

PERSONNEL AND
ANIMAL WELFARE

MOTION


In November 2000, Los Angeles voters overwhelmingly approved Measure F which provided nearly \$533 million in bond funding for a major upgrade of the City's fire stations and animal shelters. Over the course of the ensuing years, almost all of that funding has been expended on projects to modernize and expand the City's fire and animal care facilities. This General Obligation Bond provided the necessary \$154 million in financing for the construction and/or rehabilitation of 8 animal shelters, most notably the West Valley Animal Shelter.

In response to the City's current financial situation, due to the impacts of COVID-19, our City departments have had to make temporary changes to their operating budgets and that includes the Department of Animal Services. However, it has come to the Council's attention that the once temporary plan to shutter City operations at the West Valley Animal Shelter, due to COVID-19, could now become permanent.

With both valley shelters covering a geographic expanse that constitutes 40% of the total area of Los Angeles, with an estimated 1.77 million population, it is imperative that the City maintain its operations at the West Valley Animal Shelter. In 2019, the West Valley shelter impounded a total of 9,320 animals, while the East Valley shelter impounded 14,605. The City would be negligent in their obligation to provide necessary services to all stray or lost animals if the West Valley shelter no longer operates as a city shelter and the burden to accommodate and care for an estimated 24,000 animals is left to only the East Valley shelter.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Department of Animal Services be instructed to report immediately to this council on the long term plan for the West Valley Animal Shelter.

PRESENTED BY _____


JOHN S. LEE (verbal)
Councilmember, 12th District

SECONDED BY _____

BOB BLUMENFIELD (verbal)
Councilmember, 3rd District