

MARIN GENERAL SERVICES AUTHORITY

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MEMORANDUM

DATE: September 11, 2014
TO: MGSA Board of Directors
FROM: Paul Berlant, Executive Officer
SUBJECT: AGENDA ITEM G: County-wide Animal Control Contract

Recommendation

Provide direction regarding a potential role for MGSA in the county Animal Control program.

Background

In 1979 the County of Marin and the cities/towns entered into Joint Powers Agreements whereby the County agreed to perform animal control services for the cities, which were and continue to be performed under contract by the Marin Humane Society (MHS). The services are partially funded by fees related to animal control services and programs. The agreements also stipulated a cost sharing formula and performance standards. The JPA was amended in 1990 at which time terms relating to costs and city contributions and levels of animal control services were modified. The original JPA, as amended, still applies today and the County continues to contract with MHS for animal control services.

The County contracts with MHS have been three-year contracts, the last of which went into effect July 1, 2012. Thus, a contract extension beyond June 30, 2015 will need to be negotiated in early 2015. Staff from the County and two or three city/town representatives typically have negotiated the contract extensions and any agreed to modifications.

Possible MGSA Role

Nancy Mackle, San Rafael City Manager and Dan Eilerman, Deputy County CAO and I have discussed the potential value of MGSA taking on some of the role and responsibilities of the County vis-à-vis the MHS and cities/towns. The thinking is that MGSA, a county-wide agency with membership of the County and all the cities and towns, may be able to better reflect the interests of all its members and facilitate communications among them in the ongoing work of MGSA.

In order to formally consider this proposal, the MGSA Board must notify its members of its intent to add the Animal Control program to its list of duties that are enumerated in Exhibit A to the agreement creating the MGSA JPA. I have been advised by David Byers that a simple notice to the MGSA membership that the Board intends to add Animal Control would suffice for such notice. Upon receipt of this notice, should a member object, that city/town would have the opportunity to do so to the Board. Further,

the County and MGSA would need to enter into an agreement whereby some of the duties and responsibilities now performed by the County would be transferred to MGSA and some form of remuneration to MGSA for its costs would be memorialized. A table indicating management duties and how they might be distributed between MGSA, the County and the Animal Control JPA members is attached.

Conclusion

I am requesting direction from the Board to pursue this added program, including notification to members (draft attached), negotiating an agreement with the County to make the transfer of specific duties and compensation, and participation in the negotiations with the MHS. The County/MGSA agreement would be considered at your next meeting, which is scheduled for January 2015.

Attachments

Table of Duties

Draft Notice to MGSA Members