TO:       HONORABLE CITY COUNCIL
FROM:     CITY MANAGER                        DEPARTMENT: UTILITIES
DATE:     FEBRUARY 19, 2008                   CMR: 138:08

SUBJECT:  UTILITIES ADVISORY COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION TO
ADOPT A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE UTILITIES’ LEGISLATIVE
PRIORITIES FOR 2008

RECOMMENDATION
Staff and the Utilities Advisory Commission (UAC) recommend that the City Council adopt the
attached resolution approving the Utilities’ Legislative Priorities for 2008.

DISCUSSION
The Utilities Department advocates energy and water-related issues within Federal and State
legislative forums to facilitate the strategic mission of providing valued utility services to
customers and dependable returns to the City, and key objectives, which include the goal to
employ balanced environmental solutions. The legislative priorities, shown in Attachment B,
provide direction to the Utilities Department in addressing recent legislative and regulatory
trends.

These proposed legislative priorities also correspond with the City Council’s inclusion of
“Environmental Protection” as a 2008 Top 4 Priority, and the recommendations of the Green
Ribbon Task Force on Climate Protection. As in past years, action on some of these energy and
water-related issues may require active involvement of Palo Alto elected officials, and the
legislative priorities are intended to elucidate approved policy and advocacy direction.

BOARD/COMMISSION REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATIONS
The Utilities Legislative Priorities for 2008 were presented to the UAC at the January 9, 2008
meeting. The UAC voted unanimously to recommend that the City Council approve the Utilities’
Legislative Priorities. Excerpted minutes from the UAC meeting are included as Attachment D.
RESOURCES IMPACT
There is no incremental resource impact associated with advocating these legislative priorities.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS
This recommendation is consistent with the Council-approved Utilities Strategic Plan to:
1. Enhance customer satisfaction and utility infrastructure;
2. Employ balanced environmental solutions;
3. Provide fair and reasonable returns to the City and competitive rates to customers through municipal ownership; and
4. Ensure a safe and engaged workforce.

The recommendation is also consistent with the Council’s 2008 Top 4 Priority of Environmental Protection.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW
Approval of the Utilities Legislative Priorities for 2008 does not meet the definition of a project pursuant to Section 21065 of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), thus, no environmental review is required.

ATTACHMENTS
A: Resolution Approving the Utilities Legislative Priorities for 2008
B: Utilities Legislative Priorities for 2008
C: UAC Report of January 9, 2008 with Attachment A
D: Excerpts of the UAC Meeting Minutes of January 9, 2008 - Draft

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