



May 5, 2026

San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission
Design Review Board
375 Beale Street, Suite 510
San Francisco, CA 94105

Re: Berkeley Ferry Terminal / Pier Replacement Project — Design Review

Dear Chair and Members of the Design Review Board,

On behalf of [Waterside Workshops](#), located in the Berkeley Aquatic Park, we are writing to express our support for the City of Berkeley's Ferry Terminal / Pier Replacement Project at the Berkeley Waterfront. The City of Berkeley is currently finalizing a draft environmental review report for the project and is beginning initial steps for a permit from the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission.

We recognize the proposed project as an important opportunity to restore public access to the Berkeley waterfront through the reconstruction of the Berkeley public pier, diversification of public transit options and increasing regional access to the Bay. From our perspective, restoring the Berkeley Pier as an active transportation and civic asset supports local businesses, workers, and visitors, while reinforcing Berkeley's role as a regional destination along the shoreline.

Waterside Workshops urges the Design Review Board to approve the Berkeley Ferry Terminal and Pier Replacement Project. Our organization works to guarantee local youth and underserved demographics maintain physical access to the Bay. This project actively protects that access. The rebuilt pier will function as an essential educational space and a safe launch point for the community. The proposed design keeps the marina open and affordable for small boats, kayaks, and our vocational maritime training programs. We support this project because it proves a city can construct major, modern transit infrastructure without displacing the existing community at the waterfront. We request that the board approve this design to ensure the Bay remains an accessible resource for the next generation.

The Berkeley Ferry Terminal is included in SF Bay Ferry's adopted Strategic Plan as part of a long-term regional ferry system expansion. The proposed service would be operated with electric, zero-emission vessels, supporting regional mobility while aligning with BCDC's core objectives related to environmental stewardship, shoreline access, and Bay-oriented transportation. As part of the broader ferry network, Berkeley ferry service would also contribute to emergency response and evacuation capacity, strengthening the city's resilience to respond to an emergency.

We are confident that BCDC's established design review process will confirm the project's strong alignment with Bay conservation policies, public access requirements, and long-term shoreline resilience. We urge the Design Review Board to advance the current design and recommend project approval to the full Commission, recognizing the permanent public benefits associated with restoring the Berkeley Pier.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment and for your continued work stewarding San Francisco Bay and its shoreline.

Sincerely,



Rebecca Grove

Executive Director

Waterside Workshops