



**TAXPAYERS ASSOCIATION OF EL DORADO COUNTY**  
*Post Office Box 18*      *X*      *Placerville, California 95667*  
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2010 JUL 19 PM 4:15  
RECEIVED  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
EL DORADO COUNTY

**TO:**            **Norma Santiago, Chair**  
                 **El Dorado County Board of Supervisors**  
                 **330 Fair Lane**  
                 **Placerville, CA 95667**

**FROM:**        **Ellen Day, President**  
                 **Taxpayers Association of El Dorado County**  
                 **Box 13**  
                 **Placerville, CA 95667**

**DATE:**        **July 19, 2010**

**REGARDING: Agenda Item 2, Approval of plan for design, development and construction of the Animal Shelter Facility**

Considering the county's projected budget deficits of \$15 to \$17 million and the huge unfunded employee pensions, the Taxpayers Association recommends that the authorization for the design, development and construction of the Animal Shelter Facility be cancelled permanently, or at least head in abeyance for a more opportune economic time.

The Association believes it is unwise for the county to spend \$6,250,000 for the proposed animal shelter. A statement in the viewgraph data package for the Board declares that the "Cost of Doing Nothing" is \$152,320 a year for all rental facilities, including office space for staff. Rental costs will no doubt increase in the future, but with costs in this range, renting would be cheaper for several decades.

There are better solutions to fill this need. Privatized care by a local veterinarian or a coalition of veterinarians is possible. Implement a Catch and Release program, and encourage animal owners to be responsible. Funding and volunteer help may be enlisted from the documented 250 or so supporters of the county animal shelter facility. Perhaps another option is to use the Sacramento County SPCA to care and find homes for animals and pets as others have done.

Some costs which may not have been considered are the loss of tax revenue. By renting, the county receives the benefit of that property owner paying property taxes. When the county buys property, they take it off of the tax rolls, losing the revenue. Besides the probable increase in employee costs, long term occupancy costs that frequently are neglected in cost estimating are setting up and maintaining a communication system, janitorial services, heat and air, water, roads, and most importantly a reserve for facility maintenance.

**CC:**            **John Knight, Supervisor District 1**  
                 **Ray Nutting, Supervisor District 2**  
                 **Jack Sweeney, Supervisor District 3**  
                 **Ron Briggs, Supervisor District 4**  
                 **Mike Raffety, Mountain Democrat**  
                 **Cathy Locke, Sacramento Bee**