

EDWARD G. GOLD

September 23, 2011

Berkeley City Council

RE: WARM POOL BOND MEASURE

The main function of the Commission on Aging is to let Berkeley's Council Members know the feelings of, and how items and events will affect, Berkeley's senior community.

We really wanted to stress how many people from the senior population will be affected by the closing of Berkeley's Warm Pool. For a great many seniors, the warm pool is the cornerstone of their day, around which they create their entire schedule. For numerous seniors, this is the only exercise in which they are able to participate.

Using the YMCA as a temporary stop gap, while inadequate, seems the only temporary solution that is available. There isn't adequate parking that is close enough for seniors to use and unless major subsidies are arranged, the cost would certainly be prohibitive. A great many seniors who use the YMCA have stated that the temperature of the hallways leading from the pools to the locker rooms, makes using the pools difficult at best.

The YMCA's therapeutic pool is too shallow and small for a great many exercises that this population uses in their regular exercise program at the current warm pool. The temperature of Grace's pool is much too low for a large segment of the senior pool users to use.

Again, we don't see another temporary alternative available; however, we want the city council to realize how important having the Pool Bond Measure in the November 2012 election is.

Thank you for all the work you do for the Senior Community and the City, and thank you for taking this into consideration.

Sincerely,



Edward G. Gold
Commission on Aging Chair Person