July 23, 2015

To: Honorable Mayor and Councilmembers

From: Christine Daniel, City Manager

Subject: Closure of the Berkeley Municipal Fishing Pier

As of yesterday, Wednesday, July 22, 2015, the Berkeley Municipal Fishing Pier was closed to the public because of considerable structural damage to the concrete decking and support system of the pier.

Prior to the July 4th celebration, staff noticed structural damage to the pier. As a result the City retained the services of IDA Structural Engineering, Inc. (IDA) to advise the City on the feasibility of using heavy trucks on the Pier for the fireworks show. IDA examined the underside of the Pier and found evidence of significant concrete spalling and badly corroded structural rebar. Upon receiving this information, the City banned all vehicular access to the Pier. At a cost of $7900, City staff arranged for the fireworks to be set off from a barge brought over from San Francisco and anchored 400 feet from the Pier, so that fireworks display would not be cancelled.

Further clarification and communication with IDA has resulted in the closure of the Pier to all pedestrian and vehicular traffic until further testing and repairs can be made.

City staff is currently working with IDA on possible methods to repair portions of the Pier and the potential costs, and will keep Council updated on our progress.

Signage and fencing have been placed at the Pier and notification has been sent to the businesses and users at the Berkeley Waterfront. The LED lamps on the Pier will continue to operate at night for boat navigation safety purposes.

cc: Dee Williams-Ridley, Deputy City Manager
    Scott Ferris, Director of Parks, Recreation & Waterfront
    Ann-Marie Hogan, City Auditor
    Mark Numainville, City Clerk
    Matthai Chakko, Public Information Officer