

**REPORT TO THE
CITY COUNCIL**
City of Salinas, California

DATE: June 28, 2016

FROM: Ray E. Corpuz, City Manager

BY: Kelly McMillin, Chief of Police
Cindy Burnham, Police Services Administrator

SUBJECT: ANIMAL CONTROL SERVICES FEASIBILITY STUDY WITH COUNTY OF MONTEREY

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the City Council:

- a. Receive a presentation from Management Partners summarizing the findings and recommendations from the feasibility study for operating the County and City of Salinas' animal shelters as one single program; and
- b. Provide direction to City staff regarding continuing discussions with the County of Monterey for implementation of recommendations outlined in the study.

DISCUSSION:

In the Fall of 2015, the County of Monterey and City of Salinas retained Management Partners for the purpose of a collaborative feasibility study to review the ongoing animal control services functions provided by each respective entity at separate locations in very close proximity to one another on Hitchcock Road to determine if there were any service sharing opportunities. Both divisions provide a full range of key animal control functions including field services, licensing, and shelter operations. The City's Animal Services function is operated and overseen by the Salinas Police Department and provides services related to animals located within city limits. The County's Animal Services function is operated and overseen by the Environmental Health Bureau of the Monterey County Health Department and provides services related to animals located within the unincorporated portions of the County.

After reviewing each division, Management Partners provided a report that included their analysis, findings and four varying degrees of service sharing opportunities and that has been attached to this council report. A summary of these findings resulted in four options for consideration:

- Option A: Sharing of one Operations Director for both programs;
- Option B: Sharing of one Operations Director and the consolidation of field services;
- Option C: Sharing of one Operations Director, consolidating field services, licensing and administrative services; and
- Option D: Full consolidation of both programs under one City/County program.

After careful consideration and discussion of these options with City and County representatives, a determination was made that options A, B, and C did not provide for sufficient economies of scale to generate mutually beneficial cost savings. The next viable option to meet the needs of both programs, and one that would generate mutually beneficial cost savings, would be to consider full consolidation through the creation of a joint powers authority (JPA).

In addition to the consideration of a JPA for possible development, elements of the consolidation of services such as the alignment of fees, animal services codes and regulations, the sharing of veterinary services and integration of animal services data programs could be implemented ahead of time.

The County of Monterey representatives, as well as the Office of Monterey County Counsel have reviewed the study findings and concur with its recommendations.

Direction to continue discussion to explore a JPA and consider any next steps as outlined in the summary is requested. The results of this discussion and any recommended action will be presented to the City Council at a later date for consideration and approval.

ISSUE:

It is recommended that the City Council:

- a. Receive a presentation from Management Partners summarizing the findings and recommendations from the feasibility study for operating the County's and City of Salinas' animal shelters as one single program; and
- b. Provide direction to City staff regarding continuing discussions with the County of Monterey for implementation of recommendations outlined in the study.

ALTERNATIVES AVAILABLE TO COUNCIL:

- 1. Council may accept the report as presented and provide direction to City staff regarding continued discussions with the County of Monterey.
- 2. The Council may take no action. The report will not be received and no direction will be provided. No further action will be taken on this project.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Approval of this recommended will have no impact to the General Fund. Costs for the feasibility study were incurred in the Fiscal Year 2015-16 budget and were shared jointly with the County of Monterey.

TIME CONSIDERATIONS:

It is important to the timing of these discussions to keep this project moving along if that is the direction of Council.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends acceptance of the report and for Council to provide direction to City staff regarding continuing discussions with the County of Monterey for implementation of recommendations outlined in the study.