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CITY OF BERKELEY
CITY CLERK DEPARTMENT

REBUTTAL TO ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF MEASURE O

OUR OFFICIALS SHED CROCODILE TEARS FOR POOLS

- Pools advocates claim: two of four pools were closed and new dedicated funding is required due to a shortage of operating funding...ongoing budget cuts; Willard Pool is “filled with dirt”; the Warm Pool has been demolished; locker rooms need major renovation.
- They don’t tell you why there is limited funding—our budget has been eaten up by ballooning employee costs, misplaced priorities, and lack of long-term planning.
- They don’t tell you that the City itself deliberately filled Willard Pool with dirt.
- They don’t tell you that BUSD tore down a fine warm water pool in a historic building for which a \$3.25 Million rehabilitation bond was approved by the voters in 2000 but never used.

OUR OFFICIALS DISTORT THE FACTS

- They claim that the public only has two pools available.
- They ignore that there are nine pools open to the public plus two more in Albany and one at Berkeley High that could be opened. The Pool Master Plan stated there is no deficit in pools even while inexplicably excluding the three YMCA pools.

THERE ARE COST-EFFECTIVE SOLUTIONS IF VOTERS WANT THEM

- Albany built two large pools for only \$8 Million.
- For a small fraction of the proposed \$20M and with a cooperative approach, the City could meet any unmet pool needs by working with Cal, Albany, BUSD, and the YMCA to extend hours and seasons of operation and selectively raise pool temperatures.

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