



Councilmember Lori Droste
District 8

CONSENT CALENDAR
March 14, 2017

To: Members of the City Council

From: Councilmember Lori Droste, Mayor Jesse Arreguín, Councilmember Kriss Worthington and Councilmember Ben Bartlett

Subject: Potential Recreational Opportunities at Willard Park and Pool

RECOMMENDATION:

Refer the issue of recreational opportunities in the vicinity of Willard Park to the City Manager, Parks and Waterfront Commission and the 2X2 Committee of the City Council and the Board of Education to determine the best course of action for increased recreational equity in South Berkeley, including but not limited to the re-opening of Willard Pool. Authorize staff to develop cost estimates for a minimal level of repairs to get Willard Pool operational.

BACKGROUND:

Willard Pool closed seven years ago; as a result, the residents of Berkeley, particularly South Berkeley, have lost an important centerpiece for aquatics education and community building. Children throughout Berkeley have lost a vital resource to assist them in learning how to swim. Aquatics education in South Berkeley is paramount—it is a public health issue, an equity issue, and a recreational opportunity issue.

In 2010, Measure C, a measure that would have rebuilt or upgraded Berkeley's swimming pools, failed to pass even though it received 62% of the vote. Since Measure C was a parcel tax measure it needed 2/3rd of the votes cast to rebuild Willard Pool. In 2010, a pools' master plan indicated that Willard pool needed \$2.5 million for safety repairs. At that time, staff indicated that Willard would need \$80,000-\$150,000 to operate over the summer.

In 2014, a Mello-Roos tax and bond measure that could have assisted in re-opening Willard Pool failed to garner enough support to be placed on the November 2014 ballot. At that time, staff indicated that Willard Pool would require [\\$4.7 million for reconstruction and operation](#).

With the passage of T1 in 2016, residents of Berkeley indicated that parks and recreation centers and facilities are important to the essential functioning of the City. At

this point, it is unclear whether T1 will be able to provide the necessary funding for the reopening of Willard Pool. Regardless of T1 funding allocations, it is critical to begin outlining a plan now for the future of Willard Park (and potentially Willard Pool).

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

None

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

Staff time. Significant funding needed if Council decides to re-open Willard Pool.

CONTACT

Lori Droste, Councilmember District 8 981-7180