City of Palo Alto  
City Council Staff Report

Report Type: Consent Calendar  
Meeting Date: 1/18/2011

Title: Resolution to Explore Shared Services

Subject: Adoption of a Resolution Authorizing the Exploration of Consolidated and/or Shared Services and Assets Between the Cities of Palo Alto, Sunnyvale, Mountain View and Los Altos

From: City Manager

Lead Department: City Manager

Recommendation
Staff recommends the City Council approve the attached resolution regarding the exploration of consolidated and/or shared services and assets between the cities of Palo Alto, Sunnyvale, Mountain View, and Los Altos. This recommendation is made understanding that difficult financial times require an even greater focus on reducing costs while maintaining or enhancing services. Sharing services across jurisdictional boundaries is one way to do that. Each of the other cities will place a similar resolution before their Councils.

Executive Summary
Over the past decades, the cities of Palo Alto, Sunnyvale, Mountain View, and Los Altos have engaged in a number of different shared municipal service agreements for things such as animal services, solid waste facilities, SWAT teams, and public safety mutual aid. Looking at other areas is, therefore, not new.

Authorizing this resolution simply acknowledges that our four cities formally commit to exploring shared municipal service opportunities and recognizes what some of them may be. At this time, the City Managers of these cities have discussed the possible consolidation of public safety communications, records management, evidence facilities, office and field equipment, emergency planning services, arson investigation services, and fire prevention services.

Although the previously mentioned consolidation opportunities will be the focus of the City Managers’ conversations, they are in no way limited to these criteria and are expected to explore any appropriate opportunity where cooperation can result in efficiencies, cost savings for taxpayers and increased services at less cost. Yet, it should be reiterated that this is purely an exploratory process and none of it is binding.
ATTACHMENTS:
• Resolution to Explore Shared Services (DOC)

Prepared By: Althea Carter, Administrative Associate II

Department Head: James Keene, City Manager

City Manager Approval: James Keene, City Manager
Resolution No. _____  
Resolution of the Council of the City of Palo Alto Regarding the Exploration of Consolidated and/or Shared Services and Assets Between the Cities of Palo Alto, Sunnyvale, Mountain View and Los Altos  

WHEREAS, the cities of Palo Alto, Sunnyvale, Mountain View and Los Altos have engaged, either collectively or in smaller coalitions, over the decades in shared municipal activities such as animal services, solid waste facilities, SWAT teams and mutual aid agreements; and  

WHEREAS, Palo Alto, Mountain View and Los Altos are currently in the final effort to bring “on-line” a “virtual” public safety communications cooperative program; and  

WHEREAS, the four cities continue their efforts to find mutually compatible areas where cooperation can result in efficiencies and economies, cost savings for taxpayers and increased services at less cost; and  

WHEREAS, the city managers of the four cities have been meeting for the purpose of finding additional areas of cooperation and monetary savings; and  

WHEREAS, each of the four cities currently operates its own public safety communications center; and  

WHEREAS, the four cities wish to further explore the possibility and feasibility of the consolidation of the four public safety communications centers; and  

WHEREAS, in addition to the exploration of a joint public safety communications center, the managers have discussed the possible consolidation and/or sharing of such services or assets as centralized records management, evidence facilities, office or field equipment, emergency planning, arson investigation and fire prevention.  

NOW, THEREFORE, the Council of the City of Palo Alto does RESOLVE as follows:  

SECTION 1. Endorses the exploration of further cooperative opportunities between the four cities including but not limited to a joint communications center, centralized records management, a centralized evidence facility, shared equipment, emergency planning, arson investigation and fire prevention.  

SECTION 2. Instructs its City Manager to engage in said exploration and to report back periodically to the Council on the status of these efforts.
SECTION 3. Directs its City Manager to include, dependant upon timing and the cost estimate, monies in the budget for FY 2011-12 for an independent study for a joint public safety communications center.

SECTION 4. The Council finds that this is not a project under the California Environmental Quality Act and, therefore, no environmental impact assessment is necessary.

INTRODUCED AND PASSED:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTENTIONS:

ATTEST:

City Clerk

Mayor

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

APPROVED:

City Attorney

City Manager

Director of Administrative Services