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**PARKS, RECREATION, AND WATERFRONT COMMISSION**  
**Regular Meeting**  
Wednesday, November 12, 2025, 7:00 P.M.  
Frances Albrier Community Center - auditorium  
2800 Park Street, Berkeley, CA 94702

**Minutes - Draft**

1. **Call to Order** (chair): 7pm.
2. **Roll Call** (Secretary). Present: Abshez; Muszynski; Nash; Philip; Rybczynski; Samelson; Stewart; Absent: Cardile (LOA).
3. **City of Berkeley Land Acknowledgement:** <sup>1</sup>
4. **Action: Approval of Agenda.** (chair) (M/S/C: Samelson/Rybczynski/U) Ayes: Abshez; Muszynski; Nash; Philip; Rybczynski; Samelson; Stewart; Absent: Cardile (LOA).
5. **Action: Approval of Minutes** for Wednesday, October 8, 2025 (chair).\* (M/S/C: Rybczynski/Abshez/U) Ayes: Abshez; Muszynski; Nash; Philip; Rybczynski; Samelson; Stewart; Absent: Cardile (LOA).
6. **Public Comment** (2 min each). a) Pete Goldstein, shuffle board; b) Gina Rieger, park maintenance; c) Steve Tracy, park maintenance; d) Naomi Friedman, Cesar Chavez OLA; e) Emma Chrisman, marina access; f) Claudia Kawczynska, BCDC non agenda; g) Edward Kuezynski, ferry options; h) Camille Antinori, Non-agenda Item; i) Julian Aveling, Waterfront fees; j) Jim McGrath, non-agenda; k) Nicolaus Waton, Marina parking fees; l) Laurel, drones @ the waterfront; m) Erin Diehm, non-agenda.
7. **Chair's Report/Discussion.**
8. **Director's Report:** Update on special events, community engagement, capital and maintenance projects, forestry, recreation (Erickson). Update was provided.
9. **Discussion/Action:** PRW Commission meeting schedule for calendar year 2026 (Miller). (M/S/C: Nash/Samelson/U) Ayes: Abshez; Muszynski; Nash; Philip; Rybczynski; Samelson; Stewart; Absent: Cardile (LOA).
10. **Discussion:** Possible Tour of Parks dates (Miller): Dates were discussed and everyone is on board.
  - Thursday, February 5, 2026, 8:30am and
  - Thursday, April 9, 2026, 8:30am.
11. **Discussion:** Fire at Codonices Creek/Status of Area (Samelson). Article in Berkeleyside was described. PRW has no update.
12. **Discussion:** PRW Budget Orientation (Erickson).\*\* Update was provided.
13. **Discussion:** Marina Fund Presentation (Erickson).\* (see link at: <https://berkeleyca.gov/sites/default/files/legislative-body-meeting-attachments/2025-10-28%20Item%2003%20Marina%20Fund%20Update%20Presentation.pdf>). Discussion was held. Public Comment: a) Erin Diehm.
14. **Discussion:** Proposed Recreation and Waterfront Marina Fees (Erickson).\* Update was provided.
15. **Information Reports:** Recent PRW Council Reports.\*
16. **Future Agenda Items:** Nexus Study; Public Art in Aquatic Park (Lavvorn); Dog Parks locations.

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<sup>1</sup> Text of the City of Berkeley Land Acknowledgement: <https://berkeleyca.gov/sites/default/files/legislative-body-meeting-agendas/SSCOC%20Agenda%20and%20Memorandum%20July%202%2C%202025.pdf>

**17. Communications.** \* F. Messner, General Plan Update events on Environmental Justice and Safety, 10/22/2025; Flyer for Community Meeting #2 – Glendale La Loma Improvements; Link to 2025-26 Winter Activity Guide: [winter-activity-guide.pdf](#) <sup>2</sup>  
C. Antinori, 11/6/2025.

**18. Next PRW Commission meeting:** Wednesday, January 14, 2026.

**19. Adjournment.** 9:50pm.

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

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

- Commissioners in attendance: 8 of 8 appointed.
- Public in attendance: 14
- Public speakers: 14

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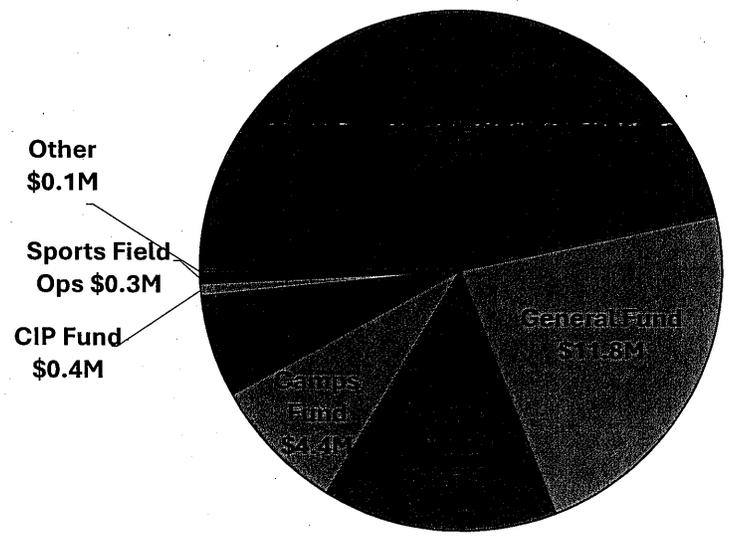
<sup>2</sup> Winter 2026 Activity guide: <https://berkeleyca.gov/sites/default/files/documents/winter-activity-guide.pdf>

# PRW Budget Orientation

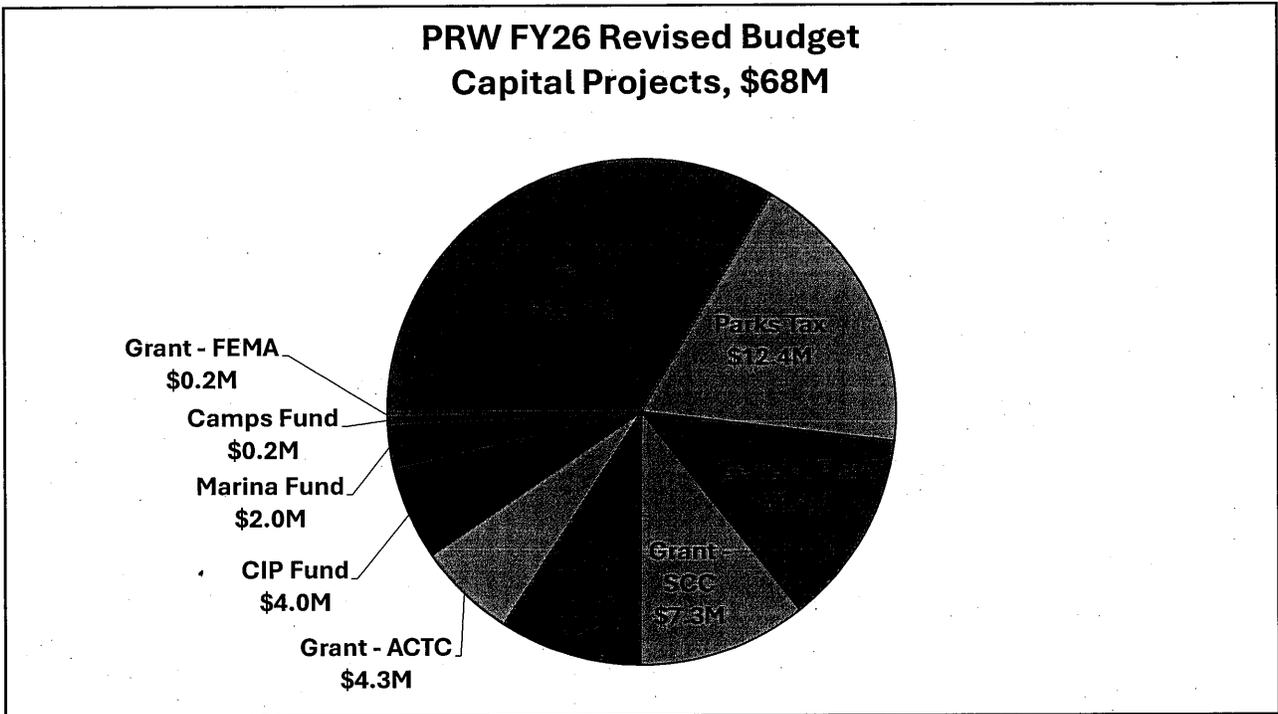
November 2025

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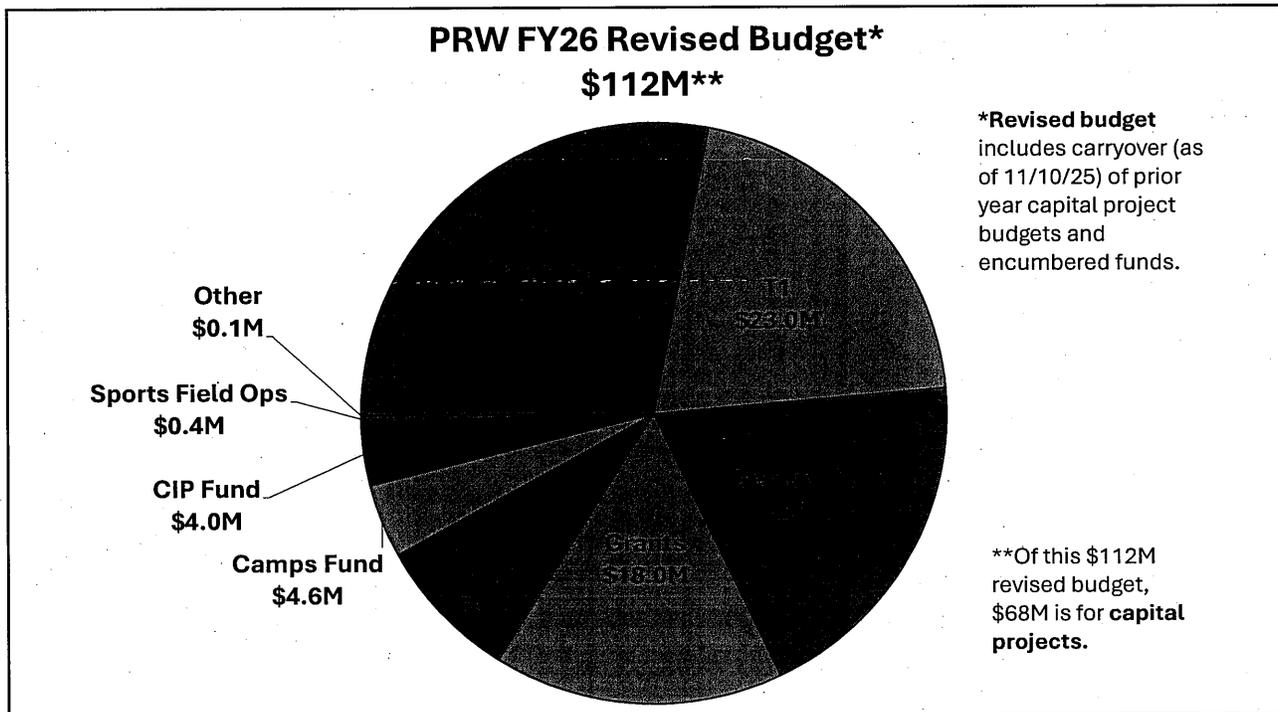
## PRW FY26 Adopted Budget \$52.5M



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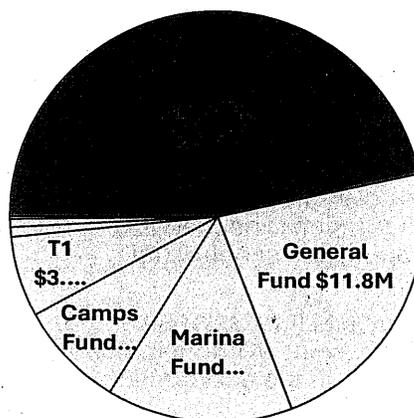


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## Parks Tax

- Parcel tax
- Funds maintenance and improvements in parks, city trees, and landscaping
- Increases annually by greater of CPI or PIG
- Nov 2024, Measure Y: voters passed a 20% Parks Tax increase
- Raised additional \$3.66M for Waterfront parks and landscaping, tree planting and capital projects.
- Low reserve balance, due to need for capital no longer covered by General Fund recurring allocations

**PRW FY26 Adopted Budget  
\$52.5M**

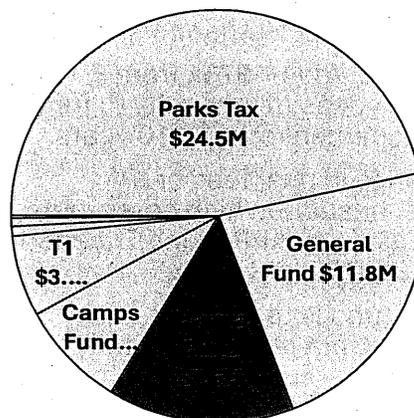


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## Marina Fund

- Enterprise fund
- Revenue raised at Waterfront expected to cover all costs
- Includes all costs for Waterfront, except parks/landscaped areas
- City does not own land; holds the land in trust for the State
- Vulnerable to economic swings, since revenue base is mostly boaters and hotels/restaurants
- Unstable Doubletree lease revenue has plunged the Fund back into trouble.

**PRW FY26 Adopted Budget  
\$52.5M**

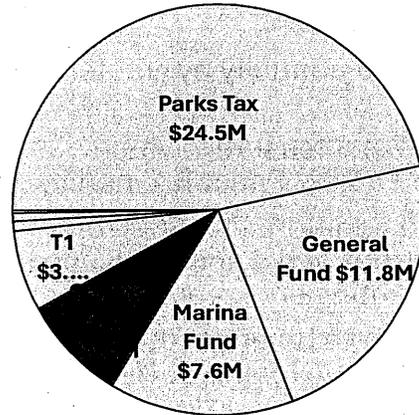


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## Camps Fund

- Self-sustaining fund
- Camp program revenues expected to cover Camp costs.
- Includes Berkeley Tuolumne Camp, Echo Lake Camp, Cazadero Camp, and cost-recovering in-town camps and programs.
- Fee increases help program revenue cover program costs, but external revenue is needed to cover capital and scholarship costs.
- City still awaits final \$2.168M insurance payout. Without it, Fund will be at risk in the next budget cycle.

**PRW FY26 Adopted Budget  
\$52.5M**

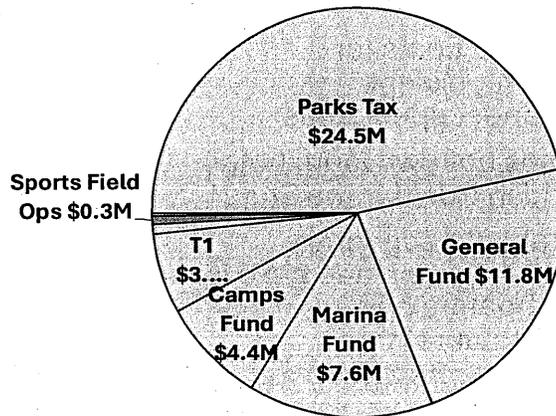


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## Sports Field Operations Fund

- Fund established by 5-city JPA: Berkeley, Albany, El Cerrito, Emeryville and Richmond.
- User fees fund field ops and mtc at Tom Bates Sports Complex and Gabe's Fields at Harrison Park
- \$75k in user fees + \$75k from 5 cities are set aside annually to fund turf replacement every 8-10 years.
- Any change in user fees or JPA revenue, or sudden high costs, puts fund at risk, (i.e. ARPA funds needed during Covid).
- Intent of fund is to be self-supporting, but it has never fully realized that – supplemented by Parks Tax Fund

**PRW FY26 Adopted Budget  
\$52.5M**

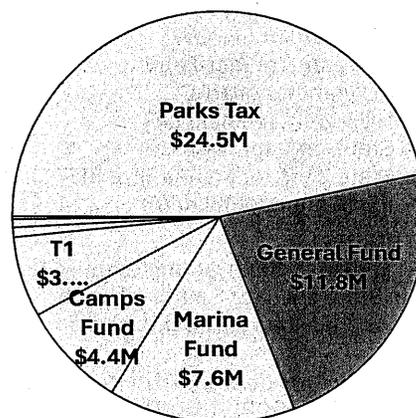


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## General Fund

- GF allocation funds:
  - Subsidized recreation programs and special events
  - Youthworks program
  - Scholarships
  - Fire fuel removal
  - A portion of encampment cleanup costs (Measure P)
  - Department's IT costs
- Funds ¼ of PRW career staff (~27 FTE) + hourly recreation staff
- Given City's projected \$29M GF deficit, staff is planning for at least a 10% reduction in PRW's GF allocation.

**PRW FY26 Adopted Budget**  
**\$52.5M**

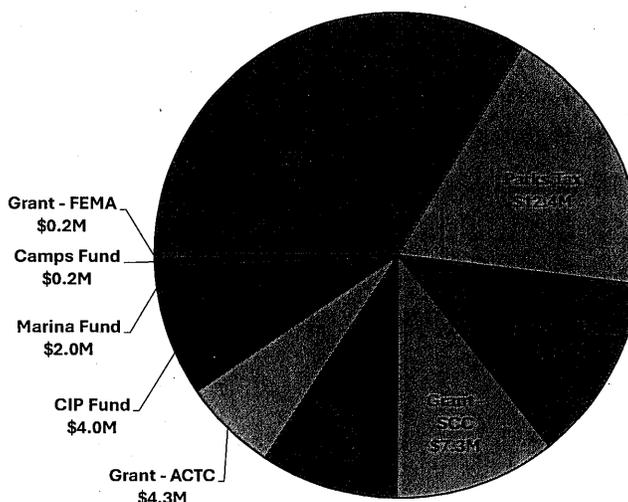


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## PRW Capital

- Annual allocations:
    - \$2.665M – Parks Tax
    - \$350k – Marina Fund
    - \$0 – Camps Fund
    - \$400k – CIP Fund\*
  - Measure T1 funds are fully allocated: no additional bond funding available for capital projects.
- \*In FY25, PRW's CIP Fund allocation was reduced from \$2.4M to \$0.4M.

**PRW FY26 Revised Budget**  
**Capital Only, \$68M**

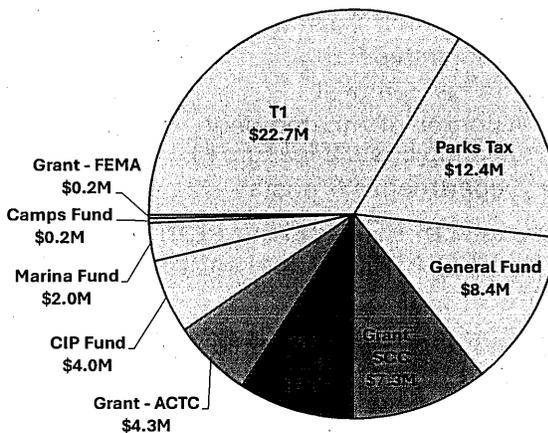


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## PRW Grants

- PRW has > \$32M in active grants, of which \$20M is budgeted in FY26.
- Capital project grants:
  - \$15M State grants for WF projects
  - \$5.165M ACTC grant for Pier-Ferry
  - \$5M State grant for SFROW
  - \$3M WETA grant for Pier-Ferry
  - \$1M HUD grant for AAHRC
  - \$750k HUD grant for MLK/YAP
  - \$591k State grant for Civic Center
  - \$385k State grant for Marina Blvd SLR
  - \$300k FEMA grant for MLK/YAP
- Program grants:
  - \$2.2M Federal & State grants for tree planting
  - \$54k in State grant for Summer Lunch
  - \$50k in State grants for abandoned boat
- In 2024-5, PRW received \$19M in grants, using \$1.275M in local match, meaning we leveraged 15 times the local investment.

**PRW FY26 Revised Budget  
Capital Only, \$68M**



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## Summary of challenges

- PRW has several special funds that are in trouble or at risk
- Citywide General Fund deficit of \$29M → Planning for at least 10% reduction in PRW's GF allocation
- PRW GF capital budget was already reduced two years ago → \$2.4M to \$0.4M.
- No remaining bond funding for capital projects, with continued large unfunded capital need

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**Proposed Camp Fees**

PRW Commission

11/12/25

PRW operates self-sustaining camp and recreation programs through the Camps Fund. This includes the City’s three resident camps at Echo Lake, Tuolumne, and Cazadero<sup>1</sup>, as well as in-town programs including Berkeley Day Camp, new afterschool programs, fee classes, and other recreation programs. The Camps Fund is a special revenue fund in which costs are expected to be fully covered by revenue. Fees for these camp programs must periodically increase to cover the costs of delivering those programs, including operating, maintenance and capital costs at our resident camps.

To cover rising costs in staffing, utilities, food, equipment and supplies, and transportation-related expenses, we are proposing a 10% increase in 2026 and a 5% increase in 2027 for Echo Lake Youth Camp and Counselor-in-Training (CIT), Berkeley Tuolumne Camp CIT, and Berkeley Day Camp Core, AM, PM and CIT Programs (see Table 1). Table 2 compares these proposed fees to those of comparable programs in the region.

**Table 1. Proposed fees: 10% increase in Jan 2026 and 5% increase in Jan 2027**

Program	Unit	Res Current	Res Proposed 1/21/26 +10%	Res Proposed 1/1/27 +5%	Non-Res Current	Non-Res Proposed 1/21/26 +10%	Non-Res Proposed 1/1/27 +5%
Echo Lake Youth Camp	1-Week	\$846	\$930	\$977	\$1,015	\$1,117	\$1,172
Echo Lake CIT	1-Week	\$323	\$355	\$373	\$389	\$428	\$449
Echo Lake CIT	2-Weeks	\$470	\$517	\$543	\$565	\$622	\$653
Tuolumne CIT	1-Week	\$323	\$355	\$373	\$389	\$428	\$449
Tuolumne CIT	2-Weeks	\$488	\$537	\$614	\$586	\$645	\$677
Day Camp	1-Week	\$282	\$310	\$326	\$339	\$373	\$392
Day Camp AM Care	1-Week	\$60	\$66	\$69	\$71	\$78	\$82
Day Camp PM Care	1-Week	\$92	\$101	\$107	\$111	\$122	\$128
Day Camp CIT	2-Weeks	\$228	\$251	\$263	\$273	\$300	\$315

<sup>1</sup> The City has a 25-year lease with Cazadero Performing Arts Camp for the resident camp property at Cazadero in Sonoma County.

**Table 2. Youth Camp Program Fees**

Note: This analysis compares the per camper rate for a Youth Camp Enrollment during primary program periods for a 6-day, 5-night session. Other camps have varied schedule models and fees have been adapted for comparative purposes. Where camps include additional surcharges or operational fees in addition to the base rate, such rates have been calculated for comparison. Session fees are pro-rated or extended where applicable.

<b>Agency</b>	<b>Fee</b>
YMCA Camp Ravenscliffe	\$638
<b><i>Berkeley Echo Lake Camp (Current)</i></b>	<b>\$846</b>
YMCA Camp Loma Mar	\$925
<b><i>Berkeley Echo Lake Camp (Proposed)</i></b>	<b>\$930</b>
Cazadero (Young Musicians)	\$1,110
Camp Concord	\$1,500
Sierra Nevada Journeys	\$1,250
Camp Winnarainbow (1 week)	\$1,375
Camp Augusta	\$2,014
Mountain Camp	\$2,600

**Table 3: Echo Lake CIT Program**

Note: This analysis compares the per camper rate for a Counselor-In-Training Program during primary program periods for one week, two-week and three-week sessions.

<b>Agency</b>	<b>Fee</b>
<b><i>Berkeley Echo Lake Camp (Two Week; Current)</i></b>	<b>\$470</b>
<b><i>Berkeley Echo Lake Camp (Two Week; Proposed)</i></b>	<b>\$517</b>
Camp Concord (One Week)	\$1,050
Sierra Nevada Journeys (Two Week)	\$2,500
Mountain Camp (Two Week)	\$5,350
Camp Winnarainbow (Two Week)	\$1,375

**Table 4: Day Camp Program Fees**

Note: This analysis compares the per session rate for a single Day Camp Enrollment during primary program periods for a 5-day session Monday through Friday. Agencies are all comparative in hours of services, activities and locations provided per registration.

<b>Agency</b>	<b>Fee</b>
<b><i>Berkeley Day Camp (Current)</i></b>	<b>\$282</b>
<b><i>Berkeley Day Camp (Proposed)</i></b>	<b>\$310</b>
Alameda Recreation and Parks Department	\$340
Camp JCAS	\$450
MOCHA	\$450
UC Berkeley Summer Camps	\$472
CAMP 510	\$525
Galileo Camp	\$525
Kids for the Bay Summer Camp	\$540
Sees the Day Summer Camp	\$550
Redwood Day	\$575
Steve & Kate's Camp	\$620
Monkey Business	\$669

**Table 5: Day Camp CIT Program**

Note: This analysis compares the per session rate for a single Day Camp Counselor-in-Training Program Enrollment during primary program periods for 5-day sessions, Monday through Friday. Agencies are all comparative in hours of services, activities and locations provided per registration.

<b>Agency</b>	<b>Program Length</b>	<b>Fee</b>
<b><i>Berkeley Day Camp (Current)</i></b>	<b><i>5-Day</i></b>	<b><i>\$228</i></b>
Camp 510	5-Day	\$225
<b><i>Berkeley Day Camp (Proposed)</i></b>	<b><i>5-Day</i></b>	<b><i>\$251</i></b>
Sees The Day Summer Camp	5-Day	\$300
Monkey Business	5-Day	\$309

<b>Agency</b>	<b>Program Length</b>	<b>Fee</b>
Redwood Day	5-Day	\$400
UC Berkeley Summer Camp	5-Day	\$431
Camp JCAS	5-Day	\$450
Steve & Kate's Camp	5-Day	\$470
Kids for the Bay	5-Day	\$490
Galileo Camp	5-Day	\$560