

**SUBMITTAL TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA**



**FROM:** Supervisor Jim Venable

**SUBMITTAL DATE:** June 4, 2003

**SUBJECT:** Approve in-concept the construction of a Community Health Agency Animal Shelter Facility in Southwest Riverside County.

**RECOMMENDED MOTION:** Move that the Board of Supervisors join with me to grant in-concept approval to construct a Community Health Agency Animal Shelter Facility in Southwest Riverside County.

**BACKGROUND:** The Southwestern portion of Riverside County has experienced significant growth over the past several years. The 2002 Census Report shows that the human population in this area grew 49.2% between 1990 and 2002. The animal population in this area underwent a correlative growth pattern. The animal sheltering needs of this area are currently being accomplished by Animal Friends of the Valley (AFV) and Ramona Animal Haven (RAH). The County of Riverside contracts with each of these agencies to accommodate the sheltering requirements of the unincorporated areas in this portion of the County.

To meet the growing demands for animal sheltering in the Southwestern portion of the County, AFV is in the infancy stages of building a new shelter. The sheltering expense associated with AFV's new facility will increase the County's cost to \$15,021 per month or \$180,255 for FY 2003/04 and \$25,454 per month or \$305,450 annually for FYs 2005 thru 2024. This represents a 300% and 578% increase, respectively, over the existing annual contract of \$45,000, with no increase in services provided.

(Continued)

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim Venable", is written over a horizontal line.

Jim Venable, Supervisor Third District

## **FORM 11**

Animal Shelter in Southwest Riverside County

June 4, 2003

Page 2

The actions of AFV have prompted the County to reassess its dependence on this agency. A Request for Information (RFI) was circulated February 6, 2002 thru March 6, 2002, with the hope of obtaining other contracting sources to offset the anticipated cost increases from AFV. No responses were received.

The Department of Animal Services, therefore, seeks to build a new approximately 22,000 square foot animal shelter in a centrally located site in the Southwestern quadrant. This facility will meet the County's housing needs for 8,000 to 10,000 animals. This facility would house kennels, a spay/neuter clinic, field services and area administration. If this new facility were to be built, the Hemet Field Services Office would be closed and the existing contract with AFV will be allowed to lapse, allowing the funds to be transferred to the new facility.

Several factors weigh positively in favor of the County constructing a new facility in this area: **(1)** the County will own the building and land and therefore have complete control; **(2)** the shelter will have the capability of housing large animals; **(3)** the shelter will be centrally located to better serve County residents; and **(4)** possible Joint Powers Authority with neighboring cities.

The initial animal housing requirements would be based on the County's sheltering needs. However, other communities within the Southwestern quadrant could foreseeably seek to participate in this venture, thereby, allowing for a distribution of cost and relieving the County of its burden as sole funding source.