

**CITY OF ALBANY  
CITY COUNCIL AGENDA  
STAFF REPORT**

Agenda Date: June 6, 2011  
Reviewed by: BP

**SUBJECT:** Recommendation that the City Council Determine that the Annual Season of the Weekly Solano Avenue Farmers Market be Characterized as a Single Sponsored Event for Purposes of Business License Tax

**REPORT BY:** Kim Denton, City Treasurer  
Jeff Bond, Planning and Building Manager  
Nicole Almaguer, Environmental Resources

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**STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the City Council determine that the annual season of the weekly Solano Avenue farmers market be characterized as a single event for purposes of business license tax.

**BACKGROUND**

At the March 21, 2011 City Council meeting, the Council authorized an encroachment permit and waiver the conditional use permit application fees for the establishment of a farmers market on Solano Avenue between San Pablo Avenue and Adams Street. The market, which is operated by the Berkeley Ecology Center, began operation on May 4, 2011.

**DISCUSSION**

Every year the City Council reviews and approves cost of living adjustments for the business license tax, which all local business must pay. Currently there is no specific category for a business activity such as a farmers market. Events such as the Solano Stroll are classified as a "Sponsored Event" and pay between \$39 and \$160 per event, depending on the number of businesses involved. Alternatively, individual vendors would be required to apply for business licenses individually.

Rather than require each vendor to get a business license or treat each weekly market as a separate event, staff recommends that the market season (May-October) be categorized as a single sponsored event. Thus, the Ecology Center annually will pay the appropriate amount, based on the number of vendors.

## **SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT**

The establishment of the farmer's market was a recommendation of the City's Climate Action plan as a way to encourage localization of foods and goods, to attract shoppers to the Solano Avenue, and to foster community building.

## **FINANCIAL IMPACT**

The farmer's market business license fee has a nominal impact on City general fund revenues.

## **Attachments**

1. City of Albany Business License Tax Rates