TO: HONORABLE CITY COUNCIL

FROM: CITY MANAGER DEPARTMENT: COMMUNITY SERVICES

DATE: MAY 13, 2001 CMR: 227:02

SUBJECT: ADOPTION OF A REVISED RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT FOR A GRANT FROM THE COASTAL COMMISSION SAN FRANCISCO BAY TRAIL PROJECT FOR IMPROVEMENTS TO TRAIL SEGMENTS ALONG THE FABER-LAUMEISTER TRACT IN THE BAYLANDS

RECOMMENDATION
Staff recommends that Council approve the attached revised resolution to:
1. Authorize the acceptance of a $70,000 grant for improvements to trail segments from the San Francisco Bay Trail Project, and approve the terms and conditions of the grant agreement.
2. Authorize the City Manager or his designee, as the person responsible for the administration of the grant including certifications and any amendments on behalf of the City.

BACKGROUND
On February 20, 2001, Council approved a resolution authorizing the submittal of a grant application to the California Coastal Commission San Francisco Bay Trail Project (Bay Trail). The proposed project funded by this $70,000 grant would improve a half-mile existing asphalt path between O’Connor Street and 300 feet beyond Runnymede Street in East Palo Alto. The trail would be widened from three feet to eight feet. The trail improvements are intended to provide an all-weather trail that will facilitate relaxed hiking and bicycle travel. Trail construction work would be performed under contract by a qualified paving company.

DISCUSSION
The grant application was submitted, and on March 18, 2002, the City was informed that it has been awarded a $70,000 grant. Staff was also notified by the Bay Trail office that the wording of the resolutions adopted by the City Council does not conform with its requirements for acceptance of the grant agreement.
The initial resolution was worded in part: “WHEREAS, the City of Palo Alto wishes to submit a grant application that will result in reimbursement to the City of funds that are expended in connection with proposed Bay Trail improvements to the trail in and around the Palo Alto Baylands,

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

SECTION 1. The Council hereby authorizes the City Manager or his or her designee to file a grant application on behalf of the City of Palo Alto with the San Francisco Bay Trail Project in order that the City may be reimbursed for funds which the City intends to expend on proposed improvements to the trails passing along the Faber Laumeister tract of the Palo Alto Baylands.”

According to the grant administrator at the San Francisco Bay Trail Project, the Resolution must be amended to read: “WHEREAS, the City of Palo Alto wishes to accept an offer for a $70,000 grant to be used for proposed improvements to the trails in and around the Palo Alto Baylands.

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

SECTION 1. The Council hereby approves the terms and conditions of an agreement with the Association of Bay Area Governments and authorizes the City Manager or his designee to execute the agreement.

SECTION 2. The Council hereby designates the City Manager or his or her designee as the person responsible for the administration of the grant contract, including certifications and any amendments on behalf of the City.

RESOURCE IMPACT
The grant agreement requires the City to certify there are sufficient funds to operate and maintain the project. Staff has determined that this project will significantly reduce the need for periodic clearing of weeds from the face of the trail. Therefore, the proposed improvements will reduce operating and maintenance costs. The proposed trail surface is expected to last fifteen years before it will need to be resurfaced. It will be the City’s responsibility to resurface the trail at that time if it has significantly deteriorated.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS
The recommended actions in this report further the objectives of Comprehensive Plan Community Policy 24: reinvest in aging facilities to improve their usefulness and appearance; Land Use Policy 15: preserve and enhance the public gathering spaces within walking distance of residential neighborhoods, ensure that each residential neighborhood has such spaces; and Community Program 23: study and recommend methods of private and public financing for improved park maintenance, rehabilitation, and construction.
ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW
The acceptance of a grant is not considered an action subject to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA); therefore, no environmental assessment is needed at this time. Environmental review of the proposed project has been completed. Because this project improves an existing structure, it has been declared to be categorically exempt per Section 15302 of 1999 CEQA Guidelines (replacement or reconstruction.)

ATTACHMENTS
Attachment A: Resolution approving the terms and conditions of an agreement with the Association of Bay Area Governments and authorizing the City Manager or his designee to execute the agreement, including certifications and any amendments on behalf of the City.

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DEPARTMENT HEAD: PAUL T. THILTGEN
Director of Community Services

CITY MANAGER APPROVAL: EMILY HARRISON
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