

**PARKS AND WATERFRONT COMMISSION**  
**Regular Meeting**

Wednesday, July 10, 2024, 7:00 P.M., Frances Albrier Community Center, 2800 Park St

**Minutes - Approved**

The Commissions may discuss any items listed on the agenda, but may take action only on items identified as Action.

1. **Call to Order** (Chair). 7:15pm.
2. **Roll Call** (Secretary). Present: Abshez; Diehm; Hurtado; Ranuzzi; Wozniak; Absent: Cox; Kawczynska, Lee.
3. **Land Acknowledgement** was provided.
4. **Action: Approval of Agenda** (Chair). M/S/C and to move Item 11 to Item 8 (Hurtado/Abshez/U): Ayes: Abshez; Diehm; Hurtado; Ranuzzi; Wozniak; Noes: none.
5. **Action: Approval of Minutes** for June 12, 2024 (Chair).\* M/S/C with corrections (Wozniak/Ranuzzi/U): Ayes: Abshez; Diehm; Hurtado; Ranuzzi; Wozniak; Noes: none.
6. **Public Comment.** a) Steve Tracy, better garbage receptacles.
7. **Chair's Report.** (Diehm). Commissioner Wozniak's last meeting (Diehm).
8. **Discussion/Action: Berkeley Stormwater Master Plan Project** (Diehm).\* Public comment: a) Susan Schwartz, Berkeley Stormwater Master Plan; b) Toni Mester, Berkeley drainage plan; c) Alison LaBonte, Stormwater Plan. The commission M/S/C (Diehm/Ranuzzi/U) to send commissioner Diehm's communication to the three commissions and Council and to authorize the chair or vice-chair to speak at the Transportation and Infrastructure (TIC) commission. Ayes: Abshez; Diehm; Hurtado; Ranuzzi; Wozniak; Noes: none.
9. **Discussion/Action: Council referral to designate Planter to Honor Ms. Richie Smith** (Miller).\* M/S/C (Ranuzzi/Wozniak/U) to recommend that Council officially name the raised concrete planter bed on the southeast corner of Alcatraz Street and Adeline Ave in honor of Richie Brook-Cole Smith ("Ms. Richie"). Ayes: Abshez; Diehm; Hurtado; Ranuzzi; Wozniak; Noes: none.
10. **Discussion: Recent Community Survey of City needs and potential ballot measures for November 2024** (Diehm).<sup>1</sup> Update was provided by Commissioner Wozniak.
11. **Discussion/Action: 2024 Update to Local Hazard Mitigation Plan** (Diehm).<sup>2</sup> The commission M/S/C (Diehm/Ranuzzi/U) to send commissioner Diehm's communication to the LHMP comment email at [mitigation@berkeleyca.gov](mailto:mitigation@berkeleyca.gov). Ayes: Abshez; Diehm; Hurtado; Ranuzzi; Wozniak; Noes: none.
12. **Information Reports:** Recent PRW Council Reports.\*

<sup>1</sup> See Council Report on June 14, 2024 at <https://berkeleyca.gov/sites/default/files/documents/2024-06-14%20Special%20Item%2002%20Community%20Survey%20Results%20and%20Direction.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> See Item 13. LHMP Update on pp. 16-38 in the June 12, 2024 PRW Commission agenda at: [https://berkeleyca.gov/sites/default/files/legislative-body-meeting-agendas/PRW%20AGND%202024-06-12\\_1.pdf](https://berkeleyca.gov/sites/default/files/legislative-body-meeting-agendas/PRW%20AGND%202024-06-12_1.pdf)

**13. Future Agenda Items:** Honor the Summer 2024 3x3 basketball tournament winners; Public Art in Aquatic Park (Lavvorn); PRW Commission Workplan 2024; Citywide Accessibility Plan; Locations for Dog Parks.

**14. Communications.\*** Mental Health Services Act FY25 Annual Update flyer.

**15. Next PRW Commission meeting:** Wednesday, September 11, 2024.

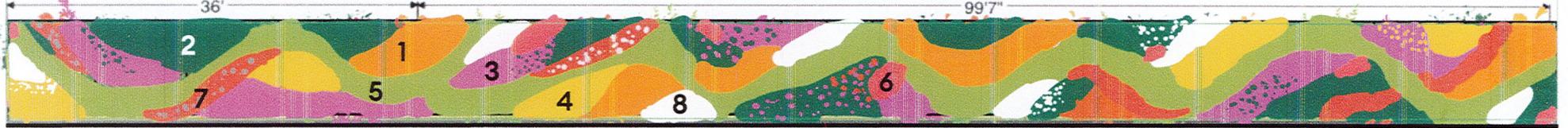
**16. Adjournment.** 9:00pm.

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

\*\* document will be provided at the meeting

- Commissioners in attendance: 5 of 7 appointed.
- Public in attendance: 4
- Public speakers: 4

<https://habitat-horticulture.webflow.io/project/greenway-meadow>



<i>Lupinus succulentus</i>	<i>Eschscholzia californica</i>	<i>Lupinus microcarpus</i>	<i>Nemophila menziesii</i>	<i>Sisyrinchium bellum</i>	<i>Gilia tricolor</i>	<i>Clarkia amoena</i>	<i>Collinsia heterophylla</i>	<i>Lupinus bicolor</i>	<i>Lupinus bicolor</i>	<i>Gilia capitata</i>	<i>Lasthenia californica</i>	<i>Layia platyglossa</i>	<i>Comissoniopsis cheiranthifolia</i>	<i>Penstemon glandulosus</i>	<i>Mimulus ringens</i>
Alamo Lupine	California Poppy	Chick Lupine	Baby Blue Eyes	Western Blue Eyed Grass	Boa's-wyke Gilia	Farewell-to-Spring	Chinese Houses	Pygmy-leaved Lupine	Miniature Lupine	Blue Thimble Flower	California Goldenfields	Coastal Tidy-tips	Beach Evening Primrose	Snowy Penstemon Sticky	Monkey Flower



*Dichondra repens*  
Kidney Weed

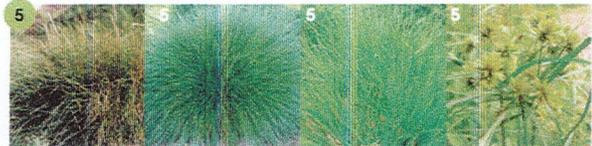


*Clarkia unguiculata*  
Elegant Clarkia

*Diplacus aurantiacus*  
Sticky Monkey-Flower  
50%



<i>Nemophila menziesii</i>	<i>Layia platyglossa</i>	<i>Lasthenia californica</i>	<i>Clarkia botatae</i>	<i>Eschscholzia californica</i>	<i>Sisyrinchium bellum</i>	<i>Lupinus bicolor</i>	<i>Collinsia heterophylla</i>	<i>Plantago virginica</i>	<i>Gilia capitata</i>
Baby Blue Eyes	Coastal Tidy-tips	California Goldenfields	Punchbowl Godetia	California Poppy	Western Blue Eyed Grass	Miniature Lupine	Chinese Houses	Dwarf Plantain	Globe Gilia



<i>Festuca idahoensis</i>	<i>Festuca rubra</i>	<i>Deschampsia cespitosa</i>	<i>Cyperus eragrostis</i>
Idaho Fescue	Creeping Red Fescue	Tufted Hairgrass	Tall Flatsedge



*Eschscholzia californica*  
California Poppy Red



*Penstemon eatonii*  
Firecracker Penstemon



<i>Eriogonum fasciculatum</i>	<i>Phacelia tanacetifolia</i>	<i>Gilia tricolor</i>
California Buckwheat	Lacy phacelia	Gilia Tricolor
90%	5%	5%







**PROCLAMATION FOR GORDON WOZNIAK FROM THE  
BERKELEY PARKS, RECREATION, AND WATERFRONT COMMISSION**

**WHEREAS**, Gordon Wozniak served on the City's Parks & Recreation Commission in the late 1990s, the Berkeley City Council (District 8) for three terms in the 2000s, served on the Parks, Recreation, and Waterfront Commission for the past two terms through 2024, helped the City pass the \$100M Measure T1 infrastructure bond of 2016, served on the City's Vision 2050 Task Force, and his wife Evie served on the City's Waterfront Commission in the mid 1970s; and

**WHEREAS**, Gordon has truly enjoyed working with both staff and fellow commissioners to improve the City's parks and recreations facilities that make Berkeley a great place to live and raise a family; and

**WHEREAS**, the Parks, Recreation, and Waterfront Commission and the residents of Berkeley have benefitted greatly from his wisdom and experience, his dry humor, and his unique approach as a physicist to analyze public problems and develop creative solutions and consensus with great logic, rationality, and fairness for all; and

**WHEREAS**, Gordon has spent countless hours researching and dialoging obscure City budgeting practices, digging into poorly-understood City trash collection systems, bulldozing through complex development impact fee matrices, galloping through high drama issues in arcane public taxation and public finance, diving deeply into solutions for state tideland and Waterfront issues that are drowning in debt, and dancing deftly through our multitude of political issues that suffer from a feast of public opinions and a famine of public dollars; and

**WHEREAS**, the members of the Parks, Recreation, and Waterfront Commission, as well as City staff and Berkeley residents, will miss him terribly, will reluctantly release him from the greatest of joys and the heaviest of burdens that are borne by his role as a public servant as a Parks, Recreation, and Waterfront Commissioner, and wish him and his family all the best for years to come.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Parks, Recreation, and Waterfront Commissioners do hereby proclaim July 10, 2024, as a special day honoring our dear friend and colleague, the esteemed Gordon Wozniak.

Commissioner Allan Abshez  
Commissioner Brennan Cox  
Commissioner Erin Diehm  
Commissioner Alyssa Hurtado  
Commissioner Reichi Lee  
Commissioner Claudia Kawczynska  
Commissioner Gianara Ranuzzi

PRW Director Scott Ferris  
PRW Deputy Director Christina Erickson  
PRW Commission Secretary Roger Miller

## COMMUNICATION

Handact: PAW Commission  
07-10-2024  
Re: Stormwater Plan item

Date July 10, 2024  
To: Transportation and Infrastructure, Environment and Climate, Disaster and Fire Safety Commissions; Public Works Department; Honorable Mayor and City Council  
From: Erin Diehm, Vice-Chair, Parks Recreation and Waterfront Commission  
Re: 3 Requested Additions to the Storm Water Master Plan Project

At their regular meeting on July 10, 2024 the Parks, Recreation and Waterfront Commission discussed and took action on "Agenda Item #11: Berkeley Stormwater Master Plan Project" (the "Plan"). After reading the Plan and taking public comment, we write with three important requests:

### 1. Expand the analysis of Climate Change to include impacts of Rising Groundwater Levels.

In addition to sea level rise and more intense storms, cities must begin to address expected impacts of rising groundwater, including increased flooding, infiltration into underground infrastructure and newly mobilized soil contaminants.<sup>1</sup> Wood Rodgers includes such analyses in their work with the City of Albany, a contract signed 11 months after Berkeley's. To ensure the Plan is comprehensive and represents the latest science, we request that Berkeley's Plan require the analysis of Rising Groundwater Levels, too.

### 2. Expand the bathymetric analyses at Aquatic Park to (a) include the Middle/Model Yacht Basin, (b) change the analyses from "Optional" to "Required", and (c) to engage the Parks Commission.

The current Plan mentions a bathymetric survey at Aquatic Park that is (a) "optional" and (b) unclear which bodies of the 3 bodies of water would be surveyed – just the main lagoon, or the Middle &/or Radio Tower ones, too. The Plan acknowledges the importance of Aquatic Park for flood control but seems to limit analyses to just the main lagoon, i.e. "the entire lagoon", cf.

*"The lagoon in Aquatic Park serves as the centerpiece of recreation and could be an essential flood control facility... The Wood Rodgers team will perform a bathymetric survey for the entire lagoon..." (pg 35 of 54, in our packet)*

The Middle/Model Yacht basin is rapidly silting in and is critical for flood protection. (Prior studies can be used to evaluate the rate of fill.) Since Aquatic Park provides critical flood protection for West Berkeley we request that the Plan (a) be "required", (b) include in the analysis the 2 northern most basins – the Main and Middle/Model Yacht lagoons, and (c) since the Parks Commission is expected to provide feedback on parks matters, that the Commission be engaged.

### 3. Fulfill the promise of a robust public process and stakeholder engagement by immediately engaging relevant Commissions and members of the public.

Engaging the public early in this process is critical. The City's Vision 2050 plan states that the public should be engaged on matters related to updating Berkeley's aging infrastructure. And the Storm Water Plan promises to meet with stakeholders early-on,

*"Prior to commencing any work, the Wood Rodgers' Team will meet with the City and any other stakeholders." (p. 29 of 54, in our packet)*

<sup>1</sup> cf. see work by UC Berkeley Professor, Kristina Hill – "Rising Groundwater Threatens Thousands of Toxic Sites in the Bay Area" and "GROUNDWATER + SEA LEVEL RISE" – <https://vcresearch.berkeley.edu/news/rising-groundwater-threatens-thousands-toxic-sites-bay-area>, <https://www.adaptingtorisingtides.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/01Hill-groundwater-workshop-Nov-13-2019-ADA.pdf>

However, to our knowledge, neither the Parks Commission (and other relevant Commissions) nor interested members of the public, stakeholders, and relevant non-profits have been engaged.<sup>2</sup> The table of project tasks (p. 51 of 54 in our packet) doesn't list any public meetings early-on and seems to wait until January 2026 for public review when the draft/final Reports will be review. In addition, searching the City's website for "Storm Water Master Plan " doesn't return any relevant hits. We request that the Consultant, Public Works Department &/or other relevant City entities immediately begin communicating and engaging with the public.

DRAFT

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<sup>2</sup> Per written public comment submitted to the Parks Commission, it seems that the Transportation and Infrastructure Commission has formed a subcommittee on the matter, though associated subcommittee Agendas couldn't be found online.

Handout

COMMUNICATION

Date July 10, 2024
To: mitigation@berkeleyca.gov
From: Erin Diehm, Vice-Chair, Parks Recreation and Waterfront Commission
Re: Feedback on the First Draft of the City's 2024 Local Hazard Mitigation Plan

At their regular meeting on July 10, 2024 the Parks, Recreation and Waterfront Commission discussed and took action on "Agenda Item #10: 2024 Update to Local Hazard Mitigation Plan" and offers the following feedback for consideration.

This feedback pertains to:

Element C Mitigation Strategy,
Section C.1.i City Buildings and Systems,
pages C-24 and C-25

Please add 2 pieces of information:

1. Add a paragraph very briefly summarizing the planning work done for a revamped Frances Albrier Community Center in San Pablo Park, including:

- source of planning funding
• brief description of proposed project(s)
• anticipated funding amount needed to complete
• summary of key features

2. Add a table summarizing all Municipal Buildings that may serve as Care and Shelter facilities, with columns for key amenities with a note if the features is in-place or desired.

Here is a simplified mock-up of the requested table:

Table with 7 columns: Facility Name, Solar panels w/ battery storage, Personal device charging stations, Emergency water supply, Emergency showers/toilets, Emergency feature #4, Emergency features #5. Rows include Facility Name 1 through 4.

LHMP

Local Hazard Mitigation Plan Update

Handout - PHW Commission - 07-10-2024  
Re: Stormwater Plan Item.  
Fr: E. Diehm

from: 2024 LHMP Draft - Element C Mitigation Strategy

- a. 1/3 to the Section 115 Pension Trust up to \$5.5 million per fiscal year, or as advised by the City's actuarial and staff,
- b. 1/3 to General Fund reserves up to 30% of General Fund revenue, or as recommended by Council policy, and
- c. 1/3 to address the City's capital infrastructure plan.

the Willard Clubhouse, the African American Holistic Resources Center, and the South Berkeley Senior Center.

The City is regularly assessing vulnerabilities of other key City buildings and is developing funding strategies to upgrade buildings with known vulnerabilities.

c.1.i City Buildings and Systems

Care and Shelter

Municipal Building Improvements

The City, supported by an active public, local and State bond measure funding and FEMA grants, has strengthened and rebuilt numerous key buildings in the city. Since 2014, the City has continued its program to strengthen or replace key at-risk structures.

In 2021, work was completed on the Live Oak Community Center. A seismic structural update was necessary in order to prevent major damage to the building and to achieve an "immediate occupancy" rating in the event of an earthquake or other major disaster, as the site is included on the City's list of potential shelters. Other upgrades for energy efficiency and sustainability were included to come closer to meeting the City's climate action plan and resiliency goals. The project also included necessary upgrades to increase accessibility at the site to meet new and current building codes. Funding sources included Measure T1 and Measure F bonds.

In 2022, work was completed on the North Berkeley Senior Center. The renovations and seismic upgrade project modernized the interior and provides much needed upgrades to improve safety and functionality of the building, including seismic for "care and shelter" requirements as well as ADA compliance.

Currently, the City is identifying funding to upgrade the MLK Junior Youth Services Center.

Emergency Water Supply for Firefighting

In 2010, the City put into operation an aboveground, portable water system that can pump water from any source, including the San Francisco Bay, in the event of drained tanks or damaged pipelines. This system is designed to carry up to 20,000 gallons of water per minute for a distance of one mile and elevation gain of 100 feet; it will also carry smaller flows to higher elevations.

c.1.j Privately-Owned Buildings

The City offers a comprehensive suite of programs to encourage the community to strengthen buildings to be more hazard-resistant. A number of City incentive programs and educational efforts promote seismic strengthening activities.

Building Codes

The City enforces disaster-resistant development through the application of the California Building Code, as well as more stringent local code amendments. The Provisions of the California Building Code are applicable to all new construction, additions, alterations and repairs.

Plan Set A

The City's adoption of Standard Plan Set A educates homeowners and contractors about measures to improve seismic resistance of their homes. Contractors' adherence to this