

PARKS AND WATERFRONT COMMISSION
Regular Meeting
Wednesday, May 11, 2022, 7:00 P.M., Zoom Meeting

Minutes – Draft

The Commissions may discuss any items listed on the agenda, but may take action only on items identified as Action.

1. **Call to Order** (Chair). 7pm.
2. **Roll Call** (Secretary). Present: Birnbach; Capitelli; Cox; Diehm; Floyd; Kawczynska; Landoni; Srioudom; Wozniak; Absent: None.
3. **Action: Approval of Agenda** (Chair). (M/S/C: Capitelli/Kawczynska/U): Ayes: Birnbach; Capitelli; Cox; Diehm; Floyd; Kawczynska; Landoni; Srioudom; Wozniak; Noes: None.
4. **Action: Approval of Minutes** for April 27, 2022 (Chair).* (M/S/C: Kawczynska/Capitelli/U): Ayes: Birnbach; Capitelli; Cox; Diehm; Floyd; Kawczynska; Landoni; Srioudom; Wozniak; Noes: None.
5. **Public Comment**. David Fielder, BMASP; Kelly Hammergren, global temperature rise; Jeff Malmuth, dog walker, Cesar Chavez Park; Martin Nicolaus, Cesar Chavez Park Conservancy.
6. **Chair's Report/Referrals Update** (Wozniak). Oak Park bench replaced; Commission request for TOT from General Fund to Marina has been sent to Council; Refuse Rate Increase; foxtails at Cesar Chavez Park/mower is broken (Kawczynska).
7. **Presentation: Supporting Butterflies (and Caterpillars) at Aquatic Park and Beyond** (Burl-Xerces Society/Diehm/Wozniak). ** Presented was provided. Public Comment: Kelly Hammergren.
8. **Presentation: PRW FY2023/24 Budget (Ferris)**. * Presentation was provided. Public Comment: Jim McGrath; Sean, Skate XP; Jan Cecil.
9. **Presentation: Vision 2050 Revenue Measures** (Garland). * Presentation was provided.
10. **Discussion/Action: Increase Parks Tax to cover park maintenance/improvements at the Waterfront** (Ferris/Wozniak). Discussion was held. Public Comment: Virginia Browning; Jim McGrath; Kelly Hammergren; Margot Schuler; Becky O'Malley.
11. **Discussion: Feedback on BMASP concepts** (Wozniak). Discussion was held. Public Comment: Dave Fielder; Kelly Hammergren; Virginia Browning.
12. **Director's Report** (Ferris): Divisions: Recreation; Parks; Waterfront; Capital; Budget.
13. **Information: Recent Council Reports**. * Item was held over.
14. **Future Agenda Items**: Workplan FY2022-2023; Parks Development Fee; Parks Tax & Parking Space Exclusion; Solar panels at community centers.
15. **Communications**.
16. **Next PRW Commission meeting**: Wednesday, June 8, 2022
17. **Adjournment**: 10:16pm.

* document is attached to agenda packet and on the commission website.

** document will be provided at the meeting.

Supporting butterflies (and caterpillars) at Aquatic Park and beyond

Kevin Burls, Ph.D.

Endangered Species Conservation Biologist

Berkeley Parks, Recreation, and Waterfront Commission

May 11, 2022

The Xerces Society

For Invertebrate Conservation

We protect wildlife through the conservation of invertebrates and their habitats

Conservation programs:

- Native Pollinators
- Endangered Species
- Aquatic Invertebrates
- Butterfly Conservation
 - Pesticides



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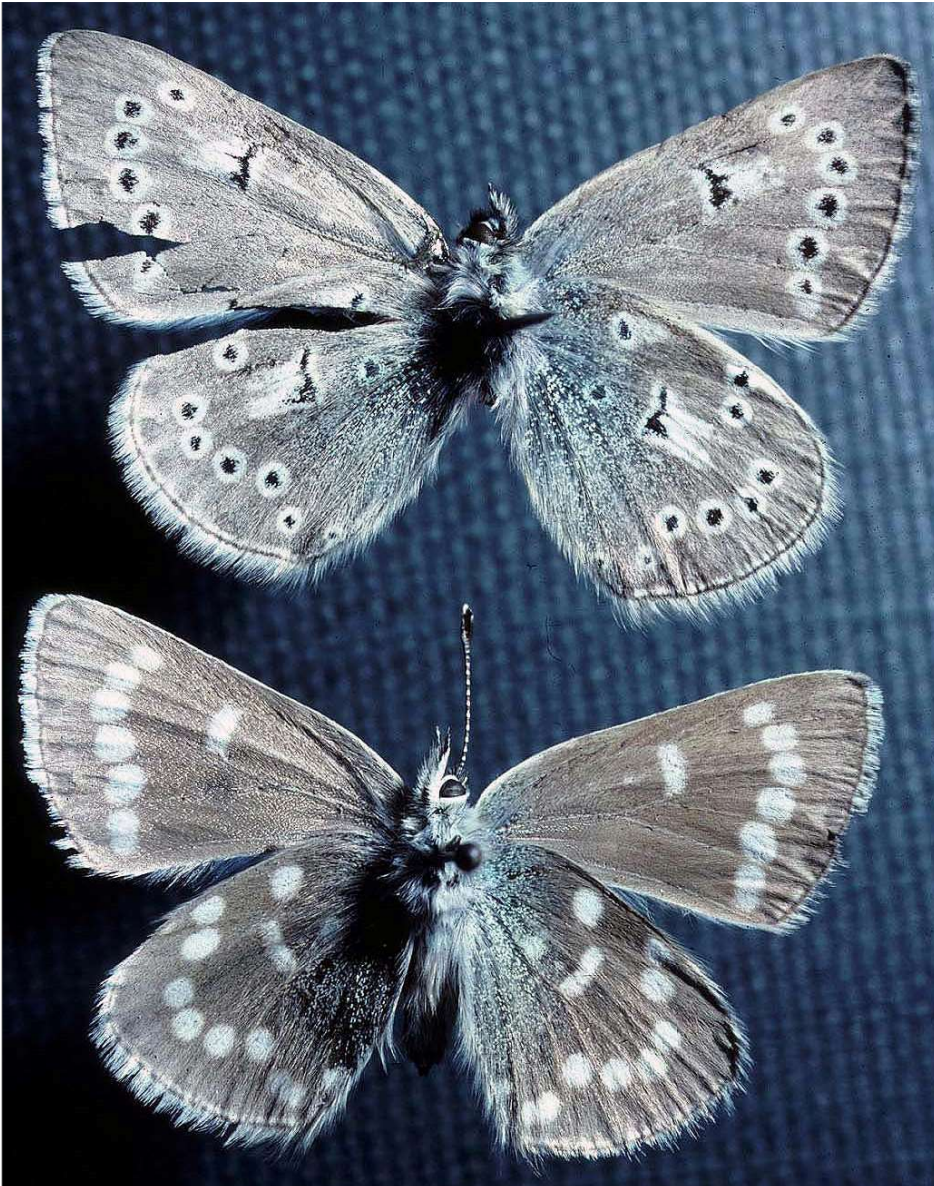


Photo credit: Larry Orsak/Xerces

Urban parks

And biodiversity

- Urban parks often have higher biodiversity than other urban green spaces
- The more “natural” a park is- including size and vegetation- the more beneficial it is for well-being
- Many butterflies are known to frequent urban parks
- Connection between parks is vital, especially for invertebrates

Sources: Konijnendijk et al. 2013; Schebella et al. 2019



What Monarchs Need

Breeding & migratory habitat

- Milkweed (caterpillars & adults)
- Flowers for nectar (adults)

Overwintering habitat

- Forested groves
- Flowers for nectar

Protection from pesticides



Photo: Carly Voight/Xerces

Western Monarch Thanksgiving Count

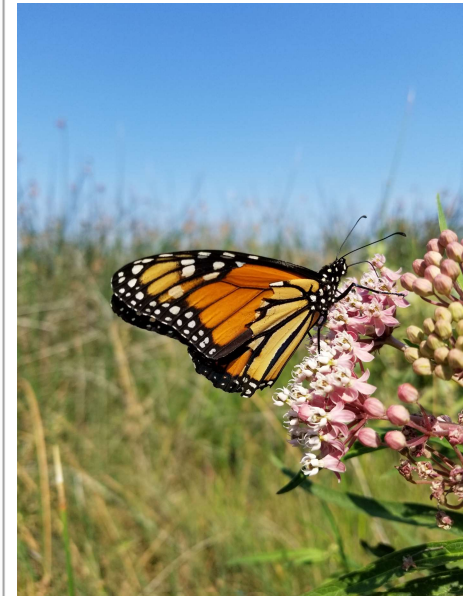
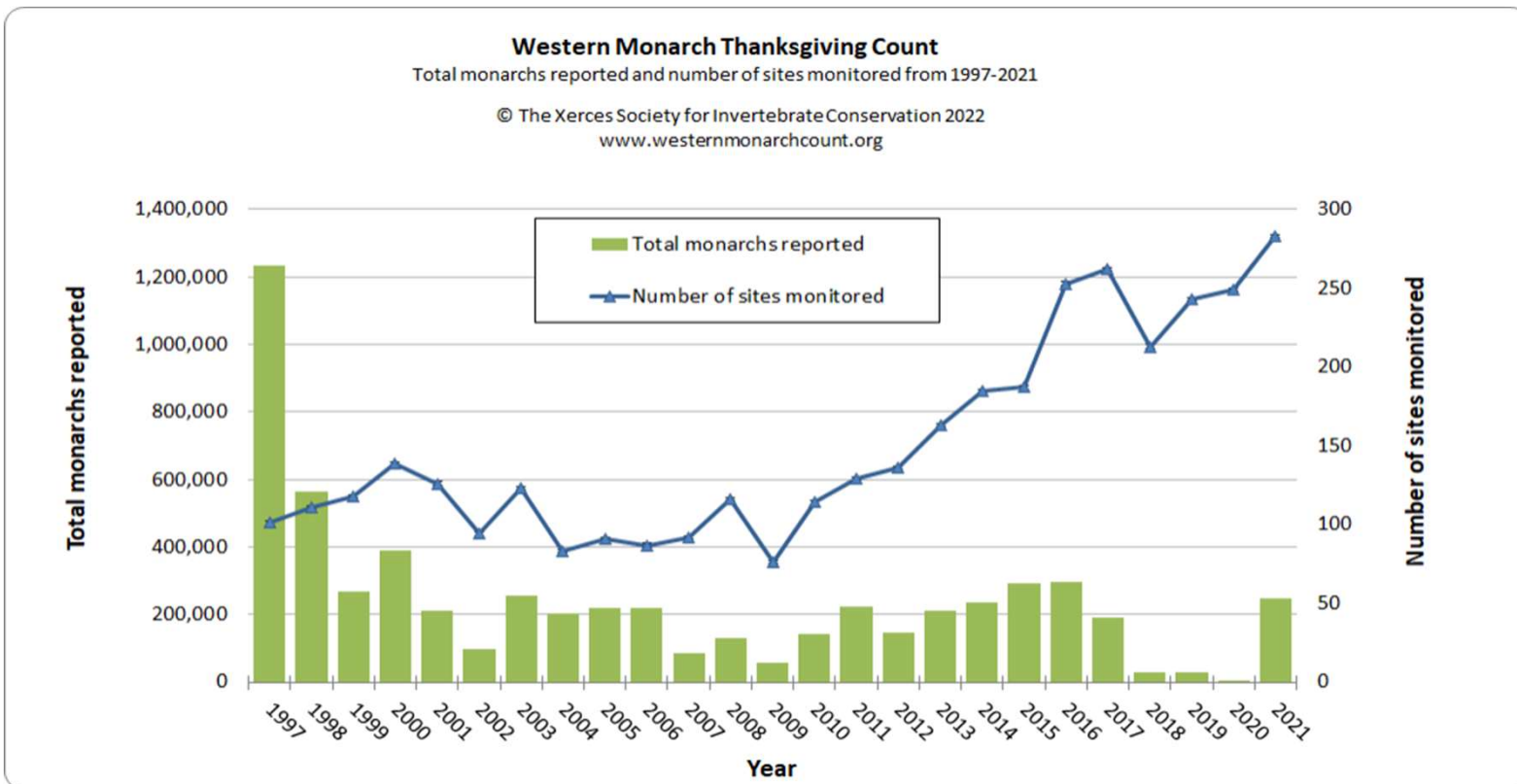


Photo credit: Stephanie McKnight/Xerces

Causes of the decline

- Loss and degradation of overwintering habitat
- Loss and degradation of breeding & migrating habitat
 - Net loss (USFWS Monarch Conservation Database 2020)
- Pesticides (including herbicides and insecticides)
 - Ubiquitous contamination of milkweed (Halsch et al. 2020)
- Climate change- drought, warming
- Other factors may also play a role (e.g., OE parasites, non-native predators)

Additional sources: Crone et al. 2019, Pelton et al. 2019, Espeset et al. 2016



Photo: Monarch larva on narrowleaf milkweed (*A. fascicularis*) Fallon Naval Air Station, Nevada -Stephanie McKnight/Xerces Society



XERCES
SOCIETY

for Invertebrate Conservation

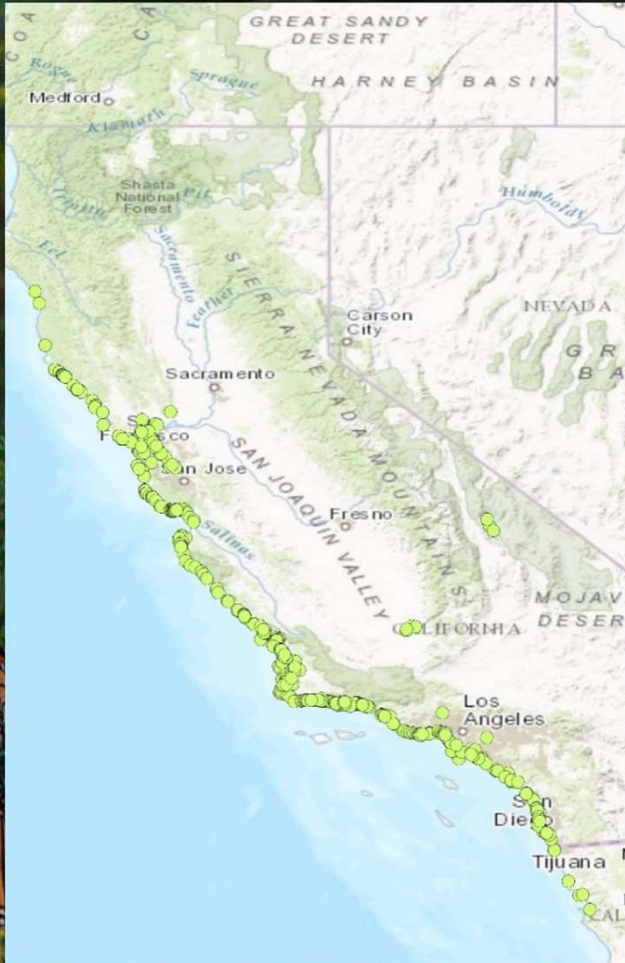
Western Monarch Call to Action

1 Protect
& manage
California
overwintering
sites.



Photo: Xerces Society / Candace Fallon

#SaveWesternMonarchs
savewesternmonarchs.org



Western overwintering sites



Loss of overwintering habitat



Photo by Lara Drizd/USFWS

Restoring overwintering groves



Photos by Grant Johnson/Coastal RCD and Kevin Cooper/US Forest Service, retired



Western Monarch Call to Action

2 Plant early season nectar sources and milkweed in California.



Photo: USFWS

#SaveWesternMonarchs
savewesternmonarchs.org

California Habitat Kits



- Focused on western monarchs and other pollinators
- Most kits in high priority region for monarch restoration
- Regionally specific kits, contain drought-tolerant species that benefit monarchs and pollinators, including native milkweed
- Three types of kits:
 - Wildflower grassland kits (1600 plants)
 - Hedgerow kits (17 plants- 100ft of hedgerow)
 - Garden kits (17 – 32 plants)
- <https://xerces.org/pollinator-conservation/habitat-kits/california>
- Added *Sidalcea malviflora* this year!
 - West coast lady (*Vanessa annabella*)
 - Common checkered skipper (*Burnsius communis*)
 - White checkered skipper (*Burnsius albescens*)
 - Two-banded checkered skipper (*Pyrgus ruralis*)
 - Gray hairstreak (*Strymon melinus*)



Butterfly life cycles and host plants

And what it means for plant choice in parks

Egg



Larva



Pupa



Female

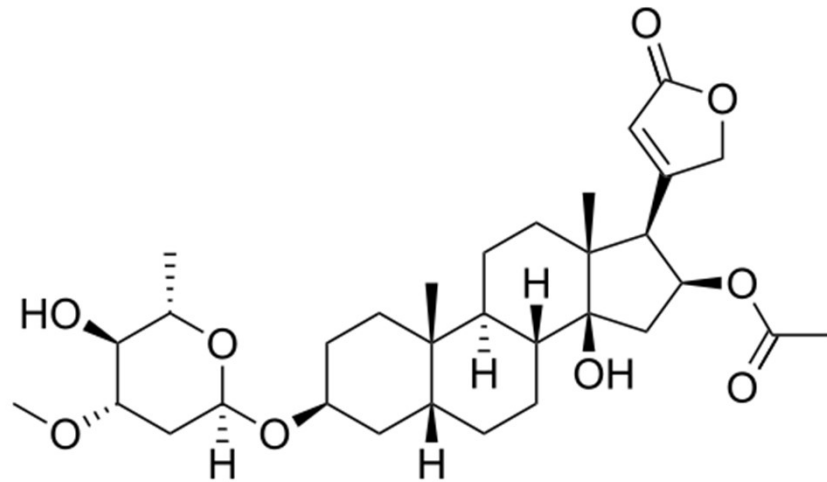


Male





Oleandrin (a **cardenolide**, or cardiac glycoside)



Item 7. Butterfly presentation



Easterncoloradowildflowers.com



Xerces Society



Xerces Society



C. Scholl



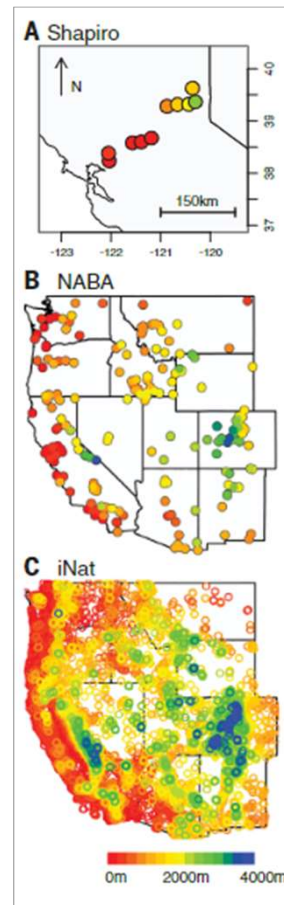
Photo: Mary Ellen (MEd) Harris, Bugwood.org



Photo: C. Scholl

Up to 80% of western butterfly species are in decline

Including MANY populations in California



Fewer butterflies seen by community scientists across the warming and drying landscapes of the American West

M. L. Forster^{1*}, C. A. Halsch¹, C. C. Nice², J. A. Fordyce³, T. E. Dilts⁴, J. C. Oliver⁵, K. L. Prudic⁶, A. M. Shapiro⁷, J. K. Wilson⁶, J. Glassberg^{8,9}

Forister et al. (2021), *Science*

Insect decline in the Anthropocene: Death by a thousand cuts

David L. Wagner^{a,1} , Eliza M. Grames^a , Matthew L. Forister^b , May R. Berenbaum^c , and David Stopak^d

Adding native caterpillar food and adult nectar plants is the most important thing you can do to protect local pollinator populations

Eight simple actions that individuals can take to save insects from global declines

Akito Y. Kawahara^{a,b,c,1} , Lawrence E. Reeves^{c,d} , Jesse R. Barber^e , and Scott H. Black^f 

Proceedings of the National Academy for Sciences
(2021) 118:e2002547117

Imperiled butterfly species you can support in Berkeley Parks

West Coast Lady
Vanessa annabella



Common sootywing
Pholisora catullus

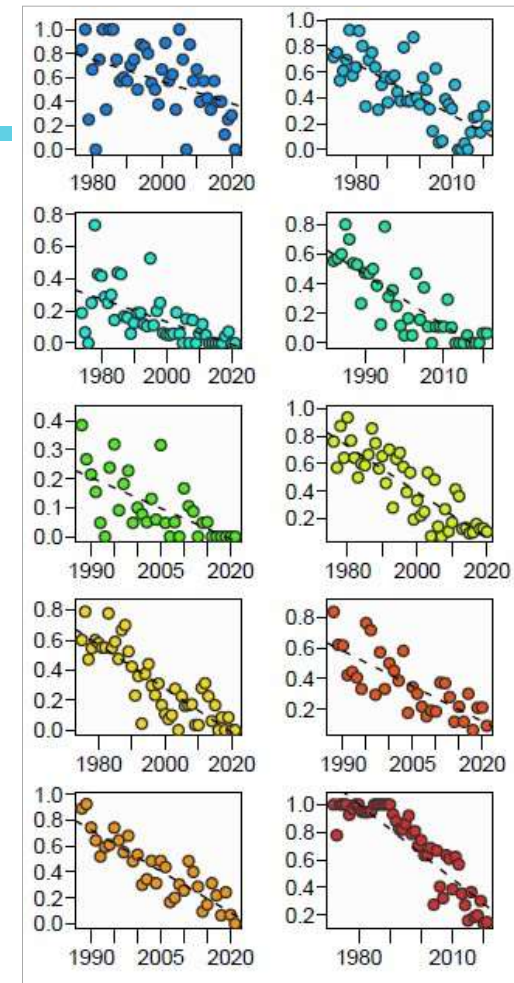
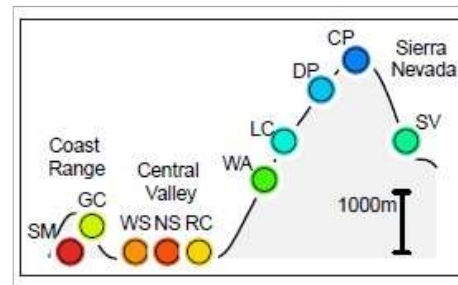
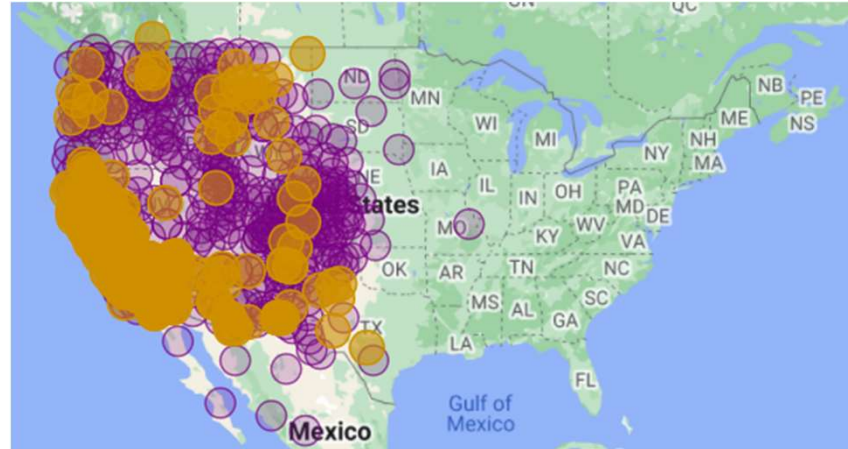


Large marble
Euchloe ausonides

Photo credits (L-R): Chris Halsch, jburger/iNat CC BY-NC 4.0 , Tom Kennedy/iNat CC BY-NC 4.0 (image cropped for clarity)



West coast lady, *Vanessa annabella*



Map: Butterflies and Moths of North America; Butterfly photo: Chris Halsch;
 Data: Forister et al. (unpublished)

West coast lady, *Vanessa annabella*

Host plant suggestions for parks and waterways

Checkermallow

Sidalcea sp.



Globemallow

Sphaeralcea sp.



Cheeseweed/
mallows

Malva sp.



Stinging nettle

Urtica dioica

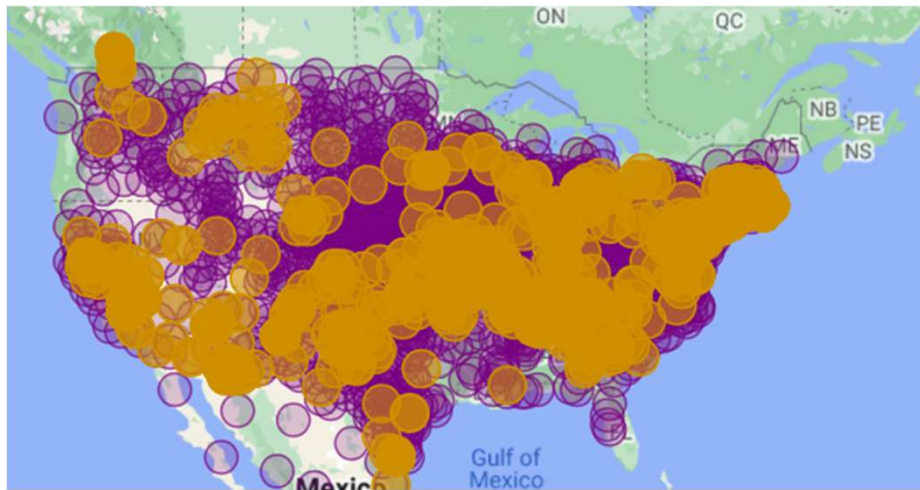
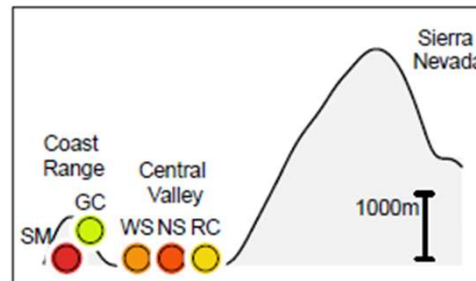
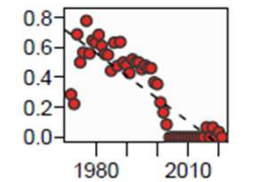
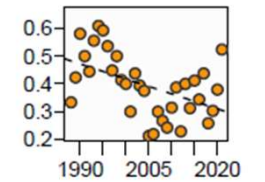
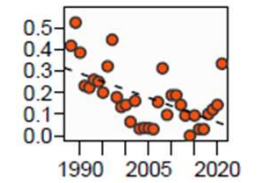
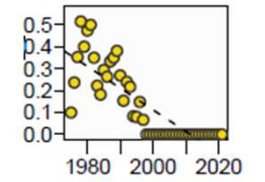
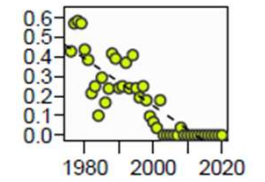


Photo credits (l-r): Di/iNat; Nick Spano/iNat, Li Yinqi/iNat, Richard Hasegawa/iNat, all CC BY-NC 4.0

Common sootywing, *Pholisora catullus*



Shapiro sites



Map: Butterflies and Moths of North America; Photo: Tom Kennedy/iNat CC BY-NC 4.0 (image cropped for clarity); Data: Forister et al. (unpublished)

Common sootywing, *Pholisora catullus*

Host plant suggestions for parks and waterways

Amaranths
Amaranthus sp.

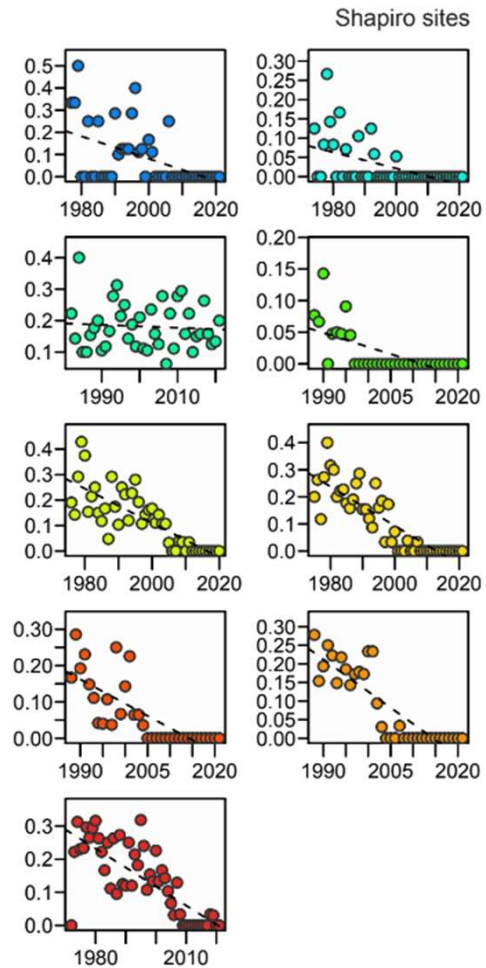
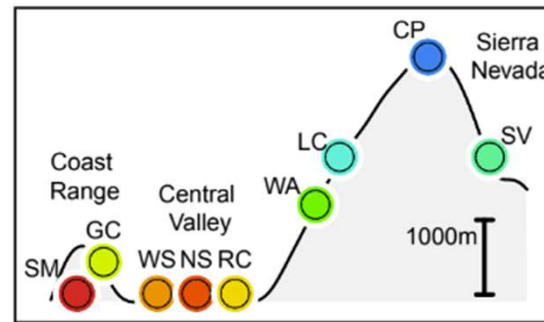
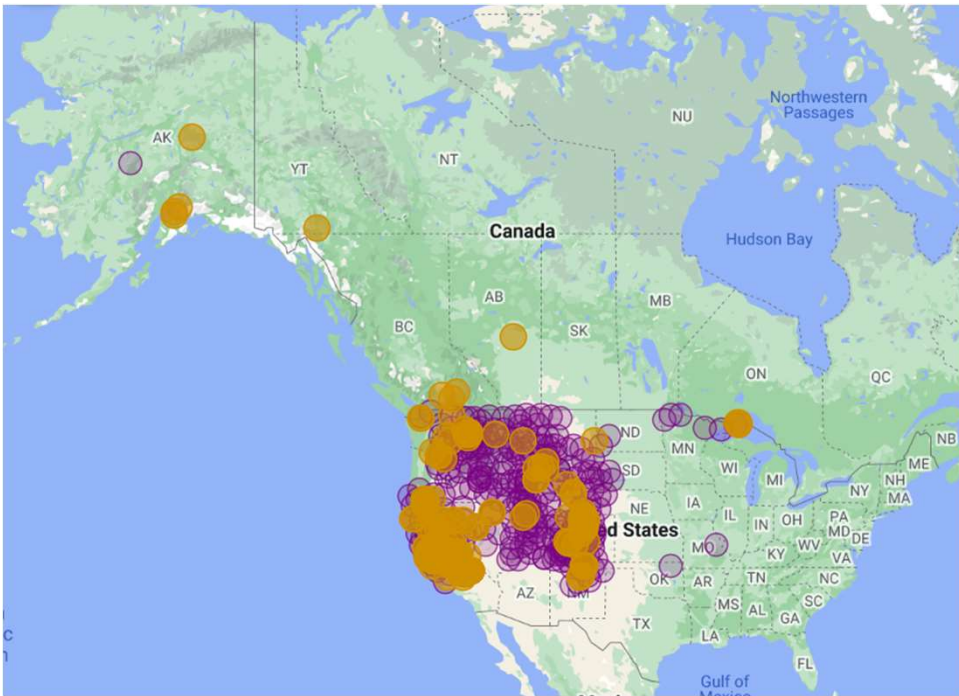


Goosefoots &
Pigweeds
Chenopodium sp.



Photo credit (l-r): Tim Messick/iNat, Tubifex/Wikipedia, noroakdan/iNat, Zedory/iNat

Large marble, *Euchloe ausonides*



Map: Butterflies and Moths of North America; Photo: jburger/iNat CC BY-NC 4.0 (image cropped for clarity); Data: Forister et al. (unpublished)

Large marble, *Euchloe ausonides*

Host plant suggestions for parks and waterways

Wild radish

Raphanus sativus



Mustards

Brassica sp.



California
mustard

*Caulanthus
lasiophyllus*



Photo credit (l-r): Annie Evankow/iNat, Dana L. Brown/iNat, levitatingwatermelon/iNat, Ken-ichi Ueda/iNat

Power plants for butterfly (and moth) caterpillars

Available in a nursery (or a weedy lot) near you!

Mallows

Vanessa annabella
Burnsius communis
Burnsius albescens
Pyrgus ruralis
Strymon melinus
Vanessa cardui



Nettles

Vanessa annabella
Vanessa atalanta
Aglais milberti
Polygonia satyrus
Vanessa cardui



Lupines, vetches, alfalfa, clovers, and others

Colias eurytheme
Leptotes marina
Glaucopteryx lygdamus
Icaricia saepiolus
Icaricia icarioides
Vanessa cardui

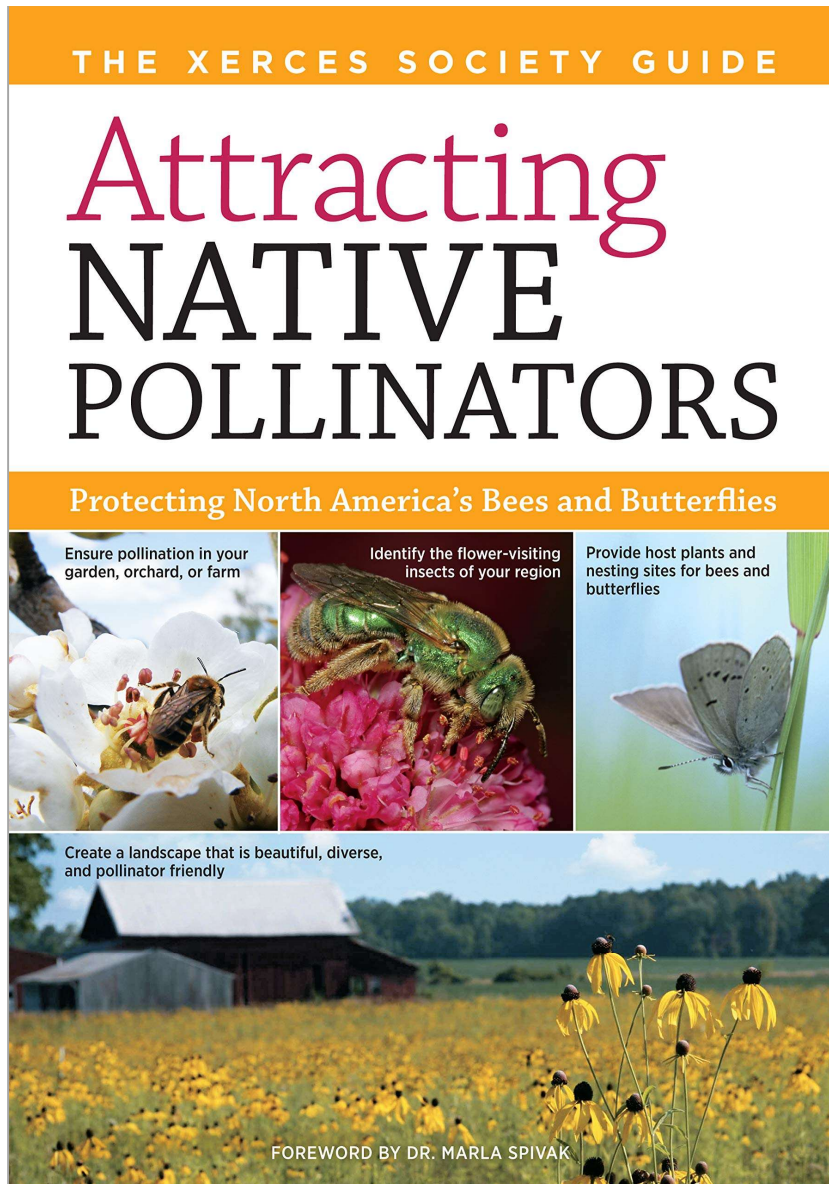


Mustards

Pontia sisymbrii
Pontia protodice
Pieris napi
Euchloe ausonides
Anthocharis sara



Photo credits (l-r): Di/iNat, Richard Hasegawa/iNat, P Holroyd/iNat, Ken-ichi Ueda/iNat



Visit www.Xerces.org

for more information

- Planting guidance
- Management guidance
- Plant and seed sources
- Pesticide education
- Education for all ages
- Community science opportunities

CA Milkweeds:

<https://xerces.org/sites/default/files/publications/19-018.pdf>



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Thank You



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Thank you to Erin Diehm for the invitation to speak

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Opinion: Berkeley Marina plan would destroy Cesar Chavez Park

There are real needs for maintenance and improvement in the park but the city's plan in its current iteration will not solve those financial problems.

By Martin Nicolaus April 29 2022, 3:22 p.m.

In a recent email, Mayor Jesse Arreguin noted that the Berkeley Marina comprises over 100 acres. Ninety of those acres make up Cesar Chavez Park. The ongoing Berkeley Marina Area Specific Plan (BMASP) appears, at first sight, to pivot on the issue of a commercial ferry terminal at the municipal pier site on the marina's south side. But a closer look shows that BMASP also envisions profound changes in Cesar Chavez Park on Marina's north side. These changes would transform the park from a place of relief from urban stress into a high-pressure commercial amusement park.

Two proposals, in particular, stand out. No. 1, BMASP wants to create a big oval "Large Event Area" with an "Events Pavilion" in the southern half of the park. No. 2, BMASP wants to turn the Native Plant

Area into a "Large Adventure Park II." Let's take them in turn.

The proposed Large Events Area is outlined in the map above from [Slide 47 of the BMASP presentation](#) dated March 16. The key is the addition of an "Events Pavilion." This would be a large permanent



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building with a roof and a stage. For example, BMASP gives the “LOVEBOX” installation in the photo below from [Slide 40](#).* BMASP also would add undefined other “PARK PAVILIONS.”



Part of the BMASP process was an online “Public Input” questionnaire that closed on April 22. The “Events Space” question illustrates the covert bias of this instrument. “Events and regional gatherings are a key source of revenue generation for the Marina Fund,” says the questionnaire. You’re then asked to indicate your degree of approval for an “Events Space.” The loud hint is that if you

disapprove of the Events Space plan, you are throwing money away. The way this question is put rests on a lie. Events, whether regional or otherwise, have never generated revenue for the Marina Fund. The lineup of Marina Fund revenue sources given on Slide 8 makes no mention of event revenues because there haven’t been any. Even the biggest event, the Kite Fest, which I personally have loved, costs the city major sums of money to put on.

Once or twice a year, a big charity may hold a fundraiser that draws a few hundred people, but the city’s expenses in groundskeeping, sanitation, and staffing always eat up more than the rental fees. Even the disturbing [Cannabis Festival](#) that some in the city government want to put on would not cover the cost of fencing, groundskeeping, staff time, police and fire overtime, DUI cases, and the enormous cleanup necessary after marijuana festivals.

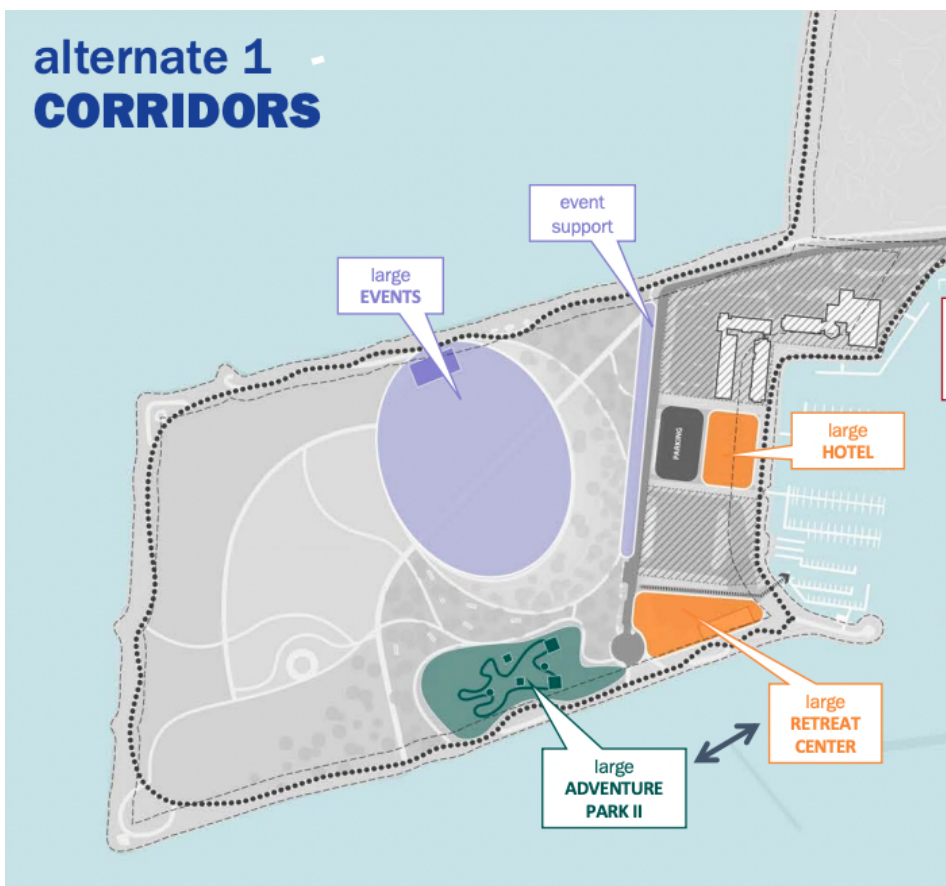
The BMASP slide show estimates that the maximum revenue from the largest events would come to \$170,000 a year. That’s already in a different universe than what past event revenues have been historically, namely zero or negative. BMASP also quotes a much higher “city staff” estimate of almost

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\$1 million per year, but BMASP clearly doesn't lend it credence. Nor should we. These numbers are pure speculation, resting on untested assumptions.

Several local nonprofits have successfully held events such as religious observances, drum circles, foot races and the like in the park. They don't make a heavy impact on the park, and the existing spaces adequately serve them. The proposed big dedicated Events Space and Events Pavilion don't serve local needs. They're bait for big commercial operations out for a profit. These operators know how to sweet-talk gullible city staffers (and money-hungry candidates) with promises of big revenue while actually draining the local coffers for externalities like police and fire overtime and cleanup. These kinds of events not only lose money, but they also hijack the environment, poison the habitat, and degrade nature.

Each of the large events projected for the Events Space and the Events Pavilion would bring major noise pollution to the park, heavy traffic and parking congestion, not to mention tobacco and alcohol use, littering, and violence. Forget taking a quiet walk in the park. Forget nature — anything with wings or legs or a belly to crawl on runs away or hides when a Big Event happens and for quite a while afterward. For some species, a single such disturbance during nesting season is enough to guarantee that they never come back.



The second main impact of the BMASP is even worse. BMASP proposes a so-called “Large Adventure Park II” (shown in the drawing above from Slide 63). What BMASP means by an Adventure Park isn't spelled out, but it's a different creature entirely from the beloved Adventure Playground on the south side of the marina that has

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entertained and instructed generations of kids, including mine. That facility disappears from the BMASP scheme. What BMASP wants instead is a sporting place for grownups involving “ziplines, ropes courses.” For example, BMASP shows the “**Ropes Course, Orange County**” (Slide 44). The price for a day is \$350 for a group. It’s geared to paying adults.

The most outrageous part of the BMASP “Large Adventure Park” proposal is the planned location: smack on top of the **Native Plant Area** in the southwest corner of the park. The whole 3.5-acre grove where dozens of varieties of California native trees, shrubs, and grasses grow will be turned into a commercial playground with ziplines, ropes courses, and other entertainment for grownups who enjoy thrills and can afford the ticket. Forget the California Coastal Conservancy that paid for establishing the Native Plant Area 40 years ago. Forget the progressive Berkeley City Council of 40 years ago that paid for the other half of it. Forget the hardworking, nature-savvy trio of Charli Danielsen, David Amme, and Dave Kaplow and their associates who worked from sunup to sundown to establish native plants in this challenging site, a historical project. Forget the dozens of volunteers and concerned supporters and the city staff who have weeded and trimmed the Native Plant Area in recent years. Forget the Native Pollinator Garden project just funded by Alameda County. It will all go under the bulldozer to make way for a commercial zipline and rope course operation, supposedly earning the city \$120,000 a year, if you believe that.

It might be a different matter if there were a groundswell of popular demand for rock concerts and ziplines on the marina. But BMASP’s own public opinion polling shows just the opposite. No less than 87% of the respondents go to the marina for its walking/biking pathways. Similarly, 79% go there to enjoy the parks (Slide 22.) These are by far the most popular reasons why people go there. Nothing else is even close. People go to the marina overwhelmingly to enjoy being in nature. Nature is the city dweller’s lifeline, now more than ever. The BMASP recommendations are tone-deaf to our environmentally conscious time. They run absolutely counter to what people want and need to see in the park. If BMASP succeeds, the park will be wrecked beyond restoration.

Other signs of BMASP’s distance from park visitors’ concerns abound. BMASP completely ignores the Cesar Chavez/Dolores Huerta Homage Solar Calendar, a park landmark that could use upgrades and better access. Apart from a proposed “Enhancement” consisting of a “Dog Agility Course,” BMASP has nothing to say about the highly irregular unfenced dog problem area in the belly of the park. BMASP envisions only one real bathroom in the 90-acre park to be built years from now. BMASP also floats ideas of an “Interpretive Center” or “Museum” that no local person wants. The international consulting

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firm running BMASP, Hargreaves Jones, prides itself on “rigorous investigation,” but we’ve not yet seen a single HJ employee in the park asking park visitors’ opinions. The plan, including the alleged public input portion, is being engineered from above.

There are, to be sure, real money problems affecting the marina and the marina fund. There are real needs for maintenance and improvement in Cesar Chavez Park. However, the BMASP in its current iteration will not solve those financial problems, and it will not serve the public that uses the park.

Martin Nicolaus is CEO of Chavez Park Conservancy and webmaster of chavezpark.org.

* Berkeleyside originally superimposed a caption on this photo, reading: “The city of Berkeley estimates revenue close to \$1 million for additional and expanded events at the Berkeley Marina. Credit: City of Berkeley.” After I objected to this caption, and after the initial publication, Berkeleyside deleted the photo. Here I’ve restored the photo as I originally submitted it. The link to the Berkeleyside story after deletion of the photo is [here](#).

An earlier draft of this writing appeared here on chavezpark.org as “**BMASP: Park Wrecking Scheme**” on April 21 2022.

Note 5/10/22: The links to the online BMASP proposal dated 3/26/22 no longer work because that item has not (yet?) been included in the City of Berkeley website update. A copy of the BMASP proposal can be found at <https://chavezpark.org/powerpoint-gone/>

Susan McKay, 913 Virginia Street, Berkeley 94710

28 April 2022

Commissioners – Parks and Waterfront Commission

City of Berkeley

Via email

Re: BMASP Public Comment 4/28/22 – Parks Commission Meeting

Dear Commissioners,

For your information, the following is the complete public comment intended for the 4/28 meeting. It includes the unsaid portion that exceeded the one minute time limit.

I know there will be discussion of the BMASP tonight so I'd like to participate with a public comment now that I am happily a member of the public. My name is Susan McKay, former Parks and Waterfront Commissioner and current Marina user.

The Berkeley Marina is a very important place to the Bay Area, the City of Berkeley and to me personally, so I am gratified to see that this planning effort is proceeding in a positive and orderly manner, because we know that in the past there was reluctance and trepidation about planning for the present and future Marina.

I have followed the BMASP process and participated in some of the discussions. I have observed that this planning has generated a very robust public community participation that seems to be growing with time. This is just so great! We should remember that planning and actual improvement is a process that is a continuum – for instance I think it is very opportune that the work on University Avenue is quite visible and drawing positive attention to the Marina – everyone is talking about it!

For me so far, the process has highlighted the following about the Marina's place in our community:

- The Marina is a recreational resource for the entire region
- The Marina is seen primarily as a park by City of Berkeley residents, and it is extremely well used
- Bay-related uses - sailing, paddling, etc., are very popular, and many unique and non-profit/mission-driven organizations offer water activities to a wide range of residents
- There is an appetite and tolerance for some development – water related retail, and hospitality
- The funding structure of the Marina is in (desperate) need of restructuring

Of course there are lots of details and complications that still need to be addressed and resolved such as improvements for Cesar Chavez Park, dredging, parking, a ferry terminal, etc., but the important thing to me is that the conversation is started and as we move forward through time options will be developed, and improvements will follow.

One hope that I have had for a long time is that an overall vision and over-riding identifying theme can be found for the entire area. Something like an expression of the history of the area, or an

Susan McKay, 913 Virginia Street, Berkeley 94710

astronomical/solar expression of place, or ecologic/natural cycle themes, or reclamation features might be developed so that a framework is created into which individual parts and pieces can work to create a cohesive, unique environment that enhances the Marina experience and “sense of place, for the City and the region. To realize the vision, regional funding partners should be sought to invest in this amazing, world-class location directly opposite the Golden Gate.

Thank you for your hard work on this complex and important effort.

Yours truly,

Susan McKay



SPRAWLDEF

Sustainability, Parks, Recycling And Wildlife Legal Defense Fund

802 Balra Drive, El Cerrito, CA 94530
510 295-7657 www.sprawldef.com n.laforce@comcast.net

May 11, 2022

VIA EMAIL miller@cityofberkeley.info

Roger Miller

Secretary

Parks, Recreation and Waterfront Commission

2180 Milvia Street, 3rd Floor

Berkeley, CA 94704

Re: Berkeley Marina Area Specific Plan (BMASP)

Dear Mr. Miller:

SPRAWLDEF submits this letter in regard to the proposals for Cesar Chavez Park in the BMASP.

SPRAWLDEF is a 501(3)(c) corporation dedicated to protecting our environment. Its focus has been on protecting wildlife and habitat especially in Eastern Alameda and Contra Costa Counties. It also focuses on protecting, enhancing, and expanding wildlife corridors. Currently, it is a lead plaintiff in the legal actions to protect Point Molate in Richmond as a public park and open space and in legal actions to protect humans and wildlife from the toxic contamination at the Zeneca site (former Stauffer Chemical facility) in Richmond. In the past it successfully sued CalTrans to ensure that if there was ever an off-road vehicle facility in what is referred to as Tesla, it would require a protected wildlife corridor that was off limits to off-road vehicles.

SPRAWLDEF opposes the proposed "Large Event Area" (Proposal 1) and the "Events Pavilion" (Proposal 2) for the reasons set forth in the Berkeleyside Opinion piece that Martin Nicolaus wrote. SPRAWLDEF is especially concerned about the impact that these proposals would have on the burrowing owl habitat and the destruction of the Native Plant Area. Attached is a copy of that Opinion piece.

Sincerely yours,

Norman La Force

Norman La Force,
President SPRAWLDEF

Berkeleyside

OPINION

Opinion: Berkeley Marina plan would destroy Cesar Chavez Park

There are real needs for maintenance and improvement in the park but the city's plan in its current iteration will not solve those financial problems.

By Martin Nicolaus, April 29, 2022, 3:22 p.m.

In a recent email, Mayor Jesse Arreguin noted that the Berkeley Marina comprises over 100 acres. Ninety of those acres make up Cesar Chavez Park. The ongoing Berkeley Marina Area Specific Plan (BMASP) appears, at first sight, to pivot on the issue of a commercial ferry terminal at the municipal pier site on the marina's south side. But a closer look shows that BMASP also envisions profound changes in Cesar Chavez Park on Marina's north side. These changes would transform the park from a place of relief from urban stress into a high-pressure commercial amusement park.

Two proposals, in particular, stand out. No. 1, BMASP wants to create a big oval "Large Event Area" with an "Events Pavilion" in the southern half of the park. No. 2, BMASP wants to turn the Native Plant Area into a "Large Adventure Park II." Let's take them in turn.



The proposed Large Events Area is outlined in the map above from [Slide 47 of the BMASP presentation](#) dated March 16. The key is the addition of an "Events Pavilion." This would be a large permanent building with a roof and a stage. For example, BMASP gives the "LOVEBOX" installation in the photo below from [Slide 40](#). BMASP also would add undefined other "PARK PAVILIONS."



The city of Berkeley estimates revenue close to \$1 million for additional and expanded events at the Berkeley Marina. Credit: City of Berkeley

Part of the BMASP process was an online "Public Input" questionnaire that closed on April 22. The "Events Space" question illustrates the covert bias of this instrument. "Events and regional gatherings are a key source of revenue generation for the Marina Fund," says the questionnaire. You're then asked to indicate your degree of approval for an "Events Space." The loud hint is that if you disapprove of the Events Space plan, you are throwing money away. The way this question is put rests on a lie. Events, whether regional or otherwise,

have never generated revenue for the Marina Fund. The lineup of Marina Fund revenue sources given on Slide 8 makes no mention of event revenues because there haven't been any. Even the biggest event, the Kite Fest, which I personally have loved, costs the city major sums of money to put on.

Once or twice a year, a big charity may hold a fundraiser that draws a few hundred people, but the city's expenses in groundskeeping, sanitation, and staffing always eat up more than the rental fees. Even the disturbing Cannabis Festival that some in the city government want to put on would not cover the cost of fencing, groundskeeping, staff time, police and fire overtime, DUI cases, and the enormous cleanup necessary after marijuana festivals.

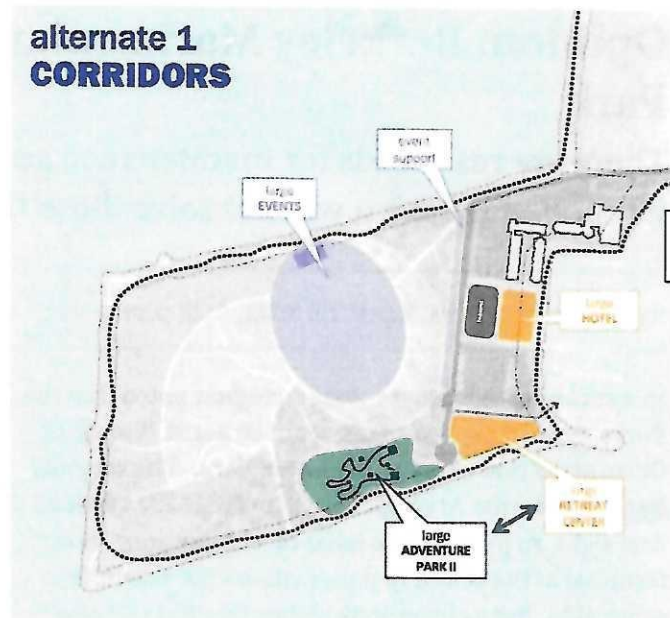
The BMASP slide show estimates that the maximum revenue from the largest events would come to \$170,000 a year. That's already in a different universe than what past event revenues have been historically, namely zero or negative. BMASP also quotes a much higher "city staff" estimate of almost \$1 million per year, but BMASP clearly doesn't lend it credence. Nor should we. These numbers are pure speculation, resting on untested assumptions.

Several local nonprofits have successfully held events such as religious observances, drum circles, foot races and the like in the park. They don't make a heavy impact on the park, and the existing spaces adequately serve them. The proposed big dedicated Events Space and Events Pavilion don't serve local needs. They're bait for big commercial operations out for a profit. These operators know how to sweet-talk gullible city staffers (and money-hungry candidates) with promises of big revenue while actually draining the local coffers for externalities like police and fire overtime and cleanup. These kinds of events not only lose money, but they also hijack the environment, poison the habitat, and degrade nature.

Each of the large events projected for the Events Space and the Events Pavilion would bring major noise pollution to the park, heavy traffic and parking congestion, not to mention tobacco and alcohol use, littering, and violence. Forget taking a quiet walk in the park. Forget nature — anything with wings or legs or a belly to crawl on runs away or hides when a Big Event happens and for quite a while afterward. For some species, a single such disturbance during nesting

season is enough to guarantee that they never come back.

alternate 1 CORRIDORS



The second main impact of the BMASP is even worse. BMASP proposes a so-called "Large Adventure Park II" (shown in the drawing above from Slide 63). What BMASP means by an Adventure Park isn't spelled out, but it's a different creature entirely from the beloved Adventure Playground on the south side of the marina that has entertained and instructed generations of kids, including mine. That facility disappears from the BMASP scheme. What BMASP wants instead is a sporting place for grownups involving "ziplines, ropes courses." For example, BMASP shows the "Ropes Course, Orange County" (Slide 44). The price for a day is \$350 for a group. It's geared to paying adults.

The most outrageous part of the BMASP "Large Adventure Park" proposal is the planned location: smack on top of the Native Plant Area in the southwest corner of the park. The whole 3.5-acre grove where dozens of varieties of California native trees, shrubs, and grasses grow will be turned into a commercial playground with ziplines, ropes courses, and other entertainment for grownups who enjoy thrills and can afford the ticket. Forget the California Coastal Conservancy that paid for establishing the Native Plant Area 40 years ago. Forget the progressive Berkeley City Council of 40 years ago that paid for the other half of it. Forget the hardworking, nature-savvy trio of Charli

Item 15. Communications - received at meeting time

Danielsen, David Amme, and Dave Kaplow and their associates who worked from sunup to sundown to establish native plants in this challenging site, a historical project. Forget the dozens of volunteers and concerned supporters and the city staff who have weeded and trimmed the Native Plant Area in recent years. Forget the Native Pollinator Garden project just funded by Alameda County. It will all go under the bulldozer to make way for a commercial zipline and rope course operation, supposedly earning the city \$120,000 a year, if you believe that.

It might be a different matter if there were a groundswell of popular demand for rock concerts and ziplines on the marina. But BMASP's own public opinion polling shows just the opposite. No less than 87% of the respondents go to the marina for its walking/biking pathways. Similarly, 79% go there to enjoy the parks (Slide 22.) These are by far the most popular reasons why people go there. Nothing else is even close. People go to the marina overwhelmingly to enjoy being in nature. Nature is the city dweller's lifeline, now more than ever. The BMASP recommendations are tone-deaf to our environmentally conscious time. They run absolutely counter to what people want and need to see in the park. If BMASP succeeds, the park will be wrecked beyond restoration.

Other signs of BMASP's distance from park visitors' concerns abound. BMASP completely ignores the Cesar Chavez/Dolores Huerta Homage Solar Calendar, a park landmark that could use upgrades and better access. Apart from a proposed "Enhancement" consisting of a "Dog Agility Course," BMASP has nothing to say about the highly irregular unfenced dog problem area in the belly of the park. BMASP envisions only one real bathroom in the 90-acre park to be built years from now. BMASP also floats ideas of an "Interpretive Center" or "Museum" that no local person wants. The international consulting firm running BMASP, Hargreaves Jones, prides itself on "rigorous investigation," but we've not yet seen a single HJ employee in the park asking park visitors' opinions. The plan, including the alleged public input portion, is being engineered from above.

There are, to be sure, real money problems affecting the marina and the marina fund. There are real needs for maintenance and improvement in Cesar Chavez Park. However, the BMASP in its current iteration will not solve those financial problems, and it will not serve the public that uses the park.

Martin Nicolaus is CEO of Chavez Park Conservancy and webmaster of chavezpark.org.

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CITIZENS FOR EAST SHORE PARKS
1604 Solano Avenue, Albany CA



May 9, 2022

Scott Ferris, Director of Parks, Recreation and Waterfront
Roger Miller, Secretary, Parks, Recreation and Waterfront Commission – with
Request to forward copy of this correspondence to members of the Parks,
Recreation and Waterfront (PRW) Commission

Subject: Berkeley Area Specific Plan (BMASP) proposed options to Construct an
Events Pavilion and/or a Large Adventure Park in Cesar Chavez Park

Dear Mr. Ferris, Mr. Miller, PRW Commission Chair Wozniak and
Commissioners Birnbach, Kawczynska, Floyd, Diehm, Cox, Capitelli, Srioudom,
and Landoni,

Citizens for East Shore Parks (CESP) has recently become aware of two
proposed options for development on the north side of the Berkeley Marina
through an April 29, 2022 *Berkeleyside* article written by Martin Nicolaus. That
article and subsequent conversations with members of the public raise deep
concerns about both the community engagement process that is being used to
resolve the monetary problems faced by the Marina and the proposals themselves.

The Process:

CESP has been informed that during the BMASP community meetings any
differences of opinion put forward by the public that were expressed during the
small breakout discussion groups were not reported back to the whole group nor
recorded in any way. Additionally, it was said that questions asking for a response
in discussion groups or in the “community survey” were expressed in a way that
slanted the responses.

Apparently, meetings of the PRW Commission are not recorded so that the
public can review and participate thoughtfully and in a timely manner. Minutes of
past PRW meetings are not available on the City’s new website, nor is an
electronic copy of the BMASP available at this time.

While CESP, at our invitation, initially heard from City staff about the
BMASP and were assured that we would be kept in the information loop, we had

not been informed of updates in the planning effort until the *Berkeleyside* article appeared. CESP is the major environmental group that since 1985 has and continues to advocate successfully for a waterfront park along the East Bay Shoreline from the Bay Bridge to the Carquinez Bridge.

What has happened is not an adequate public engagement process. CESP holds that the best planning occurs when the public is free to express their opinions without regard to those held by City staff, consultant, or Commission and that differences are recorded and become a part of the overall decision process. A public engagement process should not give the impression of a predetermined result. Noting that at the upcoming May 11, 2022 PRW Commission meeting Chairperson Wozniak has scheduled Item 11 for a discussion of BMASP feedback, we request that you specifically discuss our concerns and adopt any corrective actions that will ensure an adequate consideration of public feedback.

The Result:

CESP favors use of the shoreline as open space and unstructured recreation and habitat protection with allowances for small watercraft recreation. Cesar Chavez Park was originally intended to be part of the McLaughlin Eastshore State Park and although the City of Berkeley ultimately decided to maintain it as a municipal park, the City committed to maintain it as a compatible park next to the McLaughlin Eastshore State Park. CESP agrees with Mr. Nicolaus' conclusion that the BMASP Plan would destroy the character and openness of Cesar Chavez Park by replacing the open space so vital to relief from urban stress with a commercial amusement park.

We fully understand Berkeley's need to resolve the Marina's financial problems, but the sacrifice of scarce free public waterfront land as open space to a commercial amusement park is a bad approach. The city of Berkeley should treasure its existing public land and the public's unhindered use of that land. Construction of a large permanent Events Pavilion with a roof and a stage will also require additional large areas of paved parking, fencing and commercial amenities. That is the wrong direction. Such a use would drive the City to constantly seek more revenue to support staff time, the cost of upkeep and maintenance. Larger, more frequent events would be sought, eventually erasing any semblance of a park forever.

When events are limited to those like the Kite Festival, the heart of the Park is free and open for use by all members of the public. Particularly during the pandemic, the importance of parks is key to the mental and physical health of everyone. Such use must be preserved forever for future generations.

Regarding the other proposal to establish a “Large Adventure Park” involving ropes, ziplines and similar activities, they exist elsewhere in the Bay Area. Let that happen in those other places. Our waterfront parks were founded with a commitment to open space, to be free and open to the public, and to respect habitat, nature and quiet enjoyment. All in all, monetizing the space as presented by these two proposals for Cesar Chavez Park ultimately means privatization of this very public, well used and essential space.

As of yet, we have seen no analysis of how Marina fees and rents have been used in the past. It seems that little reinvestment has taken place, leading to the current situation. Before moving forward, it may be productive to examine how this predicament evolved.

Please maintain Berkeley’s commitment to the open, free waterfront park as you seek ways to resolve the financial problems of the Marina. CESP suggests that the City not start from a position that construction of commercial operations, hotels and the like is the solution. CESP is willing to assist in the effort to find better solutions and urges that the current proposals be rejected. Thank you for your consideration of these views.

Sincerely,



Shirley Dean
CESP Board President



Robert Cheasty
CESP Executive Director