

**THE GOVERNING BOARD  
OF THE JOINT POWERS AGENCY OF THE  
STANISLAUS ANIMAL SERVICES AGENCY (SASA)**  
Meeting Minutes

**Regular Meeting**

**Thursday**

**September 19, 2024**

**Members Present:**

Jewel Warr, Alternate for Stanislaus County-Chair  
Scotty Douglass, Alternate for City of Modesto  
Mike Pitcock, City of Waterford  
Dominique Romo, City of Hughson  
Mike Willett, Alternate for City of Patterson  
Doug Dunford, City of Ceres

**Staff Present:**

Rob Taro, Assistant County Counsel  
Craig Gundlach, Interim Executive Director  
Stephanie Loomis, Business Manager  
Megan Morriss, Confidential Assistant IV  
Connie Hooker, Operations Manager

**Guests and Dignitaries:** None

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 am by Chair, Jewel Warr.

1. **Welcome:** Jewel Warr-Chair.
2. **Roll Call (Silent):** Welcome and introductions.
3. **Item B (a)**-Pursuant to Government code section 54953 (c) 3-Craig Gundlach was appointed as SASA's Interim Executive Director at a rate of \$88.97 per hour.
4. **Presentations:** None
5. **Public Comment Period (Limit of 5 minutes per person):**
  - A. Cassidy Smith voiced concerns about challenges in the shelter and encourage protecting animals from wrongful euthanasia. She shared about a dog named Beckham who was euthanized. She encouraged SASA to develop strict euthanasia protocols.
  - B. Dianne Love shared concerns regarding the number of animals being euthanized at the shelter. She shared concerns regarding the customer service provided by reception staff. She implored the JPA Board to be

the voice of the animals. She encouraged the shelter improve its social media.

- C. Jennifer Heffernan-social media is an issue. Non-affiliated groups are publishing euthanasia lists and doing social media posts. There is a social media disconnect to the Rescue groups and non-affiliated groups. It would be a win-win for everybody.
- D. Nadine Klevin-Many people spend countless hours and financial resources to help save these animals. KCRA was her on 8/7/24 and an interview was done with an employee who advised low cost spay/neuter would be opening. This was not true. Called to get more information and the person who answered the phone was very rude and provided no information whatsoever. JPA Board should go through the shelter and see the conditions of the animals.
- E. Christine Melton-Echoing the same sentiments as the other speakers. Inability to get ahold of shelter staff. Trying to rescue an animal and can't reach anyone. No one answers the phone. There is no one to serve the public. Animals have been euthanized because they could not reach shelter staff. Does not adhere to the shelter euthanasia policy. Unwelcoming and rude front office staff. Lack of public education. Extend shelter hours so people who are working can adopt. Let's save more animals. Let us help.
- F. Angela Garcia-Great employees in the foster program. I am a volunteer bottle coordinator. Aging of kittens is a problem at the shelter. Needs some more training. UC Davis education will be shared with Shelter staff. April does bottle training and it was offered to the shelter. Classes and mentoring available. Dedicated to help the kittens.
- G. April Taggart-Speaking as a volunteer on the cat side of things. I network kittens. When I email the shelter-the response is short and rude. If I don't get a response from the foster email, I will email the Rescue email. We are doing all we can to network these babies. Sometimes I get aggressive, and I was banned from fostering here which is why I volunteer for the cats so much.
- H. Erica, an independent transporter for dogs and cats shared she is touched by all the volunteers here and requested the JPA Board to do their jobs. She shared a desire to work together to be a better team.

## **6. Minutes of Previous Meetings:**

- A. City of Waterford/City of Modesto (6-0) approved the Agency Board Meeting Minutes from August 15, 2024.

## **7. Correspondence: None**

**8. New Business:**

- A.** Motion to accept a report from the Interim Executive Director regarding a 30-day analysis of SASA programs and priorities regarding the overall effectiveness and efficiencies of the agency.  
(City of Modesto/City of Waterford; 6-0)
- B.** Motion to adopt the Interim 2024-2025 Budget and direct staff to evaluate and update Ordinances currently restricting revenue to determine opportunities to utilize funds that will benefit public animal care needs, return to the Board with recommended changes to those Ordinances along with a process to effect the changes, and return to the board with a final budget no later than February 1, 2025.  
(City of Waterford/City of Hughson; 5-0, City of Ceres absent)
- C.** Motion to establish an Ad Hoc Committee to plan and oversee the Executive Director Recruitment and authorize committee to select an outside executive recruitment service, if needed, and authorize the Interim Executive Director to execute the agreement in an amount not to exceed \$30,000.  
(City of Waterford/City of Modesto; 5-0, City of Ceres absent)
- D.** Motion for an approval to reissue a request for Qualification (RFQ) for Financial and Administrative Management Efficiencies Audit Services with an outside audit firm and authorize the Executive Director to enter and sign an agreement in an amount not to exceed \$40,000.  
(City of Waterford/City of Patterson; 5-0, City of Ceres absent)

**9. Committee Reports:**

- A.** Budget Ad Hoc Committee reported out that a final budget will be coming in January 2025. The committee is looking into the restricted funds and started process to change ordinances. The Committee thanked Stephanie Loomis for all her hard work and thanked Craig Gundlach for his openness.

**10. Informational:**

- A.** Executive Director report:

  - i. Staffing update
  - ii. Communication highlights
  - iii. Upcoming training for staff
  - iv. Intake Statistics
  - v. Events

**11. Closed Session:** None

**12. Adjournment at 11:02 am**

**Adjourned:** 11:02 am

ATTESTED: Megan Morriss, Clerk  
of the Governing Board  
of the Joint Powers Agency  
of the Stanislaus Animal Services Agency  
State of California