

**COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO  
CALIFORNIA**

For the Agenda of:  
September 7, 2016

To: Board of Supervisors

From: Department of Animal Care and Regulation

Subject: Delegate Additional Authority To The Director Of Animal Care And Regulation To Enter Into Contracts During Fiscal Year 2016-17 With Veterinary Clinics And Veterinarians For Community Spay/Neuter Efforts

Supervisorial District(s): All

Contact: Dave Dickinson, Director, 916-875-5051

**Overview**

The Department of Animal Care and Regulation (ACR) is requesting additional delegated authority for the Director to enter into contracts with various veterinary clinics and veterinarians for high-volume community spay/neuter not to cumulatively exceed \$150,000 in Fiscal Year 2016-17.

**Recommendation**

Adopt the attached resolution to delegate additional authority to the Director of ACR to enter into contracts during Fiscal Year 2016-17 with veterinary clinics and veterinarians for high-volume community spay/neuter efforts in amounts not to cumulatively exceed \$150,000, including \$50,000 originally delegated from FY 2016-17 Approved Recommended Budget and an additional \$100,000 to be delegated from FY 2016-17 Final Adopted Budget).

**Measures/Evaluation**

Not applicable to this board item.

**Fiscal Impact**

The additional delegated authority for FY 2016-17 will facilitate the continued funding of high-volume spay/neuter services not to cumulatively exceed \$150,000 for Fiscal Year 2016-17 (\$50,000 previously delegated from FY 2016-17 Approved Recommended Budget and an additional \$100,000 contingent on Board approval of Adopted Budget).

**BACKGROUND**

In ACR's Fiscal Year 2015-16 Adopted Budget, the Board allocated \$125,000 for spay/neuter efforts in communities, and on January 26, 2016, the Board delegated authority to the Director of ACR (Resolution No. 2016-0059) to enter into contracts with: Animal Spay and Neuter, a Nonprofit Clinic (ASN) for \$50,000, the Sacramento Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SSPCA) for \$40,000, and the Sacramento Area Animal Coalition (SAAC) for \$35,000. On June 14, 2016, the Board delegated authority to the Director to amend the contract with ASN

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for an additional \$6,000 (Resolution No. 2016-0489). These organizations cumulatively spayed and neutered 3,498 animals with the funds provided.

On June 14, 2016, as part of the hearings for Recommended Budget, the Board delegated authority to the Director of ACR (Resolution No. 16-0490) to enter into contracts with various veterinary clinics and veterinarians for high-volume community spay/neuter not to exceed \$50,000 in Fiscal Year 2016-17. The Director entered into contract with ASN to grant ASN the \$50,000 for spay and neuter of community cats at no cost to the cat caregivers.

### **DISCUSSION**

ACR's Fiscal Year 2016-17 Final Budget includes an additional \$100,000 for spay/neuter efforts in communities. ACR proposes to continue to sponsor the efforts of ASN, SSPCA and SAAC. ACR is recommending the Board delegate additional authority to the Director to enter into contracts with these organizations to effect the expenditure of the \$100,000 to provide for spay/neuter of privately owned animals at low-cost or no-cost to their owners contingent on Board approval of the budget. ACR is proposing to allocate the monies as follows:

- 1) Additional \$40,000 to ASN for spay/neuter of cats
- 2) Additional \$10,000 to ASN for spay/neuter of dogs
- 3) \$20,000 to SSPCA for spay/neuter of cats
- 4) \$15,000 to SSPCA for spay/neuter of dogs
- 5) \$15,000 to SSPCA for spay/neuter of south county feral cats

Meyers-Milias-Brown Act. In addition to the compliance with County Charter Section 71J as detailed below, contracting for services provided by county employees is also subject to offer of meet and confer in accordance with the Meyers-Milias-Brown Act (California Government Code Sections 3500-3511). In view of the limited time-frame and budgetary allocation limit under this requested delegation of contracting authority, meet and confer as offered for this request has been satisfied as explained below.

Charter Section 71J. Contracting for veterinary services is subject to the requirements of Sacramento County Charter Section 71J. The County has complied with these requirements as follows:

- 1) No Displacement. No employees will be displaced.
- 2) Publication. An advertisement was placed in a local newspaper on January 8, 2016, offering limited grant funding to high-volume spay/neuter veterinary clinics. No responses were received.
- 3) Economy and Efficiency. The proposed amendment and contracts to be executed by the Director of ACR under the delegation requested are for economy and efficiency. ACR has never had the capacity to regularly spay/neuter privately owned animals in the community that are not housed in the shelter. The shelter's medical unit has only two surgical tables and limited holding area for preparation and recovery of animals both pre- and post-surgery, and the medical unit is located at the back of the shelter, making its

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accessibility for community spay-neuter more difficult. ACR's mobile clinic has a limited capacity of approximately 12 surgeries per day and cannot be expected to provide the volume of surgeries necessary to make an impact county-wide. For ACR to establish high-volume spay-neuter clinics (lease or build) and hire veterinarians, Registered Veterinary Technicians (RVTs), and administrative staff would cost multiple hundreds of thousands of dollars, if not millions. To expand the shelter would cost at least \$1.5 million or more. The clinic building next door to the shelter is operated under a qualifying managed service agreement with ASN because ACR does not have the resources to operate it. Minimal required staffing is two veterinarians, two RVTs, four technicians, two office assistants and one accounting staff. Approximate cost for this level of staffing is \$868,000 for one year; pharmaceutical supplies and utilities would be additional cost. Several community organizations are well established as high-volume spay/neuter clinics, and contracts with them for the proposed high-volume spay-neuter services in the community will be a more effective and efficient use of the additionally budgeted \$100,000 proposed for expenditure for these services, as approximately 2,798 surgeries of dogs and cats can be accomplished with the money. This same funding would accomplish approximately 654 surgeries in the shelter's existing medical unit with current staffing. Compensation under previous contracts has varied based on market rates, species, gender, and weight of animals. ACR anticipates negotiating fees competitive with high-volume low-cost spay/neuter clinics in the region – ranging from a low of \$15 for a male kitten to an approximate high of \$125 for a pregnant large dog. For the reasons outlined above, it remains more economical and efficient for the County to continue contracting for spay and neuter services of privately owned animals.

- 4) Meet and Confer. Meet and confer for this additional proposed delegation of contracting authority was offered to the Sacramento County Management Association (SCMA), the labor organization representing the shelter veterinarians, and to Local 39, the labor organization representing the RVTs. SCMA and Local 39 are not requesting to meet over the recommendation.

### **MEASURES/EVALUATION**

Measures and evaluation are not applicable to this board item.

### **FINANCIAL ANALYSIS**

The delegation of additional authority for FY 2016-17 will facilitate the continued funding of high-volume spay/neuter services not to cumulatively exceed \$150,000 for Fiscal Year 2016-17 (\$50,000 previously delegated from FY 2016-17 Approved Recommended Budget and an additional \$100,000 contingent on Board approval of the Adopted Budget).

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Respectfully submitted,

APPROVED:  
NAVDEEP S. GILL  
County Executive

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DAVE DICKINSON, Director  
Department of Animal Care and Regulation

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
ROBERT B. LEONARD,  
Chief Deputy County Executive

Attachment:

Resolution – Authority to enter into spay and neuter contracts for FY 2016-17