Date: February 16

Re: Support for “2022 Budget Request from the City of Berkeley Related to Infrastructure Improvements at the Berkeley Marina and Pier,” October 26, 2021

To Whom It May Concern:

The Berkeley Marina area, including Cesar Chavez Park and the entire Berkeley waterfront are beloved recreational resources with more than 100 acres of open space and seven miles of trails that delight dog owners, birdwatchers, sailors, windsurfers, fishermen, bicyclists, kite flyers, and anyone seeking to enjoy fresh air and expansive views of the bay. Up until 2015, families, fishermen and tourists also enjoyed the beloved Berkeley public pier, which was the only major pier of its kind from Oakland up to Vallejo.

In 2015, the pier closed due to seismic safety (https://www.cityofberkeley.info/parks/pier/), and other parts of the marina have fallen into dire need of infrastructure improvement, threatening the future viability of this area. The city estimates that there is more than $100 million in infrastructure needs for the Berkeley Marina, pier and area as a whole.

On behalf of Cal Sailing Club and its members, we want to express our support for items in the $15 million funding request submitted by the City of Berkeley for infrastructure improvements as part of the City’s efforts to raise funds to repair the Berkeley Marina area, including possibly rebuilding a public pier. Cal Sailing Club (https://www.cal-sailing.org/) is a nonprofit organization committed to providing low-cost access to water sports since the seventies, and our diverse membership utilizes all parts of the marina but primarily the South Sailing Basin and the docks within the marina itself. The City’s request is targeted to private marina docks, the office building and Cesar Chavez Park pathways, and such funding would assist the City along the path of improvement, including public pier reconstruction, a high priority item for many Berkeley citizens. We would also support a City request to fund reconstruction of the public pier.

We also express support for the Berkeley Marina Area Specific Plan (BMASP) program now underway to plan a comprehensive revitalization of the area and efforts to maintain the natural beauty and valuable recreation opportunities which the area has offered to all segments of the public throughout the region for many years and we hope for years to come.

Thank you for your consideration and we look forward to working in partnership on these critical improvements.

Respectfully,

Nicholas Waton,
Commodore, Cal Sailing Club
Christina Polito Halter, Min Lee
Vice Commodores

First Vice Commodores
James Clarkson, Mehmet Gunay

Adam Rinder, Sofien Sehiri
Second Vice Commodore

Ryan Alder, Andy Hacket
Third Vice Commodores

John Bongiovanni (Sailing), Randi Shapiro (Windsurfing), David Gadarian (Windsurfing)
Rear Commodores

Heather Breaux
Port Captain

Birk Huber
Secretary

Peter Kuhn
Treasurer

Camille Antinori
Marina Planning Chair

On behalf of its members