TO:        HONORABLE CITY COUNCIL
FROM:  CITY MANAGER  DEPARTMENT: ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES
DATE:  AUGUST 9, 2004  CMR: 354:04
SUBJECT: POLICY AND SERVICES COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION TO ADOPT AN ORDINANCE AMENDING EXHIBIT A-17 AND MAP TO EXHIBIT A-17 TO SECTION 22.08.210 OF CHAPTER 22.08 OF TITLE 2 OF THE PALO ALTO MUNICIPAL CODE CORRECTING THE BOUNDARIES OF RINCONADA PARK AND ADJOINING CITY PROPERTY ADJACENT TO THE JUNIOR MUSEUM AND ZOO AND GIRL SCOUT BUILDING

RECOMMENDATION
The Policy and Services Committee recommends that the Council adopt the attached park amendment ordinance clarifying the Rinconada Park boundary line near the Junior Museum and Girl Scout House.

BACKGROUND
While researching Rinconada Park boundaries in connection with a proposed property exchange between the City and the PAUSD, staff became aware that the current Rinconada Park ordinance did not clearly define the park boundary line near the Junior Museum and Girl Scout House. The current ordinance description of this portion of the park boundary line lacks bearings and distances relating to existing features in or adjacent to the park. Therefore, the boundary line cannot be precisely located. The proposed exchange of land with the School District was dealt with in a previous CMR on July 12, 2004.
COMMITTEE REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATION:
On December 9, 2003, the Policy and Services Commission considered a staff recommendation that the Commission recommend that the City Council:

1) Adopt an ordinance authorizing the exchange of minor portions of parkland for contiguous lands of an equal or greater area or value in order to implement Article VII of the Palo Alto City Charter. “Minor” is defined as no more than 4 percent of the total park area or 1 acre of land, which ever is less;

2) Pursuant to the enabling ordinance referenced above, adopt an ordinance authorizing the exchange of a 0.193-acre portion of Palo Alto Unified School District Walter Hays property for a 0.193-acre portion of City-owned Rinconada Park property and define a portion of the park boundary;

3) Adopt an ordinance clarifying the Rinconada Park boundary line near the Junior Museum and Girl Scout House.

The Policy and Services Committee voted against the first two recommendations listed above and instead, recommended that the Council refer the exchange of minor portions of parkland to the voters as an amendment to the City of Palo Alto Charter. The Committee did approve the third listed recommendation to adopt an ordinance clarifying the Rinconada Park boundary line near the Junior Museum and Girl Scout House.

RESOURCE IMPACT
The amended definition of the park boundary will not impact current park use or associated costs.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS
The attached proposed ordinance amends the existing boundary description by describing a line which includes bearings and distances related to the Girl Scout House and Junior Museum. The amended description clearly defines the location of the park boundary line.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW
The proposed ordinance to clarify the park boundary definition is categorically exempt from the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) under CEQA Guidelines Section 15305; therefore, no environmental assessment is necessary.
ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A: Park Amendment Ordinance to clarify a portion of the Rinconada Park boundary.

PREPARED BY: ____________________________

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Manager, Real Property

DEPARTMENT HEAD APPROVAL: ____________________________

CARL YEATS
Director, Administrative Services

CITY MANAGER APPROVAL: ____________________________

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