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Sent: Thursday, May 8, 2025 9:22 AM
To: McNulty, Liza
Subject: BWTPF EIR scoping comments

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Hello Liza,

San Francisco Bay is one of the best open water swimming locations in the world and the Berkeley Marina is a very popular location to enjoy this sport. I want to encourage the City of Berkeley to keep the needs of open water swimmers in mind when reviewing the plan to bring a Ferry to the Berkeley pier area.

I have been swimming in the bay for over 10 years, and many others for longer than that. I've seen the sport grow in popularity here over the years, and it is a sport that is growing worldwide. The Seine river in Paris recently opened to open water swimming to help meet this demand.

San Francisco Bay is an especially good venue for open water swimming, as it has swimmable weather and water temperatures year round. People use SF bay to train for swimming the English Channel and other challenging swims. And the cove to the right of Hs Lordship's is unique in the east bay as it has sufficient water depth to swim even at the lowest tides. Swimmers value this location, and it is sometimes their only option when the tide is too low to swim at Crown Beach, Albany Beach, Keller Beach or the Berkeley Sailing Basin.

Open water swimmers do not need a lot of resources. We need a place to park, a place to safely enter and exit the water, and a swim area relatively free of fast watercraft. And although not strictly needed, a shower to rinse off after is nice.

Could the City of Berkeley please consider the needs of open water swimmers when reviewing this project?

1) Please ensure we have space to park our cars. We commonly park for 1-2 hours at a time, but we swim in groups for safety. We might use a few to a dozen or so spaces at any one time. Groups go out at different times during the day, some before work at first light, some after work when there is light, some at lunch hour, and some in between. We currently share this parking with fishermen, kayakers, dog walkers, picnickers and people just enjoying the view from their cars. If these spaces are all taken by commuters, it will eliminate this spot as a viable swim location. Could you ensure that there are spaces with an appropriate time limit to accommodate the existing and projected users, to preserve this area for us swimmers and other recreational users?

2) Please ensure that there is open water set aside for swimmers (the bay is huge, we are small). We don't mind sharing with kayakers and small sailboats, but ferries and fast

moving craft are a real danger for us. We commonly swim out to the break in the pier and back from Hs Lordships, but we can adjust that if a Ferry needs some of that water, too. Maybe some buoys could separate a swim zone from a ferry zone?

3) Please ensure we have a safe spot to enter and exit the water. A beach is the best, but a protected gravel path to below the low tide point as exists at Hs Lordships works. A dock with a ladder also works if it is not crowded with fishermen and their fish hooks.

4) And as long as improvements are being considered, could we get a shower to rinse off?

Thank you,

Paul Young

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