



Kate Harrison
Councilmember District 4

CONSENT CALENDAR
December 11, 2018

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
From: Councilmembers Harrison and Davila
Subject: Referral to City Manager to establish Recreational Vehicle Waste Discharge Facility on City Property and Referral to FY 2020/21 Budget Process

RECOMMENDATION

1. Refer to the City Manager to establish a recreational vehicle waste discharge facility on City property and equitable administrative fee program, and
2. Refer costs associated with the facility to the FY 2020/21 Budget Process.

BACKGROUND

A limited number of RV waste discharge facilities exist across the Bay Area; no such public facility is currently available in Berkeley. The nearest public facility appears to be miles away in San Leandro. The ability to discharge human waste into municipal sewers protects public health and meets a basic human need. It is in the interest of the City to prevent the improper discharge of untreated waste into the environment and to provide equitable and convenient access to municipal services.

The City's Parks, Recreation & Waterfront Department reported in June of 2018 that some 200 vehicle dwellers, including visitors, parked overnight in the Berkeley Marina. Vehicle dwellers also park in streets throughout Berkeley. Vehicles provide them with critical respite from the elements but vehicle dwellers lack basic sanitary services.

The Council established an informal Council-staff task force in June of 2018 to explore the feasibility of establishing a sanctioned vehicle dweller park with restrooms and potentially a discharge facility. The task force is making progress, but the long-term nature of the exploration process leaves RV dwellers without critical services. The City can reasonably establish a waste discharge facility on City property in the short term, while pursuing a comprehensive RV park over the long term.

Consultations with officials managing waste discharge facilities at the Central Marin Sanitation Agency and with the Contra Costa County Fairgrounds indicate that the cost of constructing a discharge facility would be relatively inexpensive as fees can be established to cover the cost. Both facilities consist of a sewer drain and RV tank connection equipment, as well as a clean water hose for cleaning. Central Marin reported that their facility cost \$150,000 and was completed ten years ago, which,

adjusted for inflation, is approximately \$176,000. Both Marin and Contra Costa charge \$10 for each use of the facility, report very low management costs, and serve an average of 10 users per month.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Costs associated with building the facility, approximately \$150,000 – \$200,000, offset by fees, and staff time to collect fees. On average, an RV occupied by two people needs to discharge waste every week. Thus for every 50 RVs, 2,400 discharges annually could be expected, generating \$36,000 with a \$15 per use fee. Under this scenario, costs would be recouped in approximately 5 years and a small percentage of the fee could go towards subsidizing service for very low-income vehicle dwellers.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

Reduces public health hazards, as well as environmental pollutants entering our waterways due to poor sanitation and/or a lack of sanitation services. Reduces travel time and resulting emissions.

CONTACT PERSON

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