



BOARD OF ANIMAL SERVICES COMMISSIONERS  
CITY OF LOS ANGELES

**REGULAR MEETING AGENDA**  
**Tuesday, April 12, 2016**  
**10:00 AM**

LOS ANGELES CITY HALL, ROOM 1060  
200 NORTH SPRING STREET  
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012

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DAVID ZAFT  
President

LARRY GROSS  
Vice-President

OLIVIA E. GARCÍA  
ROGER WOLFSON  
ALANA YAÑEZ

Sign language interpreters, assistive listening devices, or other auxiliary aids and/or services may be provided upon request. To ensure availability, you are advised to make your request at least 72 hours prior to the meeting you wish to attend. For information please call (213) 482-9597.

Si requiere servicios de traducción, favor de hacer pedido con 24 horas de anticipo al (213) 482-9558.

**I. ADMINISTRATIVE APPEALS**

**1. Dangerous Animal Case: DA 152110 EV**

Respondent: Anabel Garcia and Roxanna Flores

Complaining Witness: Gloria Quijas and Maria Barba

East Valley Animal Care and Control: Captain Karen Knipscheer-Cox

**2. Dangerous Animal Case: DA 152128 WV**

Respondent: Khosro Reghabi and Michael Havaei

Complaining Witness: Gladys Kissell

West Valley Animal Care and Control: Captain Karen Knipscheer-Cox

**II. REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING**

**1. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD** - (Comments from the public on items of public interest

within the Board's subject matter jurisdiction that are not on the Agenda; two minutes per speaker).

**Public Comments:** The Brown Act prohibits the Board and staff from responding to the speakers' comments. Some of the matters raised in public comment may appear on a future agenda.

## **2. COMMISSION BUSINESS**

- A.** Approval of the Minutes for the Meeting of March 1, 2016 (Action item; public comment limited to one minute per speaker)
- B.** Approval of Minutes for the Meeting of March 8, 2016 (Action item; public comment limited to one minute per speaker)

## **3. ORAL REPORT OF THE GENERAL MANAGER** (Public comment limited to one minute per speaker).

## **4. COMMISSIONERS' ORAL REPORTS AND FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS** (Public comment limited to one minute per speaker)

## **5. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

- A.** Proposal by Commissioner Wolfson to Consider the Use of Managed Admissions as a Means to Reduce Euthanasia (Public Comment limited to one minute per speaker)

## **6. BOARD REPORTS**

- A.** Staff Report Requesting Approval to Use Animal Welfare Trust Fund Monies to Purchase a Replacement Digital Radiograph Machine for the South Los Angeles Animal Shelter (Action item; public comment limited to two minutes per speaker)
- B.** Staff Report Requesting Authority and Approval to Extend the Current Agreement (C-117333) with SNP LA to Operate the East Valley Spay and Neuter Clinic (Action item; public comment limited to two minutes per speaker)
- C.** Staff Report Requesting Authority and Approval to Issue a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for Wild and Exotic Animal Veterinary Services (Action item; public comment limited to two minutes per speaker)
- D.** Board Report Requesting Approval of Recommendation to City Council to Oppose AB 2760 (Mathias) and Include its Opposition to the Bill in its 2016 Legislative Platform (Action item; public comment limited to two minutes per speaker)

## **7. ADJOURNMENT**

Next Commission Regular Meeting is scheduled for 7:00 p.m., April 26, 2016, at the East Valley

Animal Shelter, 14409 Vanowen Street, Van Nuys, California 91405.

**AGENDAS** - The Board of Animal Services Commissioners (Board) meets regularly every second (2<sup>nd</sup>) and fourth (4<sup>th</sup>) Tuesday of each month at 10:00 A.M. Regular Meetings are held at City Hall, 200 North Spring Street, Room 1060, in Los Angeles, CA 90012. Evening Meetings are held in various locations throughout the City, from 7:00 to approximately 9:30 P.M. The agendas for Board meetings contain a brief general description of those items to be considered at the meetings. Board Agendas are available at the Department of Animal Services (Department), Administrative Division, 350 South Grand Avenue, 45th Floor, Suite 4501, Los Angeles, CA 90071. Board Agendas may also be viewed on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor Public Bulletin Board in City Hall East, 200 North Main Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012. Internet users may also access copies of present and prior agenda items, copies of the Board Calendar, MP-3 audio files of meetings as well as electronic copies of approved minutes on the Department's World Wide Web Home Page site at <http://www.laanimalservices.com/CommissionAgendas.htm>

Three (3) members of the Board constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. Some items on the Agenda may be approved without any discussion.

The Board Secretary will announce the items to be considered by the Board. The Board will hear the presentation on the topic and gather additional information from Department Staff. Once presentations have finished, the Board President will ask if any Board Member or member of the public wishes to speak on one or more of these items. Each speaker called before the Commission will have one (1) minute to express their comments and concerns on matters placed on the agenda. (For certain agenda items, speakers will have two (2) minutes.)

**PUBLIC INPUT AT BOARD MEETINGS** – **Public Participation on Agenda Items.** Members of the public will have an opportunity to address the Board on agenda items after the item is called and before the Board takes action on the item, unless the opportunity for public participation on the item was previously provided to all interested members of the public at a public meeting of a Committee of the Board and the item has not substantially changed since the Committee heard the item. When speaking to an agenda item other than during Public Comment (see Public Comment below), the speaker shall limit his or her comments to the specific item under consideration (California Government Code, Section 54954.3).

**Public Comment.** The Board will provide an opportunity for public comment at every regular meeting of the Board. Members of the public may address the Board on any items within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Board as part of Public Comment.

**Speaker Cards.** Members of the public wishing to speak are to fill out one speaker card for each agenda item on which they wish to speak and present it to the Board secretary **before** the item is called.

**Time Limit for Speakers.** Speakers addressing the Board will be limited to one (1) minute of speaking time for each agenda item except during general public comment period which is limited to two (2) minutes per speaker. (For certain agenda items, speakers will have two (2) minutes each.). The Chairperson, with the approval of a majority of the Board, may for good cause extend any speaker's time by increments of up to one (1) minute.

**Brown Act.** These rules shall be interpreted in a manner that is consistent with the Ralph M. Brown Act, California Government Code Section § 54950 et seq.

**STANDARDS OF CONDUCT.** Speakers are expected to behave in an orderly manner and to refrain from personal attacks or use of profanity or language that may incite violence.

All persons present at Board meetings are expected to behave in an orderly manner and to refrain from disrupting the meeting, interfering with the rights of others to address the Board and/or interfering with the conduct of business by

the Board.

In the event that any speaker does not comply with the foregoing requirements, or if a speaker does not address the specific item under consideration, the speaker may be ruled out of order, their speaking time forfeited and the Chairperson may call upon the next speaker.

The Board, by majority vote, may order the removal from the meeting of any speaker or audience member continuing to behave in a disruptive manner after being warned by the Chairperson regarding their behavior. Section 403 of the California Penal Code states as follows: "Every person who, without authority of law, willfully disturbs or breaks up any assembly or meeting that is not unlawful in its character, other than an assembly or meeting referred to in Section 302 of the Penal Code or Section 18340 of the Elections Code, is guilty of a misdemeanor."

**VOTING AND DISPOSITION OF ITEMS** – Most items require a majority vote of the entire membership of the Board (3 members). When debate on an item is completed, the Board President will instruct the Secretary to "call the roll". Every member present must vote for or against each item; abstentions are not permitted unless there is a Conflict of Interest for which the Board member is obliged to abstain from voting. The Secretary will announce the votes on each item. Any member of the Board may move to "reconsider" any vote on any item on the agenda, except to adjourn, suspend the Rules, or where an intervening event has deprived the Board of jurisdiction, providing that said member originally voted on the prevailing side of the item. The motion to "reconsider" shall only be in order once during the meeting, and once during the next regular meeting. The member requesting reconsideration shall identify for all members present the Agenda number and subject matter previously voted upon. A motion to reconsider is not debatable and shall require an affirmative vote of three members of the Board.

When the Board has failed by sufficient votes to approve or reject an item, and has not lost jurisdiction over the matter, or has not caused it to be continued beyond the next regular meeting, the issue is again placed on the next agenda for the following meeting for the purpose of allowing the Board to again vote on the matter.

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# City of Los Angeles

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MAYOR**

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BRENDA F. BARNETTE  
GENERAL MANAGER

DANA H. BROWN  
ASSISTANT GENERAL MANAGER

DR. JEREMY PRUPAS  
CHIEF VETERINARIAN

## **NOTIFICATION OF ADMINISTRATIVE APPEAL HEARINGS To Be Held:**

**Tuesday, April 12, 2016, at 10:00 A.M.**

**City Hall  
200 North Spring Street, 10<sup>th</sup> Floor, Room 1060  
Los Angeles, CA 90012  
(Entrance on Main Street)**

This serves as formal notice pursuant to Section § 53.18(q) 4 of the Los Angeles Municipal Code (LAMC) to the following parties and witnesses in the appeal(s) listed below:

- 1. Dangerous Animal Case: DA 152110 EV**  
Respondent: Anabel Garcia and Roxanna Flores  
East Valley Animal Care and Control: Captain Karen Knipscheer-Cox  
Complaining Witness: Gloria Quijas and Maria Barba
- 2. Dangerous Animal Case: DA 152128 WV**  
Respondent: Khosro Reghabi and Michael Havaei  
West Valley Animal Care and Control: Captain Karen Knipscheer-Cox  
Complaining Witness: Gladys Kissell

These hearings will not be rescheduled, except for good cause.

As a covered entity under Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act, the City of Los Angeles does not discriminate on the basis of disability and, upon request, will provide reasonable accommodation to ensure equal access to its programs, services and activities. Sign Language interpreters, assistive listening devices, or other auxiliary aids and/or services may be provided upon request. To ensure availability, you are advised to make your request at least 72 hours prior to the meeting you wish to attend.

For additional information, please refer to the Board's "Rules and Procedures for Appeals", or contact the Department of Animal Services at (213) 482-9558, or visit the Department's website: <http://www.laanimalservices.com/>. Written statements are to be submitted to the Commission seven days prior and, if in excess of 50 pages, seven hard copies must be provided. You may submit your statement (50 pages or less) via email to: [ani.commission@lacity.org](mailto:ani.commission@lacity.org).

*Para información en español, llame al (213) 482-9558.*

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## Report to the Board of Animal Services Commissioners

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**MEETING DATE:** April 12, 2016    **PREPARED BY:** Dana Brown

**REPORT DATE:** March 24, 2016    **TITLE:** Assistant General Manager, Administration

**SUBJECT:** USE OF ANIMAL WELFARE TRUST FUND TO REPLACE DIGITAL  
RADIOGRAPH MACHINE AT SOUTH LOS ANGELES ANIMAL SHELTER

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### BOARD ACTIONS RECOMMENDED:

- **APPROVE** the use of Animal Welfare Trust Fund monies for the purchase of one replacement digital radiograph machine for South Los Angeles Animal Shelter.

### SUMMARY:

As the largest, and arguably the busiest, animal shelter in the City the South Los Angeles Animal Shelter has always had a digital radiograph machine in use. The machine is used daily and plays an instrumental role in the Department's shelter medicine program. The machine is used to diagnose many different types of abnormalities in the animals that are brought into the shelter including broken bones, hernias, lung and heart disease and some types of cancers.

The machine at the South LA shelter is no longer operating properly. The machine is approximately 10 years old and operates on an antiquated computer system. The problem exists with the computer system. The cost to upgrade the system is substantially more than the cost to purchase a new machine. We have already gone thru the competitive bidding process for the three machines that were approved for purchase at the end of last calendar year.

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Report to the Board of Animal Services Commissioners  
SUBJECT: Use of AWTF to Replace Digital Radiograph Machine at South LA Shelter

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Unlike at the Harbor and West Los Angeles shelters, no construction or renovation will be necessary to install the new machine at South LA. The only additional thing necessary is an internet connection which the Department is working to install currently. It is the intent of the Department to install one of the three approved machines at South LA as South LA has a high volume need for the machine.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

As stated above, a competitive bidding process has already been conducted and a contract awarded. As such it is only necessary to add another machine to the order and make available the additional funds for purchase. The total cost of an additional machine is \$52,430.

Approved:

Brenda F Barnette

**Brenda Barnette, General Manager**

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**BOARD ACTION:**

_____ Passed	Disapproved	_____
_____ Passed with noted modifications	Continued	_____
_____ Tabled	New Date	_____



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General Manager

DANA H. BROWN  
Assistant General Manager

DR. JEREMY PRUPAS  
Chief Veterinarian

**Report to the Board of Animal Services Commissioners**

**MEETING DATE:** April 12, 2016

**PREPARED BY:** Paul Makowski

**REPORT DATE:** April 6, 2016

**TITLE:** Management Analyst II

**SUBJECT: REQUEST APPROVAL FOR A THREE-MONTH CONTRACT EXTENSION  
FOR OPERATION OF THE EAST VALLEY SPAY/NEUTER CLINIC**

**BOARD ACTION RECOMMENDED:**

1. APPROVE the draft three-month extension, approved as to form and legality by the City Attorney as attached, with Spay Neuter Project of Los Angeles (SNP LA) to continue contractual terms for operation of the spay/neuter clinic at the East Valley animal shelter through August 31, 2016;
2. DIRECT staff to transmit the proposed extension Agreement to the Office of the Mayor and subsequently to the City Council, and authorize the General Manager of the Department of Animal Services to execute the subject extension Agreement upon receipt of necessary approvals.

**SUMMARY**

The current agreement to operate the East Valley shelter spay/neuter clinic (C-117333) is with Spay Neuter Project of Los Angeles or SNP LA (formerly Clinico) and expires on May 31, 2016. Completing the current RFP process to select a new contractor and execute a new agreement is not anticipated to be completed by May 31, 2016. Continued operation of a spay/neuter clinic at the East Valley animal shelter is strongly desired. Therefore, to ensure that spay/neuter services continue at the East Valley shelter with no lapse, the current agreement will be extended to cover the period that the City and the selected bidder will need to complete the City contracting process.

At its March 21, 2016 meeting, the Board approved a Request for Proposal (RFP) for operation of the East Valley Spay/Neuter Clinic. The RFP was released on March 30, 2016 and proposals are due at 4:00pm on April 27, 2016. The Department anticipates presenting a recommendation to the Board in May 2016.



**FISCAL IMPACT:**

There is no impact to the General Fund. The Animal Sterilization Fund will be used to reimburse the contractor based on rates established by the Animal Services Commission.

Approved:

*Brenda F. Barnette*

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**Brenda F. Barnette, General Manager**

Attachments

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**BOARD ACTION:**

_____ Passed	Disapproved _____
_____ Passed with noted modifications	Continued _____
_____ Tabled	New Date _____

**City of Los Angeles  
Department of Animal Services**

**AMENDMENT NO.4  
BETWEEN THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES  
AND  
SNP LA (SPAY NEUTER PROJECT OF LOS ANGELES)  
FOR THE OPERATION OF THE SPAY AND NEUTER CLINIC  
AT THE EAST VALLEY ANIMAL CARE CENTER**

**CITY CONTRACT NUMBER C-117333**

THIS AGREEMENT is made and entered into by and between the City of Los Angeles ("City"), a municipal corporation, acting through the Department of Animal Services ("Department") and the Department of General Services ("GSD"); and SNP LA (Spay Neuter Project of Los Angeles) ("Contractor"), with regard to the following:

WHEREAS, Section 53.11(j) of the Los Angeles Municipal Code requires the Department to spay or neuter each dog adopted from a City animal shelter before a license for the animal can be valid, and Section 53.15 requires every owner of a dog to hold a valid license for their animal; and

WHEREAS, the Departments' current staffing levels cannot meet the current demand for spay and neuter surgeries for animals adopted from the East Valley Animal Shelter; and

WHEREAS, the Department entered into Agreement Number C-117333 with SNP LA on June 1, 2010 with the option to renew the contract for an additional three years; and

WHEREAS, the Agreement expires on May 31, 2016 and the Department desires to renew the Agreement for an additional three (3) month term to have sufficient time to prepare and issue a Request for Proposals and not curtail the services during this period; and

WHEREAS, under Agreement Number C-117333, SNP LA provides spay/neuter surgeries and related services at the East Valley Animal Care Center Spay/Neuter Clinic to sterilize dogs, cats, and rabbits (as needed) that are adopted from the Care Center as well as to pets owned by qualifying residents near or in the Los Angeles area.

NOW THEREFORE, THE PARTIES INTEND THAT THE Agreement shall be amended as follows:

**AMENDMENT**

1. Section II. Term, shall be amended to extend the term of the contract for three (3) months to August 31, 2016.

The City exercises its option of renewing the agreement for three (3) months. The term of the contract shall be extended three (3) months, from its present expiration date of May 31, 2016 to a new expiration date of August 31, 2016.

2. Section III. Maximum Payment, shall be amended for the Contract Extension period.

Payment to Contractor by the City shall not exceed \$125,000 for the three (3) month extension period (defined as June 1, 2016 to August 31, 2016). This provision does not mean that the City is required to reach or approach this amount.

3. Section VIII. Scope of Services, section **A. Surgical Sterilizations, Paragraph 1** shall be amended to adjust the number of surgical sterilizations performed by Contractor. As Amended, section **A. Surgical Sterilizations, Paragraph 1** shall read in its entirety as follows:

A. Surgical Sterilizations

The Contractor will perform:

1. Spay and neuter surgeries on qualified animals adopted from the Care Center (including dogs and cats eight weeks of age or older, and rabbits). On each day of operation, Contractor shall commit to perform surgeries as follows:

A minimum of five dogs adopted from the Care Center,  
A minimum of ten female cats adopted from the Care Center,  
Unlimited male cats.

Contractor shall coordinate with Care Center staff in the event that the Care Center's volume of surgeries exceeds these numbers during special adoption events or other events, and the Contractor shall make a reasonable effort to accommodate additional spay/neuter surgeries from the Care Center. The Department reserves the right to send animals to off-site veterinarians in the event that SNP LA, Inc. is unable to accommodate all of the Care Center's spay/neuter needs.

Contractor shall be expected to perform approximately 40 spay/neuter surgeries at the Clinic each day of operation, including animals adopted from the Care Center, as well as dogs and cats brought in by members of the public, and accept all Department discount coupons and free certificates or vouchers for the service.

4. Except as herein amended, all other terms and conditions shall remain in full force and effect.

IN WITNESS THEREOF, the parties hereto have caused this Agreement to be executed by their respective duly authorized representatives.

**The City of Los Angeles,  
Department of Animal Services**

By \_\_\_\_\_  
Brenda Barnette, General Manager

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**The City of Los Angeles,  
Department of General Services**

By \_\_\_\_\_  
Tony M Royster, General Manager

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**APPROVED AS TO FORM:  
MICHAEL N. FEUER, City Attorney**

By \_\_\_\_\_  
Dov S. Lesel, Assistant City Attorney

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**ATTEST:  
HOLLY WOLCOTT, City Clerk**

By \_\_\_\_\_  
Deputy City Clerk

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**CONTRACTOR - SNP LA, Inc.**

By \_\_\_\_\_  
Noel Jackson, Director of Operations

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

*(second signature required of corporations)*

By \_\_\_\_\_  
Print Name:

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Los Angeles City Business Tax License Number: **0002336507-0004-4**

Taxpayer Identification Number: **20-8542566**

City Agreement Number: **C-117333**

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GENERAL MANAGER

**DANA H. BROWN**  
ASSISTANT GENERAL MANAGER

**DR. JEREMY PRUPAS**  
CHIEF VETERINARIAN

**Report to the Board of Animal Services Commissioners**

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**MEETING DATE:** April 12, 2016      **PREPARED BY:** Dana Brown

**REPORT DATE:** April 8, 2016      **TITLE:** Assistant General Manager, Administration

**SUBJECT:** APPROVAL TO RELEASE WILD AND EXOTIC ANIMAL VETERINARIAN  
REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS (RFQ)

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**BOARD ACTIONS RECOMMENDED:**

1. APPROVE the release of a Request for Qualifications (RFQ), subject to City Attorney approval as to form and legality, to solicit firms or individuals to inspect circus elephants, tigers, and other wild and exotic animals performing in the City.
2. REPORT BACK with the list of qualified service providers.

**BACKGROUND**

Over the past several years, the City has had to obtain the services of a wild and exotic animal veterinarian to inspect the health and well-being of circus elephants in conjunction with the issuance of performance permits to Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus. The Department's veterinarians are not trained in the veterinary care of wild and exotic animals and those at the Los Angeles Zoo have not been available for this purpose.

In 2013, an RFQ process was conducted and a list of qualified service providers was established. The Department has utilized this list to employ exotic animal veterinarians over the past three years. The list has since expired and it is necessary to re-establish a list by engaging in the competitive bidding process in accordance with the guidelines set

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forth by the City of Los Angeles. Once established, the Department will report back to the Board with the list of qualified service providers. Timely approval of this report and the subsequent release of the RFQ is essential given that Ringling Brothers and Barnum & Bailey Circus will be in Los Angeles from July 14 through July 19, 2016.

The issue of elephants and other exotic animals performing in circuses generates much controversy. Animal welfare advocates argue that wild animals and their performances no longer belong in circuses, and that this form of entertainment is outdated. Moreover, there is serious concern about how these exotic animals are treated and disciplined so that they can behave and perform properly. Entertainment companies assert that these animals are well treated and that circuses are an important economic development activity.

The City of Los Angeles has taken an affirmative stand on the humane treatment of the animals living in and visiting the City. One example of this stand includes the prohibition of the use of bullhooks on elephants for the purposes of training or controlling behavior. The Board of Animal Services Commissioners made the recommendation to the City Council in 2012 and Los Angeles Municipal Code was amended effective June 23, 2014.

## **USE OF WILD AND EXOTIC ANIMAL VETERINARIANS**

These inspections include checking the travel compartments to make sure that they meet standards for approved accommodations (space, cleanliness, etc.), reviewing medical records on each animal, accompanying the elephants as they walk to their temporary shelter, and conducting spot inspections of elephants and other animals before, during and after their performances. The veterinarian is also required to provide the Department with a comprehensive report of his/her findings.

## **REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS**

The RFQ (attached) requires proposers to submit a Statement of Qualification to provide veterinary services on a pre-qualified, on-call basis. It is anticipated that a list of several veterinarians will be established. The Department is hoping that the proposed cost will be below \$5000 and is requesting proposers to use that as their target.

RFQs will be evaluated and scored. Applicants receiving a score of 75% or more will be considered qualified. The Department will report back on the list of qualified applicants. Service providers will be contracted on an as-needed basis.

Cost, best value and/or availability will be considered in the choice of service providers for each assignment. Contracts will be subject to City Attorney review and approval as to form and legality. The Department will seek Board approval to negotiate and execute a contract if the amount exceeds \$5,000.

**FISCAL IMPACT**

There is no impact on the General Fund. The veterinarian will be paid using Animal Welfare Trust Funds. The Department expects that this will amount to between \$5,000-10,000 per year.

**APPROVED**

*Brenda F. Barnette*

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BRENDA BARNETTE, General Manager

Attachment:

Draft RFQ For Pre-Qualified On-Call Wild and Exotic Animal Veterinarians

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**BOARD ACTION:**

_____ Passed	Disapproved _____
_____ Passed with noted modifications	Continued _____
_____ Tabled	New Date _____



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Chief Veterinarian

**Report to the Board of Animal Services Commissioners**

**MEETING DATE:** April 12, 2016

**PREPARED BY:** Brenda F. Barnette

**REPORT DATE:** April 7, 2016

**TITLE:** General Manager

**SUBJECT: CALIFORNIA ASSEMBLY BILL 2760 (MATHIAS) CONCERNING SUPPORT FOR ANIMALS IN HOUSING**

**BOARD ACTION RECOMMENDED:**

1. **APPROVE** that the Board of Animal Services Commissioners request that the Los Angeles City Council vote to oppose AB 2760 (Mathias) and ensure that the City include opposition to the bill in its 2016 legislative platform.
2. **DIRECT** staff to transmit the Board report to the Personnel and Animal Welfare Committee and subsequently to the City Council.

**SUMMARY**

Existing law regulates the relationship between landlord and tenant and the terms and conditions of tenancies.

This bill would authorize a tenant to maintain a support animal, as defined, on the property if specified conditions are met. This bill would authorize a tenancy to be terminated or a tenant to be denied accommodations on the property for having a support animal if specified conditions apply. This bill would authorize the landlord to require tenants with support animals to adhere to all standards that are imposed uniformly on all tenants and to include the payment of an extra charge or security deposit for maintaining a support animal on the property. This bill would prohibit a tenant from maintaining any protected species, venomous reptiles, amphibians or insects, or any other illegal species as a support animal.

**BACKGROUND**

The Rehabilitation Act of 1973, The Fair Housing Amendments Act of 1988 (FHA) and The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) are federal laws that prevent discrimination against those with disabilities in their homes. Assistance animals are a different legal classification from "pets" as defined in federal law.

Assembly Bill 2760 (AB 2760), sponsored by Assembly Member Mathias on behalf of the California Realtors Association, seeks to narrow that federal law. It would increase the likelihood that owners of rental properties who abide by the language in this bill would violate federal fair housing and disability anti-discrimination laws.

Federal anti-discrimination laws provide protection for tenants in need of having support animals from eviction or having to give up their support animal to enable them to continue living in their homes. But, AB 2760 is an attempt to navigate around current laws, at the expense of people with disabilities and their animals. The bill would enable rental property owners to determine which disabilities they believe are legitimate and more deserving of protections, thus undermining the scope of federal laws.

AB 2760 will force more people to choose between their home and their companion animals, who in this case serve a critical role as assistance animals. The Humane Society of the United States and the San Francisco SPCA strongly oppose AB 2760 because of its harmful interference with the human-animal bond as well as its failure to acknowledge and account for the very powerful role companion animals play in assisting those with disabilities.

**NOW THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED;**

That the Board of Animal Services Commissioners request that the City of Los Angeles include opposition of AB 2760 in its 2016 legislative platform, in order to preserve the human-animal bond between people and their companion animals, and to reject the attempt to subvert federal law that protects people with assistance animals.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

There is no impact to the General Fund.

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Approved:



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**Brenda F. Barnette, General Manager**

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**BOARD ACTION:**

_____ Passed	Disapproved _____
_____ Passed with noted modifications	Continued _____
_____ Tabled	New Date _____