

## MONTEREY COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

<b>MEETING:</b>	June 14, 2011 – Consent	<b>AGENDA NO.:</b>	42
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	Adopt a Resolution amending Article I.a. of the Monterey County Master Fee Resolution effective July 1, 2011, to adjust fees relating to oversight and services provided by the Health Department's Environmental Health Bureau, Animal Services, pursuant to the attached Fee Schedule.		
<b>DEPARTMENT:</b>	Health – Environmental Health Bureau – Animal Services		

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

It is recommended that the Board of Supervisors:

Adopt a Resolution amending Article I.a. of the Monterey County Master Fee Resolution effective July 1, 2011, to adjust fees relating to oversight and services provided by the Health Department's Environmental Health Bureau, Animal Services, pursuant to the attached Fee Schedule.

### **SUMMARY:**

The Health Department's Environmental Health Bureau, Animal Services, is requesting approval of adjustments to the County Master Fee schedule, Article I.a., to more closely reflect, while still not exceeding, the actual and reasonable costs of services and benefits provided to the public by Animal Services. The current fees are substantially lower than the full costs of services. If the proposed fee adjustments are adopted, in combination with the implementation of newly identified efficiencies and budgetary reductions, future General Fund Contribution could be minimized and existing service levels could be preserved.

### **DISCUSSION:**

While Animal Services fees have remained unchanged for a number of years, the general costs of providing services to the community have continued to rise. For example, operational costs within the County, including benefits, transportation costs, fuel and utilities, have been steadily growing over recent years. Although these costs have risen annually, the fee schedule for Animal Services has not. While staff has attempted to reduce costs and increase efficiencies, these short term fixes have simply not been able to keep up with the costs of services. The proposed fee adjustments, in combination with newly identified efficiencies and budgetary reductions, are expected to preserve services at the current level and to minimize the need for future General Fund Contribution.

A careful review and comparison of the fees charged for Animal Services by neighboring counties has been completed, and it reveals that Monterey County's fees have been lower than average in almost all categories. Attachment 1, *Typical Animal Services Fees Comparison*, compares Monterey County's current fees to the proposed fees, and to the average fees of seven neighboring counties, for common fee categories. Fee adjustments are proposed for a number of fee categories, including licensing, adoption, permits, trap rentals, and clinic fees. For example, the adoption fee for cats is proposed to be *decreased* by 25% while the adoption fee for dogs is proposed to be *increased* by 7%. Although dog adoption fees for Monterey County are somewhat higher than the seven-county average, Monterey County adoption fees are inclusive of a microchip, rabies vaccination and a spay or neuter procedure, which is not necessarily true for the comparison counties. The fee realignment will result in fees that more accurately reflect, but do not exceed, the actual reasonable costs of the services and benefits

provided to a specific fee-payor. Fees are not being adjusted to shift the burden of one program onto consumers of other services.

If the proposed adjustments are approved, it is expected that future General Fund Contribution could be minimized and current service levels could be continued by implementing newly identified efficiencies and budgetary reductions. The proposed fee adjustments are set forth hereto as Attachment 2.

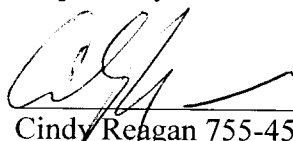
**OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT:**

County Counsel has reviewed, and approved as to legal form, the proposed amendment to Article I.a. the Monterey County Master Fee Resolution.

**FINANCING:**

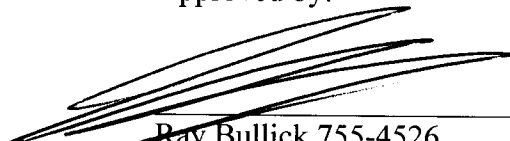
The proposed fee adjustments, in combination with budgetary reductions, would allow Animal Services to achieve a 42% cost recovery from the recipients of the specified services and benefits (up from 24% in FY 2009-10) and an overall reduction in General Fund Contributions from \$1,668,450 in FY 2009-10 to approximately \$977,144 in FY 2011-12.

Prepared by:

  
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Finance Manager I

Date: 6-2-11

Approved by:

  
Ray Bullick 755-4526  
Director of Health

Date: 6/2/11

Attachment 1 – Typical Animal Services Fees Comparison

Attachment 2 – Revised Monterey County Animal Services Fee Schedule

cc: Lew Bauman, County Administrative Officer  
Charles J. McKee, County Counsel  
Michael Miller, Auditor Controller