

INDIAN WELLS CITY COUNCIL

September 5, 2024



To: City Council
From: City Manager Department
Prepared by: Kristen Nelson, Administrative Services Manager
Subject: **Amendment to Animal Services Agreement with County of Riverside**

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:

Council **APPROVES** First Amendment to the Animal Services Agreement with the County of Riverside; and

DIRECTS City Manager or their designee to execute any agreement for same; and

FINDS the action exempt from CEQA review under CEQA Guidelines section 15061(b)(3).

BACKGROUND:

The City of Indian Wells contracts with Riverside County's Department of Animal Services for animal control, licensing and impounds. The current agreement (**Attachment 1**) expired June 30, 2024. Rather than proceed with a new, three-year agreement, it is the County Board of Supervisor's desire to extend the term of the agreement by one year, through June 30, 2025 (**Attachment 2**).

In addition to the one-year term extension, the amendment reflects minimal changes to the compensation, license fees and payment provisions of the original agreement. The amendment includes the following changes:

- A one-year term extension through June 30, 2025;
- A two-hour minimum call out for Animal Control Officers (as negotiated in their most recent MOU); and
- A five percent (5%) increase to all rates for Fiscal Year 2024 – 2025, including:
 - Animal Control Officer's hourly rate (billed on an as-used basis);
 - Sheltering, impound and service rates (billed on an as-used basis); and
 - Dog licensing.

At the May 21, 2020 meeting, Indian Wells City Council adopted a Resolution allowing for any future cost increases to be addressed through the adoption of an updated Fee Schedule rather than additional Municipal Code amendments.

FISCAL IMPACT:

For Fiscal Year 2023-2024, the County collected a \$11.35 processing fee for every dog license. For Fiscal Year 2024-2025, they are proposing a \$0.57 (5%) increase to \$11.92 per license.

The County does not send the city a check for any revenues associated with the City's portion of the licensing fee per the City's fee schedule. Instead, the County puts the licensing fee revenues against each month's invoice as credits toward that month's bill, decreasing the overall expense.

Year over year, the City spends approximately \$10,500 - \$11,000 on the animal services contract. The \$0.57 per license increase proposed by the County for FY24-25 constitutes an estimated \$67 additional collection on the part of the County and does not significantly impact the City's contractual expenditure for all services included in the agreement.

CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (CEQA):

The action is not a project within the meaning of Section 15378 of the State of California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA") Guidelines, because it has no potential for resulting in physical change in the environment, directly or indirectly; and that the action is nonetheless exempt from the requirements of CEQA in that the activity is covered by the general rule that CEQA applies only to projects that have the potential for causing a significant effect on the environment. (15061(b)(3).)

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Animal Services Agreement
2. Amendment No. 1