CITY OF ALBANY
CITY COUNCIL AGENDA
STAFF REPORT

Agenda Date: June 7, 2010
Reviewed By: <u>BP</u>

SUBJECT: Temporary Closure of Buchanan Street on July 4, 2010

REPORT BUY: John Geissberger, Police Lieutenant

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

That Council approve the temporary closure of Buchanan Street west of the I-80/580 freeway interchange on July 4, 2010 from 5:30 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

BACKGROUND

Each year on July 4, the City of Berkeley hosts a large public event at the Berkeley Marina. Road closures and limited access for motor vehicles trying get to the Berkeley Marina in the evening hours results in a high demand for motor vehicle access to Buchanan St., and creates traffic congestion and hazardous conditions for pedestrians and bicyclists. Darkness, drug/alcohol related incidents and ignition of illegal fireworks have historically exacerbated the situation. In response to these incidents, the Albany Police Department began annually prohibiting motor vehicle access to Buchanan Street west of the I-80/580 freeway interchange during the evening hours of the annual July 4 holiday.

DISCUSSION

This preemptive action reduces the risk of injury, fire and property damage due to the large volume of pedestrians and motor vehicles that would gather to observe firework displays taking place at the Berkeley Marina and in San Francisco.   This is a motor vehicle prohibition only; pedestrians and bicyclists can continue to enter the area during the road closure.

Authority to close this section of roadway is drawn from Albany Municipal Code §9-3.1 "Authority of Police and Fire Department Officials" however; any planned work or activity that occurs within the public-right-of-way typically requires City Council approval.

SUSTANABILITY IMPACT

By prohibiting motor vehicle access to the waterfront park, people who wish to enjoy the fireworks display from the waterfront will be encouraged to use a more environmentally responsible method of travel to the area.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

None.

Attachments:

Map of Road Closure Location