

From: Robin Mangini <robin.mangini@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, May 11, 2025 1:04 PM
To: McNulty, Liza
Subject: BWTPF EIR scoping comments

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Dear Lisa McNulty,

We are frequent swimmers at the Berkeley Marina and members of the QT Selkies Gay for the Bay—a community of nearly 225 individuals who swim throughout the Bay Area, including locations in Berkeley, Oakland, Richmond, Pinole, Albany, Alameda, and San Francisco.

We've been following the city's proposal to redevelop the marina to accommodate ferry service, but it has been challenging due to the lack of accessible public information. I am writing today to express our concerns about this development and lay out how our swimmers currently use the marina.

Swimmers require three essential things: a safe entry point, clean water to swim in, and convenient parking. Our community typically enters the water near the seawall adjacent to the former Hs Lordships restaurant. This location is vital, especially during low tides when the sailing basin becomes too shallow for safe swimming and launching—conditions that occur roughly half the time. And seeing as this location is only one of two in the East Bay that can be accessed regardless of tide we are very attached to its existence. We, along with other waterfront users like anglers, walkers, paddlers, and windsurfers, rely on parking along the seawall. We are concerned that ferry riders will dominate these spaces.

We've been informed by other swimmers who attended the March PRWC meeting that they were troubled by the city's claim that parking would remain sufficient for all users. The data backing this assertion appears selectively chosen. Specifically, [page 22](#) of the report reveals that parking surveys were conducted at 10am and 8pm—times not reflective of peak use (typically 2pm–4pm)—and focused more on overnight vehicle stays than daytime activity.

The assumption that all marina parking is interchangeable overlooks practical realities. After a cold swim, it's unreasonable to expect individuals to walk half a mile or more across the marina to reach distant lots.

We're deeply concerned that increased commercialization of the marina could reduce access to free, low-barrier recreational opportunities that draw an exceptionally diverse group of users. We believe the current planning is being guided by flawed data and that local residents and regular recreational users have not been adequately included in the process.

We urge the BCDC to call on the city to conduct a more thorough and accurate analysis of parking and waterfront access, and to commit to protecting the public amenities that make the Berkeley Marina such a vital recreational space.

Thank you for your commitment to equitable access to the Bay for all.

Sincerely,

Robin Mangini, MPH
Co-Admin of the QT Selkies Gay for the Bay