

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

Regular Meeting

Thursday

June 18, 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
Steve Williams, 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:** None

4. **Public Comment Period (Limit of 5 minutes per person):**

- Robin Goodman shared her concerns about the shelter and questions the euthanasia of dogs when there is space at the Shelter.
- Claudia Henley-gave handout-shared her concerns about the shelter and the volume of dogs on the R.E.D. list every week.
- Meredith Hayes shared her concerns with rescues being suspended for rescue tags at the shelter. She is from Regional Deployed K9 and has been suspended for safety tagging.
- Samantha Lopez shared her concerns about the shelter and brought attention to the amount of work community volunteers do at the shelter and on the R.E.D. list.
- Paula Nourse from Gem State Rescue spoke about her concerns with being suspended for safety tagging dogs on the R.E.D list.
- Colleen Abrie shared her concerns about the shelter and the lack of transparency there. Wants the Green/Yellow/Red system reinstated.

- Bee Galindo shared her concerns with the shelter and the lack of cooperation from the shelter to get dogs saved.
- Jennifer Heffernan shared her concerns with the shelter and its poor customer service.
- Bridget Miles shared her concerns with the shelter and the number of dogs being euthanized there.
- Kathy Hall-Boyer is a current volunteer at the shelter and shared her concerns with the shelter lack of volunteers and concerns about the weekly euthanasia lists.
- Karin Salisbury shared her concerns as a transporter that helps animals at the shelter. She also shared her concerns with the R.E.D list at SASA.
- Glenn Melanson shared her concerns with the shelter and the roadblocks put up for volunteers to deal with when they are trying to help SASA.
- Christina Wilson shared her concerns with dogs being euthanized when there are empty kennels at the shelter. Shared that she is discouraged by the lack of concern and help given by SASA.
- Tina von Stade shared her concerns with the shelter, current budget on the agenda today, the number of conferences the Executive Director has taken and the decision that only rescues can take bottle baby kittens
- Kelly Ceglie-gave handout-shared her concerns about the Shelter and the lack of extensions being given for the dogs on the euthanasia list. Also concerned about rescues being suspended for safety tagging dogs.
- Nancy Klein shared her concerns about lack of communication about the advisory committee meetings, upcoming town hall meetings and lack of transparency at the shelter.
- Chloe Halkias shared her concerns about the shelter and how a dog was accidentally euthanized because of a missed email.
- Rebecca Martello shared her concerns with the shelter and with the current executive director. Brought the Board members attention to the poodle that died on one of SASA's transports. Should have been prevented.
- Chris Ricci shared his concerns about all of the challenges the shelter has not handled well. Called for a performance audit to be done of SASA.
- Angela Castillo shared her concerns about the shelter and asked the Board to focus on solutions.
- Patricia Moran shared concerns that animals are being killed at the shelter. Low cost spay and neuter are very needed in our community.

10:44am-Recess

10:52am-meeting resumes

5. Minutes of Previous Meeting: Minutes pulled from meeting due to an error.

6. Correspondence: None

7. New Business:

- A.** Motion to approve SASA to alter previously identified service charges for the 2026-2027 fiscal year promotion schedule. (City of Waterford/City of Ceres; 6-0)

Public comment:

- Nancy Klein gave a handout and shared her concerns about the shelter's monthly promotions.
- Paula Nourse shared her concerns about free dogs becoming bait dogs.
- Unknown speaker questioned how the Shelter in promoting these promotions and lack of spay/neuter in the budget.
- Robin Goodman shared how lack of services at SASA is straining the communities.

- B.** Motion to approve to accept the purchasing card compliance report for fiscal year 2025. (Stanislaus County/City of Hughson; 6-0)
No public comment.

- C.** Motion to approve the SASA fiscal year 2026-2027 proposed budget. (City of Ceres/Stanislaus County; 5-1 Modesto opposed)

Public comment:

- Chris Ricci shared his concerns with the proposed budget.
- Karen shared her concerns with the budget and the lack of money for caring for the animals in the community.
- Kelly Ceglio shared her concerns with the budget and giving money back to the cities/county.
- Nancy Klein shared her concerns with the proposed budget and the lack of funds for vaccines, spay/neuter and about the funding of a consultant in the budget.

8. Informational reports:

- A.** Received an Executive Director report from Lily Yap.
1. Monthly Statistics-went over May statistics available on SASA's website.
 2. Upcoming adoption specials-June is Adopt-a-Cat month. \$0 adoption fees for cats.
 3. Advisory Committee schedule-2 meetings held so far with the next Advisory Committee meeting is July 2, 2026. Also have our two town hall meetings at the end of June.

Public comment:

- Kelly Ceglio shared her concerns with an email she received about only rescues being able to foster kittens.
- Unknown speaker asked if SASA is going to rescind that email about rescues and bottle baby kittens.
- Unknown speaker shared that there was an event in March that several organizations participated in. Emailed SASA and got one reply and then never heard from anyone else.
- Nancy Klein shared that she would like to know who the outside consultant is and how much we are paying them.
- Kelly Ceglio shared her concerns with the safety tagging process.
- Unknown speaker shared that safety tagging buys the dog's extra time. Also shared if you look at the statistics, rescues are pulling the majority of the dogs.

B. Board comments and reports:

- City of Waterford advised this was an outstanding meeting. He would like to have the executive staff bring to the board in July a report on the Capacity of Care, Safety tags, R.E.D. list so the Board can have a better understanding of these items.
- City of Patterson agreed that this was a good meeting. He appreciates the rescues and transporters. SASA does need to do better and make improvements. Focus on what we can do in the meantime.
- City of Hughson advised that we do need change. Looking forward to the executive team bringing items back in July for the Boards education and knowledge.
- Stanislaus County advised that we have heard your concerns. Thank you for bringing them forth today. The Board can adopt/approve policies in the future.
- City of Ceres advised this was only his second meeting. He is a dog and cat lover. The comments made today are very moving.
- City of Modesto advised that today's comments were very touching. He recognized the distance some people have travelled to be here today. He appreciates their passion and importance in the processes. He also noted that the Board has been given emails from other concerned citizens and they will read them.

Public comments:

- Kelly Ceglio shared she was encouraged by the Boards comments. Saying no to a budget takes courage. She encouraged the Board members to make unannounced visits to the shelter.
- Nancy Klein shared she agreed with Kelly Ceglio comments. She advised that the Board has no idea about the shelter operations. She is glad they are asking questions about Capacity for Care, Safety tags and the R.E.D. List.
- Samantha Lopez shared the Board should get to know the Capacity for Care model, meet with the rescue volunteers and look into why the shelter no longer meets with dog rescues.

9. Adjournment: 12:21pm

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