



COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA
ANIMAL SERVICES CENTER
COMMUNITY MEETING

November 1, 2017

Location: South County Office Building
80 Highland Ave, San Martin.

Time: 7.00 p.m. – 8.30 p.m.

DISCUSSION MINUTES

Agenda:

- Welcome by County Supervisor Mike Wasserman
 - Introduction by Sylvia Gallegos, Deputy County Executive
 - Presentation of Project – David Barry, Chief of Facilities Planning and Lisa Jenkins, Interim Program Manager, Animal Shelter.
 - Timeline
 - Questions and Feedback
 - Next Steps
 - Close-out Comments by Supervisor Mike Wasserman
-

Below are the Questions and Feedback from the Community.

Q: Have you considered along with the planned community space, additional spaces for community classes / training for volunteers?

A: Yes, the hope is that the planned community center will accommodate these sorts of activities. We hope to incorporate an outdoor, courtyard component which would work well for training classes and events. Public agility yards are not planned for immediately, as the focus has been providing enrichment to increase the quality of life for shelter dogs, but will be considered.

Q: There is also need for Obedience classes.

A: Will be considered.

Q: Gilroy and Morgan Hill (MH) animals are anticipated to be accepted here – how about funding for this? Need full disclosure on their participation.

A: County currently accepts dogs from Gilroy and Morgan Hill Police Department following their required stray holding period. Cats from Morgan Hill are being accepted directly from the public until funding is exhausted. County is in talks with the cities regarding providing full animal sheltering services.

Q: I'm an adjacent property neighbor. With the LEED certification will there be additional measures to limit volume of noise from dogs – what is the consideration to reduce this noise?

A: The design of the dog kennels zone is closer and fronting on Monterey Highway. There is at least 2 acres of space behind the barn to the residential neighborhood. Additional measures include wind breaks and sound barriers in the design. Play yards are also located towards Monterey Hwy and closer to the yard with Landscape buffer from the building and the neighboring property line to the south of the property.

Q: Last year I had from Gilroy 18 stray cats rescued. Should I pay to bring the animals to the shelter?

A: If the City of Gilroy agrees to have County provide animal sheltering services, then you would not have to pay to bring a stray animal to the Center. If your goal is to have the cats neutered, County would request that they be brought directly to the Spay/Neuter Clinic, rather than being sheltered. The existing shelter currently offers Feral Fixin' Days which are free neuter days for feral cats and is open to the residents of Morgan Hill and Gilroy in addition to the unincorporated areas.

Q: Are you going to be hiring trainers – or are they volunteers.

A: We welcome volunteers.

Q: Are you going to be doing solar?

A: Yes

Q: Will you have kitten nursery?

A: Yes, we will have a kitten nursery for additional protection and separation of vulnerable kitten population.

Q: Crematorium plans? County needs one. Animals still come in sometimes in dire circumstances. Will be good to have a crematorium. May help generate revenue as well.

A: Not in the current plan.

Q: As far as design – what have been benchmarks? What design elements from other shelters will be implemented?

A: County staff toured many shelters to find out what worked and what didn't. Spacious free-roam cat rooms with indoor/outdoor elements, such as at HSSV are something that we would like in County's design. East Bay SPCA is a beautiful facility. County learned from Santa Cruz County that the indoor/outdoor environment proved beneficial to the mental and physical well-being of the dogs.

Q: Lots of studies on horses, dogs and cats – opening them to socialization they do much better. So County is headed in a good direction with this center.

Understanding the unique needs of the animals is also to be considered.

A: Thank you and will be considered.

Q: Are you planning to hire knowledgeable horse trainers?

A: We will likely hire additional animal care staff and horse skills are desirable.

Q: Why are we not building at the existing location?

A: Currently this is on airport (Roads and Airport) property. The Shelter use could be evicted if the airport wants to make use of the area. More importantly, although the site is visible, the location is stressful to the animals with the noise from the freeway and helicopters and air-traffic.

Q: Does this mean there will there be an expansion of the airport from the plan from 2006.

A: R&A does not have plans to extend the run-way. There is a Business plan underway to study Reid-Hillview airport. If there are any plans, rest be assured, there will be sufficient outreach.

Q: What is the source of water and has the adequacy of the sewer system been evaluated? As you know there is water issue at San Martin – over 200K sewage

leakage issues have been reported – What are the controls for the shelter for sewage? Is the source of water the wells?

A: Waste and cleaning system is sized adequately to accommodate the center. Water source will plug to the existing system.

Q: Does the shelter operate 24x7? Are there any plans?

A: Not right now. That would be ideal, but not immediately.

Q: San Luis Obispo Animal Shelter has partnered with 2 cities. What is our ability to partner and identify early the partnerships with other cities for funding?

A: We are not reliant on the partnership funding for the current project although it is in the works.

Q: Are there any plans for Wildlife Rehab?

A: Not in the current plan. There is a privately-run service that can help for County needs.

Q: Gilroy PD currently has stray hold for dogs for 5 days. But nowadays we are holding longer due to lack of capacity with shelters. What is the capacity at this facility?

A: This project will double the current shelter capacity – We are now going from a capacity of 20 dog kennels to 40 dog kennels.

Q: Will there be room for bunnies & guinea pigs / turtles?

A: Yes

Q: How much does this impact from the Jail Bond?

A: None. There is NO Jail Bond.

Q: Why not be State of the Art with cutting edge technology and with a dedication/ mausoleum for animals that are cremated – A wall of dedication for the animals cremated. This could help with revenue to purchase a slot on the wall like buying a pet crypt.

A: Will be considered. Thank you all for the feedback.

