TO: HONORABLE CITY COUNCIL
FROM: CITY MANAGER DEPARTMENT: CITY MANAGER’S OFFICE
DATE: MARCH 10, 2008 CMR: 155:08

SUBJECT: ADOPTION OF TWO RESOLUTIONS SUPPORTING THE CITY’S APPLICATION FOR FUNDING FROM THE URBAN FORESTRY GRANT PROGRAM ENTITLED “AN URBAN FOREST FOR EVERY CITY,” AS PROVIDED THROUGH PROPOSITIONS 40 AND 84, FOR (1) AN URBAN FORESTRY MANAGEMENT PLAN GRANT AND (2) AN URBAN FORESTRY INVENTORY GRANT

RECOMMENDATION:
Staff recommends that the City Council adopt the two attached resolutions (Attachments A and B) in support of the City’s applications for the Cal Fire Urban Forestry grant program.

BACKGROUND
On April 17, 2006 (Earth Day), the City Council adopted recommendations from a Colleagues’ Memo related to several environmental initiatives. One of these initiatives was the update of Palo Alto’s Street Tree Management Plan. The Council directed staff to work with CANOPY and other interested citizens and to return to Council in Spring 2007 with a draft update to the Street Tree Management Plan. In September 2006, a task force was formed to begin work on the update to the Street Tree Management Plan. The task force includes staff from Public Works, Administrative Services, Utilities, Parks, Open Space, Planning, the City Manager’s Office and representatives from CANOPY. At the outset, the team identified the need to broaden the scope of the Street Tree Management Plan to encompass all elements of the City’s urban forest. Currently, the City has numerous documents that address different elements of the urban forest, including the Comprehensive Plan and the Tree Technical Manual. However, there is no single document that identifies the overall goals and management strategies for the urban forest. The goal of the working group has thus become the creation of a comprehensive document that addresses the management, protection and enhancement of the City’s urban forest resources. This document will identify the issues facing Palo Alto’s urban forest and will provide concrete actions for addressing these issues.

DISCUSSION
In support of this work effort, staff applied for two State grants from the California Department of Forestry (Cal Fire), totaling $180,000. The first grant would fund the development of the Urban Forest Master Plan and community engagement process. The other grant would fund an
update to the City’s public tree inventory along with enhancements to the City’s GIS software to enable effective integration of two systems. The City received notification in late January that Cal Fire selected both grant applications for funding. As part of the grant process, the City must submit a resolution adopted by the City Council supporting both applications in order to finalize funding (Attachments A and B).

**RESOURCE IMPACT**
The receipt of these grant funds ($180,000) will supplement the existing staff and General Fund resources dedicated to these efforts and will greatly enhance the project outcomes. Before the initial submittal of the applications, staff from Administrative Services reviewed the grant program requirements and the proposals to confirm the matching resources proposed.

**POLICY IMPLICATIONS**
This work effort is consistent with the City Council’s direction in the April 2006 Colleagues’ Memo and the City’s Sustainability Policy. Additionally, this work effort is consistent with the Council’s Top 4 priorities of Environmental Protection and Economic Health.

**ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW**
These grants do not meet the definition of projects requiring environmental review under California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), Section 21065.

Attachment A: Resolution of the Council of the City of Palo Alto for Funding From the Urban Forestry Grant Program Entitled “An Urban Forest for Every City,” as Provided Through Propositions 40 and 84, for an Urban Forestry Management Plan Grant

Attachment B: Resolution of the Council of the City of Palo Alto for Funding From the Urban Forestry Grant Program Entitled “An Urban Forest for Every City,” as Provided Through Propositions 40 and 84, for an Urban Forestry Inventory Grant

**PREPARED BY:**

Kelly Morariu  
Assistant to the City Manager

**CITY MANAGER APPROVAL:**

EMILY HARRISON  
ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER