

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

725



FROM: Community Health Agency Department of Animal Services

SUBMITTAL DATE:

SUBJECT: POPCO Spay/Neuter Voucher Program Name Change to Animal Sterilization Assistance Program (ASAP)

RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the Board of Supervisors:

- 1) Approve the Department of Animal Services' request for the POPCO Spay/neuter Voucher Program name change to the Animal Sterilization Assistance Program (ASAP); and,
- 2) Authorize the Chairman of the Board to receive and file the request.

BACKGROUND:

In June 2005, the Board of Supervisors, granted the Department of Animal Services \$150,000 to subsidize low cost spay/neuter services through the Pet Overpopulation Coalition (POPCO) voucher program. And, because of the success of the program, in June 2006, the Board of Supervisors authorized an additional \$150,000.

(Continued)

Departmental Conference

RM:pmh

Paige M. Garner for Robert Miller
Robert Miller, Director for Animal Service
Paige M. Garner, Division Director

FINANCIAL DATA	Current F.Y. Total Cost:	\$ 0	In Current Year Budget:	N/A
	Current F.Y. Net County Cost:	\$ 0	Budget Adjustment:	No
	Annual Net County Cost:	\$ 0	For Fiscal Year:	07/08

SOURCE OF FUNDS: N/A	Positions To Be Deleted Per A-30	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Requires 4/5 Vote	<input type="checkbox"/>

C.E.O. RECOMMENDATION:

APPROVE

BY: *Debra Courmoyer*
Debra Courmoyer

County Executive Office Signature

- Policy
- Consent
- Dep't Recomm.:
- Per Exec. Ofc.:

[Faint background text and stamps are visible in this section]

Prev. Agn. Ref.: | **District:** All | **Agenda Number:**

3.6

BACKGROUND (continued):

To efficiently distribute spay/neuter vouchers throughout Riverside County, the Department of Animal Services undertook a county-wide advertising campaign for the Spay/Neuter Voucher program, which included the toll-free POPCO telephone number. When County residents call the POPCO phone number, the POPCO volunteer obtains the residents mailing information and forwards it along to the Department. The Department then mails the voucher(s) and a list of participating veterinarians to the resident. The vouchers are good for sixty days, in which time the resident must make an appointment with a participating veterinarian and have the surgery performed. Vouchers are good for \$25 for a cat spay/neuter and \$50 for a dog spay/neuter. Any remaining balance is paid for by the resident. Most veterinarians; however, waive the additional fees so that it becomes a free service. Once the surgery has been performed, the veterinarian returns the voucher to the Department of payment.

In January 2008, POPCO informed the Department that the volume was too high for their current volunteer base to handle and charges to their toll-free phone number were exceeding their ability to pay. Therefore, they would need to cease providing the service for us in February 2008.

Because the program was very successful and provided a value-added service to County residents, the Department assumed the program responsibilities in its entirety. In an effort to avoid confusion to Riverside County residents, the programs name was changed to ASAP (Animal Sterilization Assistance Program) and a new toll-free phone number was established.