



PARKS, RECREATION, AND WATERFRONT COMMISSION

Regular Meeting

Wednesday, May 13, 2026, 7:00 P.M.
 Frances Albrier Community Center
 2800 Park St, 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. **City of Berkeley Land Acknowledgement:**¹
 4. **Action: Approval of Agenda.** (chair)
 5. **Action: Approval of Minutes** for Wednesday, April 8, 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/Action:** Update on PRW FY2027-28 Proposed CIP Plan (Ferris).**
 10. **Discussion/Action:** Update on PRW FY2027-28 Proposed Budget (Ferris).**
 11. **Discussion/Action:** Update on PRW Leases and Licenses (Erickson).
 12. **Discussion/Action:** Update from Commission Subcommittee studying the need for increased parks facilities in Berkeley's Southeast Quadrant (Abshez).
 13. **Discussion/Action:** Update from Dog Park Subcommittee re potential funding sources for new dog parks (Nash).
 14. **Discussion/Action:** Discuss/Adopt Subcommittee's State of the Parks communication to Council and designate a commissioner to speak at Council on May 19, 2026 (Abshez).*
 15. **Discussion/Action:** Discuss/Recommend Naming of a Public Plaza in South Berkeley as Delores Cooper Plaza per Council referral to PRW Commission (Ferris).*
 16. **Discussion/Action:** Discuss/Recommend new name for former Cesar Chavez Park per Council referral to PRW Commission (Ferris).*
 17. **Information Reports.**
 18. **Recent PRW Council Reports.***

¹ 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.

19. Future Agenda Items: Pier-Ferry Project; Workplan; Nexus Study; Public Art in Aq Park; June 10 Presentation on 600 Bancroft Project; June 10 Presentation on Aquatic Park Dreamland and Bioretention projects; Rename gym at Frances Albrier Center; Fitness Courts Project.

20. Communications.* City Manager memo to Council re: Vegetation and Tree Removal on East Side of Aquatic Park, 04/06/2026; City Manager memo to Council re: Throne portable restroom update, 05/05/2026; Emails re: renaming CCP (6).

21. Next PRW Commission meeting: Wed, June 10, 2026 (Regular).

22. Adjournment.

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

** document will be provided at the meeting.

Agenda

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@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

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

Current assignments

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Subcomm on dogs and parks (07-09-2025) (Nash; Stewart) • Subcomm on parks impact fee (07-09-2025) (Abshez; Rybczynski) • Subcomm on Waterfront Fees (10-08-2025) (Abshez; Philip) • Subcomm on City bond measure 2026 (10-08-25) (Muszynski; Nash; Samelson; Stewart) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Liaison - Civic Arts in Parks (Carrie Rybczynski) • Subcomm on State of the Parks (2/11/26) (Abshez; Rybczynski; Samelson) • Subcomm on underserved SE quadrant (03-11-2026) (Abshez; Nash; Philip). • Subcomm on Golden Gate Fields potential (4/8/26)
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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 nd Wednesday per month)	Time	Notes
2026			
January	Tuesday, January 13	7:00 p.m.	Special Mtg
February	Wednesday, February 11	7:00 p.m.	Regular Mtg
March	Wednesday, March 11	7:00 p.m.	Regular Mtg
April	Wednesday, April 8	7:00 p.m.	Regular Mtg, Willard Ctr
May	Wednesday, May 13	7:00 p.m.	Regular Mtg
June	Wednesday, June 10	7:00 p.m.	Regular Mtg
July	Wednesday, July 8	7:00 p.m.	Regular Mtg
August	No meeting		
September	Wednesday, September 9	7:00 p.m.	Regular Mtg
October	Wednesday, October 14	7:00 p.m.	Regular Mtg
November	Tuesday, November 10	7:00 p.m.	Regular Mtg
December	No Meeting		
2027			
January	Wednesday, January 13	7:00 p.m.	Regular Mtg



PARKS, RECREATION, AND WATERFRONT COMMISSION

Regular Meeting

Wednesday, April 8, 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: Rybczynski; Stewart; Nash; Muszynski; Samelson; Philip; Abshez. Absent: none.
3. City of Berkeley Land Acknowledgement:¹
4. **Action: Approval of Agenda.** (chair) (M/S/C: Samelson/Stewart/U) Ayes: Rybczynski; Stewart; Nash; Muszynski; Samelson; Philip; Abshez; Noes: none.
5. **Action: Approval of Minutes** for Wednesday, March 11, 2026 (chair).* Correction needed to March 11, 2026 minutes: 2. Roll Call Present: Rybczynski; Stewart; Nash; Muszynski; Philip; Leave of Absence: Samelson; Abshez (M/S/C: Abshez/U) Ayes: Rybczynski; Stewart; Nash; Muszynski; Samelson; Philip; Abshez; Noes: none.
6. **Public Comment** (2 min each). a) Jim McGrath, UPRR; b) Kelly Hammargren, meeting location, special parks fee; c) Claudia Kawczynska, subcommittee meetings, capital, renaming of Cesar Chavez Park; d) Erin Diehm, Aquatic Park, Ferry Draft EIR; e) Morgan, renaming of Cesar Chavez Park.
7. Chair's Report/Discussion. Updated was provided.
8. **Director's Report:** Update on special events, community engagement, capital and maintenance projects, forestry, recreation, budget, fees (Erickson). Update was provided.
9. **Discussion:** Update on Union Pacific Railroad Trackbed Replacement Project at southern end of Aquatic Park (Erickson). Update was provided.
10. **Discussion/Action:** Update on PRW CIP Plan for FY2027-28 (Erickson).** Update was provided.
11. **Discussion/Action:** Update on subcommittee on parks and open space in the City's Southeast Quadrant (Abshez). Update was provided by B. Nash, Y. Philip, and A. Abshez.
12. **Discussion/Action:** Update on potential facilities bond measure for Nov 2026 (Rybczynski).* Motion for Leigh Stewart to comment at the April 14, 2026 City Council meeting on the Commission's recommendation on the bond measure. (M/S/C: Abshez//U) Ayes: Rybczynski; Stewart; Nash; Muszynski; Samelson; Philip; Abshez; Noes: none.
13. **Discussion/Action:** Subcommittee written comments on Draft EIR for Pier Water Transportation Project to be sent to the project manager (Muszynski).* Motion to approve formal comments for submission to the project manager (M/S/C: Abshez/ Philip/ U) Ayes: Rybczynski; Stewart; Nash; Muszynski; Samelson; Philip; Abshez; Noes: none.
14. **Discussion/Action:** Update on subcommittee on State of the Parks (Abshez). Update provided.
15. **Discussion/Action:** Council Referral to the Parks, Recreation and Waterfront Commission to officially Rename Cesar Chavez Park (Abshez).* Discussion was held.

16. **Discussion/Action:** Create subcommittee to track the Golden Gate Fields potential park and open space project (Abshez). The commission M/S/C to create a subcommittee (M/S/C: Abshez/ Philip/ U) Ayes: Rybczynski; Stewart; Muszynski; Samelson; Philip; Abshez; Noes: none.
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).
21. **Adjournment.** 9:55pmm.
 - * document is attached to agenda packet and on the commission website.
 - ** document will be provided at the meeting.
 - Commissioners in attendance: 7 of 7 appointed.
 - Public in attendance: 9
 - Public speakers: 5

***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>

State of the Parks Message

April 30, 2026

Introduction

On April 21st, the City Council directed the City Manager to develop 10-20 measurable goals and metrics to enable the Council and the public to track the City's performance on its key priorities, including housing production, public safety, transportation, public works, parks and recreation, homelessness, and economic development. The Commission supports the Council's action and in this, the Commission's first annual *State of the Parks Message* to the Council, advises that Berkeley is not meeting its own parkland goals, which themselves fall below State standards.

The Council should take prompt and concrete action to prevent further decline in the quantity and quality of park and open space for our residents. Berkeley is already falling short of its relatively modest standards, and without intervention, conditions will continue to deteriorate, particularly as the City plans for substantial population growth driven by new housing. Parks and recreation must be elevated as a core public service priority, with a clear and sustained commitment to increase and stabilize funding for parkland acquisition, capital improvements, and ongoing maintenance. Reductions in Parks Department funding would deepen existing shortfalls, move the City further out of alignment with its own standards, and undermine broader policy goals related to housing, equity, and quality of life.

Executive Summary

Since 1977, Berkeley has maintained a goal of providing 2 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents. Under the California Statewide Park Development and Community Revitalization Act (AB 31, 2008), a community is considered "critically underserved" if it provides less than 3 acres of usable parkland per 1,000 residents. Similarly, California's Quimby Act (Government Code Section 66477) authorizes cities to require new development to dedicate land or pay fees to meet the 3-acre standard. In addition, California's parks equity framework, "[Parks for All Californians](#)," recommends that residents have access to usable parkland within one-half mile of their homes to support safe, convenient, and car-free access.

By these standards, Berkeley is critically underserved in available parkland, and will fall further behind as an estimated 18,000 new residents are added to our city over the next 15 years.

While Parks Department staff work diligently to deliver services with limited resources, funding for park facilities and programs has not kept pace with need. Maintenance gaps persist, active recreation facilities are limited, and key assets - such as Willard Pool, closed in 2010 - have not been replaced. The proposed reduction to the Parks Department's budget, intended to help balance the City's budget, would further exacerbate these deficiencies.

In response, the Commission recommends that the City Council take the following actions:

A. Adopt a Parks Impact Fee

As demonstrated in many neighboring jurisdictions, a Parks Impact Fee can enhance the development of new housing and provide funding to ensure that new development contributes proportionately to the expansion, improvement, and long-term maintenance of park and recreation facilities.

B. Update the General Plan Open Space and Recreation Element

Berkeley's General Plan's Open Space and Recreation Element is overdue for an update to reflect current priorities, including increased demand for recreational and family-friendly facilities, public health, equitable access and climate resilience.

C. Refrain from Cutting the Parks Department Budget and Prioritize Investment

As the City addresses its structural budget deficit, parks and recreation are essential services that require more—not less—investment. The Parks Department budget should not be cut, and funding for infrastructure, programming, and staffing should remain a priority.

D. Pursue Strategic Land Acquisition

Strategic land acquisition and/or repurposing can correct the City's parks deficit, expand park access – particularly in underserved areas – and improve the equitable distribution of park and recreational space citywide.

E. Explore Funding and Governance Frameworks for the Waterfront

The Berkeley marina and waterfront serve users from throughout the region, yet the City of Berkeley bears full financial responsibility for their upkeep, including \$154 million in unfunded capital liabilities. The City should reexamine whether the current funding and governance structure is properly aligned with the waterfront's regional purpose and explore models that better reflect that shared benefit.

Discussion

Berkeley's Existing Parkland Supply Does Not Meet City or State Standards

As noted above, in failing to meet the State statutory standard, Berkeley's residents are "critically underserved" by the City's existing park goal standard of 2 acres per 1,000 residents. Even under this already insufficient standard, the City still falls short. Based on current population, Berkeley should provide approximately 256 acres of parkland, yet it maintains only about 230 acres, reflecting a clear and ongoing shortfall.

The insufficient amount of parkland acreage is only one part of the problem. Almost 40 percent of the City's claimed parkland is concentrated in a single asset, the 90-acre (former) Cesar Chavez Park. While it provides open space, shoreline access, and the largest off-leash dog area in the City, its general utility is constrained by its remote location west of I-880, as well as

by the recent discovery of subsurface radioactive contamination, which has resulted in the prohibition of soil disturbance and the consequent limitations on potential park improvements and facilities. Second, park and recreation facilities are not evenly distributed across the City, as discussed further below. Third, some of the claimed park acreage consists of Berkeley school district property that is available for public use only outside of school hours. Given these additional limitations, the City should take major steps to increase both the amount and accessibility of parkland in order to meet minimum City and State standards.

Future Population Growth Will Intensify Existing Deficiencies and Requires a Parks Impact Fee

Berkeley is expected to experience significant population growth over the coming decades. Between 2023 and 2031, the City must plan for approximately 8,934 new housing units, including a substantial share designated for lower-income households. This growth is projected to increase the City's population to approximately 140,935 by 2040. Under the City's current park service standard, which is already deficient, this level of growth would require a total of approximately 282 acres of parkland citywide. Meeting the State's recommended standard would require approximately 423 acres, underscoring the scale of the current and projected shortfall.

Recent development projections illustrate the scale of the gap. City staff estimate that the North Berkeley BART and Ashby BART station projects alone will add approximately 5,400 new residents. To meet even the City's current standard, Berkeley should plan for nearly 11 acres of additional parkland to serve these developments. However, both projects have been approved without requirements for new parkland or meaningful mitigation to address increased recreational demand or impacts on already constrained facilities.

Without commensurate investment in new parkland and recreational infrastructure, population growth will further intensify existing pressures. This includes increased wear on facilities, reduced access per capita, and heightened competition for programming and space. Over time, these conditions will erode our residents' quality of life and undermine Berkeley's long-standing identity as a livable, equitable community. Capital investment is not optional; it is necessary to sustain growth.

Despite this clear need, the City has not implemented a key and widely used funding mechanism: a Parks Impact Fee. Such fees are authorized under State law and are standard practice in comparable jurisdictions across the Bay Area. They ensure that new development contributes proportionally to the infrastructure required to support it. By law, impact fee revenues must be segregated from the general fund and used specifically for park acquisition, improvements, and recreational facilities that mitigate the impacts of growth.

Parks impact fees offer several policy advantages. They do not burden existing taxpayers, can be adopted through City Council action, and are assessed at the building permit stage, where

costs are incorporated into project financing. Critically, they can be structured to align with local priorities, including exemptions or reductions for affordable housing.

In 2024, the Parks, Recreation, and Waterfront Commission recommended that the City Council initiate consideration of a parks impact fee. The City Auditor has similarly called for more proactive infrastructure financing strategies. To date, the Council has not acted, in part due to concerns that such a fee could be perceived as anti-housing. This concern is misplaced.

A well-designed Parks Impact Fee is fundamentally a pro-housing policy. It enables Berkeley to accommodate new residents while maintaining and expanding the public spaces that make dense, urban living viable. By ensuring that growth contributes to parks and recreation infrastructure, the City can protect existing facilities from overuse, improve equitable access, and support broader community acceptance of new housing. Without this investment, growth will continue to strain limited resources and generate avoidable conflict.

Recreational Facilities Are Insufficient to Meet Current and Future Demand

In addition to its shortfall in overall park acreage, Berkeley faces a significant and growing deficit in active recreational facilities. Demand for sports fields, gymnasiums, playgrounds, courts, aquatic facilities, and other programmed recreational spaces consistently exceeds available supply. This imbalance leads to scheduling conflicts, limited access for youth and adult leagues, tension among user groups, and accelerated wear due to overuse. At the same time, deferred maintenance across existing facilities continues to mount, increasing long-term capital needs.

While Parks Department staff have implemented systems to allocate limited field and facility time, these measures cannot resolve the underlying structural shortage. The closure and demolition of Willard Pool in 2010, one of three municipal pools identified in the *2009 Citywide Pools Master Plan*, further reduced access to aquatic recreation and education and underscored the challenges of maintaining aging infrastructure without dedicated funding. A parks impact fee would provide a critical and reliable funding source and merits strong support from parent groups, sports leagues, and the broader community.

These challenges are compounded by ongoing conflicts over how existing parkland is used and improved. Limited space has created tension between advocates for active recreation and those focused on environmental restoration and preservation. In addition, some park-adjacent residents resist investments in amenities such as play areas, seating, or recreational equipment, citing concerns about noise, activity, or perceived changes to neighborhood character.

To meet both current and future demand, Berkeley must take affirmative steps to expand and improve its recreational infrastructure. This includes increasing the supply of sports fields, gymnasiums, playgrounds, courts, aquatic facilities, and other programmed spaces, while also addressing barriers to equitable access and overcoming localized opposition. Simply put, parks should be places where children and communities can gather and be active. They should be safe, welcoming spaces designed for use, not underutilized assets constrained by scarcity.

Parks and Recreation Facilities are Not Evenly Distributed

Berkeley's parkland deficiency is compounded by the uneven distribution of parks and recreational facilities across the city. While open space assets located at the City's shoreline or in the East Bay hills provide important environmental and regional amenities, they do not substitute for neighborhood-serving parks that are accessible on a daily basis within walking distance of residents' homes.

Significant disparities persist, particularly in the Southeast Quadrant, which has long had fewer parks and recreational amenities than other areas of the city. This inequity has been documented in prior planning efforts, including *Berkeley Parks, Recreation and Waterfront: Strategic Plan for an Equitable Future* (2016), yet remains unresolved. The permanent closure of Willard Pool in 2010, without replacement, further reduced access to critical recreational infrastructure in this area.

Residents of the Southeast Quadrant, especially children, seniors, and households without reliable access to vehicles, continue to face limited access to playgrounds, aquatic facilities, sports courts, and community gathering spaces. Addressing these disparities should be a central priority in future park planning and investment decisions.

This is Not the Moment to Cut Parks and Recreation Funding

Berkeley is facing a budget deficit estimated at approximately \$30 million this fiscal year. In response, the City Manager has asked the Parks Department to consider reductions that could include partial or seasonal pool closures, elimination of special needs summer camp and afterschool programs, reduced programs for tots and pre-kindergartners, reduced evening and weekend hours at community centers, and further cuts to waterfront maintenance.

The Commission believes there is broad consensus that Berkeley's parks and recreational programs are a basic and essential public service which has not received adequate public attention, and recommends that the Parks Department Budget not be reduced given the findings of this report. As outlined above, Berkeley residents are "critically underserved," existing maintenance levels are uneven, and anticipated population growth will further strain limited facilities and programs. While the City must address its structural budget challenges, the detrimental effects of further cuts to our already underfunded park and recreation services are greatly outweighed by the nominal contribution of such cuts to the budget.

Land Acquisition and Adaptive Reuse Are Essential

With limited vacant land remaining in Berkeley, expanding the park system will require a strategic focus on land acquisition and the adaptive reuse of existing properties. This approach is especially critical in underserved areas, including the Southeast Quadrant, where access to neighborhood parks is most constrained.

The City should prioritize integrating public recreational space into major redevelopment projects, such as the 4.4-acre Ashby BART Station site, and actively pursue the acquisition or reuse of underutilized public properties, including sites like the 2-acre Berkeley Unified School District corporate yard. Advancing these strategies will be necessary to meet existing standards and to improve equitable access to parks and recreational facilities throughout the City.

The Open Space and Recreation General Plan Element is Overdue for an Update

Berkeley's Open Space and Recreation General Plan Element has not been meaningfully updated since 1977—nearly 50 years ago. An update is needed to assess current conditions, identify future needs, and incorporate contemporary community input. Without an updated framework, funding and investment decisions risk reinforcing existing deficiencies, including longstanding disparities in park access and distribution. A revised Element would establish clear criteria for evaluating needs across neighborhoods, identifying priority investments, and directing limited resources to areas of greatest need, while improving transparency and consistency in decision-making.

The Marina Struggles as a Regional Asset Without Regional Support

The Berkeley Marina operates as a regional destination, attracting users from across the Bay Area and beyond, yet the City of Berkeley bears nearly all costs for its maintenance and capital improvements. Approximately three-quarters of marina slip holders reside outside of Berkeley, reinforcing the Marina's regional role. At the same time, the City faces an estimated \$154 million in unfunded waterfront infrastructure liabilities, placing significant strain on the parks and recreation budget.

These unfunded liabilities manifest themselves in failing infrastructure - such as deteriorating docks and launch facilities - and the broader decline of the Marina as a destination due to lack of maintenance and programming. Revenues from berthing fees and leases are insufficient to meet long-term needs. It is time to re-examine whether the current funding and governance structure for the waterfront and marina are aligned with and best serve the public interests, and whether the City is the best steward of the Marina as a regional asset. Potential approaches the Commission should explore in conjunction with State and regional agencies, include regional cost-sharing and governance agreements, establishment of special funding districts, and increased regional investment in major capital improvements.

**BEN BARTLETT**

CITY COUNCILMEMBER, DISTRICT 3

16CONSENT CALENDAR

April 14, 2026

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
 From: Councilmember Ben Bartlett
 Subject: Recommendation to Parks and Waterfront Commission to Explore the Naming of a Public Plaza in South Berkeley as Delores Cooper Plaza

RECOMMENDATION

Refer to the Parks, Recreation, and Waterfront Commission to explore naming of the public plaza located at the intersection of Adeline Street and Fairview Street within the Lorin District corridor in South Berkeley as Delores Cooper Plaza; including process and directive of coordinating implementation, historical preservation, such as signage, universal design, and public engagement with community partners to document Delores Cooper's historic contributions to the City of Berkeley.

CURRENT SITUATION

The City of Berkeley has continuously recognized individuals whose leadership and service have shaped the City's cultural and civic identity. Public space naming is an important tool that honors community legacy by strengthening neighborhood identity and civic pride.

Delores Nochi Cooper is a founding board member and Executive Manager of Berkeley Juneteenth Cultural Celebrations, a 35-year-old non-profit organization located in Berkeley, California. A retired peace officer with 25 years of experience, Ms. Cooper's professional background includes legal compliance monitoring, investigations, needs assessments, report writing, and drug intervention education. Ms. Cooper's five years as a departmental training manager provided her with experience in strategic planning, policy development, contract negotiation, and production management. Ms. Cooper holds an MA in Legal Analysis and a BA in History from Lone Mountain College in San Francisco.

Ms. Cooper has used her professional expertise to empower and strengthen the community through events such as Juneteenth and Black History Month. Since taking over the helm of Berkeley Juneteenth as its Production Manager ten years ago, the festival has grown in its scope and influence and is hailed as the longest-running Juneteenth event in California. Ms. Cooper's portfolio includes serving as a historical exhibits curator, Vision magazine editor, and graphic designer in charge of web and social media content,

event images, marketing materials, fundraising and proposal writing, budget management, and as the single point of contact for the City, press, and service providers.

Ms. Cooper played a central role in the successful effort to rename Grove Street as Martin Luther King Jr. Way, serving as a member of the Martin Luther King Ad Hoc Committee. She is an active participant in her community and has volunteered her services as a writing coach at Berkeley and Richmond schools through Writer Coach Connection; as a program consultant with the South Berkeley Legacy Project; and as a Police Review Commissioner with the City of Berkeley. In 2021, Ms. Cooper was appointed to serve on the City of Berkeley's Independent Redistricting Commission. In 2024, she published a collection of poetry, "A Sweating Body That is Cooled By A Sometimey Breeze."

South Berkeley, and specifically the Lorin District corridor, is widely recognized as the historic and contemporary epicenter of culture in Berkeley. As displacement pressures continue, it is increasingly important for the City to preserve and affirm Berkeley's legacy through intentional placemaking and cultural recognition.

The proposed Delores Cooper Plaza, located at the intersection of Adeline Street and Fairview Street within the Lorin District corridor in South Berkeley, reflects Ms. Cooper's deep connection to Berkeley and its ongoing cultural and historical significance. The naming has received unanimous support from the Lorin Business Association of South Berkeley and strong support from numerous members of the broader Berkeley community.

BACKGROUND

Delores Cooper's legacy as an educator, advocate, and cultural leader spans decades of service to Berkeley residents, particularly Black youth and families. Born in Oakland, nurtured in Compton, and raised in Berkeley, she believes art, music, and history can serve as vehicles for channeling creative expression and building self-esteem, ultimately addressing the generational emotional trauma of slavery and systemic racism. Her passion is event programming with a community-healing component that builds community, with "ME and WE" as essential participants in a healthy, diverse community.

Cooper's leadership and her continued involvement in cultural institutions, such as the Berkeley Juneteenth Festival, demonstrate her enduring commitment to building the Berkeley community.

This proposal is further supported by Inter-City Services Inc. (ICS), a Bay Area organization that has served marginalized and underserved communities since 1984, which has formally expressed its support for establishing Delores Cooper Plaza and highlighted the appropriateness of the proposed location.

REVIEW OF EXISTING PLANS, PROGRAMS, POLICIES, AND LAWS

This action is consistent with the Adeline Corridor Specific Plan's placemaking goals, which emphasize improvements to the public realm, corridor identity, and pedestrian-oriented retail and cultural activity.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

No negative impact.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Community outreach for this proposal included engagement with the Lorin Business Association, community organizations, and South Berkeley residents. The proposal received unanimous support from the Lorin Business Association and broad endorsement from members of the Berkeley community.

In addition, outreach and consultation were conducted with Kieron Slaughter, former City of Berkeley Office of Economic Development staff member and former Liaison to the Lorin Business Association of South Berkeley. Mr. Slaughter brings extensive experience in public-space renaming and placemaking in Berkeley, as well as several other successful renaming efforts and placemaking installations in Oakland and Richmond. His expertise helped inform the proposed process and community-centered approach for this initiative.

The Commission is asked to review this proposal and, if appropriate, recommend a plan and approval to the City Council.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

Costs associated with the fabrication and installation of plaza signage and interpretive elements are anticipated to be modest and may be covered by existing departmental budgets or through partnerships and donations.

CONTACT PERSON

Councilmember Ben Bartlett

bbartlett@berkeleyca.gov

James Chang

jchang@berkeleyca.gov

Artemisia Spencer Mace

aspencermace@berkeleyca.gov

ATTACHMENTS AND MATERIALS

1. Delores Cooper Plaza Proposed Location Map
2. Inter-City Services Inc. Letter of Support
3. The Lorin Business Association Letter of Support
4. Delores Nochi Cooper Biography

Attachment 1:



Attachment 2:

s Fun



YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Date: December 04, 2025

Kamau A. Edwards, Attorney
The Edwards Firm
ROW DTLA
777 S. Alameda Street, 2nd Floor
Los Angeles, California 90021

Re: Endorsement — Delores Cooper Honoring Project

Dear Mr. Edwards,

This letter confirms that Inter-City Services Inc. (ICS) fully endorses the proposal to honor Ms. Delores Cooper through the establishment of the Proposed Delores Cooper Plaza, located near Alcatraz Avenue and Adeline Street within the Lorin District corridor in the South Berkeley area of the City of Berkeley.

As a longstanding organization dedicated to serving and elevating marginalized and underserved communities in the Bay Area since 1984, ICS expresses its full support for this meaningful project recognizing Ms. Cooper's enduring legacy and contributions to the Berkeley community. The proposed location reflects her deep connection to South Berkeley and its ongoing cultural and historical significance.

Please accept this letter as formal documentation of ICS's endorsement. We look forward to continued collaboration on the next steps in bringing this project to fruition.

Sincerely,

Mansour Id-Deen
Founder and Executive Director

3282 Adeline Street
Berkeley, CA 94703 (510)
655-3552 www.icsworks.com

Attachment 3:



Date: 11/3/25

Kamau A. Edwards, Attorney
The Edwards Firm
ROW DTLA
777 S. Alameda Street, 2nd Floor
Los Angeles, California 90021

Re: Board Approval — Delores Cooper Honoring Project

Dear Mr. Edwards,

This letter confirms that the **Lorin Business Association** met on **October 17, 2025**, and voted to **approve the proposal to honor Ms. Delores Cooper** through the establishment of the **Proposed Delores Cooper Plaza**, located near **Alcatraz Avenue and Adeline Street** within the Lorin District corridor.

The Lorin Business Association expresses its full support for this meaningful project, recognizing Ms. Cooper’s enduring legacy and contributions to the Berkeley community. The proposed location reflects her deep connection to the Lorin District and its ongoing cultural and historical significance.

Please accept this letter as formal documentation of the Board’s approval. We look forward to continued collaboration on the next steps in bringing this project to fruition.

Sincerely,
Liz Lisle, Co-Chair
Yavette Holts, Co-Chair

Attachment 4:

DELORES NOCHI COOPER



Delores Nochi Cooper is a founding board member and Executive Manager of the day-to-day operation of Berkeley Juneteenth Cultural Celebrations, a 35-year-old non-profit organization located in Berkeley, California.

Her background as a retired peace officer for 25 years, honed her skills in legal compliance monitoring, investigation, needs assessment, report writing, and as a drug intervention educator; her five years as the departmental training manager provided her with experience in strategic planning, policy development, contract negotiation, and production management. Delores has transitioned her professional expertise in pursuit of her overarching commitment to the emotional well-being of her community through events such as Juneteenth and Black History

Month that celebrate the African American experience. Probation work taught her the importance of family, community connectedness, and that change is always possible.

Delores believes merely celebrating Juneteenth is not enough. Her passion is event programming with a community healing component that builds community with "ME and WE" as essential participants in a healthy, diverse community. Delores believes art, music and history can be used as a vehicle to channel creative juices and build self-esteem, that can change norms and behaviors, and ultimately address the generational emotional trauma of slavery and systemic racism.

Since taking over the helm of Berkeley Juneteenth as its Production Manager ten years ago, the festival has grown in its scope and influence and is hailed as the longest running Juneteenth event in California. Delores' portfolio includes historical exhibits curator, Vision magazine editor, graphic designer in charge of web and social media content, event images, and marketing materials. To that portfolio, add fundraising and proposal writing, budget management, and the single point of contact for the City, press, and service providers.

Delores is an active participant in her community and has volunteered her services as a writing coach at Berkeley and Richmond schools with Writer Coach Connection; as a program consultant with the South Berkeley Legacy Project; as a member of the Martin Luther King Ad Hoc Committee which successfully renamed a major Berkeley thoroughfare in honor of Martin Luther King, Jr.; and with the City of Berkeley as a Police Review Commissioner. In 2021, Delores was appointed to serve on the City of Berkeley's Independent Redistricting Commission.

In 2024, Delores published a collection of poetry, "A Sweating Body That is Cooled By A Sometimey Breeze." She is currently working on her memoir.

Born in Oakland, nurtured in Compton, and raised in Berkeley, CA, Delores is a daughter, sister, mother, grandmother, aunt, cousin, devoted friend, and a team player with a strong work ethic instilled in her at an early age. She believes in cultivating dreams and ideas to fruition. In her down time, she enjoys, reading, writing, water aerobics, finding treasures at estate sales, sitting in her sacred spot just being and observing, and above all, spending time with loved ones.

Delores received her MA in Legal Analysis and BA in History from Lone Mountain College in San Francisco.



CONSENT CALENDAR
April 14, 2026

To: Honorable Members of the City Council

From: Mayor Adena Ishii (Author), and Council Members Lunaparra, Humbert and O’Keefe (Co-Sponsors)

Subject: Referral to the City Manager and the Parks Commission the request to develop and implement a plan and identify budget to rename City of Berkeley locations, events, and the city holiday currently named for Cesar Chavez, and engage with the Chavez/Huerta Commemoration Period partners and Latinos Unidos de Berkeley to bring back to City Council recommendations for how the City of Berkeley may move forward with a name changes that will continue to honor the legacy of labor organizing and solidarity for farm workers and recognize farm workers as the backbone of America.

RECOMMENDATION

Refer to the City Manager and the Parks Commission the request to develop and implement a plan and identify budget to rename City of Berkeley locations, events, and the city holiday currently named for Cesar Chavez and engage with the Chavez/Huerta Commemoration Period partners and Latinos Unidos de Berkeley to bring back to City Council recommendations for how the City of Berkeley, may move forward with a name changes that will continue to honor the legacy of labor organizing and solidarity for farm workers and recognize farm workers as the backbone of America.

BACKGROUND

Cesar Chavez, the late United Farm Workers (UFW) co-founder and labor leader has long been an icon and hero to communities across the country. Berkeley has a long history of honoring the legacy of Cesar Chavez dating back to 1996 by naming the City’s waterfront park after him and with an official city holiday that aligns with the State of California holiday. Over the years, the City has worked collaboratively with the Latinx community, local educational institutions, and community based organizations to organize commemorative activities that honor Cesar Chavez, Dolores Huerta, and farm workers.

Page 2 of 2

The following is an initial list of locations and events:

- Cesar Chavez Park (1996)
- Cesar Chavez Day -March 30/31 (2000 - aligned with the State Holiday)
- Chavez/Huerta Tribute Site and Solar Calendar (2011)
- Cesar Chavez-Dolores Huerta Commemorative Period (2021)
- Cesar Chavez Park Perimeter Trail Project (2024 -aka Olivia Stegman Trail)

On March 18, 2026, the New York Times published an in-depth investigation documenting extensive evidence that Mr. Chavez groomed and sexually abused young girls who worked in the farmworker movement¹. In the same story it was revealed that Mr. Chavez raped UFW co-founder Dolores Huerta. After 60 years of silence, Ms. Huerta, a renowned labor leader and civil rights activist issued a statement with her personal story recounting how Chavez had raped her and how she stayed silent because she “believed that exposing the truth would hurt the farmworker movement I have spent my entire life fighting for.”²

The members of the Berkeley City Council condemns sexual violence and stands with the survivors who bravely told their story. In light of the in-depth reporting of credible accusations against Mr. Chavez the City must work on a path forward to remove Cesar Chavez’s name from city locations, events, and holidays.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE IMPACTS

No Impact

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

Staff time to develop a plan and cost allocation to change the name.

ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS CONSIDERED

No name change

CONTACT PERSON

Mayor Adena Ishii
(510) 981-7100

¹ <https://www.nytimes.com/2026/03/18/us/cesar-chavez-sexual-abuse-allegations-ufw.html>

² https://medium.com/@dolores_huerta/march-18-2026-e74c20430555?

The Berkeley City Council Rules of Procedure and Order

Adopted by Resolution No. 70,091–N.S.

Effective October 26, 2021

Parks, Recreation, and

APPENDIX A. POLICY FOR NAMING AND RENAMING PUBLIC FACILITIES

Purpose

To establish a uniform policy regarding the naming and renaming of existing and future parks, streets, pathways and other public facilities.

Objective

- A. To ensure that naming public facilities (such as parks, streets, recreation facilities, pathways, open spaces, public building, bridges or other structures) will enhance the values and heritage of the City of Berkeley and will be compatible with community interest.

Section 1 – Lead Commission

The City Council designates the following commissions as the ‘Lead Commissions’ in overseeing, evaluating, and ultimately advising the Council in any naming or renaming of a public facility. The lead commission shall receive and coordinate comment and input from other Commissions and the public as appropriate.

Board of Library Trustees

Parks and Recreation Commission –Parks, recreation centers, camps, plazas and public open spaces

Public Works Commission –Public buildings (other than recreation centers), streets and bridges or other structures in the public thoroughfare.

Waterfront Commission –Public facilities within the area of the City known as the Waterfront, as described in BMC 3.36.060.B.

Section 2 – General Policy

- A. Newly acquired or developed public facilities shall be named immediately after acquisition or development to ensure appropriate public identity.
- B. No public facility may be named for a living person, but this policy can be overridden with a 2/3 vote of the City Council.
- C. Public facilities that are renamed must follow the same criteria for naming new facilities. In addition, the historical significance and geographical reference of the established name should be considered when weighing and evaluating any name change.
- D. The City encourages the recognition of individuals for their service to the community in ways that include the naming of activities such as athletic events, cultural presentations, or annual festivals, which do not involve the naming or renaming of public facilities.
- E. Unless restricted by covenant, facilities named after an individual should not necessarily be considered a perpetual name.

Section 3 – Criteria for Naming of Public Facilities

When considering the naming of a new public facility or an unnamed portion or feature within an already named public facility (such as a room within the facility or a feature within an established park), or, the renaming of an existing public facility the following criteria shall be applied:

- A. Public Facilities are generally easier to identify by reference to adjacent street names, distinct geographic or environmental features, or primary use activity. Therefore, the preferred practice is to give City-owned property a name of historical or geographical significance and to retain these names.
- B. No public facility may be named for a living person, but this policy can be overridden with a 2/3 vote of the City Council.
- C. The naming of a public facility or any parts thereof in recognition of an individual posthumously may only be considered if the individual had a positive effect on the community and has been deceased for more than 1 year.
- D. When a public facility provides a specific programmatic activity, it is preferred that the activity (e.g. skateboard park, baseball diamond) be included in the name of the park or facility.
- E. When public parks are located adjacent to elementary schools, a name that is the same as the adjacent school shall be considered.
- F. When considering the renaming of an existing public facility, in addition to applying criteria A-E above, proper weight should be given to the fact that: a name lends a site or property authenticity and heritage; existing names are presumed to have historic significance; and historic names give a community a sense of place and identity, continuing through time, and increases the sense of neighborhood and belonging.

Section 4 –Naming Standards Involving a Major Contribution

When a person, group or organization requests the naming or renaming of a public facility, all of the following conditions shall be met:

- A. An honoree will have made a major contribution towards the acquisition and/or development costs of a public facility or a major contribution to the City.
- B. The honoree has a record of outstanding service to their community
- C. Conditions of any donation that specifies that name of a public facility, as part of an agreement or deed, must be approved by the City Council, after review by and upon recommendation of the City Manager.

Section 5 –Procedures for Naming or Renaming of Public Facilities

- A. Any person or organization may make a written application to the City Manager requesting that a public facility or portion thereof, be named or renamed.
 - 1. Recommendations may also come directly of the City Boards or Commissions, the City Council, or City Staff.
- B. The City Manager shall refer the application to the appropriate lead commission as defined in Section 1 of the City's policy on naming of public facilities, for that commission's review, facilitation, and recommendation of disposition.
 - 1. The application shall contain the name or names of the persons or organization making the application and the reason for the requested naming or renaming.
- C. The lead commission shall review and consider the application, using the policies and criteria articulated to the City Policy on Naming and Renaming to make a recommendation to Council.
 - 1. All recommendations or suggestion will be given the same consideration without regard to the source of the nomination
- D. The lead commission shall hold a public hearing and notify the general public of any discussions regarding naming or renaming of a public facility.

1. Commission action will be taking at the meeting following any public hearing on the naming or renaming.
- E. The commission's recommendation shall be forwarded to Council for final consideration.

The City of Berkeley Policy for Naming and Renaming Public Facilities was adopted by the Berkeley City Council at the regular meeting of January 31, 2012.

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 24, 2026, (Regular – 6pm)

Urgent Item: Referral to the Parks, Recreation and Waterfront Commission to officially Rename Cesar Chavez Park for Dolores Huerta, Co-Founder of the United Farm Workers (UFW) and Feminist Advocate

April 14, 2026, (Regular – 6pm)

9.-Contracts for On-Call Hardscape Installation and Repair Services at Parks, Recreation, and Waterfront Facilities

URL: <https://berkeleyca.gov/sites/default/files/2026-04/2026-04-14%20Item%2009%20Contracts%20for%20On-Call%20Hardscape%20Installation%20and%20Repair.pdf>

10.-Contracts for On-Call Painting and Repair Services at Parks, Recreation, and Waterfront Facilities

URL: <https://berkeleyca.gov/sites/default/files/2026-04/2026-04-14%20Item%2010%20Contracts%20for%20On-Call%20Painting%20and%20Repair%20Services%20at%20Parks.pdf>

12.-Referral to the City Manager and the Parks Commission the Request to Develop and Implement a Plan and Identify Budget to Rename City of Berkeley Locations, Events, and the City Holiday Currently Named for Cesar Chavez, and Engage with the Chavez/Huerta Commemoration Period Partners and Latinos Unidos de Berkeley to Bring Back to City Council Recommendations for How the City of Berkeley May Move Forward with a Name Changes That Will Continue to Honor the Legacy of Labor Organizing and Solidarity for Farm Workers and Recognize Farm Workers as the Backbone of America

URL: <https://berkeleyca.gov/sites/default/files/2026-04/2026-04-14%20Item%2012%20Referral%20to%20the%20City%20Manager%20and%20the%20Parks%20Commission.pdf>

16.-Recommendation to Parks and Waterfront Commission to Explore the Naming of a Public Plaza in South Berkeley as Delores Cooper Plaza

URL: <https://berkeleyca.gov/sites/default/files/2026-04/2026-04-14%20Item%2016%20Recommendation%20to%20Parks%20and%20Waterfront%20Commission.pdf>

22.-Bond Measure Subcommittee — Final Report

URL: <https://berkeleyca.gov/sites/default/files/2026-04/2026-04-14%20Item%2022%20Bond%20Measure%20Subcommittee%20%E2%80%94%20Final%20Report.pdf>

April 21, 2026, (Regular – 6pm)

6.-Contract No. 32400205 Amendment: Chemical Procurement Services for Pool Treatment Supplies

URL:

May 12, 2026, (Regular – 6pm)

13.-Contracts: As-needed Tree Services

URL: <https://berkeleyca.gov/sites/default/files/2026-04/2026-05-12%20Item%2013%20Contracts%20As-needed%20Tree%20Services.pdf>

14.-License Agreement – Aqua SuperPower, Inc. for Marine Electric Vessel Charging Station at K Dock at the Berkeley Marina

URL: <https://berkeleyca.gov/sites/default/files/2026-04/2026-05-12%20Item%2014%20License%20Agreement%20%E2%80%93%20Aqua%20SuperPower.pdf>

17.-Lease Agreement: Patpatia & Associates, Inc. for 125-127 University Avenue

URL: <https://berkeleyca.gov/sites/default/files/2026-04/2026-05-12%20Item%2017%20Lease%20Agreement%20Patpatia%20Associates.pdf>

May 19, 2026, (Regular – 6pm)


26.-Changes to Selected Recreation Facilities and Program Fees

URL: <https://berkeleyca.gov/sites/default/files/2026-05/2026-05-19%20Item%2026%20Changes%20to%20Selected%20Recreation.pdf>



Office of the City Manager

April 6, 2026

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
From: Paul Buddenhagen, City Manager 
Re: Vegetation and Tree Removal on East Side of Aquatic Park

Summary

This memo provides an overview of the Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) Berkeley Drill Track Rehabilitation Project, which is an Alameda County Transportation Commission (ACTC) mitigation project to restore portions of the third set of railroad tracks on Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) right of way south of Bancroft Street in Berkeley. This mitigation Project results from the 7th Street Grade Separation East Project (discussed below) and will have a material impact on trees and vegetation on the east side of Aquatic Park in Berkeley.

The 7th Street Grade Separation East Project

ACTC, in partnership with the City of Oakland and the Port of Oakland (Port), is implementing the Global Opportunities at the Port of Oakland (GoPort) Program, a package of transportation improvements within and near the Port. The GoPort Program includes the 7th Street Grade Separation East (7th Street) Project to reconstruct and improve a primary trucking and access route into the Port. The project will relieve truck and vehicle congestion, increase safety and air quality, and provide additional flexibility for seaport cargo operations. The project will also reconstruct a more than 90-year-old underpass that UPRR trains rely on to pass over 7th Street by increasing both vertical and horizontal clearances for trucks.

The 7th Street Project¹ obtained California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) clearance through the 2002 Oakland Army Base Environmental Impact Report (EIR) and the 2012 addendum. National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) clearance through a Categorical Exclusion (CE) was completed in October 2018. The project's final design was completed in December 2022, and a construction contract was awarded to Ghilotti Construction, Inc. in May 2023. Public process included meetings with various

¹ https://www.alamedactc.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/03/1442001_7SGSE_FS_20260209

community groups, with the latest meeting on September 12, 2023.² Construction is anticipated to be completed by the summer of 2029.

The 7th Street Project is estimated to cost \$378M and is funded by State and local sources.

Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) Berkeley Drill Track Rehabilitation and tree removal along east side of Aquatic Park

The UPRR Berkeley Drill Track Rehabilitation Project is an operational mitigation to the impacts resulting from ACTC's 7th Street Project. Specifically, it provides UPRR with needed capacity to mitigate the temporary loss of tracks over 7th street while that bridge is reconstructed. Unfortunately, the scope of this project includes removing vegetation and trees on UPRR property in Berkeley's Aquatic Park and relocating the slope and berm to support the tracks to the edge of UPRR property. The western most portion of UPRR property is a part of what traditionally has been viewed as part of Aquatic Park, and the UPRR Berkeley Drill Track Rehabilitation Project will have visual and structural impacts to users of the park. The project will span from 250ft north of Dwight Street down to the end of the park (see Figure 1). The contract for this project has been awarded, and construction has begun in the track area. Vegetation and tree removal is anticipated to start in mid to late April 2026. All work will be completed on UPRR property and there will be no encroachments on City property.

The Berkeley Drill Track Rehabilitation Project obtained CEQA exception in 2024 through the California Regional Water Quality Control Board. All the required permits were obtained for this work. UPRR has retained a wildlife biologist to inspect the affected trees for nesting birds and will repeat the inspections every two weeks of planned work. No additional community process was conducted outside of the GoPort community meetings which primarily focused on the 7th Street Project. The cost for the Berkeley Drill Track Rehabilitation Project is included in the 7th Street Project and is funded by State and local (not city) sources. While City staff have met recently with ACTC and UPRR staff, we have been unable to secure detailed construction plans for this project. Staff will continue to work on getting more details.

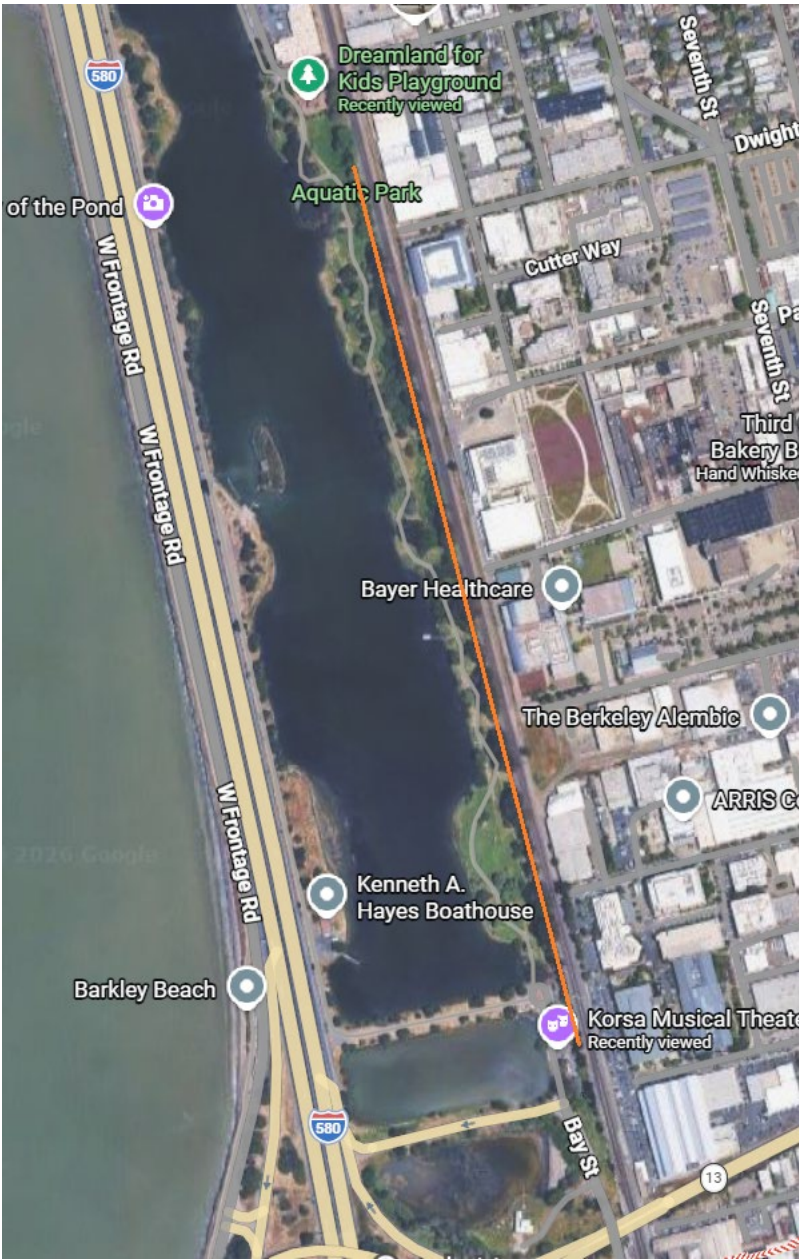
City of Berkeley Response

Staff will be informing the Parks, Recreation and Waterfront Commission and the Aquatic Park Stakeholders Group of the impact and proposed timeline for this project on, April 8, 2026. The Parks, Recreation and Waterfront Department's Urban Forestry unit is developing a tree planting plan for the east side of Aquatic Park adjacent to UPRR property. In addition, staff will be working with Disc Golf Association members to help relocate several tee and basket areas.

² <https://vimeo.com/881871426>

Vegetation and Tree Removal on East Side of Aquatic Park
April 6, 2026
Page 3

Figure 1: Location of the UPRR Berkeley Drill Track Rehabilitation Project




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



City Manager's Office

May 4, 2026

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
From: Paul Buddenhagen, City Manager 
Subject: Throne Portable Restroom Update and Upcoming Removal

Introduction

This report provides an update on the City of Berkeley's eight-month pilot program that deployed two Throne Labs portable restrooms, one at the Park at the Waterfront and one that spent 6 months at Civic Center Park and two months at Strawberry Creek Park. The pilot was designed to produce data on visitor usage and evaluate the suitability, desirability, and cost-effectiveness of Throne's sensor-enabled "smart" restroom units compared with other temporary and permanent restroom options. This project was funded by an allocation of General Fund and Parks Tax totaling \$130,000.

Current Situation

During T1 Phase 2, staff began projects to install "smart restrooms" at Ashby and Adeline, San Pablo and University, and Spinnaker Way, but these projects were halted during the design phase due to increased costs of other T1 Phase 2 projects. In the summer of 2025, staff identified Throne Labs, Inc., a provider of high-quality, technology-enabled "smart" restrooms with electronic entrance control and electronic sensing for cleaning and pump out needs, for a pilot in Berkeley. Over 110 Throne units have been successfully deployed in city and transit agency locations in Los Angeles, Michigan, Washington, D.C., and several Bay Area cities including Martinez, Palo Alto, Redwood City, and Sunnyvale.

After executing a contract on September 5, 2025, Throne portable restrooms were placed at Civic Center Park and the Park at the Waterfront; on January 18, 2026, the pilot was extended for an additional four months. On March 18, 2026, staff had the Throne at Civic Center Park moved to Strawberry Creek Park to gather data at a different high-use park.

The Throne 8-month pilot ends on Thursday, May 5, 2026, when the restrooms will be removed. There is currently no funding to extend this pilot project.

Discussion

The 2020 Citywide Restroom Study highlighted the importance of monitoring restroom use, both permanent and portable, to better understand user demand, user experience, and the cleaning and maintenance needs of restroom facilities across the City. The Throne portable

restrooms have been successful in demonstrating how sensor-enabled restrooms can improve service delivery in a cost-effective manner and inform long-term planning of the City's public restroom infrastructure.

All Throne restrooms are ADA accessible and provide the following features:

- Controlled access via cellphone and phoneless access cards
- Running Water Sink
- Flushing Toilet with vacu-macerator pump
- Robust ventilation and climate control
- Cleaning, maintenance, repairs, & supplies
- 24/7 remote monitoring for servicing needs, visitor usage, and visitor assistance
- Visitor usage reports
- Baby changing station
- Graffiti-resistant wrap

Pilot Program Metrics and Findings

Throne Restroom Visitor Usage Data - Berkeley vs. Nationwide Results (Data is from first six months of Berkeley pilot September 2025 – February 2026)

	Cesar Chavez	Civic Center	Strawberry Creek	Nationwide Avg. per Park
Total Visits over 6 months	12,210	6,723	N/A (1)	varies
Total Visits per Day (average)	57	34	85	30
Return Visitors Rate	28%	28%	23%	25%
Visits under 15 min Rate	99.8%	99.84%	99.9%	99%
Visits by Tap Card	3	7	0	2
Cleanliness Rating (out of 5) (3)	4.3	4.2	4.4	4.3
Destructive Vandalism	0	0	0	3 (2)
Peak Visit times	Afternoons to Sunset	11am-5pm	11am-5pm	varies

(1). Six-month data is not available. Over 30 days, data indicates 2,915 visits to the restroom.

(2). The average for Destructive Vandalism at Thrones throughout U.S. is 3 per year.

(3). Reported by users.

Community Feedback

Public response has been overwhelmingly positive. Detailed feedback was solicited by two methods; a) an on-line Community Questionnaire using survey monkey (118 respondents); and b) visitors have provided feedback via text messages throughout the pilot period.

In summary:

- More than 99% of respondents gave the Throne units the highest rating for comfort, cleanliness, attractiveness, and desirability.
- Approximately 98.2% of respondents stated that the city should provide high-quality public restrooms such as these.
- User sentiment indicates a strong demand for clean, well-maintained public restrooms that offer a predictable and comfortable experience.

Below are more detailed responses to the On-line Community Questionnaire:

- **Should the City of Berkeley be providing public restroom facilities?**

- * Yes: 98.2%
- * No: 0
- * Don't know: 1.72%

- **Some residents say they feel unsafe in public restrooms. How did the Throne make you feel compared to other public restrooms/portables?**

- * Safer: 91%
- * Same: 9%
- * Less Safe: 0%

- **What do you think about the Throne as a public restroom option for Berkeley?**

- * Only keep the two pilot Throne restrooms: 3%
- * Add additional Throne restrooms at more locations: 97%
- * Remove all Throne restrooms: 1%

- **What do you like best about the Throne restroom? (rate your top choice)**

- * 86% Cleanliness
- * 42% to 49%: Running water; Touchless use for access; and Reliability of restroom.
- * 23% to 37%: Lighting; Smell; Better behavior/accountability; Real-time servicing; and the 10-minute anti-loitering feature.
- * 10% to 19%: Music; texting your feedback; ADA access; Creates local jobs to service the restroom; Hours open; Menstrual products; Baby-changing station.

Additional Comments received by Throne via the questionnaire or by text:

- **Saturday Farmers Market:** Daniel McChesney, Berkeley Farmers' Market Program Manager:

I am writing to express my appreciation for the Throne restroom pilot and my support of its continuation. In the time the Throne was in Civic Center Park the feedback I received from the general public and our vendors was overwhelmingly positive. I did not experience any issues related to safety or sanitation and found the Throne team easy to reach anytime I needed to contact them. I think that accessible public restrooms are a valuable part of a vibrant civic center and would encourage you to bring this one back.

- **Claudia Kawczynska, co-founder, Off-Leash Area, The Park at the Waterfront, and former chair, Berkeley Parks, Recreation, and Waterfront Commission:**

The Throne was a welcomed amenity for many of the users of The Park at the Waterfront. It was a good substitute while we wait for the restroom to be installed. Perhaps once that is done, perhaps a Throne can be moved to the area of the park that is nearer to both the OLA, and picnic table area, where it surely will also be appreciated. Great program to address a pressing need!

Individual quotes from Throne visitors sent via cellphone:

- Thank you for providing a safe, clean, modern bathroom.
- I was skeptical but I think they are great
- Was very grateful to be able to use this with my small children while at powwow and farmer's market. Didn't use baby changing station but would be very grateful for one that is clean and safe when needed.
- I will happily choose to allocate my tax dollars toward inclusive, easily accessible, clean public restrooms. this feels like a very obviously beneficial choice for a society and community to make. I would also add that including child sized / lower toilets includes more family / little people and is a very easy add (see Taiwan's public restroom system in Taipei for another municipal example)
- Like them. Hope the company is set up to keep them in a high state of cleanliness and safety. Love the accessibility
- Thanks a lot. Makes going to the Farmers Market less hurried.
- Great that they are so clean and can't be "taken over" by loiterers

- It's the best restroom ever. Absolutely clean and reliable — they have a cleaning service team on call and they're super fast and responsive. I do wish they had protective toilet seat covers but I understand some people are very messy and inconsiderate. In areas of high homelessness maybe I would consider having an ambassador/attendant. I think it's a really great and super accessible, I'm very grateful! I think they should replace all the park bathrooms. I think that it's great for first responders too, I used the Cesar Chavez park one a lot when I was working on my boat at the boat yard and I saw everyone using them! Thank you guys so much for this!!!
- I love this bathroom its just amazing 100% better than porta pottys thank you so much throne!!
- Safe clean bathroom access should be considered a basic human right. Throne bathrooms address that need with grace beauty and dignity. This is a simple beautiful and graceful response to that human right/human need. Thank you soooooo much
- The throne at Cesar Chavez Park deserves a 10 out of 10. It is fantastic. I hope it stays.

Cost Analysis

The pilot allowed for a comparison of costs across restroom types currently used in Berkeley. as summarized in the table below using 2026 dollars:

Restroom Type	Level of Cleaning Service	Services included	Annual Cost
Throne Portable Smart Restroom	High	Rental of restroom; staffing, cleaning, supplies, maintenance, repairs, vandalism, water, solar power, and utilities; and data on usage trends, restroom availability, and cleanliness ratings.	\$105,000
City Restroom (Portland Loo)	High	Annual operating cost (staffing, cleaning, supplies, maintenance, repairs, vandalism and graffiti, and utilities). (Does not provide visitor usage monitoring data).	\$110,000 (plus \$538,000 capital installation)
City Restroom (park)	Medium	Annual operating cost (staffing, cleaning, supplies, maintenance, repairs, vandalism and graffiti, and utilities). (Does not provide visitor usage monitoring data).	\$28,000 (plus \$500,000 capital installation)
Conventional Portal Toilet (ADA unit)	High	Rental of unit and daily cleaning service only. Graffiti, repairs, and replacements can be an additional \$2,000-\$3,000 per year. (Does not provide visitor usage monitoring data).	\$12,000 to \$15,000

In sum, conventional portable toilets are significantly less costly but are frequently damaged and are considered fairly undesirable by the general public. Throne rental costs are

comparable to the operating costs of a new high-use permanent restroom (e.g., the Portland Loo at Telegraph & Channing), but offers additional advantages such as rapid deployment and moveability, no upfront capital costs, visitor usage monitoring, and far more responsive servicing as-needed.

Environmental Sustainability and Climate Impacts

Providing public restroom access can reduce open defecation, which benefits stormwater quality and public health. There are no identifiable climate impacts associated with the recommendations in this report.

Equity & Dignity

Every Throne is ADA-compliant and wheelchair-accessible, and users can enter through four pathways: 1) the Throne phone app, 2) a phone text message, 3) a phone QR code, or a phoneless tap card, ensuring access regardless of income or device. These entry methods support the concept of accountability. During the pilot, 100% of users exited within 15 minutes, with zero loitering incidents recorded, demonstrating that a well-designed public restroom can be both welcoming and self-managing.

Preliminary Conclusions

In sum, findings from the pilot suggest that Throne Restrooms can play a valuable role in addressing public restroom needs in high-use or high-priority locations. While relatively costly per year as compared to conventional portable toilets, Throne units offer an exceptional user experience, reduced need for staff time and utilities, and visitor usage data that helps the City respond more efficiently to visitor needs at specific areas of the City not only for restrooms, but for the provision of parks and open space, and other public amenities.

cc: David White, Deputy City Manager
Jenny Wong, City Auditor
Farimah Brown, City Attorney
Mark Numainville, City Clerk
Matthai Chakko, Assistant to the City Manager
Jordan Klein, Director, Planning and Development Department

Attachments: photo



Throne unit at Strawberry Creek Park with solar power and ADA accessible ramp

Miller, Roger

From: Nancy Carleton <nancy94705@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 31, 2026 12:32 PM
To: All Council; Manager, C
Cc: Miller, Roger
Subject: Renaming Cesar Chavez Park and the Legacy of the Farmworker Movement

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.

Honorable Mayor and City Councilmembers (with cc to members of the Parks, Recreation and Waterfront Commission):

Some thoughts on renaming Cesar Chavez Park, from someone who volunteered extensively for the UFW in the 1970s and was a full-time volunteer 1975-1976: Like many I was shocked to learn of the sexual assault allegations against Cesar Chavez as reported recently in the New York Times. I was already disillusioned about the UFW by 1977. I later submitted a lengthy essay to the Farmworker Movement Documentation Project, whose archives are stored at UC San Diego. In it I did my best to describe my experiences both positive and negative of that time as a low-level volunteer for "la causa." But while I'd seen firsthand that in addition to being a brilliant and charismatic organizer, Cesar was a petty tyrant whose paranoia was becoming more and more damaging to the farmworker cause by the late 1970s, I never would have predicted sexual abuse, of which he now stands credibly accused. I guess I still bought his carefully crafted persona as a servant leader who led a life of almost monklike simplicity.

But here's what I'll say to my well-meaning friends who'd simply like to swap out Cesar Chavez's name with Dolores Huerta's name on streets, parks, and holidays: While Chavez's flaws now include sexual transgressions, all of the leadership of the UFW, including Huerta, share responsibility for the hierarchical UFW culture that prohibited debate, mandated silence, and punished even the mildest questioning, dissent, or truth-telling (witness the staff purges of the late 1970s well documented in books as well as articles in the LA Times). I have great admiration for Dolores Huerta and the many good causes she has supported over the decades. And I understand that as a woman of my mother's generation -- their birthdays are one day apart -- there is deeply ingrained conditioning at play. But withholding the truth about her experience for decades strikes me as not so far removed from the many ways the UFW leadership, including Huerta, tried to control what could and could not be said through a code of silence as well as an undemocratic and authoritarian structure.

It's the farmworkers themselves, along with their supporters across the country, who made the movement. Could it be time to release the idea that we have honor individual heroes rather than the movements they represent? Can we at long last learn from the flaws not just of one man but of entire structures? I continue to bow before the many, many individuals I met while working for the UFW, some depicted in the drawing below. They will always represent to me the best of humanity, whatever the flaws of the leadership they followed. Together they won important improvements for farmworkers, but much more remains to be done. I'm grateful to the State of California legislature and governor for renaming this year's March 31st holiday Farmworkers Day.

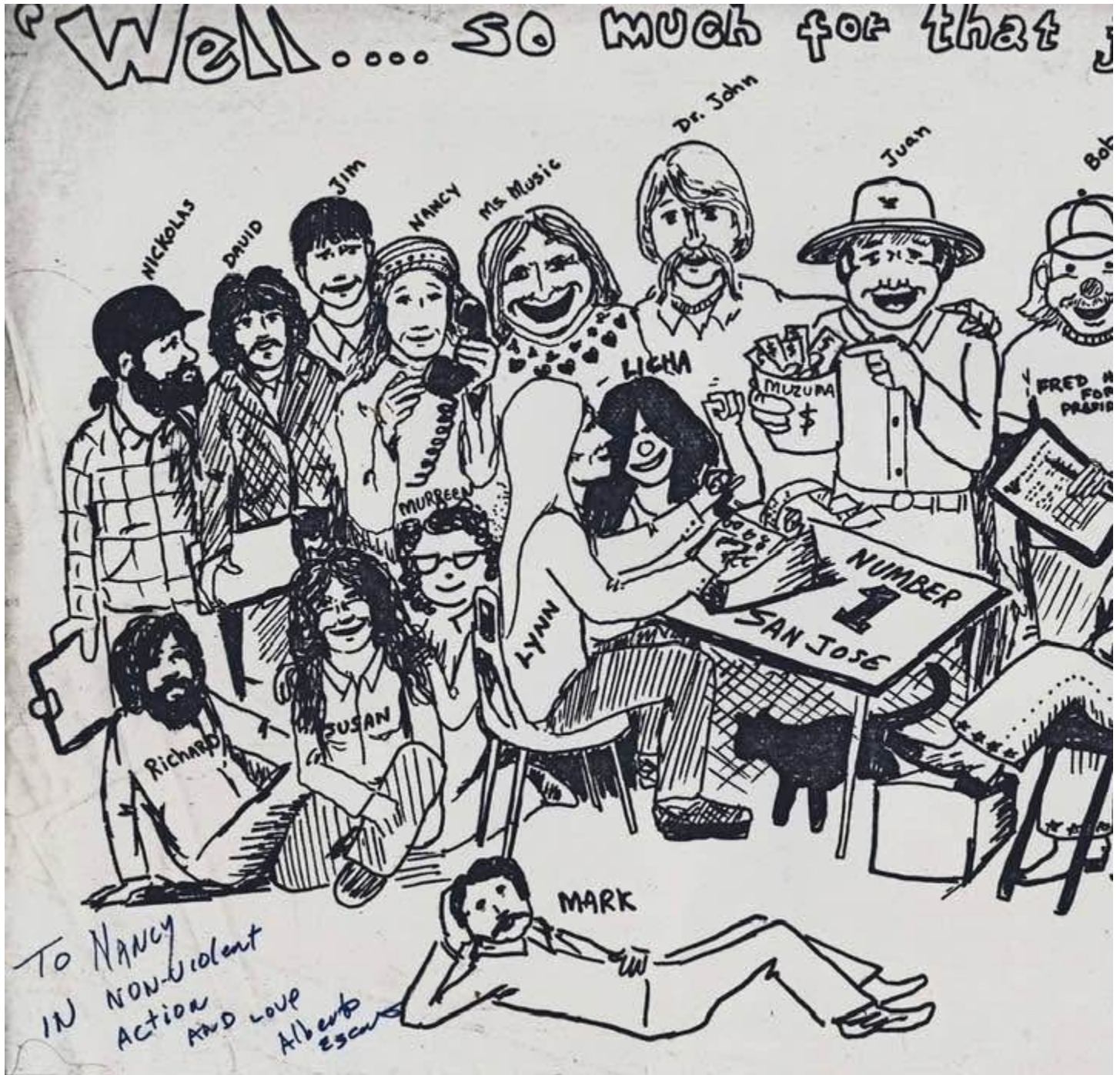
I trust you will allow a full community process to unfold as you consider alternate names for our precious park by the bay. I hope you will refrain from honoring a specific individual as you rename the park.

Farmworkers -- who harvest the food we all eat -- and the movement they built deserve consideration in that process.

Sincerely yours,
Nancy Carleton

Former Vice Chair, Parks and Recreation Commission (before the Waterfront was added!)
Former UFW staff, 1975-1976

3044-B Halcyon Ct.
Berkeley CA 94705
510-644-0172



(Art by Alberto Escalante, 1976, depicting the incredible San Jose Boycott staff, who helped get Prop. 14 on the ballot in record time in the spring of that year. I'm the organizer fourth from left, top row, with the ubiquitous phone in my hand.)

Miller, Roger

From: Ryan <ryncsy@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, April 18, 2026 4:18 PM
To: Miller, Roger
Cc: All Council; Save CC
Subject: Cesar Chavez Park - Renaming & PRW Item

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 Afternoon

I'm emailing you today about the upcoming name change to Cesar Chavez Park. Is this item going to be at the next PRW meeting?

I would like to suggest that the City not rename the park after another person. Rather it should be a generic name, like "Bay Park" or "North Waterfront Park".

Thanks,

Ryan Casey
1300 Parker Street
951-265-6314

Miller, Roger

From: Everett Wetchler <everett.wetchler@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, April 18, 2026 4:37 PM
To: Miller, Roger
Cc: All Council
Subject: New name for CCP. Please include in the PRW agenda item.

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,

I have been informed that the Park, Recreation, and Waterfront (PRW) commissioners are seeking public comments and suggestions about a new name for what was formally called Cesar Chavez Park.

Please inform the PRW that I would like the Park's new name to be: "Isle of Dogs"

Thank you for your attention to this matter,

Everett Wetchler

Miller, Roger

From: Jen Chou <jelo510@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 20, 2026 12:23 PM
To: Miller, Roger
Cc: All Council
Subject: Suggestions for renaming 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.

Thank you for considering what to rename the Cesar Chavez park.

I go to the park several times a week, and have winced every time referring to it by that name since the NY Times article came out.

-As Chavez was an activist for farmworkers, how about Farmworkers Park?

Other notable activists for farmworkers:

-Dolores Huerta https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dolores_Huerta

-Larry Itliong ... https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Larry_Itliong

To change topics, how about the Burrowing Owl Park? (To bring public awareness)

Thanks for your kind attention,
Jennifer Chou
Berkeley resident since 2003

Jennifer S. Chou

The arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends towards justice.

Miller, Roger

From: Sherry Shannon <sherry.sfbike@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 20, 2026 11:00 AM
To: Miller, Roger
Cc: All Council; Save CC
Subject: New name for CCP

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,

I have been informed that the Park, Recreation, and Waterfront (PRW) commissioners are seeking public comments and suggestions about a new name for what was formally called Cesar Chavez Park.

Please inform the PRW that I would like the Park's new name to be: "Dolores Huerta Park"

Thank you for your attention to this matter!

Sherry Shannon

"Women belong in all places where decisions are being made... It shouldn't be that women are the exception." —Ruth Bader Ginsburg

Miller, Roger

From: Ken Blum <ecuadorblum@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 21, 2026 1:57 PM
To: Miller, Roger
Cc: All Council
Subject: Re:North Waterfront Park Name

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 Mayor Miller,

Please create a committee of citizens to figure out new name for this park.
Keep the North Waterfront name until a more descriptive and wonderful name is chosen.

I have used this park hundreds of times because my Cal graduate son lives in the area.

Best,
Ken Blum
Santa Monica, CA

Miller, Roger

From: Daniel Borgstrom <danielfortyone@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 21, 2026 8:43 PM
To: Miller, Roger; All Council
Cc: Martin Nicolaus; savecc6@gmail.com
Subject: Suggested name for the Waterfront 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 Roger Miller and Berkeley City Council,

Since so many interesting birds live in the Berkeley Waterfront Park, I suggest we name it

"Jardin de los pajaros"

Sincerely,
Daniel Borgstrom



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Miller, Roger

From: Virginia Browning <vexxie@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 21, 2026 2:16 PM
To: Miller, Roger
Cc: All Council
Subject: Name for Chavez Park

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I suggest El Jardin. (The garden) It's Spanish which continues connection with the farmworker theme to some degree. Has a nice sound. It seems appropriate as the place has been recycled into a lovely garden from the waste site that it was before. Thank you, I'm in District 1.

My partner suggests El Jardin de Pajaros (of birds) .

Virginia Browning

[Yahoo Mail: Search, Organize, Conquer](#)

Roger Miller at: rmiller@berkeleyca.gov

Copy: council@berkeleyca.gov

This email goes directly to the mayor, each individual Councilmember, and the City Clerk for inclusion in the public record.

Copy me at: savecc6@gmail.com

Subject line: New name for CCP. Please include in the PRW agenda item.

Dear Mr. Miller,

I have been informed that the Park, Recreation, and Waterfront commissioners are seeking public comments and suggestions about a new name for what was formally called Cesar Chavez Park.

Please inform the PRW that I would like the Park’s new name to be: “Bayview Park.....”

Thank you for your attention to this matter,

Gerald Derblich
2410 Jefferson Avenue 94703

Miller, Roger

From: judyandrich <judyandrich@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 21, 2026 8:59 PM
To: Miller, Roger
Subject: Park rename

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.

Please rename Cesar Chavez park to become Delores Huerta Park.

Miller, Roger

From: Sally Nelson <sallynels7@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 21, 2026 8:03 PM
To: Miller, Roger; Miller@berkeleyca.gov; All Council; All Council
Cc: savecc6@gmail.com
Subject: New name for CCP. Please include in the PRW agenda item.

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,

I have been informed that the Park, Recreation, and Waterfront commissioners are seeking public comments and suggestions about a new name for what was formally called Cesar Chavez Park.

Please inform the PRW that I would like the Park's new name to be: "Burrowing Owl Park"

Thank you for your attention to this matter,

Sally Nelson
D-4
2200 McGee Avenue
Berkeley, CA 94703

Miller, Roger

From: Virginia Browning <vexxie@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, April 24, 2026 7:18 AM
To: Miller, Roger; All Council
Cc: Martin Nicolaus
Subject: De Colores (UFW anthem title) for Chavez Park name

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.

For some reason it has been decreed that labor and farmworkers be honored with the renaming of Chavez Park. While always worthy of honor, many never understood what farmworkers or UFW (United Farmworkers Union) had to do with Chavez Park. HOWEVER,

I hit on the anthem used by the UFW, "De Colores." It is appropriate in honoring the United Farmworker theme, and also in honoring the multifarious colors in evidence daily at the park, new each day.

Here's a thumbnail history of the song, not written by Chavez but going back to the 16th century, though adopted as a well-known anthem sung by Dolores Huerta's UFW movement. Below that are 2 renditions and the lyrics. While we don't have chickens (as briefly mentioned in the song) we sometimes have turkeys and many singing birds, as in the song. And anyway the literalness of this traditional song in praise of all was never the point.

Virginia Browning
see below:

from AI summary: "De Colores" is a traditional Spanish folk song with unknown, ancient origins, likely brought from Spain to the Americas in the 16th century. It is considered a Mexican folk song celebrating creation, and it later became the anthem of the [United Farm Workers union](#)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZwAi4dQHqys>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9aRZLbZFeLU>

De Colores
De Colores se visten los campos en la primavera
De Colores
De Colores son los pajarillos que vienen de afuera
De Colores
De Colores es el arco iris que vemos lucir

Y por eso los grandes amores
De muchos colores
Me gustan a mi

Y por eso los grandes amores

De muchos colores
Me gustan a mi

Canta el gallo
Canta el gallo con el quiri quiri quiri quiri quiri
La gallina
La gallina con el cara cara cara cara cara
Los polluelos
Los polluelos con el pio pio pio pio pi

Y por eso los grandes amores
De muchos colores
Me gustan a mi

Y por eso los grandes amores
De muchos colores
Me gustan a mi



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Miller, Roger

From: Friends of Five Creeks <f5creeks@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, April 25, 2026 3:49 PM
To: PRW; Miller, Roger
Subject: Missing park signs

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.

Hello, Parks Department folks and Roger, for the commission,

I am noticing missing signs that make a difference, and hope they can be replaced:

1. The little-kids playground at Live Oak Park has no sign indicating age limits. On a recent visit with my granddaughter, I found it filled with teens. They were having a grand time, and very nice, but loud and large for a 2-year-old. Could the sign be replaced, please? (I designed this playground many years ago as a volunteer, and my kids played here, so I know there was one. The equipment will get metal fatigue before its time from that kind of heavy use.)



2. There is no sign indicating rules at the off-leash area park formerly known as Cesar Chavez, unless it was replaced very recently. I am told that there was one, that it was removed by a user, and someone from parks said it was too expensive or hopeless to replace. None of this may be true.

However, apparently rules cannot be enforced unless there is a sign. Many of those I saw bringing their dogs from the street to the area, not on leash, may not know. For old ladies unsteady on their feet (like me now), this can be a little disturbing.

If there really is a problem of people removing this sign, maybe you could work with the dog owners re their bulletin board. I will refrain from catty remarks about the mosaic that says dogs and we should both be free.

Thanks!

Susan Schwartz (as an individual)
1236 Oxford St.

Miller, Roger

From: Save CC <savecc6@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, May 3, 2026 1:15 PM
To: Save CC; Miller, Roger; Allan Abshez & Jasper
Subject: New name for CCP. Please include in the PRW agenda item.

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 Mr. Abshez,

On April 8 I received the message below from one of 4 attendees at the PRW meeting:

I attended a PRW (Park, Recreation, and Waterfront) meeting this evening and it sounds like Cesar Chavez Park is going to be renamed. The PRW was supposed to have a public hearing on it tonight but there were only 4 people attending and they decided they will take more public comment before deciding. I wanted to let you know that they will bring this up again at the next meeting on the May 13th agenda. Seems there's a shared agreement of the commission that the park will not be renamed after another person. A suggestion provided by a community member was the original name: "North Waterfront Park."

Just an FYI for you, this could be the optimal time for a poll from your followers and bring the results to the next PRW meeting on May 13th.

I confirmed this message was correct with another attendee. Since I was under the assumption that the PRW was interested in taking more public comment before deciding on a name for what was CCP, I sent a request to our group asking for suggestions to be emailed to you and the City Counsel. This is the reason you have been receiving emails about suggested names.

Then, on April 21 I received an email from Mr. Casal asking if I wanted to join the "Citywide Commemorative Committee" to come up with a name for the park. The "Committee" is composed of 21 people representing various groups. I declined the invitation since I do not have time to join the committee but more importantly, I really thought the naming process would be open to the general public.

Now that I have been informed this is not the case, I would still like to list the suggestions from our group. I will include mine as well since I don't see anything prohibiting our suggestions:

Gerald Derblich suggested "Bayview Park"
Berkeley

Virginia Browning and her partner suggested: "El Jardin" and "El Jardin de Pajaros"
Berkeley

Ryan Casey suggested: "Bay Park" or "North Waterfront Park"
Berkeley

Everett Wetchler suggested "Isle of Dogs"
Berkeley

Michael & Hannah Bennett suggested “Blackbird Park” (for the Red Winged Blackbirds)
Berkeley

David King suggested “George Washington Park”

Sherry Shannon suggested “Dolores Huerta Park”

Sally Nelson suggested “Burrowing Owl Park”
Berkeley

Gianna Michael suggested “Berkeley Paradise Peninsula”
Berkeley

Judy Andrich suggested “Delores Huerta Park”

Daniel Borgstrom suggested "Jardin de los Pajaros"

Kristine Larsen suggested “Blue Heron Park” or “Brown Pelican Park”

Kathleen Mclaughlin suggested “Berkeley Waterfront Park” or “Berkeley Marina Park”

Regarding my suggestions, I learned from Mr. Casal’s email that a set of Criteria has also been established. In keeping with the Criteria, I suggest any of the following:

Parque de los Obreros
Parque de los Olvidados
Parque del Bracero
Parque de los Braceros

or:

Jardín de los Obreros
Jardín de los Olvidados
Jardín del Bracero
Jardín de los Braceros

All of my suggestions should be self-explanatory with two exceptions: Parque de los Olvidados and Jardín de los Olvidados. All of these suggestions however are keeping with the Criteria.

For 38 years I have worked to help severely injured limited English and mono-lingual Spanish speakers navigate the worker comp system to obtain their rightful vocational benefits. Of the more than 10,000 (!) injured workers I have helped during these nearly 4 decades, the vast majority have been agricultural field workers and laborers. For some, I had the opportunity to develop and coordinate funding for scores of self-employment plans for injured Spanish speakers in rural Mexico and Central America. Examples include shoe repair shops, dairy farms, slaughterhouses, lime orchards, cattle breeding farms, bakeries, an art gallery, grocery stores, tailor shops, and one of my favorites, I had a computer/internet facility at primary school in a rural village installed.

Nevertheless, for the vast majority of limited English and mono-lingual Spanish speaking injured workers, I have seen firsthand the rampant system-wide bias and disastrous effects they and their families experience as the result of work related injuries. Once injured, these workers have no use to their prior employers or any other employer. Their primary value was their pre-injury physical abilities. Once injured, these agricultural workers

and laborers are, in essence, tossed aside like so much debris and forgotten. For these thousands upon thousands of injured agricultural workers and laborers, I suggest Parque de los Olvidados or Jardín de los Olvidados.

Regardless of my suggestions, I believe that all suggestions made by the public should also be entitled to fair consideration.

Thank you,

Jeff Malmuth
Berkeley D-1