

REPORT TO CITY COUNCIL

DATE: JUNE 27, 2007

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL

FROM: GREG RAMIREZ, CITY MANAGER

BY: NATHAN HAMBURGER, ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER

SUBJECT: MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH THE LAS VIRGENES UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT REGARDING TECHNOLOGY UPGRADES

In May, 2006, the City of Agoura Hills was asked to participate in the Las Virgenes Unified School District's new "Secure Online Resources for Community Education Program" (S.O.R.C.E.). Members of the School Board invited elected officials from Agoura Hills as well as neighboring cities, including the cities of Westlake Village, Calabasas and Hidden Hills to be involved with a new technology project that the School District proposed to initiate. The technology project was designed to be a district-wide program that would place modern technological equipment in every classroom in the School District. Due to budget constraints, Board members were seeking support from each of the cities that had resident students in the School District.

The City's contribution of funds to the technology upgrade project will promote important public purposes of the City of Agoura Hills. The City, its residents and businesses directly benefit from a high quality of educational opportunities in the schools. Good schools benefit the City in that communities with better schools tend to have higher and more sustainable real estate values with resulting increases in property tax revenues to the City. In addition, the City is able to attract more and better businesses to the City in part because the local work force is well-educated. Further, studies have shown that quality educational experiences tend to lead to reductions in crime, delinquency and vandalism by juveniles. The City also will benefit from the statewide notoriety and positive public image that is derived in part from quality schools and innovative education programs. Finally, all of the City's contributions to public schools in the City are returned in kind by the LVUSD through joint use agreements, joint City/school programming and the school district's compliance with the Civic Center Act.

The City/Schools Committee has continued to meet with LVUSD Board members to discuss various ways to make their technology upgrade project a reality. Each participating city is utilizing different means to help fund the program. The one-time contribution from Agoura Hills, in the amount of \$270,000 will be made to LVUSD from the City's General Fund, and it is agreed that the funding will be appropriately applied to the technology upgrades per the attached Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). The approved Fiscal Year 2006-07 budget has existing funds which may be utilized due to savings from a completed capital improvement project.

RECOMMENDATION

It is respectfully recommended the City Council:

1. Approve the use of General Fund monies for the Las Virgenes Unified School District technology proposal; and
2. Approve the Memorandum of Understanding with the Las Virgenes Unified School District regarding school technology upgrades.

Attachment: Agoura Hills/Las Virgenes Unified School District MOU