TO: HONORABLE CITY COUNCIL

FROM: CITY MANAGER DEPARTMENT: ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

DATE: NOVEMBER 8, 2004 CMR: 469:04

SUBJECT: ADOPTION OF A RESOLUTION OF INTENTION SETTING A PUBLIC HEARING ON A PROPOSED EXCHANGE BETWEEN THE CITY OF PALO ALTO AND THE PALO ALTO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT OF MINOR PORTIONS OF LAND TO ADJUST THE BOUNDARY BETWEEN WALTER HAYS SCHOOL AND RINCONADA PARK

RECOMMENDATION
Staff recommends that the City Council approve the attached Resolution of Intention to set a public hearing for December 13, 2004 on a proposed land exchange with the Palo Alto Unified School District (PAUSD) in which the City would convey a minor portion of Rinconada Park for an equal portion of Walter Hays School property. Holding a properly noticed hearing is the first required step in the land exchange process.

BACKGROUND
At its meeting on July 12, 2004, Council approved a motion to direct staff to return with an ordinance to provide a land exchange with PAUSD.

DISCUSSION
The Charter of the City of Palo Alto, incorporating Government Code section 38441, allows the City Council to convey “a minor portion of such [dedicated] park in exchange for an equal or greater area or value of privately owned land contiguous to the park” after providing notice and hearing, determining that the exchange is in the public interest, and adopting a resolution. The attached resolution establishes the notice requirements and sets a public hearing on the exchange between the City and the School District for December 13, 2004.
RESOURCE IMPACT
Notice and public hearing are required to complete the land exchange. The exchange itself will not impact current park costs or uses because it involves areas of land equal in size and value.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS
The City is required to provide notice and a public hearing before approving a land exchange involving a minor portion of dedicated park property.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW
The proposed ordinance and property exchange are 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: Resolution of Intention
Attachment B: July 12, 2004 Council Minutes
Attachment C: Site map showing proposed areas to be exchanged

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