

**BERKELEY PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSION  
2014 WORK PLANNING**

**Mission:**

Advises the Council on maintenance, repair, and capital improvement of streets, sidewalks, sanitary sewers, storm drains, City buildings, communication systems, vehicles and equipment, and undergrounding of utilities.

No.	Subject	Background	Potential Activities	PWC Priority for 2014	2014 Schedule
1	Measure M implementation	Measure M was passed in Nov. 2012. The City planned that the bond funds would be available in Jan. 2014 and that 2013 would be used to plan the program. Three community meetings were held early in the year to gather public input. The input was written in a report and was presented to City Council on Oct. 1 <sup>st</sup> . Staff prepared a 5 year paving plan that had more detail in the first 2 years and the outer 3 years are to be developed in early 2014. This was called the “2+3” plan. On Nov. 19 <sup>th</sup> , Council approved this plan and the sale of \$15 million of Measure M bonds.	<p>A. Assist staff to prepare a Program Plan for Measure M. The Plan should include outcome measures, work elements, schedule, cost, performance measures, and monitoring.</p> <p>B. Work with staff to develop the outer 3 years of the 5 year paving plan. This will include the use of the scorecard, incorporating green infrastructure, etc. This should be prepared by June 2014</p> <p>C. Review and recommend revisions to the City’s Street Rehabilitation and Repair Policy. This should consider setting June of each year to prepare the 5 year paving plan, use of the Scorecard, etc.</p> <p>D. Work concurrently with the CEAC and Parks &amp; Waterfront Commission to incorporate Watershed Management Plan components. See Attachment A.</p> <p>E. Assist City with outreach to the public. This should include notification of the pilot permeable paving project, green infrastructure components, street paving progress, etc.</p> <p>F. Lead the organization of an independent monitoring group.</p>	<p>Highest:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Public outreach, education, e.g. on reality of work load</li> <li>Metrics, e.g. scorecard</li> </ul> <p>Public meeting in May on paving happening and plan</p> <p>Low: Street rehab policy</p>	All year, with an emphasis in the first 6 months. PWD to complete the 5-year paving plan by June.
2	Permeable paver pilot project	The City is implementing a pilot project on Allston Way, in front of Berkeley High School. Construction will begin in June 2014.	A. Assist staff to develop a pre and post construction monitoring program of the project area. The monitoring should include runoff quantity, runoff water quality, noise, vehicle speed, durability, etc.	High	Review monitoring program from Jan – June. Review post construction monitoring in the

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					Fall.
3	LED street lighting	The City is issuing a RFP to convert all of Berkeley to LED street lighting.	A. Assist staff to review areas of the City that may need additional lighting. Address issues such as safety, business needs, equity across the City, energy savings, etc.	High: street lighting policy, how to use cost savings Low: accomplished fact	Spring
4	Public facility naming policy	The PWC has addressed the proposed renaming of Harold Way and of a pedestrian walk. During this process, we became very familiar with the City's policy on renaming public facilities.	A. Review and recommend revisions to the City's public facility renaming policy. The PWC has identified some changes that would be helpful.	Low for PWC. High for Travis to clarify and improve on our unfinished work	Mid-year
5	Residential curbside Electric vehicle charging policy	Council requested the City Manager to work with staff and commissions to develop standards, conditions, and guidelines for a pilot program to allow electric vehicles charging in the public right-of-way.	A. The PWC is requested to provide input by Feb. 20 <sup>th</sup> . The Council plans to take action in May 2014.	Medium (need a policy, will trigger when it comes to us) High (scheduled to Council in May)	January to May
6	Electric utility undergrounding	Berkeley has been involved with Rule 20A utility undergrounding since the 1970's. Special districts were formed; however, the funds are very limited. There is currently a moratorium on forming new districts.	A. Review the status of the program.	Policy recommendation; consider how we fund City-wide – may be many decade process; outreach to feds and state; climate change and other hazards (need update) Low unless Council requests Should do before Larry terms out (2 yrs) Critical issue but don't have time or may not reach Council	Fall

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7	Sanitary sewers	Berkeley maintains its sanitary sewers and wastewater treatment is provided by EBMUD. The sewers are old and leak and cause excessive flow during rainy periods. The high flows cause EBMUD to exceed waste discharge permit requirements. EBMUD and the East Bay tributary agencies are negotiating with the USEPA to develop a long term program of maintenance, sewer repair & replacement, private lateral upgrades, etc. to comply with permit requirements.	A. Provide oversight on the program implementation once the consent decree is negotiated.	Low (PWC can't do much)	Mid-year
8	Local Hazards Mitigation Plan	A draft of Berkeley's 2014 LHMP was released in October and comments were due by Dec. 9. The final draft plan to be presented to Council for adoption in Spring 2014.	A. Review subsequent drafts for public works implications and monitor the submittal to Council.	Low (PWC) In progress for overhead wires (Larry)	January to Spring
9	Sidewalk maintenance	Improperly maintained sidewalks are a legal and financial liability to the City. Having adequate funds and staff resources is a challenge to the City.	A. Review the City's sidewalk maintenance policy.	Need to evaluate policy, e.g. liability (financial and litigation) to public (Margo, Travis and Andy) Policy had no public input, want it to go to PWC. Will consider when necessary. Jan 2014 to Council on status of program (2010 to 50-50 policy) and return summer-fall (on info calendar)	March to July

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10	Street sweeping		Review interest to expand street sweeping in the City.	Low	Fall
11	Public outreach		Support the Public Works Department with ideas to improve communications with the public.	High	All year, with an emphasis to get an early start

## Appendix A

**Subject:** Further Development of Measure M in Year 2014 and Beyond

Public Works staff has prepared a “2+3” year plan (i.e. 5-year paving plan) for the implementation of Measure M. The plan was presented to City Council in a work session on October 1, 2013 and is scheduled for Council approval on November 19, 2013. The plan provides details in the first two years that includes: a) streets that are identified for improvements b) use of a Scorecard evaluation process, and c) identification of Green Infrastructure components from the City’s Watershed Management Plan. The outer three years have not been developed to this detail and will be evaluated in 2014. This will allow learning from the initial projects and for further development of the prioritization criteria.

The Public Works Commission (PWC), Community Environmental Advisory Commission (CEAC), and Parks and Waterfront Commission (P&WC) share a common interest in the implementation of Measure M and would like to propose the following approach in 2014 and beyond.

1. **Use a Program Plan approach** – Public Works should prepare a program plan for the implementation of Measure M. The approach should include:

- Outcome targets
- Community input
- Project elements
- Schedule and costs
- Performance measures
- Monitoring and oversight

The preparation of a concise, easy to understand, plan will allow the public, Council, and other interested parties to know how the Measure M funds will be used. The monitoring and oversight will provide confidence that the program is effectively implemented.

2. **Further development of evaluation criteria** – Public Works should further develop the use of the Scorecard and selection of Green Infrastructure components. The Commissions would like to understand how the criteria are developed and to be a resource to validate that it will be effective across the City.

3. **Concurrent meeting** – The commissions would like to plan a concurrent meeting in the Spring of 2014. The intent is to allow sharing and to have a consistent in approach to the implementation of Measure M.



City of Berkeley  
2014 Local Hazard Mitigation Plan

First Draft

Public Works Commission  
Response  
December 9, 2013

The City is preparing its 2014 Local hazard Mitigation Plan and it has asked for responses to the first draft from appropriate Public Commissions. The Public Works Commission (PWC) response focuses on one area omitted in the first draft. Resources and planning need to focus on overhead utility wires and the risk they pose to individual citizens and the ability of ‘first responders’ to act in the face of earthquakes and extreme weather<sup>1</sup>. Overhead utilities potential failing may pose a danger and have application to all four foci of the 2014 Hazard Mitigation Plan.

That Plan has four stated objectives for reducing disaster risk in Berkeley:

- A.** Reduce the potential for loss of life, injury and economic damage to Berkeley residents and businesses from earthquakes, wildfires, landslides, floods, tsunamis, climate change, and their secondary impacts.
- B.** Increase the ability of the City government to serve the community during and after hazard events by mitigating risk to key city functions such as response, recovery and rebuilding.
- C.** Protect Berkeley’s unique character and values from being compromised by hazard events.
- D.** Encourage mitigation activities to increase the disaster resilience of institutions, private companies and lifeline systems that are essential to Berkeley’s functioning.

Additionally, the 2014 Plan has three priority action response levels: *High, medium and low*.

- “**High** and **medium** priority actions can be completed in the five-year time frame covered by this strategy and actions address Berkeley’s hazards of greatest concern— earthquake and wildland-urban interface fire.”
- “Implementation of **medium and low** actions is dependent on outside sources of funding becoming available. Resource availability will strongly influence the pace of achievements.”
  - Three of the Medium Priority Actions identified in the draft Plan that are related to our proposed area of recommended actions:
    - Develop an Energy Assurance Plan for City operations.
    - Improve the disaster-resistance of the natural gas delivery system to increase public safety and to minimize damage and service disruption following a disaster.
    - “Reduce Berkeley’s vulnerability to severe storms and associated hazards.”
  - The PWC recommends that mitigation plans for overhead utility wires be specifically added to this list of Medium Priority Actions<sup>2</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> The Christchurch, New Zealand 2011 earthquake saw 184 people die and a contributing factor to some deaths was the inability of first responders to effectively act in face of utility disruption. More recently our experience high winds preceding 2013 Thanksgiving saw two people die in the East Bay. One death was from downed utility wires.

<sup>2</sup> The PWC drafted and passed a recommendation on ‘priorities’ for Undergrounding of Utilities in January of 2010. The Secretary of PWC, when asked in 2011 about the status of our drafted recommendation, the response was “there was no interest” and it was never agenzized for the City Council to review. The 2010 drafted recommendation of ‘priorities’ was constrained by the current 20 A funding from PG&E (about \$1M a year and which would mean 35 years to complete the entire city at current completion rates). The PWC hopes that a comprehensive plan for overhead utility wires can be addressed with new thinking on funding alternatives and that we have some current alternatives to propose and recommend.