



## Suspension of Competition Acquisition Request

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1. Fully describe the product(s) and/or service(s) being requested.  
Provide animal control, sheltermaster, emergency veterinary services, and animal evacuation disaster planning for animals from the unincorporated areas of the County. Enforcement of County's dog licensing and control ordinance per County Ordinance and the laws of the State of California pertaining to animal control and public safety, including investigation of dog bites and quarantine of vicious and dangerous dogs.
2. Identify the selected vendor and contact person; include the address, phone number and e-mail address for each.  
Fresno Humane Animal Services  
2789 S. Orange Avenue  
Fresno, California 93725  
Contact: Brenda Mitchell, President [bmitchell@fresnohumane.org](mailto:bmitchell@fresnohumane.org)
3. What is the total cost of the acquisition? If an agreement, state the total cost of the initial term and the amounts for potential renewal terms.  
\$25,500,000 total for 5 years; \$5,100,000 per fiscal year
4. Identify the unique qualities and/or capabilities of the service(s) and/or product(s) that qualify this as a Suspension of Competition acquisition.  
Fresno Humane Animal Services (FHAS) has been the County's current animal control contractor since October 2015. They have the technical expertise and the personal interest to care for animals and treat them humanely. Through their efforts, they have been able to increase the live release rate from 76% to 81% while moving operations from the County morgue to the existing new animal shelter that more than doubled the size and number of animals. FHAS has a longstanding presence in the Fresno pet community with years of experience in rescue and outreach. Due to their years of experience, they have a vast network of community contacts for rescues - which are greatly relied upon to maintain a live release rate as close to possible as the industry standard of 90%. This is an area of specialized and very limited expertise and proven, experienced contractors are difficult to find. During the previous RFP 962-5354 competitive bid process, there were four respondents and FHAS stood out due to their breadth of knowledge, vast experience in all areas of responsibility, and showed problem solving solutions for key challenges identified. The closest bidder was deemed adequate but lacked insight into new approaches or solutions for County's animal control issues.
5. Identify from Administrative Policy #34 what circumstances constitute a Suspension of Competition.  
☐ In an emergency when goods or services are immediately necessary for the preservation of the public health, welfare, or safety, or for the protection of County property.  
☐ When the contract is with a federal, state, or local governmental agency.  
☐ When the department head, with the concurrence of the Purchasing Agent, finds that the cost of preparing and administering a competitive bidding process in a particular case will equal or exceed the estimated contract amount or \$5,000 whichever is more.  
☐ When a contract provides only for payment of per diem and travel expenses and there is to be no payment for services rendered.  
☐ When obtaining the services of expert witnesses for litigation or special counsel to assist the County.  
☒ When in unusual or extraordinary circumstances, the Board of Supervisors or the Purchasing Agent/Purchasing Manager determines that the best interests of the County would be served by not securing competitive bids or issuing a request for proposal.
6. Explain why the unique qualities and/or capabilities described above are essential to your department.  
FHAS has provided County mandated animal control services along with sheltermaster and community outreach since 2015. During that time, FHAS has increased the live release rate of stray animals from 76% to 81%. They provide multiple low cost vaccination clinics throughout the County. They have experience in fundraising and community outreach (public education is a necessary component to success). They have proven their ability to manage providing emergency service response for animals in distress due to natural disasters while continuing to provide reliable service and public safety to the people of Fresno County.  
The previous RFP for animal control services had only two adequate applicants. FHAS was clearly the best option for Fresno County with the vast amount of expertise in all aspects of the required services. Locating a provider that is familiar with Fresno County, has a solid relationship with community partners and local rescues, and has experience with animal control is difficult. DPH cannot bring in a contractor from another area of the state that does not understand the issues and challenges specific to Fresno County, nor would they have any of the connections with local rescues which is vital for successful adoptions. FHAS has been a reliable, supportive and responsive contractor for Fresno County and retaining them is in the best interest of Fresno County.

7. Provide a comprehensive explanation of the research done to verify that the recommended vendor is the only vendor with the unique qualities and/or capabilities stated above. Include a list of all other vendors contacted, what they were asked, and their responses.

In 2015, RFP 962-5354 was released for animal control services with 4 respondents. One was disqualified and another clearly lacked experience. FHAS was selected over the other applicant due to the vast experience of the staff in providing sheltermaster, animal control, rescue and community outreach activities. In 2019, the City of Fresno experienced the same when they released a RFP for an animal control/shelter provider and received only one qualified applicant. Most rescue groups in Fresno County are small non-profit organizations. FHAS began as a small independent group from a local rescue and grew to be able to operate a shelter the size of the County's successfully. To develop another small rescue into the size organization that Fresno County needs to operate a shelter for 194 dogs and provide animal control services would take much more time and capital. Fresno County's stray animal population is comprised of mainly large dogs who run in packs. There is a special skill needed to know how to appropriately handle multiple large dogs, especially when they have received calls about being dangerous or have bite reports. Additionally, if Fresno County assumed primary responsibility of all operations, the staffing and benefits alone would increase costs significantly. For the past 5 years, FHAS has provided all required services successfully and have faith they have the solid foundation to take the shelter to the next steps of growing further to provide medical services with an in-house veterinary and vet techs.

klynch 5/15/2025 10:58:08 AM

Senior Staff Analyst

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Requested By:

Title

**I approve this request to suspend competition for the service(s) and/or product(s) identified herein.**

dluchini 5/16/2025 12:37:20 PM

[ Sign] Double click!

Department Head Signature

rblackburn 5/23/2025 2:04:55 PM

[ Sign] Double click!

Purchasing Manager Signature