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ERIC GARCETTI MAYOR DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL SERVICES 221 North Figueroa Stree

221 North Figueroa Street Suite #600 Los Angeles, CA 90012

(888) 452-7381 FAX (213) 482-9511

BRENDA F. BARNETTE

DANA H. BROWN ASSISTANT GENERAL MANAGER

LOUIS P. DEDEAUX INTERIM ASSISTANT GENERAL MANAGER

April 11, 2017

The Honorable Eric Garcetti Mayor, City of Los Angeles 200 N. Spring Street, Room 303 Los Angeles, CA 90012

The Honorable City Council c/o Office of the City Clerk City Hall, Room 395 Los Angeles, CA 90012

Attention: Ms. Mandy Morales, Office of the Mayor

RE: PROJECT DESCRIPTION FOR PROPOSED CITYWIDE CAT PROGRAM ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT (EIR)

Recommendation for Council Action, subject to the approval of the Mayor:

AUTHORIZE the City Council to direct appropriate City staff to prepare an EIR pursuant to CEQA using the attached Project Description, as modified, for the proposed Citywide Cat Program.

SUMMARY

At its meeting on April 11, 2017, the Board of Animal Services Commissioners considered and approved an item recommending using the attached Project Description, as modified, to prepare an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the proposed Citywide Cat Program. The modifications make certain technical clarifications and are reflected in the attached Project Description as a redline and incorporated as part of the redline in Exhibit A of the Project Description.

BACKGROUND

In about 2005, the Board of Animal Services Commissioners accepted a proposal from staff to implement a "trap, neuter, return" (TNR) policy for feral cats. The City also distributed vouchers to be used for feral cat spay or neuter surgeries, issued cat trapping permits, and otherwise

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provided support and referrals to community groups that engage in TNR programs. In June 2008, Urban Wildlands, et al., sued to bar the City from implementing a policy for feral cats without first completing a California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) environmental review. The Superior Court entered its final judgment and permanent injunction (Injunction) in January 2010, prohibiting, among other things, the City from implementing a TNR program for feral cats until it had concluded an appropriate environmental review pursuant to CEQA (Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. BS115483). In March 2010, the court issued a stipulated order as clarification to the Injunction.

In October 2013, the City issued a "Notice of Intent to Adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Citywide Cat Program." The City ultimately decided not to proceed with the 2013 Citywide Cat Program and Mitigated Negative Declaration, and instead worked on modifying the proposal for the Citywide Cat Program and proceeding with a new environmental review.

Since then, the City has worked on developing a different proposal for the Citywide Cat Program. This new 2017 proposal (Project Description) is more fully described in the attachment. Among other things, the Project Description applies to all "free-roaming cats," including feral cats and stray cats; implements a substantially modified TNR program; provides funding including funds from the Animal Sterilization Fund to spay or neuter free-roaming cats; and increases the currently permitted number of cats per household from three to five with certain restriction.

One part of the attachment, listed as Exhibit A to the Project Description, consists of a redline copy of the 2005 feral cat program that is subject to the Injunction. The redline shows the places where the Project Description overlaps with the 2005 feral cat program and shows the differences between the current Project Description and the earlier 2005 feral cat program. As part of the Project Description to be used in the preparation of the EIR, the City intends, after approval of the environmental review, to implement certain elements described in the attachment that were originally subject to the Injunction and undertake the necessary legal actions to dissolve the Injunction.

The City has contracted with a consultant to assist in the preparation of an EIR. Staff has developed the proposed Project Description to evaluate potential environmental impacts and any necessary mitigation measures. The process will also provide opportunities for the public to comment on the EIR.

FISCAL IMPACT

All costs for this project have been approved by the City Council through the budget process and are currently encumbered.

Respectfully submitted,

Brind 7 Barutu

Brenda F. Barnette

General Manager

Attachments

c: Margaret Wynne, Office of the Mayor

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City of Los Angeles

CALIFORNIA



ERIC GARCETTI MAYOR

DEPARTMENT OF **ANIMAL SERVICES** 221 North Figueroa Street Suite #600 Los Angeles, CA 90012

(888) 452-7381 FAX (213) 482-9511

BRENDA F. BARNETTE GENERAL MANAGER

DANA H. BROWN

LOUIS P. DEDEAUX INTERIM ASSISTANT GENERAL MANAGER

Report to the Board of Animal Services Commissioners

MEETING DATE: April 11, 2017 PREPARED BY: Brenda Barnette

REPORT DATE: April 7, 2017 TITLE: General Manager

Project Description for Proposed Citywide Cat Program Environmental SUBJECT:

Impact Report

BOARD ACTION RECOMMENDED:

APPROVE: Recommend that City Council direct appropriate City staff to prepare an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) using the attached Project Description for the proposed Citywide Cat Program.

BACKGROUND:

In about 2005, the Board of Animal Services Commissioners accepted a proposal from staff to implement a "trap, neuter, return" (TNR) policy for feral cats. The City also distributed vouchers to be used for feral cat spay or neuter surgeries, issued cat trapping permits, and otherwise provided support and referrals to community groups that engage in TNR programs. In June 2008, Urban Wildlands, et al., sued to bar the City from implementing a policy for feral cats without first completing a California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) environmental review. The Superior Court entered its final judgment and permanent injunction (Injunction) in January 2010, prohibiting. among other things, the City from implementing a TNR program for feral cats until it had concluded an appropriate environmental review pursuant to CEQA (Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. BS115483). In March 2010, the court issued a stipulated order as clarification to the Injunction.

In October 2013, the City issued a "Notice of Intent to Adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Citywide Cat Program." The City ultimately decided not to proceed with the 2013 Citywide Cat Program and Mitigated Negative Declaration, and instead

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worked on modifying the proposal for the Citywide Cat Program and proceeding with a new environmental review.

Since then, the City has worked on developing a different proposal for the Citywide Cat Program. This new 2017 proposal (Project Description) is more fully described in the attachment. Among other things, the Project Description applies to all "free-roaming cats," including feral cats and stray cats; implements a substantially modified TNR program; provides funding including funds from the Animal Sterilization Fund to spay or neuter free-roaming cats; and increases the currently permitted number of cats per household from three to five with certain restriction.

To be clear, the Department is not requesting the Board to approve the Project Description for implementation. The Department is requesting the Board to recommend that the City Council to direct City staff to prepare an EIR pursuant to CEQA using the attached Project Description.

One part of the attachment, listed as Exhibit A to the Project Description, consists of a redline copy of the 2005 feral cat program that is subject to the Injunction. The redline shows the places where the Project Description overlaps with the 2005 feral cat program and shows the differences between the current Project Description and the earlier 2005 feral cat program. As part of the Project Description to be used in the preparation of the EIR, the City intends, after approval of the environmental review, to implement certain elements described in the attachment that were originally subject to the Injunction and undertake the necessary legal actions to dissolve the Injunction.

The City has contracted with a consultant to assist in the preparation of an EIR. Staff has developed the proposed Project Description to evaluate potential environmental impacts and any necessary mitigation measures. The process will also provide opportunities for the public to comment on the EIR.

Staff is requesting the Board to recommend that City Council prepare an EIR for the proposed Citywide Cat Program using the attached Project Description. The Board recommendation will be transmitted to City Council.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Recommend that City Council direct appropriate City staff to prepare an EIR using the attached Project Description for the proposed Citywide Cat Program.

FISCAL IMPACT:

None.

Report to the Board of Animal Services Commissioners
SUBJECT: Issuance of Project Description for Proposed Citywide Cat Program

Approved:						
Bound 7 Barnety						
Brenda F. Barnette, General Manager						
ATTACHMENTS:						
Citywide Cat Program – Project Description, with Description with redlines to show changes from the 200						
BOARD ACTION:						
Passed	Disapproved					
Passed with noted modifications	Continued					
Tabled	New Date					

DRAFT PROJECT DESCRIPTION FOR PROPOSED CITYWIDE CAT PROGRAM

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT (APRIL 2017)

Definitions for the Citywide Cat Program:

"Department" shall mean the Department of Animal Services.

"Feral cat" shall mean, as provided in California Food & Agriculture Code section 31752.5(a)(2), cats with temperaments that are completely unsocialized, although frightened or injured tame pet cats may appear to be feral.

"Free-roaming cats" shall mean all unowned, roaming cats including feral cats and stray cats.

"Stray cat" shall mean a former pet that is abandoned or has been lost.

"TNR" shall mean trap, neuter, and return. "Neuter" shall include spay and shall mean sterilization.

"Return" shall mean returning to the outdoor location where the cat was found.

For the Citywide Cat Program, the City proposes to do the following:

- 1. Engage in, or provide funds for others to engage in, spaying or neutering free-roaming cats to be returned where they were found.
- Use City facilities, including community rooms in Department animal shelters, to provide
 educational programming and allow the free and balanced exchange of information and ideas on
 any animal related topic including free-roaming cats.
- 3. Implement a modified version of the TNR program originally proposed in 2005 for free-roaming cats ("Modified TNR Program"). The Modified TNR Program consists of adopting or implementing new ordinances, measures and policies in furtherance of TNR, as follows:
 - a. Make findings that:
 - i. A large population of free-roaming cats resides in the City of Los Angeles;
 - ii. It is impractical, inhumane and not cost-effective to attempt to exterminate such populations;
 - iii. There exists in the city a large number of individuals and organizations implementing the practice known as Trap-Neuter-Return, where free-roaming cats are humanely trapped, then sterilized and vaccinated, then returned to their colony and cared for until the end of their natural life; and
 - iv. Such practice is the most effective way to address this problem and to achieve, in time, the goal of No More Homeless Cats and Saving Animals' Lives.
 - b. Based upon these findings, declare that TNR is deemed to be the preferred method of dealing with free-roaming cat populations as the City's official policy.
 - c. Implement collaborations, as follows:
 - Establish collaborative relationships with organizations experienced with and engaged in TNR to share information and resources.
 - ii. Train appropriate Animal Service Center staff on the basics and benefits of TNR after implementation. A number of different groups have offered to put on training programs for the staff on TNR. Trained staff can assist staff and the public with any questions they have regarding TNR.
 - d. Utilize Animal Service Centers, as follows:

- Develop TNR informational fliers in English and Spanish and any other language deemed needed;
- ii. Work with TNR groups to develop literature on TNR to be made available at locations throughout the Animal Service Centers and Department website; and
- iii. Use the Service Centers as locations for TNR training for residents interested in learning how to TNR or groups involved with TNR in any way who seek to use the Service Centers' meeting space.
- e. Implement outreach, as follows:
 - Once the program is approved, the Department website will display TNR
 information to advise the public and will also include links to other sites such as
 Best Friends Catnippers, Feral Cat Caretakers Coalition, Actors & Others for
 Animals, Feral Cat Alliance, Alley Cat Allies, etc. for more detailed information on
 TNR; and
 - ii. Directly refer the public to other organizations for information on TNR.
- f. Approach residents complaints, as follows:
 - i. Implement Phase I as soon as possible, to comply with the following:
 - If a member of the public contacts the Department, and complains about free-roaming cats, the Department will get their name, address, and phone number.
 - 2. Advise the caller that the Department may not always be able to pick up stray cats;
 - 3. Advise the caller about TNR and its benefits;
 - 4. Encourage the callers to speak with their neighbors to determine if anyone owns the cats and how the TNR program can help their neighborhood;
 - 5. Determine why the member of the public wants the cat removed and what the exact problem is;
 - Send the caller literature or direct the caller to the Department website to find a list of TNR groups they can contact for additional assistance and services;
 - 7. Encourage trapping of free-roaming cats to bring to the shelter primarily for the following reasons: the cat is injured, sick, has bitten someone, the cat's welfare is in jeopardy, there is a public health hazard, or the potential of harm to people or companion animals;
 - 8. Make a strong effort to help the caller find a solution to the problem without bringing the cat to the Department through sharing resources and ideas as well as collaboration with other organizations; and
 - 9. If a free-roaming cat is brought in to the shelter, contact rescue groups and groups experienced with and engaged in TNR and make every effort to release the cat to the organization's or owner's authorized representative. If they are unable to come in for the cat, it may be euthanized.
 - ii. Implement Phase II as staffing allows: Coordinate and issue free-roaming cat spay/neuter vouchers, and actively collaborate with organizations experienced with and engaged in TNR on day-to-day matters.
- g. Find that the above Modified TNR Program is reflected in Exhibit A, which is the redline modification of the June 2005 Report that was submitted to the Board of Animal Services

Commissioners in conjunction with the proposed adoption of TNR as the City's official policy.

- 4. Undertake other actions related to the Modified TNR Program, as follows:
 - a. Promote TNR for free-roaming cats and assist upon request third parties to carry out the Modified TNR Program, including the following:
 - i. Assist or provide incentives for, or otherwise facilitate the capture, sterilization and release of free-roaming cat[s];
 - ii. Provide discounts or discount vouchers for spay or neuter surgeries for freeroaming cats;
 - iii. Release free-roaming cats from shelters to TNR groups or individuals (consistent with the Modified TNR Program);
 - iv. [intentionally omitted]
 - v. Develop or distribute literature on the Modified TNR Program (i.e., material distributed to the public that specifically focuses on TNR programs such as public outreach by means of fliers that invite persons to engage in TNR or material inviting the public to attend TNR seminars, etc.) or by conducting public outreach on the Modified TNR Program using press releases, fliers or other media.
 - b. Waive cat trap rental fees or security deposits for TNR groups or individuals pursuant to Los Angeles Municipal Code section 53.69(b).
 - c. [intentionally omitted]
 - d. [intentionally omitted]
 - e. Refer complaints about free-roaming cats to TNR groups or individuals who engage in TNR when feasible.
- 5. Adopt the following changes to the City's codes:
 - a. Modify Section 5.199 of the Los Angeles Administrative Code to allow the Animal Sterilization Fund to be used to spay or neuter free-roaming cats.
 - b. Allow an increase in the currently permitted number of cats per household from three to five with certain restrictions by: (i) changing the definition of "Cat Kennel" in Section 53.00 of the Los Angeles Municipal Code by revising the definition from "four or more cats" to "six or more cats"; and (ii) adding that if a person owns one to three cats, the cats may be indoor, indoor/outdoor, or outdoor; and if the owned cats exceed three, all four or five of the owned cats shall be maintained solely indoors and must be spayed or neutered and microchipped.

The City does not propose to do the following as part of the Citywide Cat Program without further environmental review:

- 1. Implement any activity marked in strikeout in Exhibit A, unless expressly set forth herein.
- 2. Interfere with or discourage any City officials or land managers' attempt to enforce any laws or regulations that relate to feral cats and feral cat colonies.
- 3. Refuse to issue traps for capturing nuisance feral cats, for example, by demanding that injury to pets or damage to property is demonstrated.
- 4. Refuse to accept trapped feral cats.

BOARD OF ANIMAL SERVICES COMMISSIONERS

City of Los Angeles **CALIFORNIA**

DEPARTMENT OF **ANIMAL SERVICES** 419 South Spring Street 14th Floor Los Angeles, CA 90013 (213) 473 8253 FAX (213) 473-7511

CHERDON U.STLICKEY

KATHLEEN RIORDAN

ALEXANDER F. RUBALCAVA

ERIKA BRUNSON

TARIQ A. KHERO

DEBORAH ANN KNAAN



JAMES K. HAHN MAYOR

Date of Commission Meeting: June 27, 2005

Date of Report: June 20, 2005

Report of the General Manager

Subject: PROPOSED MODIFIED TRAP, NEUTER, AND RETURN **POLICYPROGRAM - REVISED 2017**

Recommendation:

That the City of Los Angeles, through its Board of Animal Services Commissioners (Commission) and the City Council, accepts the Department of Animal Services' (Department) proposal to implement a Modified Trap, Neuter, and Return (TNR) policyprogram as part of the Citywide Cat Program (2017). The Department finds that (i) a large population of homeless and stray (feral) free-roaming cats resides in the City of Los Angeles, (ii) that the interests of humane treatment of animals, public safety and preservation of natural habitats dictates that no cat should live outside of a domestic home, (iii) that it is impractical, inhumane and not cost-effective to attempt to exterminate such populations, (iviii) that there exists in the city a large number of individuals and organizations implementing the practice known as Trap-Neuter-Return, where feral-free-roaming cats are humanely trapped, then sterilized and vaccinated, then returned to their colony and cared for until the end of their natural life, and (iv) that such practice is the most effective way to address this problem and to achieve, in time, the goal of No More Homeless Cats and Saving Animals' Lives.

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Based upon these findings, the <u>Commission-City</u> does hereby declare that TNR is deemed to be the preferred method of dealing with <u>feral-free-roaming</u> cat populations as its official policy.

Summary:

Below is a draft of the preliminary TNR policy for discussion. COLLABORATIONS

Collaborative relationships have been established with organizations experienced with and engaged in TNR to share information, <u>and</u> resources, <u>and personnel</u>. This includes working together on TNR implementation and outreach.

STAFF

All Appropriate Animal Service Center staff will be trained on the basics and benefits of TNR within 30 days of after implementation. A number of different groups have offered to put on training for the staff on TNR. As staffing levels increase, we will have one person at each shelter that will be the TNR Liaison. This person Trained staff can assist staff and the public with any questions they have regarding TNR. It is hoped that once the new shelters are online that this person may be dedicated solely to doing this function. In addition, this person could be responsible for follow up telephone calls to the public and assisting in coordination with TNR groups. In addition, it is the Department's recommendation that the City of Los Angeles purchase additional traps for issuance to our TNR partners and the public. In the future, the TNR Liaison could also be responsible for the coordination of the issuance of shelter traps and training.

ANIMAL SERVICE CENTERS

We will develop TNR informational fliers in English and Spanish and any other language deemed needed. We will work with TNR groups to develop literature on TNR to be made available at locations throughout the animal Animal service Service centers Centers and Department website. In addition, we have ordered TNR videotapes to add to the list of tapes that will be shown throughout the day on a continuous loop in the lobbies. The Service Centers will may also be used as locations for TNR training for citizens residents interested in learning how to TNR or

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groups involved with TNR in any way who seek to use our meeting space.

OUTREACH

We will have a media release and news conference on this issue possibly including participation by the new Mayor. We will develop our TNR informational fliers in English and Spanish (actively working on them as of today). We will have one that is a color tri-fold and one that is a one-page information sheet. Upon approval, they will be distributed to the Animal Service Centers, City Hall, Council Offices, libraries, neighborhood councils, veterinary offices, etc. Once the policy program is approved, the website will prominently display TNR, not only advising the public on it but also will include links to other sites such as Best Friends Catnippers, Feral Cat Caretakers Coalition, Actors & Others for Animals, Feral Cat Alliance, Alley Cat Allies, etc. for more detailed information on TNR. And we may directly refer the public to other organizations for information on TNR. We will also change the IVR to include a section entitled, "if you are having a problem with a stray or feral cat" which would lead into a push button explanation of TNR and what the citizen can do to help themselves. We will create a TNR educational insert for submission to be placed into DWP bills. We will contact internal City publications such as the Alive Magazine, and other Department's newsletters to have TNR educational informational articles placed in them. We will also arrange with the CAO's office to have an educational information flier attached to all City of Los Angeles employee paychecks.

TRAPPING PERMITS

TNR Collaborators will apply for a yearly trapping permit that would be good anywhere in the City of Los Angeles. In addition the permit would cover any members or satellites of the group. TNR Collaborators card would exempt them from the regular trapping permit requirements. Regular citizens not working through a TNR Collaborators would still be required to comply with the trapping permit requirements. In addition, for the purposes of TNR we should charge only the \$50.00 deposit and not the \$5.00 per day fee, with the understanding that the trap must be returned in a week.

FERAL CAT VOUCHERS

The Feral Cat Voucher Program needs to continue. We need to increase the number of vouchers we print and find additional money to do so. We should also look into increasing the funding for

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these vouchers to \$50.00. We should allow anyone to utilize the free vouchers for feral cats that they are caring for. Also we want to utilize the mobile van on certain dates in targeted areas to do nothing but feral cats. We will also attempt to devote some of our personnel resources to recruiting more veterinarians to accept feral cat vouchers.

CITIZEN-RESIDENT COMPLAINTS

We envision approaching this in two phases:

Phase 1 - Implement Immediately—as soon as possible: If a member of the public ealls incontacts us, and complains about stray/feralfree-roaming cats, we get their name, address, and phone number. They are then advised that we do may not always be able to pick up stray cats. We advise them of theabout TNR policy—and the benefits of it. We need to encourage them the callers to speak with the neighbors to determine if anyone owns the cats and how the TNR program can help their neighborhood. We need to determine why they want the cat removed and what the exact problem is. We send them literature or direct them to our website to find including a list of TNR groups they can contact for additional assistance and services. Then we need to follow up with the citizen to determine if the problem is resolved. According to the TNR Collaborators they have good success at getting people to do this.

The policy program would not allow forencourage trapping of feral free-roaming cats for to bringing them into the shelter unless there were very primarily for specific reasons. These reasons which include the cat is injured, sick, has bitten someone, or the cat's welfare is in jeopardy, there is a public health hazard, or real harm to people or companion animals. Instead, we will make a strong effort to help the resident find a solution to the problem without bringing the cat to the Department through sharing resources and ideas as well as collaboration with other organizations.

If a feral free-roaming cat is brought in to the shelter our policy will be to contact rescue groups and the TNR Collaborators groups experienced with and engaged in TNR to make every effort to release the cat to the organization's or owner's authorized representative. place the feral cat in new surroundings, whenever possible. If they are unable to come in for the cat, it may be euthanized.

Phase 2 - Implement in late 2006To follow as staffing allows: —It is anticipated that Phase 2 will become a reality once the new facilities are opened and proper staffing levels are attained. We

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should then move as soon as possible into a more pro active role in implementing TNR, such as by (a) issuing and responding to formal applications for TNR services, (b) coordinating the issuance of feral cat vouchers, (c) educating citizens in TNR and providing trap training, (d) loaning out or renting traps, and otherwise actively collaborating with TNR Collaborators on day-to-day matters. We will be coordinating and issuing free-roaming cat spay/neuter vouchers, and otherwise actively collaborating with organizations experienced with and engaged in TNR on day-to-day matters.

VETERINARY PROCEDURES

In the future, we envision that once the new facilities are open we can utilize our own Spay and Neuter Clinics for the spay/neutering of feral cats brought in by citizens. If they are willing to do the legwork, we can provide the spay/neuter at no cost.

CHANGES IN LAWS

After reviewing various municipal codes it appears that some may need to be eventually amended, however, this should in no way be an impediment to moving forward on the TNR Policy.

SEC. 53.00. DEFINITIONS.

For the purpose of this article, the following words and phrases are defined and shall be construed as hereinafter set out unless it shall be apparent from the context that a different meaning is intended.

"Cat Kennel" shall mean any lot, building, structure, enclosure, or premises, where four or more cats are kept or maintained for any purpose. (Amended by Ord. No. 162,538, Eff. 8/27/87.)

The ordinance could be amended to indicate that in the case of TNR, this should not apply.

SEC. 53.15.2. BREEDING AND TRANSFER OF DOGS AND CATS.

— (a) — Animal Ownership: Animal Owner, for purposes of this section, shall mean any person harboring, keeping or providing care or sustenance to a domestic animal for 30 or more consecutive days on property which he/she owns, rents or leases. Such a person shall be subject to the requirements of this chapter. This definition does not apply to government agencies, animal rescue

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organizations which have demonstrated to the Department that they have implemented an ongoing spay/neuter program as well as an adoption program, or humane societies or societies for the prevention of cruelty to animals if such societies are incorporated under the provisions of California Corporations Code Section 10400 and the Nonprofit Public Benefit.

The ordinance does not need to be changed since there is already an exemption. This definition does not apply to government agencies, animal rescue organizations which have demonstrated to the Department that they have implemented an ongoing spay/neuter program as well as an adoption program, or humane societies or societies for the prevention of cruelty to animals if such societies are incorporated under the provisions of California Corporations Code Section 10400 and the Nonprofit Public Benefit. We will consider anyone partnering with us for the purposes of TNR to be exempted as long as the animals are spayed/neutered.

SEC. 53.06.3. TRAPPING PERMIT REQUIRED.

The Department does not need to change this law.

SEC. 53.06.5. FEEDING OF NON-DOMESTICATED MAMMALIAN PREDATORS PROHIBITED. (Amended by Ord. No. 175,383, Eff. 9/14/03.)

— (a) No person shall feed or in any manner provide food or cause to be fed any non-domesticated mammalian predator including, but not limited to, coyotes, foxes, possums, raccoons and skunks.

This does not apply to stray/feral cats. No change is necessary.

SEC. 53.09. STRAY ANIMALS. NOTICE REQUIRED

The Department does not believe this section applies to TNR.

Fiscal Impact:

Unknown at this time.

Board Report of the General Manager: Modified Proposed Trap, Neuter & Return PolicyProgram

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Board Action Required: The Commission adopts TNR as the Department's policy for dealing with feral cats. The Commission directs staff to continue to formulate the policy and collaborate with the TNR experts who have come forward to volunteer their time and expertise to help resolve the applicable details, procedures, and protocols. The Commission request that a formal presentation on implementation be presented for a vote on the date of their choice.

Passed		
Passed with noted modifications		
Disapproved	-Tabled	New Date