

Berkeley Council



Berkeley PTA Council

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26 September 2011

Mayor and City Council
City of Berkeley
2180 Milvia Street
Berkeley, CA 94704

Re: Support for Berkeley Public Pools

Dear Mr. Mayor and Councilmembers:

The decline in recreation facilities for the children of Berkeley is a major concern of families in our community. The availability of vibrant, low cost athletic facilities open to all has a major impact on the health of our community, especially those with limited resources. The Berkeley public pools have played a major role in providing healthy and fun activities for our children. It is important that the pools be fixed and put on a sustainable fiscal path. I support a new ballot measure in order to achieve this goal, one that the Berkeley PTA Council and our member units have supported in the past.

The benefits of public pools are many and well known to all. These include:

- Recreation swimming which provides healthy activities for all kids adding to their well-being and that of the entire community, particularly in under-served families.
- Venues for swimming teams and clubs instill lifelong skills in working together to achieve common goals.
- School-based and after-school programs to provide all Berkeley students with potentially life saving swimming lessons.
- Places to have fun in a healthy, safe environment with the diverse community which is Berkeley.

With economic conditions limiting the choices of many in our community, it is important that the City step in where it can to support responsible measures to keep our pools operating in safe and healthy conditions. I believe a measure can be crafted that the people of Berkeley will support and that such a measure needs to be put before the Citizens of Berkeley soon to avoid further collapse of the pool infrastructure. As we have in the past, the Berkeley PTAs stand ready to actively support these efforts and encourage the Mayor and City Council let this go before the voters again in 2012.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Tom K.'.

Tom Killilea, President
Berkeley PTA Council

cc: William Rogers, Director, Parks, Recreation and Waterfront; Rob Collier, Berkeley Pools Campaign