



Council Agenda Report

From: Tod Rehner, Police Commander

Subject: Introduction for First Reading by Title Only an Ordinance of the El Paso de Robles Municipal Code Updating Existing Animal Control Regulations of Title 8 (Animal Control) and Adoption by Reference the San Luis Obispo County Code Regarding Animal Control R

CEQA Determination: The City finds that this action is not a project under the California Environmental Quality Act pursuant to State Guidelines Section State CEQA Guidelines, §§ 15060, subd. (c)(2)-(3), 15378.

Date: April 1, 2025

Facts

1. Title 8 of the El Paso de Robles Municipal Code sets forth existing animal control regulations for the City of El Paso de Robles (“City”).
2. The Division of Animal Services (“Division”) for the County of San Luis Obispo (“County”) was established to provide animal care and control functions relating to the care, keeping, and management of animals within the County.
3. The City contracts with the Division for the provision of animal control services within the City and works in conjunction with the City’s Police Department and other City personnel to administer such services and enforce animal control regulations within the City’s boundaries.
4. To assist the Division in uniform administration of animal control services, the City previously amended the El Paso de Robles Municipal Code to substantially conform to the animal control regulations set forth in Title 9 of the County Code.
5. In 2023, the County updated Title 9 of its Municipal Code to enhance animal control regulations, including those relating to licensing, public safety, and enforcement measures. The City has reviewed these updates and now seeks to amend Title 8 of the El Paso de Robles Municipal Code to substantially incorporate by reference Title 9 of the San Luis Obispo County Code to ensure alignment with regional animal control standards and maintain the Division’s jurisdiction for services within the City while tailoring certain provisions to address the specific needs of the City, as set forth in Exhibit “A” of the proposed Ordinance.

Options

1. Take no action.
2. Introduce for first reading by title only Ordinance XXXX, amending Title 8 of the El Paso de Robles Municipal Code regarding updates to existing animal control regulations and adopt by reference the San Luis Obispo County Code with certain. changes and amendments thereto.
3. Introduce Ordinance XXXX Amending Title 8 of the El Paso de Robles Municipal Code with modifications.
4. Provide alternative directions to staff.

Analysis and Conclusions

Background

The City's animal control regulations, set forth in Title 8 of the El Paso de Robles Municipal Code, guide the administration of animal control services within the City. These services are provided through a partnership with the Division of Animal Services for the County, which maintains a countywide framework for animal care, control, and enforcement. Such services are further detailed in the Contract for Animal Care and Control Services between the City and County effective July 1, 2022, and set to expire on June 30, 2025 (the "Contract").

Historically, the City has worked with the County to maintain regulatory alignment with Title 9 of the County Code, which governs animal control across the County. This alignment has ensured uniformity in administering animal control services and streamlined cooperation between the County's Animal Services Division and the City's Police Department. At the [January 15, 2025](#) City Council meeting, the City Council unanimously passed for first reading amending Title 8, however after the meeting Staff became aware of concerns the County had over the language to be adopted. City and County staff has since reviewed the language and are in concurrence with the content in this staff report.

In 2023, the County amended Title 9 to strengthen provisions related to licensing, public safety, and enforcement, as further detailed below. To ensure alignment with regional animal control standards and maintain the Division's jurisdiction so that it can continue providing animal control services for the City pursuant to the Contract, the City is now proposing to amend Title 8 of the El Paso de Robles Municipal Code to incorporate by reference the County's Title 9 with other amendments to Title 8. Penalties for violations of Title 8 will remain largely consistent with the existing penalty structure, which is also aligned with the County's penalty schedule to promote uniformity.

While these amendments align the City's animal control regulations with the County's standards, the City will also take this opportunity to address specific local needs while continuing to ensure substantial conformance with the provisions of Title 9 of the County Code. This approach ensures that the City's animal control services are both consistent with the best regional practices and responsive to the unique needs of the City. This includes provisions addressing:

- The number of animals permitted in any single lot within the City;
- Animals prohibited in the City;
- Authority of animal control officers of the City;
- Clarification regarding the City's enforcement authority over Title 8 of the Municipal Code and authority over zoning and permitting of animal-related operations within the City; and

If this Ordinance is approved, California Government Code section 50022.3 further requires that after the first reading, the City Council schedule and properly notice a public hearing for a subsequent meeting. At least fifteen days before the public hearing, the City Clerk must file at least one certified copy of the County's Title 9 in the City Clerk's office and keep it available for public inspection while the Ordinance remains in effect. After the hearing, the City Council may proceed with the second reading and adopt the Ordinance following standard procedures.

Fiscal Impact

There is no additional fiscal impact outside of the current Contract with the Division of Animal Services for the County of San Luis Obispo.

CEQA

The City finds that this action is not a project under the California Environmental Quality Act pursuant to State Guidelines Section State CEQA Guidelines, §§ 15060, subd. (c)(2)-(3), 15378, given that the Ordinance merely updates existing animal control regulations to enhance clarity, enforcement, and administration of animal control services within the City and such actions will not result in a direct or reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment and because the Ordinance constitutes an organizational or administrative activity that will not result in a physical change in the environment.

Recommendation

Introduce for first reading by title only Ordinance XXXX, amending Title 8 of the El Paso de Robles Municipal Code regarding updates to existing animal control regulations and adopting by reference the San Luis Obispo County Code with certain changes and amendments thereto.

Attachments

1. Ordinance XXXX - Amending Title 8 of the El Paso de Robles Municipal Code
 - a. Exhibit A – Line Text Amendments to Title 8