



Parks, Recreation, and Waterfront Department

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF A DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT (EIR) AND NOTICE OF DRAFT EIR PUBLIC MEETING FOR THE PROPOSED BERKELEY WATER TRANSPORTATION PIER FERRY

The City of Berkeley has prepared a Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the proposed Berkeley Water Transportation Pier Ferry (“project”) and is requesting comments on the Draft EIR. The Draft EIR addresses the potential physical environmental effects of the project for each of the environmental topics included in California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Appendix G.

Copies of the Draft EIR and documents incorporated by reference are on file at the City office (Parks, Recreation & Waterfront Department, 2180 Milvia Street, 3rd Floor, Berkeley, CA 94704) and located online at: <https://berkeleyca.gov/your-government/our-work/capital-projects/berkeley-pier-ferry-access-project>.

This notice is being sent to the California State Clearinghouse, Alameda County Clerk, adjacent cities, and other interested parties and individuals who have indicated they would like to review the Draft EIR.

PROJECT TITLE: Berkeley Water Transportation Pier Ferry Project

CEQA LEAD AGENCY: City of Berkeley

PROJECT LOCATION: The project site is located at the Berkeley Waterfront along the San Francisco Bay in the City of Berkeley, Alameda County. As shown in Figure 1, the project site specifically encompasses the closed Berkeley Pier, including the entry area for the Berkeley Pier; the San Francisco Bay waters surrounding a portion of the closed Berkeley Pier; the existing parking lot off Seawall Drive; the Skates on the Bay parking lot and parking lot M (for construction staging); roadways with landscaping (University Avenue and Seawall Drive); and various pathways and sidewalks.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The Berkeley Pier was closed in July 2015 due to visually observed structural problems on the underside of the concrete decking and pilings. The proposed project aims to revitalize the Berkeley Waterfront by developing a new dual-purpose pier and ancillary uses that support both public recreation and zero-emission public ferry service. Specifically, the project would include the following components:

- Demolish portions of the closed pier;
- Construct a new 1,080-foot-long public pier at the same location as the closed pier with pedestrian access and recreational amenities;
- Construct a new 400-foot-long breakwater perpendicular to and connected to the

new pier, providing pedestrian access and recreational amenities;

- Provide recreational amenities on the pier and breakwater that could include interpretive and educational signs, benches, shade canopy, seats, and a fish cleaning station;
- Provide ferry infrastructure including but not limited to universal charging and boarding float(s), landing(s), gangway(s), and security entrance;
- Dredging along the existing 100-foot wide United States Army Corps of Engineers federal navigation channel that parallels the closed pier;
- Construct a new public plaza with amenities such as a public restroom, benches, and bicycle parking;
- Implement improvements to University Avenue, including repaving and restriping between the round-about intersection with Marina Boulevard and the intersection with Seawall Drive and a new raised bicycle track, passenger drop off zone, and public bus infrastructure;
- Implement improvements to Seawall Drive, including re-alignment, repaving, and restriping;
- Develop a portion of the planned Bay Trail Extension, south of the pier and along Seawall Drive;
- Renovate the parking lot off Seawall Drive with new pavement, surfacing, striping, lighting, and stormwater treatment;
- Repair 300 feet of a stretch of shoreline located on the eastern side Seawall Peninsula, just north of the 199 Seawall Drive structure in the form of rock rip rap slope protection;
- Provide new landscaping as well as tree removal and replacement;
- Provide new way-finding signage and replacement lighting;
- Install new electric infrastructure to charge ferry vessels;
- Install new water connections for a restroom and hose bibs;
- Install new wastewater connections for a restroom; and
- Operate new zero-emission electric passenger ferry service, connecting the Berkeley ferry terminal to San Francisco and Larkspur ferry terminals.

In addition to the project components listed above, the City is considering adding solar panels to the renovated parking lot as an optional improvement. The City is in the process of deciding whether this feature will be incorporated into the project. The potential environmental impact from installing solar panels is analyzed in the EIR.

More information about the project can be found on the following City website:
<https://berkeleyca.gov/your-government/our-work/capital-projects/berkeley-pier-ferry-access-project>.

ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS: The Draft EIR analyzes the issue areas of Aesthetics, Agriculture and Forestry Resources, Air Quality, Biological Resources, Cultural Resources, Energy, Geology and Soils, Greenhouse Gas Emissions, Hazards and Hazardous Materials, Hydrology and Water Quality, Land Use and Planning, Mineral Resources, Noise, Population and Housing, Public Services, Recreation, Transportation,

Tribal Cultural Resources, Utilities and Service Systems, and Wildfire. Impacts related to Agriculture and Forestry Resources, Greenhouse Gas Emissions, Hazards and Hazardous Materials, Mineral Resources, Population and Housing, Public Services, Transportation, and Wildfire were found to be either no impact or less than significant. The project site does not appear on any of the lists of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5. Impacts related to Aesthetics, Air Quality, Biological Resources, Cultural Resources, Energy, Geology and Soils, Hydrology and Water Quality, Tribal Cultural Resources, and Utilities and Service Systems were found to be potentially significant but mitigable to a less-than-significant level with inclusion of project-specific mitigation measures. Impacts related to Land Use and Planning, Noise, and Recreation were found to be significant and unavoidable even with implementation of project-specific mitigation due to construction noise levels that would be inconsistent with Berkeley Municipal Code that governs noise levels. Furthermore, because the proposed project would involve construction, including activities such as pile driving in close proximity to other cumulative projects, it is possible that the project's contribution to a potentially significant cumulative construction noise impact could be significant and unavoidable. As a result, the proposed project could result in significant and unavoidable cumulative land use and planning impacts during construction, due to an inconsistency with Berkeley Municipal Code that governs noise levels, as well as a cumulative recreational impact related to the physical impact on the environment (i.e., construction noise) from construction of new recreational facilities. The project could also potentially contribute considerably to a cumulative roadway transportation noise impact (on University Drive, between Marina Boulevard and Seawall Drive), resulting in a significant and unavoidable cumulative impact.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD: The Draft EIR will be available for public review and comment for a 45-day review period as specified by CEQA Guidelines Section 15105. The purpose of this comment period is to allow the public and reviewing agencies an opportunity to consider the content of the Draft EIR and the potential environmental impacts that may result from project implementation.

Comments pertaining to the impact analyses, mitigation measures, and alternatives presented in the Draft EIR will be considered by the City during preparation of the Final EIR. The Final EIR will include copies of public comments received and City responses to comments pertaining to the environmental analysis provided in the Draft EIR.

The public comment period for the Draft EIR will begin on **February 27, 2026** and end on **April 13, 2026** (a 45-day public review period). Comments may be submitted by mail or email by 5:00 p.m. on **April 13, 2026**. Please include the name of the contact person and contact information for your agency or organization, and direct your comments to:

Mail: Liza McNulty, PE, Project Manager
Parks, Recreation & Waterfront Department
2180 Milvia Street, 3rd Floor
Berkeley, CA 94704

Email: lmcnulty@berkeleyca.gov

PUBLIC MEETING: The City of Berkeley will hold one public meeting for the project. The meeting will be a virtual public meeting on **Monday, March 16, 2026**, to receive comments on the Draft EIR. The meeting will start at **6:00 PM** and will be held via video and teleconference.

To join from a PC, Mac, iPad, or Android device, use the link:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87130348909>

To join by phone: Dial +1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose) and enter Meeting ID 871 3034 8909



Liza McNulty, PE, Capital Improvement Program Manager

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Figure 1 Project Site Location



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Fig. X Berkeley WTPF Project Footprint