

Date: July 12, 2023
To: Parks, Recreation and Waterfront Commission
From: Scott Ferris, Director, Parks Recreation & Waterfront
Subject: \$5.5M Loan for D and E Dock Replacement Project at the Berkeley Waterfront

CURRENT SITUATION

Since 1964, the City has obtained four large loans from DBW in order to build and renovate our Waterfront docks, parking lots, utilities, breakwaters, restrooms and complete dredging: 1964 (\$1.8M); 1971 (\$1.5M); 1985 (\$2.0M); and 2001 (\$7.8M). Three of these four loans have been repaid (using the Marina Fund). Currently, the Marina Fund is paying off the \$7.8M loan authorized in 2001 (but not fully spent until 2010) and is scheduled to be paid off in 2040.

The City applied for the latest \$5.5M DBW loan in 2019 to replace the D and E docks. This \$8.26M project is 90% designed and will be funded by the following four sources: the current DBW loan, Measure T1 (\$684,000), the State Coastal Conservancy (SCC) grant (\$1.5M), and the Marina Fund (\$585,000 – portion from Doubletree Hotel Capital Contribution). After a visit from DBW commissioners and staff in 2020, the \$5.5M loan was granted and executed by the City Council on March 9, 2021 (see Attachment 3).

In the late spring of 2023, DBW staff raised concerns that the language in our City Council resolution does not adequately protect them from default and that the City's Marina Fund did not meet certain loan criteria. In recent years, the cities of Stockton, Martinez and Petaluma encountered problems repaying their DBW loans, and in 2023, based on these and other state budgetary issues, DBW's entire state loan program may be at risk. DBW staff recently noted that the City's Marina Fund has continued to deteriorate since agreeing to the loan in 2020, raising their concerns about the City's ability to pay debt service not just on the new loan, but on the existing loan from 2001. These two loans will result in a combined total of over \$800,000 annual debt service payment from the Marina Fund to DBW. On June 23, 2023, the DBW Commission voted 4-1 to approve the DBW staff recommendation that they allow the City to proceed with the \$5.5M loan as long as the City complies with options A, B, C, or D described below. Attachment 4 includes the detailed report and an executive summary from DBW staff.

DBW Option A

Formalize a City financial process whereby a subaccount within the Marina Fund is established solely for the purpose of repaying all outstanding DBW loans. This subaccount must be fully funded with \$2 million. Funds in this subaccount may only be used for DBW loan repayments and the subaccount must be fully refreshed within 30 days of each loan payment. The subaccount must be fully funded each fiscal year before Marina Fund revenues are used for any other purpose. The subaccount shall remain fully funded until either this loan is fully repaid or until the City demonstrates to DBW for twelve (12) consecutive months that the Marina Fund has achieved the income/expense ratio and the debt service coverage ratio that DBW normally requires. The City would agree to maintain these ratios in the Marina Fund for the life of the loan. In the event of default, the subaccount shall be used to make loan payments and to cure any deficiencies in maintenance or operations.

The General Fund would be required to provide \$2M to the Marina Fund. Benefits of this approach, as opposed to Option C, include: (1) the City has more control over the subaccount as DBW is not a signatory; (2) no cost to create a subaccount; (3) the City would still earn interest on the \$2M in the subaccount. It should be noted that restricting \$2M in City funds to the Marina Fund subaccount until it meets the required DBW ratios will limit the City's ability to use these funds for other City needs.

DBW Option B

Formalize a City financial process whereby non-boating-related waterfront expenses will be paid from a specified source other than the Marina Fund, or establish an alternate revenue source (or sources) within the Marina Fund, not to include boating-related revenues, to off-set all non-boating-related expenses. Loan funds would be made available after this process is implemented and once the City demonstrates to DBW for twelve (12) consecutive months that the Marina Fund has achieved the income/expense ratio and the debt service coverage ratio that DBW normally requires. The City would agree to maintain these ratios in the Marina Fund for the life of the loan. **Note:** The Loan agreement will not be extended beyond the DBW funding availability, which currently expires June 30, 2026. To meet this deadline, the conditions noted above must be met, and loan funding requested no later than February 1, 2026.

This option requires an influx of General Fund or other revenues to the Marina Fund or the transfer of expenses to other funds. This option could delay the D and E dock replacement project by at least a year because of the 12 months period required to meet DBW ratios. This option helps address the long-standing financial issues related to the Marina fund by using other City funds.

DBW Option C

As a substitute for meeting the loan ratio conditions DBW normally requires, no later than March 31, 2024, the City shall establish an escrow account funded with \$2 million in City funds. The funds in this account shall be held in reserve to ensure payment of debt service on both the DBW loan currently in repayment and this new loan. The escrow account shall remain fully funded until either the loan is fully repaid or when the City demonstrates to DBW for twelve (12) consecutive months that the Marina Fund has achieved the income/expense ratio and the debt service coverage ratio that DBW normally requires. The City would agree to maintain these ratios in the Marina Fund for the life of the loan.

The General Fund would be required to provide \$2M to a third-party escrow account which DBW would be a signatory to and could limit any use of escrow funds. This is the least desirable option since it requires that we establish an escrow account that strictly limits City access to the principal and interest in the account, and the escrow company will charge fees to establish and maintain the account.

DBW Option D

As a substitute for meeting the loan ratio conditions DBW normally requires, no later than March 31, 2024, the City shall obtain a surety bond naming DBW as its beneficiary. The City shall bear all expenses and other obligations associated with obtaining and maintaining the surety bond. The surety bond shall be in the amount of the outstanding principal and shall remain fully funded until either the loan is fully repaid or until the City demonstrates to DBW for twelve (12) consecutive months that the Marina Fund has achieved the income/expense ratio

and the debt service coverage ratio that DBW normally requires. The City agrees to maintain these ratios in the Marina Fund for the life of the loan.

Staff estimate that this one-time fee for the surety bond will be an additional \$250,000 to \$375,000. This option would require the least amount of City cash up front and could be the least expensive of the DBW options in the long-term if we are unable to meet the required ratios in Marina Fund over the next several years.

Option E

City of Berkeley Internal Loan

On June 22, 2023, the Council Budget and Finance Committee recommended that the City pursue an internal loan from an existing City fund instead of using the California Division of Boating and Waterways loan. This would involve borrowing the \$5.5M from an existing City fund and paying the loan back with either non-Marina Fund sources or Marina Fund generated revenue once the Marina Fund becomes healthy again. A lower than 4.5% rate would save the Marina Fund significant debt service costs as the DBW loan is estimated to cost \$4.5M in interest over the life of the loan (30 years). An additional benefit might be that another City fund would benefit from this interest.

City staff recommends that an internal loan of \$5.5M come from the Workers Compensation Fund and/or the Stability Reserve Fund and/or Catastrophic Reserve Fund and that repayment of this loan come from the Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT) revenue generated in the Waterfront with the length of repayment and associated fees to be determined by the City Manager.

This option is the best option for the Marina Fund because it would allow the City to complete the D & E Dock Project much sooner and at a lower cost (construction costs become drastically more expensive each year), and any interest required by an internal loan would be paid back to the City from revenues generated at the Waterfront instead of to an outside entity (DBW).

BACKGROUND

Marina Fund History

In 1964, the Council passed a resolution creating the Marina Fund.¹ The purpose of the Fund was to receive a \$1.8M loan from the State to build the Marina, including a breakwater, dredging, adding 600 new slips to the existing 200-slip marina, slip utilities, lockers, pilings, roads, parking lots, pathways, landscaping, Marina office building, restrooms, bait shop, and chandlery. The loan required that revenue from slips and future hotel and restaurant leases would cover the costs of debt service, maintenance, and operations of the Waterfront.

In 1970, the City took on a second State loan to increase renovated slips to 1,000, complete the upland areas and sailing basin south of University Ave. In the 1970s and 1980s, the City converted the North Dike Landfill into a new park (initially known as North Waterfront Park, later renamed Cesar Chavez Park) using grants and other local funding. However, by the late 1990s, the Marina Fund showed signs of distress. Budget updates and fee reports continually

¹ See Resolution 39,950-N.S. to Establish the Berkeley Marina Fund for Small Craft Harbor Loan, May 12, 1964.

described structural deficits threatening to exhaust Marina Fund reserves. For example, Council minutes from November 9, 1999 note:

“...The Marina is significantly under-funded and there is no current source of funds to implement core capital projects while maintaining existing Marina operations...Without a commitment by the Council to actively seek additional sources of ongoing funding beyond non-recurring grants, Marina infrastructure will continue to deteriorate...”²

Marina Fund Structural Issues

In recent years, the infrastructure at the Waterfront has experienced significant failures such as deteriorating dock systems, the closing of the Berkeley Pier, and crumbling roadways and parking lots. Due to insufficient revenues, a capital replacement fund for this infrastructure was never established. Instead, infrastructure replacement has been funded through a variety of grants, loans, the Marina Fund when possible, and most recently, one-time allocations from the General Fund and the T1 Bond Measure.

Additionally, the Marina Fund – technically an enterprise fund with an expectation that revenues cover expenses – has been expected to cover all aspects of the Waterfront including recreational activities and park expenses at Cesar Chavez Park, Shorebird Nature Center and Park, Adventure Playground, and at the South Cove area.

Until recently, staffing reductions and deferral of capital and maintenance kept the Marina Fund solvent. But over the last several years, as capital infrastructure further deteriorated and staffing levels could not be further reduced, Marina Fund revenue could no longer to cover basic operational costs. This was exacerbated in 2019 with COVID-19, which significantly reduced hotel and restaurant lease revenue at the Waterfront.

Since 2021, General Fund support has been needed to maintain Waterfront operations. The Council authorized transfers to the Marina Fund of \$1.4M in FY22 and \$1.15M in FY23 using American Rescue Plan funding to keep the fund solvent. Earlier in 2023, Council solved the anticipated FY2024 \$800,000 structural deficit by eliminating one year of Workers Compensation fees, funding Waterfront capital expenditures with General Fund, and using Parks Tax to cover parks-related expenses at the Waterfront. In addition, Council allocated \$1.5M from the City’s Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Fund over two years to fund the Marina Piling Replacement project (\$850,000 in FY23; and \$650,000 in FY24).³ Yearly transfer of City funds to cover the Marina Fund structural gap will still be needed at least through FY2027 in order to maintain operations and complete critical infrastructure projects.

² See p.2 of Waterfront / Marina Fund Update, April 12, 2018 for a summary of budget reports from 1999-2017.

³ This contract has been fully executed and pre-construction has begun.

Politics: Marina's Two Sets of Books

From <https://chavezpark.org/park-week-7-7/>

In discussions of Marina finances, I've repeatedly questioned the validity of the numbers that the City has issued. Well, it's not just me. The State Division of Boating and Waterworks (DBW) has been taking a close look at Marina finances to see whether the Marina Fund could repay a \$5.5M loan from the State to rebuild Docks D and E in the boat basin.

In their first look dated February 4 2020, DBW noted that the City's annual audit for the Marina Fund showed an \$833k loss for 2017-2018. Such a deficit would sink the loan. But, says DBW, "according to City staff, *this audited account does not accurately reflect actual Marina Fund operating revenues and expenditures.*" So here is City staff admitting that the Marina Fund, despite having been audited, does not accurately reflect Marina finances. I rest my case. But read on.

It turns out that there is not only a "Marina Fund" (MF) but also a separate "Marina Operations Fund" (MOF). The MOF looks better because it uses [accrual bookkeeping](#) which lists as "assets" certain grants awarded although not yet disbursed. So if the City wants the Marina to look poor, as when it wants to promote commercial development through [BMASP](#), it points to the MF, which uses cash basis bookkeeping. But if the City needs the the Marina to look rich, as when applying for a loan, then it points to the MOF.

As if keeping two sets of books weren't enough, the City also uses two different standards for booking capital improvement costs in the MF. Capital improvement costs in past years are shown as Marina Fund operating expenses. But the same costs in future years don't show on the books, period. This naturally makes the account forecast look stronger.

In its June 23 2023 update, DBW observes in a footnote, "Public records respecting Berkeley Marina's finances are somewhat complex. Each year the City's Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR) includes an analysis of the City's "Marina Operations Fund," which is different from but related to the Marina Fund discussed throughout this report." Note the diplomatic language here, "somewhat complex." If a private business kept two similar sets of books, this "somewhat complex" system might put the owners into orange jumpsuits.

The most recent MOF report for the fiscal year ending June 30 2022 showed a \$1.2M surplus, while the MF again showed a deficit. The City asked DBW to rely on the MOF numbers and disburse the loan. But DBW wasn't born yesterday. It insisted that the cash-basis MF must show a sustained positive balance before the loan could be paid.

As part of its analysis, the DBW broke down Marina money into "boating" and "non-boating" categories. For the most recently completed year, it found that revenue from boating (mainly berth rentals and leases) came to \$4,193,000, while expenses related to boating came to only \$3,463,000. The City made a profit of \$730,000 that year on boating operations. The profit on boating operations in 2021 was more than twice as much, at \$1.6M. If the boating operations were a separate account, DBW says, it would qualify for the loan.

These numbers may come as a surprise to berth renters who have been told that boat basin operations were in the red and their rents were being subsidized. According to DBW, the City has actually been making money on boating operations. It could hypothetically have used that money to maintain the docks. Are the rotting planks in the boat basin due to lack of money or to management choices?

The DBW's analysis, contained in Tables 5 and 5a of its June 23 2023 report, teaches that the Marina Fund's red ink comes from its inclusion of non-boating operations, such as road maintenance, park landscaping (prominently including Chavez Park), festivals, and the like. One obvious action item would be to move boating operations into a separate budget under a separate administration, while the non-boating operations are blended into the City's general fund. Then the City could get the loan, and there would be no need to keep two sets of Marina books. The "somewhat complex" accounting could be replaced by simplicity and transparency. What a concept.

Sources: [DBW 2020 Analysis](#) | [DBW June 23 2023 Analysis](#)

-- Martin Nicolaus

Miller, Roger

From: Allan Abshez <allanabshez@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Tuesday, July 11, 2023 6:12 PM
To: Miller, Roger; Claudia Kawczynska
Subject: FW: PRWC Subcommittee Report on Berkeley Waterfront Specific Plan - July 12, 2023 PRWC Commission meeting

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From: Kdonne Chick <kchick08@gmail.com>
Date: Tuesday, July 11, 2023 at 4:15 PM
To: Allan Abshez <allanabshez@sbcglobal.net>
Subject: Re: PRWC Subcommittee Report on Berkeley Waterfront Specific Plan - July 12, 2023 PRWC Commission meeting

I support the subcommittee recommendations to the City Council as to the OLA's future.

Donnie

On Jul 9, 2023, at 12:05, Allan Abshez <allanabshez@sbcglobal.net> wrote:

Hello folks,

I'm the PRWC Commissioner representing District 8, and am chairing the PRWC Subcommittee that is preparing the PRWC's recommendations to the City Council regarding the Waterfront Specific Plan. I'm writing to acknowledge and respond to the numerous personal letters the Commission received expressing enjoyment in the Off Leash Area (OLA) of Cesar Chavez Park, and worry about the PRWC's recommendations as to the OLA's future.

Thank you for taking the time to write. The draft Subcommittee report, which the Commission will consider at its meeting this coming Wednesday, recommends that Cesar Chavez Park be included in the Waterfront Specific Plan, and that a Master Plan/Landscape Plan be prepared for the Park. As to the OLA the Subcommittee report makes the following (verbatim) recommendations:

"The Off-Leash Area (OLA) should be Maintained and Improved:

The 17-acre Off-Leash Area of Cesar Chavez Park is an important City-wide amenity, and a core use of Cesar Chavez Park. Its boundaries should be appropriately demarcated to protect sensitive ecological areas and marked to deter off-leash activity in park areas not intended for that purpose. Bulletin board improvements, including maps depicting the boundaries of the OLA should be added. A mowing plan and schedule should be adopted for the OLA, and a

viable and sustainable foxtail management program and reseeding plan should be implemented. Consideration should be given to dedicating the OLA to the memory of Cesar Chavez's dogs, Boycott and Huelga (Strike), with a public artwork memorial. Seating amenities, including boulders, straw bales, and appropriately located seating walls and artwork should be located at hilltops with panoramic view opportunities. The use of wood chips should be minimized in the OLA, as it makes many areas unusable for dogs and people and covers native burrowing bee habitats. Other plantings, such as trees and shrubs should be considered for this area."

I hope that you will take the time to attend the PRWC this coming Wednesday evening to express your opinions to the PRWC in person. It will take place at 7 pm at the **Frances Albrier Community Center** (large auditorium) located at 2800 Park Street in Berkeley.

I also hope that you will consider supporting the recommendations of the draft Subcommittee Report, which is attached to the Commission agenda and be found at the following link:

<https://berkeleyca.gov/your-government/boards-commissions/parks-recreation-and-waterfront-commission>

If the Subcommittee report is adopted by the PRWC it will become the Commission's recommendation to the City Council as the Council gives its direction for preparation of the Specific Plan itself.

Thanks for your engagement, input, and interest in making the Waterfront an even better place for the enjoyment of the community.

Cheers,
Allan Abshez
PRWC Commissioner, District 8

Miller, Roger

From: Allan Abshez <allanabshez@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Tuesday, July 11, 2023 4:24 PM
To: Miller, Roger; Claudia Kawczynska
Subject: FW: In support of OLA recommendations

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From: David Rothenberg <david@rothenbergs.net>
Date: Tuesday, July 11, 2023 at 2:24 PM
To: <allanabshez@sbcglobal.net>
Subject: In support of OLA recommendations

Dear Commissioner Abshez,

I support the subcommittee recommendations to the City Council as to the OLA's future.

Thanks for everything you do. It is appreciated.

-David Rothenberg
1707 Vine St, Berkeley, Ca 94703

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Miller, Roger

From: Allan Abshez <allanabshez@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Tuesday, July 11, 2023 11:55 AM
To: Miller, Roger; Claudia Kawczynska
Subject: FW: PRWC Subcommittee Report on Berkeley Waterfront Specific Plan - July 12, 2023 PRWC Commission meeting

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From: Irene Huang <jung.irene@gmail.com>
Date: Tuesday, July 11, 2023 at 11:37 AM
To: Allan Abshez <allanabshez@sbcglobal.net>
Cc: <savecc6@gmail.com>
Subject: Re: PRWC Subcommittee Report on Berkeley Waterfront Specific Plan - July 12, 2023 PRWC Commission meeting

I support the subcommittee recommendations to the City Council as to the OLA's future.

Thank you,
Irene Jung-Huang

On Sun, Jul 9, 2023 at 12:05 PM Allan Abshez <allanabshez@sbcglobal.net> wrote:

Hello folks,

I'm the PRWC Commissioner representing District 8, and am chairing the PRWC Subcommittee that is preparing the PRWC's recommendations to the City Council regarding the Waterfront Specific Plan. I'm writing to acknowledge and respond to the numerous personal letters the Commission received expressing enjoyment in the Off Leash Area (OLA) of Cesar Chavez Park, and worry about the PRWC's recommendations as to the OLA's future.

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Thanks for your engagement, input, and interest in making the Waterfront an even better place for the enjoyment of the community.

Cheers,

Allan Abshez

PRWC Commissioner, District 8

Miller, Roger

From: Allan Abshez <allanabshez@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Tuesday, July 11, 2023 10:48 AM
To: Miller, Roger; Claudia Kawczynska
Subject: Fwd: PRWC Subcommittee Report on Berkeley Waterfront Specific Plan - July 12, 2023 PRWC Commission meeting

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Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Erica Rippe <erica.ripped@gmail.com>
Date: July 11, 2023 at 10:39:25 AM PDT
To: Allan Abshez <allanabshez@sbcglobal.net>
Subject: **Re: PRWC Subcommittee Report on Berkeley Waterfront Specific Plan - July 12, 2023 PRWC Commission meeting**

- **I support the subcommittee recommendations to the City Council as to the OLA's future.**

Sent from my iPhone

On Jul 9, 2023, at 12:05 PM, Allan Abshez <allanabshez@sbcglobal.net> wrote:

Hello folks,

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Thanks for your engagement, input, and interest in making the Waterfront an even better place for the enjoyment of the community.

Cheers,
Allan Abshez
PRWC Commissioner, District 8

Miller, Roger

From: Allan Abshez <allanabshez@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Tuesday, July 11, 2023 9:54 AM
To: Miller, Roger; Claudia Kawczynska
Subject: FW: OLA area at Cesar Chavez

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From: aurelie bordet <aureliebordet@hotmail.com>
Date: Tuesday, July 11, 2023 at 8:30 AM
To: "allanabshez@sbcglobal.net" <allanabshez@sbcglobal.net>
Cc: Save CC <savecc6@gmail.com>
Subject: OLA area at Cesar Chavez

Dear Mr. Abshez,

I support the subcommittee recommendations to the City Council as to the OLA's future.

I am a newer dog owner and have been taking my dog there almost every day for the last 6 months. I find the dog owners responsible and have never ever encountered any issue there. I have met a new community of friendly people who look out for each other, their pets and the park. The OLA area is such a unique, treasured place for Berkeley. It really is a plus for the city (and my mental health!).

Sincerely,

Aur lie Bordet

Miller, Roger

From: Allan Abshez <allanabshez@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Tuesday, July 11, 2023 9:53 AM
To: Miller, Roger; Claudia Kawczynska
Subject: FW: The future of OLA

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From: Lieza Stark <liezastark@gmail.com>
Date: Tuesday, July 11, 2023 at 7:19 AM
To: "Allanabshez@sbcglobal.net" <Allanabshez@sbcglobal.net>
Subject: The future of OLA

Hello Allan Abshez,

As a daily park user I support the subcommittee recommendations to the city council as to the Off Leash Area's future.
Kindly,
Lieza Stark

Miller, Roger

From: Allan Abshez <allanabshez@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Tuesday, July 11, 2023 9:52 AM
To: Miller, Roger; Claudia Kawczynska
Subject: FW: Cesar Chavez Park

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From: Edwin Herzog <edherzog48@gmail.com>
Date: Tuesday, July 11, 2023 at 8:27 AM
To: <allanabshez@sbcglobal.net>
Cc: Save CC <savecc6@gmail.com>
Subject: Cesar Chavez Park

I support the subcommittee recommendations to the City Council as to the OLA's future.

**Edwin Herzog
1012 Jones St
Berkeley**

Miller, Roger

From: Allan Abshez <allanabshez@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Tuesday, July 11, 2023 9:51 AM
To: Miller, Roger; Claudia Kawczynska
Subject: FW: PRWC Subcommittee Report on Berkeley Waterfront Specific Plan - July 12, 2023 PRWC Commission meeting

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From: Mateo Rutherford <mateo_rutherford@yahoo.com>
Date: Tuesday, July 11, 2023 at 9:23 AM
To: "July 12, 2023 Commission Commentors" <allanabshez@sbcglobal.net>
Cc: Roy Rojas <roybitts@yahoo.com>
Subject: Re: PRWC Subcommittee Report on Berkeley Waterfront Specific Plan - July 12, 2023 PRWC Commission meeting

Dear Alan,

Thank you so much for this encouraging information. My husband and I at 1120 Bancroft Way and all of our housemates totally support this plan for the Off-Leash Dog Area at Cesar Chavez Park. Please feel free to let us know if there is anything we can do to support your efforts and this recommendation for the Off-Leash Area.

Sincerely,
Mateo Rutherford

On Sunday, July 9, 2023 at 12:05:50 PM PDT, Allan Abshez <allanabshez@sbcglobal.net> wrote:

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The 17-acre Off-Leash Area of Cesar Chavez Park is an important City-wide amenity, and a core use of Cesar Chavez Park. Its boundaries should be appropriately demarcated to protect sensitive ecological areas and marked to deter off-leash activity in park areas not intended for that purpose. Bulletin board improvements, including maps depicting the boundaries of the OLA should be added. A mowing plan and schedule should be adopted for the OLA, and a viable and sustainable foxtail management program and reseeding plan should be implemented. Consideration should be given to dedicating the OLA to the memory of Cesar Chavez's dogs, Boycott and Huelga (Strike), with a public artwork memorial. Seating amenities, including boulders, straw bales, and appropriately located seating walls and artwork should be located at hilltops with panoramic view opportunities. The use of wood chips should be minimized in the OLA, as it makes many areas unusable for dogs and people and covers native burrowing bee habitats. Other plantings, such as trees and shrubs should be considered for this area.”

I hope that you will take the time to attend the PRWC this coming Wednesday evening to express your opinions to the PRWC in person. It will take place at 7 pm at the **Frances Albrier Community Center** (large auditorium) located at 2800 Park Street in Berkeley.

I also hope that you will consider supporting the recommendations of the draft Subcommittee Report, which is attached to the Commission agenda and be found at the following link:

<https://berkeleyca.gov/your-government/boards-commissions/parks-recreation-and-waterfront-commission>

If the Subcommittee report is adopted by the PRWC it will become the Commission's recommendation to the City Council as the Council gives its direction for preparation of the Specific Plan itself.

Thanks for your engagement, input, and interest in making the Waterfront an even better place for the enjoyment of the community.

Cheers,

Allan Abshez

PRWC Commissioner, District 8

Miller, Roger

From: Allan Abshez <allanabshez@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Tuesday, July 11, 2023 9:47 AM
To: Miller, Roger; Claudia Kawczynska
Subject: FW: PRWC Subcommittee Report on Berkeley Waterfront Specific Plan - July 12, 2023 PRWC Commission meeting

WARNING: This is not a City of Berkeley email. Do not click links or attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

From: Ram Balasubramanian <ram.z.balasubramanian@gmail.com>
Date: Tuesday, July 11, 2023 at 8:48 AM
To: Allan Abshez <allanabshez@sbcglobal.net>
Cc: <savecc6@gmail.com>
Subject: Re: PRWC Subcommittee Report on Berkeley Waterfront Specific Plan - July 12, 2023 PRWC Commission meeting

Hi Allan

I support the subcommittee recommendations to the City Council as to the OLA's future,

Ram.

On Sun, Jul 9, 2023 at 12:05 PM Allan Abshez <allanabshez@sbcglobal.net> wrote:

Hello folks,

I'm the PRWC Commissioner representing District 8, and am chairing the PRWC Subcommittee that is preparing the PRWC's recommendations to the City Council regarding the Waterfront Specific Plan. I'm writing to acknowledge and respond to the numerous personal letters the Commission received expressing enjoyment in the Off Leash Area (OLA) of Cesar Chavez Park, and worry about the PRWC's recommendations as to the OLA's future.

Thank you for taking the time to write. The draft Subcommittee report, which the Commission will consider at its meeting this coming Wednesday, recommends that Cesar Chavez Park be included in the Waterfront Specific Plan, and that a Master Plan/Landscape Plan be prepared for the Park. As to the OLA the Subcommittee report makes the following (verbatim) recommendations:

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I hope that you will take the time to attend the PRWC this coming Wednesday evening to express your opinions to the PRWC in person. It will take place at 7 pm at the **Frances Albrier Community Center** (large auditorium) located at 2800 Park Street in Berkeley.

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Thanks for your engagement, input, and interest in making the Waterfront an even better place for the enjoyment of the community.

Cheers,

Allan Abshez

PRWC Commissioner, District 8

Miller, Roger

From: Allan Abshez <allanabshez@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Tuesday, July 11, 2023 8:03 AM
To: Miller, Roger; Claudia Kawczynska
Subject: Fwd: The future of OLA

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Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From: Lieza Stark <liezastark@gmail.com>
Date: July 11, 2023 at 7:19:12 AM PDT
To: allanabshez@sbcglobal.net
Subject: The future of OLA

Hello Allan Abshez,

As a daily park user I support the subcommittee recommendations to the city council as to the Off Leash Area's future.

Kindly,
Lieza Stark

Miller, Roger

From: Allan Abshez <allanabshez@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Tuesday, July 11, 2023 6:27 AM
To: Miller, Roger; Claudia Kawczynska
Subject: Fwd: PRWC Subcommittee Report on Berkeley Waterfront Specific Plan - July 12, 2023 PRWC Commission meeting

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Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From: ECR <ericacr323@gmail.com>
Date: July 10, 2023 at 10:51:49 PM PDT
To: Allan Abshez <allanabshez@sbcglobal.net>
Cc: Save CC <savecc6@gmail.com>
Subject: Re: PRWC Subcommittee Report on Berkeley Waterfront Specific Plan - July 12, 2023 PRWC Commission meeting

Dear Commissioner Abshez,

Thank you for taking the time to read and acknowledge my letter about the OLA at Cesar Chavez Park. Please know that I support the subcommittee recommendations to the City Council as to the OLA's future.

Thank you,
Erica C. Roberts

On Sun, Jul 9, 2023 at 12:05 PM Allan Abshez <allanabshez@sbcglobal.net> wrote:

Hello folks,

I'm the PRWC Commissioner representing District 8, and am chairing the PRWC Subcommittee that is preparing the PRWC's recommendations to the City Council regarding the Waterfront Specific Plan. I'm writing to acknowledge and respond to the numerous personal letters the Commission received expressing enjoyment in the Off Leash Area (OLA) of Cesar Chavez Park, and worry about the PRWC's recommendations as to the OLA's future.

Thank you for taking the time to write. The draft Subcommittee report, which the Commission will consider at its meeting this coming Wednesday, recommends that Cesar Chavez Park be included in the Waterfront Specific Plan, and that a Master Plan/Landscape Plan be prepared for the Park. As to the OLA the Subcommittee report makes the following (verbatim) recommendations:

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Thanks for your engagement, input, and interest in making the Waterfront an even better place for the enjoyment of the community.

Cheers,

Allan Abshez

PRWC Commissioner, District 8

Miller, Roger

From: Allan Abshez <allanabshez@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Monday, July 10, 2023 6:34 PM
To: Miller, Roger; Claudia Kawczynska
Subject: FW: Please save the OLA of Cesar Chavez park!

WARNING: This is not a City of Berkeley email. Do not click links or attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

From: Alyssa Payongayong <alyssa.payongayong@gmail.com>
Date: Monday, July 10, 2023 at 6:30 PM
To: <allanabshez@sbcglobal.net>
Cc: <savecc6@gmail.com>
Subject: Please save the OLA of Cesar Chavez park!

Dear Allan,

I know Jeff from Cesar Chavez, we met while walking our dogs. I wasn't able to send a letter by July 6 to be included in the PRW agenda packet for the July 12 meeting, however I do want to let you know that **I support the subcommittee recommendations to the City Council as to the OLA's future!!!**

I depend on this park for my dogs at least 3 times a week and am always so appreciative of what an amazing and wonderful space it is! If you think it's worth it to finish and submit my letter to you, please let me know. Otherwise, please know you have my support.

Thank you for all your hard work!

Sincerely,

Alyssa Payongayong

Miller, Roger

From: Allan Abshez <allanabshez@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Monday, July 10, 2023 6:34 PM
To: Miller, Roger; Claudia Kawczynska
Subject: FW: PRWC Subcommittee Report on Berkeley Waterfront Specific Plan - July 12, 2023 PRWC Commission meeting

WARNING: This is not a City of Berkeley email. Do not click links or attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

From: Tamar Gershon <tamarg08@icloud.com>
Date: Monday, July 10, 2023 at 6:10 PM
To: Allan Abshez <allanabshez@sbcglobal.net>
Subject: Re: PRWC Subcommittee Report on Berkeley Waterfront Specific Plan - July 12, 2023 PRWC Commission meeting

Dear Allan,
Thank you very much for your reply!
I agree that these ideas are excellent and I do support them wholeheartedly.
The OLA is a very special place
As is all of Cesar Chavez park.
It is an important place for me and my family and we have been going there regularly for 16 hours throughout my daughters childhood, and the life of two dogs.
All the very best to you, with much appreciation for your efforts!

Tamar

On Jul 9, 2023, at 12:05 PM, Allan Abshez <allanabshez@sbcglobal.net> wrote:

Hello folks,

I'm the PRWC Commissioner representing District 8, and am chairing the PRWC Subcommittee that is preparing the PRWC's recommendations to the City Council regarding the Waterfront Specific Plan. I'm writing to acknowledge and respond to the numerous personal letters the Commission received expressing enjoyment in the Off Leash Area (OLA) of Cesar Chavez Park, and worry about the PRWC's recommendations as to the OLA's future.

Thank you for taking the time to write. The draft Subcommittee report, which the Commission will consider at its meeting this coming Wednesday, recommends that Cesar Chavez Park be included in the Waterfront Specific Plan, and that a Master Plan/Landscape Plan be prepared for the Park. As to the OLA the Subcommittee report makes the following (verbatim) recommendations:

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I hope that you will take the time to attend the PRWC this coming Wednesday evening to express your opinions to the PRWC in person. It will take place at 7 pm at the **Frances Albrier Community Center** (large auditorium) located at 2800 Park Street in Berkeley.

I also hope that you will consider supporting the recommendations of the draft Subcommittee Report, which is attached to the Commission agenda and be found at the following link:

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Thanks for your engagement, input, and interest in making the Waterfront an even better place for the enjoyment of the community.

Cheers,
Allan Abshez
PRWC Commissioner, District 8

Miller, Roger

From: Allan Abshez <allanabshez@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Monday, July 10, 2023 6:33 PM
To: Miller, Roger; Claudia Kawczynska
Subject: FW: PRWC Subcommittee Report on Berkeley Waterfront Specific Plan - July 12, 2023 PRWC Commission meeting

WARNING: This is not a City of Berkeley email. Do not click links or attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

From: <sarahelzea@gmail.com>
Date: Monday, July 10, 2023 at 5:59 PM
To: Allan Abshez <allanabshez@sbcglobal.net>
Cc: Save CC <savecc6@gmail.com>
Subject: Re: PRWC Subcommittee Report on Berkeley Waterfront Specific Plan - July 12, 2023 PRWC Commission meeting

Hi Allan,

Thanks for the email.

This is just a quick note to say that **I support the subcommittee recommendations to the City Council as to the OLA's future.**

Cheers,
Sarah

On Jul 9, 2023, at 12:05 PM, Allan Abshez <allanabshez@sbcglobal.net> wrote:

Hello folks,

I'm the PRWC Commissioner representing District 8, and am chairing the PRWC Subcommittee that is preparing the PRWC's recommendations to the City Council regarding the Waterfront Specific Plan. I'm writing to acknowledge and respond to the numerous personal letters the Commission received expressing enjoyment in the Off Leash Area (OLA) of Cesar Chavez Park, and worry about the PRWC's recommendations as to the OLA's future.

Thank you for taking the time to write. The draft Subcommittee report, which the Commission will consider at its meeting this coming Wednesday, recommends that Cesar Chavez Park be included in the Waterfront Specific Plan, and that a Master Plan/Landscape Plan be prepared for the Park. As to the OLA the Subcommittee report makes the following (verbatim) recommendations:

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Thanks for your engagement, input, and interest in making the Waterfront an even better place for the enjoyment of the community.

Cheers,
Allan Abshez
PRWC Commissioner, District 8

Miller, Roger

From: Allan Abshez <allanabshez@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Monday, July 10, 2023 6:33 PM
To: Miller, Roger; Claudia Kawczynska
Subject: FW: Keep Off Leash dog privileges at Chavez

WARNING: This is not a City of Berkeley email. Do not click links or attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

From: "CAROL F." <seedyfields@gmail.com>
Date: Monday, July 10, 2023 at 5:49 PM
To: <allanabshez@sbcglobal.net>
Cc: <savecc6@gmail.com>
Subject: Keep Off Leash dog privileges at Chavez

July 10th,2023

Dear Allen,

I support the subcommittee recommendations to the City Council as to the OLA's future.

I have been using the off leash area of Cesar Chavez for approximately 20 year. My current 12+ year old dog, 2co (for 2 colors), has grown up there and my previous pups also got to romp and play there until they were no longer able.

Initially, it was just a great place to let the pups run off pent up energy but it quickly became a respite for me as well. Not only do I enjoy just walking around the area but I also bird watch, used to bring my former students on the weekends and now sit at the picnic table and journal in the mornings (I'm recently retired) while my pup lounges or sniffs around the tree or plays with other dogs.

I've brought friends for walks and have taken numerous pictures and videos of the views, the Chavez memorial, flowers and birds (also snakes, lizards, skunks, jack rabbits), sitting and in motion. I've used my photos for painting and drawing subjects and hope to, in the future, feel confident enough to create live portraits of the beautiful flora, fauna as well as birds and views.

Despite it's relatively small area, Chavez is one of my favorite places to hang out because it has so many uses for me. I'm there at least 3-4 times a week. It's so nice that I can utilize the space in multiple ways in one visit as when I come to journal and my dog and I both get outside of our apartment.

Please keep Chavez accessible to humans and our fur children. It is a lifeline in so many ways. Thank you for your support!

Carol Fields

415-710-9554 ☺

PS Tons of pictures upon request ☺

Miller, Roger

From: Allan Abshez <allanabshez@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Monday, July 10, 2023 6:33 PM
To: Miller, Roger; Claudia Kawczynska
Subject: FW: Cesar Chavez Off Leash Area

WARNING: This is not a City of Berkeley email. Do not click links or attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

From: Jenee Deuel <mrsmanclub@gmail.com>
Date: Monday, July 10, 2023 at 5:47 PM
To: "Allanabshez@sbcglobal.net" <Allanabshez@sbcglobal.net>
Subject: Cesar Chavez Off Leash Area

Dear Allan,

I am writing to send my utmost support to the subcommittee recommendations to the City Council as to the OLA's future.

I have been a supporter and visitor (with my dog!) over 12 years and double that ,while living in Oakland and Albany,to the OLA Cesar Chavez Park.

The importance of this valued park and specifically the OLA, used by my family, and our malamute over 3-5 times a week is 100 fold.

It is more than a park to us. I walked there when my father passed away. Numerous family picnics and celebrations.

Too numerous to count, but to say that the OLA is the "most special" place to us, is putting it mildly.

With all the sincerity and gratitude, speaking for just one family, of the OLA people and dogs,

Jenee Deuel

Miller, Roger

From: Allan Abshez <allanabshez@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Monday, July 10, 2023 6:32 PM
To: Miller, Roger; Claudia Kawczynska
Subject: FW: CC Off Leash Area

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On 7/10/23, 5:21 PM, "Jennifer Millar" <jenniferjmillar@me.com <mailto:jenniferjmillar@me.com>> wrote:

I support the subcommittee's recommendations for CC Off Leash Area.

Thank you,

Jennifer Millar

Miller, Roger

From: Allan Abshez <allanabshez@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Monday, July 10, 2023 6:32 PM
To: Miller, Roger; Claudia Kawczynska
Subject: FW: OLA

WARNING: This is not a City of Berkeley email. Do not click links or attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

From: alesia vaughn <lushlips255@gmail.com>
Date: Monday, July 10, 2023 at 5:10 PM
To: <allanabshez@sbcglobal.net>
Subject: OLA

- **I support the subcommittee recommendations to the City Council as to the OLA's future.**

Alesia Vaughn
Sent from my iPhone

Miller, Roger

From: Allan Abshez <allanabshez@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Monday, July 10, 2023 6:30 PM
To: Miller, Roger; Claudia Kawczynska
Subject: FW: I support the subcommittee recommendations to the City Council as to the OLA's future.

WARNING: This is not a City of Berkeley email. Do not click links or attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

From: Ethan Y <eyipe26@gmail.com>
Date: Monday, July 10, 2023 at 4:43 PM
To: <Allanabshez@sbcglobal.net>, <savecc6@gmail.com>
Subject: I support the subcommittee recommendations to the City Council as to the OLA's future.

Hello Allan,

Thank you for keeping the OLA as part of the Waterfront Specific plan.

I support the subcommittee recommendations to the City Council as to the OLA's future!

Best regards,
Ethan

Miller, Roger

From: Allan Abshez <allanabshez@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Monday, July 10, 2023 6:29 PM
To: Miller, Roger; Claudia Kawczynska
Subject: FW: CC park community

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From: jordan carp <jcatman2112@gmail.com>
Date: Monday, July 10, 2023 at 4:19 PM
To: <allanabshez@sbcglobal.net>
Cc: Save CC <savecc6@gmail.com>
Subject: CC park community

Allan,

I support the subcommittee recommendations to the City Council as to the OLA's future. I enjoy the park and thanks for considering.

Jordan

Miller, Roger

From: Allan Abshez <allanabshez@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Monday, July 10, 2023 3:58 PM
To: Miller, Roger; Claudia Kawczynska
Subject: FW: CC OLA

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On 7/10/23, 3:48 PM, "Jennifer Chinlund" <jchinlund@gmail.com <mailto:jchinlund@gmail.com>> wrote:

I support the subcommittee recommendations to the City Council concerning the future of the OLA.

Jennifer Chinlund

Miller, Roger

From: Allan Abshez <allanabshez@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Monday, July 10, 2023 3:50 PM
To: Miller, Roger; Claudia Kawczynska
Subject: FW: CC OLA

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On 7/10/23, 3:48 PM, "Jennifer Chinlund" <jchinlund@gmail.com <mailto:jchinlund@gmail.com>> wrote:

I support the subcommittee recommendations to the City Council concerning the future of the OLA.

Jennifer Chinlund

Miller, Roger

From: Allan Abshez <allanabshez@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Monday, July 10, 2023 3:43 PM
To: Miller, Roger; Claudia Kawczynska
Subject: FW: PRWC Subcommittee Report on Berkeley Waterfront Specific Plan - July 12, 2023 PRWC Commission meeting

WARNING: This is not a City of Berkeley email. Do not click links or attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

From: "Erika Hazel, The Bizerkeley Vegan" <thebizerkeleyvegan@gmail.com>
Date: Monday, July 10, 2023 at 3:40 PM
To: Allan Abshez <allanabshez@sbcglobal.net>
Subject: Re: PRWC Subcommittee Report on Berkeley Waterfront Specific Plan - July 12, 2023 PRWC Commission meeting

Hi Allan,

I support the subcommittee recommendations to the City Council as to the OLA's future.

Thank you!

Erika Hazel (she/her)

Founder/Owner of The Bizerkeley Food Festival

Vegan Food Critic & Event Planner

Instagram, @bizerkeleyvegan @bizerkeleyfoodfest

Phone #: 510-833-5170



On Sun, Jul 9, 2023 at 12:05 PM Allan Abshez <allanabshez@sbcglobal.net> wrote:

Hello folks,

I'm the PRWC Commissioner representing District 8, and am chairing the PRWC Subcommittee that is preparing the PRWC's recommendations to the City Council regarding the Waterfront Specific Plan. I'm writing to acknowledge and respond to the numerous personal letters the Commission received expressing enjoyment in the Off Leash Area (OLA) of Cesar Chavez Park, and worry about the PRWC's recommendations as to the OLA's future.

Thank you for taking the time to write. The draft Subcommittee report, which the Commission will consider at its meeting this coming Wednesday, recommends that Cesar Chavez Park be included in the Waterfront Specific Plan, and that a Master Plan/Landscape Plan be prepared for the Park. As to the OLA the Subcommittee report makes the following (verbatim) recommendations:

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I hope that you will take the time to attend the PRWC this coming Wednesday evening to express your opinions to the PRWC in person. It will take place at 7 pm at the **Frances Albrier Community Center** (large auditorium) located at 2800 Park Street in Berkeley.

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Thanks for your engagement, input, and interest in making the Waterfront an even better place for the enjoyment of the community.

Cheers,

Allan Abshez

PRWC Commissioner, District 8

Miller, Roger

From: Allan Abshez <allanabshez@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Monday, July 10, 2023 3:43 PM
To: Miller, Roger; Claudia Kawczynska
Subject: FW: I support the subcommittee recommendations to the City Council as to the OLA's future.

WARNING: This is not a City of Berkeley email. Do not click links or attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

From: Ezra Malmuth <emalmuth@gmail.com>
Date: Monday, July 10, 2023 at 3:32 PM
To: <allanabshez@sbcglobal.net>
Cc: Save CC <savecc6@gmail.com>
Subject: I support the subcommittee recommendations to the City Council as to the OLA's future.

Thanks,
Ezra M

Sent via [Superhuman](#)

Miller, Roger

From: Allan Abshez <allanabshez@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Monday, July 10, 2023 3:27 PM
To: Miller, Roger; Claudia Kawczynska
Subject: FW: OLA

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From: "M. Moreno- Gonzalez" <mariana.moreno.gonzalez@gmail.com>
Date: Monday, July 10, 2023 at 3:19 PM
To: <allanabshez@sbcglobal.net>
Subject: OLA

Hi Allan!

I support the subcommittee recommendations to the City Council as to the OLA's future.

Best Regards,
Mariana Moreno-Gonzalez

marianapaintedthis.com

Miller, Roger

From: Allan Abshez <allanabshez@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Monday, July 10, 2023 2:58 PM
To: Miller, Roger; Claudia Kawczynska
Subject: FW: Subcommittee recommendations for OLA

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From: Melissa Ta <melissa.ta@gmail.com>
Date: Monday, July 10, 2023 at 2:39 PM
To: <allanabshez@sbcglobal.net>
Cc: <savecc6@gmail.com>
Subject: Subcommittee recommendations for OLA

Dear Mr. Abshez,

I support the subcommittee recommendations to the City Council as to the OLA's future.

Thank you,

Melissa Ta

Miller, Roger

From: Allan Abshez <allanabshez@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Monday, July 10, 2023 2:58 PM
To: Miller, Roger; Claudia Kawczynska
Subject: FW: OLA's future

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From: "deny53@aol.com" <deny53@aol.com>
Date: Monday, July 10, 2023 at 2:32 PM
To: "allanabshez@sbcglobal.net" <allanabshez@sbcglobal.net>, Save CC <savecc6@gmail.com>
Subject: OLA's future

Hello,

I support the subcommittee recommendations to the City Council as to the OLA's future.

Regards,

Daniela Calciolari

Miller, Roger

From: Allan Abshez <allanabshez@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Monday, July 10, 2023 2:57 PM
To: Miller, Roger; Claudia Kawczynska
Subject: FW: OLA

WARNING: This is not a City of Berkeley email. Do not click links or attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

From: Tamar Gershon <tamarg08@icloud.com>
Date: Monday, July 10, 2023 at 2:32 PM
To: <allanabshez@sbcglobal.net>
Subject: OLA

Dear Allan,
With all due respect, I want to let you know, that I most sincerely:

support the subcommittee recommendations to the City Council as to the OLA's future.

Thank you very much for your attention to this important area
in Berkeley

All my best
Tamar Gershon, MD

Miller, Roger

From: Allan Abshez <allanabshez@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Monday, July 10, 2023 2:57 PM
To: Miller, Roger; Claudia Kawczynska
Subject: FW: CC off leash area support

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From: Sherry Shannon <sherry.sfbike@gmail.com>
Date: Monday, July 10, 2023 at 2:28 PM
To: <allanabshez@sbcglobal.net>
Cc: <savecc6@gmail.com>
Subject: CC off leash area support

- **Hi Allen,**
- **I support the subcommittee recommendations to the City Council as to the OLA's future.**
- **Thanks!**

--
Sherry Shannon
415.377.5453

"Women belong in all places where decisions are being made... It shouldn't be that women are the exception." —Ruth Bader Ginsburg

Miller, Roger

From: Allan Abshez <allanabshez@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Monday, July 10, 2023 2:15 PM
To: Miller, Roger; Claudia Kawczynska
Subject: FW: Future of Cesar Chavez Park's Off-Leash Area

WARNING: This is not a City of Berkeley email. Do not click links or attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

From: Ryan Turner <compassrose@gmail.com>
Date: Monday, July 10, 2023 at 1:59 PM
To: <allanabshez@sbcglobal.net>
Subject: Future of Cesar Chavez Park's Off-Leash Area

I support the subcommittee recommendations to the City Council as to the OLA's future.

Miller, Roger

From: Allan Abshez <allanabshez@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Monday, July 10, 2023 2:15 PM
To: Miller, Roger; Claudia Kawczynska
Subject: FW: Future of Cesar Chavez Park's Off-Leash Area

WARNING: This is not a City of Berkeley email. Do not click links or attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

From: Ryan Turner <compassrose@gmail.com>
Date: Monday, July 10, 2023 at 1:59 PM
To: <allanabshez@sbcglobal.net>
Subject: Future of Cesar Chavez Park's Off-Leash Area

I support the subcommittee recommendations to the City Council as to the OLA's future.

Miller, Roger

From: Allan Abshez <allanabshez@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Monday, July 10, 2023 2:16 PM
To: Miller, Roger; Claudia Kawczynska
Subject: FW: Cesar Chavez Park and the Off-Leash Area

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From: Maurice Atchan <moe415@sbcglobal.net>
Date: Monday, July 10, 2023 at 2:05 PM
To: <allanabshez@sbcglobal.net>
Subject: Cesar Chavez Park and the Off-Leash Area

- **I support the subcommittee recommendations to the City Council as to the OLA's future.**

Sent from my iPhone

Miller, Roger

From: Allan Abshez <allanabshez@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Monday, July 10, 2023 2:24 PM
To: Miller, Roger; Claudia Kawczynska
Subject: FW: Cesar Chavez Park OLA Recommendations - Support

WARNING: This is not a City of Berkeley email. Do not click links or attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

From: Melanie Moore <melaniemoorekubo@gmail.com>
Date: Monday, July 10, 2023 at 2:15 PM
To: <allanabshez@sbcglobal.net>
Cc: <savecc6@gmail.com>
Subject: Cesar Chavez Park OLA Recommendations - Support

Dear Commissioner Abshez,

I support the subcommittee recommendations to the City Council as to the OLA's future.

Thank you for your leadership,
Melanie Moore

Miller, Roger

From: Allan Abshez <allanabshez@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Monday, July 10, 2023 2:15 PM
To: Miller, Roger; Claudia Kawczynska
Subject: FW: I support the subcommittee recommendations to the City Council as to the OLA

WARNING: This is not a City of Berkeley email. Do not click links or attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

From: steve kemnitz <kemns@yahoo.com>
Date: Monday, July 10, 2023 at 1:57 PM
To: "allanabshez@sbcglobal.net" <allanabshez@sbcglobal.net>
Cc: "savecc6@gmail.com" <savecc6@gmail.com>
Subject: I support the subcommittee recommendations to the City Council as to the OLA

Hi Allan,

I am writing to express my wholehearted support for the PRWC's recommendations to the City Council for the off the leash dog area (OTA) at Cesar Chavez Park and to emphasize the significant role it plays in my daily life with my dog, Otis. As a frequent visitor to the park, I firmly believe that preserving and enhancing this valuable resource is of utmost importance for our community.

For the past 2 years, the off the leash area at Cesar Chavez Park has become an integral part of our everyday routine. Otis and I have enjoyed countless hours exploring, playing, and interacting with other dog owners and their pets within this safe and designated space. The dog park has not only provided physical exercise for Otis and myself but has also contributed to his socialization, confidence, and overall well-being.

The positive impact of the off the leash area extends far beyond the realm of personal enjoyment. It serves as a hub for building a strong sense of community among dog owners and local residents. As we spend time in the park, we have witnessed strangers becoming friends, neighbors supporting each other, and a shared camaraderie forming among those who visit regularly. This park has become a place where we can connect, share experiences, and learn from one another, fostering a sense of unity and belonging.

In conclusion, I would like to express my gratitude for your commitment to making our community a better place. I hope that you and the City Council will take my perspective and the sentiments of other dog park users into account when deliberating on matters related to the OTA at Cesar Chavez Park. Please feel free to reach out to me if you require any further information or if I can be of assistance in supporting this cause.

Best Regards,

Steve Kemnitz
804 Page Street
Berkeley, California

Miller, Roger

From: Allan Abshez <allanabshez@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Monday, July 10, 2023 2:15 PM
To: Miller, Roger; Claudia Kawczynska
Subject: FW: OLA

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On 7/10/23, 1:54 PM, "davidrice" <drice2@comcast.net <mailto:drice2@comcast.net>> wrote:

Hello,

I support the subcommittee's recommendations to the City Council as to the OLA's future.

(I was out of town and did not get a letter to you before the deadline, unfortunately.)

David Rice
1470 Keoncrest Drive

Sent from my iPhone

Miller, Roger

From: Allan Abshez <allanabshez@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Monday, July 10, 2023 2:15 PM
To: Miller, Roger; Claudia Kawczynska
Subject: FW: Save off leash area

WARNING: This is not a City of Berkeley email. Do not click links or attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

From: Carol Barnes <cbarnes058@gmail.com>
Date: Monday, July 10, 2023 at 1:51 PM
To: <allanabshez@sbcglobal.net>
Subject: Save off leash area

- **I support the subcommittee recommendations to the City Council as to the OLA's future.**

Carole Barnes and JoJo her friendly dog

Sent from my iPhone

Miller, Roger

From: Allan Abshez <allanabshez@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Monday, July 10, 2023 2:14 PM
To: Miller, Roger; Claudia Kawczynska
Subject: FW: I support the subcommittee recommendations to the City Council as to the OLA's future.

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From: avi thomas <avithomas@ucdavis.edu>
Date: Monday, July 10, 2023 at 1:42 PM
To: <allanabshez@sbcglobal.net>
Cc: Save CC <savecc6@gmail.com>
Subject: I support the subcommittee recommendations to the City Council as to the OLA's future.

I support the subcommittee recommendations to the City Council as to the OLA's future.

Miller, Roger

From: Allan Abshez <allanabshez@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Monday, July 10, 2023 2:14 PM
To: Miller, Roger; Claudia Kawczynska
Subject: FW: PRWC Subcommittee Report on Berkeley Waterfront Specific Plan - July 12, 2023 PRWC Commission meeting

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From: Chris Schreiber <schreibc@comcast.net>
Date: Monday, July 10, 2023 at 1:20 PM
To: Allan Abshez <allanabshez@sbcglobal.net>
Subject: Re: PRWC Subcommittee Report on Berkeley Waterfront Specific Plan - July 12, 2023 PRWC Commission meeting

Hi, Allan - thanks for writing. Appreciate the response and the good news you are conveying.

The subcommittee recommendation sounds great and I support. Glad to know the off leash area is being recognized for the great value it brings to our community!

Chris Schreiber

Sent from my iPhone

On Jul 9, 2023, at 12:05 PM, Allan Abshez <allanabshez@sbcglobal.net> wrote:

Hello folks,

I'm the PRWC Commissioner representing District 8, and am chairing the PRWC Subcommittee that is preparing the PRWC's recommendations to the City Council regarding the Waterfront Specific Plan. I'm writing to acknowledge and respond to the numerous personal letters the Commission received expressing enjoyment in the Off Leash Area (OLA) of Cesar Chavez Park, and worry about the PRWC's recommendations as to the OLA's future.

Thank you for taking the time to write. The draft Subcommittee report, which the Commission will consider at its meeting this coming Wednesday, recommends that Cesar Chavez Park be included in the Waterfront Specific Plan, and that a Master Plan/Landscape Plan be prepared for the Park. As to the OLA the Subcommittee report makes the following (verbatim) recommendations:

"The Off-Leash Area (OLA) should be Maintained and Improved:

The 17-acre Off-Leash Area of Cesar Chavez Park is an important City-wide amenity, and a core use of Cesar Chavez Park. Its boundaries should be appropriately demarcated to protect sensitive

ecological areas and marked to deter off-leash activity in park areas not intended for that purpose. Bulletin board improvements, including maps depicting the boundaries of the OLA should be added. A mowing plan and schedule should be adopted for the OLA, and a viable and sustainable foxtail management program and reseeding plan should be implemented. Consideration should be given to dedicating the OLA to the memory of Cesar Chavez's dogs, Boycott and Huelga (Strike), with a public artwork memorial. Seating amenities, including boulders, straw bales, and appropriately located seating walls and artwork should be located at hilltops with panoramic view opportunities. The use of wood chips should be minimized in the OLA, as it makes many areas unusable for dogs and people and covers native burrowing bee habitats. Other plantings, such as trees and shrubs should be considered for this area.”

I hope that you will take the time to attend the PRWC this coming Wednesday evening to express your opinions to the PRWC in person. It will take place at 7 pm at the **Frances Albrier Community Center** (large auditorium) located at 2800 Park Street in Berkeley.

I also hope that you will consider supporting the recommendations of the draft Subcommittee Report, which is attached to the Commission agenda and be found at the following link:

<https://berkeleyca.gov/your-government/boards-commissions/parks-recreation-and-waterfront-commission>

If the Subcommittee report is adopted by the PRWC it will become the Commission's recommendation to the City Council as the Council gives its direction for preparation of the Specific Plan itself.

Thanks for your engagement, input, and interest in making the Waterfront an even better place for the enjoyment of the community.

Cheers,
Allan Abshez
PRWC Commissioner, District 8

Miller, Roger

From: Allan Abshez <allanabshez@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Monday, July 10, 2023 2:14 PM
To: Miller, Roger; Claudia Kawczynska
Subject: FW: OLA User supports Subcommittee Recommendations

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From: Keith Feldman <k.p.feldman@gmail.com>
Date: Monday, July 10, 2023 at 1:11 PM
To: <allanabshez@sbcglobal.net>
Cc: <savecc6@gmail.com>
Subject: OLA User supports Subcommittee Recommendations

Greetings, Commissioner Abshez,

I live in Central Berkeley. My family and I have spent hundreds of hours at Cesar Chavez over the last three years with our dog, Calvin. It has been a welcome sanctuary during the pandemic, a place to commune with friends and neighbors. The Off Leash Area is an absolute jewel, a place that I know brings so many people-- and their doggie companions-- joy, contentment, and a sense of rejuvenation.

While I cannot attend the meeting on July 12, I wanted to write to let you know that **I support the subcommittee recommendations to the City Council as to the OLA's future.**

Warm wishes,

Keith Feldman
2166 Jefferson Avenue, Berkeley
510-326-0909

Miller, Roger

From: Allan Abshez <allanabshez@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Monday, July 10, 2023 2:14 PM
To: Miller, Roger; Claudia Kawczynska
Subject: FW: Cesar Chavez Off Leash Area

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From: Yesim Erim <erimyesim@gmail.com>
Date: Monday, July 10, 2023 at 1:10 PM
To: <allanabshez@sbcglobal.net>
Subject: Cesar Chavez Off Leash Area

Dear Allan,
I am a regular user of the OLA along with my 10 year old rescue pup.
I support the subcommittee recommendations to the City Council as to the OLA's future.

Thank you,
Yesim and Trixie

Yeşim Erim Goktekin
510.502.1573

Miller, Roger

From: Allan Abshez <allanabshez@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Monday, July 10, 2023 2:13 PM
To: Miller, Roger; Claudia Kawczynska
Subject: FW: Cesar Chavez

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On 7/10/23, 1:07 PM, "Wini Williams" <wini_working4you@yahoo.com <mailto:wini_working4you@yahoo.com>> wrote:

Dear Allan. Hank you for your support of our attempts to maintain our OLA.
I support the city council submission regarding the OLA.

Sent from my iPad   

Miller, Roger

From: Allan Abshez <allanabshez@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Monday, July 10, 2023 2:13 PM
To: Miller, Roger; Claudia Kawczynska
Subject: FW: Save CC

WARNING: This is not a City of Berkeley email. Do not click links or attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

From: Kurt Jon <spacecritter@gmail.com>
Date: Monday, July 10, 2023 at 12:59 PM
To: <allanabshez@sbcglobal.net>
Cc: <savecc6@gmail.com>
Subject: Save CC

Dear Allan,

I support the subcommittee recommendations to the City Council as to the OLA's future.

Sincerely,

Kurt Caudle

Miller, Roger

From: Allan Abshez <allanabshez@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Monday, July 10, 2023 2:13 PM
To: Miller, Roger
Cc: Claudia Kawczynska
Subject: FW: Off leash dog park at cc

WARNING: This is not a City of Berkeley email. Do not click links or attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

From: Gillian Haratani <hellogillian@gmail.com>
Date: Monday, July 10, 2023 at 12:34 PM
To: <allanabshez@sbcglobal.net>, "savecc6@gmail.com" <savecc6@gmail.com>
Subject: Off leash dog park at cc

- **Dear Allan Abshez,**
-
- **I am a fourth generation Berkeley resident and I support the subcommittee recommendations to the City Council as to the OLA's future.**

I have enjoyed the Off leash area since the mid nineties. My three dogs from that time until now have benefited from this space and I have been very grateful for its existence.

Thank you for your work!

Gillian Haratani

Miller, Roger

From: Allan Abshez <allanabshez@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Monday, July 10, 2023 2:13 PM
To: Miller, Roger
Cc: Claudia Kawczynska
Subject: FW: OLA

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On 7/10/23, 12:22 PM, "Joyce Freedman" <rejoycef@yahoo.com <mailto:rejoycef@yahoo.com>> wrote:

Dear Allan Abshez,
I support the subcommittee's recommendations to the City Counsel as to the OLA's future.
Thank you,
Joyce Freedman
Sent from my iPad

Miller, Roger

From: Allan Abshez <allanabshez@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Monday, July 10, 2023 2:12 PM
To: Miller, Roger
Cc: Claudia Kawczynska
Subject: FW: Recommendations for the OLA at CC

WARNING: This is not a City of Berkeley email. Do not click links or attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

From: Stefani Berger <stefaniberger43@gmail.com>
Date: Monday, July 10, 2023 at 12:25 PM
To: <allanabshez@sbcglobal.net>
Cc: Save CC <savecc6@gmail.com>
Subject: Recommendations for the OLA at CC

Dear Allen, Thank you for your recommendation for the OLA. I totally support everything that you are recommending to the City Council. Please do use my name as needed.
Thank you!!!!

Best,

In dance!

Stefani

*"In this time of crisis, the arts give us hope, elevate our spirits
and help us transcend the difficulties facing us now."*

Miller, Roger

From: Allan Abshez <allanabshez@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Monday, July 10, 2023 11:19 AM
To: pauli@lmi.net
Cc: Miller, Roger
Subject: Re: PRWC Subcommittee Report on Berkeley Waterfront Specific Plan - July 12, 2023 PRWC Commission meeting

WARNING: This is not a City of Berkeley email. Do not click links or attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Thanks, Paul.

I use the Park and am there at least once a week, in all weather, in all seasons. So, be assured I've got the picture.

I should have added, but forgot to, that to ensure your input is received and read by all of the Commissioners (and get into the public record) correspondence to the PRWC should be directed to our great Commission secretary, Roger Miller, cc'd above.

I hope to see you at our Wednesday meeting if your schedule permits, and I hope you will support the Subcommittee's report to the Council.

Thanks,
Allan

From: <pauli@lmi.net>
Date: Monday, July 10, 2023 at 10:42 AM
To: 'Allan Abshez' <allanabshez@sbcglobal.net>
Cc: Jeff <savecc6@gmail.com>
Subject: RE: PRWC Subcommittee Report on Berkeley Waterfront Specific Plan - July 12, 2023 PRWC Commission meeting

Hello Mr. Abshez,

My name is Paul Mileck I am a dog owner and frequent user of the Cesar Chavez off-leash area.

Thank you for forwarding recommendations re OLA outlined verbatim in your July 9 email-- I think they make sense.

On June 30, 2023, in a letter to the board Martin Nicholas writes:

The report also ignores the obvious fact that only a minority of park visitors come to the park with dogs. And only a fraction of those ever use the Off-Leash Area. Much of the time the area sits empty. And only a fraction of those who use the OLA love its lack of enclosure. Many dog owners would be happier with a more compact and contained area to keep their dogs from running out of sight, and to keep big dogs and little dogs separated. Many dog owners, and most other park visitors, would much prefer a professionally designed dog park.

First, it's not an "obvious fact that only a minority of park visitors come to the park with dogs". I use the park almost daily and almost everyone that parks vehicles along the south edge of the park (nice new parking strip!) comes with

dogs. Almost all the folks unload, lease their dogs, then walk directly into the dog park while respecting on-leash boundaries. Note: If you are going to post signage, this would be the area to get people's attention. They unload, see the signs and obey – we hope.

Next, the statement that, "many dog owners would be happier with a more compact and contained area to keep their dogs from running out of sight, and to keep big dogs and little dogs separated," is not accurate. You never hear this sort of talk from folks that use the OLA. Everyone I know loves the "lack of enclosure," and there are always dogs at OLA during daylight hours.

Mr. Nichols cites a number of legitimate issues in his long letter to the board, but the misstatements in the quoted paragraph are sort of a giveaway as to his motivation. I don't think he likes dogs, and I know he does not like open off leash dog parks.

Protect the burrowing owls: Definitely a good idea to try and protect burrowing owl habitat. I believe area is relatively small, and it may be a good idea to fence it entirely so owls are not disturbed. I don't know much about owls, my dog never goes over there, but it would not surprise me if there are occasional violators (owners and dogs) that disturb the habitat. Fencing at that location would be out of view – I think – from users of remaining acreage at Cesar Chavez Park.

– Paul Mileck, OLA Park user

From: Allan Abshez <allanabshez@sbcglobal.net>

Sent: Sunday, July 9, 2023 12:06 PM

To: July 12, 2023 Commission Commentors <allanabshez@sbcglobal.net>

Subject: PRWC Subcommittee Report on Berkeley Waterfront Specific Plan - July 12, 2023 PRWC Commission meeting

Hello folks,

I'm the PRWC Commissioner representing District 8, and am chairing the PRWC Subcommittee that is preparing the PRWC's recommendations to the City Council regarding the Waterfront Specific Plan. I'm writing to acknowledge and respond to the numerous personal letters the Commission received expressing enjoyment in the Off Leash Area (OLA) of Cesar Chavez Park, and worry about the PRWC's recommendations as to the OLA's future.

Thank you for taking the time to write. The draft Subcommittee report, which the Commission will consider at its meeting this coming Wednesday, recommends that Cesar Chavez Park be included in the Waterfront Specific Plan, and that a Master Plan/Landscape Plan be prepared for the Park. As to the OLA the Subcommittee report makes the following (verbatim) recommendations:

"The Off-Leash Area (OLA) should be Maintained and Improved:

The 17-acre Off-Leash Area of Cesar Chavez Park is an important City-wide amenity, and a core use of Cesar Chavez Park. Its boundaries should be appropriately demarcated to protect sensitive ecological areas and marked to deter off-leash activity in park areas not intended for that purpose. Bulletin board improvements, including maps depicting the boundaries of the OLA should be added. A mowing plan and schedule should be adopted for the OLA, and a viable and sustainable foxtail

management program and reseedling plan should be implemented. Consideration should be given to dedicating the OLA to the memory of Cesar Chavez's dogs, Boycott and Huelga (Strike), with a public artwork memorial. Seating amenities, including boulders, straw bales, and appropriately located seating walls and artwork should be located at hilltops with panoramic view opportunities. The use of wood chips should be minimized in the OLA, as it makes many areas unusable for dogs and people and covers native burrowing bee habitats. Other plantings, such as trees and shrubs should be considered for this area."

I hope that you will take the time to attend the PRWC this coming Wednesday evening to express your opinions to the PRWC in person. It will take place at 7 pm at the **Frances Albrier Community Center** (large auditorium) located at 2800 Park Street in Berkeley.

I also hope that you will consider supporting the recommendations of the draft Subcommittee Report, which is attached to the Commission agenda and be found at the following link:

<https://berkeleyca.gov/your-government/boards-commissions/parks-recreation-and-waterfront-commission>

If the Subcommittee report is adopted by the PRWC it will become the Commission's recommendation to the City Council as the Council gives its direction for preparation of the Specific Plan itself.

Thanks for your engagement, input, and interest in making the Waterfront an even better place for the enjoyment of the community.

Cheers,
Allan Abshez
PRWC Commissioner, District 8