

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

Agenda date: June 15, 2009

Reviewed by: BP

SUBJECT: Request for Temporary Street Closure around Memorial Park for the July 19, 2009 for Berkeley Bicycle Club Criterium (Races)

FROM: Ann Chaney, Community Development Director

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Approve request by Berkeley Bicycle Club and East Bay Velo Club to close off the streets immediately around Memorial Park (and Albany High School) on Sunday, July 19, 2009 from 6:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. for their annual bike races.

BACKGROUND

The Albany Master Fee Schedule requires an Encroachment Permits for any work or activity that occurs within the public right-of-way. A specific reference in the Master Fee Schedule states that *“Group permits for special activities in City r-o-w, (Solano Stroll, etc.) Note: Permit requires Council approval.”*

The Berkeley Bicycle Club has held this bicycle race around Memorial Park ten times at this location since 1996. An application is attached from Jason Hanchett, representing the Bicycle Club, which describes the event in more detail.

Streets to be closed off during this day-long event are as they were last year. This includes Portland Avenue, Carmel Avenue, Thousand Oaks Avenue and northbound Key Route Boulevard. Southbound Key Route Boulevard would be temporarily converted to a two-way street (see attached map).

The project sponsors set up their own barricades and cones, and provide volunteer staff. They will post the area for “No Parking” four to five days in advance and deliver notices to neighbors a week before the event. Police officials indicate that traffic circulation has not appeared to be a problem in the past. However, police access onto the “race course” (i.e., closed streets) is imperative, whether for bicycle race related emergencies or responding to residents’ calls.

According to the attached map, the registration, porta-potties, and first aid station are to be located on Albany High School property between the swim center and Memorial Park. Project sponsors have been alerted to the upcoming swim center project and state that Albany Unified School District approval has been received. The First Aid station and registration table(s) are proposed to be located on the hardscape areas of Memorial Park. A special condition states that the project sponsors encourage bicyclists and spectators to stay off the grass at Memorial Park, and remain on the hardscape areas as much as possible.

PROPOSED SPECIAL CONDITIONS

In addition to the standard conditions contained in the Encroachment Permit – Street Event permit form, the following special conditions should apply:

1. Event sponsors shall review with, and obtain approval from, the Albany Police Department regarding traffic control plans.
2. Albany Police shall have the authority to access the “race course” (i.e., closed streets) if they deem it necessary.
3. Porta-potties shall be located on Albany High School property as indicated on the attached plan.
4. First aid station and registration table(s) may be located in Memorial Park within the hardscape areas only.
5. Event sponsors shall encourage participants and spectators to stay off the grass and use hardscape areas of Memorial Park as much as possible.
6. Clean the area of trash following the race.
7. Provide copy of insurance form.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT

This race event for bicyclists promotes bicycling for people of all ages, which in turn promotes bicycling as an alternative for carbon emitting vehicles. The event itself closes off the streets around Memorial Park for one day and participants and neighbors who attend typically walk or bicycle to the event.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

None. Because the project sponsors provide staff for traffic control, Albany Police do not typically become involved in this event. In addition, project sponsors clean the area of trash after the event. Therefore, there is no financial impact to the City. Fees generated from this request, unless waived, total \$131.09 for a Street Event.

Attachments

Berkeley Bicycle Club Criterium – Schedule of Events; general participant information
Race Course (map)