COMMENDING THE STUDENTS OF ADDISON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL FOR REDUCING THEIR USE OF PLASTIC BAGS

WHEREAS, on October 29, 2007 students in three “buddy” classrooms at Addison Elementary School were asked to open their lunch boxes and count the number of plastic bags being used, and an average of 25 per classroom were counted; and

WHEREAS, it was determined that school-wide there were about 500 plastic bags used and thrown away every day; and

WHEREAS, plastic bags have a harmful impact on the environment when they blow into creeks, the bay and the ocean, causing unsightly litter and harming wildlife; and

WHEREAS, the students in the three buddy classrooms made a conscious effort to reduce their use of plastic bags, and by December 5, 2007 were down to zero; and

WHEREAS, the first and second grade classes have remained close to zero bags, while the fifth graders wandered up to about 10 bags per day; and

WHEREAS, in December the students invited other Addison classrooms to join their effort, and in February they launched a blog inviting all Palo Alto schools to join them; and

WHEREAS, for an Inquiry Fair project in April 2008, the students surveyed each classroom in the school and counted a total of 233 bags, half as many as were used prior to their campaign; and

WHEREAS, on May 12 the students will challenge the entire school to reduce its bag count down to less than 50 per day by May 20.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, LARRY KLEIN, Mayor of the City of Palo Alto, on behalf of the City Council, do hereby express deep appreciation to the three classrooms at Addison Elementary School and their teachers, Jacqueline Hurd, Grant Althouse and Robyn Galloway for their commitment to Palo Alto’s zero waste goal and for their efforts to educate other students about the problems caused by plastic bags and alternatives to their use.

Larry Klein
Mayor

City of Palo Alto
April 2008