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RESOLUTION #05-22

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR TO EXECUTE
A CONTRACT WITH KIMLEY-HORN ASSOCIATES TO PREPARE
A TRAFFIC CIRCULATION STUDY FOR ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW
PURPOSES TO ANALYZE THE EFFECTS OF CLOSING FOUR ALBANY
STREETS ADJACENT TO THE EL CERRITO PLAZA**

WHEREAS, since the opening of Trader Joe’s and Copland’s sports (late fall 2003), and based on data collected by the City before and after the opening of Trader Joe’s, most of the streets adjacent to the El Cerrito Plaza (i.e., Kains, Cornell, Talbot, and Evelyn) experienced a 19% increase in traffic volume; and

WHEREAS, in April 2004, the Albany Traffic & Safety Commission met with residents who live adjacent to or near the renovated El Cerrito Plaza, and cited increased traffic volumes and speeds, increased truck traffic, and violations of one-way directional signs particularly since the opening of Trader Joe’s and Coplands; and

WHEREAS, both the Traffic & Safety Commission and Planning & Zoning Commission agreed and recommended that the City Council consider an amendment to the General Plan to allow the subject streets leading to the Plaza to be closed to vehicular traffic, except for emergency vehicles; and

WHEREAS, on January 18, 2005, the Albany City Council took action regarding the Albany Street closures and passed Resolution #05-1 which initiated an amendment to the Circulation Element of the General Plan and authorized an environmental review of that amendment for use in considering the possible closure of Albany streets leading to the El Cerrito Plaza; and

WHEREAS, qualified traffic engineering firms were invited to submit a proposal for preparation of a traffic circulation study to be used for environmental review purposes; and

