

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

**Regular Meeting**

**Thursday**

**December 18, 2025**

**Members Present:**

Scotty Douglass, Alternate for City of Modesto-Chair  
Mike Pitcock, City of Waterford  
Dominique Romo, City of Hughson  
Mike Willet, Alternate for City of Patterson  
Doug Dunford, City of Ceres

**Absent:**

Jewel Warr, Alternate for Stanislaus County

**Staff Present:**

Jesus Mendoza, Deputy County Counsel  
Lily Yap, Executive Director  
Megan Morriss, Confidential Assistant IV

**Guests and Dignitaries:** None

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 am by Chair, Scotty Douglass.

1. **Welcome:** Scotty Douglass-Chair.
2. **Roll Call (Silent):**
3. **Presentations:**
  - A. Caitlin from Best Friends Organization went over Community Based Solutions for managing community cats. This included feline nuisance mitigation, community outreach and awareness, resource management, TNVR-Trap Neuter Vaccinate and Return.
4. **Public Comment Period (Limit of 5 minutes per person):**
  - A. **Linda Ford** shared the history of SASA from 1987 to the present, expressing support for the Strategic Planning process. She acknowledged that some groups place blame on SASA and emphasized the importance of distinguishing between passionate advocacy and harmful hate speech, advocating for professionalism in discussions.

**B. Tanya Chavez** initiated a TNR program in her neighborhood, successfully trapping 74 cats and spaying/neutering 68, all funded personally by her and her neighbors. She supports more community-driven TNR efforts and believes they are worthwhile.

**C. Nancy Klein** referenced a lawsuit in San Diego over the abandonment of healthy cats, citing state law 597 which prohibits leaving animals to fend for themselves. She voiced concerns about disease spread due to dog movement within the shelter and noted possible lack of alignment within SASA leadership. She also called for more supplies for foster caregivers.

**D. Chris Ricci** raised concerns about Best Friends being paid to consult for SASA and the lack of public comment during their presentation. He stated he has repeatedly requested information from the shelter without response and emphasized that SASA's primary responsibility is to the community, not the government.

**5. Minutes of Previous Meetings:**

**A.** Approved the Agency Board Meeting Minutes from November 20, 2025. (City of Waterford/City of Ceres - 5/0).

**6. Correspondence: None**

**7. New Business:**

**A.** Consent item

a. Motion passed to negotiate and execute a Public Works of Improvements Agreement with Bay Alarm Company. (City of Waterford/City of Hughson – 5/0)

**B.** Amended motion passed to approve the 2026 SASA JPA Meeting calendar but with a change of location to Ceres Community Center for all meetings in 2026. (City of Waterford/City of Hughson – 5/0)

a. Public comment

**Nancy Klein**-What is the reason for multiple locations? It is confusing for people. Not having night meetings is a deterrent. Zoom attendance should be permissible and we should post recordings on the website.

**Staff response**-a single location to hold SASA Board meetings is needed. City of Ceres offered their Ceres Community Center and advised all 2026 SASA meeting dates are open. City of Waterford advised if we stream the meetings in the

future, it should be one way streaming to prevent Zoom bombing. Several Board members advised due to scheduling restrictions; the time of the meetings would stay at 9:00am.

8. **Committee Reports:** None

9. **Informational Reports:**

A. Executive Directors Report-Lily Yap

a. **Stray Intake Strategy**

- Transitioning from reactive to proactive approaches.
- Promoting community-based solutions and appointment systems.
- Focus on reducing euthanasia due to capacity constraints.

b. **Urgent Animal Management**

- Shift from “Final Due Out” lists to R.E.D. status system.
- Emphasis on proactive communication and objective urgency assessments.

c. **Transport Program Development**

- Volunteer-led efforts transitioning to staff-coordinated transports.
- Launch of the “Cuddle Shuttle” to support vulnerable animals.
- Plans for regular transports to priority partners.

d. **Spay/Neuter Services**

- Review of multi-year statistics showing progress.
- Challenges with sustaining the SASA Love Clinic and filling the DVM role.
- Exploring partnerships and targeted programming to expand services.

B. Board comments and Reports - None

10. **Closed Session:** None

**11. Adjournment at 10:48 am**

**Adjourned:** 10:48 am

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