TO:       HONORABLE CITY COUNCIL
FROM:     CITY MANAGER
DEPARTMENT:  PUBLIC WORKS
DATE:      JANUARY 17, 2006
SUBJECT: CITY OF PALO ALTO CARBON DIOXIDE EMISSION REDUCTION EFFORTS

This is an informational report and no Council action is required.

DISCUSSION
Sustainable Silicon Valley (SSV) recently released its first report on carbon dioxide (CO₂) emission reductions as a result of the actions of its partner agencies and businesses. The City of Palo Alto (Palo Alto) is one of the nineteen partners of SSV and was recognized at a press event at the Kirsch Center for Environmental Studies at De Anza Community College on November 16, 2005.

Palo Alto’s CO₂ reduction efforts are summarized on Page 21 of the SSV CO₂ Report 2005 (Attachment A). The report highlights Palo Alto’s CO₂ reductions from the increased use of renewable electric power sources, idling of computer monitors, reuse of landfill gas and the use of low-energy light emitting diode (LED) traffic lights. The report also summarizes Palo Alto’s projection of a 37% CO₂ emission reduction at City Hall and a 32% reduction at the Regional Water Quality Control Plant by 2010.

Attachment B is a more detailed summary of Palo Alto’s CO₂ reduction efforts prepared for Mayor Burch’s talk at the “Skyscrapers and Greenhouses: Leaders Take Action to Reduce CO₂” symposium on June 1, 2005.

ATTACHMENTS
Attachment A: Sustainable Silicon Valley CO₂ Report 2005
Attachment B: Detailed Information on Palo Alto’s CO₂ Reduction Efforts

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