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Berkeley Water Transportation Pier Ferry: Environmental Impact Report Scoping Meeting

May 5, 2025

Agenda

- Introductions
- Meeting Purpose
- Project Location and Description
- CEQA Overview and Process
- EIR Analysis Topics and Structure
- How to Submit EIR Public Scoping Comments
- Take EIR Public Scoping Comments

Introductions

- City Parks, Recreation, and Waterfront Dept, Lead Agency
 - Liza McNulty, Capital Improvements Program Manager
 - Roger Miller, Senior Management Analyst
- Rincon, Environmental Lead
 - Kelsey Bennett, Project Director
 - Leo Mena, Project Manager
 - Leslie Slayday, Assistant Project Manager

Meeting Purpose

- Receive public input/ comments on:
 - Content of the environmental analyses for the proposed project
 - Environmental topic areas
 - Environmental issues of concern
 - Potential alternatives to the project
 - Mitigation measures

Project Location

- Location: at Berkeley Waterfront along the San Francisco Bay
- Size: ~119 acres
- Existing Use: pier that has been closed since 2015, parking, roadways, and Shorebird Park
- Land Use designation: waterfront/marina
- Zoning: unclassified
- Project Site: encompasses closed Berkeley Pier, including entry area for Berkeley Pier; San Francisco Bay waters around closed pier; parking lot off Seawall Drive; roadways (University Avenue and Seawall Drive); vegetated street islands adjacent to University Avenue and Seawall Drive



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Fig. 8 Berkeley WTPF Project Footprint

Project Description

- Demolish portions of closed pier
- Construct a new approximately 1,080-foot-long public pier at same location as closed pier with pedestrian access and recreational amenities
- Construct a new approximately 400-foot-long breakwater perpendicular to and connected to new pier, providing pedestrian access and recreational amenities
- Provide recreational amenities on pier and breakwater that could include interpretive and educational signs, benches, shade canopy, seats, and a fish cleaning station
- Provide ferry infrastructure including but not limited to universal charging and boarding float(s), landing(s), gangway(s), and security entrance
- Dredge along the existing 100-foot wide United States Army Corps of Engineers federal navigation channel that parallels the closed pier
- Construct a new public plaza with amenities such as a public restroom, benches, and bicycle parking
- Implement improvements to University Avenue, including repaving and restriping between the round-about intersection with Marina Boulevard and the intersection with Seawall Drive and a new raised bicycle track, passenger drop off zone, and public bus infrastructure



Project Description (continued)

- Improvements to Seawall Drive, including re-alignment, repaving, and restriping
- Develop portion of planned Bay Trail Extension, south of pier along Seawall Drive
- Renovate parking lot off Seawall Drive with new pavement, surfacing, striping, lighting, and stormwater treatment
- Provide new landscaping as well as tree removal and replacement
- Provide new way-finding signage and replacement lighting
- Install new electric infrastructure to charge ferry vessels
- Install new water connections for a restroom and hose bibs
- Install new wastewater connections for a restroom
- Operate new zero-emission, electric, passenger ferry service connecting Berkeley ferry terminal to San Francisco and Larkspur ferry terminals



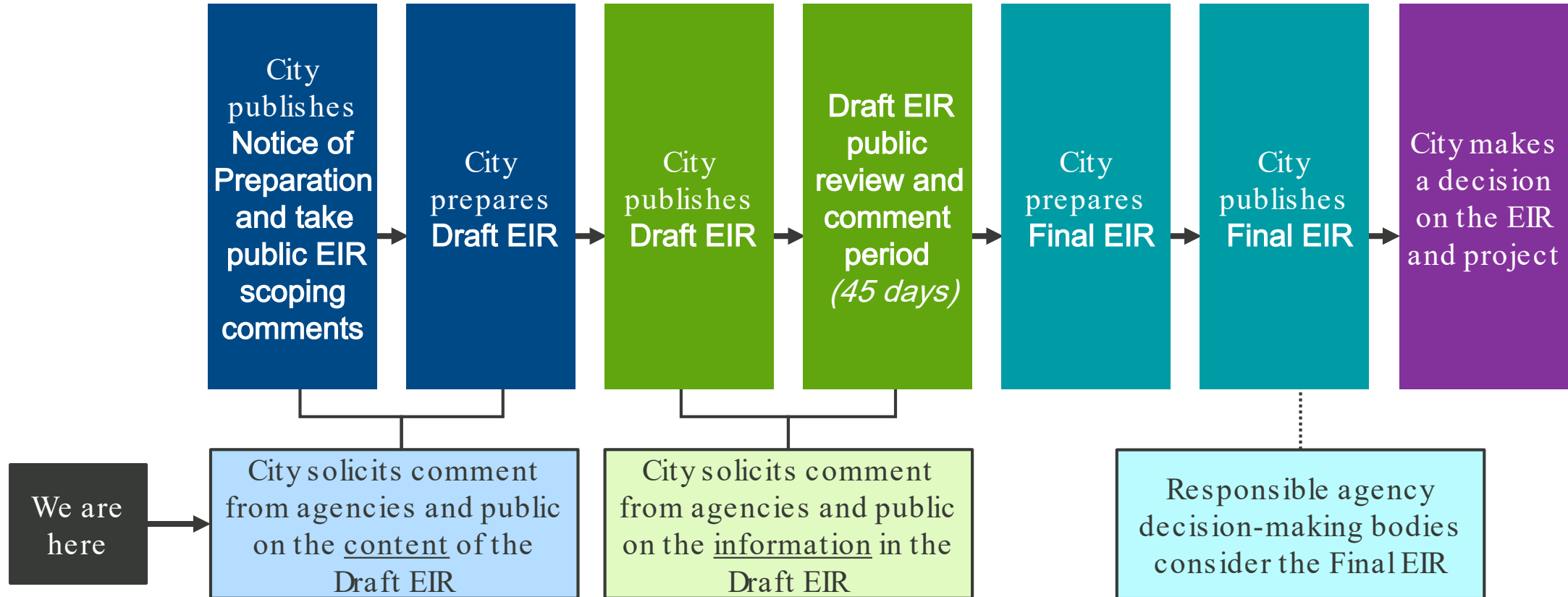
Project Description (continued)

- Other Improvements Under Consideration
 - Solar panels in the renovated parking lot
 - Recreational water access to the Bay
 - Recreational improvements to Shorebird Park

CEQA Overview

- California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)
- City of Berkeley: lead agency under CEQA
- WETA/ SF Bay Ferry: responsible agency under CEQA
- CEQA purpose:
 - Public disclosure and input process regarding environmental impacts of a proposed project
 - Minimize, reduce, or avoid environmental impacts
 - Implement identified mitigation measures
- CEQA document type:
 - Environmental Impact Report (EIR)
 - Project-level type of analysis

CEQA Process



EIR Analysis Topics

■ Agriculture and Forestry Resources

■ Biological Resources

■ Cultural Resources

■ Geology and Soils

■ Energy

■ Wildfire

■ Public Services

■ Transportation

■ Land Use and Planning

■ Hydrology and Water Quality

Hazards and Hazardous Materials ■

Tribal Cultural Resources ■

Population and Housing ■

Aesthetics/Visual ■

Recreation ■

Noise ■

Air Quality ■

Mineral Resources ■

Greenhouse Gas Emissions ■

Utilities and Service Systems ■



EIR Structure

- Executive Summary
- Introduction
- Project Description
- Environmental Impact Analysis 
- Alternatives

Each topic area includes:

- Environmental Setting
- Regulatory Framework
- CEQA Guidelines Appendix G Significance Criteria
- Approach to Analysis
- Specific Thresholds of Significance
- Project-level Impacts and Mitigation Measures (as appropriate)
- Cumulative Impacts

How to Submit EIR Public Scoping Comments

EIR Scoping comments deadline **May 19, 2025**

- Physical mailing address
 - City of Berkeley Parks, Recreation & Waterfront Department
Attn: Liza McNulty, PE, Project Manager
2180 Milvia Street, 3rd Floor
Berkeley, California 94704
- Email address
 - Lmcnulty@berkeleyca.gov
 - Subject Line: “BWTPF EIR Scoping Comments”

Take EIR Public Scoping Comments

- Please use the “Raise Hand” feature to provide an EIR scoping comment

