



CITY COUNCILMEMBER
RIGEL ROBINSON
 DISTRICT 7

CONSENT CALENDAR
 July 9, 2019

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
 From: Councilmembers Rigel Robinson and Ben Bartlett
 Subject: Support for SB 14: Higher Education Facilities Bond

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a resolution supporting SB 14, which places an \$8 billion bond on the March 2020 ballot for the construction, reconstruction, and remodeling of facilities at California's public universities.

BACKGROUND

California's economic and social prosperity is reliant on a higher education system that keeps up with California's growth. Right now, many of California's universities are in need of facility renovations. The current capital needs of California's higher education facilities are estimated to be at \$16 billion.

SB 14 would place a \$8 billion general obligation bond on the March 2020 ballot for the construction, reconstruction, and remodeling of existing or new facilities at the University of California (UC) schools, the California State University (CSU) schools, and the Hastings College of the Law.

Between the late 1980s and 2006, voters approved bonds to support higher education every two to four years. However, since 2006, no higher education-specific bonds have been authorized, despite facilities deteriorating. Currently, the Universities can get funding through a different bond program, but they have to pay it back themselves. This can lead to increased costs for students and their families. Some buildings are in need of renovations to reduce seismic hazards, as those buildings are aging and deteriorating. Others have classrooms, labs, and libraries that need renovating. As a city that hosts a UC, Berkeley as a City and community would benefit from an increase in funding for University infrastructure.

The attached resolution states the City of Berkeley's endorsement of the bill and subsequent ballot measure. Copies of the resolution should be sent to Senator Nancy Skinner, Assemblymember Buffy Wicks, Senator Steven M. Glazer, and Senator Benjamin Allen.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

None.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

No impact.

[Title of Report]

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CONTACT PERSON

Councilmember Rigel Robinson, (510) 981-7170

Rachel Alper, Intern to Councilmember Rigel Robinson

Attachments:

1: Resolution

2: Bill Text-SB 14:

https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=201920200SB1

RESOLUTION NO. ##,###-N.S.

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF SB 14

WHEREAS, California's economic and social prosperity is reliant on a higher education system that keeps up with California's growth; and

WHEREAS, The current capital needs of California's higher education facilities are estimated to be at \$16 billion; and

WHEREAS, California has not authorized any higher education-specific bonds since 2006; and

WHEREAS, Many of California's university facilities are in need of renovations; and

WHEREAS, Renovated buildings will benefit the City of Berkeley as a whole because of the community's use of UC Berkeley buildings.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Berkeley hereby endorses SB 14 and the ballot measure that will result from its passage; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of Berkeley may be listed as a supporter of said ballot measure by the official proponents of the measure; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this resolution will be sent to Senator Nancy Skinner, Assemblymember Buffy Wicks, Senator Steven M. Glazer, and Senator Benjamin Allen.

