



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

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS AGENDA LETTER

Department Name:

County Health

Department Number:

041

Agenda Date:

August 18, 2026

Placement:

Administrative Agenda

Estimated Time:**Continued Item:**

No

If Yes, date from:**Vote Required:**

4/5

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Department Director: Mouhanad Hammami, County Health

CONTACT: Sarah Aguilar, Animal Services Director

SUBJECT: Pet Lover's Spay and Neuter Grant Program Agreement with the California Department of Food and Agriculture in the Amount of \$50,000

Concurrences:**County Counsel Concurrence:**

As to form: Yes

Auditor-Controller Concurrence:

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence: CEO Budget

As to form: Yes

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors:

- a) Approve, ratify, and authorize the Director of the County Health Department, or designee, to execute Grant Agreement No. 25-0658-000-SO with the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) and accept a grant award in the amount of \$50,000 for Santa Barbara

County Animal Services (SBCAS) to expand public spay and neuter services through Project PetSafe for the period of June 1, 2026, through May 31, 2027 (Attachment A);

- b) Approve Budget Revision Request No. 1574 in the amount of \$50,000 for unanticipated revenue for use in the Animal Services Fiscal Year 2026-2027 budget (Attachment C); and
- c) Determine that the recommended actions do not constitute a “Project” within the meaning of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and are exempt pursuant to Section 15378(b)(4) of the CEQA Guidelines, since the recommended actions are the creation of government funding mechanisms or other government fiscal activities that do not involve any commitment to any specific project which may result in a potentially significant physical impact on the environment.

Summary Text:

This item is on the agenda to execute an Agreement with the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) to accept a one-time \$50,000 grant award from the Pet Lover’s Spay and Neuter Program. The grant will support Santa Barbara County Animal Services’ (SBCAS) Project PetSafe Public Clinics by funding contracted veterinary services to expand access to free or low-cost spay and neuter surgeries for eligible members of the public.

The Agreement provides funding for the period of June 1, 2026, through May 31, 2027. Funds will be used for contractual veterinary services only, allowing SBCAS to increase public spay/neuter surgery capacity at the Santa Maria shelter clinic. This expansion is intended to reduce preventable litters, decrease shelter intake of unaltered animals, and improve access to affordable veterinary care for residents who may otherwise face financial or transportation barriers.

Discussion:

High shelter intake continues to be driven in part by unaltered pets, unwanted litters, and limited access to affordable veterinary services. In Santa Barbara County, the need is particularly significant in underserved and rural communities where low-cost spay and neuter options are limited, appointment availability is constrained, and private surgical costs may be prohibitive for many households.

SBCAS currently performs approximately 10 to 12 public surgeries per week, which is insufficient to meet community demand. The CDFA grant will allow SBCAS to increase capacity by contracting with licensed veterinarians to provide additional surgical services at the Santa Maria shelter clinic. Contracted veterinarians will be responsible for brief pre-surgical examinations, performing spay and neuter surgeries, and completing required documentation.

The project is expected to significantly increase access to free or low-cost spay and neuter services for eligible pet owners. By expanding surgery availability, SBCAS anticipates reducing unwanted litters, decreasing neonatal and stray animal intake, lowering shelter care and housing costs, and supporting a more proactive, prevention-based approach to animal welfare. The project will also supplement existing low-cost spay and neuter resources provided by community partners and help reduce wait times for residents seeking services.

SBCAS will promote the expanded clinic services through bilingual outreach in English and Spanish, including social media, the SBCAS website, email newsletters, printed materials, local radio, digital community boards, and partner organizations. SBCAS will also promote awareness of the Pet Lover’s

Spay and Neuter Grant Program and the Pet Lover's specialized license plate, consistent with CDFA grant requirements.

Project performance will be monitored through surgery data, client ZIP codes, no-show rates, surgical outcomes, shelter intake trends, client feedback, staff and contractor meetings, and partner feedback. SBCAS will conduct ongoing monitoring throughout the grant term, complete a mid-year evaluation, and submit required final reporting to CDFA. SBCAS will also comply with applicable CDFA grant management requirements, including allowable cost restrictions, contractor documentation, invoicing requirements, publicity acknowledgment, final reporting, and record retention.

Background:

The CDFA's Pet Lover's Spay and Neuter Grant Program provides funding to municipalities and nonprofit organizations in California to support spay and neuter services and reduce pet overpopulation. The program is funded through fees associated with the purchase, renewal, and conversion of Pet Lover's specialized license plates, as well as contributions to the Prevention of Animal Homelessness and Cruelty Voluntary Tax Contribution Fund.

SBCAS operates Project PetSafe, a prevention-based community veterinary program that provides low-cost services intended to keep pets healthy, support families, and reduce unnecessary shelter intake. With the addition of a staff veterinarian, SBCAS has resumed limited public spay and neuter services; however, demand continues to exceed available capacity. Affordable spay and neuter services remain especially limited in North County and rural areas, where residents may experience both financial and transportation barriers to private veterinary care.

The CDFA Agreement awards \$50,000 to SBCAS for the project titled "Relaunching Project PetSafe Public Clinics." The approved scope of work authorizes SBCAS to expand public spay and neuter availability by contracting with local veterinarians to provide up to two days per week of surgery services at the Santa Maria shelter clinic. The grant budget allocates the full award to contractual veterinary services at a rate of \$150 per hour, funding approximately 333 hours of veterinary time over the project period.

Performance Measure:

Recipients are required to submit a Final Performance Report no later than 30 calendar days following the expiration date of the Grant Agreement or after the project is complete, whichever comes first. Recipients will receive a final report template from the Office of Grant Administration approximately one month prior to the end of the project. The Final Performance Report is used to identify the number of animals spayed and/or neutered, successes, project delays or lessons learned, and any other pertinent information.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Budgeted: No.

Accepting the 2026 CDFA Pet Lover's Spay and Neuter Grant does not impact mandates or general fund contribution. The entire state grant award of \$50,000 is expected to fund contracts with veterinarians for services to be provided to the public at the Santa Maria shelter clinic. The grant is expected to fund 333 hours of veterinary services at the anticipated hourly rate of \$150 per hour. A budget revision in the amount of \$50,000 is necessary to amend the FY 2026-27 Adopted Budget for Animal Services to reflect the unanticipated revenues and expenditures.

Fiscal Analysis:

The 2026 CDFA Pet Lover's Spay and Neuter Grant is expected to be one-time in nature.

Funding Source	FY 2026-2027	Total
State	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00
Total	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00

Staffing Impacts:

There are no new staffing impacts associated with the recommended actions. The grant funds contractual veterinary services and does not add County positions.

Special Instructions:

Please email one Minute Order to the CHD Contracts Unit at phdcu@sbcphd.org when available.

Attachments:

Attachment A – CDFA Grant Agreement No. 25-0658-000-SO

Attachment B – CDFA 2026 Pet Lover's Spay and Neuter Grant Program Grant Management Procedures Manual

Attachment C – Budget Revision Request No. 1574

Contact Information:

Sarah Aguilar, CACO, CAWA
Animal Services Director
saguilar@sbcphd.org