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AUG 24 2012

CITY OF BERKELEY
CITY CLERK DEPARTMENT

REBUTTAL TO ARGUMENT AGAINST MEASURE O

Our public pools are not only an important community resource, but are also critical to the health and success of children and all Berkeley residents. Unfortunately, Berkeley has half as many public pools as it did two years ago.

Measure N provides needed capital funding to restore the mothballed 50-year-old Willard Pool and the demolished Warm Pool, while Measure O ensures **dedicated funding for their modernization, operation and maintenance**. This modest tax would only be assessed if Measure N passes.

Opponents of Measure O have presented a "sky is falling" picture of the city's fiscal health, **but these arguments are false**.

Berkeley's fiscal health is sound. We have a better bond rating (AA+) than most sovereign governments, and our debt payments make up only 2% of annual revenues. We are not verging on bankruptcy, and are in strong financial shape.

Opponents argue that the City shouldn't undertake any major project until it has cash to cover all unfunded liabilities, but this is just as **untrue** as saying a homeowner shouldn't repair his roof without having all the money in the bank to pay off his mortgage.

We need Measure O so that all people throughout our city have access to pools for exercise, therapy, and recreation

Don't give in to the misinformation. **Vote YES on O**. Invest in our pools to improve the health, value and success of our city.

/s/ Jesse Arreguin, Berkeley City Councilmember

/s/ Shahryar Abbasi, ASUC External Affairs Vice President

/s/ C. Mark Humbert, President, Neighborhood Association; Claremont-Elmwood Resident

/s/ Nancy Carleton, Co-Chair, Neighborhood Association in South Berkeley; Former Chair, Zoning Board; Former Vice Chair, Parks & Recreation Commission

/s/ Thomas F. Killilea, ~~President, Berkeley PTA Council~~

Schools & parent leader