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AUG 17 2012

CITY OF BERKELEY
CITY CLERK DEPARTMENT

ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF MEASURE O

Vote YES on O. Restore Willard Pool and the Warm Water Pool. Support our community pools for the health, recreation and well-being of our children, the elderly and disabled, and all Berkeleyans.

Our municipal pools are an important community resource. They provide recreation activities for our children and youth and improve the health of our community.

Measure N will provide the capital funds to renovate Willard Pool and build a new Warm Water Pool through a bond measure. Since bond funding can't be used for operating pools, Measure O tax revenues will go this purpose. This measure would provide aquatics programs to serve the youth of South Berkeley as well as provide recreation and therapy to children, seniors, and people with mobility impairments.

Due to ongoing budget cuts, and the current recession, the City can only operate the King and West Campus pools due to limited funding. Keeping open the new Willard and Warm pools requires new dedicated funding for their operation and maintenance.

Measure O would fund adequate hours and programs to enable all Berkeley children and residents to swim safely. It would also provide resources to maintain our pools, and modernize and make them more energy-efficient.

This tax would only be assessed if Measure N (also on the November ballot) passes. Measure O is a modest tax which would make sure that our entire city benefits from our neighborhood pools and is also an investment in the health and improvement of our entire city.

Measure O was put on the ballot by a unanimous City Council. Please join elected leaders, neighborhood association presidents, and senior and disability advocates in supporting this important measure. Keep all of our pools open for future generations.

/s/ Loni Hancock, State Senator

/s/ Tom Bates, Mayor of Berkeley

/s/ John Selawsky, President, Berkeley School Board

/s/ Ed Gold, Chair, Berkeley's Commission on Aging

/s/ George Beier, Neighborhood Association President, Willard resident