



Office of the City Manager

INFORMATION CALENDAR

July 16, 2013

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From:  Christine Daniel, City Manager

Submitted by: Andrew Clough, Director, Public Works

Subject: Update of Traffic Impacts Study for West Campus/Old Adult School Site

INTRODUCTION

As reported to Council on December 11, 2012* and in response to Council's request from November 2011, staff had prioritized a traffic impact study related to the Berkeley Unified School District (BUSD) administration offices and Realm Charter High School (Realm HS) use of the West Campus site, which began fall 2012. This resurgence of activity followed 8 years of vacancy at the site, and was expected to increase vehicular and pedestrian traffic and parking demand in the area – and neighbors were concerned.

City Traffic Engineers have requested BUSD undertake a before-and-after study to ascertain the level of increases in motor vehicle traffic and parking demand in the area. However, from an exchange of correspondence in fall 2012 and again in May 2013, BUSD's position is that the previous CEQA document adequately evaluated the Realm HS impact on local streets, and that they will not undertake any traffic monitoring.

Consequently, the City hired a data collection company to conduct a "before" study in August 2012 to develop a base condition of the neighborhood (traffic and parking) without the impact of BUSD and Realm HS. The results of the study were reported to the Council on December 11, 2012 and this report provides an update.

CURRENT AND PROJECTED CONDITIONS

There are now approximately 200 students at Realm HS, and City staff has not received complaints or inquiries about parking problems or traffic congestion at the school since its opening in late August 2012. The Realm HS administration projects a total student population of approximately 400 (a 100% increase over the current enrollment), currently anticipated in fall 2014, and staff will undertake the next monitoring survey at that time.

* Council Information Report, December 11, 2012:
www.cityofberkeley.info/Clerk/City_Council/2012/12Dec/Documents/2012-12-11_Item_32_Update_Traffic_Impacts.aspx

FISCAL IMPACTS OF FUTURE STUDIES

The cost for the City's baseline data collection, conducted in August 2012, was \$1,160. The cost for future data collection by an outside company is estimated at \$3,000, as new data would need to be collected at all 4 intersections (turn counts) and on all streets (for parking occupancy data). In addition to consultant expense, staff time to prepare contracts, work scopes, review data, and prepare reports is projected to be \$4,000.

CONTACT PERSONS

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