



## PARKS, RECREATION, AND WATERFRONT COMMISSION

### Regular Meeting

Wednesday, July 13, 2022, 7:00 P.M.

Parks and Waterfront Commission

### **PUBLIC ADVISORY: THIS MEETING WILL BE CONDUCTED EXCLUSIVELY THROUGH ZOOM VIDEOCONFERENCE AND TELECONFERENCE**

- To access the meeting remotely: Join from a PC, Mac, iPad, iPhone, or Android device, join the meeting at the following public **URL**: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89908872760>
- If you do not wish for your name to appear on the screen, then use the drop-down menu and click on "rename" to rename yourself to be anonymous. To request to speak, use the "raise hand" icon by rolling over the bottom of the screen.
- To join by phone: Dial US: 1-669-444-9171,,89908872760#
- If you wish to comment during the public comment portion of the agenda, Press \*9 and wait to be recognized by the Chair. **Note**: Your phone number will appear on the videoconference screen.

### Agenda

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).
2. **Roll Call** (Secretary).
3. **Action: Approval of Agenda** (Chair).
4. **Action: Approval of Minutes** for June 8, 2022 (Chair).\*
5. **Public Comment**.
6. **Chair's Report**.
7. **Director's Report** (Ferris): Divisions: Recreation; Parks; Waterfront; Capital; Budget.
8. **Discussion/Action: City-adopted PRW 2023/24 Operations and CIP Budget Update** (Ferris/Wozniak).
9. **Discussion: Berkeley Marina Area Specific Plan (BMASP) project** (Wozniak).\*
10. **Discussion: PRW Roadmap: a long-term action plan** (Floyd).\*
11. **Discussion: In-person commission meetings** (Wozniak).
12. **Information: Recent Council Reports**. \*
13. **Future Agenda Items**: Workplan FY2022-2023; Parks Development Fee; Parks Tax & Parking Space Exclusion; Solar panels at community centers; Art in Parks; One-time State funds PRW spending plan.
14. **Communications**. PRW Commission to Council re: Vision 2050, 6/10/2022; Black necked Stilts at Aq Pk, 07-13-2022); New sailing club article, 7-8-2022.
15. **Next PRW Commission meeting**: Wednesday, September 14, 2022.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**COMMISSION MEMBERS**

<b>Mayor</b> - Gordon Wozniak	<b>District 3</b> - Brandon Floyd	<b>District 6</b> - Laurie Capitelli
<b>District 1</b> - Kerry Birnbach	<b>District 4</b> - Erin Diehm	<b>District 7</b> - Davina Sriudom
<b>District 2</b> - Claudia Kawczynska	<b>District 5</b> - Brennan Cox	<b>District 8</b> - Mark Humbert

Current Subcommittees: none

## 2022 Commission Meeting Dates

Name of Commission: Parks, Recreation, and Waterfront Commission

Commission Secretary: Roger Miller

Location: Frances Albrier Community Center, 2800 Park St

Month	Meeting Day and Date (2 <sup>nd</sup> Wednesday per month)	Time	Notes
<b>2022</b>			
<b>January</b>	No meeting		
<b>February</b>	Wednesday, February 16	7:00 p.m.	Regular Mtg (Zoom)
<b>March</b>	Wednesday, March 9	7:00 p.m.	Regular Mtg (Zoom)
<b>April</b>	Wednesday, April 27	7:00 p.m.	Regular Mtg (Zoom)
<b>May</b>	Wednesday, May 11	7:00 p.m.	Regular Mtg (Zoom)
<b>June</b>	Wednesday, June 8	7:00 p.m.	Regular Mtg (Zoom)
<b>July</b>	Wednesday, July 13	7:00 p.m.	Regular Mtg (Zoom)
<b>August</b>	No meeting		
<b>September</b>	Wednesday, September 14	7:00 p.m.	Regular Mtg
<b>October</b>	Wednesday, October 12	7:00 p.m.	Regular Mtg
<b>November</b>	Wednesday, November 9	7:00 p.m.	Regular Mtg
<b>December</b>	Wednesday, December 14	7:00 p.m.	Regular Mtg
<b>2023</b>			
<b>January</b>	Wednesday, January 11	7:00 p.m.	Regular Mtg

**PARKS AND WATERFRONT COMMISSION**  
**Regular Meeting**  
Wednesday, June 8, 2022, 7:00 P.M., Zoom Meeting

**Minutes – Draft**

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). 7pm.
2. **Roll Call** (Secretary). Present: Birnbach; Capitelli; Cox; Diehm; Kawczynska; Landoni; Srioudom; Wozniak; Absent: Floyd
3. **Action: Approval of Agenda** (and combine items 9 and 10) (Chair). (M/S/C: Kawczynska/Cox/U): Ayes: Birnbach; Capitelli; Cox; Diehm; Kawczynska; Landoni; Srioudom; Wozniak; Noes: None; Absent: Floyd.
4. **Action: Approval of Minutes** with corrections for May 11, 2022 (Chair).\* (M/S/C: Capitelli/Diehm/U): Ayes: Birnbach; Capitelli; Cox; Diehm; Kawczynska; Landoni; Srioudom; Wozniak; Noes: None; Absent: Floyd.
5. **Public Comment.** Lynn Jones, Cesar Chavez Park; Jeff Malmuth, fishing/parking at Marina; Skate XP, skatepark; Judy Thiel Silver, Cesar Chavez Park; Linda Hammond, Cesar Chavez Park.
6. **Chair's Report.** City budget adoption process (Wozniak); Publicize upcoming BMASP process (Kawczynska); public should ask that their comments to the BMASP go to the PRW Commission packet (Diehm).
7. **Director's Report** (Ferris): Divisions: Recreation; Parks; Waterfront; Capital; Budget. Update was provided.
8. **Discussion/Action: City-proposed PRW 2023/24 Operations and CIP Budget Update** (Ferris/Wozniak). Update was provided.
9. **Discussion/Action: Incorporate Marina streets into Citywide 2050 Street Paving Plan** (Wozniak). \* Update was provided. The commission took action to send the attached item in the agenda packet to Council as a communication (M/S/C: Kawczynska/Birnbach/U): Ayes: Birnbach; Capitelli; Cox; Diehm; Kawczynska; Landoni; Srioudom; Wozniak; Noes: None; Absent: Floyd.
10. **Information: Recent Council Reports.** \*
11. **Future Agenda Items:** Workplan FY2022-2023; Parks Development Fee; Parks Tax & Parking Space Exclusion; Solar panels at community centers; Art in Parks.
12. **Communications.**
13. **Next PRW Commission meeting:** Wednesday, July 13, 2022
14. **Adjournment:** 9:16pm.

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

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

**\*Note:** For handouts distributed at the meeting, please see the Draft Minutes for June 8, 2022 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>

**July 13, 2022**

**Parks, Recreation and Waterfront Commission**

**Agenda Item #9 - Discussion and Review of the BMAASP Process**

The Berkeley Marina Area Specific Plan, which was authorized in 2019 and will be completed in 2024, is exploring development opportunities in the Berkeley Marina/Waterfront. Its main goal is to “provide a path for achieving a financially self-sustainable, publicly owned marina that preserves and enhances infrastructure to support current and future community needs, while adapting to climate change and promoting environmental stewardship.”

A “specific plan” differs from a “master plan” and is an undertaking to “set long-term goals and policies to guide development and *preservation* in a specific area.”

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS** to facilitate community engagement:

1. Dates for upcoming meetings (Large Community Meetings, Focus Groups, Council).
2. Learn more about the upcoming focus group meeting planned for September 2022 - the subject (land, marina). How people plug in.
  - Can COB post to NextDoor?
  - Can the community do outreach to advertise upcoming meetings with our own connections?
3. Transition back to in-person for remaining master planning community meetings.
4. Goals for preserving open space, promoting nature/environment.
5. Size and location of Event Space, size and frequency of events, impact on surroundings
6. Clarification of Jurisdiction Boundaries and implications for development. The deck for Community Meeting #2 highlighted Cesar Chavez Park as Measure L (north half) and Land & Water Conservation Fund (south half).
7. Can the Consultant come to an upcoming Parks, Rec and Waterfront Commission meeting, while the visioning process is still underway?
8. How will the space at 199 Seawall (former Hs Lordships) affect the BMAASP planning process?

**SAMPLING OF PUBLIC COMMENT** on concerns about development in CCP

*(See Item #14 Communications for letters submitted for July 13, 2022 PRW Commission Mtg)*

“The park is the largest natural area on the water in the Bay. This park needs to be used as it was originally intended, As a refuge for people and wildlife alike. I implore you to consider how valuable this park is right now. We don’t want it developed because the very tranquil beauty of it will be destroyed.”

— Stefani Berger

“As the Bay Area gets more and more congested, we need to ensure we still have the natural and wild places to go to. To find refuge from the noise and crowds. To allow our nervous systems to settle. And to let the earth, sky and bay restore us. This is what Cesar Chavez Park is. To go ahead with this development is to rob the community which has loved, utilized and supported

Cesar Chavez for decades, of a convenient, accessible sanctuary where we can restore our spirits and bodies.”

—Helen Greenspan

“The prospect of optimizing public space for profitability forces critical questions. Who exactly will profit? In what measure will they profit? Who will suffer the losses the venture will entail: increased noise, vehicular traffic, and most importantly, a squandering of the rich natural treasure this location on the San Francisco Bay shoreline affords us all.

I urge you to preserve and enhance this singularly breathtaking public space as a natural resource for all.”

—Nick Despota

“Between “dot com” bubbles, recessions, and an ever increasing housing crisis, long-time East Bay residents have borne witness to profound changes. As local and national economics converge to squeeze the continually growing population at nearly every level, public land is only becoming more precious: we sell ourselves and our futures short when we try to monetize those lands. In 2022, with the COVID pandemic not yet even a memory but an ongoing reality, it feels especially short-sighted to restrict access to any open spaces at Cesar Chavez Park and the idea of large concert-type events seems unsupportable given the already tight weekend parking situation. As someone who uses every part of the park as it is now, I would urge the PRW Commission and Council to abandon plans that would decrease the open spaces available to local residents.”

—Ryan Turner

“Open, natural spaces are a critical part of any healthy urban community. As it is now, beautiful CCP provides critical habitat to many birds, including the endangered burrowing owl and native plants. CCP also provides open space for birding, fishing, running, walking, dog walking, biking, kiting/droning, photography, and more. Because the East Bay, and City of Berkeley in particular, has such a limited amount of open space, the City should do whatever it can to preserve Cesar Chavez Park.”

—Sarah Elzea

“The Caesar Chavez memorial at the top of the park is a source of inspiration, the dependable breezes lift beautiful kites and my heart and keep me cool as climate change heats up our planet. The park could be improved by adding legitimate bathrooms and by curtailing the growth of foxtail grass. Otherwise, what is best about the park is it’s ‘unimproved’ access to the nature at the edge of the Bay.”

—Carolyn Lasar



Office of the City Manager

June 8, 2022

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: *DWR* Dee Williams-Ridley, City Manager

Subject: Berkeley Marina Area Specific Plan Update

In 2019, the Berkeley Marina Area Specific Plan (BMASP) was authorized by City Council in order to provide a long-term vision for achieving a financially self-sustainable publicly-owned Waterfront in the City of Berkeley. Leading up to this authorization, Council had received numerous reports identifying the growing operational deficit in the Marina Fund, the decreasing Marina Fund balance, and the list of significant unfunded capital needs at the Waterfront.

The City is currently about half way through the BMASP planning process, which involves an extensive public process to brainstorm ideas for potential new revenue-generating and complementary<sup>1</sup> uses at the Waterfront and to engage with the community. To-date, the following has been completed:

- An updated inventory of the Waterfront's capital needs (approx. \$146M)<sup>2</sup>,
- A review of the fiscal makeup of similar marinas in California for potential solutions<sup>3</sup>.
- A draft Sea Level Rise Study<sup>4</sup>.
- A preliminary modeling of revenue needed to operate the Berkeley Waterfront.
- A list of potential new revenue sources and complementary uses, and
- A list of potential regulatory constraints.
- Public process - 7 focus groups, 2 large community meetings.
- Presentations – City Council (February 2021) and Parks and Waterfront Commission (various dates from 2019 through 2022).

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<sup>1</sup>**Complementary Uses** are new uses and amenities at the Berkeley Waterfront suggested by the public that would be great to have, but won't generate significant new revenue. Examples include short-term bicycle and boat rentals, more food trucks, shade structure pavilions, more picnic areas, etc.

<sup>2</sup> See slide 21 in the PRW Budget Presentation from 4/28/2022; see also potential revenue opportunities being explored on slide 18 [PowerPoint Presentation Slides for 4/28/22 meeting](#)

<sup>3</sup> See slides 53 through 64 in the [PowerPoint Presentation Slides for 1/28/21 meeting](#)

<sup>4</sup> See slides 39 through 40 in the [PowerPoint Presentation Slides for 1/28/21 meeting](#)

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Re: Berkeley Marina Area Specific Plan Update

- See the BMASP project website with all documents: <https://berkeleyca.gov/your-government/our-work/capital-projects/berkeley-marina-area-specific-plan-bmasp-project>).

Still to come in this process are 2 more large community meetings, multiple focus groups, another City Council update in the Fall of 2022, further analysis of potential selective development in the Waterfront, and final adoption of a Specific Plan and Environmental Impact Report.

After receiving community feedback from the focus group meetings and Community Workshop No. 1, the consultant team and City staff compiled a range of suggestions for potential new revenue-generating and new complementary uses and potential challenges at the Berkeley Waterfront. These ideas were presented at Community Workshop No. 2 on March 16, 2022. During the workshop breakout sessions, project staff received community feedback on which ideas should be analyzed further for possible inclusion in the BMASP Specific Plan. It should be noted that the ideas discussed thus far are part of the standard brainstorming processes that should be done for planning projects, and no decisions will be made without further engagement with the community and Council.

#### NEXT STEPS

Based on community feedback from Community Meeting No. 2, the focus groups, and the community questionnaire, the consultant team and staff will revise the draft list of potential new revenue-generating and complementary uses at the Berkeley Waterfront for additional discussion with multiple focus groups in September 2022. The revised list will then be presented to the City Council in October 2022 for feedback and guidance and a final list of ideas will be presented at Community Meeting No. 3 in late 2022 for additional community feedback. A Draft Specific Plan will be completed in the early Spring of 2023. Also in the Spring of 2023, Community Meeting No. 4 will be held to conduct the public scoping process for the Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) on the proposed Draft Specific Plan. In 2024, the BMASP Final Specific Plan and the Final Environmental Impact report (FEIR) will be presented to Council for adoption. Once the Specific Plan has been adopted, the City will have a roadmap with a specific set of potential new revenue-generating and complementary uses at the Berkeley Waterfront that will ensure that current and future generations of Berkeleyans can enjoy the Berkeley Waterfront for the next 25-50 years.

#### PUBLIC PROCESS TO DATE AND MOVING FORWARD

The BMASP project has involved an extensive public process and has provided announcements of public meetings via numerous communications channels: the City's website, the City's Community Calendar, the Berkeleyside newspaper, as well as email announcements to residents interested in the BMASP and Measure T1 projects. Below is a list of public meetings conducted to-date as shown on the City's BMASP project website:



- 2020-09-29: BMASP small focus group 1 (slipholders).
- 2020-09-30: BMASP small focus group 2 (business entities).
- 2020-10-27: BMASP small focus group 3 (water-based users).
- 2020-10-28: BMASP small focus group 4 (land-based users).
- 2021-01-28: BMASP Community Workshop No.1 – [Presentation](#) to introduce the Project and receive community feedback (124 attendees).
- 2021-02-16: Council Worksession – BMASP and Pier/Ferry Update. [Presentation](#)
- 2021-06-30: BMASP Community Questionnaire No. 1 concluded (377 responses).
- Parks and Waterfront Commission – various discussions (2019 through 2022).
- 2021-10-20: BMASP small focus group (Marina users).
- 2021-10-21: BMASP small focus group (Marina users).
- 2021-10-22: BMASP small focus group (Marina users).
- 2022-03-16: BMASP Community Workshop No. 2 – [Presentation](#) of potential concepts for new revenue-generation and new complementary uses suggested by earlier community feedback and the consultant team (80 attendees).
- 2022-04-22 – BMASP Community Questionnaire No. 2 concluded (820 responses).
- Upcoming: September 2022 – focus group discussions.
- Upcoming: October 2022 – Council Presentation – to discuss concepts for revenue-generation and new complementary uses for inclusion in the Draft BMASP Specific Plan.
- Upcoming: later in 2022 – BMASP Community Workshop No. 3 to discuss concepts for new revenue-generation and new complementary uses for inclusion in the Draft BMASP Specific Plan.
- Upcoming: Spring 2023 – BMASP Community Workshop No. 4 – Public Scoping Meeting for the Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR).
- Upcoming: 2024 – Presentation of the BMASP Final Specific Plan and Final Environmental Impact report (FEIR) to Council for adoption.

## STAFF RESPONSE TO RECENT COMMENTS ABOUT BMASP PROCESS

### **1. Why is Cesar Chavez Park being developed into an amusement park?**

**City Response:** There is some potentially incorrect information being circulated in the public realm about possible new uses at Cesar Chavez Park. During the BMASP public process to-date, we heard about some ideas for a potential new ropes course or other type of outdoor adventure activity that could potentially generate revenue or additional recreation opportunities. These ideas were described at BMASP Community Meeting No. 2 as potential ideas in order to receive community feedback. Another possibility for Cesar Chavez Park is to increase the number of

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 Re: Berkeley Marina Area Specific Plan Update

special events (e.g., concerts) at the eastern side of the park, and to develop either a portable or permanent stage area and pathway for event equipment. Before COVID restrictions were implemented, large public events were held at the Berkeley Waterfront for several decades, including the Kite Festival, July 4<sup>th</sup> celebration, and occasional musical concerts. It should be noted that these new ideas are just ideas for further discussion and community feedback and no final decisions have been made.

**2. Community questionnaire no. 2 is inadequate. Most of the ideas won't generate revenue.**

**City Response:** The community questionnaire was another tool for feedback on ideas generated thus far from meetings with the community for potential new revenue-generating and complementary uses at the Berkeley Waterfront. It should be noted that the complementary uses being discussed are new uses the community would like to see, even if they don't generate significant new revenue. If residents did not get a chance to complete the questionnaire or had more feedback to provide, we continue encourage residents to send us an email at [bmasp@cityofberkeley.info](mailto:bmasp@cityofberkeley.info)

**3. Did the City already decide that the Marine Yard is going to be removed?**

**City Response:** The Marine Yard is an existing long-term tenant at the Marina that does not generate significant revenue to the City. Their lease will expire in less than ten years. Very few marinas in the Bay Area have a working boat yard like the Marine Center. Given these facts, the use of this property for potential revenue-generating uses is being discussed. Once again, these are just ideas and no final decisions have been made.

**4. The BMASP Meetings are not being noticed or publicized.**

**City Response:** Both BMASP public meetings have been highly publicized through a variety of mailing lists (including the BMASP Project, Waterfront, and T1 Mailing lists), the City website, advertisements in Berkeley Times and Berkeleyside, and posters throughout the City. Hundreds of residents have participated in the process thus far.

cc: Paul Buddenhagen, Deputy City Manager  
 LaTanya Bellow, Deputy City Manager  
 Scott Ferris, Director, Parks, Recreation & Waterfront Department  
 Jenny Wong, City Auditor  
 Mark Numainville, City Clerk  
 Matthai Chakko, Assistant to the City Manager

**Miller, Roger**

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**From:** Alexis Milea <alexis.milea@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 24, 2022 11:40 AM  
**To:** Miller, Roger  
**Subject:** Berkeley Marina

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

**Please do not adopt the Marina Master Plan** that would essentially desecrate the landscape I so love to visit and find refuge in. **Accept the proposals being made to manage the Marina's solvency** that do not involve changing the nature of the park itself.

I am a 40-year Berkeley resident and homeowner who visits and walks Cesar Chavez Park at the Berkeley Marina on a weekly basis for the refuge it provides from the expanding urbanization of Berkeley. This "island" of respite from the city is very important to my wellbeing.

The water, views, red-winged blackbirds, and most importantly, the natural feeling of the vegetation and landscape give me peace; I walk from 1.5 to 4.5 miles at the park and sometimes sit on a bench and contemplate the water; we also take our grandchild there to fly kites and frolic. After beginning my recovery from surgery, that was the first place I went so I could feel nurtured by the landscape of water, grasses, and natural vegetation. The simplicity of the landscape is essential to that experience of peace. Any structures would be a detriment, not an enhancement.

I have reviewed the Marina Master Plan under discussion by the Berkeley City Council; I have also reviewed the proposals that have been made to return the Marina fund to solvency - not by monetizing it, but rather by allocating its self-generated resources appropriately.

Thank you,  
Alexis Milea, retired engineer  
2410 Jefferson Avenue  
Berkeley

**Miller, Roger**

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**From:** Ann Levine <alevine51@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 6, 2022 12:45 PM  
**To:** Miller, Roger  
**Subject:** Comment on proposal to destroy 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.

Cesar Chavez Park is a jewel on the waterfront. It is one of the few parks in the area that is accessible to walkers with physical limitations, wheel chairs, baby carriages, children on bikes and dog walkers where they can come close to nature. We have many beautiful parks in Alameda and Contra Costa counties through the Regional Parks system but they are for the most part steep and, therefore, not accessible to a large portion of the population. I hike a lot, and often bring friends along. Cesar Chavez is often the first place I bring people to gauge their ability. For many of my older friends, Cesar Chavez is the only park they can comfortably manage to walk in. They universally appreciate the beauty and access to nature that the park offers.

Cesar Chavez Park also offers beautiful views of the Bay, wildlife viewing both on land and on the water, a native plant garden, dog play and kite flying among other activities. Contact with nature refreshes the mind and restores mental balance. This is important for all of us, regardless of physical ability, but to deprive people with limited physical ability of the access to nature this park offers is cruel and discriminatory. Berkeley and surrounding towns have so little public space and natural parkland - you must do whatever you can to preserve and maintain what already exists!

I would appreciate better communication with the community of park users and a transparent planning process.

Cordially,  
Ann Levine  
110 Carmel Avenue  
El Cerrito, CA 94530  
[alevine51@gmail.com](mailto:alevine51@gmail.com)

**Miller, Roger**

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**From:** antonio guzman <antonio.guzman@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 5, 2022 10:24 PM  
**To:** Miller, Roger; All Council; BMASP  
**Cc:** Antonio Guzmán; Save CC  
**Subject:** Concerns about BMASP at Cesar Chavez Park  
**Attachments:** Frankie at Cesar Chavez park.jpg

**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,

Please add me to the email list for notifications about all future Marina Master Planning meetings, plus any other gatherings about the future usage of the Marina parks & facilities; send this email to the BMASP team and all the commissioners; and post this email with other BMASP documents online. Thank you.

I am a resident of Berkeley and a regular user of Cesar Chavez Park. I greatly appreciate this scarce public open space and am against altering or developing it.

I visit Cesar Chavez Park most often for recreational dog walking, which provides me much-needed exercise and enjoy time in Nature. Cesar Chavez Park's off-leash area (OLA) is unique among Berkeley parks. It is not a dog park, for the benefit of dogs; it is an area where people – Berkeley residents and others – actively hike with their dogs, getting exercise and recreation that contributes greatly to our health and well-being.

I recently learned of the City's effort to establish a Berkeley Marina master plan. As part of that, I request more funding for and focus on maintaining the off-leash area. I would welcome (more frequent mowing & removal of foxtails; better signage; regular trash removal).

The Berkeley Marina is a rich, diverse public space enjoyed by people of all ages, abilities, races, and income levels. We are recreationalists, environmentalists, and participants in the public process. I ask that the Berkeley Marina Area Specific Plan process be transparent, well-documented, and inclusive, engaging all park stakeholders, including the many recreational dog walkers who benefit from the OLA.

Please keep me informed regarding the planning process and the ways in which I can participate in this important planning process.

Best regards,  
Antonio Guzmán, Berkeley  
[antonio.guzman@gmail.com](mailto:antonio.guzman@gmail.com)

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mobile US: 917.673.0733

**Miller, Roger**

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**From:** Belle Adler <belleadler@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 20, 2022 1:17 PM  
**To:** Parks, Recreation and Waterfront; Miller, Roger  
**Subject:** Cesar Chavez Park

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

Dear Sirs:

I am writing you today to plead with the city of Berkeley to keep Cesar Chavez Park open and free of any more development. We need more open space, not more buildings. I walk/run twice a week around the marina and the area near the parking lot and it is one of the few remaining easily accessible places in Berkeley.

My dog runs up at the top where there is an off leash area, again one of the few places where dogs can be dogs.

I fear that we are overbuilding all over the East Bay and the benefits of living here are slowly eroding. It is a poorly considered decision to develop such a gem.

Please share my concerns with the Parks, Rec and Waterfront Commission and any other relevant city agency.

Thank you,  
Belle Adler

**Miller, Roger**

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**From:** kellie gan <kellieg06@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Saturday, June 25, 2022 5:21 PM

**To:** Miller, Roger <RMiller@cityofberkeley.info>; BMASP <BMASP@cityofberkeley.info>; All Council <council@cityofberkeley.info>; savecc6@gmail.com

**Subject:** Concerns about BMASP and Cesar Chavez Park

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

Dear Mr. Miller,

Please add me to the email list for notifications about all future Marina Master Planning meetings, plus any other gatherings about the future usage of the Marina parks & facilities; send this email to the BMASP team and all the commissioners; and post this email with other BMASP documents online. Thank you.

I am a resident of the neighboring city of El Cerrito and I am a regular user of Cesar Chavez Park. I greatly appreciate this scarce public open space and am against altering or developing it. It is a unique asset to the city and the region. It should remain open space in perpetuity.

Agenda Item 9. BMASP - community emails

I have been a regular visitor of Cesar Chavez dog park several times a week for many years and enjoy the freedom and beauty that the off-leash dog park provides. I look forward to walking and seeing other dog parents that frequent the park. I also enjoy the serenity that the park provides and the quiet beauty of the waterfront trail and the surrounding natural landscape.

The Berkeley Marina is a rich, diverse public space enjoyed by people of all ages, abilities, races, and income levels. Individuals and families are out enjoying the park in their own ways whether picnicking, hiking, bird watching or just strolling hand in hand enjoying the fresh air and natural and simplistic beauty - an escape from the hub-bub and racket of city living.

Until very recently I had no idea about the Berkeley Marina Area Specific Plan. Now that I do I ask that the Berkeley Marina Area Specific Plan process engage that community. Please be inclusive and transparent, and well-documented. Please engage all stakeholders.

Please keep me informed regarding the planning process and the ways in which I can participate in this important planning process.

Best regards,

Kellie Gan

[Kellieg06@gmail.com](mailto:Kellieg06@gmail.com)

Sent from my iPhone



**Miller, Roger**

---

**From:** Bobbi Sloan <bobbi.sloan@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 30, 2022 3:30 PM  
**To:** Miller, Roger; All Council; BMASP; Kesarwani, Rashi  
**Cc:** Save CC  
**Subject:** Concerns about BMASP at Cesar Chavez Park

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

I have been a Berkeley resident for close to fifty years, and I visit Cesar Chavez Park often. Walking the perimeter trail is a source of solace for me. It provides me with free access to the natural beauties of our home: the bay, birds and other wildlife, plants, and people! I often take pictures of what surrounds me...or sometimes I watch in awe (like last week) of the hundreds of pelicans flying by, sometimes swooping down into the bay for a meal! I wonder whether those pelicans as well as the other birds—the avocets, the egrets, herons, and burrowing owls, would return, if being faced with the noise, smells, and over populous crowds of an amusement-park atmosphere into which the "planners" seem to want to convert our park and marina areas.

Many years ago, when it was still viable, I would walk day or evenings on the Berkeley Pier—so popular with people who wanted to quietly fish or simply walk up and back, or watch amazing sunsets over the bay. Strolling my baby son there was a delightful experience for both of us. Later, taking him (along with friends) to the Adventure Playground taught him invaluable lessons as well as being just pure fun.

The Berkeley Marina is a rich, diverse public space enjoyed by people of all ages, abilities, ethnicities, and income levels. We are hikers, dog lovers, bird-watchers, kite flyers, environmentalists, elders, children, and people relishing the beauty and peace this area gives us.

Please keep our park and marina intact and available for all who have come to love our accessible gateway to the natural world.

And please add me to your email list for notifications about all future Marina Master Planning meetings, plus any other gatherings about the future usage of the Marina and Cesar Chavez parks & facilities.

Thank you,  
Bobbi Sloan

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Save CC <[saveecc6@gmail.com](mailto:saveecc6@gmail.com)>  
**Subject: Re: CC Park**  
**Date:** June 27, 2022 at 4:06:03 PM PDT  
**To:** Bobbi Sloan <[bobbi.sloan@comcast.net](mailto:bobbi.sloan@comcast.net)>

Dear Bobbi,

Please incorporate this into the sample letters below:

A friend just forwarded me your email of June 20 re: the proposed commercialization of CC Park and other Marina areas. I am horrified by what they are planning to do to our marina and park areas. Do you have an example of a letter that I can follow to cover points other than the fact that I'd like to see the CC park and trails remain as they are, free open space for the people to be able to enjoy the natural beauty and wildlife of the bay area

**Miller, Roger**

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**From:** Carol Ginsburg and Joe Como <gizmos1972@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 23, 2022 4:43 PM  
**To:** Miller, Roger; All Council; BMASP  
**Cc:** saveCC6@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Concerns about BMASP

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, Berkeley City Council Members and BMASP Team,

I just read the proposals for development of Cesar Chavez Park. My husband and I have lived two miles from the Berkeley Marina for the past fifty years. We enjoy the undeveloped land and, especially as retired senior citizens, appreciate being able to walk in this open space at least once a week.

In addition I belong to a birding group through the East bay Parks and this group goes to the Berkeley Marina often to enjoy the wildlife there.

We were totally unaware of these proposed changes and we'd like to register our opinion that this development would take away much needed open space and would make a negative impact on the quality of life of residents of our area. We oppose ANY development of this land and would like it to remain a sanctuary where we can go to enjoy the natural beauty and serenity of these few acres of land.

Respectfully,  
Carol Ginsburg and Joseph Como

**Miller, Roger**

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**From:** Caroline Powell <carolinepowell87@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 27, 2022 2:45 PM  
**To:** Miller, Roger  
**Subject:** Concerns about BMASP at Cesar Chavez Park

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

Dear Mr. Miller,

Please add me to the email list for notifications about all future Marina Master Planning meetings, plus any other gatherings about the future usage of the Marina parks & facilities; send this email to the BMASP team and all the commissioners; and post this email with other BMASP documents online. Thank you.

I am a resident of Berkeley and a regular user of Cesar Chavez Park. I greatly appreciate this scarce public open space and am against altering or developing it.

I visit Cesar Chavez Park most often for recreational dog walking, which provides me much-needed exercise and enjoy time in Nature. Cesar Chavez Park's off-leash area (OLA) is unique among Berkeley parks. It is not a dog park, for the benefit of dogs; it is an area where people – Berkeley residents and others – actively hike with their dogs, getting exercise and recreation that contributes greatly to our health and well-being.

I recently learned of the City's effort to establish a Berkeley Marina master plan. As part of that, I request more funding for and focus on maintaining the off-leash area. I would welcome more frequent mowing & removal of foxtails; better signage; regular trash removal.

The Berkeley Marina is a rich, diverse public space enjoyed by people of all ages, abilities, races, and income levels. We are recreationalists, environmentalists, and participants in the public process. I ask that the Berkeley Marina Area Specific Plan process be transparent, well-documented, and inclusive, engaging all park stakeholders, including the many recreational dog walkers who benefit from the OLA.

Please keep me informed regarding the planning process and the ways in which I can participate in this important planning process.

Best regards,

Caroline Powell,

Berkeley

**Miller, Roger**

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**From:** Chloe Chaudhry <cfchaudhry@pm.me>  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 7, 2022 6:33 PM  
**To:** Miller, Roger; BMASP; Harrison, Kate  
**Cc:** savecc6@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Concerns about BMASP at Cesar Chavez Park

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

Dear Mr. Miller, Ms. Harrison, and the BMASP project team,

My husband and I have been residents of Berkeley since attending college here in the '80s. Through those decades, we have seen a lot of the character of Berkeley change. The other day I mentioned to my nephew (a recent Cal graduate) that it used to be there weren't any chain stores in Berkeley, and he was shocked.

One constant, though, has been the accessibility and the beauty of Cesar Chavez Park, which is really my favorite part of living in Berkeley. Honestly, there have been times when I have considered moving, and I've thought that if I did, how much I would miss the Marina.

The park's unspoiled nature and ever-changing views have brightened our days and been the main source of exercise for my husband and me. The convenience of this urban treasure has made it possible for us to go for walks several times per week. It's been at the Marina that we've planned our daughters' weddings, strategized new approaches to work, resolved our disputes, mulled over life's complexities, and always felt a strong sense of gratitude for our blessings. We often see other regulars--members of our community who remain without names for us but with whom we are connected through our love of the park. On each and every walk, my husband stops at a given spot and takes a picture of the view. I'm fairly sure he had to buy additional iCloud storage in order to accommodate all these images, and they are incredible in that each shot is completely different and unique from all the others.

I strongly oppose any changes to the park which would spoil its pristine state or make it less accessible to Berkeley residents.

Hoping for the best,  
Chloe Chaudhry

Sent with [Proton Mail](#) secure email.

**Miller, Roger**

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**From:** Claire Kahane <ckahane@me.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, June 26, 2022 6:16 AM  
**To:** Miller, Roger  
**Cc:** BMASP; All Council; savecc6@gmail.com; Hahn, Sophie  
**Subject:** Cesar Chavez Park

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

Dear Mr. Miller,

Please add me to the email list for notifications about all future Marina Master Planning meetings, plus any other gatherings about the future usage of the Marina parks & facilities; send this email to the BMASP team and all the commissioners; and post this email with other BMASP documents online. Thank you.

I am a Berkeley resident and regular user of Cesar Chavez Park. I greatly appreciate this scarce public open space and am against altering or developing it. It is a unique asset to the city and the region. It should remain open space in perpetuity.

Although I am currently out of town for the summer, Cesar Chavez Park is integral to my life and essential to my physical and mental wellbeing. I regularly walk the perimeter trail. I often meander across the park and up and down the hills, enjoying the expansiveness and quietude. I delight in the stunning views and the fog rolling in. I connect to nature ever more deeply by watching birds and other wildlife, taking photos which I send to friends elsewhere, and interact with other park users. Cesar Chavez Park is a touchstone to our history and values.

Until very recently I had no idea about the Berkeley Marina Area Specific Plan. Now that I do I feel devastated. I ask that the Berkeley Marina Area Specific Plan process engage the community more transparently. I knew nothing about this plan until too late, apparently.

Please keep me informed regarding the planning process and the ways in which I can participate in this important planning process to prevent the loss of a jewel in Berkeley..

## Miller, Roger

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**From:** Claudia Kawczynska <claudia94710@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 27, 2022 3:31 PM  
**To:** Miller, Roger  
**Subject:** Letter for the PRW

**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.

Hi Roger

Gordon suggested that I send this letter from Eileen Cohen to you, I had showed it to him. But I think you already have this and should be in our agenda package. But if not, here it is.

"June 10, 2022

Dear Parks, Recreation, and Waterfront commissioners and staff:

As a Berkeley resident, I am deeply concerned that the Berkeley Marina Area Specific Project (BMASP) process has been seriously flawed. In my opinion, it needs to be restarted virtually from scratch -- this time with better communication to the public about the meetings; comprehensive minutes; and recordings of the public meetings.

Currently, once a PRW meeting is over, there is effectively no public record of concerns expressed about or opposition to BMASP proposals. PRW meetings should be recorded and made available to the public immediately and in perpetuity. (The minutes are simply too high-level for that purpose.) The lack of recordings and/or complete transcriptions of the proceedings undermines confidence in the public process.

To compound the issue, two erroneous assertions were given at the June 8, 2022 PRW meeting as reasons for /not / recording the Zoom meetings.

First, it was stated that although the PRW is not recording its meetings, any participant can record a Zoom meeting. However, that is true *\*only\** if the host has enabled "local recording." (For instructions, see the Zoom support article at <https://tinyurl.com/yx4d6725>.) The PRW did not enable local recording at any of your meetings, so participants have never had the option to record. Regardless, though, the burden shouldn't be on the public to capture a public meeting.

Second, it was asserted that recording the PRW meetings would *\*\**saddle the PRW or the City of Berkeley with huge files on the secretary's computer or the city's servers. That is untrue. Paid Zoom accounts, which Berkeley's certainly is, allow recording directly to the cloud.

After the meeting ends, the host automatically gets a link to the recording. That simplelink can then be posted online, along with the agenda, slide presentations, and other documents.



Agenda Item 9. BMASP - community emails

Another reason given at the June 8 meeting for not recording the PRW meetings is that the meetings will soon be back in-person anyway. That explanation misses the point. I urge you to hold hybrid meetings even after in-person PRW meetings can resume. Not only would recording via Zoom obviate the need to produce traditional video recordings, but -- and far more to the point -- the ability to attend online would enable and encourage more public participation.

Finally, it appears that perhaps not all written comments sent to the PRW and BMASP were shared with all commissioners or subsequently appeared online in the public record. An audit of that process may well be in order.

I'm sending this message to the PRW secretary and to the BMASP email address. I ask that all PRW commissioners receive a copy. Please also add this message to the BMASP and PRW documents available online to the public.

I'm copying the city councilmember for my district, Terry Taplin, and also Santiago Casal, Shirley Dean, Martin Nicolaus, and Norman La Force, all of whom have expressed concerns about the BMASP process (communication and transparency) and/or proposals to reduce open space at Cesar Chavez Park. I share those concerns.

Regards,

Eileen Cohen  
District 2 "

Claudia  
Claudia Kawczynska  
2810 8th St. | Berkeley, CA 94710 | 510.821.0044

**Miller, Roger**

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**From:** DAVID RICE <drice2@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Sunday, May 1, 2022 3:27 PM  
**To:** Miller, Roger  
**Subject:** Re: 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.

I read the recent Berkeleyside opinion piece and learned of proposed "improvements" at Cesar Chavez Park. I have already written my councilwoman, Rashi Kesarwani, about this proposal, and I would also like to write you.

My wife and I regularly walk our dog at the dog walking area. We know that the number of people who use the park just to walk is much larger than the number of people who walk dogs at the park. The proposed "improvements" would not "improve" the park. I really like Berkeley's slogan "Parks Make Life Better." These changes would not make Cesar Chavez Park better for the many people who use the park every day and who enjoy the tranquility of the park. These changes would totally change the experience of being at Cesar Chavez Park

Also, a lot of birds, besides those Burrowing Owls, use the park. These "improvements," as is always the case, do not consider how they will affect other species besides humans.

As the old slogan says, conservationists have to win every time; developers just need to win once. I would not have expected the progressive city of Berkeley would consider "improving" the park in this way.

I hope you can stop "improving" the park like this.

Thank you,

David Rice  
Carol Shattuck-Rice  
1470 Keoncrest Drive

**Miller, Roger**

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**From:** Deborah Scott <debwscott@sbcglobal.net>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 24, 2022 2:45 PM  
**To:** Miller, Roger  
**Subject:** BMASP/Cesar Chavez Park

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

Dear Mr. Miller:

I am writing with great concern about the Berkeley Marina Area Specific Plan's for the 'development' at Cesar Chavez Park. I read about this in Berkeleyside and was shocked to read of the plan.

I have walked in this park daily with and without dogs for 21 years. During the pandemic, the park was full of people I'd never encountered there before and it was clearly a place of refuge for us all. I have seen walkers, runners, bikers, picnickers, dog walkers, kite flyers, people practicing yoga, exercise groups, people marking the solstice and the equinox, gathering for eclipses, and watching fireworks and more.

This is a place of natural beauty enjoyed by many from within the City and from outside of the City. It is *already* a 'destination.' It requires nothing more; no 'extras,' no bells and whistles, no Adventure Playground for adults who can afford tickets, no stadium for 'events,' etc. It may need more maintenance and TLC, and the ongoing upgrade to parking and changes in traffic patterns are all big improvements. Much money and work have gone into those improvements -- so with this plan, what happens to all of that work and the expenditures involved? Putting in parking meters? The park will no longer be accessible to everyone, as it is now.

What about the disruption of habitat to all of the wildlife, which is such a part of the experience there -- the burrowing owls, the barn owls that roost there, the egrets and blue herons, the pelicans, hawks, ravens and crows -- and so many more. Their homes will be permanently destroyed or damaged, and they have no voice. They are an integral part of the experience at the park.

Please do not 'develop' one of our greatest and most accessible natural resources in the City. **Preservation** should be the goal.

Thank you for your consideration.

Deborah Scott  
2230 Tenth St.  
Berkeley CA 94710  
District 2

**Miller, Roger**

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**From:** Don Stang <donstang@sbcglobal.net>  
**Sent:** Sunday, July 3, 2022 4:04 PM  
**To:** All Council  
**Cc:** BMASP; Miller, Roger; savecc6@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Plan for changes to 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.

Following is the text of a letter to the editor of the SF Chronicle which we submitted today:

Dear Editor,

The paper of July 3 featured a proposal to create a national park honoring Cesar Chavez, the renowned farmworker activist. Readers may not realize that Berkeley has a beautiful waterfront park that honors Chavez. Those who know about it are able to walk a level mile and a half square path with bay views on 3 sides. It's a good spot for kite flying, exercising your dog, doing art and photography. It's one of few spots along the bay that are peaceful parkland covered with vegetation, with little development.

Now the City of Berkeley wants to approve major commercial developments in the park which would detract badly from its peaceful nature, as well as add an undesirable commercial gloss to a bucolic place fittingly dedicated to Chavez. The plan would create "Events" areas and would turn the Native Plant Area into a "Large Adventure Park".

It's not too late to object to such an extremely unfortunate plan. The proposal falls under the Berkeley Marina Area Specific Plan, and will be taken up by the Parks, Recreation and Waterfront Commission in a July 13 meeting. Share your concerns with [BMASP@cityofberkeley.info](mailto:BMASP@cityofberkeley.info).

More at <https://www.berkeleyside.org/2022/04/29/opinion-berkeley-marina-plan-would-destroy-cesar-chavez-park>.

DONALD STANG & HELEN WICKES

**Miller, Roger**

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**From:** dp\_eas@yahoo.com  
**Sent:** Friday, May 20, 2022 9:19 PM  
**To:** Miller, Roger  
**Subject:** 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.

I understand that on 11 May the Parks and Recreation Department held a hearing or meeting regarding proposals for Cesar Chavez Park.

What was the outcome?

Are comments still being accepted – that is, if there is no final decision?

Please place me on a list for any future proposals regarding the park.

I spend time birdwatching and hiking there. It is special.

Emilie

**Miller, Roger**

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**From:** Eileen Cohen <eftc@lmi.net>  
**Sent:** Friday, June 10, 2022 12:36 PM  
**To:** Miller, Roger  
**Subject:** Fwd: Request to rectify the BMASP process

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.

Mr. Miller, kindly read my message below. Unfortunately I misaddressed it the first time! Thank you.

----- Forwarded Message -----

**Subject:** Request to rectify the BMASP process  
**Date:** Fri, 10 Jun 2022 12:29:44 -0700  
**From:** Eileen Cohen <eftc@lmi.net>  
**To:** miller@cityofberkeley.info, BMASP@cityofberkeley.info  
**CC:** ttaplin@cityofberkeley.info, martin@chavezpark.org, varrio@sbcglobal.net, n.laforce@comcast.net, cespmanager@eastshorepark.org

June 10, 2022

Dear Parks, Recreation, and Waterfront commissioners and staff:

As a Berkeley resident, I am deeply concerned that the Berkeley Marina Area Specific Project (BMASP) process has been seriously flawed. In my opinion, it needs to be restarted virtually from scratch -- this time with better communication to the public about the meetings; comprehensive minutes; and recordings of the public meetings.

Currently, once a PRW meeting is over, there is effectively no public record of concerns expressed about or opposition to BMASP proposals. PRW meetings should be recorded and made available to the public immediately and in perpetuity. (The minutes are simply too high-level for that purpose.) The lack of recordings and/or complete transcriptions of the proceedings undermines confidence in the public process.

To compound the issue, two erroneous assertions were given at the June 8, 2022 PRW meeting as reasons for /not /recording the Zoom meetings.

First, it was stated that although the PRW is not recording its meetings, any participant can record a Zoom meeting. However, that is true *\*only\** if the host has enabled "local recording." (For instructions, see the Zoom support article at <https://tinyurl.com/yx4d6725>.) The PRW did not enable local recording at any of your meetings, so participants have never had the option to record. Regardless, though, the burden shouldn't be on the public to capture a public meeting.

Second, it was asserted that recording the PRW meetings would *\*\*saddle the PRW or the City of Berkeley with huge files on the secretary's computer or the city's servers.* That is untrue. Paid Zoom accounts, which Berkeley's certainly is, allow recording directly to the cloud.

After the meeting ends, the host automatically gets a link to the recording. That simple link can then be posted online, along with the agenda, slide presentations, and other documents.

Another reason given at the June 8 meeting for not recording the PRW meetings is that the meetings will soon be back in-person anyway. That explanation misses the point. I urge you to hold hybrid meetings even after in-person PRW meetings can resume. Not only would recording via Zoom obviate the need to produce traditional video recordings, but - and far more to the point -- the ability to attend online would enable and encourage more public participation.

Finally, it appears that perhaps not all written comments sent to the PRW and BMASP were shared with all commissioners or subsequently appeared online in the public record. An audit of that process may well be in order.

I'm sending this message to the PRW secretary and to the BMASP email address. I ask that all PRW commissioners receive a copy. Please also add this message to the BMASP and PRW documents available online to the public.

I'm copying the city councilmember for my district, Terry Taplin, and also Santiago Casal, Shirley Dean, Martin Nicolaus, and Norman La Force, all of whom have expressed concerns about the BMASP process (communication and transparency) and/or proposals to reduce open space at Cesar Chavez Park. I share those concerns.

Regards,

Eileen Cohen  
District 2

--

This email has been checked for viruses by AVG.  
<https://www.avg.com>

**Miller, Roger**

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**From:** Eileen Cohen <eftc@lmi.net>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 11, 2022 2:41 PM  
**To:** Miller, Roger  
**Subject:** Comment on BAMSP (PRW meeting agenda for 5/11/2022)

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 a Berkeley resident and homeowner since 1994, and a longtime frequent user of Cesar Chavez Park. I'm writing to express my opposition to development within the park's open space. I am especially opposed to the notion that entertainment facilities such as a concert venue or "adventure park" are desirable. Even if such additions did succeed in generating revenue (a big if), in my opinion the benefits would be far outweighed by the inevitable detrimental effects: increased car traffic (and therefore more parking needs), more trash and other waste, and disruptions to the nonhuman elements of the park ecosystem (primarily birds -- including the burrowing owls, for whom loss of habitat is a serious threat to survival as a species).

Thank you for the opportunity to share my concerns.

Regards,

Eileen Cohen  
2162 North Valley Street



**Miller, Roger**

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**From:** Erica Citret Roberts <ericacr323@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, June 10, 2022 3:07 PM  
**To:** Miller, Roger  
**Cc:** savecc6@gmail.com  
**Subject:** plans for Cesar Chavez Park

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

Dear Mr. Miller,

I am writing because I am very concerned about the proposal to remove significant portions of open space from Cesar Chavez Park, and turn them into commercial entities. The open space we have now is crucial for the maintenance of the beautiful and diverse ecosystem that exists there, as well as for the mental health, well being, and recreation of our urban human population. The wonderful improvements currently being completed make the magnificent area safer and more inviting, and demonstrate Berkeley's commitment to not just creating, but to enhancing the open space environment we have enjoyed since the city dump was transformed into a park.

I have heard that there is an argument that parks must be financially self-sustaining. This seems like nonsense to me. Parks are an essential element in a city's balanced approach to its residents' well being. I fail to see how smaller neighborhood parks and playgrounds contribute financially to Berkeley's budget, and yet they are beloved and even necessary amenities in our urban life. Cesar Chavez Park is a larger scaled site which provides many forms of recreation for a diverse population of human beings (some with their pets), ample teaching opportunities for all who appreciate wildlife and their environments, and an easily accessible way to appreciate Nature close to our urban setting. The thought of a commercial/amusement park attraction in this unspoiled area is a horror. What is now ample parking and an improved roadway for the many nature lovers who frequent the park would instantly become woefully inadequate for large numbers of people attracted to commercial installations. Their overabundant presence would stress and

degrade the calm and calming open space setting of the park. Such commercial endeavors would attract their adherents if they were in any old urban or industrial setting, so why in the world would anyone choose to put them in the middle of open space parkland at the heartbreaking expense of the many species--human and otherwise-- who use and glory in the park?

I urge you to resist pressure from commercial interests eager to grievously compromise at best/destroy at worst Cesar Chavez Park. Let common sense and pride in our existing civic policies prevail!

Erica C. Roberts

**Miller, Roger**

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**From:** Sharon Singer <[srs@singersf.com](mailto:srs@singersf.com)>  
**Sent:** Saturday, April 30, 2022 5:43:18 PM  
**To:** Droste, Lori <[ldroste@cityofberkeley.info](mailto:ldroste@cityofberkeley.info)>  
**Subject:** 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.

Councilmember Droste,

I'm writing as your constituent.

I was horrified to read in Berkeleyside that the City of Berkeley is considering turning our wonderful park into a vending machine, and one that I believe would not even be successful.

What are people thinking???

The beauty and environmental value of this former landfill has been a giant success; the park provides wonderful peaceful walking areas by the Bay and endless recreational opportunities for families and all Berkeley residents, not to mention the wildlife that makes it their home.

The last thing this area needs is a permanent building and/or commercial amusement park facilities.

This is the only park of its kind in Berkeley and is sorely needed. It is your job to protect it.

Sincerely,

Sharon Rollins Singer

**Miller, Roger**

---

**From:** Heather Munro Pierce <dance@templeartsinstitute.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 29, 2022 3:31 PM  
**To:** Miller, Roger  
**Subject:** Caesar Chavez Park Concerns- Please reject the current Hargreaves Jones proposal

**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,

Please add me to the email list for notifications about all future meetings; send this email to the BMASP team and all the commissioners; and post this email with other BMASP documents online. Thank you.

I am a long time Berkeley resident and user of Chavez Park.

PLEASE do not go with the current proposal for the waterfront and Chavez park by Hargreaves Jones! I love that there is a nature space near the water that is so accessible. Commercializing the space would be a HUGE LOSS for our community. This is a time in human history where we need to respect and preserve nature, not degrade it with commercial endeavors and over use damage. This proposal does not reflect the basic values of the creation of the park in the first place!!!

Sincerely,  
Heather Munro Pierce  
2204 Roosevelt Ave, Berkeley

## Miller, Roger

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**From:** Helen Greenspan <hihelen@earthlink.net>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 21, 2022 12:05 PM  
**To:** Save CC; BMASP; Miller, Roger; All Council  
**Subject:** Protect Cesar Chavez from development

**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 Persons,

I am writing as a long time resident of the Berkeley/Oakland area and someone for whom Cesar Chavez Park has placed a huge role over a span of 40 years.

I used to bring my mother down to CC. When she was able to walk, we'd walk the loop, over years, talking about everything. My father's Alzheimer's. The adoption of my daughter. Just life things. And all of it in the quiet peaceful low human density environment of CC.

Sometimes my mother would just want to lie on the earth, so I'd help her out of her wheelchair and down to the ground, where she'd soak up the sun and wind, and bask in the sounds of the bay and the birds. Every time she would take a big breath and sigh, looking up at the sky and saying "I just love it here. It's so quiet." This is where she'd find her peace. It was her favorite place to go.

When the big oil spill happened in the bay I was down there to volunteer at 7am the next morning and did so for several days, wearing a haz mat suit and collecting the oil-damaged birds. My 80 year old mother also showed up to volunteer with her caregiver and her family. She was the official "greeter" sitting in her wheelchair and reminding everyone that it is our responsibility to help protect this treasured area. She is gone now but if she were here she would be rallying people together to stop this plan for expansion.

When my daughter was young, I'd gather her and her friends and bring them down for the big candy drop at the annual kite festival. Seeing hundreds of kids running through the field was so beautiful. So natural.

Every dog I've had over my adult life as left their pawprints in the hills and trails of Cesar Chavez. The opening of the off leash area has been a godsend. And a wonderful place to connect with others.

I am a Hospice Nurse. During the Pandemic when work was so chaotic, overwhelming and full of grief, I came down to Cesar Chavez almost every day. There I cried, walked, sat, watched my dog run through the big piles, and made beautiful human connections from behind a mask with others who were also there to gather strength to carry on.

As the Bay Area gets more and more congested, we need to ensure we still have the natural and wild places to go to. To find refuge from the noise and crowds. To allow our nervous systems to settle. And to let the earth, sky and bay restore us.

This is what Cesar Chavez Park is.

To go ahead with this development is to rob the community which has loved, utilized and supported Cesar Chavez for decades, of a convenient, accessible sanctuary where we can restore our spirits and bodies.

I truly hope that this plan does not go through, for the benefit of all of us who live and visit here, and who hope for our children's children's footprints to also imprint these hills.

Sincerely,

Helen Greenspan

**Miller, Roger**

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**From:** Jed Hassell <jedhassell@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 9, 2022 9:37 AM  
**To:** BMASP; Miller, Roger  
**Subject:** Berkeley Marina Plan

**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.

Hi,

My name is Jed Hassell and I have been visiting Cesar Chavez Park with my children for many years. It is one of the only spaces in the bay area where I can fly rc planes in a safe environment and regularly meet other people enjoying the same hobbies. I have recently seen new plans to develop the area for a revenue generating event hub: <https://www.berkeleyside.org/2022/04/29/opinion-berkeley-marina-plan-would-destroy-cesar-chavez-park>. I think it's great to do more with this space but would also like to advocate for an area where we can still enjoy our hobby. Our group regularly meets at Cesar Chavez Park multiple times a week. Please let me know the best way to advocate for this and what I can ask others to do to help.

Thank you,  
Jed Hassell

**Miller, Roger**

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**From:** Jerry Beckerman <jerry@passionspark.org>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 22, 2022 3:21 PM  
**To:** Miller, Roger  
**Subject:** Cesar Chavez Park, our current civilization, and Frederick Engels  
**Attachments:** PastedGraphic-1.tiff

**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:

Whether the law insists on honoring representations made to our citizenry, or it is simply a matter driven by ethical considerations, please pause the train that has left the station and truly consider, deeply consider, what is here.

First becoming a Berkeley resident in 1971 to attend Cal, I had learned about high school debate teams and how one's personal core beliefs about an issue mattered less than one's ability to research, collect, and organize evidence to argue the position you were assigned. You never knew in advance if you would be assigned pro or con, and had to be prepared to "win" the argument regardless. That's what brought you to "nationals."

As adults, many attorneys and advisors associated with their school's debate teams later found their professional niche, maybe even a passion, in these fields.

**What's different now**, in the instant case of Caesar Chavez Park, is that this matter is not about "winning." It's about a time during this great transition in which we are all absorbed, many unknowingly, and whether we simply want to stay on the train of GDP, maximizing revenues, and proving to ourselves that we can win a power struggle, or stepping off the train to pause, and truly consider what is best for individuals' peace and mental health in our community. More, to take another step, a Berkeley step, and model for our nation, and globally really, what is the right thing to do.

While the "gentile constitution" that insisted on equity for all, on a true voice for each, was trashed in Athens about 600 BC, mankind has witnessed the beginning of, and the degradation of, civilization that today is anything but civilized. Incivility runs rampant to most everyone's chagrin, however that is another conversation, albeit related.

Sure, extraordinary architects and artists can build a place to rival 4th street, or even Rodeo Drive in Beverly Hills, but so what. That can be done any where. This Park is one place like no other on this globe, just the way it is.

Please step forward and lead our city to maintain this world class monument in Berkeley, in our Bay Area. Today, a truly peaceful, beautiful, and sacred place as it this, that arose in a confluence of factors, can not be duplicated.

Please, in the honor of this extraordinary man in our times, Cesar Chavez, and what he gave his life for, maintain and enhance and care for his park without commercialization.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully yours,

Jerry

Jerry Beckerman  
Founding Director



[PassionSpark.org](http://PassionSpark.org)  
510-244-3884





## Miller, Roger

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**From:** John Roberts <jnr835@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 16, 2022 8:52 PM  
**To:** Miller, Roger  
**Subject:** Fwd: 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.

Claudia Kawczynska requested that I forward this letter to you so that you could circulate it to the Parks Recreation and Waterfront Commission as well as to the BMASP committee.

Thank you.

John N. Roberts

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** John Roberts <jnr835@gmail.com>

**Date:** Wed, Jun 15, 2022 at 9:56 PM

**Subject:** Chavez Park

**To:** <[mayor@cityofberkeley.info](mailto:mayor@cityofberkeley.info)>, <[rkesarwani@cityofberkeley.info](mailto:rkesarwani@cityofberkeley.info)>, <[ttaplin@cityofberkeley.info](mailto:ttaplin@cityofberkeley.info)>, <[bbartlett@cityofberkeley.info](mailto:bbartlett@cityofberkeley.info)>, <[kharrison@cityofberkeley.info](mailto:kharrison@cityofberkeley.info)>, <[swengraff@cityofberkeley.info](mailto:swengraff@cityofberkeley.info)>, <[rrobinson@cityofberkeley.info](mailto:rrobinson@cityofberkeley.info)>, <[ldroste@cityofberkeley.info](mailto:ldroste@cityofberkeley.info)>, <[shahn@cityofberkeley.info](mailto:shahn@cityofberkeley.info)>

**Cc:** <[Martin@chavezpark.org](mailto:Martin@chavezpark.org)>, <[varrio@sbcglobal.com](mailto:varrio@sbcglobal.com)>

Dear Mayor and City Council,

I have reviewed the plans for the Berkeley Waterfront by Hargreaves Jones, and in particular the proposed plans for Chavez Park. Unfortunately, the plans reflect only a superficial, detached, and narrow understanding of the Berkeley community and the history behind the creation of what is now known as Cesar Chavez Park. Beyond the fundamental misunderstanding of the seminal and ongoing community attitudes about the park, the plans appear to be a crude formulaic response by a disinterested design team to the underlying interests and values of the community as clearly and consistently expressed since the first plans for the park were developed in the late 1970's. It is not at all clear who the design team has been listening to or if they have even bothered to do any serious research into the rich heritage of thinking about this park, first as North Waterfront Park and subsequently as Cesar Chavez Park. When the filling of the bay was stopped, the garbage dump was closed, and the park was created this was to become a place of nature and an informal community gathering and recreational space open to all in a unique waterfront setting, not a commercial enterprise.

The retrofitting of the landfill into an open space seamlessly connected to the bayfront setting to be enjoyed by all members of the community has been the highest priority for the place since the day it was declared a public park. We, as a community, have a sacred responsibility to those who made this public park a reality. Any plans that are developed must acknowledge and build upon the clear vision articulated years ago and reinforced multiple times over the ensuing decades. Changes to that fundamental vision must be well reasoned, fully vetted, and build upon the values that lie behind the park's creation. Similar uses to those in the Hargreaves Jones proposals have been made and routinely rejected over the years, for good reason. They do not reflect fundamental values behind the creation of this park. Nor do they reflect a new community-supported public value-based vision for the renovation of the park that enhances our commons. This is not a place for commercial exploitation and private profit, an essential point established upon its creation as a public park when its use as an extension of the city grid was soundly rejected and then strongly reinforced in each subsequent park planning process. This is a place for everyone to simply experience and enjoy

Agenda Item 9. BMASP - community emails

nature, to celebrate our place in the larger landscape of the SF Bay region (and the cosmos) slightly separated from the city, and to meet friends informally. There are other opportunities elsewhere throughout the waterfront for commercial activities, not here.

As a long time Berkeley resident who contributed his share of the garbage beneath Chavez Park, who prepared plans for the park on behalf of the City in the 1990's through an extensive community outreach process, who has worked collaboratively with Santiago Casal in the creation of the Solar Calendar, who is a frequent user of the park, and whose children grandchildren and grand-nieces and nephews have all benefited immeasurably from the park as well as the nearby Adventure Playground, I believe the Hargreaves Jones plans should be unequivocally rejected outright. They simply don't get it. This project certainly paid the bills for them, but they have contributed very little in return to our community. It is not at all clear where their values lie, or the values of those who hired them and managed the design process. In any case, the whole group really missed the mark on this one.

John N. Roberts

John Northmore Roberts & Associates, Inc.

Landscape Architects

2927 Newbury Street, Suite B

Berkeley, CA 94703

[John@johnnorthmoreroberths.com](mailto:John@johnnorthmoreroberths.com)

O (510) 843-3666

C (510) 908-2066

**Miller, Roger**

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**From:** K Gres <kgres00@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, June 26, 2022 8:14 AM  
**To:** Miller, Roger; All Council; BMASP; Save CC; Wengraf, Susan  
**Subject:** Appreciation for Dog Off-leash Area at Cesar Chavez Park and opposition to BMASP monetization of the Marina area

**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.

RE: Appreciation for Dog Off-leash Area at Cesar Chavez Park and opposition to BMASP monetization of the Marina area

Dear Mr. Miller,

Living in Berkeley, I frequently have the pleasure of visiting the Cesar Chavez Park and dog off-leash area. My pup and I love it! It is so fun to run and breathe the fresh sea air, watch the colorful kites and sailboats and feel the joy of so many folks at play. I love that it is not a “dog park” pre se and has a large open area to exercise and frolic, chase and jump. It is fun to see the pups roll down the wood chip piles getting a good back scratch. All folks, whether with a dog or not, stop to chat and watch the running and tumbling of happy canines. These simple pleasures add so many smiles to life :) .

I wanted to share a short excerpt from an essay by the poet Mary Oliver which celebrates the value of dogs off-leash:

*“But I want to extol not the sweetness nor the placidity of the dog, but the wilderness out of which he cannot step entirely, and from which we benefit. For wilderness is our first home too, and in our wild ride into modernity with all its concerns and problems we need also all the good attachments to that origin that we can keep or restore. Dog is one of the messengers of that rich and still magical first world. The dog would remind us of the pleasures of the body with its graceful physicality, and the acuity and rapture of the senses, and the beauty of forest and ocean and rain and our own breath. There is not a dog that romps and runs but we learn from him.*

*The other dog – the one that all its life walks leashed and obedient down the sidewalk – is what a chair is to a tree. It is a possession only, the ornament of a human life. Such dogs can remind us of nothing large or noble or mysterious or lost. They cannot make us sweeter or more kind.*

*Only unleashed dogs can do that. They are a kind of poetry themselves when they are devoted not only to us but to the wet night, to the moon and the rabbit-smell in the grass and their own bodies leaping forward.”*

I am aware of the BMASP and the ideas being floated to monetize the Marina area. I believe this would be a travesty and strongly oppose such ideas. So many residents of all incomes treasure the park as it is and reap the important benefits of “life off leash”.

Thank you for your consideration.

Kate Greswold  
Berkeley, District 6



**Miller, Roger**

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**From:** K Gres <kgres00@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 23, 2022 8:08 AM  
**To:** Miller, Roger  
**Cc:** All Council; BMASP; Wengraf, Susan  
**Subject:** Opposition to current BMASP

**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.

RE: Opposition to BMASP for the Marina and Cesar Chavez Park  
DT: June 23, 2022

Dear Mr. Miller,

I am opposed to the current BMASP created with the goal of monetizing the Marina area. I am concerned that the plan was not created with publicized opportunities for public input, involvement of citizens groups like the Chavez Park Conservancy, the Cesar Chavez/Dolores Huerta Homage Solar Calendar organization, Chavez Park Off Leash Area dog owner group, Golden Gate Audubon Society, the Sierra Club, the California Native Plant Society, Citizens for Eastshore State Parks and others who helped make our Marina the tranquil, refreshing spot it is today.

I support the work of city government members like Vice Mayor Kate Harrison to preserve the park. The Vice Mayor believes, as I do, that “The Berkeley Marina is a refuge and a space of rejuvenation and rest for so many people, plants, and animals.” I am grateful to hear she is “committed to keeping it that way.” I appreciate the work of those in city government who value this unique natural space in the heart of our urban area which supports the well being of our human and non-human area residents.

Please add me to the email list for notifications about all future meetings and post this email with other BMASP documents online. Thank you.

Thank you for your service and consideration of the future of our beautiful Marina.

Kate Greswold  
District 6

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**Miller, Roger**

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**From:** Karen Hoffman <karenhoffm@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 23, 2022 10:30 AM  
**To:** Miller, Roger; Berkeley Mayor's Office; Taplin, Terry  
**Cc:** All Council; BMASP  
**Subject:** Concerns about BMASP at Cesar Chavez Park

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

Dear Mr. Miller, Mayor Arreguín, and Mr. Taplin,

Please add me to the email list for notifications about all future meetings; send this email to the BMASP team and all the commissioners; and post this email with other BMASP documents online.

I am a resident of District 2 in Berkeley. I have reviewed the Hargreaves Jones proposals in the BMASP. I am writing to oppose those proposals, for the reasons I explain below.

The proposed large event space and zip line/ropes course business will ruin the quality of the park. Events like concerts will bring crowds, noise pollution, and trash; this is out of sync with the primary uses of the park – wildlife and open space - and the intention and values behind the creation of the park.

The park was created for nature and open space at the bay for all to use. These intentions and values have endured over time.

Any changes must acknowledge and build on this original and enduring vision.

The Hargreaves Jones proposals are out of touch with this vision.

Please reject the Hargreaves Jones plans.

Sincerely,

Karen Hoffman  
District 2  
1321 Blake St., Berkeley, CA 94702



**Miller, Roger**

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**From:** Kathleen Lopes <lopeskm@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 21, 2022 4:03 PM  
**To:** Miller, Roger; Wengraf, Susan; swengraf@cob.com; ttaplin@cob.com; Brandon Sturdivant  
**Subject:** Cesar Chavez proposal

**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.

We are very much in favor of the proposal for cleaning and maintaining the jewel on the bay known as "Cesar Chavez Park" per the distributed plans.

As was done by CalTrans, we imagine, the improvements on the south side of lower University have brought much greater use and more of our community to the Marina. Please do not be swayed by the comments of the dog park or boat slip folks alone.

Some of us seniors appreciate the removal of the brush which provided dangerous fodder for fires, campers, people finding themselves without homes. Our downtown has become lost to those of us not so steady on our feet. The criminal element is much more at home there than on Fourth Street.

We have a community no less beautiful than Paris or Golden Gate Park which deserves our respect to serve a greater number. Let us have a civilized location for music on the water, etc. Perhaps then the H's Lordships space will become desirable to restauranteurs. We need the business tax income.

Please distribute to PRW Commission and BMASP

With gratitude,

Russell and Kathleen Lopes

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)

**Miller, Roger**

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**From:** Kathleen Tandy <ktandy@lmi.net>  
**Sent:** Saturday, June 25, 2022 8:08 PM  
**To:** Miller, Roger  
**Cc:** All Council; BMASP; savecc6@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Concerns about BMASP at Cesar Chavez Park

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

Dear Mr. Miller,

Please add me to the email list for notifications about all future Marina Master Planning meetings, plus any other gatherings about the future usage of the Marina parks & facilities; send this email to the BMASP team and all the commissioners; and post this email with other BMASP documents online. Thank you.

I am an Oakland resident but often go to Cesar Chavez Park to watch birds and enjoy the bay vibe. I greatly appreciate this scarce public open space and am against altering or developing it. It is a unique asset to the city and the region. It should remain open space in perpetuity.

The Berkeley Marina is a rich, diverse public space enjoyed by people of all ages, abilities, races, and income levels. I meet many people at the park. We are recreationalists, environmentalists, and people finding solace and/or renewal. We are a community out in the natural beauty and serenity of Cesar Chavez Park.

Until very recently I had no idea about the Berkeley Marina Area Specific Plan. Now that I do I ask that the Berkeley Marina Area Specific Plan process engage that community. Please be inclusive and transparent, and well-documented. Please engage all stakeholders.

Please keep me informed regarding the planning process and the ways in which I can participate in this important planning process.

Best regards,

Kathleen Tandy  
[ktandy@lmi.net](mailto:ktandy@lmi.net)

**Miller, Roger**

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**From:** kathruiz@aol.com  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 6, 2022 8:43 PM  
**To:** Miller, Roger; All Council; BMASP; Save CC; Taplin, Terry  
**Subject:** Concerns about BMASP at Cesar Chavez Park

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

Dear Berkeley and our wider Community:

I have lived in Berkeley for almost 40 years and have frequented and loved the Berkeley Marina since I discovered it soon after I moved here.

The Berkeley Marina is an oasis in a busier, louder and more out of control world. It is an important place to step back, to leave phones and devices at home, to realize and remember our connection to the water, the land, the wildlife, the quiet, the palette of the sky, the change of seasons.

I am horrified at the thought of this unique and beautiful part of the East Bay being developed into anything other than what it is now, for the sake of all humans who are drawn to the Marina for the vital and important sense of connection to earth and to our own inner place of quiet and calm. This is an important lesson that we adults also can teach our young people to connect to as well in this beautiful space.

I am so moved by how the park has been preserved and beautified over the years - what a gem!! My/our tax dollars at work - this I support and am honored to pay taxes for this preservation. The last thing any of us need is commercialization of this site. There are plenty of other places to go to for entertainment. What we need is to preserve this beautiful site to return to again and again, with our elders, our friends, our family, our young ones; to remember that we do not need "things" for pleasure and joy - that we can find pleasure and joy right before us in our nature, our animals, in the sky, the clouds and the water.

I have been to the Marina for years with my daughter, and now with my 3 granddaughters, enjoying the walks and talks and pointing out the beauty before us.

I have been there when my heart was broken, as well as for many celebrations, for birthday parties for picnics, for play with children, for almost daily walks there since Covid 19/shelter in place. I have met and connected with many other Berkeley Marina walkers during the past almost 3 years - and am touched by the commitment to maintain and preserve this sacred space.

Please, preserve this beautiful sacred space - and halt the plans to develop this space into any sort of an entertainment venue.

I think of the term "what would Jesus say" but in this case: "what would Cesar Chavez say?"

In Cesar Chavez's memory, and for all of the humans past and present and future who have and will love our Marina space as a refuge and peaceful, quiet, beautiful natural space in an urban area.

Please protect this vital park.

Kathryn Ruiz

**Miller, Roger**

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**From:** Katie Calvert <katiemarycalvert@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 20, 2022 1:12 PM  
**To:** Miller, Roger; All Council; Berkeley Mayor's Office; Kesarwani, Rashi; Hahn, Sophie; Robinson, Rigel; Taplin, Terry; Droste, Lori; Harrison, Kate  
**Subject:** Concerns about BMASP at Cesar Chavez Park

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

Dear Mr. Miller,

Please add me to the email list for notifications about all future meetings; send this email to the BMASP team and all the commissioners; and post this email with other BMASP documents online.

As a Berkeley resident and a birdwatcher, I am MOST concerned about the plans to change Cesar Chavez Park to include a pavilion and many other "income-making" sites. This park is a valuable and fragile ecosystem. We must enjoy nature and protect it, NOT try to put through a CRAZY plan to build the area up and bring more cars to the waterfront.

Preserve Cesar Chavez Park in its current state.

NO, NO, NO to any development.

Katherine Calvert

1204 Talbot Ave, Berkeley, CA 94706

**Miller, Roger**

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**From:** kellie gan <kellieg06@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, June 25, 2022 5:21 PM  
**To:** Miller, Roger; BMASP; All Council; savecc6@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Concerns about BMASP and Cesar Chavez Park

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

Dear Mr. Miller,

Please add me to the email list for notifications about all future Marina Master Planning meetings, plus any other gatherings about the future usage of the Marina parks & facilities; send this email to the BMASP team and all the commissioners; and post this email with other BMASP documents online. Thank you.

I am a resident of the neighboring city of El Cerrito and I am a regular user of Cesar Chavez Park. I greatly appreciate this scarce public open space and am against altering or developing it. It is a unique asset to the city and the region. It should remain open space in perpetuity.

I have been a regular visitor of Cesar Chavez dog park several times a week for many years and enjoy the freedom and beauty that the off-leash dog park provides. I look forward to walking and seeing other dog parents that frequent the park. I also enjoy the serenity that the park provides and the quiet beauty of the waterfront trail and the surrounding natural landscape.

The Berkeley Marina is a rich, diverse public space enjoyed by people of all ages, abilities, races, and income levels. Individuals and families are out enjoying the park in their own ways whether picnicking, hiking, bird watching or just strolling hand in hand enjoying the fresh air and natural and simplistic beauty - an escape from the hub-bub and racket of city living.

Until very recently I had no idea about the Berkeley Marina Area Specific Plan. Now that I do I ask that the Berkeley Marina Area Specific Plan process engage that community. Please be inclusive and transparent, and well-documented. Please engage all stakeholders.

Please keep me informed regarding the planning process and the ways in which I can participate in this important planning process.

Best regards,

Kellie Gan

Kellieg06@gmail.com

Sent from my iPhone

**Miller, Roger**

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**From:** kristi bennewitz <kristi@revelwine.biz>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 21, 2022 2:59 PM  
**To:** BMASP; Miller, Roger; All Council; savecc6@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Please protect Cesar Chavez Park from development

**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 esteemed members at the City of Berkeley,

I am writing, not as a long time resident, not as someone who has extensive knowledge of the history of Cesar Chavez Park, but a new resident and ardent daily visitor to CCP.

My daughter and I moved to the area at the beginning of June, and since our arrival I have taken my dog Scooby to the park 38 times (we go almost every morning and evening!).

I won't go in to details on the life we are thankfully escaping by having moved to Berkeley, but I will say that Cesar Chavez Park is my place of refuge, exactly as it is. The wild fields on rolling hills, the dusty gravel paths, the flocks of birds, the ever-present sea breeze, the kites in the air on the weekends, the community and kindness of the park-goers, their children and their dogs, they are the happiness and the peace that is this space. As our area gets more congested and busy, it is even more important that our community has access to the wild, open and natural environment that is Cesar Chavez Park.

It is my most sincere hope that the plan does NOT go through, and that my daughter, my dog and I can continue to enjoy its tranquil and rejuvenating beauty.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
kristi bennewitz

kristi bennewitz  
revel wine  
oakland, ca  
director of operations  
415.5138276

## Miller, Roger

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**From:** Leslie Brogan <leslie.brogan@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 22, 2022 4:28 PM  
**To:** Miller, Roger  
**Cc:** All Council; BMASP; savecc6@gmail.com; Berkeley Mayor's Office  
**Subject:** Concerns about BMASP at Cesar Chavez Park

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

Dear Mr. Miller,

I had an extended visit to the Easy Bay last Fall and decided to move here permanently. At first, it was simple things like the ease of getting around and a fantastic grocery store (hello Berkeley Bowl!) that appealed to me, but ultimately, it was the relationships built through my almost daily interactions at Cesar Chavez Park, and surrounding organizations, that led to my decision to stay.

There are so many benefits that I depend on regularly:

- A large off-leash area for my dog to play (otherwise I'd be driving 20+ minutes to Point Isabel for the same experience)
- Convenient access to boat service at Berkeley Marine Center where my housemates and I are working on a boat. We are planning to berth at Berkeley Marina after repairs are completed
- Friday Night sailing races with Berkely Yacht Club
- Regular sailing with CalSail
- Weekly swims in the bay with Odyssey Open Water Swimming Club
- Numerous uncrowded trails that I exercise on regularly
- The friendly, laid-back culture I've experienced at local business/orgs or from folks just walking down the sidewalk
- The physical/mental/environmental repair (just to name a few) that comes from having communal relationships with natural spaces

It's critically important that we protect the living community that exists in and around Cesar Chavez. I'm concerned about:

- **Safety and Gate-Keeping** - police expansion prioritizes traffic and property concerns over, [and often at the detriment of](#), community members. The increase in surveillance creates an environment where public spaces are gate-kept, activities are heavily surveilled (most concerning for our unhoused members), and broad stroke crowd-control solutions (including use-of-force) are used instead of addressing individual needs. **What protection measures are being put into place that prioritize the safety of living bodies - people, land and water inhabitants? What new public access restrictions will go into affect? How will you monitor law enforcement activity as they increase their interactions with our community?**

- **Heavy traffic impact on the water, land and people** - air quality is already a serious health concern in the East Bay. Of major note -- the [additive cancer and asthma risks](#) we're experiencing in local neighborhoods with increase in traffic. **What is your plan to negate the pollution impact to the surrounding neighborhoods? Are community health burdens a factor in your profitability models?**
- **Construction impact on water, land and people** - There has been [previous concern](#) about compromising the layer of clay underneath Cesar Chavez Park, which is keeping the 1.6 million tons of landfill toxins underneath from leeching into the soil and bay. **What is the plan to prevent contamination during construction of new property in the park?**
- **Community Culture** - the ability for me to hop in the car and meet friends for a quiet picnic or drink a beer on the steps at Cal Sail while listening to bay sailing stories should not be understated. We all know these small moments compound to deepen relationships and community. I have ZERO desire to invest my money and time in an over-crowded space where businesses/local govt prioritize large-crowd dollars and experiences over the living community. **Are you willing to forfeit local community member's investments, relationship-building, well-being and support for crowd income? What alternatives have been considered outside of property expansion? What due diligence has been done, beyond allowing a few meeting minutes, to understand the nuanced community needs and impact from this plan?**

**Please add me to the email list for notifications about all future meetings; send this email to the BMASP team and all the commissioners and post this email with other BMASP documents online. Thank you.**

Sincerely,

Leslie



**Miller, Roger**

---

**From:** lexmorris <morris@gate.net>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 6, 2022 1:04 PM  
**To:** Miller, Roger; Kesarwani, Rashi; All Council; Gerstein, Beth  
**Cc:** BMASP; Save CC  
**Subject:** Alternate Roadmap - A Letter for the Public Record & in Support of Protecting & Preserving the Berkeley Marina & Cesar Chavez Park  
**Attachments:** Alternate Roadmap 2022 - A Letter to City Council & PRW- .docx

**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've attached a letter I've been working on since late May. I was informed in an email from Jeff Malmuth to send it to the email addresses below and that if I submitted this by today it will be copied into a public record - this is why I'm sending it today, one week before the PRW meeting.

And while it looks long, for anyone who is interested to read it, it only takes about 10 or so minutes to finish. I will also try to attend the PRW meeting next week depending on my work schedule.

Please let me know if you have any questions,

Respectfully,  
Lex Morris

Roger Miller, Secretary, Parks, Recreation and Waterfront Commission (PRW) at [RMiller@cityofberkeley.info](mailto:RMiller@cityofberkeley.info)

The city council ([council@cityofberkeley.info](mailto:council@cityofberkeley.info)) or your own individual council member

The BMASP project team ([BMASP@cityofberkeley.info](mailto:BMASP@cityofberkeley.info))

Our Save Cesar Chavez team ([savecc6@gmail.com](mailto:savecc6@gmail.com))

**Alternate Roadmap & for the PUBLIC RECORD: BMASP — Specific?!?? TBD...**

In mid-May I immediately became nauseous upon learning of the 2019 Berkeley Marina Area “Specific” Plan - a plan that would permanently “transform” - ie *expensively destroy* - our incredible waterfront area. And how I found out was from a man who just happened to place a discarded flyer from off the ground onto my car. Ever since I moved here 3 decades ago to attend UC Berkeley, I’ve gone there to walk and photograph - it was called North Waterfront Park then. Now residing in San Francisco, I still visit whenever I can. So proximate to so many Bay Area communities, this remains one of the most unique and spectacular but also FRAGILE areas we all cherish and still have open to ALL of us - including countless bird species - some threatened or endangered - not to mention other wildlife.

While working full-time, I’ve also been taking time to learn about all this. read the BMASP deck pdf, articles, letters, online information, teamed up with Jeff Malmuth, joined Martin Nicolaus’ *chavezpark.org*, joined CESP and also in late May, began this letter and requested a community meeting with Councilmember Rashi Kesarwani (District 1) to help try to ENTIRELY stop what so many of us view as sheer madness - nothing less than the destruction of an entire ecosystem. Our views are in stark contrast to the “strong” citizen support the BMASP deck claims exists and “overwhelming” support the City seems to presently regard as majority sentiment. Incidentally, a “study” that cites overwhelming public support for anything yet simultaneously doesn’t keep adequate public records proving said “support” - *in specific detail* – would seem to invalidate any claims of strong support. *Excluding the* many necessary repairs to aging infrastructure that we can all agree on, so many have already voiced at meetings and in letters why the area MUST BE preserved and protected for all *as it is*. But I’d like still like to add some thoughts concerning the misleading BMASP deck itself as this “plan” is so out of synch with the entire area. Yes, it’s a “Specific Plan” but it’s a *Specific Destruction Plan* - for that reason I call it the **BMADP**.

Under “Support for the following *revenue-generating facilities*”, the deck pdf cites 979 surveyed participants, mainly from Berkeley: for “Casual outdoor dining” 91% “Strongly Like + Like” (how many “Strongly Like” vs. “Like” we don’t know since they fused that as one percentage), 7 % “Neutral” while supposedly an entirely insignificant 2% “Don’t Like + Strongly Don’t Like”. In “What *new or enhanced amenities* would you like to see?”, for “Nature viewing *areas*” a high 88% in favor while yet another insignificant 1% oppose- *never mind that the entire area already is a nature viewing area*. Next, “Ecological/environmental *features*” 86% in favor, vs. less than 2% opposed, “Shorebird Park Beach *Improvements*” 82% vs less than 1%. “Dining” “new or enhanced amenities”, “viewing areas” “ecological features” and “improvements” are not *specific, clear descriptions of what they’re actually proposing* and those words leave open to interpretation the actual plans - in other words they give themselves endless wiggle room to come up with pretty much any designs they wish. But, take just one example, we don’t need - or want - raised “nature viewing” overlooks to see the bay from higher up and gaze down upon an “enhanced” bulldozed meadow with a concert

stage, food stands and beer “gardens” where swallows, red-winged blackbirds and other wildlife presently live. Plans which require displacing (killing) and destroying animals and nature aren’t “improvements” nor “enhanced”.

We’ve also been told that “The BMASP has involved an extensive public process and has provided announcements of public meetings via numerous communication channels: the City’s website, the City’s Community Calendar, the Berkeleyside newspaper, as well as email announcements *to residents interested in the BMSASP and Measure T1 projects.*”

ãlf people were as sufficiently notified and democratically welcomed in advance to participate, then how is it possible then, that even up to this very day (July 7) *countless people who visit the park regularly still don’t know of this plan??* How is it that all of us who have been going and spending weekdays and/or weekends in May and June - *directly talking with people in the park itself*, how come the vast majority we speak with didn’t *know of these proposals until so recently?* How is it so many still don’t know? And why would there still be such levels of shock, disgust and outrage if such an overwhelming majority of locals approve these destruction plans as the surveys claim? If so many “Strongly Like + Like” them then why would those we speak with, once they hear *actual details* - specifics in other words - including proposals cited as “environmental” - why would they be near 100% unanimously opposed to the majority of them? And why would predominantly Berkley residents be opposed to what the Sierra Club and California Wildlife Foundation have already written in opposition to these plans - this doesn’t make sense either. If the “random” selection surveyed in the deck are so in favor of the exact same plans that we also go out and describe to people, how could our results be exactly opposite the survey results? And why would so many locals be sending in letters in strong opposition? It simply doesn’t make sense. Even just this past holiday weekend there was more outreach *within the park once again* - same thing as in May and June - 100% of those spoken with opposed the plan. *Surveys with an unbiased, truly diverse and/or fully informed pool of participants generally tend to mirror overall community sentiment* in any follow-up - and this should especially be the case here given those overwhelmingly high percentages of “Strongly Like + Like” in those surveys I described before. It’s a known fact - it’s *very easy* to simplify, generalize and manipulate survey questions so that the respondents answers overall reflect what vested interests want reflected - and is exactly why surveys are so often used in “development” schemes - it’s a well-known tactic. It’s also easy to achieve desired survey results if you alert *certain* people ahead of time to participate - whether this happened, it still happens to be another well-known tactic.

As tons of tax payer funded new road work in the marina *has already been done, and with much still underway*, City Hall and the PRW say things like “Remember, nothing has been decided yet.”, “To Be Determined”, “Still to come in the process are..”, “..no decisions will be made without further engagement with the community and Council”, “Staff will revise draft list of potential new revenue-generating uses”, a “Draft Specific Plan will be completed in early Spring 2023 - the deck itself states dates, including an EIR

Public Scoping Meeting TBD in 2023 are “*To Be Determined*” (which I think should have already have taken place - and which also means they could happen late in 2023) and so fourth. Yet, and though I’d like to believe otherwise, the deck itself and road construction *already completed and taking place*, the insistence on overwhelming “community” support, the many “obstacles” to getting an official PUBLIC RECORD of opposition and Community Meetings and PRW zoom meetings not being recorded - even though many have requested this happen - taken together all of these would seem to indicate an overall pro-destruction stance by - not that “nothing has been decided yet.”

But for now, while we’re all floating around in some presumably “undecided” ambiguity together, here’s another example that seems to counter that ostensible “indecision” - the “**June 8 BMASP Update**” to Mayor Arreguín and City Council. Leaning very much in the pro-destruction direction, the update shows dismissive haste, strong reliance on the afore-mentioned surveys, *not adequately* addressing other, entirely valid citizen concerns and input *in real time*, apple to orange comparisons, and overall implicit bias we’re all so alarmed by -versus taking into REAL consideration serious, expressed concerns - including those presented at PRW meetings just prior to this June 8 Update.

The Update begins with “In 2019 the..BMASP was authorized by City Council in order to provide a long-term “*vision*” for achieving a financially **self-sustainable publicly-owned** Waterfront in the City of Berkeley.” Wrecking ecosystems isn’t sustainable and private enterprises aren’t publicly owned. It further states “*Based on community feedback from Community Meeting No. 2* (some specificity finally), the focus groups (who exactly?), and “the community questionnaire” (aka the previously cited survey results), the consultant team and staff WILL REVISE the draft list of *potential new revenue-generating and complementary uses* at the Berkeley Waterfront for additional discussion with *multiple focus groups* for September 2022.” They also say they’ll hear “additional community feedback” - notably though, this feedback *as siphoned through their planned Community Meetings, focus groups and surveys*. And then, not until yet another unspecified time in 2024 “the final plan and Final Environmental Impact Report WILL BE *presented to Council FOR ADOPTION*. Once the Specific Plan has been adopted, *the City WILL HAVE a roadmap* with a specific set of “potential” new revenue-generating and complementary uses at the Berkeley Waterfront that WILL ENSURE that current and *future generations* of Berkeley’s can enjoy the Berkeley Waterfront for the next 25 - 50 years.” I say *Future Generations can and WILL enjoy it is - as a fully protected ecosystem*.

Another example of the city “answering” important community questions in the Update: **Question 1: Why is Cesar Chavez Park being developed into an amusement park?** The highly simplified, again detail deficient response to presumably justify the “increase of the number of special events (e.g., concerts) at the eastern side of the park, and to develop either a portable or permanent stage area and pathway for event equipment”, the answer offered is *that pre-Covid, “large public events were held at*

*Berkeley Waterfront for several decades, including the Kite Festival, July 4th celebration, and occasional musical concerts.” And that’s it, that’s the “answer” provided to that most essential question. ‘*

These three simply cannot be compared to permanently deforming the entire area into a Berkeley Disneyland/Pike’s Place on steroids. Kite flying and a one time Kite Festival annually *entirely fits and works within the landscape and tradition here* - and is QUIET. We all know birds and wildlife are highly sensitive to continual sounds, vibrations and of course, excessive crowds. Second, *“occasional musical concerts”* and the 4th of July are *infrequent events* which, yes, generate sounds and disturb birds, but have nowhere near the same impact as ***ongoing and frequent revenue-generating*** events in an amusement zone - and all that goes along with that. It would drive away countless species we are *supposed to be PROTECTING and SHARING our planet with - not stealing from.*

The entire “plan” is so out of step with Berkeley’s long standing, pro-environment history unique among cities, not sufficiently documenting public opposition is alarmingly out of step with the city’s Free Speech Movement history, entirely out of step with of the solar calendar monument PERMANENTLY honoring Cesar Chavez and Dolores Huerta and their enduring commitment to PRESERVE and PROTECT PEOPLE, NATURE and all species in it, out of step with the already ever increasing traffic along I-80, Frontage Rd., University Ave (and only one road leads in and out of the entire area), out of touch with the REALITY of the range of diverse economic/social backgrounds of countless people who enjoy FREE parking, ample, FREE recreation, exercise and relaxation, out of step with the idea of Berkeley SUPPORTING the MANY EXTREMELY CLOSE, INCREDIBLE LOCAL BUSINESSES who, incidentally, also so happen to still be struggling to get past Covid impacts and all other chaos hitting our economy and globe - and entirely out of step with the direction *all of us* - as *CO-INHABITANTS* of OUR PLANET IN PERIL - *are supposed to be moving in TOGETHER.* There are FAR MORE *productive, interesting and COMMUNITY, CIVIC & ENVIRONMENT PROTECTING* ways to generate revenues versus destroying the increasingly rare, nature areas and species around us - *who also have a right to their survival.* We simply cannot not pave another paradise and recognize our *Interdependence* - *let’s honor the area, the species, those who protected it for us in the past so that we can ALL CONTINUE to protect this highly specific, incredible area TOGETHER - for now and for everyone’s future.*

Thank you for your strong consideration to what all of us are trying to protect and all we’re trying to convey to you,

Lex Morris

EcoCitizen

UC Berkeley, former Berkeley & Oakland resident  
San Francisco, current resident

ps: <https://chavezpark.org/cesar-chavez-memorial-solar-calendar/>

**Miller, Roger**

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**From:** Linda Kroll <lindakroll49@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 6, 2022 12:40 PM  
**To:** Miller, Roger; All Council; BMASP; saveccc6@gmail.com; Hahn, Sophie  
**Cc:** Dennis Creek  
**Subject:** Concerns about BMASP at Cesar Chavez Park

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July 6, 2022

Roger Miller, Secretary  
Parks, Recreation and Waterfront Commission  
[RMiller@cityofberkeley.info](mailto:RMiller@cityofberkeley.info)

Dear Mr. Miller,

Please add us to the email list for notifications about all future Marina Master Planning meetings, plus any other gatherings about the future usage of the Marina parks & facilities; send this email to the BMASP team and all the commissioners; and post this email with other BMASP documents online. Thank you.

We are residents of Berkeley and regular users of Cesar Chavez Park. We greatly appreciate this scarce public open space that is readily available to all residents of the area and are against altering or developing it. It is a unique asset to the city and the region. It should remain open space in perpetuity.

We visit Cesar Chavez Park for several recreational opportunities. Most often, we visit to walk around the circuit and over the hill to enjoy the views and to do seasonal birdwatching. We also visit the park with our grandchildren (aged 8 and 6) who can practice their burgeoning bike riding skills in a safe area that provides opportunities for steering, braking and learning to enjoy their newly acquired skill. We also visit the park accompanying our friends who regularly walk their dog in the off-leash area. The park provides solace, fresh air, companionship and an appreciation for our local flora and fauna.

The Berkeley Marina is a rich, diverse public space enjoyed by people of all ages, abilities, races and income levels. We meet many people at the park. We are recreationalists, environmentalists, and people finding solace and/or renewal. We are a community out in the natural beauty and serenity of Cesar Chavez Park.

Until very recently, we had no idea about the Berkeley Marina Area Specific Plan. Now that we do, we ask that the Berkeley Marina Area Specific Plan process engage that community. Please be inclusive and transparent, and well-documented. Please engage all stakeholders.

Please keep us informed regarding the planning process and the ways in which we can participate in this important planning process.

Best regards,

Linda Kroll and Dennis Creek

Berkeley, CA

[Lindakroll49@gmail.com](mailto:Lindakroll49@gmail.com), [denniscreek@sbcglobal.net](mailto:denniscreek@sbcglobal.net)



**Miller, Roger**

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**From:** llyana landes <landeslly@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 5, 2022 11:52 AM  
**To:** Miller, Roger; All Council; BMASP; savecc6@gmail.com  
**Subject:** 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.

Hello all

I'm adding another voice for keeping the park in its current wonderful and wild state. There is so little wild nature that is accessible easily in our area, that is home to an array of wildlife that lives fairly peaceably with our current use of the park. I live in N. Oakland and am a frequent visitor to this healing place for walks, birding, and time spent with friends. It's a true gem, and as an aging citizen it is accessible in many ways. The thought of an entertainment arena with crowds of cars, partiers, and loud concerts here is such a travesty to me.

Please don't take this refuge away !!!!!

Thanks for reading,  
Llyana

**Miller, Roger**

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**From:** Maggie Goodman <librarygoodman@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 21, 2022 3:04 PM  
**To:** Miller, Roger  
**Cc:** All Council; BMASP; savecc6@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Concerns about BMASP at Cesar Chavez Park

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

Dear Mr Miller,

Please add us to the email list for notifications about all future meetings.

We're Berkeley residents in District 1 and have become alarmed hearing about plans to remodel Cesar Chavez Park. We enjoy visiting the park as a natural area getaway. Over the years we have watched the Native Plant Area take shape and become established. We like to ramble around while birdwatching. It's a place to spend time with my daughter and friends. We feel rejuvenated after spending time in nature. This is a special place close to home that we think needs to be preserved.

We wholeheartedly agree with Martin Nicolaus' opinion piece "Berkeley Marina Plan Would Destroy Cesar Chavez Park" in the April 29th Berkeleyside. That has been the only public notification I have seen on this important issue.

Yours truly,  
Margaret and Laura Goodman

**Miller, Roger**

---

**From:** Mari Vlastos <marijean40@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 4, 2022 10:59 AM  
**To:** Miller, Roger  
**Cc:** Save CC  
**Subject:** Please stop CC development plans!

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 Roger Miller,

I'm writing to let you know I am completely opposed to the development plans for CC Park! I am also distressed that I was completely unaware of these plans until I happened to read the letter by Martin Nicolaus. The only amenity I would like to see is a properly maintained public bathroom.

PLEASE stop this money making plan and keep our park open, natural and accessible! It's one of the few waterfront areas that I am able to use, along with my friends, with ample parking, no fees and a beautiful experience of nature. The poor, the disabled, the elderly and the very young will be grateful to you!

Mari Vlastos  
1221 Queens Road  
Berkeley

**Miller, Roger**

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**From:** Martin Nicolaus <martin@chavezpark.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 7, 2022 9:44 AM  
**To:** Miller, Roger  
**Subject:** Commission Meeting July 13  
**Attachments:** PRWC Packet.pdf

**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,

I notice that the July 13 PRW Commission meeting has still not been announced on the [City's website](#) . No agenda has been posted, and there is no Zoom link. The delay in posting this otherwise routine and required information raises the question whether the Commission intends to postpone the July 13 meeting. That would be very unfortunate, as there is intense public interest in the BMASP issue and dozens of individuals are prepared to speak on that topic in the public comments section.

Attached for distribution to the Commissioners and related parties please find the document "Public Response to the Berkeley Marina Area Specific Plan (BMASP) Proposals for Cesar Chavez Park." This reprints written public comments dating from May 1 to July 7 2022 and published on [chavezpark.org](https://chavezpark.org), the website of the Chavez Park Conservancy. The attached document does not include the Berkeleyside Op-ed on the same topic published April 29 and its comments. This has been widely distributed already.

Thank you for your continuing valued service to Berkeley's parks and waterfront.

Martin Nicolaus  
Chavez Park Conservancy  
<https://chavezpark.org>  
510-717-2414

# Public Response to the Berkeley Marina Area Specific Plan (BMASP) Proposals for Cesar Chavez Park

This document covers May 1 through July 7 2022

Does not include Berkeleyside op-ed on April 29 2022 and its comments

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# Let's Stop the Plan That Would Destroy Our Park

June 29, 2022

The City has hired a consultant to propose changes in the Berkeley Marina. The project is known as the Berkeley Marina Area Specific Plan – BMASP. The plan would transform the park from a place of relief from urban stress and for enjoyment of nature into a high-pressure commercial amusement park.

Two proposals in particular stand out. Number One, BMASP wants to create a big oval “Large Event Area” with an “Events Pavilion” in the middle of the park. Number Two: BMASP wants to turn the Native Plant Area into “Large Adventure Park II.” Let’s take them in turn.



The proposed “Large Events Area” would require bulldozing and paving the big central meadow in the park. There would be a huge concert stage with a roof, screens, and a big sound system. As an example, BMASP gives the “LOVEBOX” installation in the next photo, below. The Events Area would cut off at least half of the current Off Leash Area. BMASP also proposes undefined other “PARK PAVILIONS.”



BMASP ILLUSTRATION FOR PROPOSED EVENTS SPACE

Agenda Item 9. BMASP - community emails

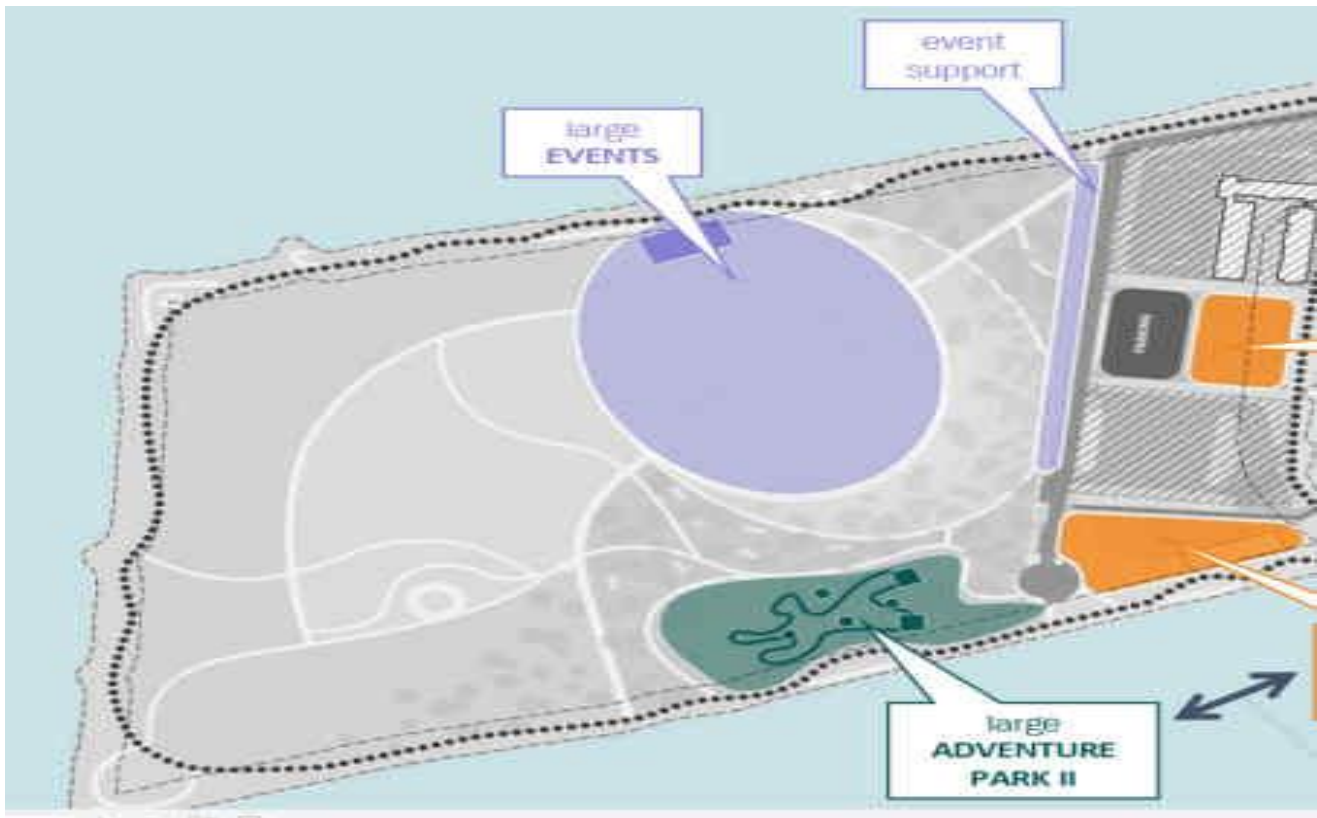
The idea behind the “Events Space” is to generate revenue. That’s a fantasy. Events, whether regional or otherwise, have never generated net revenue for the Marina Fund. The lineup of Marina Fund revenue sources given in BMASP’S own documents makes no mention of event revenues, because there haven’t been any. Even the biggest events, the Kite Fest and July 4, cost the City major sums of money to put on.

Once or twice a year, a big charity may hold a fundraiser that draws a few hundred people, but the City’s expenses in cleanup and staffing always eat up more than the rental fees. Even the disturbing Cannabis Festival that some elements in City government want to put on would not cover the cost of fencing, groundskeeping, staff time, police and fire overtime, DUI cases, and the enormous cleanup necessary after marijuana events.

Cesar Chavez Park doesn’t pencil out as a regular events venue. The only access is via Marina Boulevard, a two-lane road, and parking is already tight in normal usage. The other problem is weather. Even in summer there’s regularly a chill northwesterly wind. That’s good weather for walking but not for sitting still. There are other venues in Berkeley that work much better. An event venue in Chavez Park is sure to lose money.

Big events bring major noise pollution, traffic jams, tobacco, alcohol and other drugs, littering, and crime. Wildlife is driven away, maybe never coming back. The effect of the BMASP “Events Space” plan is to rip the gut out of Cesar Chavez Park.

The second main impact of BMASP is even worse, if possible. BMASP proposes to create a so-called “Large ADVENTURE PARK II” in the spot occupied for the past 40 years by the Native Plant Area on the southwest side of the park. Here’s the map from BMASP documents:





What BMASP wants to put here is a commercial sporting facility consisting of zip lines and ropes courses. BMASP gives as an example one such place in Orange County. This operation is open to groups for \$350 a day, and people under 60 inches aren't welcome.

If this plan succeeds, forget the Native Plant Area in our park. This shaded oasis where dozens of varieties of California native trees, shrubs, and grasses thrive will go under the bulldozer. Forget the California Coastal Conservancy that paid to establish this habitat 40 years ago. Forget the progressive Berkeley City Council of the time that paid for the other half of it. Forget the hardworking, nature-savvy trio of Charli Danielsen, David Amme, and Dave Kaplow and their associates, environmental heroes who worked from sunup to sundown to establish native plants in this challenging site, a historic project. Forget the dozens of volunteers and concerned supporters and the City staff who have weeded and trimmed and watered in the Native Plant Area in recent years. Forget the Native Pollinator Garden project just funded by Alameda County and by East Bay Community Energy. It will all be scraped away.

It might be a different matter if there were a groundswell of popular demand for rock concerts and zip lines on the Marina. But BMASP's own public opinion polling shows just the opposite. No less than 87 percent of the respondents go to the Marina for its walking/biking pathways. Similarly, 79 percent go there to enjoy the parks. These are by far the most popular reasons why people go there. Nothing else is even close. People go to the Marina overwhelmingly to enjoy being in nature. Nature is the city-dweller's lifeline, now more than ever. The BMASP recommendations are tone deaf to our environmentally conscious time. They run absolutely counter to what people want and need to see in the park. If BMASP succeeds, the park will be wrecked beyond restoration.

Other signs of BMASP's distance from park visitor's concerns abound. BMASP completely ignores the Cesar Chavez/Dolores Huerta Homage Solar Calendar, a park landmark.

BMASP envisions only one real bathroom in the 90-acre park, to be built years from now. This ignores a petition signed by nearly a thousand park users and the clear recommendation of a citywide study.

BMASP also plans to pave over the Adventure Playground on the south side of the Marina, where generations of Berkeley kids have played and learned.

BMASP claims to value public opinion, but it never contacted the Chavez Park Conservancy, the Chavez Park dog owner's group, the Solar Calendar organization, or the model airplane group. And it didn't reach out to the Golden Gate Audubon Society, the Sierra Club, the California Native Plant Society, or Citizens for Eastshore State Parks, all of which have long records of engagement with Chavez Park. BMASP's few public events have been lightly publicized and heavily staged, with tedious talking heads and tightly controlled breakout groups. It has fabricated a fake show of consensus for its outrageous plans, when there is in fact widespread and deep opposition.

The consulting firm that is driving the BMASP project, Hargreaves Jones, is an international landscape architecture giant that specializes in post-industrial brownfield sites. It has little experience with established urban parks having well-developed constituencies. The firm's work so far has been shallow, insensitive, poorly researched, and sloppy. It has brought no landscape design ideas. Its only proposals are for commercial ventures that would destroy the beautiful and beloved landscapes we have long enjoyed here. The City should cancel its contract and replace it with local firms that know the park and its people.



## What Can We Do to Save Our Park?

The authority to stop the BMASP park wrecking plan lies with the City Manager and ultimately with City Council. The matter will come on the City Council agenda at some point in 2023, but we need to derail it immediately before it ever gets there. We can do that by expressing our views loud and clear in emails and hearings.

A key City Council member is Rashi Kesarwani in District 1, where Chavez Park is located. Kesarwani's term expires November 2022. She needs to hear from voters in her district that her chances of being re-elected depend on a strong and clear public statement about the BMASP park wrecking schemes.

Email [rkesarwani@CityofBerkeley.info](mailto:rkesarwani@CityofBerkeley.info)

To reach all council members and the mayor, email [council@cityofberkeley.info](mailto:council@cityofberkeley.info)

City Manager: [manager@cityofberkeley.info](mailto:manager@cityofberkeley.info)

Please send copies of your messages to [info@chavezpark.org](mailto:info@chavezpark.org). The chavezpark.org website has published a number of such messages and will publish more.

An earlier version of this content appeared in Berkeleyside on April 29 2022.

# This is Not Landscape Design

June 14, 2022



Hargreaves Jones' proposed concert venue in central meadow of Cesar Chavez Park would require extensive bulldozing and structural maintenance not to mention expensive parking, traffic jams, noise, crime, mountains of trash, and scaring away wildlife.

*(The Hargreaves Jones firm is behind the Berkeley Marina Area Specific Plan (BMASP) that would destroy Chavez Park as we know it.)*

The Hargreaves Jones landscape firm has done some outstanding projects, but its current efforts in Berkeley must be the work of its B team. The firm boasts on its website about creating “dynamic, interactive and exultant landscape,” but what it’s doing in Berkeley is destroying beautiful existing landscapes to promote commercial development. For example:

- HJ proposes to convert an existing historic Native Plant Area into a commercial zip line and ropes course.
- HJ proposes to bulldoze a verdant meadow rich in wildlife to build a concert stage and concert seating.
- HJ proposes to shut forever and pave over a free Adventure Playground that has served and educated several generations of Berkeley children.

Berkeley’s Cesar Chavez Park at 90 acres is Berkeley’s largest and is a regional attraction for its spectacular views, its bird life, its freeform recreation, and the peace and quiet that individuals and families find here.

HJ boasts of doing “rigorous research” but apart from issues of jurisdiction and zoning, its work on the park reveals utter ignorance about its history. This is not a post-industrial brownfield of the kind that HJ is experienced at reshaping. Chavez Park is the product of 40 years of previous landscape architecture and management and is an established urban oasis with well-developed constituencies.

HJ speaks broadly about respecting “site specificity,” but pays not the slightest respect to the legacy of Cesar Chavez and Dolores Huerta, who are honored in a notable solar calendar, one of the chief attractions in the park. It may be that the scarcity of minority senior staff at HJ has something to do with this lack of sensitivity.

George Hargreaves’ mindset was formed in the 1970s when few people thought about native plants. Maybe that explains why his firm is ready to destroy the Native Plant Area in the park, a pioneering ecological effort supported by the California Coastal Conservancy and the Berkeley City Council, and established by local environmental heroes. HJ reveals itself as tone deaf to today’s public concern with native plant gardens, pollinator insects, and protection of bird species. Those are not part of the HJ design plan for Berkeley because they don’t produce revenue.

HJ boasts on its website about how it listens to and engages with local communities. It has done nothing of the sort in Berkeley. HJ never reached out to the Chavez Park Conservancy, nor to the Cesar Chavez/Dolores Huerta Homage Solar Calendar organization, nor to the Chavez Park Off Leash Area dog owner group, all based in the park and readily discoverable. No one at HJ contacted the Golden Gate Audubon Society, the Sierra Club, the California Native Plant Society, or Citizens for Eastshore State Parks, all of whom have long and documented records of engagement with Chavez Park. Hundreds of volunteers have donated thousands of hours of labor to maintain and improve Chavez Park.

Instead of community engagement and democratic process, HJ has been operating a “public opinion” charade that offers fake alternatives, slanted questions, unsupportable suppositions, and censored discussion summaries, all engineered to produce a facade of consensus where there is deep and widespread opposition.

George Hargreaves pretends to create “innovative design of gardens, parks, and urban landscapes that are free from the extensive range of activities that support the city.” What HJ actually proposes for Berkeley’s Chavez Park entails the destruction of its existing landscapes. HJ brings no landscape design ideas. All it brings is commercial development ideas. HJ’s only project is to monetize the park. This is not landscape architecture. It’s pimping for moneyed interests.

A sure sign of B level work is that HJ didn’t spellcheck its Powerpoint presentation; you can read there about “IMRPOVED PATHWAYS, SEATING, LIGHTS, ETC.”

Hargreaves Jones should be ashamed of its Berkeley efforts. The firm should withdraw from the project before it suffers an ineradicable stain on its reputation in the landscape architecture community.

# They Simply Don't Get It

June 16, 2022 Edit

Letter to City Council by Landscape Architect John N. Roberts, June 15 2022:

Dear Mayor and City Council,

I have reviewed the plans for the Berkeley Waterfront by Hargreaves Jones, and in particular the proposed plans for Chavez Park. Unfortunately, the plans reflect only a superficial, detached, and narrow understanding of the Berkeley community and the history behind the creation of what is now known as Cesar Chavez Park. Beyond the fundamental misunderstanding of the seminal and ongoing community attitudes about the park, the plans appear to be a crude formulaic response by a disinterested design team to the underlying interests and values of the community as clearly and consistently expressed since the first plans for the park were developed in the late 1970's. It is not at all clear who the design team has been listening to or if they have even bothered to do any serious research into the rich heritage of thinking about this park, first as North Waterfront Park and subsequently as Cesar Chavez Park. When the filling of the bay was stopped, the garbage dump was closed, and the park was created this was to become a place of nature and an informal community gathering and recreational space open to all in a unique waterfront setting, not a commercial enterprise.

The retrofitting of the landfill into an open space seamlessly connected to the bayfront setting to be enjoyed by all members of the community has been the highest priority for the place since the day it was declared a public park. We, as a community, have a sacred responsibility to those who made this public park a reality. Any plans that are developed must acknowledge and build upon the clear vision articulated years ago and reinforced multiple times over the ensuing decades. Changes to that fundamental vision must be well reasoned, fully vetted, and build upon the values that lie behind the park's creation. Similar uses to those in the Hargreaves Jones proposals have been made and routinely rejected over the years, for good reason. They do not reflect fundamental values behind the creation of this park. Nor do they reflect a new community-supported public value-based vision for the renovation of the park that enhances our commons. This is not a place for commercial exploitation and private profit, an essential point established upon its creation as a public park when its use as an extension of the city grid was soundly rejected and then strongly reinforced in each subsequent park planning process. This is a place for everyone to simply experience and enjoy nature, to celebrate our place in the larger landscape of the SF Bay region (and the cosmos) slightly separated from the city, and to meet friends informally. There are other opportunities elsewhere throughout the waterfront for commercial activities, not here.

As a long time Berkeley resident who contributed his share of the garbage beneath Chavez Park, who prepared plans for the park on behalf of the City in the 1990's through an extensive community outreach process, who has worked collaboratively with Santiago Casal in the creation of the Solar Calendar, who is a frequent user of the park, and whose children grandchildren and grand-nieces and nephews have all benefited immeasurably from the park as well as the nearby Adventure Playground, I believe the Hargreaves Jones plans should be unequivocally rejected outright. They simply don't get it. This project certainly paid the bills for them, but they have contributed very little in return to our community. It is not at all clear where their values lie, or the values of those who hired them and managed the design process. In any case, the whole group really missed the mark on this one.

John N. Roberts

John Northmore Roberts & Associates, Inc., Landscape Architects, Berkeley

# Open Letter from Sierra Club about BMASP

The East Bay Public Lands Committee of the San Francisco Bay Chapter of the Sierra Club addressed the following letter in opposition to the BMASP plans for Cesar Chavez Park to the Mayor and City Council members of Berkeley on May 24 2022.



San Francisco Bay Chapter  
Serving Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, and San Francisco Counties

May 24, 2022

**VIA EMAIL ONLY**

Mayor Jesse Arreguin and  
Berkeley City Council Members  
Ben Bartlett, Lori Droste, Sophie Hahn, Kate Harrison,  
Rashi Kesarwani, Rigel Robinson, Terry Taplin, Susan Wengraf  
2180 Milvia Street  
Berkeley, CA 94704

Re: Berkely Area Specific Plan (BMSAP) Proposed Options for Events Pavillion  
Larger Adventure Park in Cesar Chavez Park.

Dear Mayor Arreguin and Council Members  
Bartlett, Droste, Hahn, Harrison, Kesarwani, Robinson, Taplin and Wengraf:

The Sierra Club opposes a proposed Events Pavilion and a Larger Adventure Park in Cesar Chavez Park. The Sierra Club considers these proposals inconsistent with the history concerning the creation of Cesar Chavez Park and its current uses as a park and habitat area.

The Sierra Club's involvement over this park began with Save the Bay after co-founder Sylvia McLaughlin looked out from her window in Berkeley in the 1950's and saw the area that is now the Berkeley Marina and the McLaughlin East Shore State Park being filled in. What is now Cesar Chavez park was the Northern and Western most portion of that fill. Beginning in the 1970's after the closure of the landfill areas, the Sierra Club with Save the Bay and other organizations campaigned to turn Cesar Chavez into a park and open space area. The Regional Water Quality Control Board ultimately ordered a 15 foot clay cap over the site. Once that was accomplished planning took place for the park.

The plans that ultimately were approved included a burrowing owl habitat area, a native plant area, and a large open space for passive recreational uses. Later an off leash dog park was put into the park. From the beginning the concept and purpose of this park was for passive recreation and habitat and wildlife enhancement and protection. While the large open area now is the home of the Berkeley Kite Festival, this was viewed as a more passive recreational activity.

The Sierra club supported these uses for the park. The Sierra Club long campaigned for the park to remain a more passive recreation area. The Sierra Club never supported proposals like event pavilions or an adventure park. The Sierra Club joins in the comments of the Citizens for East Shore State Park and urges the council to not include the events pavilion or the large adventure park as future uses of the park.

Sincerely yours,

/s/Norman La Force  
East Bay Public Lands Committee

# Open Letter from CESP about BMASP

The following open letter is from Shirley Dean, former Mayor of Berkeley, and Robert Cheasty, in their current capacities as Board President and Executive Director of Citizens for Eastshore State Parks (CESP).

## CITIZENS FOR EAST SHORE PARKS 1604 Solano Avenue, Albany CA

May 9, 2022

Scott Ferris, Director of Parks, Recreation and Waterfront  
Roger Miller, Secretary, Parks, Recreation and Waterfront Commission – with Request to forward copy of this correspondence to members of the Parks, Recreation and Waterfront (PRW) Commission

### **Subject: Berkeley Area Specific Plan (BMASP) proposed options to Construct an Events Pavilion and/or a Large Adventure Park in Cesar Chavez Park**

Dear Mr. Ferris, Mr. Miller, PRW Commission Chair Wozniak and Commissioners Birnbach, Kawczynska, Floyd, Diehm, Cox, Capitelli, Srioudom, and Landoni,

Citizens for East Shore Parks (CESP) has recently become aware of two proposed options for development on the north side of the Berkeley Marina through an April 29, 2022 Berkeleyside article written by Martin Nicolaus. That article and subsequent conversations with members of the public raise deep concerns about both the community engagement process that is being used to resolve the monetary problems faced by the Marina and the proposals themselves.

#### **The Process:**

CESP has been informed that during the BMASP community meetings any differences of opinion put forward by the public that were expressed during the small breakout discussion groups were not reported back to the whole group nor recorded in any way. Additionally, it was said that questions asking for a response in discussion groups or in the “community survey” were expressed in a way that slanted the responses.

Apparently, meetings of the PRW Commission are not recorded so that the public can review and participate thoughtfully and in a timely manner. Minutes of past PRW meetings are not available on the City’s new website, nor is an electronic copy of the BMASP available at this time.

While CESP, at our invitation, initially heard from City staff about the BMASP and were assured that we would be kept in the information loop, we had not been informed of updates in the planning effort until the Berkeleyside article appeared. CESP is the major environmental group that since 1985 has and continues to advocate successfully for a waterfront park along the East Bay Shoreline from the Bay Bridge to the Carquinez Bridge.

What has happened is not an adequate public engagement process. CESP holds that the best planning occurs when the public is free to express their opinions without regard to those held by City staff, consultant, or Commission and that differences are recorded and become a part of the overall decision process. A public engagement process should not give the impression of a predetermined result. Noting that at the upcoming May 11, 2022 PRW Commission meeting Chairperson Wozniak has scheduled Item 11 for a discussion of BMASP feedback, we request that you specifically discuss our



concerns and adopt any corrective actions that will ensure an adequate consideration of public feedback.

**The Result:**

CESP favors use of the shoreline as open space and unstructured recreation and habitat protection with allowances for small watercraft recreation. Cesar Chavez Park was originally intended to be part of the McLaughlin Eastshore State Park and although the City of Berkeley ultimately decided to maintain it as a municipal park, the City committed to maintain it as a compatible park next to the McLaughlin Eastshore State Park. CESP agrees with Mr. Nicolaus' conclusion that the BMASP Plan would destroy the character and openness of Cesar Chavez Park by replacing the open space so vital to relief from urban stress with a commercial amusement park.

We fully understand Berkeley's need to resolve the Marina's financial problems, but the sacrifice of scarce free public waterfront land as open space to a commercial amusement park is a bad approach. The city of Berkeley should treasure its existing public land and the public's unhindered use of that land. Construction of a large permanent Events Pavilion with a roof and a stage will also require additional large areas of paved parking, fencing and commercial amenities. That is the wrong direction. Such a use would drive the City to constantly seek more revenue to support staff time, the cost of upkeep and maintenance. Larger, more frequent events would be sought, eventually erasing any semblance of a park forever.

When events are limited to those like the Kite Festival, the heart of the Park is free and open for use by all members of the public. Particularly during the pandemic, the importance of parks is key to the mental and physical health of everyone. Such use must be preserved forever for future generations.

Regarding the other proposal to establish a "Large Adventure Park" involving ropes, ziplines and similar activities, they exist elsewhere in the Bay Area. Let that happen in those other places. Our waterfront parks were founded with a commitment to open space, to be free and open to the public, and to respect habitat, nature and quiet enjoyment. All in all, monetizing the space as presented by these two proposals for Cesar Chavez Park ultimately means privatization of this very public, well used and essential space.

As of yet, we have seen no analysis of how Marina fees and rents have been used in the past. It seems that little reinvestment has taken place, leading to the current situation. Before moving forward, it may be productive to examine how this predicament evolved.

Please maintain Berkeley's commitment to the open, free waterfront park as you seek ways to resolve the financial problems of the Marina. CESP suggests that the City not start from a position that construction of commercial operations, hotels and the like is the solution. CESP is willing to assist in the effort to find better solutions and urges that the current proposals be rejected. Thank you for your consideration of these views.

Sincerely,

/s/

Shirley Dean  
CESP Board President

/s/

Robert Cheasty  
CESP Executive Director

# Letter from Daniel Borgstrom

Dear Mayor and City Council Members,

About the nicest park I've seen anywhere is the one at the Berkeley waterfront, known as "Chávez Park." It's a 90 acre peninsula, jutting out into the San Francisco Bay, and inhabited by various birds and wildlife. A couple of Burrowing Owls spend their winter months at the northeast corner where they do photo-ops for nature photographers. Just as the owls are about to leave for their summer home in March or April, a flock of redwing blackbirds arrives to fill the air with their high-pitched electronic-sounding voices. I love their singing, but a friend says they could use voice-lessons.

We also hear the mournful cries of seagulls who seem to be expressing their concern about global warming. A flight of somewhat awkward-looking pelicans will sometimes pass overhead, and a pair of ducks will sometimes appear. Large flocks of water birds often bob in the gentle water of the cove on the east side. Once in a great while we're treated to a visit by a blue heron or a white egret; if we get too close, the bird steps back to practice social distancing. On rare occasions we've seen a seal.

The squirrels go to bed early and disappear from the scene an hour or two before sunset, but when we get there early enough, in time for squirrel appreciation, we'll see them scooting back and forth across the trail, sometimes playing tag. Some are people-watchers, and sit there observing us as we stroll by. Others sit on the rocks above the water, gazing out over the waves, perhaps contemplating the meaning of life. These squirrels must be the philosophers of the animal world.

Along with the rest of the wildlife of this park, the cute little squirrels are emotional support animals. Their presence brightens up our day.

It's hard to believe that so small an area, only about a quarter of a mile across, can have sharply differing climatic zones. But it really does. Along the eastern shore by the cove, it's relatively warm, while on the western side there's often a strong, cold wind blowing in from the bay, and people bring their kites to fly here. Some people have parachute-type kites which practically pull them up the steep hillsides. At the northwest end is a knob of land we call "Isla Negra," after a Neruda poem describing a stormy night on the seacoast.

At sunset we'll see people admiring the sunset as it goes down behind the Golden Gate Bridge. Every day the sunset is different, and the clouds above present different patterns. On a clear day we get a view of San Francisco sparkling in the sunlight, and to the north of the city we'll see Mount Tamalpais and the lower mountains of Marin County.

Wind-surfers go scooting by on the water, drawn by kite-sails flown high overhead. Sailboats leisurely cruise back and forth. A pleasant seascape. Off to one side of the park is a dry-dock where sailboats are being repaired. Some of these boats are small and cute, and some are beautiful antique-looking boats. Sloops, schooners, and sometimes ketches and yawls are among the boats to be seen there. I sometimes go there to admire them, and sometimes talk with the people repairing them. They're all part of this wonderful Berkeley waterfront.

This amazing park is exactly the way it should be. It needs no improvements, and certainly no developers. But now we hear of park-wrecking plans to develop it for various money-making schemes; they would build an ugly "event pavilion," a ridiculous "adventure park," and a bunch of other unneeded stuff to take up space and destroy wildlife habitat.

Please leave our beautiful waterfront park alone; it's perfect the way it is.

Daniel Borgström  
Berkeley, CA 94702



# Letter from Virginia Browning

Humans absolutely require respite from urbanization. One or more of you may I suppose take exception to that statement, but if so, I wonder whether you may have become a creature apart in contrast to a famous environmentalist saying about “not man apart.”

Some of you have children. Some don't yet, and some of you will choose not to have them. But you were all once children. Maybe some of you never could play in a or near a creek or pond – ever. Maybe some of you, like me, never could find relief, from the sweltering heat that made my legs swell dangerously, with a respite such as this Berkeley Marina is for so many here now.

The future will bring more heat. Most people are lucky not to have been born with the type of deformity I have that means absolute suffering and even threat-to-life in the urban heat. But there will be more heat, and aside from the fact that nature heals and revives our creative resources, or imaginations, maybe even our “souls!” or sense of connection, aside from that, we will simply need relief from the heat. Those familiar with the marina know its relief.

Of course we can climb into long-range vehicles and travel hundreds of miles. But I thought Berkeley cared about the environment? We already have a treasure right here. What could you/they/anyone be thinking with a “plan” for this very different from “please leave it alone!” \*I know money is needed. See but a few ideas at the end of this. There are many many more, and the ones proposed by BMASP, as others have demonstrated, either make little or no more money than more efficient stewardship of what is there could.

The marina on a typical visit will include what one person calls “a view of the bay, the city and the bridges with all the drama that plays out there, the incoming of storms, the changing sky, the various textures of wind on water and the magnificent display of clouds, sunsets and Moon rises...”<http://disq.us/p/2omu2jx> ... Also common: a very apparently culturally-diverse set of park users, one or several young children running down a hill toward the wide expanse of bay horizon, another enthralled with her kite flying way overhead, an older boy rolling down the hill, several of us greeting our owls, herons, egrets, grebes, duck-couples, pelicans in flight formation, or separately diving, fisher-folk, fellow-walkers, dog-walkers, dogs, runners.. Some days, such as today, you'll see the skateboarder propelling himself with a kite, a windsurfer, sailboats, kayaks and canoes. You'll see your own most infinite dreams in the lovely far horizons.

Another comment I've seen: “It's far preferable to make thoughtful enhanced habitat *relief* from the town than to bring the town to the Marina. Make the town nicer, don't make the Marina worse.”

I simply don't have the words to persuade anyone who could entertain for a moment for themselves or children the horrific BMASP plan I've seen. No more hotels. No larger boats at the expense of the smaller ones there now. No food courts nearby. No events pavilion. No indoor anything. No adventure II playground for adults. No to a dreary closed-off future of urban depressiveness.

Yes to the inventive adventure playground for kids there now over on the other side of the Marina. Yes to repair of the pier.

Yes to parking fees! Yes to entrance fees with relief for those who can't afford them. Yes to keeping the hotel revenue in the Marina. Yes to another “HS Lordships” perhaps on the other side by the pier. Yes to improved restaurants from what's already there but not more traffic. Yes to reliable public transit shuttles with predictable frequent schedules and/or real time LED and other notices of arrival times. Yes to preserving this jewel. Yes to my tears. Yes to yours. Shit. Are you really going to destroy this place?

Virginia Browning, Berkeley

## Letter from Emilie Keas

Dear Mayor Arreguín and City Councilpersons,  
I saw the map and plans for development of César Chávez Park.

Carrying out that project will cause the total destruction of the beautiful natural environment that the park is as it is presently. These plans are crazy. They would completely obliterate the haven for nature that the park provides countless species, and it would also destroy the pleasant environment for people to participate in walks, runs and cycling with friends and families in a beautiful, refreshing and peaceful milieu.

The park is currently a precious gem of the Bay. Such plans would completely destroy that. Why would anyone want to destroy that. Certainly no one in his or her right mind.

Please put an end to this ill-conceived idea immediately.

M. Émilie Keas  
District #1

## Letter from Sylvie Woog

Dear Sophie Hahn,

Good afternoon, thank you for your stand on Berkeley police and explaining what the real needs are for Berkeley. I don't know if you are aware of the plans for virtually destroying Cesar Chavez Park; Marty Nicolaus has been sending out letters and maps of the proposed new park and it is horrendous. I walk at the park at least once a week, with friends and cringe when I see the proposed modernization, i.e. destruction of this jewel on the bay. Last week there was a large crew of city workers talking down perfectly healthy trees and branches along the road that leads to the bay. Please DO NOT LET THIS HAPPEN. I usually join your zoom presentations and I like your information and respect for this city. Please, pay attention to what "they" are trying to do to our wonderful park, a respite from the craziness of the busy town.

Most sincerely,  
Sylvie Woog

## Letter from Maris Meyerson

Dear Council member Wengraf ~

I have belatedly heard of the bizarre idea to monetize César Chavez Park with event spaces and zip lines. I hope you will see the folly of destroying one of Berkeley's ONLY accessible waterfronts, utilized by thousands of us for safe, quiet, natural recreation. Every time we walk there, we remark on the many languages we hear spoken. It is truly diverse, equitable and inclusionary at a time when these values must be at the forefront. Thanks for your consideration.

~ Maris Meyerson, Berkeley

## Letter from Erika St. John

To council@cityofberkeley.info

I am a 83 year old woman who walks a few times a week around Chavez park. I enjoy the wildlife, especially the burrowing owls. I am horrified to hear what is planned. This is a very bad idea. Put the EVENTS constructions at the boring Brickyard area since it has more parking and will be easier to control bad behaving crowds.

Erika St John lives in Berkeley since 1963

## Letter from Judith Thomas

Dear Rashi:

I have been receiving daily postings about Cesar Chavez park for quite a while, about the migratory bird life there, the insects, the seasonal changes.. daily postings I never miss reading! It is a wonderful and natural place now, inviting to so many species of plants and animals and humans. I walk there weekly with friends in all kinds of weather and am refreshed.. I am horrified to read today of the proposed changes to this lovely spot in the BMASP. The massive changes being proposed are devastating. I cannot imagine what sort of mind would dream up all of these really dreadful and destructive ideas. Please put this plan back in its box with a lid tightly affixed. Have the authors of this plan not heard of the rising levels of the ocean (and bay) due to climate change? Best wishes to you...

Judith Thomas, Berkeley 94703.

## Letter from Eileen Cohen

*The following letter is by Eileen Cohen, a long time Berkeley resident and park visitor. She makes the central point that the process by which the City has gone about shaping the Berkeley Marina Area Specific Plan (BMASP) is deeply flawed. To amplify her point, I can add that nobody reached out to the Cesar Chavez Conservancy about the BMASP plan, nor to the Cesar Chavez/Dolores Huerta Homage Solar Calendar organization. The BMASP planners also did not contact the Chavez Park Off Leash Dog Area group. Nor did they seek the views of the Golden Gate Audubon Society, the Sierra Club, the California Native Plant Society, or the Citizens for East Shore State Parks. In other words, the BMASP planners went out of their way to avoid seeking the views of major organizations having a long and well-recorded history of engagement with Cesar Chavez Park. Deliberately shutting out major stakeholders is a strange version of "democratic process."*

Here is Eileen Cohen's letter:

June 10, 2022

Dear Parks, Recreation, and Waterfront commissioners and staff:

As a Berkeley resident, I am deeply concerned that the Berkeley Marina Area Specific Project (BMASP) process has been seriously flawed. In my opinion, it needs to be restarted virtually from scratch — this time with better communication to the public about the meetings; comprehensive minutes; and recordings of the public meetings.

Currently, once a PRW [Parks, Recreation and Waterfront Commission] meeting is over, there is effectively no public record of concerns expressed about or opposition to BMASP proposals. PRW meetings should be recorded and made available to the public immediately and in perpetuity. (The minutes are simply too high-level for that purpose.) The lack of recordings and/or complete transcriptions of the proceedings undermines confidence in the public process.

To compound the issue, two erroneous assertions were given at the June 8, 2022 PRW meeting as reasons for *not* recording the Zoom meetings.

First, it was stated that although the PRW is not recording its meetings, any participant can record a Zoom meeting. However, that is true *only* if the host has enabled “local recording.” (For instructions, see the Zoom support article at <https://tinyurl.com/yx4d6725>.) The PRW did not enable local recording at any of your meetings, so participants have never had the option to record. Regardless, though, the burden shouldn’t be on the public to capture a public meeting.

Second, it was asserted that recording the PRW meetings would saddle the PRW or the City of Berkeley with huge files on the secretary’s computer or the city’s servers. That is untrue. Paid Zoom accounts, which Berkeley’s certainly is, allow recording directly to the cloud. After the meeting ends, the host automatically gets a link to the recording. That simple link can then be posted online, along with the agenda, slide presentations, and other documents.

Another reason given at the June 8 meeting for not recording the PRW meetings is that the meetings will soon be back in-person anyway. That explanation misses the point. I urge you to hold hybrid meetings even after in-person PRW meetings can resume. Not only would recording via Zoom obviate the need to produce traditional video recordings, but — and far more to the point — the ability to attend online would enable and encourage more public participation.

Finally, it appears that perhaps not all written comments sent to the PRW and BMASP were shared with all commissioners or subsequently appeared online in the public record. An audit of that process may well be in order.

I’m sending this message to the PRW secretary and to the BMASP email address. I ask that all PRW commissioners receive a copy. Please also add this message to the BMASP and PRW documents available online to the public.

I’m copying the city councilmember for my district, Terry Taplin, and also Santiago Casal, Shirley Dean, Martin Nicolaus, and Norman La Force, all of whom have expressed concerns about the BMASP process (communication and transparency) and/or proposals to reduce open space at Cesar Chavez Park. I share those concerns.

Regards,

Eileen Cohen District 2

# Letter to California State Lands Commission

*The City of Berkeley does not own the land that makes up the Marina. The State of California owns it. The City holds it in trust. The California State Lands Commission administers State lands held in trust. The Commission has announced its next regular meeting for June 23. The following is a written Public Comment submitted to the Commission in advance of its meeting.*

I am writing to call the Commission's attention to a pending violation of the terms under which the City of Berkeley as trustee holds the State-owned lands commonly known as the Berkeley Marina, and in particular that part of the Marina located north of Spinnaker Way formerly known as North Waterfront Park, now Cesar Chavez Park.

The fundamental agreement under which the City holds that land is that it should be used "for unstructured public recreation." This land use covenant was confirmed by Berkeley City Council resolution No. 47,935-NS in May 1976 and confirmed verbatim in the Master Plan in 1977, and in all subsequent conceptual and specific planning documents.

In March 2022, however, a landscape design firm hired by the City of Berkeley proposed fundamental modifications to the "unstructured public recreation" covenant. Among other changes, the firm proposes demolishing a historic 3.5 acre portion of the park known as the Native Plant Area and converting the area into a privately owned commercial enterprise offering zipline and ropes courses for fee-paying adults. The firm further proposes bulldozing, grading, and paving a verdant central meadow of the park into a concert venue complete with a giant sound stage structure.

The proposed changes absolutely violate the "unstructured public recreation" covenant under which the City holds these State lands.

As a member of the Chavez Park Conservancy, a nonprofit dedicated to Cesar Chavez Park, I respectfully request that the honorable Commission members Investigate this pending situation and exercise their power to hold the City of Berkeley to the covenant under which it holds these State lands; or in the alternative, restore possession of these lands to State hands.

— Martin Nicolaus

## Letter From Carolyn Lasar

Dear Persons:

I have reviewed the current proposals for changes at the Cesar Chavez Park as described in the Berkeley Marina Plan. I am OPPOSED to this plan because it will ruin the quality of the park.

I go to the park at least twice a week and have done so for years.

I go to walk my two dogs and to enjoy the open space on the Bay. This is one of the few places on the water that is easily accessed and where I can let my dogs run and play off-leash.

It is a critical resource to me and my pets' mental and physical health. It was especially important to surviving the pandemic times.

The Cesar Chavez memorial at the top of the park is a source of inspiration, the dependable breezes lift beautiful kites and my heart and keep me cool as climate change heats up our planet.

The park could be improved by adding legitimate bathrooms and by curtailing the growth of foxtail grass. Otherwise, what is best about the park is its 'unimproved' access to nature at the edge of the Bay.

My walk always includes a loop over towards the Golden Gate Racetrack where the path skirts the water and the mound of CC Park offers more protection from the winds. There is more work going on over here to replant native plants which is wonderful. The additional fenced in green space for walking (no dogs allowed) is another haven for birds and other wildlife.

I do not see people clamoring for zip lines and events/festival facilities. This is a peaceful spot of nature on the water. Do not ruin it!!

Build somewhere else and leave Cesar Chavez Park alone!!!

Carolyn Lasar

## Correspondence between Ryan Turner and Kate Harrison

June 21 2022

Hello PRW Commission and Berkeley City Council,

My name is Ryan Turner and I was born in Oakland. I am a sailor (trained at OCSC in the Berkeley Marina), a kite flyer, a dog owner, an RC airplane pilot, and the father of an eight year old. You can imagine that with that cross section of interests, my family spends a lot of time at Cesar Chavez Park.

Between "dot com" bubbles, recessions, and an ever increasing housing crisis, long-time East Bay residents have borne witness to profound changes. As local and national economics converge to squeeze the continually growing population at nearly every level, public land is only becoming more precious: we sell ourselves and our futures short when we try to monetize those lands.

In 2022, with the COVID pandemic not yet even a memory but an ongoing reality, it feels especially short-sighted to restrict access to any open spaces at Cesar Chavez Park and the idea of large concert-type events seems unsupportable given the already tight weekend parking situation. As someone who uses every part of the park as it is now, I would urge the PRW Commission and Council to abandon plans that would decrease the open spaces available to local residents.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Ryan Turner, Oakland, CA

## **KATE HARRISON'S RESPONSE**

Tue, Jun 21, 2022

Dear Mr. Turner,

I really appreciate you writing to us about this. I was alarmed about the BMASP plan when it was presented. Just yesterday, my husband and I took a walk at Brickyard Cove, reclaimed from industrial uses to a beautiful natural space. It would be a travesty to destroy natural spaces under the City's domain when regional agencies have worked so hard to open up natural spaces for our enjoyment. I do not want us to repeat the mistakes of the past in treating nature as secondary to commerce.



There are many steps before the City moves forward with development and I promise that I will continue to speak out about maintaining this vital, natural place. I commit to fighting to keep the small boatyard as it is a vital element of the marina specifically for working people. I am dedicated to maintaining the public natural space Berkeley has left as it is integral to the wellbeing of our communities. I recognize that hosting events and concerts in Cesar Chavez park will create more trash and pollution for the plants and animals that rely on the fragile, vital, natural habitats. Not only is this an environmental issue, it is a blatant equity issue. Public, natural space is necessary in urban areas as it allows any and everybody access to nature, not only those who can privately afford it.

The Berkeley Marina is a refuge and a space of rejuvenation and rest for so many people, plants, and animals. I am committed to keeping it that way.

All the best,  
Kate Harrison  
Vice Mayor

## **RYAN'S RESPONSE**

Dear Ms. Harrison,

Thank you for your thoughtful reply on this important issue. I appreciate the commitment to equity and to natural habitat voiced in your reply. I'm glad to know the parks have people in power willing to speak to those key issues and look forward to following the meetings closely in the coming months and years.

Best regards,

Ryan

# Letter From Janet S. Cobb, Executive Officer, California Wildlife Foundation

Honorable Mayor and Members of City Council, Parks and Recreation Department

Ladies and Gentlemen:

We object to efforts to turn Berkeley's critical open space and habitat into another Disney World.

The original purpose of Cesar Chavez Park, its trails and habitat, should be maintained for the thousands of people who use it every year, and for the plants and wildlife that call it home.

When the City of Berkeley proves that it can maintain and upgrade properties within its current area of responsibility, only then should it consider adding anything new.

When HS LORDSHIPS area is producing revenue, when current Marina customers can safely walk on docks and secure their boats; when the harbor is dredged; when there is a proper traffic plan for emergency exiting — perhaps that would be a better time to adventure into new business.

People appreciate the open areas that are not plentiful in such an already crowded city. We are hoping that leaders will pay attention to taxpayers who fund the parks, rather than chasing after out-of-towners.

Thank you for your consideration,

Sincerely

Janet S. Cobb  
Executive Officer

## Letter From Stefani Berger

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing to you about the proposed plan to develop Cesar Chavez Park.

My name is Stefani and I am 70 years old. I have used the park since it was originally created in 1997. My daughter and I used to hunt for Fairies in the overhanging groves and now my granddaughter and I put stones on the shadow of the solar calendar to watch in amazement as time moves on.

Every evening I walk my dogs in the off-leash area to find solace from this broken world of ours. As a teacher of 40 plus years I need to refresh my soul so that my students can get the very best from my teaching. I picnic with family and friends, watch sunsets and find time to sit at a picnic bench just to feel the nature around me.

This park is a quiet refuge, people are always kind and caring, and those young and old can ride their bikes, push their wheelchairs, go for a run or just a walk with friends



around the park.

With your plan, parking will be impossible and prohibitive for those of us who want to visit the park. This planned development would be an environmental disaster. The burrowing owls, and wildlife sanctuaries would be destroyed. The park would be treated destructively as we all know how crowds of people discard their trash. Should there be an emergency, there is only one road out of the marina to seek safety. Earthquakes, Tsunamis (as we had recently seen) or a fire would be a disaster and would endanger the lives of many. People wouldn't be able to get out of the park and ambulances and fire trucks would not be able to get in.

The park is the largest natural area on the water in the Bay. This park needs to be used as it was originally intended, as a refuge for people and wildlife alike. I implore you to consider how valuable this park is right now. We don't want it developed because the the very tranquil beauty of it will be destroyed.

Should you like to contact me further my email is:

Stefani Berger  
[StefaniBerger43@gmail.com](mailto:StefaniBerger43@gmail.com)

Best,  
In dance!  
Stefani

## Letter From Santiago Casal, Founder and Curator of the Chavez/Huerta Solar Calendar

Hello All,

I'm sending along [this excellent article on the Plan To Destroy Chávez Park](#). Martin Nicolaus and The Chávez Park Conservancy put it together. If you have not already, I urge you to send send a few lines to our Councilmembers and Park & Waterfront Commission. The article lists easy ways to do this. The Plan is an insult to the legacy of César and Dolores, and to Silvia McLaughlin who fought with others to preserve the waterfront from commercial development.

The Plan is contrary to everything we have been trying to do with the Solar Calendar – Tribute to César Chávez & Dolores Huerta as well as in the upcoming Mobile Tour, and it is an insult to those of us who see the park as a respite from the stresses of an urban environment. As Landscape Architect, John Roberts, articulated in his critique [“They \(the developers\) just don't get it.”](#)

Please take a few minutes to send along your support for saving the park. I've been moved by the reverential feelings expressed by Chávez Park users.

Santiago Casal, Founder & Director,  
The Solar Calendar – Tribute to César Chávez & Dolores Huerta  
The Mobile Tour – Giving César Chávez Park A Voice (Coming soon)

# Letter from Susan Black

Today on my usual morning walk around the Marina, at Cesar Chavez Park, I felt so much gratitude for this space that has provided me with both joy and respite for over forty years.

I walk the Marina nearly every early morning. This morning I was thrilled to see hundreds and hundreds of pelicans, many egrets, avocets and our resident great blue heron. Everyone stopped to enjoy the spectacle of hundreds of pelicans feeding. People talked to strangers about the feelings of awe and wonderment. For a short time it felt like all was right in this very deeply troubled world

Chavez Park is my morning meditation. It is quiet, safe and very accessible. I was part of building this park when I worked as a professional gardener. I have added yards upon yards of garden debris to what we now walk on and call our gem of a waterfront park.

I was married on the Berkeley Pier. When my son, David, became ill with AIDS we walked the Marina whenever he was able. It was nature he could get to and enjoy with his increasing limited mobility. It was calming and there were so many wonderful views. Now there is a memorial bench facing the Golden Gate Bridge in his memory.

In my later years I became a photographer. The Marina and Chavez Park are among my favorite places to capture beauty both early in the morning and late in the day. The shore birds are amazing as are the hares and even the gophers and ground squirrels.

In the increasingly urban environment we find ourselves in, this park in Berkeley is a rare and vital gem. It works for all folks whatever their level of mobility. It is a wonderful teaching platform for children and adults alike. Then there are the views...the best for miles and miles.

I am totally appalled at the proposed BMASP. It will turn our beloved oasis into a theme park only to be used by those with means. It will uproot years of careful planting of native wild flowers, scare away the birds and other wild life and our wonderful gem will be lost. Monetizing the Marina is an act of betrayal to those of us who love this park. It is a betrayal to anyone paying taxes in Berkeley. It is a betrayal of nature and a travesty.

The firm who has come up with these suggestions is totally out of touch with the users of this space. The process has not been at all transparent. Why would anyone want to destroy a space that is beloved and used by so many. I really hate to think this is all about money but there is no other conclusion.

I plead with all of you. Save our beloved Marina from this poorly designed plan that will do nothing for those of us who love this park but bring us to heartbreak.

Susan M Black, Berkeley

## Letter from Ed Vine

Dear Mayor Arreguín and Berkeley City Council Members,

I'm writing in response to the Berkeley Marina Area Specific Plan (BMASP) proposal for the Berkeley Marina/César Chávez park.

The plan would transform the park from a place of relief from urban stress and for enjoyment of nature into a high-pressure commercial amusement park. We do NOT need more money-making schemes: hotels, food courts, events pavilion, or a large adventure playground for Adults.

Currently, the park is amazing and beautiful, serving a diverse community of people with varied interests: walking, running, cycling, birding, flying kites, meditating, singing, playing music, sailing, enjoying the wildlife and the quiet.

The park does not need any more development, leading to the destruction of this beautiful environment. We need to keep our beautiful waterfront park and continue to support its maintenance, not further development.

I have been a frequent birder in this park for the last 40 years. I have also led Christmas Bird Counts for Golden Gate Audubon in this area. We have had a great number and variety of birds, several of which are not seen in other parts of the count area. If the current version of BMASP were to go forward, I can confidently say that the birdlife would be negatively affected. I am sure an Environmental Impact Report would confirm my prediction.

Please put an end to this ill-conceived idea immediately.

Ed Vine  
Berkeley, CA 94708

## Letter From Stefanie Pruegel

I'm writing in response to the Berkeley Marina Area Specific Plan (BMASP) proposal for the Berkeley Marina/César Chávez park.

The plan would transform the park from a place of relief from urban stress and for enjoyment of nature into a high-pressure commercial amusement park. We do NOT need more money-making schemes: hotels, food courts, events pavilion, or a large adventure playground for adults.

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The park does not need any more development, leading to the destruction of this beautiful environment. We need to keep our beautiful waterfront park and continue to support its maintenance, not further development.

Please put an end to this ill-conceived idea immediately.

Stefanie Pruegel

## **Letter From Carol Denney AKA Grace**

### **Underpressure, Editor, *Pepper Spray Times***

When I first read about the proposal envisioning a concert venue and amusement park with concessions at Cesar Chavez Park I thought someone had far outstripped my talents as a satirist and cartoonist. This is the same city council which had recently signed off the Cesar Chavez Park Conservancy group's Chancellor's Grant supporting native plants, pollinator gardens, and the restoration of the Design Advocates Working with Nature (DAWN) group's efforts of thirty years ago — right in the area where they want to put a zip line. I'm one of the people working hard doing volunteer planting, weeding, and watering the restoration plants.

The park workers are clear-headed as we are about the necessity of stepping up to make sure we seed and plant ahead of climate change to nurture native plants in this changing era, and the network of volunteers and supportive community members are not a group looking for a nifty new concert venue. They know that our natural world is quite literally under fire, and that we hope to carefully restore and if possible expand the respite that all species require to heal and grow in natural settings.

Hello? Is there anybody at City Hall awake? Have the numbing Zoom meetings finally taken their toll so that no one knows or cares if there's continuity or clarity in our response to environmental crisis or parks? Does a town over-saturated with under-filled venues need an over-amped commercial venue competing with them right literally feet from a nature preserve where not only people who need respite from city noise and pressures but wildlife are struggling for habitat?

Please don't confuse the very real needs at the marina with this bizarre common sense-free Disneyfication of our most beautiful city park. Monetization of our parks is not the answer to your overspending on merchant association stationery.

## **Letter From Jamie Brown**

I have been enjoying this treasure of open natural space for well over 30 years as a tax paying adult and I am wholeheartedly AGAINST the development proposal of Cesar Chavez. It will destroy Cesar Chavez Park as it is now, and the park is fine as it is now. The community does not need another hotel in Berkeley, especially when it will destroy burrowing owl habitat among other environmentally important aspects of the park.

Important to add, the proposed big dedicated Events Space and Events Pavilion don't serve local needs. They're bait for big commercial operations out for a profit. These operators know how to

sweet-talk gullible city staffers (and money-hungry candidates) with promises of big revenue while actually draining the local coffers for externalities like police and fire overtime and cleanup. These kinds of events not only lose money, but they also hijack the environment, poison the habitat, and degrade nature.

Each of the large events projected for the Events Space and the Events Pavilion would bring major noise pollution to the park, heavy traffic and parking congestion, not to mention tobacco and alcohol use, littering, and violence. Forget taking a quiet walk in the park. Forget nature — anything with wings or legs or a belly to crawl on runs away or hides when a Big Event happens and for quite a while afterward. For some species, a single such disturbance during nesting season is enough to guarantee that they never come back.

Please keep the park as it is, and let the community aid in making decisions to support around park improvements that are in alignment with creating natural habitat and natural beauty for all the inhabitants that live in and around Cesar Chavez park.

Sincerely, Jamie Brown ASW, PPSC

## **Letter from T. Anne Richards**

July 5, 2022

RE: Cesar Chavez Park

Dear Council Members, Mayor Arrequin and City Manager Williams-Ridley,

I am a resident in District 1 where Chavez Park is located. I have used Chavez Park for recreation, walking alone or with friends, and playing with my various canine companions since 1993. It is a stunning part of Berkeley offering well fought for open green space, a habitat and sanctuary for wildlife on a bird migration path, a place for flying kites, picnics, and enjoying fun time with canine companions. With well defined areas that are respected by most, there exists a balance for wildlife, plant life and a quietude for human activities.

How you can even think of paving parts of it over and creating “event space” in what is now a “green calm space” for wildlife and humans is mind boggling. It is hard to believe you have invented such an idea and actually think this would be a good thing. Do you really think these ideas you have will improve the quality of life for humans, canines, birds and other wildlife? I am strongly opposed to any such idea. Keep the park green! Hands off the park with these truly strange ideas of what is needed. In these mad times we need all the green and calm we can get.

Remember, elections are coming up and residents are already pretty upset about other projects our representatives are driving forward. The ideas you are considering for Chavez Park just adds fuel to an already existing fire of dissatisfaction with leadership. Drop these ideas and let the park continue to thrive and maintain its current balance.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

T. Anne Richards, Berkeley

## Letter from Wini Williams

I am a Berkeley senior resident and 40+ year homeowner. The Marina has been my backyard in many ways. I was here when it was a city dump and have enjoyed it's transition into a treasure for the community. It is where my grandchildren learned to bike ride, skate board, see wildlife, climb rocks and enjoy the outdoors and the bay. My youngest grandchild comes to visit from college and always wants to take a Marina walk. I continue to visit every day to walk my 5th dog to enjoy the off-leash area.

One of the things I most love about the area is being outside and away from the hustle and bustle of the city; despite the proximity of the freeway, or perhaps because it seems so far away. Seeing the city and the iconic bridges in the morning sunrise or evening sunset gives me a feeling of privilege, peace and contentment. What a glorious way to start and end a day.

I also enjoy seeing families picnicking, flying kites, socializing and the sense of community all of that gives the park and my day. Having the privilege of seeing wildlife is an amazing experience. Owls, kestrel, hawks, Herons, bluebirds, pelicans flying by, rabbits, skunks, butterflies, and all kinds of gophers are just a part of the days activities. And the wild flowers that have found their way onto the hard soil. So beautiful in the spring. How I would miss it all.

The project you are proposing would forever destroy all that makes this a unique and special place. There is barely enough parking for those of us already using the park every day; adding commercial enterprises would create an amazing log jam of people and cars.

This space is particularly important because it is egalitarian. Anyone, with or without resources can come and enjoy the space; the accessibility of the space is very important to us all. For those of us with dogs it is a place of health, mental and physical; particularly during these COVID years.

Please do not allow this to happen to our space; keep Berkeley's open space for all to use.

Wini Williams

## Letter from Sally Nelson

To: Mayor Jesse Arreguin, All Members of Berkeley's City Council, and Berkeley's City Manager,

Having lived in Berkeley for 45 years, I am very distressed about the commercial developments being proposed for Berkeley's Marina, including Cesar Chavez Park and the Native Plants Area. The proposed Berkeley Marina Area Specific Plan is highly problematic.

First of all, there is a legal covenant dating from 1976 and 1977 that declares that the land should be used "**for unstructured recreation.**" The City of Berkeley does not own the land that makes up the Marina. the State of California owns it. The City holds it in trust. The California State Lands Commission administers State lands held in trust. This land use covenant was confirmed by Berkeley City Council Resolution No. 47,935-NS in May 1976, confirmed verbatim in the Master Plan in 1977, and in all subsequent conceptual and specific planning documents.

My following comments address the significance of the Marina to visitors, to wildlife, birds, insects, and the importance of native plants.

Resident birds and other wildlife need native habitat in order to survive, to feed, and to raise their young. In North America, bird populations have seen a decline of 30% since 1970, a problem that is also global. Migrating birds need urban parks as stopovers in which to rest and feed during their migrations covering many thousands of miles. Why should we care? Our very survival depends upon a healthy and diverse ecosystem that includes birds, insects, and other wildlife.

About Native Plants Area: don't even think of demolishing it. This proposal is an outrageously rude insult to the many volunteers who have spent thousands of hours over forty (40) years planting and nurturing the area. They have been transitioning the land from a dump to a life-giving habitat for wildlife, pollinators, and birds. What we need is a larger area for native plants.

We people need parks that are unstructured in which to restore our emotional and mental health. Nature is the city-dweller's lifeline, now more than ever. In our current economy, with job loss and inflated prices for the basics of food, housing, and transportation, we all need free public places in nature where we can get a breather from all the stress of a commercialized world.

The Adventure Playground on the south side of the Marina should continue to provide kids ways to play and learn. Don't pave it over.

I presume the initial financing of the proposed commercial venture would be by investors and the City of Berkeley, all of whom would expect a return on their investment.

People using the reconstructed area would be expected to pay, when the area has already been funded by taxpayer dollars and thousands of volunteer hours. Additionally, most people are really struggling with finances, and need a place to recreate without paying fees. Places that are transformed into concert venues and stadiums have a limited lifespan. Take note of the Oakland Coliseum and its years long woes with financing.

The beauty of a natural area like Berkeley's Marina is that its lifespan is an ongoing continuum, responding to the interrelationships of the plants, birds, wildlife, insects, and people in a healthy ecosystem. Changing, yes, and full of life.

I urge you to respect Berkeley Marina and its significance to people and all of wildlife. Do not proceed any further in planning to commercialize this area. For those who are eager to provide financing, please direct those funds to the sorely needed infrastructure projects in Berkeley that are ready and waiting with open hands.

Respectfully,  
Sally Nelson  
Berkeley

PS: For those of you interested in learning more about bird migration, I highly recommend *A World on the Wing*, by Scott Weidensaul.

# Letter from Diane Mintz

Dear Rashi, Beth, Mayor and Councilmembers:

I am a resident of District 1. More relevant to the issues I wish to address is that I go to Cesar Chavez every single afternoon. I go to feel the salt air, to hear and see the birds (brown pelicans who fly in formation and skim 6 inches above the water to hunt; hawks, the occasional kite, and many more), to encounter the occasional garter snake who slithers onto the path, to watch the inevitable scampering and squeaking of the ground squirrels, to get away from the noise of the freeway and the busyness of urban living.

All this while walking my dog. When I began going daily, ca two years ago, I used to listen to podcasts while walking. Slowly I realized the peace of my natural surroundings, and I gave up technology in favor of experiencing the beauty around me. Yes, it is a man-made oasis, but nature has used the land well and turned it into its own creation.

An important point to be understood by those who are not intimate with the Park is that it has a level perimeter paved path. This makes it accessible to the elderly, disabled, to young children and those in between. I see and meet new people daily, families speaking many different languages, as well as familiar faces who return day after day. It is never without those who are enjoying its spaces: kite flyers, model airplane aficionados, picnickers, runners, amblers, and dog walkers like myself.

There is an area devoted to establishing (and established) native plants. This area is cared for with devotion by a small group of volunteers (and City staff) who plant, trim, weed, and water the natives. If the proposed plan to build a venue to accommodate rock concerts and amusement park facilities were to come to fruition, a marvel will be transformed into another pop culture destination bringing noise, tons of litter, and crowds who impose on the place without regard to its natural beauty. What will happen to the wildlife? What will become of the plants? Where will casual strollers and those seeking respite go? And, if the goal is to fill a music venue, where will these people park? On a daily basis all of the designated parking areas are filled by those like me. The parking lots are also full to the brim on weekend days and holidays with picnickers and others.

Which brings me to another point in strong opposition to the proposed plan: the marine/sailing facilities would be eliminated. They have been there for decades and serve a large contingent of sailors, boat owners, teachers and students of sailing, et al. My own partner spends every Saturday at that marine center and through him I know of many others who would be displaced.

It would appear that the proposal for a revamp of Cesar Chavez is tone deaf to a huge percentage (87% as I have heard) of polled respondents who are opposed to any development of the Park which would curtail the amenities I have described. If you value public opinion (and how could you not: you are in Berkeley!!!), you need to be in close touch with the Chavez Park Conservancy, the Chavez Park dog owner's group, the Solar Calendar organization and the model airplane group. Perhaps it would be appropriate to at least consult the Sierra Club, the Audubon Society, and the Citizens for East Bay Parks as well. When major changes are proposed, then a full range of citizenry needs to be consulted. Dare I say that your jobs depend upon that.

Yours sincerely, Diane Mintz



**Miller, Roger**

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On May 11, 2022, at 11:04 AM, Mary Barnsdale <marybarnsdale@att.net> wrote:

**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:

As a longtime visitor to Cesar Chavez Park, I'm opposed to any development within the park's open space. Relatively unstructured open space is scarce and invaluable in the increasingly crowded East Bay. Once it's gone, it's gone.

I think putting high-traffic, high-cost entertainment in the park would be a mistake. An adventure park is an expensive outing that no Berkeley resident will enjoy day in and day out. Perhaps many would *never* use it, since many regulars at Cesar Chavez Park are seniors. Realistically, an adventure park would need regional draw to stay afloat, much like a Marine World. Realistically, those visitors from other cities would drive to and park at the marina. All of this is something of a disservice to Berkeley residents. A permanent bandstand has similar shortcomings.

Those kinds of attractions inevitably require more parking and bathrooms, create more trash, and necessitate more maintenance. They'll also need nighttime lighting, which is bad for wildlife -- as would be the noise from the bandstand. These things are at odds with public support for burrowing owl habitat on the ground and owl boxes aloft.

A hotel and some eating establishments that take advantage of the spectacular views from the Berkeley Marina seem like good ideas, if they're kept out of the current footprint of the open space.

I'm not convinced that a ferry is economically sustainable. (The marina is not Emeryville, with a dense residential population.) I would hate to see what may be a bit of a feel-good project destroy bird habitat and degrade water recreation.

Thank you for considering these points and for leading this important public process.

Best regards,

Mary Barnsdale

**Miller, Roger**

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**From:** Mary Barnsdale <marybarnsdale@att.net>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 11, 2022 11:04 AM  
**To:** Miller, Roger  
**Subject:** Comments icw with agenda item tonight re: BMSAP

**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:

As a longtime visitor to Cesar Chavez Park, I'm opposed to any development within the park's open space. Relatively unstructured open space is scarce and invaluable in the increasingly crowded East Bay. Once it's gone, it's gone.

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I'm not convinced that a ferry is economically sustainable. (The marina is not Emeryville, with a dense residential population.) I would hate to see what may be a bit of a feel-good project destroy bird habitat and degrade water recreation.

Thank you for considering these points and for leading this important public process.

Best regards,

Mary Barnsdale

**Miller, Roger**

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**From:** Maud Engel <engel1883@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 29, 2022 11:02 AM  
**To:** Miller, Roger; All Council; BMASP; Berkeley Mayor's Office  
**Subject:** Proposed Development at Cesar Chavez Park at the Berkeley Marina

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

Dear Mr. Miller:

Please know that I strongly oppose any commercial development at Cesar Chavez Park such as a concert pavilion or an adult adventure playground.

The park is a natural habitat welcoming shore birds and other birds that has been developed over many years and should not be disturbed by increasing the sound/noise level and an increased number of human visitors.

The park attracts a miniscule number of burrowing owls that might leave with increased park activity. Prior to increased human populations in the Bay Area over the last one hundred fifty or so years, there were thousands of burrowing owls. This was their home. Now it is a thrill to see only one; how tragic!

Cesar Chavez is presently home to sentient species other than humans who cannot speak for themselves. Please respect that and leave Cesar Chavez Park undisturbed.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Maud Engel, LCSW

*"Kindness and compassion towards all living things is a mark of a civilized society. Only when we have become nonviolent towards all life will we have learned to live well ourselves." Cesar Chavez*

## Miller, Roger

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**From:** Micky Duxbury <mickydux612@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 5, 2022 10:05 PM  
**To:** Miller, Roger  
**Subject:** No to development at the Marina

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

Hello to Mr. Miller,

I have lived in Berkeley for 35 years and one of the most wonderful places to spend time with children, dogs, and friends has been the Berkeley Marina. I can appreciate the need for some changes in what is a large swath of open land in our city. I think that a children's playground that was significantly upgraded and improvements in open space access would be desirable.

I am sure that you know and appreciate what is so wonderful at the Berkeley Marina: a spacious natural environment that's not destroyed by visual obstructions or high-tech advertisements. There are plenty of places in Berkeley to have more entertainment. If you want to rock climb there is Indian Rock and several and other places. We have more restaurants and food establishments than any city of this size already. We don't need more food trucks!

I am surprised that as a regular visitor to the marina, I have seen no public announcement about this plan other than running into someone that was giving out a leaflet. I find that reprehensible.

A June 8th, 2022 memo from the City Manager claimed that the "project has involved an extensive public process and has provided announcements of public meetings via numerous communications channels."

This did not happen! You need to go back to the drawing board! This needs to be a transparent and fully accountable process which it has not been. I'm outraged that the planning has gotten as far as it has without significant opportunities for public input. I don't want fancy entertainment! I don't want more noise or congestion! I don't want Zip lines that cost \$350 per group for a day! Whose idea was this? It sounds like an attempt to provide entertainment to the hi tech Affluent that are making our real estate unaffordable for anybody but them.

After all the outrageously expensive housing that's been built in Berkeley in the last several years and all the tax revenue the city gets from that, do you really need to consider destroying one of the last vestiges of open space available?

If you don't preserve open spaces, we will all be a little less sane in the future. This is not just for us - it is for future generations. We don't need more entertainment! We need more nature! Please make this process more transparent and include a poll to Berkeley taxpayers!!

Micky Duxbury

Micky Duxbury, MFT  
Project Coordinator:  
The Welcome Home Project

**Miller, Roger**

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**From:** N. Friedman <ppdogt12@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 9, 2022 8:09 AM  
**To:** Miller, Roger; Miller, Roger; BMASP  
**Subject:** Planning Process

**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.

The planning process for the Berkeley Marina is definitely very complicated.

In my opinion, the consultants have not been helpful. All those ideas for commercializing the Berkeley Marina are not how Berkeley citizens see themselves and their city.

Big Concerts and Events - will those even cover the increased cost of: Trash collection; policing; maintenance ( that can't even be done currently)??

Shuttle busses?

Those who might have interest in ziplining and rope courses - they will be old and gone on to the next "exciting" stuff by the time these are in actual readiness.

What makes the Marina special? The Views, the Water sports, the Hotel, the boats, the open space.

Pretty hard to monetize most of those aspects.

There seems to be NO consideration of the expectation of sea-level rise?

The fact that this entire area is Land-Fill. So subject to Earthquake liquifaction.

Then there is the poor notification of the citizens about these plans.

No one I speak to in town seems to have any idea this is in the works.

The neighborhood association, Nextdoor.com, none have been kept in the loop.

I heard Scott Ferris say that all available platforms have been used to keep citizens informed, and yet somehow folks don't know what is afoot.

Maybe a message on that billboard along the freeway?

Naomi Friedman

## Miller, Roger

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**From:** Nancy Schimmel <nancyschimmel@mac.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 21, 2022 5:34 PM  
**To:** BMASP; Miller, Roger; All Council; Save CC  
**Subject:** Protect Cesar Chavez from development

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

I moved back to Berkeley from San Francisco in 1976 and have been going to Cesar Chavez Park for a long time. I remember listening to jazz bands on the Fourth of July and attending a labyrinth-walking ceremony on a quieter day. So much about that place is special. The adventure playground, the off-leash dog area, the kite festival, the burrowing owls and the huffy ground squirrels. And the glorious expansiveness of the views. Unlike Tilden, it has the added advantage, now that I'm eighty-seven years old and my knees aren't as flexible as they used to be, of being a flat place to walk that isn't a city street.

It seems to me that the area is already commercialized the right amount, with a little grocery store, a hotel, and a restaurant operating there and another restaurant that I imagine might reopen when the pandemic settles down.

I hope the city will see fit to leave Cesar Chavez Park pretty much the way it is, only making necessary improvements like taking the waves out of the road, and thank you for that.

Nancy Schimmel  
[www.sisterschoice.com](http://www.sisterschoice.com)

"Democracy doesn't work if you don't work it." —Elizabeth McLaughlin

**Miller, Roger**

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**From:** Nel Benningshof <nel@lumina-media.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, June 26, 2022 6:38 PM  
**To:** Miller, Roger  
**Cc:** All Council; BMASP; savecc6@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Concerns about BMASP at Cesar Chavez Park

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

Dear Mr. Miller,

I am a resident of Richmond and one of my hobbies is birdwatching. As such I am a regular user of Cesar Chavez Park. I greatly appreciate this scarce public open space and am against altering or developing it. It should remain open space in perpetuity.

I visit Cesar Chavez Park regularly throughout the year, since every season there are different birds to observe. I mainly walk the perimeter trail especially to visit the Burrowing and Barn Owls, when present. I'm very concerned about the impact of development on the Burrowing Owls.

Until very recently I had no idea about the Berkeley Marina Area Specific Plan. Now that I do I ask that the Berkeley Marina Area Specific Plan process engage all people that use this space. Please be inclusive and transparent, and well-documented. Please engage all stakeholders.

Thank you

Nel Benningshof, Richmond



**Miller, Roger**

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**From:** Nick <nick@lumina-media.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, June 26, 2022 4:49 PM  
**To:** Miller, Roger; All Council  
**Cc:** savecc6@gmail.com; BMASP  
**Subject:** A potentially costly loss of public space

**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 Berkeley City Council Members,

I am concerned that the Berkeley Marina master plan has proposed that all or part of César Chavez Park be converted to a commercial theme park. I must state in the strongest terms that I believe such a development would cost the community far more than the revenue such a development could possibly generate.

“Community” is a word that is too loosey invoked. In fact, the park serves many *different* communities who collectively represent a wide gamut of interests, abilities, disabilities, age groups and incomes. A resident of Richmond, I often meet friends at César Chavez Park for recreation, conversation and shared contemplation. César Chavez Park draws residents from across the East Bay: we are all stakeholders in the decisions you are called upon to make.

The prospect of optimizing public space for profitability forces critical questions, Who exactly will profit? In what measure will they profit? Who will suffer the losses the venture will entail: increased noise, vehicular traffic, and most importantly, a squandering of the rich natural treasure this location on the San Francisco Bay shoreline affords us all.

I urge you to preserve and enhance this singularly breathtaking public space as a natural resource for all.

*Please add me to the email list for notifications* about all future Marina Master Planning meetings, plus any other gatherings about the future usage of the Marina parks & facilities.

Sincerely,

Nick Despota  
Richmond CA

**Miller, Roger**

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**From:** ric keeley <ric.keeley@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 21, 2022 9:00 PM  
**To:** Miller, Roger  
**Cc:** Berkeley Mayor's Office; All Council; BMASP  
**Subject:** Cesar Chavez Park

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

Dear Mr. Miller,

Our names are Ric Keeley and Rhey Castillo and we have been enjoying Cesar Chavez Park (CCP) since we moved from San Francisco to Oakland eight years ago. We moved so we could have more space and get some pets. We have enjoyed bring both our Great Danes to run and enjoy the company of other dogs at CCP.

We are writing to express that we do not want to see the CCP space further developed for concerts as this will destroy all that is great about CCP. East bay residence come to CCP because of all the great things CCP offers; birding, fishing, running, walking, dog walking, biking, kiting/droning, photography, and more. Couple this with the critical habitat for many birds, including the endangered burrowing owl and native plants and CCP is unique to the East Bay. We have brought many of our out of town guests to CCP to show all these great offerings.

**Please add me to the email list for notifications about all future meetings**

- We have been looking for minutes of the past meetings but those don't seem to be available for reasons that seem sketchy. We wanted to see if there was any discussions or studies done with the Audubon Society to vet the BMASP project won't cause irreparable harm to all the protected wildlife and habitats. We fear that if this project goes through it will completely destroy all that is great about CCP for humans and non-humans.

CCP is not perfect. It could benefit from better maintenance; including addressing the Foxtails and other aggressive plants and grasses and offering more accessible public restrooms. These are simple fixes that would preserve all that is great about CCP.

Doing the proposed BMASP project will do more permanent damage by destroying the beauty and habitats of CCP and for what – potential greed?

Sincerely  
Ric Keeley  
Rhey Castillo

Koa and Bruno

**Miller, Roger**

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**From:** Robin Freeman <robinf5713@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, June 26, 2022 11:38 AM  
**To:** Miller, Roger; BMASP; savecc6@gmail.com; All Council; Berkeley Mayor's Office  
**Cc:** dralston@baaqmd.gov; Robin Freeman; steverauh@live.ca; a.jeffersfabro@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Planning funds to enhance waterfront proposals

**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.

As a user of all the waterfront parks, a former member of the Berkeley Design Review, Arts, and Landmark Preservation Commissions, a Berkeley business owner and faculty at Berkeley City College and the Berkeley schools, I would like to suggest conducting a more inclusive planning and outreach process than the Cesar Chavez consultants have been able to provide.

There are state and federal planning funds that can be used to involve more imagination from all the diverse user communities in developing an inclusive and financially viable vision for Berkeley's public spaces. Unfortunately the proposed concept plan is largely limited to regional facilities for those who can pay for use. The Tilden park hills, as beautiful as they are, require relatively long automobile trips for most of the population of Berkeley and the East Bay. The range of positive ideas in the public discussions suggest that a careful, involved planning and envisioning process could produce a welcoming interplay between many more concepts from a wider reach.

Sincerely,  
Robin Freeman

*Robin Freeman, Co-Director, David R. Brower, Ronald V. Dellums Institute for Sustainable Policy Studies  
Chair, emeritus, Environmental Management and Technology, Merritt College  
[www.browerdellumsinstitute.org](http://www.browerdellumsinstitute.org)*

**Miller, Roger**

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**From:** Rose Glickman <rosieglick@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 22, 2022 4:58 PM  
**To:** Miller, Roger; All Council  
**Subject:** Concerns about BMASP at Cesar Chavez Park

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

PLEASE DO NOT COMMERCIALIZE CEZAR CHAVEZ PARK.  
THAT WOULD BE AN ABOMINATION. My children and grandchildren would be needlessly deprived of such a wonderful outdoor venue. Shame on those citizens of Berkeley who are trying to commercialize such a special community.

Respectfully

Dr. Rose L. Glickman, 30year resident of Berkeley

**Miller, Roger**

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**From:** Rose Glickman <rosieglick@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 22, 2022 4:39 PM  
**To:** Miller, Roger  
**Subject:** 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.

PLEASE DO NOT COMMERCIALIZE CEZAR CHAVEZ PARK.  
THAT WOULD BE AN ABOMINATION.

Respectfully,  
Dr. Rose L. Glickman 1732 9th St Berkeley, Ca. 94710

**Miller, Roger**

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**From:** Ryan Turner <compassrose@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, June 12, 2022 4:03 PM  
**To:** Miller, Roger  
**Subject:** Comment on BMASP

**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.

From: **Ryan Turner** <[compassrose@gmail.com](mailto:compassrose@gmail.com)>  
Date: Sun, Jun 12, 2022 at 4:00 PM  
Subject: Comment on BMASP  
To: <[BMASP@cityofberkeley.info](mailto:BMASP@cityofberkeley.info)>, <[council@cityofberkeley.info](mailto:council@cityofberkeley.info)>, <[Rmiller@cityofberkeley.info](mailto:Rmiller@cityofberkeley.info)>

Hello PRW Commission and Berkeley City Council,

My name is Ryan Turner and I was born in Oakland. I am a sailor (trained at OCSC in the Berkeley Marina), a kite flyer, a dog owner, an RC airplane pilot, and the father of an eight year old. You can imagine that with that cross section of interests, my family spends a lot of time at Cesar Chavez Park.

Between "dot com" bubbles, recessions, and an ever increasing housing crisis, long-time East Bay residents have borne witness to profound changes. As local and national economics converge to squeeze the continually growing population at nearly every level, public land is only becoming more precious: we sell ourselves and our futures short when we try to monetize those lands.

In 2022, with the COVID pandemic not yet even a memory but an ongoing reality, it feels especially short-sighted to restrict access to any open spaces at Cesar Chavez Park and the idea of large concert-type events seems unsupportable given the already tight weekend parking situation. As someone who uses every part of the park as it is now, I would urge the PRW Commission and Council to abandon plans that would decrease the open spaces available to local residents.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Ryan Turner  
Oakland, CA

**Miller, Roger**

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**From:** Sahana Rajasekar <shnraj@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 27, 2022 10:28 AM  
**To:** Save CC; BMASP; All Council; Miller, Roger  
**Subject:** Concerns about BMASP at Cesar Chavez Park

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

Dear Mr. Miller,

Please add me to the email list for notifications about all future Marina Master Planning meetings, plus any other gatherings about the future usage of the Marina parks & facilities; send this email to the BMASP team and all the commissioners; and post this email with other BMASP documents online. Thank you.

I am a resident of Oakland and a regular user of Cesar Chavez Park. I greatly appreciate this scarce public open space and am against altering or developing it.

I visit Cesar Chavez Park most often for recreational dog walking, which provides me much-needed exercise and enjoy time in Nature. Cesar Chavez Park's off-leash area (OLA) is unique among Berkeley parks. It is not a dog park, for the benefit of dogs; it is an area where people – Berkeley residents, Oakland residents and others – actively hike with their dogs, getting exercise and recreation that contributes greatly to our health and well-being.

I recently learned of the City's effort to establish a Berkeley Marina master plan. As part of that, I request more funding for and focus on maintaining the off-leash area. I would welcome more frequent mowing and removal of foxtails.

The Berkeley Marina is a rich, diverse public space enjoyed by people of all ages, abilities, races, and income levels. We are recreationalists, environmentalists, and participants in the public process. I ask that the Berkeley Marina Area Specific Plan process be transparent, well-documented, and inclusive, engaging all park stakeholders, including the many recreational dog walkers who benefit from the OLA.

Please keep me informed regarding the planning process and the ways in which I can participate in this important planning process.

Best regards,  
Sahana Rajasekar





## Miller, Roger

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**From:** Sally Nelson <sallynels7@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 5, 2022 10:18 PM  
**To:** Miller, Roger  
**Subject:** The Proposed Berkeley Marina Area Specific Plan. BMASP

**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: Berkeley's Parks, Rec, and Waterfront Commission, and Roger Miller,

Dear Mr. Miller,

Please include this letter in the Commission's packet as Communication for the July agenda. I have sent this letter to the Mayor, the Members of the City Council, and to Berkeley's City Manager. Thank you.

Having lived in Berkeley for 45 years, I am very distressed about the commercial developments being proposed for Berkeley's Marina, including Cesar Chavez Park and the Native Plants Area. The proposed Berkeley Marina Area Specific Plan is highly problematic.

First of all, there is a legal covenant dating from 1976 and 1977 that declares that the land should be used **"for unstructured recreation."** The City of Berkeley does not own the land that makes up the Marina. the State of California owns it. The City holds it in trust. The California State Lands Commission administers State lands held in trust. This land use covenant was confirmed by Berkeley City Council Resolution No. 47,935-NS in May 1976, confirmed verbatim in the Master Plan in 1977, and in all subsequent conceptual and specific planning documents.

My following comments address the significance of the Marina to visitors, to wildlife, birds, insects, and the importance of native plants.

Resident birds and other wildlife need native habitat in order to survive, to feed, and to raise their young. In North America, bird populations have seen a decline of 30% since 1970, a problem that is also global. Migrating birds need urban parks as stopovers in which to rest and feed during their migrations covering many thousands of miles. Why should we care? Our very survival depends upon a healthy and diverse ecosystem that includes birds, insects, and other wildlife.

About Native Plants Area: don't even think of demolishing it. This proposal is an outrageously rude insult to the many volunteers who have spent thousands of hours over forty (40) years planting and nurturing the area. They have been transitioning the land from a dump to a life-giving habitat for wildlife, pollinators, and birds. What we need is a larger area for native plants.

We people need parks that are unstructured in which to restore our emotional and mental health. Nature is the city-dweller's lifeline, now more than ever. In our current economy, with job loss and inflated prices for the basics of food, housing, and transportation, we all need free public places in nature where we can get a breather from all the stress of a commercialized world.

The Adventure Playground on the south side of the Marina should continue to provide kids ways to play and learn. Don't pave it over.

I presume the initial financing of the proposed commercial venture would be by investors and the City of Berkeley, all of whom would expect a return on their investment. People using the reconstructed area would be expected to pay,

Agenda Item 9. BMASP - community emails

when the area has already been funded by taxpayer dollars and thousands of volunteer hours. Additionally, most people are really struggling with finances, and need a place to recreate without paying fees. Places that are transformed into concert venues and stadiums have a limited lifespan. Take note of the Oakland Coliseum and its years long woes with financing.

The beauty of a natural area like Berkeley's Marina is that its lifespan is an ongoing continuum, responding to the interrelationships of the plants, birds, wildlife, insects, and people in a healthy ecosystem. Changing, yes, and full of life.

I urge you to respect Berkeley Marina and its significance to people and all of wildlife. Do not proceed any further in planning to commercialize this area. For those who are eager to provide financing, please direct those funds to the sorely needed infrastructure projects in Berkeley that are ready and waiting with open hands.

Respectfully,  
Sally Nelson  
2200 McGee Avenue  
Berkeley, CA 94703  
[sallynels7@gmail.com](mailto:sallynels7@gmail.com)

PS: For those of you interested in learning more about bird migration, I highly recommend *A World on the Wing*, by Scott Weidensaul.

**Miller, Roger**

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**From:** Sarah Elzea <sarahelzea@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 20, 2022 3:26 PM  
**To:** Miller, Roger  
**Cc:** savecc6@gmail.com; Berkeley Mayor's Office; All Council; BMASP  
**Subject:** Concerns about BMASP at Cesar Chavez Park

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

Dear Mr. Miller,

I hope this email finds you and your team as frustrated as I am about the proposed BMASP project.

My name is Sarah Elzea and my dog Cyndi and I have been regular park users at Cesar Chavez Park (CCP) for three years— We go 4-5 times per week.

**Please add me to the email list for notifications about all future meetings; send this email to the BMASP team and all the commissioners; and post this email with other BMASP documents online.**

I am writing to express that I do not want to see the CCP space further developed. Events like concerts will only bring crowds, noise pollution, and trash, disturbing the local wildlife and regular open space users.

Open, natural spaces are a critical part of any healthy urban community. As it is now, beautiful CCP provides critical habitat to many birds, including the endangered burrowing owl and native plants. CCP also provides open space for birding, fishing, running, walking, dog walking, biking, kiting/droning, photography, and more. Because the East Bay, and City of Berkeley in particular, has such a limited amount of open space, the City of Berkeley should do whatever it can to preserve Cesar Chavez Park.

The City of Berkeley should also provide better maintenance of the CCP grounds including addressing foxtails and other aggressive plants and grasses. There should be better and more accessible public bathrooms at CCP.

Last, where is the evidence that the BMASP project will turn CCP into a profitable venture? Are we taking developers word for it here? Are there proposed budgets that detail the projected revenue and expenses for maintaining CCP? If yes, where can I find copies of these proposed budgets as well as supporting evidence of profit?

Thank You,  
Sarah

**Miller, Roger**

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**From:** Save CC <savecc6@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 7, 2022 8:11 PM  
**To:** Carlos Hill; Miller, Roger; BMASP; All Council  
**Subject:** Re: Marina Master Plan - No! No! No!

**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.

Mr. Hill has given me permission to forward his letter to the departments in question at my convenience. Thank you, Jeff Malmuth at [savecc6@gmail.com](mailto:savecc6@gmail.com).

On Fri, May 27, 2022 at 9:44 AM Carlos Hill <[playinglifeacademy@gmail.com](mailto:playinglifeacademy@gmail.com)> wrote:

Hi Rashi,

I write in opposition on behalf of my family and many residents of Berkeley I have spoken with directly who oppose the “amusement park feature” in the proposed Marina Master Plan. Our opinion is the plan is politically motivated, short sighted, that its advocates and proponents have little interest in the well being of local residents and community members who use the park daily.

The master plan contains many short sighted objectives that emit harmful odors and political agendas that grant control and advantage to a handful of politicians and assert a detrimental, ego filled power play that drives a knife deep into the backs of those who actually live and respect the sacred ground - the landfill - which is the bedrock of this sanctuary.

The limited visions of those who propose to repurpose the park for “amusement and Recreation” is just that, short sighted and self serving and without any substantive plan other than a power play and more control of a sanctuary that is a virtual community people’s space. Even more so as the use of the park as a sanctuary - a place for reflection and contemplation - from the major stresses in our lives in these violent times in our communities and around the world - hundreds of people have gathered throughout the pandemic and continue to frequent daily. Yes, to get a moment respite from the bombardments on our senses by oppressive political agendas.

There’s no financial long term component or benefit to the proposed “amusement park” scenario. The newly repaved roads - an unfortunate side effect of a 70+ year resolved problem - have opened up the possibilities for exploitation and misuse of our tax payer funds. The exploiters who control our tax resources have zoomed in for yet another proposed realignment of what’s actually in our best long term community interest.

The ideas as proposed conceal hidden agendas for short term bribes and payoffs to a handful of insiders and developers with no good will and little concentration on the impact of the current use and vitality of the Marina - the sprawling panoramic vistas and acres given to us all by those who fought to preserve our waterfront.

Please cast a strong no vote as our district representative against the proposed “rape” of the sanctuary.

We live within a walking distance range of Cesar Chávez and have used this sanctuary “religiously” for the past 30 years. Please do not vote to allow those people in power who have short term political vision and no real heart felt commitment to Berkeley and its residents to defile the sanctuary. If they used the park they would not vote to destroy it.

Cesar Chávez Park and the landfill Marina are a blessing in disguise to hundreds of people and their friends and families, children, lovers, every every day of the calendar year. It is undoubtedly a sanctuary for thousands of Berkeley and Bay Area surrounding City dwellers and residents during the year and it draws hundreds of families from many

destinations and other shores on weekends as visitors who can be seen taking in with delight the natural beauty of the panoramic visions that are nature's gifts given to us by those before us who saw the potential of the sanctuary and fought to preserve its beauty and significance for future generations. We honor these contributions and must save and demand continuation their legacy.

Save CC, is a call for "freedom" from yet one more mismanaged political scheme.

Cesar Chávez is West Berkeley's premier open area for picnics, tree lovers, strollers, runners, dog owners and walkers, professional and hobby kite flyers, bird watchers, kayakers, rowing teams, small boat owners, folks who love to fish, glider planes and remote control flying vehicles like drones, and many other beneficial uses. A thousand daily uses. A community sanctuary in its current unadorned beauty.

Cesar Chávez hosts the Solar Calendar site which - as stewards of the site for the past decade - is a gem of visual beauty and education immediacy for all people, children and adults, who can marvel in real time standing at the center of the site and witnessing the earth spinning at 1000 mph.

Simultaneously, we all learn from the four directional historic rendered displays and visual displays - a profound non-violence ethic - the actions of courage, determination, patience, perseverance, fearlessness in creating a living presence for humanity in the examples of the fearlessness in lives of Cesar Chávez and Dolores Huerta.

Please vote to save our sanctuary. Please do not allow the misguided vision of the politicians and short sighted angle dealers to destroy this Berkeley sanctuary.

Best,

Carlos Hill  
Former HHW Commissioner  
725 Virginia Street  
Berkeley 94710

**Miller, Roger**

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**From:** Save CC <savecc6@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 5, 2022 2:35 PM  
**To:** llyana landes  
**Cc:** Miller, Roger; All Council; BMASP  
**Subject:** Re: 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 Llyana for writing this letter. I hope the recipients read it. In the meantime, are you planning to attend the 7/13 PRW meeting at 7:00 p.m.? Please let me know and thanks again, Jeff

On Tue, Jul 5, 2022 at 11:52 AM llyana landes <[landeslly@gmail.com](mailto:landeslly@gmail.com)> wrote:

Hello all

I'm adding another voice for keeping the park in its current wonderful and wild state. There is so little wild nature that is accessible easily in our area, that is home to an array of wildlife that lives fairly peaceably with our current use of the park. I live in N. Oakland and am a frequent visitor to this healing place for walks, birding, and time spent with friends. It's a true gem, and as an aging citizen it is accessible in many ways. The thought of an entertainment arena with crowds of cars, partiers, and loud concerts here is such a travesty to me.

Please don't take this refuge away !!!!!

Thanks for reading,  
Llyana

**Miller, Roger**

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**From:** Stefani Berger <stefaniberger43@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 27, 2022 3:09 PM  
**To:** Miller, Roger  
**Subject:** Letter against proposed development of Cesar Chavez Park  
**Attachments:** Letter in opposition to planned development to Cesar Chavez Park.docx

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

I am again writing to you about your **Disastrous** proposed development of Cesar Chavez Park. I am demanding (as a registered voter and 40 year resident of Berkeley who votes) that you abandon this/your Destructive Plan. My letter is attached:

Best,

In dance!

**Stefani**

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

**Miller, Roger**

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**From:** Stefani Berger <stefaniberger43@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 8, 2022 2:32 PM  
**To:** Miller, Roger  
**Subject:** SAVE CESAR CHAVEZ PARK!

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

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing to you about the proposed plan to develop and create a pavilion/amusement center at Cesar Chavez Park.

My name is Stefani and I am 70 years old. I have used the park since it was originally created in 1997. My daughter and I used to hunt for Fairies in the overhanging groves and now my granddaughter and I put stones on the shadow of the solar calendar to watch in amazement as time moves on.

Every evening I walk my dogs in the off leash area to find solace from this broken world of ours. As a teacher of 40 plus years I need to refresh my soul so that my students can get the very best from my teaching. I picnic with family and friends, watch sunsets and find time to sit at a picnic bench just to feel the nature around me.

This park is a quiet refuge, people are always kind and caring, and those young and old can ride their bikes, push their wheelchairs, go for a run or just a walk with friends around the park.

With your plan, the parking will be terrible and prohibitive for those of us who want to visit the park. Should there be an emergency, there is only one road out of the marina to seek safety. Earthquakes, Tsunami's, (as we had recently seen) or a fire would be a disaster. The park would be treated destructively as we all know how crowds of people discard their trash.

Please, I implore you to consider how valuable this park is right now. We DON'T want it developed because the very tranquil beauty of it will be destroyed.

Should you like to contact me further my email is:

[StefaniBerger43@gmail.com](mailto:StefaniBerger43@gmail.com)

Best,

In dance!

**Stefani**

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



**Miller, Roger**

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**From:** Steve Klucharich <skluch@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, June 26, 2022 1:50 PM  
**To:** Miller, Roger; All Council; BMASP; savecc6@gmail.com; Bartlett, Ben  
**Subject:** Cesar Chavez Park and BMASP

**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 Addressees;

Please add me to the email list for notifications about all future Marina Master Planning meetings, plus any other gatherings about the future usage of the Marina parks & facilities; send this email to the BMASP team and all the commissioners; and post this email with other BMASP documents online. Thank you.

I am a resident of Berkeley and have just returned from one of my regular visits to Cesar Chavez Park. I greatly appreciate this scarce public open space and am against altering or developing it.

On today's visit, the fog had not yet completely burned off, but there were still quite a number of folks out. Runners, people walking alone and in groups, bicyclists, people with dogs, a few fishermen, the kite guys at the meadow by the west traffic circle. Pleasantries were exchanged. I walked my dog around the perimeter and then headed for the off leash area of the park. My dog chased the ball, played with other dogs, rolled in the wood chips. There were nice neighborly conversations with other dog owners. All of us were enjoying Sunday morning at the park. I fear this would not be the case if the proposed BMASP moves forward.

I visit Cesar Chavez Park most often for recreational dog walking, which provides me much-needed exercise and enjoy time in Nature. Cesar Chavez Park's off-leash area (OLA) is unique among Berkeley parks. It is not a dog park, for the benefit of dogs; it is an area where people – Berkeley residents and others – actively hike with their dogs, getting exercise and recreation that contributes greatly to our health and well-being.

The Berkeley Marina is a rich, diverse public space enjoyed by people of all ages, abilities, races, and income levels. We are recreationalists, environmentalists, and participants in the public process. I ask that the Berkeley Marina Area Specific Plan process be transparent, well-documented, and inclusive, engaging all park stakeholders, including the many recreational dog walkers who benefit from the OLA.

Please keep me informed regarding the planning process and the ways in which I can participate in this important planning process.

Best regard,

Steve Klucharich

Berkeley, Dist. 3

**Miller, Roger**

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**From:** Steve Masover <masover@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 24, 2022 7:51 AM  
**To:** Miller, Roger  
**Subject:** Comment on BMSAP regarding Cesar Chavez Park

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

Dear Parks, Recreation, and Waterfront Commission,

I have become aware of components in the Berkeley Marina Area Specific Plan (BMASP) that envision changes to Cesar Chavez Park to which I take strong exception, particularly the "Events Pavilion" and associated lawn/events space; and the "Large Adventure Park II." Our City has no need for festivals, rock concerts, ziplines, etc. -- let alone the noise, crowds, litter, intoxication, and potential violence -- in our beautiful, quiet, bayside park.

I have been a Berkeley resident since the early 1980s, and live in District 3. I visit the Berkeley Marina area, including Cesar Chavez Park, regularly, and have done so for decades. The undeveloped, open space -- the ability to walk or bike alongside the water, and the milieu created by the birds, animals, and plants (including the Native Plant Area) that inhabit the space -- make this area a valued and beloved aspect of our city.

I feel very strongly that introducing large events and a sporting area like those currently being contemplated as part of the BMASP would be a mistake, a loss, a deficit (both culturally and budgetarily) for the City of Berkeley.

Please don't take action that would erode the quiet, open, bay-adjacent space that is beloved by and accessible to so many Berkeleyans and others of our East Bay neighbors. I urge you to block creation of anything like the "Events" space/building or "Adventure Park" contemplated in the BMASP.

Steve Masover  
Berkeley, CA

**Miller, Roger**

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**From:** susan black <smblack71@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 28, 2022 5:41 PM  
**To:** BMASP; Save CC; All Council; Miller, Roger; Martin Nicolaus  
**Subject:** BMASP

**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.

Today on my usual morning walk around the Marina, at Cesar Chavez Park, I felt so much gratitude for this space that has provided me with both joy and respite for over forty years.

I walk the Marina nearly every early morning. This morning I was thrilled to see hundreds and hundreds of pelicans, many egrets, avocets and our resident great blue heron. Everyone stopped to enjoy the spectacle of hundreds of pelicans feeding. People talked to strangers about the feelings of awe and wonderment. For a short time it felt like all was right in this very deeply troubled world

Chavez Park is my morning meditation. It is quiet, safe and very accessible. I was part of building this park when I worked as a professional gardener. I have added yards upon yards of garden debris to what we now walk on and call our gem of a waterfront park.

I was married on the Berkeley Pier. When my son, David, became ill with AIDS we walked the Marina whenever he was able. It was nature he could get to and enjoy with his increasing limited mobility. It was calming and there were so many wonderful views. Now there is a memorial bench facing the Golden Gate Bridge in his memory.

In my later years I became a photographer. The Marina and Chavez Park are among my favorite places to capture beauty both early in the morning and late in the day. The shore birds are amazing as are the hares and even the gophers and ground squirrels.

In the increasingly urban environment we find ourselves in, this park in Berkeley is a rare and vital gem. It works for all folks whatever their level of mobility. It is a wonderful teaching platform for children and adults alike. Then there are the views...the best for miles and miles.

I am totally appalled at the proposed BMASP. It will turn our beloved oasis into a theme park only to be used by those with means. It will uproot years of careful planting of native wild flowers, scare away the birds and other wild life and our wonderful gem will be lost. Monetizing the Marina is an act of betrayal to those of us who love this park. It is a betrayal to anyone paying taxes in Berkeley. It is a betrayal of nature and a travesty.

The firm who has come up with these suggestions is totally out of touch with the users of this space. The process has not been at all transparent. Why would anyone want to destroy a space that is beloved and used by so many. I really hate to think this is all about money but there is no other conclusion.

I plead with all of you. Save our beloved Marina from this poorly designed plan that will do nothing for those of us who love this park but bring us to heartbreak.

Susan M Black  
2016 10th St  
Berkeley

**Miller, Roger**

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**From:** Susan Caldwell <svcaldwell@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 20, 2022 1:17 PM  
**To:** Miller, Roger  
**Subject:** Concerns about BMASP at Cesar Chavez Park

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

Please don't commercialize Cesar Chavez Park. We already have 2 theme parks in the Bay Area.

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**Susan Caldwell**  
**[svcaldwell@gmail.com](mailto:svcaldwell@gmail.com)**  
**510-541-1918**

**Miller, Roger**

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**From:** Tanja Schlosser <tanjarn7@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 6, 2022 9:28 PM  
**To:** Miller, Roger  
**Subject:** Concerns about BMASP at Cesar Chavez Park

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

Dear Roger Miller, Secretary of Parks, Recreation and Waterfront Commission,

I am a 30+ year resident of Berkeley, registered nurse working at Alta Bates Summit Medical Center and frequent user of all the local parks. I am deeply concerned to have just recently learned that our beloved Marina and Cesar Chavez Park may no longer stay the wonderful open space for walking, enjoying views of the bay and restoring our spirits. The proposed BMASP development project is very concerning on so many levels.

While there are many reasons why this place is so special, I'd like to highlight a few of the aspects that are especially close to my heart.

First of all, this is a welcome, quiet refuge from the hustle and bustle of our busy, stimulating lives. It helps us stay sane especially during the pandemic and continues to provide so much. It gives us a much needed break from noise, traffic, concrete, stimulation of all kinds and taking in the spaciousness gives our bodies and minds a vital break. It has been shown that being in nature is healthy- it calms the nervous system, something we all need to prevent disease and disease. It is food for our bodies where we get fresh air and exercise and food for our souls when we have such open views where we can rest our eyes and can decrease our stress levels.

Secondly, it is accessible. Anyone can utilize Cesar Chavez park and Marina- with its easy access by car, bike or bus and no fees. The paved paths make much of the park accessible if you are in a wheelchair- a unique and wonderful asset, given that so many of Berkeley residents are older. There are not that many parks that can claim this in the bay area- something to be proud of and to keep intact.

Thirdly, humans are not the only ones who benefit from the Marina and Cesar Chavez Park- it is home to so much wildlife and native plants that we get to watch and learn from. It is our responsibility to give back and help protect our fellow creatures who live here. In reviewing the proposal map, it appears that the concert pavilion and all the additional parking that would have to be created in the proposed BMASP development would eliminate not only much of the open space but the homes of the burrowing owls that we've protected and love. And no doubt the other animals, like the heron and egrets, would be displaced as well. Has an environmental impact study even been done yet to identify all the losses we would face and the impact of the increased noise and traffic?

The ironic part of this BMASP proposal is that it will eliminate the native plants and restoration that have been going for 40 years by many volunteers and that the Berkeley City Council

supported and funded. And why would the council have just given a grant to Albany to create a pollinator garden?

“Plants are also integral to reweaving the connection between land and people. A place becomes a home when it sustains you, when it feeds you in body as well as spirit. ~ Robin Wall Kimmerer, respected scientist, mother, and author of *Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge and the Teaching of Plants*.

We don't have that many wide accessible open spaces and we need to protect those that we have left, not only for us, but for the future generations.

We don't want to look back and think: why did we develop and ruin such a cherished natural oasis that so many worked so hard to restore? I thought we were wiser and more aware here in Berkeley than having the belief that “Ruined land was accepted as the collateral damage of progress”. ~ Robin Wall Kimmerer

The Marina and Cesar Chavez Park area is our home because it feeds our bodies and spirits. Why would we want to irrevocably change it? We need it as a refuge.

Please do not accept this BMASP development proposal. It is not good for our community.

Please add me to the email list for notifications about all future meetings; send this email to the BMASP team and all the commissioners; and post this email with other BMASP documents online. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Tanja M. Schlosser

**Miller, Roger**

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**From:** Virginia Browning <vexxie@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 20, 2022 2:38 PM  
**To:** Miller, Roger; BMASP  
**Cc:** All Council  
**Subject:** Add me to "Receive" list for all messages about BMASP and Cesar Chavez Park please

**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,  
Please add me to the email list for notifications about all future meetings and information about Cesar Chavez Park. I can't find the email addresses of Park and Waterfront Commissioners online, but I assume this email also goes to them.

I am a Berkeley resident. I completed the "survey" which didn't allow adequate comment about the need to preserve this as open space. I attended the first meeting after happening to see a sign at the park - that was the only notice I received. I don't think there has been adequate public notification of the proposed changes. I know it costs money to preserve this space, but it should not be monetized. Funding needs to come from somewhere else (perhaps taxing those property owners in Berkeley who pay less than 1/2 what the rest of us pay because they or their ancestors happened to live here longer). Adequate open space is a requirement for a healthy life, like air.

Sincerely,

Virginia Browning  
Berkeley resident, District 1

**Miller, Roger**

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**From:** wini williams <wini\_working4you@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, July 3, 2022 6:48 PM  
**To:** Miller, Roger; All Council; Save CC  
**Subject:** Concerns about BMASP at Cesar Chavez Park

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

I am a Berkeley senior resident and 40+ year homeowner. The Marina has been my backyard in many ways. I was here when it was a city dump and have enjoyed it's transition into a treasure for the community. It is where my grandchildren learned to bike ride, skate board, see wildlife, climb rocks and enjoy the outdoors and the bay. My youngest grandchild comes to visit from college and always wants to take a Marina walk. I continue to visit every day to walk my 5th dog to enjoy the off leash area.

One of the things I most love about the area is being outside and away from the hustle and bustle of the city; despite the proximity of the freeway, or perhaps because it seems so far away. Seeing the city and the iconic bridges in the morning sunrise or evening sunset gives me a feeling of privilege, peace and contentment. What a glorious way to start and end a day.

I also enjoy seeing families picnicking, flying kites, socializing and the sense of community all of that gives the park and my day. Having the privilege of seeing wildlife is an amazing experience. Owls, kestrel, hawks, Herons, bluebirds, pelicans flying by, rabbits, skunks, butterflies, and all kinds of gophers are just a part of the days activities. And the wild flowers that have found their way onto the hard soil. So beautiful in the spring. How I would miss it all.

The project you are proposing would forever destroy all that makes this a unique and special place. There is barely enough parking for those of us already using the park every day; adding commercial enterprises would create an amazing log jam of people and cars.

This space is particularly important because it is egalitarian. Anyone, with or without resources can come and enjoy the space; the accessibility of the space is very important to us all. For those of us with dogs it is a place of health, mental and physical; particularly during these COVID years.

Please do not allow this to happen to our space; keep Berkeley's open space for all to use.

Wini Williams



**Miller, Roger**

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**From:** wini williams <wini\_working4you@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, June 10, 2022 4:35 PM  
**To:** Miller, Roger  
**Subject:** 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.

Mr. Miller

I am a long term, senior resident of Berkeley. It has been my joy to utilize the Cesar Chavez off leash dog park for over 20 years. I am quite alarmed at the rumor that there is a "Master Plan" to change the configuration and usage of the park and reduce the off leash area. I was unable to actually read the plan and unable to attend the 6/8 meeting.

Please check with the community in a more open and accessible manner and see how many of us would object to a big change in the use of the park. Take into account all of us who use the park. There is room for everyone to have fun and freedom.

Thank, Wini Williams  
Ps I would appreciate a reply

2765 Mathews St., 94702  
510-326-8428

**Berkeley Municipal Code**

**Chapter 3.26 PARKS, RECREATION, AND WATERFRONT COMMISSION**

Sections:

- **3.26.010 Established--Membership--Appointment.**
- **3.26.020 Council representatives--Functions.**
- **3.26.030 Organization, meetings, rules and procedures.**
- **3.26.040 Functions.**

3.26.010 Established--Membership--Appointment.

A. A Parks, Recreation, and Waterfront Commission is established. The commission shall consist of nine members. Appointments to the commission shall be made, and vacancies on the commission shall be filled, in accordance with the provisions of Sections [2.04.030](#) through [2.04.145](#).

B. For purposes of determining term limits under Section [3.02.040](#), a commissioner's prior service on the Parks and Waterfront Commission, the Children, Youth, and Recreation Commission, or the Animal Care Commission shall be counted, provided that their prior service was terminated by their appointment to the Parks, Recreation, and Waterfront Commission. (Ord. 7794-NS § 1 (part), 2021)

3.26.020 Council representatives--Functions.

The City Council may appoint one of its members to act as a non-voting, uncompensated liaison representative to the Parks, Recreation, and Waterfront Commission. The functions of such liaison representatives are:

- A. To attend meetings of said commission;
- B. To advise the Council of the background, attitude and reasons behind decisions and recommendations of said commission; and
- C. On request of any member of said commission, to advise the commission of policies, procedures and decisions of the council that may bear on matters under discussion by the commission. (Ord. 7794-NS § 1 (part), 2021)

3.26.030 Organization, meetings, rules and procedures.

- A. The commission annually shall elect one of its members as the chairperson and one of its members as the vice-chairperson. An officer or employee of the City designated by the City Manager shall serve as secretary of the commission.
- B. The commission shall establish a regular place and time for meeting. All meetings shall be noticed as required by law and shall be scheduled in a way to allow for maximum input from the public. The frequency of meetings shall be as determined by City Council resolution. The

scheduling of special meetings in addition to those established by City Council resolution, except special meetings that take the place of cancelled regular meetings, shall be subject to approval by the City Council. A request for a special meeting shall include the reason for the proposed meeting and should be expedited on the City Council's agenda, or in the alternative, placed before the Agenda Committee for approval.

C. The commission may make and alter rules governing its organization and procedures which are not inconsistent with this Chapter or any other applicable ordinance of the City.

D. A majority of the members appointed to the commission shall constitute a quorum and the affirmative vote of a majority of the members appointed is required to take any action.

E. The commission shall keep an accurate record of its proceedings and transactions. (Ord. 7794-NS § 1 (part), 2021)

#### 3.26.040 Functions.

A. The Parks, Recreation and Waterfront Commission shall be an advisory board and shall review the following 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, and shall advise the City Council on these matters.

B. The Parks, Recreation, and Waterfront Commission shall have the authority to adopt the minutes of the final meetings of the Parks and Waterfront Commission, the Children, Youth, and Recreation Commission, and the Animal Care Commission. (Ord. 7794-NS § 1 (part), 2021)

**PARKS AND WATERFRONT COMMISSION**

**RECENT COUNCIL REPORTS**

The following council reports are available for review at the Parks Recreation & Waterfront Department administrative desk, 2180 Milvia Street, 3rd floor, or can be accessed from the City Council Website by using the following URL's:

**July 12, 2022**

8.-Contract No. 31900193 Amendment: Hamilton Tree Service, Inc. for As-Needed Tree Services

URL: <https://berkeleyca.gov/sites/default/files/documents/2022-07-12%20Item%2008%20Contract%20No.%2031900193%20Amendment.pdf>

9.-Contract No. 31900218 Amendment: West Coast Arborists, Inc. for As-Needed Tree Services

URL: <https://berkeleyca.gov/sites/default/files/documents/2022-07-12%20Item%2009%20Contract%20No.%2031900218%20Amendment.pdf>

10.-Contract No. 32200076 Amendment: OBS Engineering, Inc. for John Hinkel Park Amphitheater Area Improvements Project

URL: <https://berkeleyca.gov/sites/default/files/documents/2022-07-12%20Item%2010%20Contract%20No.%2032200076%20Amendment.pdf>

**June 28, 2022**

9.-FY 2023 Tax Rate: Fund the Maintenance of Parks, City Trees and Landscaping

URL: <https://berkeleyca.gov/sites/default/files/documents/2022-06-28%20Item%2009%20Fund%20the%20Maintenance%20of%20Parks.pdf>

22.-Amending Contract No. 32100184 with O.C. Jones & Sons, Inc. for the Berkeley Marina Roadway Improvements Project

URL: <https://berkeleyca.gov/sites/default/files/documents/2022-06-28%20Item%2022%20Amending%20Contract%20No.%2032100184.pdf>

**June 21, 2022**

1.-Discussion and Direction Regarding Vision 2050 Program Plan and Potential Ballot Measures for the November 8, 2022 General Municipal Election

URL: <https://berkeleyca.gov/sites/default/files/documents/2022-06-21%20Special%20Item%2001%20Discussion%20and%20Direction%20Regarding%20Vision%202050%20%286pm%29.pdf>

**June 14, 2022**

14. FY 2023 Tax Rate: Fund the Maintenance of Parks, City Trees and Landscaping

URL: <https://berkeleyca.gov/sites/default/files/documents/2022-06-14%20Item%2014%20FY%202023%20Tax%20Rate%20Fund%20the%20Maintenance.pdf>

Communications

To: Mayor Arreguin and City Councilmembers  
From: Parks, Recreation and Waterfront Commission  
Date: June 10, 2022  
Re: Recommendations for Vision 2050 Ballot Measure

At the June 8, 2022, meeting of the Parks, Recreation and Waterfront Commission there was a unanimous vote to forward our recommendations for the Vision 2050 ballot measures (see attached).<sup>1</sup> We agreed that the public Right-of-Way (ROW) is essential to the lives of Berkeley residents so it worthy of asking the voters to support upgrading and maintaining it for future generations, but we would also like you to consider its importance to the future of the marina as well, and urge you to include its infrastructure needs, and not treat it as a separate entity reliant solely on the Marina Fund, which we see is also an equitable approach.

We also like to point out that the planned ROW improvements will require ongoing maintenance, including with landscaping and trees, and the burden of this should not rest with the Parks, Recreation and Waterfront Department. We suggest ideas of how those costs could be allocated.

In addition, we want to stress the importance of allocating a portion of the GO bond for the capital funds needs in the parks and waterfront, including the construction of the Frances Albrier Community Center and Pool complex.

Finally, we also offer advice on how best to preserve the trust of the public while executing the ballot measures, including maintaining adequate reserves to be reviewed by a 'watchdog' committee, in conjunction with the staff, on an annual basis.

Please take the following communication under your consideration, and we are available if you have further questions.

Attachment: **Vision 2050 Ballot Measures for November 2022: A General Obligation Bond and Parcel Tax**

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<sup>1</sup> Parks, Recreation, and Waterfront Commission vote: Ayes: Birnbach, Capitelli, Cox, Diehm, Floyd, Kawczynska, Landoni, Srioudom, Wozniak; Absent: Floyd; Noes: None.

Council Communication:

Vision 2050 Ballot Measures - Nov 2022: G.O. Bond & Parcel Tax

Attachment

# Vision 2050 Ballot Measures for November 2022: A General Obligation Bond and Parcel Tax

## I. Introduction

The public Right-of-Way (ROW) is the area between the property lines on either side of a public street. It typically includes the traffic lanes, parking lanes, traffic circles, bike paths, sidewalks, and the landscaped strip between the street and sidewalk. See Figure 1. The ROW contains most of the City’s infrastructure and is the Public Commons that binds Berkeley together. It delivers the goods and services that sustain our lives, but it is often neglected or taken for granted.

FIGURE 1. Illustration of common pieces of the public Right-of-Way



Image: Michelle Ho

**The ROW is essential for our lives.** Without the ROW there would be

- no energy to light and heat our homes
- no water to drink, to bathe or wash dishes and clothes
- no removal of liquid or solid waste from our homes
- no internet or telephone
- no transportation to and from school, work, shopping, recreation, open space, social and cultural events.

**The ROW is vast.** Our public right-of-way occupies 50 million square feet or 1.77 square miles, which is 16.8% of the City’s total land area.

**The ROW is multi-layer.** Above ground is used for transportation and landscaping. Below ground there are gas, water, sewer lines. Above it all are electrical wires, optic fiber bundles and trees.

**The Row should be equitable,** since the ROW connects everyone with everywhere.

**II. Equity - Should Waterfront Public Right-of-Way (ROW) Infrastructure Improvements be explicitly included in the Vision 2050 Program Plan and the planned Nov 2022 Ballot Measure?**

The City is considering a 2022 ballot measure that includes a possible ~30 ct/ft<sup>2</sup> parcel tax to repair, reconstruct, and reimagine the public Right-of-Way. The draft Vision 2050 Program Plan, which covers the entire city, currently identified ten ROW asset categories with over a billion dollars in total Infrastructure Funding Needs. See Table 1.

**TABLE 1.** Breakdown of \$1B Citywide ROW Infrastructure Need (Vision 2050)

<b>Asset Category</b>	<b>Infrastructure Funding Needs</b>
Stormwater	\$259,500,000
Streets	\$248,000,000
Sewers	\$194,000,000
Bike & Pedestrian Plan Projects	\$122,500,000
Utility Undergrounding	\$105,000,000
Sidewalks	\$60,000,000
Transit Projects	\$45,000,000
Traffic Controls, Streetlights, Parking	\$26,000,000
Trees: planting/maintenance	\$21,000,000
<u>Natural Streetscapes</u>	<del>\$0</del>
<b>Total: Public Right of Way</b>	<b>\$1,081,000,000</b>

At the same time, the BMASP (Berkeley Marina Area Specific Plan) planning process, which covers just the waterfront area, has identified a need of \$21.8M for its ROW, including Utility Improvements, Pavement Rehab, Sidewalks, and

Council Communication:

Vision 2050 Ballot Measures - Nov 2022: G.O. Bond & Parcel Tax

Pedestrian & Bike Pathways, including ADA upgrades. These needs fall into several of the aforementioned public ROW categories, which are funded by citywide taxes/fees. Since streets, sidewalks, paths, sewers & storm drains in the Marina Area are part of the ROW, their infrastructure needs should be eligible for funding from existing ROW taxes/fees and the proposed 2022 Parcel Tax.

**TABLE 2.** Breakdown of \$21.8M Waterfront ROW infrastructure Need (from BMASP)

<b>Asset Category</b>	<b>BMASP Infrastructure Funding Needs</b>
<b>Utility Improvements</b>	<b>\$6,100,000</b>
Sewer collections system, stormwater improvements, emergency fire service	
<b>Pavement Rehab</b>	<b>\$6,500,000</b>
University Ave (Marina Blvd to Seawall Dr), Seawall Dr	
<b>Sidewalks/Pathways</b>	<b>\$9,200,000</b>
Cesar Chavez Park Perimeter & Marina Blvd & BayTrails (upgraded for ADA standards)	
<u>General Sidewalk/Pathway/ADA Upgrades</u>	
<b>Total: Public Right of Way</b>	<b>\$21,800,000</b>

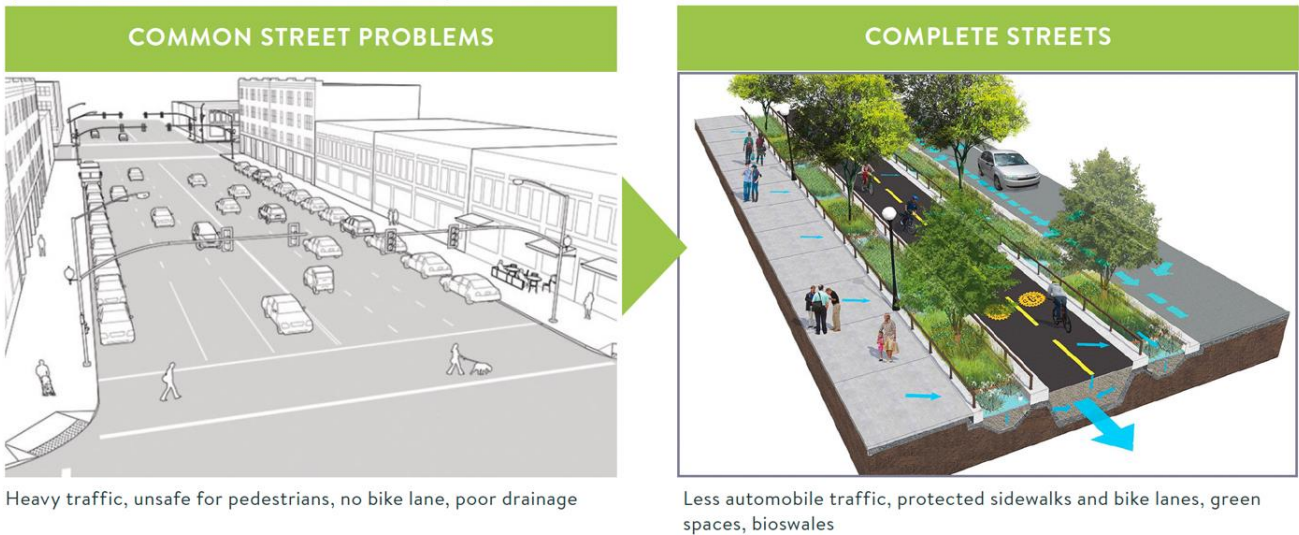
**III. What is the impact of planned ROW improvements on Park Department’s responsibility to maintain landscaping and trees in the public ROW?**

To expand the tree canopy of the existing 38,000 street trees, particularly in West and South Berkeley, where it is sparse, an additional 10,000 street trees are planned. In the Vision 2050 Program Plan, \$21 million is assigned for street trees, which indicates that there will be additional ongoing maintenance costs for a more extensive City tree canopy!

To “develop natural streetscapes using green infrastructure”, Complete Streets will be employed, which require a balance between living plants and hardscape structures. This additional green space can accommodate native tree and plant species that are vital for wildlife but will require additional landscaping maintenance costs. See Fig. 2 for a comparison of a hardscaped street with a Complete Street, which contains both hardscape spaces (traffic lanes, protected sidewalks and bike lanes) as well as expanded green spaces and bioswales.



**FIGURE 2.** Comparing a traditional street design (left) with Complete Streets (right)



The Vision 2050 Program Plan proposes to dedicate two-thirds of street-focused investments to the reconstruction/maintenance of streets and one-third to traffic safety. However, it does not specify where the cost of softscaping will be borne.

- We recommend that the Program Plan clearly state that the cost of greening or softscaping streets will be included in the street-focused investment category, since the present Parks Tax landscaping revenue is insufficient to cover these added costs.
- Alternatively, the City could decide to place an additional measure on the ballot to increase the Parks Tax rate to cover the added costs associated with street softscaping and green infrastructure.

#### **IV. \$300M General Obligation Bond (GO) for Housing & Infrastructure is planned for the November 2022 ballot**

\$150M of this GO Bond is proposed for non-ROW Infrastructure needs, which includes public buildings, parks, camps, pools, and transfer station & recycling.

One of the main principles of Vision2050 is that infrastructure should be equitable and improve the quality of life of all Berkeley residents. Access to open spaces, parks, and recreation facilities are important factors in improving the quality of life of residents.

Currently, Berkeley has only two pools, King and West Campus. The lease on the West Campus site expires in five years. Since it is critical that there be a 2<sup>nd</sup> pool

serving South/West Berkeley residents, a new pool would need to be constructed before the lease expires. In the phase 2 round of T1 funding, a project including a new pool and a rebuilt Frances Albrier Community Center in San Pablo Park was highly rated by the Parks and Waterfront Commission. The estimate for this new Community Center and Pool is \$35 million. Since sufficient T1 monies were not available, the Commission recommended that this exemplary project be a priority for future infrastructure funding.

The Waterfront also has several priority capital-projects for critical non-pier capital needs. In addition, the ceramic tide tubes at Aquatic Park need to be replaced to maintain the water quality essential for aquatic and avian habitat. See Table 3.

**TABLE 3.** Top priority capital funding needs in Parks and the Waterfront (from T1 Phase 2 & more)

<b>Asset Category</b>	<b>Top Priority Funding Need</b>
Frances Albrier Community Center and Pool	\$35,000,000
Waterfront – non-pier capital needs	\$30,000,000
<u>Aquatic Park – Tide Tubes</u>	<u>\$5,000,000</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$70,000,000</b>

## V. Summary

The Parks, Recreation & Waterfront Commission recommends:

1. 2022 Parcel tax ballot measure include:
  - a. Infrastructure in the public Right-of-Way at the Berkeley Waterfront Area.
  - b. Funding for greening our streets, which requires a balance between living plants and hardscape elements and will require additional landscaping/maintenance expenses.
2. 2022 Infrastructure Bond measure include:
  - a. \$70 million for top priority capital needs in Parks and at the Waterfront
3. Ensure fiscal continuity, responsibility and transparency.
  - a. Assure the public that new revenues (new bond proceeds and/or new assessments) will not replace or supplant existing expenditures but will increase existing expenditures in the categories outlined by the ballot measure(s); that the City will maintain adequate reserves and staff will

provide an annual report (using GAAP standards) of such reserves that will be reviewed by a 'watchdog' committee which, in conjunction with staff, will analyze and report to Council the adequacy and accuracy of said annual report.


Communication to Parks, Rec and Waterfront Commission  
July 13, 2022  
From Erin Diehm, Commissioner

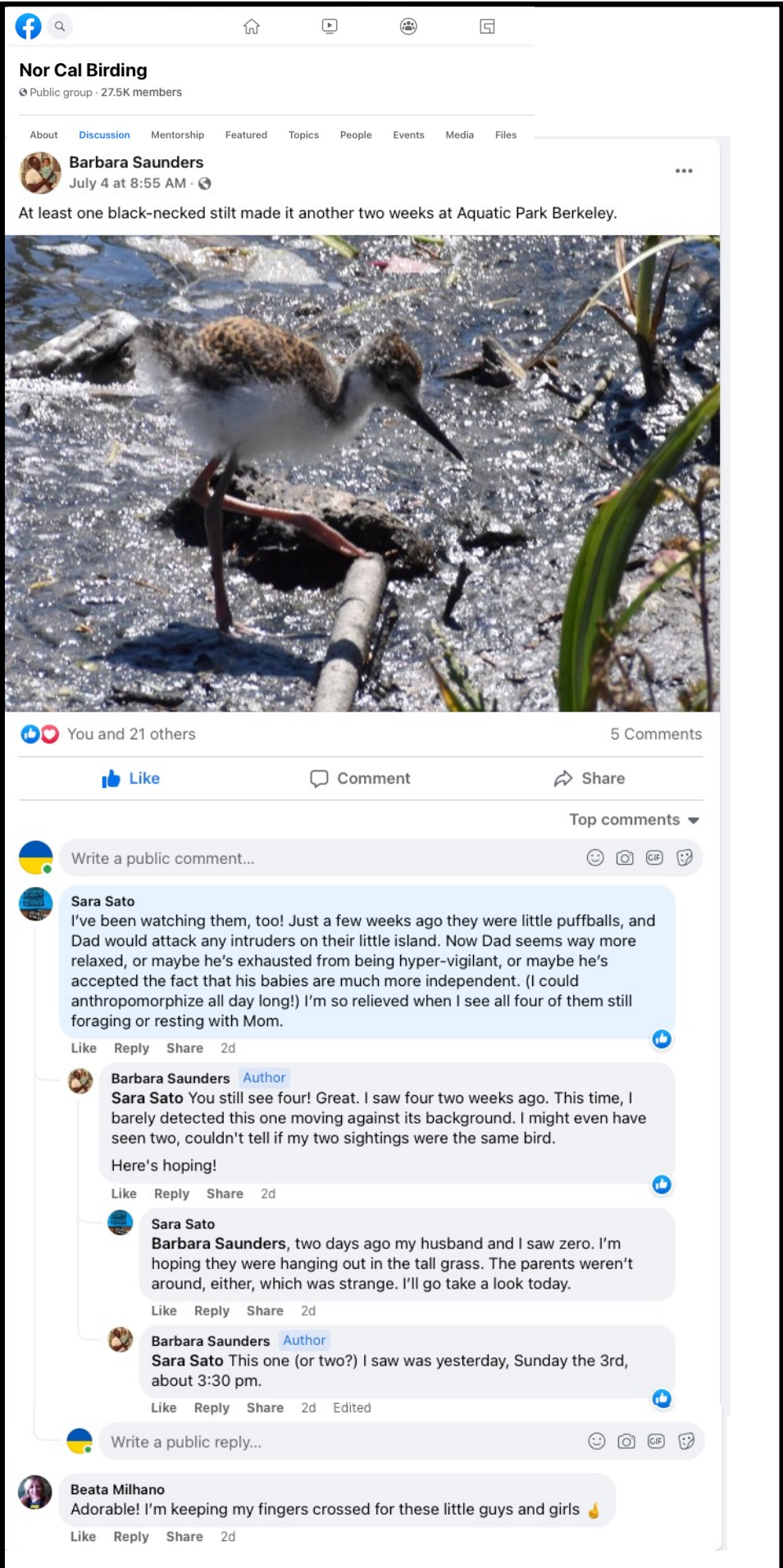
Some very special  
*shorebirds*  
have been nesting  
at Aquatic Park.

*Black-necked Stilts*

People are enthralled and  
following their progress.

At least two nests, with four  
or more chicks. Now, it  
seems only one chick  
remains.

Here is the   
Facebook posting  
on Nor Cal Birding,  
with 27,500 members



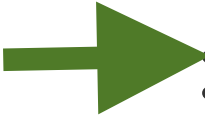


And here is an excerpt from this month's  
July newsletter from Friends of Five Creeks  
See the last two pages



## Friends of Five Creeks July-August E-News

Scroll down for news and events:

- 
- *Join us in small groups documenting local nature*
  - *Join us pulling fire-prone French broom Sat., July 16, and sprucing up Cerrito Creek Sun., Aug. 16.*
  - *F5C in June: Volunteers fight foxtails and French broom, get ready to seed more wildflowers in fall. Citizen science leads to discovery and drama*
  - *Feature of the month: Life and Death in Berkeley's Aquatic Park*
  - *Environmental News Briefs, Having Your Say: Waterfowl declines, powerful plastics law, action on climate change*
  - *Events with others: Hands-on volunteering, walks, talks, classes, photo contests, gardening, saving water and energy.*

*Purple text below indicates links.*

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### Join F5C volunteers in July and August

*Join us in small groups documenting local nature in July and August*, with easy citizen-science walks for very small groups. See our feature of the month, below, for our exciting discoveries at Berkeley's Aquatic Park!

Just 2-4 people seems to work well. Timing can fit your schedule; you also can observe on your own. We will show you how to use free cell-phone apps to learn about and document urban nature and possible effects of drought and a warming earth. **Please email [f5creeks@gmail.com](mailto:f5creeks@gmail.com) if you are interested.**



#### ***"Walking work party" in El Cerrito Hillside Natural Area Sat., July 16***

Join our "walking work party" removing re-sprouting broom and enjoying spectacular views in the meadows and oak groves of the El Cerrito Hillside Natural Area, Sat., July 16, 10 AM - 12:30 PM. Work is light, but

**Citizen science: Groups of 2-3 explored nature in Berkeley's Aquatic Park.** Using cellphones, we recorded and reported plants and animals along park shorelines during summer's low tides, as part of the **California Academy of Sciences' Snapshot Cal Coast**. We also encountered dramas and mysteries of nature -- and perhaps some opportunities to make these lagoons more welcoming to wildlife as well as people. **Our feature of the month, below, summarizes these surprises.**

## Life and Death in Berkeley's Aquatic Park



As low tides of late June and early July revealed things often hidden, handfuls of F5C volunteers set out to catalog shoreline life at Berkeley's Aquatic Park, using cellphones and the **INaturalist** app (photo left).

The mile-long park's three lagoons were sculpted in 1935-7 by the Depression-era Works Progress Administration. They rescued what would have been a stagnant cesspool trapped between the old Bay shore -- the park's eastern edge -- and a new causeway to the just-opened Bay Bridge. That road is now I-80, a constant roar along the park's west edge.

We found ourselves plunged into life and death, drama and mystery -- almost a parallel universe alongside the runners, dog-walkers, disc-golf players, paddlers, rowers, and water skiers.

### *The worms that blocked the tides*

Our first aim was to get a handle on Australian tubeworms (*Ficopalmatius enigmaticus*). These tiny worms foul marine constructions around the globe. The worms have been in San Francisco Bay for more than a century, and in Aquatic Park's lagoons since at least the 1940s, soon after the park opened.

Individual worms secrete thin shell-like protective tubes that stick to anything hard, including other tubes. Aggregations can form dense reefs.

Long neglect of maintenance let the tubes all but block the tide tubes that let Bay waters refresh the lagoons twice daily. The photo right shows a disused culvert, still blocked. In 2020, hundreds of thousands of dollars were spent on what amounts to drain cleaning.



*Dead tube worms still block a disused culvert.*



Looking for possible re-growth, we found mass death. Some live worms remain, and they may flourish again. But most of the reefs that had capped submerged concrete, rocks, and wood around the main lagoon appear to be dead, crumbling, or vanished (photo left).

Also seemingly vanished are the far fewer native oysters growing on rocks edging the shore. Only their firmly fixed bottom shells remain (photo left below).





Worms and oysters probably died because clearing the tubes let tidal levels rise and fall much more, exposing the animals to dryness and heat.

Another contributor may be recent superstorms. Runoff from heavy winter rains can turn the Aquatic Park lagoons, and even much of the Bay, almost fresh. Lagoon saltwater creatures have died en masse from freshwater before. Rainy winters almost wiped out native oysters in the North Bay in 2011 and 2016.

### *Beautiful sharks, callous humans*

A different drama distracted us from this mystery. Early on our first morning, we came on three beautiful young leopard sharks, well below legal catch size, left dead on the shore by some fisher, who also abandoned heavy hooks, weights, bait, and line. Was the poacher frightened off?



We mourned for these beautiful animals, the Bay's most common sharks, that come into the Bay's shallow water especially to breed and bear live young.

Later, we came on two more big exposed hooks, colorful lures mimicking fish or crustaceans, and tangles of line. The abandoned gear could have been lethal to dogs or other creatures. It was hard to think of these fishers as responsible sportsmen.

### *Heroic parenting by a clown-faced bird*

Not far from the sharks, we stumbled on drama to celebrate, even if it ends in failure. At the extreme north tip of the lagoon, two black-necked stilts have hatched and battled to rear chicks on a small bare island edged by dense cattails and rushes. At this writing, one survives.

These striking shorebirds sport mime-like black-and-white feather patterns and long, thin orange legs. They pass through on migration and sometimes spend the winter. But nests in the Central Bay remain extremely rare.

Raising stilt chicks in this urban setting seems almost miraculous, even to experienced birders. Credit goes to heroic parenting.

Through weeks of incubation on bare ground, and then as the hatchlings grow from fluffballs to gangling and somewhat rebellious adolescents, chicks depend on



parents as guards. (Stilt chicks feed themselves.)

With chatters and squawks, these Aquatic Park stilts seemed to warn the chicks to take cover in the cattails, or summon them out to feed and explore (photo above). Harsh cries and winged attacks drove off perceived enemies including much larger birds -- egrets seemed a particular target (photo right).

A railing, steep bank, and vegetation protect the stilt family from people and dogs. Many more enemies would relish a meal of eggs and chicks, however, including rats, feral cats, raccoons, skunks, herons, egrets, crows, and hawks. Falcon stepdad Alden brought a stilt back to the UC Berkeley Campanile to feed Annie's chicks.



Guard duty must have been exhausting. A parent's return from feeding sometimes was followed by a quick siesta, sinking down on the sand, sometimes with a chick or two. Parenting only seemed to grow harder as the increasingly independent chicks strayed farther along the shoreline.



We were not the first to see this family. A small fan club watched from behind the railing. Our reporting the find, and talks with other birders, revealed that stilts nested here in 2021 as well.

We also found another nest, on unprotected and mowed shoreline. A birder reports seeing a hawk seize a chick from this family.

Perhaps ways can be found to make it easier for these birds to have year-round homes here.



***Fish that dig and fly***

More adventure awaited a few hundred feet down the park's west shore. A patch of churned-up black mud, odd ripples and wavelets, and splashing drew attention despite the freeway roar.



# Berkeleyside

## BUSINESS

### Shop Talk: New school and club sails into the Berkeley marina; tech company turns worker co-op

Inspire Sailing opened at the marina a year ago. Catch up on this and other Berkeley retail and small business news.

By Joanne Furio, July 1, 2022, 11 a.m.

*Find out which stores have opened, closed or moved and what's new in Berkeley's small-business communities. If you have Berkeley business updates to share, send an email to [editors@berkeleyside.org](mailto:editors@berkeleyside.org).*

#### Shop Talk

- [New sailing club takes over OCSC's spot at Berkeley Marina](#)
- [Berkeley tech company turns into worker co-op as owner retires](#)
- [Fourth Street pop-up is devoted to women's swimwear](#)
- [Strong roots have kept Vine Street Salon in the hair business for 30 years](#)
- [Bittersweet end for longtime candy-making and cake business](#)
- [Staff shortage caused weekend Walgreens closure](#)

OPEN [BERKELEY MARINA](#)

### New sailing club takes over OCSC's spot at Berkeley Marina



Students in a "Basic Keelboat" class in November.  
Courtesy: Inspire Sailing

Landlubbers may not be aware, but sailing towns have their own boating specialty.

"Sausalito is more about cruising. Berkeley is more performance-oriented, so it has more sport boats," said Leigh Hunt.

He should know. He's the owner of two sailing schools, Modern Sailing School & Club in Sausalito and Inspire Sailing in Berkeley, which opened a year ago. Inspire occupies the spot of the former OCSC Sailing, a mainstay at the Berkeley Marina for 45 years, which closed during the pandemic and never reopened.

Before becoming a sailing school owner, Hunt spent years as a recreational sailor. An electrical engineer who worked in Silicon Valley, he sailed in clubs around the bay and was a client at Modern Sailing until it went

up for sale in 2013. He left tech and took over as owner and operator.

“When OCSC didn’t emerge from COVID, I wanted to make sure there was a continued sailing school and sailing club presence over here,” Hunt said. The school offers a similar U.S. Sailing curriculum, similar types of boats and serves a similar clientele. In fact, most of Inspired Sailing’s 350 members had been OCSC members.

“Most of the new people joining the club are learning how to sail,” Hunt said.



Leigh Hunt, CEO of Inspire Sailing, outside its office at the Berkeley Marina. Courtesy: Inspire Sailing

Inspire Sailing joins another sailing school at the marina, Cal Sailing, a low-cost, volunteer-run nonprofit founded about a half century ago.

Inspire offers larger vessels than Cal Sailing, and Hunt touts that all of Inspire’s instructors are U.S. Sailing-certified and U.S. Coast Guard captains.

Inspire offers a beginner’s class every month, which costs \$125 per seat for a five-hour sail. The school also hosts sailing clinics for more practice in specific skills and race clinics three times a year so participants can join Berkeley Yacht Club’s Friday night races. Inspire’s fleet consists of 18 boats, from 24- to 40-feet.

Like OCSC, Inspire Sailing is also a club, with membership starting at \$50 a month after a \$500 initiation fee. Day charters for members range from \$200 to \$675 per day, depending on the size of the boat and day of the week.

“The cool thing is that the City of Berkeley and CalTrans just finished renovating the road to the marina,” Hunt

said. “So the path to get down here is better than it has been in a long, long time.”

*Inspire Sailing, 1 Spinnaker Way, Berkeley. Phone: 510-818-0000. Hours: Daily, 9 a.m.-6 p.m. Connect via Facebook Instagram.*

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## Berkeley tech company turns into worker co-op as owner retires

THE SPOTLIGHT **WESBERRY**