TO: HONORABLE CITY COUNCIL

FROM: CITY MANAGER

DEPARTMENT: FIRE

AGENDA DATE: AUGUST 1, 2005

CMR: 332:05

SUBJECT: AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF PALO ALTO AND THE LOS ALTOS HILLS COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT FOR INTERJURISDICTIONAL FIRE PROTECTION AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL RESPONSE SERVICE FROM CITY OF PALO ALTO FIRE STATION NUMBER 8

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that Council approve and authorize the Mayor to sign the agreement between the City of Palo Alto and the Los Altos Hills County Fire District (LAHCFD) for inter-jurisdictional fire protection and emergency medical response service from City of Palo Alto Fire Station Number 8.

BACKGROUND

Palo Alto Fire Station Number 8 is located in Foothills Park and has been staffed from approximately June 15 through October 15 by Palo Alto Fire personnel with overtime funding. This period has historically been the peak time for fires in the wildland/urban interface area. Fires, whether structural or wildland, originating in either jurisdiction (Palo Alto or Los Alamos Hills) may spread to the adjoining jurisdiction if intervention is not forthcoming. Due to budgetary constraints for 2005-06, staffing for Fire Station Number 8 has been modified as noted in the attached agreement. Deployment of other fire units for emergency response to this area remains unchanged.

The current agreement for emergency response from Fire Station Number 8 during fire season has terminated (CMR 240:02). The Fire Chiefs of Palo Alto and Santa Clara County Fire Department developed the agreement to be mutually beneficial to each jurisdiction and provide for the rapid response of emergency personnel on designated “high-risk” days. The agreement provides for cost sharing based upon the number of days the station is staffed and provides for the closest unit to respond regardless of jurisdiction.

DISCUSSION

Based upon the mutual satisfaction by all parties, both agencies support a one-year agreement. This agreement would commence on July 1, 2005 and end June 30, 2006. The terms of the agreement may be extended and services provided beyond the normal 120-day operational period if fire conditions
warrant and by mutual agreement of the Fire Chief of Palo Alto and the Fire Chief of Santa Clara County Central Fire Protection District. All other provisions of the agreement will remain unchanged.

The agreement specifies that the Los Altos Hills County Fire District will pay a pro-rated fixed daily fee for personnel costs (consisting of base salary and any additional overtime costs) for personnel assigned to Fire Station Number 8 during the operational period. The exact reimbursed amount will be calculated and invoiced to the LAHCFD and would be payable to Palo Alto within 45 days of invoice receipt.

**RESOURCE IMPACT**
The City Manager’s proposed 2005-06 budget contains funding in the Fire Department’s operating budget for the costs associated with this agreement. The City of Palo Alto anticipates a cost-savings of approximately $60,000 in the fiscal year 2005-06 budget as a result of the alternate staffing plan.

**POLICY IMPLICATIONS**
This recommendation is consistent with existing City policies.

**ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW**
This project is categorically exempt under the provisions of California Environmental Quality Act as a use of existing facilities without the expansion beyond the applications now existing.

**ATTACHMENTS**
Attachment A: Agreement Between the City of Palo Alto and the Los Altos Hills County Fire District for Inter-jurisdictional Fire Protection and Emergency Medical Response Service From City of Palo Alto Fire Station Number 8.

Prepared by: Nicholas Marinaro, Fire Chief

Department Head Review: ___________________________

NICHOLAS MARINARO
Fire Chief

City Manager Approval: ____________________________

EMILY HARRISON
Assistant City Manager