TO: HONORABLE CITY COUNCIL

FROM: CITY MANAGER
DEPARTMENT: COMMUNITY SERVICES

DATE: OCTOBER 25, 2004

SUBJECT: ADOPTION OF A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO APPLY FOR A GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF $600,000 AND TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT WITH THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA FOR A YOUTH SOCCER AND RECREATION DEVELOPMENT GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF $600,000 FOR THE RENOVATION OF A SOCCER FIELD AT THE CUBBERLEY COMMUNITY CENTER

RECOMMENDATION
Staff recommends that Council approve the attached resolution to:

1. Authorize the submittal of a grant application under the California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood Parks and Coastal Protection Act of 2002, for a Youth Soccer and Recreation Development grant in the amount of $600,000 for renovation of a regulation-size soccer field at the Cubberley Community Center, and approve the terms and conditions of the grant agreement.

2. Authorize the City Manager or his designee to make any required certifications and any amendments on behalf of the City.

BACKGROUND
Demand for soccer and playing fields in Palo Alto, for both practice and league competition, far exceeds available facilities owned by both the City and the Palo Alto Unified School District. Renovation of the Cubberley Community Center football field with artificial turf would provide a year-round, regulation-size playing surface for soccer, lacrosse, football and other field sports, and will thereby increase field usage from approximately 400 scheduled games per year to approximately 600 games per year, serving approximately 6,000 players, including under-served children from the Ventura neighborhood.
The installation of artificial turf will not only provide a multi-use playing surface that will not need to be taken out of use during wet weather and for annual re-seeding of the turf, but will significantly reduce water consumption, mowing, irrigation and pest-control maintenance. The cost savings that will be realized by the renovation of this field is estimated at $18,000 annually.

**Grant Program**

In March 2002, California voters approved Proposition 40, the California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood Parks, and Coastal Protection Act. This act is intended to revive state stewardship of natural resources by investing in neighborhood and state parks, clean air and water protection, coastal beaches and scenic areas. This program is administered by the California Department of Parks and Recreation.

Funding from the Bond Act was allocated into seven separate programs in order to ensure that the demands of various constituents and recreational needs were met. The City is now seeking grant funds from the Youth Soccer and Recreation Development Grant Program, whose purpose is to fund high priority projects that satisfy the most urgent recreational needs related to soccer, baseball, basketball and softball in urban areas of California. The funds for this program are awarded on a competition basis. A total of $46,675,000 has been allocated to this program statewide. Grants from this program are intended to supplement, not supplant, local expenditures for park and recreation facilities.

**DISCUSSION**

The Palo Alto Fields Advisory Committee report, which was submitted to City Council in July 2002, detailed the critical shortage of recreational playing fields. The report recommended the renovation of playing fields with artificial turf in order to reduce the amount of time that fields are out of service for maintenance and protection from damage during inclement weather. The report specifically recommended the renovation of fields at the Cubberley Community Center as a priority. As noted above, the replacement of natural turf with artificial turf could result in a 33 percent increase (approximately an extra 4 months) in usage and will serve an additional 3,000 players annually.

The athletic fields at the Cubberley Community Center are located on land which is currently under lease from the Palo Alto Unified School District. The lease expires December 31, 2014 and has two five year options to extend the lease until 2024. The State grant program does not require that the City own title of the improved facility. However, a facility that is owned fee simple or that has at least a twenty year lease would be more competitive.
**RESOURCE IMPACT**

The cost of renovating the Cubberley field, including design and construction is estimated at $800,000. The Youth Soccer and Recreation Development grant program will require at least a 25 percent match from the City of Palo Alto in order for the City’s application to be competitive. Options for the matching funds include using Infrastructure Management Program (IMP) funds and reprioritizing future parks projects or drawing on the General Fund Budget Stabilization Reserve. Since Cubberley fields do have IMP funds dedicated to future field improvements, staff recommends dedicating IMP funds toward the match.

Approval of the grant application may result in impacts on the completion timelines of other scheduled park or community facility projects. However, the State would allow the City of Palo Alto up to five years to complete a funded project, it is anticipated that this project could be scheduled so that high priority projects already scheduled would not be delayed.

The renovation of the Cubberley football/soccer field will significantly decrease operational expenses for mowing, re-seeding, irrigation and pest-control maintenance. This savings is estimated at $18,000 annually.

**POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

This recommendation is consistent with existing City policy and furthers Policy C-24 of the Community Services element of the Comprehensive Plan in that the project would reinvest in an aging facility to improve its usefulness and appearance; Policy C-26 by maintaining and enhancing existing park facilities; and Program C-19 by developing improvement plans for the maintenance, restoration and enhancement of community facilities, and keep these facilities viable community assets.

The soccer field renovation at Cubberley is also consistent with the Cubberley Community Center Master Plan.

**ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW**

The application for a grant for the renovation of existing facilities is considered an action exempt under Section 15307 of the California Environmental Quality Act; therefore, no environmental assessment is needed at this time. Environmental review will be conducted prior to the adoption of specific construction plans for either project.

**ATTACHMENTS**

Attachment A: Resolution Authorizing the Filing of Application to the State of California Resources Agency from the Youth Soccer and Recreation Development Grant Program under the California Clean Water,
Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood Parks, and Coastal Protection Act of 2002, for soccer field renovation.

PREPARED BY: ____________________________________________________
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Superintendent, Open Space & Sciences

DEPARTMENT HEAD: ________________________________________________
RICHARD JAMES
Director of Community Services

CITY MANAGER APPROVAL: _________________________________________
EMILY HARRISON
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