

From: Julie Allen <valepuella@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, May 18, 2025 10:46 AM
To: McNulty, Liza
Cc: Tregub, Igor; erindiehm@hotmail.com; Claudia Kawczynska
Subject: BWTPF EIR scoping comments

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Dear PM McNulty,

I've cced Councilmember Traub as well as Parks, Rec, and Waterfront Commissioners Diehm and Kawczynska (who, at the last Parks etc commission meeting expressed surprise that they would not get to read public comments on this issue).

I write to provide my comments on the proposed Berkeley marina ferry/pier project. I am a 20-year resident of Berkeley District 4, and I have been swimming in the Bay from the Berkeley marina for over five years (and fondly remember using the pier before it was closed). I've done my best to learn about the proposed project, including attending commission meetings when it was presented, the BCDC DRB meeting, and asking (repeatedly, rather aggressively) to be admitted to the focus group meeting held on April 30.

I am concerned that the parking studies are not adequately showing the existing recreational needs (due less than 5% of data points being from peak and weekend counts), nor any estimates of additional recreational needs once the Berkeley waterfront is revitalized (e.g. pier reopened, Bay Trail extended -- see Albany Bulb as an example of how "latent demand" becomes actual demand when a recreational amenity is improved). There are also moving targets as far as ridership numbers. Another issue that concerns me is that all parking spaces in all marina lots are treated as equally relevant, despite distance from use -- ferry riders are unlikely to walk 0.5 mile, and recreational users are unlikely to schlep that distance carrying their kayaks. As a swimmer, I can attest that walking that distance in nothing but a wet swimsuit seems unsafe.

I, along with many other recreational users, fear that the project as proposed will usurp our access to these recreational amenities that were created (per 1966/1967 permit with BCDC) expressly for recreational purposes. The Berkeley shoreline -- an area all have the right to use -- is a favorite spot among a wide range of diverse users, even in its current state of disrepair (pier closed, one of the sailing basin docks closed).

I urge the city to ensure that future parking studies are undertaken to adequately and correctly account for recreational use. I ask also that all recreational users be invited to the table to give input. Hundreds of swimmers use this area and we were not included until April, and only then after aggressive insistence, and even then our #1 concern, parking, was declared off the table for discussion.

Thank you for reading and considering my comments. I am happy to provide additional information at any time.

Best wishes,
Julie Allen