



Councilmember Cheryl Davila
District 2

CONSENT CALENDAR
January 23, 2018

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
From: Councilmembers Cheryl Davila and Ben Bartlett
Subject: Open the West Campus Pool All Year Round and Start the Shower Program at the West Campus Pool

RECOMMENDATION

Short Term Referral to City Manager to assess the feasibility to keep the West Campus Pool open all year round and to start COB Shower Program at the West Campus Pool. Keeping the West Campus Pool open all year round will provide equitable swimming options in both North Berkeley and in South/West Berkeley and provide another location available for our community to shower.

The West Campus Pool closed November 5, 2017. There is a large community of swimmers that want to keep the pool open year-round.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

Unknown. However, fee generating programs could offset the costs of expanding the operation of West Campus Pool.

BACKGROUND

The West Campus Pool is a multi-use facility providing senior water exercise, senior & disabled quiet swim, independent exercise, lap swimming, Berkeley Aquatic Masters and family swim. The West Campus Pool is a heavily used facility. Closing the pool in this area of Berkeley for more than half the year creates a hardship for residents who live in West and South Berkeley, particularly seniors. Many of our seniors rely on swimming as their only means of exercise as swimming is easy on the joints and proven to help with mobility. Currently, the King Pool is the only pool open for swimming, as Willard Pool is closed permanently. It isn't realistic for many seniors to travel very far to swim. City pool services should be easily accessible and equitable to all residents.

In addition, West Berkeley does not have a shower program. The Willard location does currently have a shower program. However, there is a large population of homeless people living in West Berkeley. We need to ensure that the shower program is also accessible and equitable to all residents.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

Access to the West Campus pool is an important part of a healthy living lifestyle for the residents in West, South and all of Berkeley. Many pool-users either walk or ride bicycles to the pool therefore, not adding to climate change and decreasing our carbon footprint.

CONTACT PERSON

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