

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

**Regular Meeting**

**Thursday**

**March 19, 2026**

**Members Present:**

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

**Staff Present:**

Jesus Mendoza, Deputy County Counsel  
Lily Yap, Executive Director  
Megan Morriss, Confidential Assistant IV  
Stephanie Loomis, Business Manager

**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:** All members present.
3. **Presentations:**
4. **Public Comment Period (Limit of 5 minutes per person):**

Claudia Henley:

- Member of the Rescue volunteer team for three years.
- Concerned about being denied extensions for R.E.D. list dogs.
- Need more time to get dogs adopted from the adoption floor.
- Concerned dogs are dying with empty kennel space in the shelter.
- Concerned about having locked kennels.

Tina von Stade:

- Volunteers are so stressed out.
- Every single weekend there are dogs on the R.E.D. list who are at risk of dying.
- Please think about the community and the rescue/volunteers who are working each week to save these animals.
- Rescues tag dog just to give them more time before being euthanized.

- How is the community processing having 40-50 dogs on the R.E.D. list each and every week?
- Capacity of Care model is unacceptable. Need to rethink that.
- Currently it is a SASA kitten bottle babies volunteer. Would rather work for a rescue over the shelter as they pay vet bills and get free marketing. SASA doesn't do this.
- Concerned about how frequently the shelter director travels to conferences. Concerned about her using up the travel budget. She needs to be here to run this struggling department.

Kelly Ceglio:

- Speaking for the animals today. Provided a handout.
- Concerned about the shelter process for dogs with major trauma (hit by a car). Wants to know what the protocols or processes are for this type of situation. Current processes are inhumane. Should have been taken to a Vet immediately.
- The Board needs to acknowledge that the current staff is exhausted.
- She is concerned that the Board is ignoring where the system is failing.
- Rescues are making the most positive outcomes (77%) at the Shelter.
- A foster drove from Santa Cruz to get Rocco spayed. Forgot her paperwork and then when she returned, the dog had not been spayed due to incorrect medical paperwork. This is poor customer service.

Katherine Hall-Boyer:

- Volunteer numbers are very low. Only 16 people volunteered in February. The Shelter needs hundreds of volunteers.
- The shelter needs to improve the volunteer recruitment. This helps with enrichment.
- The shelter needs to neuter all male dogs by the day they are available for adoption.
- Her family has set up a spay/neuter fund through the Stanislaus Community Foundation for community animals.
- Receiving 27 dogs per day. Need to halt the intake numbers through spay/neuter.
- Recruitment of Veterinarian for quite some time at the Shelter.

**5. Minutes of Previous Meeting:**

- A.** Approved the Agency Board Meeting Minutes from 2/19/26. (Stanislaus County/City of Hughson; 6-0)

**6. Correspondence: None**

**7. New Business:**

- A.** Motion to vacate and rescind item 7D from 2/19/26 meeting. (City of Waterford/City of Modesto; 6-0)

Motion to appoint a Strategic Planning Ad Hoc committee with the following members that will seek public input as appropriate:

1. Mike Pitcock-City of Waterford
2. Jewel Warr-Stanislaus County

3. Dominique Romo-City of Hughson  
(City of Modesto/Stanislaus County; 6-0)

Public Comment:

Tina von Stade:

- The Board of Supervisors appoint people on their committees, and we should too. Community members are subject matter experts.
- Not having community members on this committee breaks public's trust.
- On the JPA Board survey, two Board members did not know what SASA did well.

Board Comments:

- County Counsel advised that the community members had misheard in the Strategic Planning presentation about the survey results.

Kelly Ceglio

- Wouldn't the Ad Hoc committee have to follow the Brown Act?
- Hear and listen to the citizens you need.

Board comments

- We do have the SASA Advisory committee meeting starting in April. Opportunity for community to come to the Advisory committee meetings. Will be a public meeting that will follow the Brown Act.
- County of Stanislaus advised we are setting up an Ad Hoc committee which is a structured workgroup and not a public meeting. We also have an outside consultant working with this committee who took copious notes from our Strategic Planning meeting. There will be a lot of work in the background. Can choose to report back to the JPA Board but also the Advisory Committee. There are ways we can get the public's input.

**B.** Item pulled from the meeting.

**C.** Item pulled from the meeting.

**D.** Motion to deny the approval to negotiate and execute an agreement with Humane World for Pets for Life programming. Executive Director will bring back more details and clarity on the terms/agreement to the JPA Board to pursue this grant. (City of Patterson/City of Hughson; 6-0)

Public Comment:

Kelly Ceglio:

- \$165,000 in funds requires some serious thoughts.
- We need a dedicated outreach coordinator.
- What is this going to cost us?

Board comments:

- The Board had concerns about the long-term costs of this grant. Including the hiring of an additional staff member.
- What would happen to the part time staff member if funding went away?
- It appears most funds would go to salary costs and very little to spay/neuter.
- Will this program be resource burden to existing staff?
- Need to seek more clarity on this item and bring back the terms/agreement to the Board with a developed plan.

E. Motion to authorize the transfer of the Veterinary positions between agency Legal Budget Units. (City of Waterford/City of Modesto; 6-0)

No public comment.

**8. Informational reports:**

- A. Received an Executive Director report from Lily Yap.
- a. Monthly statistics
  - b. Ad Hoc Budget committee items
    1. Capital Improvement Plan Development
    2. Fund balance and true-up analysis
    3. Cost of Services Fee study
  - c. Accountability & Continuous Improvement
  - d. Population Management & Proactive Placement
  - e. Meeting Accessibility

**9. Adjournment: 10:31am**

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