

**Animal Services**

The Animal Services Department provides animal control, sheltering, and other related programs and services for the unincorporated area of the County and the cities that have agreements with the County. The contract cities are charged an amount based on a per capita fee.

The Department has continuously experienced several challenges in the Field Services division related to dead animal pick-ups, call response times, and wild animal service calls. With competing priorities in the field, the Department has been unable to meet their targeted response time consistently. Prioritizing staff resources on the Department's mandated functions required the Department to cease responding to injured wildlife calls. Another significant issue voiced by the partner cities and the community is lack of timely dead animal pick-ups. Unfortunately, it has been a challenge for the Department to respond to the number of dead animal pick-ups required throughout the County with the current staffing levels in the Department (one utility worker). On average, one utility worker can pick-up six dead animals per day although, per the attached report of dead animal calls, it is evident that the actual calls exceed what one utility worker can handle.

To address the concerns with dead animal pick-ups, the Board of Supervisors approved the addition of one utility worker position on July 13, 2021. The cities agreed to fund this position and the associated fleet cost totaling \$104,000. This position is currently vacant, but the Department is actively recruiting for this position.

Animal Services also recently met with local City Managers via the Public Managers Association to inform them of increased fees for the upcoming fiscal year. A few of the smaller cities voiced concern with their inability to absorb the additional costs. In response, the Department is currently developing a phased approach to spread the fee increase over a few years which should lessen the fiscal impacts to cities while providing the funding necessary to maintain the current service levels and to address the above concerns.

Regarding animal control and sheltering services, the Animal Services Department is committed to working collaboratively with the cities to adequately service the community. At this time, the Department is projecting that the increased funding through the increased fees will be sufficient to provide the level of these services required by the city agreements. However, the agreements with the cities have not been finalized.

The Department and the County Administrator's staff will continue to monitor funding levels and operational needs and will return to the Board of Supervisors should additional funding be required.



## Summary of Deceased Animals by City

For the Period: **07/01/2020 - 6/30/2021**

	CAT	DOG	LIVESTOCK	BIRD	DEER	COYOTE	BAT	OTHERS*	Total
BRENTWOOD	41	11	1	5	2	7		60	127
CLAYTON	4	1	1	4	4	2		7	23
CONCORD	142	30	8	25	24	8	2	145	384
DANVILLE	7	5	1	9	75			44	141
EL CERRITO	10	2		3	14			18	47
HERCULES	19	6		6	8			28	67
LAFAYETTE	7	4		10	63	3	4	31	122
MARTINEZ	47	11	1	11	45	5		73	193
MORAGA	4	2		3	17	2	1	11	40
OAKLEY	48	14	1	2			1	73	139
ORINDA	5	1		2	39	4	4	19	74
PINOLE	44	4		9	10	1		44	112
PITTSBURG	91	47	3	5		3		72	221
PLEASANT HILL	15	6		5	8	1	2	31	68
RICHMOND	126	58	1	25	30	4	3	98	345
SAN PABLO	41	19		3	6	1		21	91
SAN RAMON	11	3	1	12	28	3	1	35	94
UNINCORPORATED	122	48	19	38	120	12	10	254	623
WALNUT CREEK	18	7		23	83	7	1	52	191
<b>Total</b>	<b>802</b>	<b>279</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>576</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>1,116</b>	<b>3,102</b>

**Note: This report includes injured animals that have been euthanized in the field.**

\* Animal type of OTHERS includes:

ARMADILLO, BOBCAT, FOX, GUINEA PIG, OPOSSUM, OTTER, RABBIT, RACCOON, RAT, SKUNK, SNAKE, SQUIRREL, etc.

**Childcare Slots**

At the May 26, 2021 MXCAB meeting, First 5 Contra Costa, Cocokids, and staff from the Community Services Bureau of the Employment and Human Services Department requested allocations towards early childhood supports, providers and systems. The shortage of childcare slots, including those for children ages 0-5 who are eligible for subsidized childcare, and the lack of early care and education providers has only worsened during the COVID-19 pandemic.

If approved, the Measure X funds would cover up to 500 childcare slots, primarily for infants and toddlers, for families who are over-income and do not currently qualify for a childcare subsidy. Funding would support the proposal to pay local rates for childcare (based on the local Regional Market Rate) using a voucher system similar to the system used by CalWorks Stages 1, 2 and 3, but with a higher income ceiling that better aligns with the cost of living in the Bay Area.

Access and availability of quality childcare is contingent on the availability of a stable early childhood workforce. Inclusion of funding to support the early childhood workforce is a pre-requisite to building back a stable and affordable childcare system for working families. Providing additional compensation to providers who hold non-traditional hours of care such as weekends and evenings and those who care for infants, children with special needs and other special populations, is also included in the proposal as an immediate retention strategy to help keep the workforce afloat until a more permanent solution to the issue of compensation is created.

These proposals would not require additional facilities and would be administered through a partnership between CocoKids (the resource and referral agency for the county) and the Employment and Human Services, Community Services and Workforce Services Bureaus (administrators of the the CalWorks programs), since all agencies have existing mechanisms in place to support a system like this. The Early Learning and Leadership Group (ELLG), comprised of the core early childhood services entities throughout the county, would support the planning and implementation of a local childcare voucher model in year one.

The annual estimated cost to fully fund the proposal would be \$6.1 million. This includes the cost of planning, implementing, and administering the voucher program for non-subsidized families at an approximate cost of \$4.5 million and \$1.6 million would be used for the additional provider compensation as described above.

Ongoing Measure X funding would help families get quality care they cannot afford otherwise, boost the childcare work industry with fair wages, and lay the foundation for the establishment of universal access to early care and education.

**Early Childhood Mental Health Services**

At the May 26, 2021 MXCAB meeting, First 5 Contra Costa presented a proposal to implement a Request for Applications (RFA) process to support the Early Childhood Prevention and Intervention Coalition (ECPIC), a local coalition of early intervention and prevention service partners.

The proposal would support children birth to six years old, who experience emotional, relational, or behavioral disturbances that require mental health intervention. If granted MXCAB funding, First 5 Contra Costa would plan and implement an RFA process for grants to community-based service providers. The funding would leverage existing programs and funds dedicated to supporting mental services for children and families.

The annual estimated cost to fully fund the proposal would be \$2 million and would be used to address the immediate and unmet early childhood mental health needs of children in Contra Costa, which is estimated at 7,000 to 10,000 children.

**Supporting Children with Disabilities**

At the May 26, 2021 Measure X Community Advisory Body (MXCAB) meeting, First 5 Contra Costa, Cocokids, and staff from the Community Services Bureau of the Employment and Human Services Department requested allocations towards supporting children with disabilities. As described in the report to the MXCAB, there is a service gap in services for children ages birth to 3 with disabilities.

Currently there are 783 infant and toddlers and 2,371 preschool children with a diagnosed disability in Contra Costa County, and this number may be undercounted. According to the Health Services Department, developmental screenings for children 0-11 fell from approximately 62% in January 2020 to approximately 55% in April 2021. This lack of screening compounded by decreased well-child visits present a highly significant barrier to preventive care and families' access to an entire system of early childhood resources.

As proposed, the MXCAB funding request of \$2 million would be allocated as grants to providers, on behalf of families, for necessary disability support services and provide \$450,000 for childcare providers to receive consultation and guidance to modify their services and programs to be inclusive of all children. The proposal goal seeks to improve access to comprehensive services that support children with disabilities as needed to be independent and included in society. The funding proposal would leverage existing programs and funds dedicated to supporting disabilities services for families.

**Northern Waterfront Economic Development Initiative**

The Northern Waterfront Economic Development Initiative™ is a regional cluster-based economic development strategy with the goals of creating more good jobs closer to home, reducing congestion and emissions, and making communities more vibrant. There are five target industries: Advanced Manufacturing, Biosciences, Agriscience & Specialty Foods, Transportation Technologies, and Clean Tech.

The Initiative is a collaboration between the County and seven partner cities, who work together on diverse actions to enhance the economic vitality of the region. The eight partners have signed a Memorandum of Understanding to implement the Initiative as a team. The Initiative has been formalized in a Strategic Action Plan, adopted by the County Board of Supervisors in 2019.

An annual allocation of \$500,000 is proposed to implement the Strategic Action Plan. The slate of example actions below is aligned with the Strategic Action Plan and illustrate a potential preliminary work plan that would require approximately \$500,000 (some actions would take up to two years to complete; new actions would be launched with subsequent funding while these actions were completed). Cultivating new industries as part of a broader strategy to retain and expand the County's jobs base during the transition away from fossil fuels will be a key priority for this work for many years to come.

- Acquire and compile current post-pandemic business data with industry trends and impacts (countywide);
- Complete market research, economic feasibility, and business plan for establishing a bioscience incubator, on a County-owned site in Hercules, to further stimulate commercialization within the region's bioscience cluster;
- Develop a regional Northern Waterfront target industry-oriented marketing program including unified website, branding, and collateral;
- Support advance transportation technology cluster support at one or both of two sites in the Northern Waterfront area to foster an environment that can retain and attract such businesses in future regional development: GoMentum Station (privately owned vehicle technology testing site) on the Concord Naval Weapons Station and Buchanan Airport (publicly owned commercial airport with aviation technology space available);
- Implement and/or expand on the findings of the Water Emergency Transport Agency Strategic Business Plan/Feasibility Study as they relate to ferry service along the Northern Waterfront corridor.

The Northern Waterfront Initiative (now called the Just Transition Economic Revitalization Plan Project) is currently included at \$750,000 in the list of Community Project Funding requests for inclusion in the federal fiscal year 2022 appropriations bills. Although not yet approved by Congress, the project has the support of Congressman DeSaulnier and the Appropriations Committee in the House of Representatives. In anticipation of receiving federal funding, no Measure X funds are recommended at this time.

**Assistance to Crime Victims**

Programs to support the underserved population of crime victims in Contra Costa County has been identified as a current service area gap in our criminal justice system.

The following information was gathered from a proposal provided to the County by the non-profit “getVOCAL for Victims” (getVocal) and can serve as a program example to address this service gap.

Historically, the criminal justice system in the United States has sought to balance the constitutional rights of criminal defendants versus the constitutional rights of victims of crime through the participation of the District Attorney and defense attorneys. In this system, the District Attorney's Office represents the People of the State of California. Criminal defendants who cannot afford their own legal representation are represented by court-appointed, fee-free attorneys to protect their constitutional rights. However, victims of crime, who have guaranteed constitutional rights co-equal to those of the defendants, are the only party in the criminal justice process who do not have the right to fee-free legal representation. Unless a victim of crime has the financial means to hire an attorney to represent them, crime victims' constitutional rights in the criminal justice may be overlooked.

In 2008, California voters enacted "Marsy's Law", which amended the California State Constitution to create constitutional rights for victims and families of victims to be heard throughout the criminal justice system. The majority of crime victims come from economically disadvantaged, underserved communities and cannot afford to hire a victims' rights attorney to represent them. For those victims fortunate enough to have the means to hire an attorney, there are few attorneys who practice victims' rights law. With the lack of attorneys to represent them, victims' voices are frequently not heard in the criminal justice process.

Currently in Contra Costa County, crime victims have access to Victim Witness Advocates who work inside the District Attorney's Office and assist victims throughout the pendency of the prosecution. The advocates assist victims in obtaining counseling and services, they accompany victims to court, they assist victims compiling evidence for a restitution order, and often provide a bridge between the prosecutor and the victim.

However, Victim Witness Advocates are not lawyers and are not able to provide legal assistance to victims or to advocate for them in court or to file legal documents on their behalf. Furthermore, prosecutors may have interests which are contrary to the interests of the victim. Consequently, providing an attorney who will appear for the victim in court and who works in collaboration with Victim Witness Advocates and the District Attorney would support efforts to ensure no victim is left unheard in the criminal justice system.

getVOCAL has developed a training manual which covers every stage of the criminal process to train attorneys who volunteer their time to represent low-income crime victims and provide them with legal resources. getVOCAL would work with private law firms to identify attorneys who are willing to work *pro bono* (free of charge) to represent crime victims. getVOCAL would collaborate with law schools to create clinics for law students to provide supervised victim representation and getVOCAL would work with the local bar association to connect practicing attorneys in the community with victim clients.

To ensure crime victims' federal and state constitutional rights are heard in the criminal justice process, crime victims must have access to effective legal representation to advocate on their behalf. While a victims' rights lawyer may not change the outcome of a criminal prosecution, access to one empowers a victim throughout the process and guarantees that their voices will be heard. This will allow the District Attorney to focus on the prosecution of the case with the knowledge that the victim's rights are being protected by the victim's rights attorney. The Court would also benefit as judges will know that the victim's constitutional rights are being protected at every stage of the proceeding. Ultimately, our community would benefit as victims are empowered throughout the criminal prosecution resulting in true justice for all parties involved in the process.

Consideration to provide fee-free legal representation to low-income victims of crime, would support underserved victims in our criminal justice system.

This program, which needs further model development, is not included in the proposed expenditure plan at this time.