

**City
of
YUBA CITY**

July 18, 2011

Jackie Laswell
Court Clerk/Jury Services
Superior Court of California
County of Sutter
446 Second Street
Yuba City, CA 95991

FILED

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SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA
COUNTY OF SUTTER
CLERK OF THE COURT
By Jackie Laswell Deputy

Re: Grand Jury Report on Animal Control

Dear Ms. Laswell:

This letter is the official response for the City of Yuba City and the City Council regarding the Grand Jury report on the referenced issue. The response is general in character since Yuba City contracts for Animal Services with Sutter County. We have had very limited input into the operation and budgeting for this facility.

General

The operational needs and conditions at the Sutter County Animal Control facility were not specifically known to Yuba City until the Citygate report was commissioned and almost complete. While Yuba City commissioned the report ostensibly to do the programming necessary to determine the architectural needs and sizing for a new facility, the County took over the lead role and responsibility for this study as the lead agency. However, even the completed Citygate report did not address the depth of critical needs noted in the Grand Jury Report on this issue.

Until recently, Yuba City has had little interaction with the County on operational or facility issues related to Animal Control Services. The most recent increases in the Animal Control Service budget were based on additions to Workers' Compensation Cost and County Overhead charges. Although the Overhead charges have been addressed in the County's 2011/12 Budget, we expect the other issues to be addressed as part of the JPA formation.

Veterinary Care

Yuba City cannot address the Grand Jury issues related to veterinary care.

Operational Procedures

Yuba City expects to be working with the County staff on updating operational guidelines for the new JPA and new building facility. It is anticipated these procedures will address all aspects of field and shelter services.

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Trustee Use

This will be an issue for discussion for the new JPA in relationship to cost/benefit, public perception, and the potential effects on new volunteer programs.

JPA Formation

The cities of Live Oak and Yuba City, and Sutter County have agreed in principle on the formation of a JPA to govern Animal Control. These guiding principles have been adopted by all three agency Boards/Councils. The agreement provides for future operational direction and lead agency assignments along with the necessary assurances to implement the new facility construction. The JPA Board, once established, will address the budget and funding issues relative to both needs and ability to fund.

Existing Facility Upgrades

Yuba City shares the concerns of the Grand Jury and Sutter County regarding the conditions of the existing facility. We are working in conjunction with Sutter County and Live Oak to facilitate interim improvements to address many of the concerns noted in the Grand Jury's Report. The interim improvements proposed by Sutter County seem to address the critical facility needs, yet also consider the cost of short-term repairs in relationship to investing in the same funding in the longer-term fix of the new facility.

Communication between County and Cities

Yuba City is optimistic about our ability to move forward in a cooperative manner with Sutter County and Live Oak in the implementation of the new Animal Control Facility, the development of operational guidelines and the formation of a new JPA for Animal Service. As the largest agency utilizing Animal Control Services in Sutter County, Yuba City is looking forward to having more involvement in Animal Control Services and the development of active community programs for animal services, community volunteers and the mutual cooperation of existing Animal Services organizations in the Yuba Sutter area.

Thank you.

Steven Jepsen



City Manager
Yuba City

cc: Mayor & City Council
Stephanie Larsen, CAO, Sutter County