

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



**FROM: Supervisor Bob Buster
Supervisor Jim Venable**

SUBMITTAL DATE: July 13, 2004

SUBJECT: Proposed Joint Powers Authority for a southwest community animal shelter

RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the Board approve, in concept, the formation of a Joint Powers Authority for the purpose of constructing an animal shelter in the southwestern portion of the county.

BACKGROUND: The Animal Friends of the Valleys (AFV) currently provides animal sheltering services to the County, and the cities of Canyon Lake, Lake Elsinore, Murrieta, and Temecula through individual contracts. Because of the growth in the southwestern portion of the county, AFV's current facilities have become overcrowded and inadequate to support their contracts. Discussions between the County, cities and AFV have resulted in a proposal to form a Joint Powers Authority (JPA) between the County and the cities (the member agencies) to finance and construct a community animal shelter in the southwestern portion of the county to alleviate the overcrowded conditions and provide for future growth.

The JPA would finance and construct a community animal shelter on land currently leased to AFV. Initial costs developed by AFV indicate the cost of the shelter would be approximately \$9 million. The County's Department of Facilities Management would provide initial construction management services until the JPA Board meets and provides direction. The JPA would review and consider using existing contractors hired by AFV where possible and allowable under applicable law. Repayment of the JPA's debt would be by the member agencies based on the percentage of animals sheltered by each member agency. Currently, the County's animal population in the AFV shelter is 43%, though this will change, as unincorporated areas are annexed, new cities incorporate, and with the opening of the County Regional Animal Shelter.

Bob Buster, Supervisor
First District

Jim Venable, Supervisor
Third District

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Background, continued

Because the County has staff dedicated to providing day-to-day administration of its public benefit corporations and JPAs, County staff would serve as staff to the JPA and be reimbursed for its administrative costs. Expenses of the JPA, which would include legal fees, bond-related expenses, board member stipends and expenses, an administrative fee to the County, etc., would be allocated equally to each member agency.

It is being proposed that the shelter be operated by AFV through a contract with the JPA. Operating costs will be allocated to each member agency based on each agency's percentage of animals sheltered. The percentage would be calculated each calendar year and provided to the member agencies for budgeting the following fiscal year. As part of the JPA administration, the County would be responsible to administer the contract on behalf of the JPA, which would include billing the cities for their share of the operating costs.

The in-concept approval does not obligate the County to join the JPA or construct an animal shelter. The in-concept approval allows the County to begin negotiations with the cities on the formation of the JPA. Final approval of the JPA will be brought back before the entire Board.

In conjunction with the JPA shelter, the Department of Animal Services is in the process of developing a master plan that addresses the need for a Riverside County regional animal shelter that would be centrally located in the Winchester area. The county regional animal shelter would accommodate sheltering large animals and house Animal Services' administrative function. Currently, it is proposed that the county regional animal shelter be constructed on available county-owned land at the closed Double Butte landfill. The county regional animal shelter is included in the County's Capital Improvement Plan.