ATTACHMENT 4

Capital Improvement Program
Fund Policy
CITY OF WESTLAKE VILLAGE
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM FUND
POLICY

(1) INTRODUCTION

In order to ensure fiscal stability, sound financial management of public finances, and fiscal responsibility and accountability in the receipt and expenditure of City funds, the City Council adopted a comprehensive general Financial Reserve Policy in 2005. The policy created and defined three distinct reserve categories involving the General Fund, Capital Improvement Program Fund and Building Maintenance and Replacement Fund Reserves. Further, the policy established an annual General Fund Reserve level based on an analysis of the annual fiscal resources necessary to meet essential service and funding requirements during periods of: economic downturn, unforeseen natural disaster, reductions in revenue through actions by the State and/or Federal governments, other unexpected circumstances such as litigation arising from lawsuits, and cash flow constraints and working capital needs.

Building on sound fiscal management practices, it is appropriate for the City Council to adopt a Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Fund Policy to supplement the original general Financial Reserve Policy noted above. The purpose of this CIP Fund Policy is to establish certain guidelines similar to those used to calculate and maintain the annual General Fund Reserve level so that adequate capital reserves will be available to meet the City's needs in the future. With that in mind, this CIP Policy is defined by several key principles that accomplish the following:

(1) the establishment of a minimum CIP Fund reserve level (i.e., “rainy day” fund);

(2) at the sole discretion of the City Council, the establishment of one or more key annual priority projects having “first call” on available General Fund surplus revenue transferred to the CIP Fund in any given fiscal year;

(3) to the extent practicable, the operation of a “balanced CIP Fund” whereby annual expenditures match available revenues transferred to the fund each year; and

(4) at the sole discretion of the City Council, the occasional establishment of several “accounts” within the CIP Fund dedicated to specific capital project categories of high importance and value.

(2) CIP FUND DEFINITION

The CIP Fund is a governmental accounting fund through which capital improvements are financed such as major road work, streetscape enhancements, park improvements,
storm drain repairs, and other similar construction-related infrastructure improvements.

(3) **CIP FUND REVENUE SOURCES**

The CIP Fund is composed of, and funded by, revenues from two sources: the General Fund and various Restricted Funds. With regard to the former, excess General Fund revenues remaining at the conclusion of a fiscal year are transferred to the CIP Fund per the City Council’s adopted general Financial Reserve Policy. Concerning the latter and whenever applicable, various restricted revenues are transferred to the CIP Fund to offset capital expenditures in any given fiscal year.

(4) **BASIS FOR MINIMUM CIP FUND RESERVE LEVEL**

For purposes of this Policy, a minimum annual CIP Fund Reserve level (i.e., “rainy day” fund) shall be established, maintained on an annual basis, and retained to offset costs for any number of extraordinary and/or one-time expenditures including, but not limited to, exigent conditions of a capital nature, opportunities to acquire vacant or open space lands for public purposes, exposures to potential damages to City infrastructure caused by catastrophic/natural disasters not offset by existing General Fund Reserves, and any other circumstances deemed appropriate by the City Council.

There is no general “rule of thumb” or standard in terms of requiring a minimum CIP Fund Reserve level for municipalities. However, to promote prudent and conservative budgeting practices, this Policy shall dictate that the City’s initial minimum CIP Reserve level will be calculated as a percentage amounting to between 20% and 30% of the City’s annual operating budget, effective July 1, 2013. (This reserve level will be reviewed and established at the City Council’s budget workshop to be held in March, 2013).

(5) **ESTABLISHMENT OF MINIMUM CIP FUND RESERVE LEVEL**

Unless otherwise directed by the City Council, this minimum reserve level shall be maintained from year to year to be available for the extraordinary and/or one-time uses referenced in Section 4 of this Policy. Further, this minimum reserve level may be adjusted annually for inflationary or other factors as deemed appropriate by the City Council.

Should any portion of the minimum reserve level be appropriated by the City Council per Section 4 of this Policy, the City Manager shall be requested to develop a fiscal plan to help restore the minimum reserve level at the earliest possible time.

(6) **OPERATION/MANAGEMENT OF CIP FUND**

(A) Sub-funds: Within the CIP Fund, the Finance Department shall establish a “restricted” sub-fund denoting the City’s minimum reserve level (referenced above in Section 5) as well as an “unrestricted” sub-fund denoting remaining funds available for general capital expenditures.
(B) Managing CIP Fund on "balanced" budget basis: To the extent practicable, annual CIP Fund expenditures incurred in the "unrestricted" sub-fund should not exceed available revenues transferred to the fund each year. It is recognized that balancing expenditures to match revenues within the "unrestricted" sub-fund may not be possible, or even desirable, in a given fiscal year. Accordingly, the City Council may opt to draw down on the existing reserve in the "unrestricted" sub-fund to undertake certain capital improvements as deemed appropriate.

(C) Establishment of five-year CIP program: Each fiscal year, the City Council will review and adopt a comprehensive five-year capital improvement program setting forth potential projects desired to be constructed using funds that may be available within the "unrestricted" sub-fund. This five-year CIP program shall be used as a guide in assisting the City Council in determining long-range capital budget priorities.

(D) "First call" projects: During the budget planning process each fiscal year, the City Council in its sole discretion may establish one or more key priority capital project categories, such as street work or other types of CIP projects of significance, which will have "first call" on available General Fund surplus revenue transferred to the "unrestricted" sub-fund. Other improvements not identified as "first call" projects may be funded using a combination of remaining surplus revenue, if any, plus a draw down of either "unrestricted" sub-fund reserves (as noted in Subsection B above) or "restricted" sub-fund reserves (as noted in Section 4 above), or such projects may be held in abeyance for funding and construction in subsequent fiscal years as deemed appropriate by the City Council.

(E) Establishment of accounts within the "unrestricted" sub-fund: It is recognized that it may be desirable to construct certain types of capital projects, such as streetscape improvements or sidewalks, over multiple years and in phases. In such instances and per the direction of the City Council, this Policy will allow for the establishment of accounts within the "unrestricted" sub-fund for the purpose of receiving and accruing funds over time thereafter allowing for the construction of those projects when sufficient funds have been collected to offset project costs.

(7) **ANNUAL REVIEW OF CIP FUND**

As part of the budget planning process each fiscal year, the City Council's Administrative Committee and staff shall review this Policy and recommend any changes as deemed appropriate for consideration by the City Council.