnage of the proposed ferry vessels and therefore cannot determine whether MTSA requirements apply. The EIR should disclose the gross tonnage of the proposed vessels, determine whether MTSA security zone requirements are triggered, and if so, analyze the impact of those zones on recreational water access adjacent to the terminal.

### **Comment D-3: Operational Noise from Terminal Activities Is Not Adequately Analyzed**

The parks proximate to the ferry terminal and approach roadways are sensitive uses. EIR Section 3.10.4 analyzes operational noise and does not assess impacts on adjacent parks, including Shorebird Park and the Bay Trail corridor, as distinct noise-sensitive receptors.

The EIR's construction noise analysis applies a residential threshold to Shorebird Park pursuant to Berkeley General Plan Policy EM-47, acknowledging parks as noise-sensitive receptors (Section 3.10.4, footnote 14). Tables 3.10-13 and 3.10-15 show Shorebird Park closer to the project site than Skates on the Bay.

The EIR should provide a cumulative operational noise impact analysis for Shorebird Park and the Bay Trail corridor applying appropriate outdoor recreational noise compatibility standards, and identify appropriate mitigation measures.

**Comment D-4: Terminal Lighting Impacts on Adjacent Parks and Nesting Wildlife Not Analyzed**

EIR Section 3.1.4 (Impact AES-4) finds light and glare impacts less than significant, citing DarkSky-compliant fixtures, photocell controls, and timers. The project site is immediately adjacent to Shorebird Park, which provides nesting and foraging habitat for sensitive shorebird species. The EIR should analyze the impact of artificial light at night (ALAN) from terminal operations on nesting shorebirds and identify ALAN as a separate operational impact category.

**Comment D-5: Sea Level Rise Operational Adaptation Not Adequately Addressed**

EIR Section 3.8.4 and the project's coastal study (COWI, December 2025, cited in EIR footnote 7) confirm that the pier, breakwater, and plaza are designed to accommodate approximately 1.6 feet of sea level rise by 2075. The EIR classifies the pier as a Risk Category IV Essential Facility with a design life of approximately 50 years (EIR Section 2.5.1). The California Coastal Commission's Sea Level Rise Policy Guidance (November 2024) recommends that critical infrastructure use a planning horizon of 100 years or greater, and the 2024 OPC Sea Level Rise Guidance recommends evaluating Intermediate, Intermediate-High, and High Scenarios to assess a spectrum of potential impacts. By 2100, the 2024 OPC Guidance projects statewide sea level rise between 1.6 and 3.1 feet under Intermediate to Intermediate-High scenarios, with higher amounts under High scenarios.

The EIR should provide a 100-year analysis of impacts to the pier, breakwater and landside infrastructure under the Intermediate-High and High SLR scenarios as recommended by the 2024 OPC Guidance, and identify appropriate mitigation measures.

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Allan Abshez  
Chair, Parks, Recreation and Waterfront Commission  
City of Berkeley

For questions, contact: Parks, Recreation & Waterfront Department, City of Berkeley, 2180 Milvia Street, 3rd Floor, Berkeley, CA 94704. Comments must be received by 5:00 p.m., April 28, 2026. Submit to: [lmcnulty@berkeleyca.gov](mailto:lmcnulty@berkeleyca.gov)



Rashi Kesarwani  
Councilmember, District 1

CONSENT CALENDAR  
March 24, 2026

TO: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

FROM: Councilmember Rashi Kesarwani (Author), Councilmembers Terry Taplin, Ben Bartlett and Brent Blackaby (Co-Sponsors)

SUBJECT: Referral to the Parks, Recreation and Waterfront Commission to officially Rename Cesar Chavez Park.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

Refer to the Parks, Recreation and Waterfront Commission to officially rename Cesar Chavez Park. This referral to the Parks Commission initiates a community process which should incorporate feedback from the Commemorative Committee (which initiated the first renaming process of the park in 1994) as well as input from other community members and stakeholders. We recommend that Dolores Huerta be among the options considered for renaming.

And further, direct the City Manager to remove or cover all signage bearing the name Cesar Chavez from park property as soon as practicable while leaving intact signage related to directions and park rules.

### **CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS**

On March 18, 2026, *The New York Times* published an investigation finding extensive evidence that United Farm Workers (UFW) co-founder Cesar Chavez, now deceased, sexually abused young girls and women who worked within The Farmworkers Movement.<sup>1</sup> Two women, now in their sixties, described to the *Times* how the civil rights icon and leader abused them for years. The investigation, based on interviews with more than 60 people—including top aides, relatives, and members of the UFW—found extensive evidence to support their accusations and those raised by several other women, including Dolores Huerta, working within The Movement.

That same day, Dolores Huerta issued a statement publicly acknowledging the abuse she had kept secret for the last six decades in the interest of protecting The Farmworkers Movement.<sup>2</sup> Huerta identified herself as a survivor “of violence, of sexual abuse, of domineering men who saw me, and other women, as property, or things to control....” Huerta also commented that she carried this secret for years “because building the movement and securing farmworker rights was my life’s work...I channeled

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<sup>1</sup> New York Times, March 18, 2026: “Cesar Chavez, a Civil Rights Icon, Is Accused of Abusing Girls for Years” <https://www.nytimes.com/2026/03/18/us/cesar-chavez-sexual-abuse-allegations-ufw.html>

<sup>2</sup> Medium, March 18, 2026: “A Statement from Dolores Huerta” [https://medium.com/@dolores\\_huerta/march-18-2026-e74c20430555](https://medium.com/@dolores_huerta/march-18-2026-e74c20430555)

everything I had into advocating on behalf of millions of farmworkers and others who were suffering and deserved equal rights.”<sup>3</sup>

That inner strength and dedication to human rights sustained Dolores Huerta throughout her entire career. In addition to co-leading the UFW, she worked with the Feminist Majority Foundation to help Latina women become more active within politics, founded the Dolores Huerta Foundation<sup>4</sup> that advocates for social justice issues and marginalized communities through grassroots organizing and civic engagement, and has been active in politics by supporting causes such as immigration reform and LGBTQ rights.

Born on April 10, 1930 in New Mexico, Dolores Huerta grew up mostly in California, moving to the state during her early elementary school years after her mother divorced her father. Throughout her life, she has remained active in California-based human rights issues, starting with her deep involvement supporting farmworkers throughout the state, continuing on with the Bakersfield-based Dolores Huerta Foundation, as well as her campaigning for statewide propositions and supporting local politicians. In addition to her many awards honoring her human rights work, the California State Senate awarded Ms. Huerta “Outstanding Labor Leader” in 1984. In 2018, then-Governor Jerry Brown signed into law Assembly Bill 2644, first introduced by Assemblywoman Eloise Gomez Reyes, designating April 10th Dolores Huerta Day.<sup>5</sup>

## **BACKGROUND**

Cesar Chavez Park was officially renamed after the labor leader on July 26, 1994 when the Berkeley City Council passed resolution No. 57,627 N.S. (attached). Before that it had been called North Waterfront Park. The name change was in recognition of the labor leader’s influence on the Berkeley community and the rest of the world, and to commemorate his life’s work for future generations. When news of the sexual abuse accusations against him surfaced on March 18th, many residents reached out to City Council inquiring about changing the name of this park, reflecting community members’ current pain and anger that a leader of such significance would use his status to dominate, silence, and abuse women who worked beside him.

Since the news broke, cities, school districts, and leaders throughout the state and country have been grappling with the information and the many public facilities and events that have honored Cesar Chavez. As a once-revered labor hero, many parks, pathways, streets, murals, schools, and community buildings bear his name as a way to honor his work and advocacy on behalf of workers. Currently, many city, school board and state leaders are considering changing the names of the facilities that honor him, as *Berkeleyside* and *The San Francisco Chronicle* have covered.<sup>6</sup> State legislators have

<sup>3</sup> Medium, March 18, 2026: “A Statement from Dolores Huerta”

[https://medium.com/@dolores\\_huerta/march-18-2026-e74c20430555](https://medium.com/@dolores_huerta/march-18-2026-e74c20430555)

<sup>4</sup> Dolores Huerta Foundation: <https://doloreshuerta.org/>

<sup>5</sup> Dolores Huerta Wikipedia page: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dolores\\_Huerta](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dolores_Huerta)

<sup>6</sup> *Berkeleyside*, March 18 article by Natalie Orenstein, Alec N. Gecan, Vanessa Arredondo, Felicia Mello and Zac Farber: “Berkeley lionized Cesar Chavez. Now it’s reevaluating”

<https://www.berkeleyside.org/2026/03/18/cesar-chavez-berkeley-reevaluates> and San Francisco Chronicle March 19 article by Roland Li: Cesar Chavez’s name is all over the Bay Area. Will streets, schools and parks get renamed?” <https://www.sfchronicle.com/bayarea/article/cesar-chavez-name-streets-parks-22083714.php>

agreed to legislation to rename the upcoming holiday on March 31, 2026 Farmworker Day.

### **RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION**

Like others, community leaders in Berkeley are struggling to integrate the painful news of the accusations against Cesar Chavez while many are also wanting to elevate and honor Dolores Huerta who shines as a pillar of strength even more so now that we know she hid her own pain in an effort to focus on support for laborers. Dolores Huerta has accomplishments as a labor organizer equal to Cesar Chavez, as well as a significant background advocating for human rights issues. Considering renaming the park for her would be a fitting tribute to her life and accomplishments and her survivorship..

### **ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY**

There is no significant environmental impact of this referral. Renaming the park could be a way of promoting a sense of healing within the community and thus be a way of advancing a more positive social environment.

### **FISCAL IMPACT**

This referral has no fiscal impact save staff time for the Parks, Recreation and Waterfront Commission secretary. It is expected that this commission would also investigate costs for replacement signage to accommodate the renaming.

### **CONTACT PERSON**

Rashi Kesarwani, Councilmember District 1

(510) 981-7110

Attachments:

- 1) Resolution NO. 57,627-N.S. RE-NAMING NORTH WATERFRONT PARK THE "CESAR E. CHAVEZ PARK"

**CITYWIDE COMMEMORATION COMMITTEE AGENDA**  
**Zoom meeting tentatively planned for Monday, April 13, 5 pm**

**REBOOT CITYWIDE COMMEMORATIVE COMMITTEE & MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO BUSD AND COB**

Mayor Ishii's representative (Andrea Bernal) ?	Todd Kerr, Editor, Berkeley Times
BUSD Supt. Representative	Beatriz Leyva Cutler, BUSD Director, Emeritus
School Board Rep - Ana Vasudeo	Seasonal Gathering Coordinator (Vivian White)
State Senator Arreguin's rep - Ariana Casanova	Santiago Casal, Founder/Director, Tribute Site
Council representative (Cecilia Lunaparra, or D1/D2)	Coordinator of Site Stewards (Carlos Hill)
Latinos Unidos rep (Lupe Gallego-Diaz, Chair)	BCC rep (Lissette Flores)
BFT representative (Matt Meyer)	Multicultural Institute (Mirna Cervantes)
Ecology Center rep. (Martin Bourque)	Adult School (?)
UCB rep (Rubén Lizardo, Dir. Govt. & Com. Relations)	
Sheila Jordan, Alam Cty Brd of Ed, Emeritus)	
Martin Nicolaus, CEO of the C..... Park Conservancy	

**DISCUSS AND RECOMMEND CHANGES TO PARK**

- The name of the park.
- Statement on how to strongly frame any references to Chavez.
- Update and replace, the three main signs at the Park (Partially removed)  
And within those signs the 12" by 25" updated section on the Tribute Site (DONE)
- Remove the wood pieces above the three main signs that say "Cesar E. Chavez Park) (DONE)
- Chavez Park road signage routing people driving toward the Park.

**BUSD CHANGES**

- Remove/Replace Chavez related curriculum for Commemorative Period
- **NOTE:** Begin to work on how to introduce all this to Berkeley Students, particularly around boys and demeaning and exploitive attitudes/behavior toward young women and girls, and sexual violence in general.

See attached article from EdSource - <https://edsources.org/2026/cesar-chavez-schools-remove-names/754713>

**CHANGES TO CITYWIDE COMMEMORATIVE COMMITTEE**

In addition to weighing in on the above:

- Change the name of the Citywide *Commemorative Period*
- Rethink *Commemorative Period dates*: Currently March 20<sup>th</sup> (Planting Season), thru Chavez Day, March 31 and on to April 10 Dolores' birthday.
- The name of the Chavez Park Conservancy, which is already underway
- The name of the Cesar Chavez Off Leash Area at the Park, which is also underway

**REVIEW CHANGES TO TRIBUTE SITE**

- Seek City funding for the following:
- Change name of Tribute Site
- Redesign and reproduce all the signage (8 signs) and half of the audio and video pieces linked to QR Codes (i.e., 6 audio and video pieces)
- Redesign/produce the content of the website: [www.solarcalendar.org](http://www.solarcalendar.org)
- Redesign the content and name of Commemorative Period website: [chavezhuerta.org](http://chavezhuerta.org)
- Change Email address – [chavezhuertatributesite@gmail.com](mailto:chavezhuertatributesite@gmail.com) to [tributesite@gmail.com](mailto:tributesite@gmail.com)??

Other changes??

## Agenda Item 17. Recent Council Reports

### **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:

#### **March 17, 2026, (Special – 6pm)**

1.-Presentation and Discussion of Community Survey Results and Direction Regarding Potential Ballot Measures for the November 3, 2026, General Municipal Election

URL: <https://berkeleyca.gov/sites/default/files/2026-03/2026-03-17%20Special%20Item%2001%20Presentation%20and%20Discussion.pdf>

#### **Presentation**

URL: <https://berkeleyca.gov/sites/default/files/2026-03/2026-03-17%20Special%20Item%2001%20Presentation%20and%20Discussion%20-%20Pres.pdf>