TO: HONORABLE CITY COUNCIL
FROM: CITY MANAGER
DEPARTMENT: FIRE
DATE: MAY 8, 2006
CMR: 224:06

SUBJECT: ACCEPTANCE OF BREATHING SUPPORT UNIT AS A SANTA CLARA
COUNTY MUTUAL AID RESOURCE FOR FIRE AGENCIES

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

BACKGROUND
In fiscal year 2004, the County of Santa Clara received grant funding through the Urban Area Securities Initiative (UASI) as part of the Homeland Security funding mechanism to provide equipment to local fire agencies. Funding totaled $1.2 million and was awarded to purchase and equip three air/light units that would be strategically placed throughout the County to be used as mutual aid resources.

In November 2004, a contract was awarded to the vendor to build and equip these units. The units were manufactured by KME fire apparatus located in Nesquehoning, Pennsylvania. Each apparatus is identically equipped with a 40kW generator, a mobile breathing air compressor and two remote air filling stations. The unit has the capability of providing a remote air supply to six hundred feet and filling multiple self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) bottles simultaneously at the emergency scene. The unit is also outfitted with state-of-the-art portable and telescoping lighting equipment.

DISCUSSION
In March 2006, Santa Clara County took delivery of the air/light units. The City of Palo Alto is designated by the County Fire Chiefs as one of the three strategic locations for these units. The Palo Alto Fire Department recently received one of the units. They are owned by the County of Santa Clara and considered part of the mutual aid resources available to all jurisdictions in the County. Request and deployment of these units are coordinated through the Santa Clara County Fire and Rescue Mutual Aid Plan. Palo Alto Fire has the responsibility to deploy the unit in the county when requested and approved as with any other mutual aid resource. While located here at Fire Station 2, the unit is also available at the discretion of the Incident Commander to large police/fire emergency incidents occurring in Palo Alto or in situations requiring its specialized equipment. The frequency for use in mutual aid situations is anticipated to be low.

RESOURCE IMPACT
There is no direct fiscal impact to the City. Policy development, training and maintenance for this equipment are minimal and will be handled through existing internal fire department training and city programs.
POLICY IMPLICATIONS
This procedure is consistent with existing City Policies.

Prepared by: NICHOLAS MARINARO, Fire Chief

City Manager Approval: ________________________________

EMILY HARRISON
Assistant City Manager