RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PALO ALTO
IN APPRECIATION OF THE OUTSTANDING PUBLIC SERVICE OF
BERN BEECHAM AS MAYOR, VICE MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEMBER

WHEREAS, Bern Beecham was elected to the Council in 2000, re-elected in 2004; served as Vice Mayor in 2003, the Mayor in 2003, as well as Chair of the Finance Committee in 2001; and

WHEREAS, Bern Beecham worked closely with community members raising private funds for improved library facilities; and

WHEREAS, Bern Beecham actively participated in the development of legislation enabling the formation of the Bay Area Water Supply and Conservation Agency (BAWSCA), a “multicounty agency authorized to plan for and acquire supplemental water supplies, to encourage water conservation and use of recycled water on a regional basis, and to assist in the financing of essential repairs and improvements to the San Francisco regional water system, including seismic strengthening”; and

WHEREAS, after BAWSCA’s formation, Bern Beecham was appointed by Palo Alto to sit on BAWSCA’s 27-member board of directors, and served two terms as chair and vice chair of the board; and

WHEREAS, Bern Beecham also supported the passage of related legislation that directed San Francisco to adopt a formal plan of seismic improvements to the regional water system, plus passage of a third bill creating the San Francisco Regional Water System Financing Authority, on which he also served as chair and vice chair of the Authority; and

WHEREAS, he distinguished himself through his unwavering commitment and calm leadership; and

WHEREAS, he represented the City of Palo Alto as its Commissioner at the Northern California Power Agency (NCPA) for eight years and led NCPA as the NCPA Commission Chair from 2003 to 2005. He also served for several years as both a Chair and as a member of NCPA Governance and NCPA Finance Committees, led the City’s participation in NCPA through turbulent periods in the electric industry, and was a key player in ensuring a sound financial footing for NCPA. His background in engineering and business, and his strong leadership skills helped NCPA navigate technical, financial, regulatory and legislative challenges, and positioned NCPA as a respected voice for Public Power both in California and at the national level. He received NCPA’s 2007 Public Power Spirit Award in recognition of his many years of service; and

WHEREAS, Bern Beecham saw Palo Alto through the difficult energy crisis of 2001 and helped save more than $20 million on an electric supply contract during that time period. He also supported many efficiency plans including the Utilities’ 2001 plan that invested $5 million in additional efficiency measures that will save money and CO2 emissions for years to come; and

WHEREAS, he served as the Council Liaison to the Utilities Advisory Commission (UAC) for eight years providing steady continuity between the utilities staff and three leadership groups, the Northern California Power Agency (NCPA) Commission, the Palo Alto UAC and the Council. With his guidance and expertise on all utilities matters many difficult and delicate challenges were met; and
WHEREAS, he was a very active participant in his role as liaison to the Friends of Jr. Museum and Zoo and it was through his support and guidance that we forged the public/non-profit agreement with the Friends.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Council of the City of Palo Alto hereby commends the outstanding public service of Bern Beecham and gratefully records the appreciation of the community, as well as for meritorious service rendered and contributions made during his term on the Council.

INTRODUCED AND PASSED: January 7, 2008

AYES:

NOES:

ABSTENTION:

ABSENT:

ATTEST: APPROVED:

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City Clerk                  Mayor

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

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City Attorney

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City Manager