

Animal Shelter Coalition
For El Dorado County

July 19, 2010

Suzanne Allen de Sanchez
Clerk of the Board
El Dorado County Board of Supervisors
330 Fair Lane
Placerville, CA 95667

Re: July 20 Board of Supervisors Meeting - **Agenda Item #2 - Western Slope Animal Shelter**

Dear Clerk of the Board and Board of Supervisors,

We understand that our June 24th correspondence, submitted for this item when it was originally scheduled for June 29, 2010, is included in the Board's packet for the July 20th meeting. We refer you to that earlier correspondence. We continue to urge the Board to direct staff to finalize plans and specifications and conduct the bidding, selection and contracting processes to complete the permanent Western Slope Animal Shelter. Since June 29th, however, additional supporters have joined these efforts and we are now speaking for about 1,000 individuals and businesses throughout El Dorado County. Enclosed is an updated partial list of supporters and additional petitions signed by El Dorado County residents.

We would also like to register our opposition to an alternative raised recently - housing El Dorado County stray, abandoned, neglected and abused animals at the Sacramento County Animal Shelter. We understand that a staff memorandum, separate from this agenda item will address that matter. We expect that review will explain operational and logistics problems with sheltering this County's animals so far away. We would ask you to consider the following as well: El Dorado County's adoption rates will suffer dramatically; animals will be abandoned here at even greater rates; numbers of reclaimed animals will decrease; and the significant contribution of volunteers will be severely reduced. Finally, even if there were not a long list of problems with this alternative, the very high euthanasia rates at the Sacramento County Shelter are just not acceptable. Their own statistics, posted on their website, demonstrate a 62.6% euthanasia rate for 2009 and a 50.1% rate for the first four months of 2010. This indicates that the facility does not have surplus room for more animals. If it did, Sacramento County would not be forced to kill over half the animals that are taken in to their shelter.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Barbara Lee, for
Animal Shelter Coalition for El Dorado County

Attachments: Updated Partial List of Supporters
Completed Petitions - 29 pages