

From: Whitney Grover <wgrover@goldengatebirds.org>
Sent: Monday, May 19, 2025 4:18 PM
To: McNulty, Liza
Cc: Glenn Phillips; John Callaway
Subject: Comment Letter for EIR Scoping Berkeley Pier and Ferry Project
Attachments: GGBA_EIRScopingCommentLetter_BerkeleyFerry_19May2025.pdf

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Hello Liza McNulty,

Please see the attached comment letter from Golden Gate Bird Alliance regarding the EIR scoping phase of the Berkeley Pier and Ferry Terminal Project.

Please let me know if you have any questions or need any additional information.

Thank you,

Whitney Grover
(She/Her)

Director of Conservation
Golden Gate Bird Alliance
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www.goldengatebirdalliance.org





May 19, 2025

Liza McNulty, PE, Project Manager
City of Berkeley Parks, Recreation & Waterfront Department
2180 Milvia Street, 3rd Floor
Berkeley, California 94704
lmcnulty@berkeleyca.gov

RE: Draft EIR Scoping Comments for Berkeley Pier Ferry Project

Dear Liza McNulty,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments related to the scoping of environmental issues to be included in the EIR for the Berkeley Water Transportation Pier Ferry. We were very happy to see that the ferry fleet will be all electric. Zero emissions will reduce some direct impacts to nearby wildlife while helping reduce climate impacts.

Golden Gate Bird Alliance is a non-profit organization based in Berkeley whose mission is to inspire people to protect Bay Area birds and our shared natural environment. For over 100 years we have been a leader in Bay Area wildlife conservation, protecting birds and their habitats. Our 7,000 Bay Area members and supporters envision a world where birds, wildlife, and all people flourish together.

We have reviewed the Notice of Preparation for the EIR, and request that the following issues be specifically addressed in the EIR:

- Impacts of increased boat traffic to waterbirds that use the waters adjacent and just offshore of the proposed ferry terminal, especially during winter when waterbirds are most abundant in the area. Additionally, spring and fall periods should be studied for species present during these critical migration periods. The offshore areas are critical overwintering habitat for many species of ducks, grebes, pelicans, terns, gulls, and other waterbirds.
- Wave impacts from the proposed ferry activities on adjacent shorelines that support shorebirds and mudflat habitats, including any potential interactions of wave impacts and future sea-level rise on these habitats.
- Direct impacts of the proposed dock, including shading on subtidal habitats.

- Direct impacts of dredging, including the proposed frequency of dredging, as well as the beneficial reuse of dredged material within the Bay.
- Impacts to existing bird and wildlife habitat adjacent to the pier and parking area (e.g., tree removal or other impacts to these areas).
- Opportunities to use native plantings throughout the project.
- Increased contaminant runoff from the parking lots associated with the ferry terminal.

Additionally, although the Monterey Cypresses in the existing parking area are not native to the Bay Area specifically, they are native to California and commonly used in native landscaping efforts. Despite being mature to senescent and perhaps not the most diverse vegetation type, these trees have long provided shelter for species such as Black-crowned Night-Herons and Pygmy Nuthatches. We hope the EIR's potential project alternatives will look at the possibility of adding additional terrestrial bird and wildlife habitat, using native plants to support greater biodiversity of birds and insects.

Thank you for your consideration of these scoping elements in the environmental review process. Please do not hesitate to reach out for clarification or if we can provide additional details.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in purple ink that reads "Glenn Phillips". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Glenn Phillips
Executive Director

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