
File ID: 2026-01750

10/27/2026

[Contract Amendment] Professional Service Agreement for Contracted On-Site Veterinary Services and Emergency and After-Hours Veterinary Services [Published for 10-Day Review 10/15/2026]

File ID: 2026-01750

Location: Citywide

Recommendation: Pass a **Motion:** 1) authorizing the City Manager or designee to execute Contract Amendment No. 6 to City Agreement PRC002049 with Friends of Front Street Shelter in an amount not to exceed \$240,000, bringing the total not-to-exceed amount to \$1,590,000 for contracted on-site veterinary services; 2) authorizing the City Manager or designee to execute Contract Amendment No. 2 to City Agreement PRC003981 with VCA Mueller Pet Medical Center in an amount not to exceed \$200,000, bringing the total not-to-exceed amount to \$650,000 for off-site and after-hours emergency veterinary services; and 3) ratify all prior agreements previously issued by the City Manager in accordance with Chapter 3.56 of the City Code.

Contact: April Stevenson, Animal Care Services Manager, (916) 808-8333, astevenson@cityofsacramento.org, Community Development Department

Presenter: None

Attachments:

- 1-Description/Analysis
- 2-PRC002049 Contract Amendment No. 6
- 3-PRC003981 Contract Amendment No. 2

Description/Analysis

Issue Detail: Staff is requesting authorization to execute the proposed contract amendments for Friends of the Front Street Shelter and VCA Mueller Pet Medical Center. Contract Amendment No. 6 to City Agreement PRC002049 will increase the contract by \$240,000 bringing the total not-to-exceed amount to \$1,590,000 for contracted on-site veterinary services. Contract Amendment No. 2 to City Agreement PRC003981 with VCA Mueller Pet Medical Center will increase the contract by \$200,000, bringing the total not-to-exceed amount to \$650,000 for off-site and after-hours emergency veterinary services.

California Civil Code § 1834 states: “A depositary of living animals shall provide the animals with necessary and prompt veterinary care, nutrition, and shelter, and treat them kindly. Any depositary that fails to perform these duties may be liable for civil damages as provided by law.” If an animal enters the Front Street Animal Shelter (Shelter) and is sick or injured, it must be treated promptly. To comply with this Civil Code, Council approval is required for agreements to provide on-site relief veterinary services. The Shelter is classified as a depositary for living animals and therefore bound by California Civil Code.

Policy Considerations: City Code Section 3.56.090 requires Council approval to authorize the City Manager to bind the City by contract for purchases that are \$250,000 or more. The recommendations in this report are consistent with Sacramento City Code Section 3.56.

The contract amendments with Friends of Front Street Shelter and VCA Mueller Pet Medical Center exceed the City Manager’s approval authority and require approval by City Council pursuant to City Code 3.04.020. This item was published for 10-day review on October 15, 2026, in compliance with the City Code.

Continuing to contract with Friends of Front Street Shelter and VCA Mueller Pet Medical Center ensures that Animal Care Services continues to comply with California Civil Code § 1834 to provide necessary and prompt veterinary care.

Economic Impacts: Not applicable.

Environmental Considerations: The contract amendment for on-site veterinary services are administrative activities that will not have a significant effect on the environment and do not constitute a “project” as defined by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) [CEQA Guidelines §15378 (b)(2 and 5)] and are not subject to CEQA [CEQA Guidelines § 15060(c)(3)]. The resulting activities that may occur are exempt from CEQA because they do not have the potential for causing a significant effect on the environment. [CEQA Guidelines §15061(b)(3)].

Sustainability: Not applicable.

Commission/Committee Action: Not applicable.

Rationale for Recommendation: To remain compliant with California Civil Code § 1834, it is imperative that the Shelter has daytime on-site and after-hours veterinarian services when the Shelter veterinarian is not on duty. The City currently has 3.0 FTE (full-time equivalent) veterinarian positions, however, one position remains vacant. Additionally, staff coverage is needed for sick leave, vacation, and other intermittent leaves. It is more efficient and cost-effective to have a veterinarian on-site than to send animals to our emergency contract veterinary provider, however, in some situations it may be necessary. As a result, there is a need to increase the contract amounts of both

agreements with Friends of Front Street Shelter and with VCA Mueller Pet Medical Center to continue services and to pay for the additional costs that the City will incur.

Friends of Front Street Shelter (Friends) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization committed to assisting the Shelter achieve their goal of saving the lives of all strays, abandoned, and abused animals who come through its doors. To help the Shelter achieve their life-saving goal, Friends has contracted directly with a pool of up to 15 veterinarians to provide as-needed, on-site relief veterinary services at the Shelter. Friends also manages the scheduling and payments for each of their contracted veterinarians which reduces administrative work for Shelter staff. In the best interest of the City, a request to suspend competitive bidding to continue contracting with Friends for on-site veterinary services was requested and approved by a two-thirds vote on June 20, 2023 - Resolution No. 2023-0210.

There are only two 24-hour emergency veterinary hospitals located within the City limits. Ideally, the City would like to contract with both emergency hospitals. Several attempts were made by phone and e-mail to contact the other 24-hour veterinary hospital in the City, and the City did not receive a response. Additionally, attempts were made by phone and e-mail to contact other 24-hour veterinary hospitals located in unincorporated Sacramento County and neighboring cities to request contracted veterinary services and the City did not receive a response. As a result, a request to suspend competitive bidding for this contract was requested and approved by a two-thirds vote on June 23, 2026 - Motion No. 2026-0164. The City has had previous successful contracts with VCA Mueller Pet Hospital dating back to 2013.

Financial Considerations: The current contract amounts are not sufficient to meet the operational needs for the current fiscal year. Due to the rise in veterinary service costs and the department's inability to fill one vacant Veterinarian position, along with the need for staff coverage for various types of leave, the demand for contract services to provide life-saving and after-hours care to sick and injured animals has increased significantly. The existing budget in the Animal Care Services Division of the Community Development Department anticipates generating operational savings primarily through vacancies to cover the costs of the contract amendment. Additionally, there is a current balance of \$525,000 in donated funds in the Friends of the City Animal Shelter multi-year operating project (I13000400), that can be re-designated to partially fund the increased costs and alleviate the impact on the operating budget.

Continued funding for the services provided under these contracts will be subject to funding availability in the adopted budget and donated funds for the applicable fiscal year.

Local Business Enterprise (LBE): Friends of Front Street Shelter and VCA Mueller Pet Medical Center are qualified LBEs.

CONTRACT #: | PRC002049 |
AMENDMENT #: | 6 |
CONTRACT NAME: | On-Site Contracted Veterinarian Services |
NOT TO EXCEED AMOUNT (INCLUDING SUPPLEMENTS): | 1,590,000 |

DATE: | 9/22/2026 |
PROJECT: | N/A |
SOLICITATION: | SSJ88371 |
MOTION / DATE OR FILE ID: | 2026-01750 |

CITY OF SACRAMENTO

**CONTRACT AMENDMENT
CHANGE IN NOT-TO-EXCEED AMOUNT**

The City of Sacramento ("City") and Friends of Front Street Shelter ("Contractor"), as parties to that certain contract designated as Contract Number PRC002049 , including any and all prior amendments modifying the contract (the contract and all amendments are hereafter collectively referred to as the "Contract"), hereby amend the Contract as follows:

1. The maximum not-to-exceed amount that is specified in the Contract for payment of Contractor's fees and expenses is **increased** by \$240,000 , and the Contract's maximum not-to-exceed amount is amended as follows:

Contract's original not-to-exceed amount:	\$249,999
Net change by previous amendments:	\$1,100,001
Not-to-exceed amount prior to this amendment:	\$1,350,000
Increase by this amendment:	\$240,000
New not-to exceed amount including all amendments:	\$1,590,000

2. Contractor warrants and represents that the person or persons executing this contract amendment on behalf of Contractor is duly authorized by Contractor to sign this amendment and bind Contractor to the terms hereof.
3. Except as specifically revised herein, all terms and conditions of the Contract shall remain in full force and effect, and Contractor shall perform as required under the Contract, as modified by this amendment.

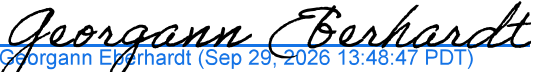
[SIGNATURES ON FOLLOWING PAGE]

SIGNATURES

The parties have signed this Contract, effective as of the day and year first stated above.

CONTRACTOR

Under penalty of perjury, I certify that the information provided here is correct.

Signature: 
Georgann E. Berhardt (Sep 29, 2026 13:48:47 PDT)

Title: Board Member Treasurer

Additional Signature (if required):

Title:

CITY OF SACRAMENTO

A Municipal Corporation

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Signature: 
Kara Weatherby (Sep 29, 2026 14:23:24 PDT)

Title: Deputy City Attorney

Reviewed By:

Signature: 
Kelli Trapani (Sep 29, 2026 14:56:20 PDT)

Title: Administrative Analyst

Approved By:

Signature:

Title:

Additional Signature (if required):

Title:

CONTRACT #: PRC003981
AMENDMENT #: 2
CONTRACT NAME: Emergency On-Call Veterinary Services
NOT TO EXCEED AMOUNT (INCLUDING SUPPLEMENTS): \$650,000

DATE: 09/23/2026
PROJECT: N/A
SOLICITATION: Alternative Method
MOTION / DATE OR FILE ID: 2026-01750

CITY OF SACRAMENTO

**CONTRACT AMENDMENT
CHANGE IN NOT-TO-EXCEED AMOUNT**

The City of Sacramento ("City") and VCA Mueller Pet Medical Center ("Contractor"), as parties to that certain contract designated as Contract Number PRC003981, including any and all prior amendments modifying the contract (the contract and all amendments are hereafter collectively referred to as the "Contract"), hereby amend the Contract as follows:

1. The maximum not-to-exceed amount that is specified in the Contract for payment of Contractor's fees and expenses is **increased** by \$200,000, and the Contract's maximum not-to-exceed amount is amended as follows:

Contract's original not-to-exceed amount:	\$200,000
Net change by previous amendments:	\$250,000
Not-to-exceed amount prior to this amendment:	\$450,000
Increase by this amendment:	\$200,000
New not-to exceed amount including all amendments:	\$650,000

2. Contractor warrants and represents that the person or persons executing this contract amendment on behalf of Contractor is duly authorized by Contractor to sign this amendment and bind Contractor to the terms hereof.
3. Except as specifically revised herein, all terms and conditions of the Contract shall remain in full force and effect, and Contractor shall perform as required under the Contract, as modified by this amendment.

[SIGNATURES ON FOLLOWING PAGE]

SIGNATURES

The parties have signed this Contract, effective as of the day and year first stated above.

CONTRACTOR

Under penalty of perjury, I certify that the information provided here is correct.

Signature: 

Title: Regional Operations Director

Additional Signature (if required):

Title:

CITY OF SACRAMENTO

A Municipal Corporation

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Signature: 
[Kara Weatherby \(Oct 1, 2026 08:42:35 PDT\)](#)

Title: Deputy City Attorney

Reviewed By:

Signature:

Title:

Approved By:

Signature:

Title:

Additional Signature (if required):

Title: