

**SANTA BARBARA COUNTY  
BOARD AGENDA LETTER**



Clerk of the Board of Supervisors  
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407  
Santa Barbara, CA 93101  
(805) 568-2240

**Agenda Number:**  
**Prepared on:** 6-9-06  
**Department:** Public Health  
**Budget Unit:** 041  
**Agenda Date:** 06-20-06  
**Placement:** Administrative  
**Estimate Time:**  
**Continued Item:** No  
**If Yes, date from:**

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**TO:** Board of Supervisors

**FROM:** Michele Mickiewicz, MPH, Interim Director  
Public Health Department

**STAFF  
CONTACT:** Jan E. Glick (681-5284) Director, Animal Services

**SUBJECT:** Accept a Gift from the Santa Barbara County Animal Care Foundation, Inc.  
designated for the Santa Maria Animal Center

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**Recommendation:**

That the Board of Supervisors:

- A. Accept a gift of \$944,000 from the Santa Barbara County Animal Care Foundation, Inc. to Santa Barbara County Animal Services and the Public Health Department designated for the Santa Maria Animal Center, budgeted for and received during Fiscal Years 2004-05 and 2005-06 with the understanding that accepting the funding includes continued commitment to "...making steady progress towards the achievement of a "no-kill" animal shelter within five years."

**Alignment with Board Strategic Plan:**

The recommendations are primarily aligned with Goal No. 1 An Efficient Government Able to Respond Effectively to the Needs of the Community and Goal No. 2 Provide a Safe and Healthy Community in Which to Live, Work and Visit.

**Executive Summary and Discussion:**

The Animal Services subdivision of the Public Health Department has a long history of partnerships with community organizations. These partnerships benefit County communities as well as the animals within the three animal shelters operated by the County. These groups, many of which are non-profit 501(c)3 organizations, provide services, in-kind donations, and financial assistance to the Animal Services subdivision.

The Santa Barbara County Animal Care Foundation, Inc., was formed to provide philanthropic support and to promote the mission of Animal Services throughout Santa Barbara County. The Animal Care Foundation Board of Directors recognized the need to replace the Santa Maria Animal Shelter and committed to helping ensure adequate funding for the project. To that end, the Animal Care Foundation wrote successful grants,

held fundraising events and solicited individual donations to close the funding gap for the Santa Maria Animal Shelter capital project. The Wendy P. McCaw Foundation and the Santa Barbara Foundation approved grants in the amounts of \$819,000 and \$25,000, respectively, for the construction of the Santa Maria Animal Shelter. Additionally, \$100,000 in contributions was designated by donors and by the Animal Care Foundation Board of Directors to be used on the project. This \$944,000 in commitment funds, in conjunction with various funding sources from the County's resources, comprised the capital budget for the new Santa Maria Animal Shelter.

#### Board First Approved Capital Project in 1993

The Board approved the relocation of the Santa Maria Animal Shelter to County-owned land on in 1993, but lack of funding delayed the project. The poor condition of the Santa Maria Animal Shelter became the subject of a Humane Society of the United States report, three (3) Grand Jury reports, and public comment at meetings of the Board. In March 2000, the Board approved the designation of proceeds from the sale of the Graciosa Road property to this capital project because a more suitable site was identified within the County complex on Foster Road. The Capital Project kick-off meeting was held October 13, 2000, with Supervisors Tom Urbanske and Joni Gray, although all of the funding had not been secured and identified.

Through a combination of funding from the General Fund (\$916,000), the Public Health Department (\$2,611,661), the sale of the Graciosa Road property (\$176,000) and the projected sale of the existing shelter (\$350,000), and donations from the Animal Care Foundation and the Santa Barbara Foundation (\$125,000), the total needed for project funding was almost complete. On December 31, 2002, the Wendy P. McCaw Foundation donated \$819,000 to the Animal Care Foundation to complete the funding for the total project of constructing and equipping a new animal shelter at 548 Foster Road in Santa Maria. The 17,577 square foot shelter includes expanded animal holding capacity, an inside animal holding area and adoption center, a spay and neuter clinic, and a classroom. The building construction is complete and occupancy took in June of 2005. A total of \$944,000 was received from and through the Animal Care Foundation: \$547,021 was received in cash and \$396,979 was received as one-time small equipment and fixture purchases (such as cages and kennels).

The McCaw Foundation gift was given to the Animal Care Foundation under certain conditions. These are identified here with their current status:

1. Construction of the Santa Maria Animal Shelter to begin no later than December 31, 2003 (Completed).
2. Construction of the Santa Maria Animal Shelter to be completed no later than December 31, 2004 (Completed).
3. The County endeavors to make steady progress toward the achievement of a "no-kill" policy for adoptable animals within 5 years of the opening of the new shelter (In-process, with a target date of June 2010.)
4. The McCaw Foundation to be provided naming opportunities at the Santa Maria Animal Shelter (Completed).

The Board voted unanimously to provide naming opportunities, through the proclamations and notice of the gifts for both the McCaw Foundation and the Animal Care Foundation at the April 6, 2004 Board Hearing.

Now that the project is substantially complete, this request is for acceptance of the gift from the Animal Care Foundation designated for the Santa Maria Animal Center in the amount of \$944,000 and for the Board of

Supervisors support of the County's endeavor to make steady progress toward the achievement of a "no-kill" policy within five years of the opening of the new center.

#### What Does a "No-Kill" Performance Goal Mean?

Effective July 1, 1999, the state of California adopted the definition of an adoptable animal and established a statewide policy that adoptable animals should not be killed. By also defining treatable, three tiers have been established for animals received in animal shelters: adoptable, treatable, and unadoptable.

*Tier 1: Adoptable* animals are friendly, healthy dogs and cats that are eight weeks of age and older and do not require medical treatment, foster care or behavioral modification.

*Tier 2: Treatable* animals may require medical treatment, be underage animals needing maternal or foster care, or have modifiable behavioral problems requiring socialization and training.

*Tier 3: Unadoptable* animals are irremediably suffering or vicious and should be humanely euthanized.

The County's role in public safety and rabies control is not affected by a "no kill" performance goal for adoptable animals. The policy is not unusual for a County to adopt – San Diego and Maricopa counties have adopted the goal of not killing adoptable animals. Over the past ten years, Santa Barbara County Animal Services has decreased the euthanasia rates by almost 50%. In 2003, the Animal Services subdivision established a goal to become "no kill" by the year 2010. Acceptance of the Animal Care Foundation designation from the Wendy P. McCaw Foundation does not obligate the County to achieving the goal – it is to make steady progress to achieve the goal. The completion of the new Santa Maria Animal Shelter will help the County to continue to make steady progress toward reduction of euthanasia.

Prior Board Hearings have had the following agenda items regarding this project:

February 27, 2001 Approve architectural contract with Hall, Hurley and Deutsch in the amount of \$228,000

September 9, 2001 Approve a one-time award of \$616,500 from the Capital Projects Fund for 2001-2002

February 17, 2004 Approve the construction contract in the amount of \$3,785,460 to Morrissey Construction Company

April 6, 2004 Resolution recognizing the Wendy P. McCaw Foundation and the Santa Barbara County Animal Care Foundation for their commitments to the Santa Maria Animal Center and authorizing naming portions of the facility in honor and recognition for their commitments

#### **Mandates and Service Levels:**

The County is mandated "to maintain or provide for the maintenance of a pound system and a rabies control program..." (Health & Safety Code Section 121690 {e}). The County is mandated to hold animals for four business days, not including the day of impoundment if the shelter has made the animal available for owner redemption one weekday evening until at least 7:00 p.m. or one weekend day under the "Hayden" amendments or Chapter 81 of the Statutes of 1999. (Food and Agricultural Code Section 31108)

On July 6, 2000, the Board amended a County Ordinance to adopt Section 31108 of the Food and Agricultural Code for dogs impounded pursuant to Division 14, Section 30501, et seq. of the Food and Agricultural Code, to be applicable in the unincorporated limits of the County of Santa Barbara. The County is also mandated to spay or neuter all adopted dogs and cats prior to release to a new owner.

Enhanced service levels at the new Santa Maria Animal Center include:

- 1) In-house veterinary services for sheltered animals including treatment, vaccinations, spay, and neuter services
- 2) In-house treatment of sick or injured treatable animals

- 3) Increased quality adoption program as medical status of animals will be more readily available
- 4) Enhanced community involvement due to a better environment for volunteerism

**Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:**

Accepting the gift from the Santa Barbara County Animal Care Foundation, and receiving the funding with certain conditions, allowed for the full funding of the Santa Maria Animal Shelter Project at the projected amount of \$4,997,661. This project is substantially complete and the benefits are already enjoyed by volunteers, staff, animals, and our communities.

The \$944,000 of cash and equipment was already received from the Animal Care Foundation during Fiscal Years 2004-05 and 2005-06. The funds were provided directly to the General Services Department, as they were providing project management services on this important project for the Public Health Department.

The funds were received by General Services and deposited to: Fund 0030, Department 063, Program 1930, Line Item 5897, Project 8625.

**Special Instructions:**

Return one (1) copy of the Minute Order to the Department, attention: Margaret Granger.

**Concurrence:**

County Auditor-Controller  
County Counsel  
General Services