

THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF STANISLAUS  
ACTION AGENDA SUMMARY

DEPT: Chief Executive Office

BOARD AGENDA # B-9

Urgent

Routine

CEO Concurs with Recommendation YES  NO

(Information Attached)

AGENDA DATE September 23, 2008

4/5 Vote Required YES  NO

SUBJECT:

Approval to Authorize the Chief Executive Officer to Negotiate New Agreements with the Cities of Modesto, Ceres, Riverbank, Newman, Patterson, Hughson, and Waterford for the Provision of Animal Services and to Issue the Notice of Intent to Terminate the Existing Agreements Effective December 31, 2008

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:

Approve the Authorization of the Chief Executive Officer to Negotiate New Agreements with the Cities of Modesto, Ceres, Riverbank, Newman, Patterson, Hughson, and Waterford for the Provision of Animal Services and to Issue the Notice of Intent to Terminate the Existing Agreements Effective December 31, 2008.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The County provides animal control services by contract to the Cities of Ceres, Riverbank, Newman, Patterson, Hughson, and Waterford and shelter services by contract to the City of Modesto. The total Animal Services 2008-2009 fiscal year budget is \$3,159,156 and total revenue is \$1,510,343. An amount of \$590,250 is included in the Department of Animal Services revenue amount for city contracts. The County retains revenue from licenses, fees, and permits. The net cost to the County for the Department of Animal Services is \$1,648,813.

(Continued on Page 2)

BOARD ACTION AS FOLLOWS:

No. 2008-678

On motion of Supervisor Monteith, Seconded by Supervisor Grover and approved by the following vote,

Ayes: Supervisors: O'Brien, Grover, Monteith, and Vice-Chairman DeMartini

Noes: Supervisors: None

Excused or Absent: Supervisors: Mayfield

Abstaining: Supervisor: None

1)  Approved as recommended

2)  Denied

3)  Approved as amended

4)  Other:

MOTION: Amended the item to direct the CEO to work in conjunction with the cities regarding this issue and bring back a proposal for the Board to consider

ATTEST:

  
CHRISTINE FERRARO TALLMAN, Clerk

C-6-I-12; C-2-B-6;  
C-1-B-1; C-3-25;  
File No. C-4-A-10; C-9-28;  
C-8-A-5

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### **FISCAL IMPACT: (Continued)**

The County has been in discussions with the cities about the development of a new cost sharing relationship under which each public agency would bear the responsibility for a proportional share of the costs associated with the operation of the Animal Shelter. To operate the Shelter under the existing agreements would require the County to continue to provide substantial General Fund subsidies to the Shelter budget. The larger solution to the existing pet overpopulation problems and high euthanasia rates at the Shelter will require a greater investment by all public agencies into spay/neuter programs, educational programs, and facility improvements

### **DISCUSSION:**

On December 19, 2006 the Board of Supervisors approved agreements for the provision of animal control and shelter services with the Cities of Ceres, Hughson, Newman, Patterson, Riverbank and Waterford, to be effective January 1, 2007 through December 31, 2010. On October 15, 2002 the Board of Supervisors approved an agreement with the City of Modesto for the provision of animal shelter services effective October 15, 2002 to be renewed yearly for one-year terms.

The County has been in discussions with City Managers and has held group meetings to keep the City Managers and others informed on issues relating to pet overpopulation, facilities needs, the need for an enhanced spay and neuter programs, and ongoing concerns about operational cost sharing. The County has shared with contracting cities the County's desire to create a new level of partnership that would equitably allocate costs and provide all agencies with an incentive to develop the most cost effective and humane shelter. The proposed new partnership is based upon joint authority and responsibility for developing and delivering the service levels expected by the community, accompanied by a cost sharing formula reflective of the services received by each City and the County. The County's offer of joint ownership of the Shelter and joint operational responsibility through the creation of a Joint Powers Agency continues to appear to be a viable option.

As discussed with the Board in June, the 2008-2009 Stanislaus County budget included a continuing operating subsidy, providing contracting cities with a period, through December 31, 2008, to evaluate shelter options. On August 26, 2008, the Board of Supervisors further authorized County staff to proceed with the initial design of the Shelter Reuse and Expansion Plan, and to proceed with negotiations for new agreements with our contracting cities. Under the terms of the agreements in place with the cities, however, the County is required to provide to contracting cities advance notice of termination. With respect to the City of Modesto, that notice requirement is 90 days. For all other contracts, the notice requirement is 30 days. While County staff continues to believe that a true partnership between the Cities and the County presents

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the best overall solution for all participants, we understand that each agency must perform their own evaluation in making this important decision.

**POLICY ISSUES:**

Approval of this Agenda Item will support the Board's priority of efficient delivery of public services and effective partnerships.

**STAFFING IMPACT:**

Chief Executive Office, Animal Services and County Counsel will continue to work with the Cities to reach a new cost sharing agreement.