CITY OF PALO ALTO

Memorandum

July 22, 2008

TO: CITY COUNCIL

SUBJECT: CALIFORNIA AVENUE STREETSCAPE IMPROVEMENTS

Attached is an update on the California Avenue Streetscape Improvements that relates to Item #2 on the Council’s agenda of July 28, 2008.

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CALIFORNIA AVENUE STREETSCAPE IMPROVEMENTS
Update as of 7/22/08

The California Avenue Streetscape Improvements Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Project is budgeted for $335,000.

FOUNTAIN
$50,000 of the project budget has been earmarked for the fountain repair or replacement. The Art Commission is attempting to combine that budget with some other funds to obtain a piece of sculpture to replace the fountain. Therefore, the remaining budget ($285,000) is to be used to replace streetlights, street trees and street furniture.

STREETLIGHTS
Staff's plan, shared with and agreed to by CAADA, is to focus on the streetlight replacement and use as much of the $285,000 as necessary to achieve this. If budget is left over, the balance would be used to replace some street trees and then some street furniture. No decision has been made on the streetlight replacement. Staff is still investigating lighting levels and different kinds of streetlight poles, mast arms and lights. Because of the limited budget, the only options that seem viable are to replace the streetlights with new streetlights in the exact same locations. In order to determine which streetlight poles/arms/lights to use, various stakeholders need to approve, primarily Utilities (since they maintain and stock street lights) and Planning (staff level Architectural Review Board needed).

STREET TREES
Street tree replacement is contingent upon whether any money is left after the streetlights are bid and installed.

STREET FURNITURE
Street furniture replacement is contingent upon whether any money is left after the streetlights are bid and installed.

NEWSRACKS
The creation of the California Avenue Special Newsrack Area is on hold as Council continued this item until after the Council break.

STREET RESURFACING
The street will be resurfaced in the summer-fall of 2009. Work will be coordinated to follow after underground utility line replacement for the sewer and gas work. Included is restriping the street to reduce the number of travel lanes from 4 to 2, providing more room for bicyclists, and enhanced crosswalks that will allow for greater pedestrian visibility by motorists.