



CONSENT CALENDAR
Dec. 5, 2023

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
From: Councilmember Taplin (Author) and Kesarwani (Co-Sponsor)
Subject: Nancy Skinner Municipal Pier Resolution

RECOMMENDATION

Refer to the Parks, Recreation, and Waterfront (PRW) Commission a Resolution renaming the Berkeley Municipal Pier in honor of State Senator Nancy Skinner (D-Berkeley) upon its reopening to the public and authorizing the City Manager to update signage and electronic media accordingly; and to return Resolution to Council for final consideration.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Signage and staff time.

BACKGROUND

In 2022, the City of Berkeley secured a \$15 million grant of state funds for critical infrastructure projects at the Marina and Waterfront, including much-needed repairs at the Berkeley Pier, which closed in 2015 due to structural problems. This historic state budget earmark is essential for the maintenance and long-term sustainability of the Berkeley Marina. Moreover, restoration of the Berkeley Pier at its full length is essential for preserving all recreational uses while accommodating new WETA ferry service to San Francisco.

It is impossible to overstate the role of Berkeley's own State Senator Nancy Skinner, serving as Chair of the Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee, in making this possible. Few if any public officials have had such a direct role in shaping the future of Berkeley's Marina and Waterfront area over the past several decades. To cite just one example, Skinner's leadership on the Berkeley City Council (1984-1992), and later East Bay Regional Parks District Board of Directors (2006-2008), was essential in the establishment and preservation of McLaughlin Eastshore State Park. Since 2008, Skinner has championed Berkeley's progressive values in both houses of the state Legislature, authoring landmark legislation on environmental policy, criminal justice reform, social justice, housing, education, civil rights, and gun violence prevention.

The nearby Tom Bates Fields sets precedent for the commemoration of still-living public servants in the official names of cherished public facilities. Following review by the Lead Commission, this would require a 2/3 vote of the City Council to approve.¹

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE IMPACTS

None.

CONTACT PERSON

Councilmember Taplin Council District 2 510-981-7120

Attachments:

1: Draft Resolution

¹ Appendix A, p. 35:

<https://berkeleyca.gov/sites/default/files/documents/City%20Council%20Rules%20of%20Procedure%20-%20July%2011%202023%20-%20FINAL.pdf>

RESOLUTION NO. ##,###-N.S.

DESIGNATING THE BERKELEY MUNICIPAL PIER AS THE NANCY SKINNER
MUNICIPAL PIER IN THE CITY OF BERKELEY

WHEREAS, in 2022, State Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee Chair Nancy Skinner secured \$15 million in the state budget to fund critical repairs and capital projects at the Berkeley Marina and Waterfront; and

WHEREAS, Senator Skinner was first elected to the Berkeley City Council in 1984, as the first University of California student ever elected to the City Council; and

WHEREAS, during her tenure on the Berkeley City Council, Nancy Skinner helped lead the effort to establish and preserve Eastshore State Park; and during her tenure in the State Assembly, authored ACR 55, renaming Eastshore State Park as McLaughlin Eastshore Park; and during her tenure as Senator, secured funding for additional and significant expansion of open space along the East Bay shoreline; and

WHEREAS, in the State Assembly, she authored landmark legislation including AB 1014, the first-in-the-nation gun violence restraining order otherwise known as a 'red flag' law; AB 1930, giving college students access to federal food assistance; and AB 153, making California one of the first states to require online sellers, like Amazon, with affiliates in California, to collect sales tax on purchases made by state residents; and

WHEREAS, in the State Senate, she authored landmark legislation including SB 206, the Fair Pay to Play Act, making California the first state to enact a law giving college athletes the right to earn money from their name, image, and likeness; SB 1421, opening up police misconduct records in California for the first time in four decades; and SB 364, which was included in the 2021-22 state budget, making California the first state to provide two free meals per day for all public school students.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Berkeley that the Berkeley Municipal Pier is hereby named the Nancy Skinner Municipal Pier, in honor of the Senator's four decades of trailblazing public service.

