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CITY OF BERKELEY
CITY CLERK DEPARTMENT

ARGUMENT AGAINST MEASURE O

We strongly urge you to vote NO on ALL Berkeley tax measures until we have the fiscal FACTS and a comprehensive community consensus plan to address the City's looming insolvency.

Berkeley has \$1.2 Billion in unfunded liabilities, half for employee costs and half for infrastructure needs. Infrastructure needs include \$28 Million for parks, \$87 Million for streets, \$118 Million for public facility seismic retrofit, and \$207.5 Million for watershed.

Who will determine which are most important—you, the public, or our insular City Council responding to their own priorities and relentless lobbying from special interest groups?

A \$19.4 Million bond for pools and a \$604 Thousand inflation-indexed annual operations tax are NOT aligned with voter priorities. Voters rejected a similar measure in an expensive special election two years ago. Further, in a recent voter survey, the use of scarce tax resources for pools ranked second to bottom among eleven possible funding areas.

Why would our City need more money for operation and maintenance when it annually funds \$200 Thousand for employee health club membership, a \$240 Thousand inflation-indexed guaranteed annual retirement for our former City Manager, and many other no-cost-to-employee benefits?

Bk **Yes, pools and swim skills are very important.** But Berkeley already has nine pools open to the public (two City/BUSD, four Cal, and three YMCA), another pool at Berkeley High, and two pools available nearby in Albany. These pools have excellent swim programs, and reasonable rates. *well-priced*

Choices need to be made about how to spend our scarce tax dollars. These choices must reflect community priorities and be part of a consensus plan. Do you really think \$20 Million for more pools is top priority?

Bk **We urge a ^{NO} Vote on Measures N and O**

**Berkeley Budget SOS
Committee for FACTS
Claremont-Elmwood Neighborhood Association (CENA)
Northeast Berkeley Association (NEBA)**

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