

CITY OF YUBA CITY
STAFF REPORT

Date: December 2, 2008
To: Honorable Mayor & Members of the City Council
From: General Services Department
Presentation By: Devin Barber, General Services Director

Summary

Subject: Animal Control Services

Recommendation: Approve recommended changes to Animal Control Services provided by Sutter County and direct staff to negotiate a new service contract for Animal Control Services and new Animal Control Facilities with Sutter County.

Fiscal Impact: \$134,437 - In offset cost for Animal Control Services for FY 08-09 and future cost for financing the City's share of a new Animal Control Facility estimated at \$1.6 million.

Background:

Sutter County provides legally mandated animal control services for Yuba City and the City of Live Oak. The existing contract between Sutter County and Yuba City was adopted in 1982 and apportions operational costs of service by population. The cost percentage break out among agencies is as follows: Yuba City is 66%, Live Oak is 8%, and Sutter is 26%.

Yuba City, as all cities, is mandated by law to provide animal control services. "The Animal Shelter Law" (SB1785) was signed into law in 1999. This statute increased the standards of care for animal control shelters. The compliance standards requires medical care, isolation of sick animals, daily exercise, and extended stays as efforts are made to find the animals homes by 2010. The higher standards of care, City growth, and general inflation have contributed to the increase in costs of Animal Control Operations.

Sutter County is in the process of replacing its existing Animal Control Shelter Facility located near the airport. The existing shelter was built in 1986 and was constructed with materials found more commonly in home construction. The facility does not meet Americans with Disabilities Act standards; the septic system is failing and has a significant rodent infestation. The present shelter is 4,130 sq. ft. and is no longer large enough to accommodate the increased volume of animals handled at this facility. The volume of animals has increased from 3,382 impounds in 2002 to 4,432 impounds in 2006, resulting in a 31% increase over four (4) years. Due to the increased amounts of animals impounded and the deterioration of the shelter over the years, a new shelter is currently being proposed by the county.

Analysis:

Operational Costs:

The chart below lists the City's costs for shelter services since 2002 and the requested amount for the present fiscal year. The cost of service has grown somewhat disproportional to the growth in population, requiring an adjustment in services to lower the City's prorate cost share for animal control services. A reduction in expenses is currently necessary to continue to provide animal control services with the City's fiscal limits.

Yuba City Population Growth Compared to Animal Care Services Charges

	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Requested
Fiscal Year	02-03	03-04	04-05	05-06	06-07	07-08	08-09
YC Population	38,109	47,708	49,563	52,470	59,156	62,083	63,338
Shelter Charges	\$159,189	\$253,432	\$293,410	\$382,583	\$348,056	\$408,136	*\$498,866
Per Capita Cost	\$4.18	\$5.31	\$5.92	\$7.29	\$5.88	\$6.57	\$7.88

*Sutter County budget request with capital items removed

Staff has been working with the County on ways to reduce costs. We propose to shift the responsibility of responding to barking dog complaints and picking up dead animals from Sutter County to the City's Police and Public Works Departments, respectively. This service reduction will decrease the reimbursements to the County by approximately \$134,427 and bring the currently requested amount for FY 2008-2009 to approximately \$375,000. For FY 2009-2010, it maybe necessary to reduce service levels further to maintain costs.

Fixed Asset Costs:

In addition to operational cost, the County has begun the process of replacing the existing Animal Control Shelter. Proposals have been solicited and evaluated for Architectural Design & Construction Management Services; a recommendation is going to the Board of Supervisors later this month. The full design process is expected to take sixteen (16) months with construction beginning Summer 2010.

The County currently estimates costs for a new shelter as follows:

Architectural Design & Construction Mgmt.:	\$500,000
Construction Costs:	\$3,000,000

The City's budget for FY 2008-2009 does not include any costs associated with the new animal shelter. The present agreement requires the County and City to agree upon fixed assets and how the fixed asset costs will be distributed among the vested parties including the City of Live Oak. An agreement with the County over financing and cost share for the new Shelter Facility will be necessary and will be forwarded for City Council consideration in the near future.

County Services Contract Revisions Required

The present agreement between the City and County for Animal Control Services has been in effect for 26 years and needs updating. Items for discussion include a set term, changes to facilitate the enforcement of animal control laws, and greater clarity on roles & responsibilities.

Sutter County is currently in the process of updating their fee schedule which should result in accurate cost recovery rates. Updated cost recovery rates will help offset future cost increases and help the County determine what the indirect and direct costs of providing the service are. A new service contract is recommended to establish the revisions necessary to cover future cost for operations and capital facilities.

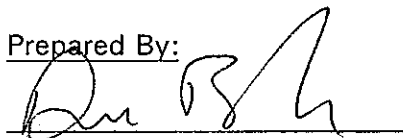
Fiscal Impact:

The offset cost of shifting responsibility for barking dog complaints and picking up dead animals is \$134,437 for FY 08-09. Future cost for the Animal Control Facility is estimated to be in the range of \$1.6 million, with financing terms to be determined.

Recommendation:

Approve the recommended changes to Animal Control Services provided by Sutter County and direct staff to negotiate a new service contract for Animal Control Services and new Animal Control Facilities with Sutter County.

Prepared By:



Devin Barber
General Services Director

Submitted By:



Steven R. Jepsen
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Reviewed By:

Finance
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