

## ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF MEASURE T1

### **Measure T1 is critically needed to address our failing infrastructure.**

You've seen it – park facilities blocked off, buildings needing repair, sidewalks buckling. Our senior and recreation centers do not always meet current needs, and worse, many are emergency shelters but cannot be used after a major quake without seismic upgrades.

Funds from past Measures F and M (parks and streets/green infrastructure) have helped significantly, but much more needs to be done. **We're losing ground.**

**If deterioration continues, the costs increase dramatically** as timely maintenance becomes impossible and we need more repair or rebuilding. Very importantly, **bond prices are at historic lows.** And because the City of Berkeley has an excellent bond rating, we can borrow at much lower costs than at nearly any time in the past.

The proposed \$100 million bond, unanimously placed on the ballot by the City Council, would cost homeowners about \$6.35 in the first year and a yearly average of about \$21 per \$100,000 of assessed valuation over the 40-year life of the bonds. And by issuing the bonds gradually, as past bonds are paid off, the City's combined bond tax rate should not increase. Although \$100 million is not enough to renew all of our infrastructure, **we can address our highest priority needs, help get ahead of the deterioration and transition to newer, cost-efficient systems.**

**To ensure accountability and citizen review**, subcommittees of the Public Works Commission and the Parks and Waterfront Commission will conduct a robust public process to obtain input. All bond-funded expenditures will be publicly reported annually, including how they have been distributed equitably throughout the city.

By making this investment to continue our restoration program, we can promote our resiliency goals, respond to demographic change, foster efficient resource management and protect our City's safety, beauty and livability, now and in the future.

For more information: [www.berkeleyfuture.com](http://www.berkeleyfuture.com).

s/Tom Bates  
Berkeley Mayor

s/Deborah Malbec  
President, League of Women Voters - Berkeley, Albany, Emeryville

s/Ann-Marie Hogan  
City Auditor

s/Andy Kelley  
Chair Berkeley Public Works Commission

s/Susan McKay  
Chair Parks and Waterfront Commission