

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
EL DORADO COUNTY

3460 Cambridge Rd.
Cameron Park, CA 95682
June 16, 2010

2010 JUN 17 AM 11:05

Norma Santiago, Supervisor, District 5
El Dorado County Board of Supervisors
330 Fair Lane
Placerville, CA 95667

Dear Ms. Santiago:

I have lived in El Dorado County since 1987. I am an animal lover, with a particular passion for dogs. I'm a member of Hangtown Kennel Club, PAWED, and APDT (Association of Pet Dog Trainers). I have also recently joined the Animal Shelter Coalition for El Dorado County.

The animal welfare groups on the Western Slope do a great job fulfilling their mission, but they are almost entirely all volunteer non profits with very small budgets. They simply do not have the funding resources to operate their own shelter. A well functioning, well designed county run shelter is therefore critical to the mission of caring for abandoned and abused animals in our community.

The shelter issue is a very visceral one for me. My young Lab was briefly a resident of the county shelter, where he was "out of control" due to confinement and lack of exercise, mental stimulation, and social contact. Luckily, he was adopted by Central California Lab Rescue, from whom I obtained him in April 2008. He is a delightful, loving companion, and a budding Obedience and Rally competitor. The current inadequate, understaffed county shelter would have caused the death of this beautiful, intelligent, sensitive creature at the age of 18 months.

From 2002 to 2008 I participated in many PAWED adoption events at Petsmart in Folsom, at the Cold Springs Road shelter, and at the current temporary shelter on Placerville Drive. I stopped volunteering in 2008 because I could not bear to leave dogs behind in that disgusting, depressing place—and I couldn't adopt or foster them all.

I'm writing to demand that the Board of Supervisors proceed with the construction of a new animal shelter. The county has already invested over a million dollars purchasing property, doing a CEQA review, and paying for a design for the new shelter. In addition, the county has incurred an obligation to build an access road, which will probably cost about \$400,000. The construction industry is hungry; it's a very favorable time to be putting a project like this out to bid. There is absolutely no reason not to proceed!

This matter is urgent due to the expiration of the lease on the current premises in January, 2011. I understand that about \$140,000 per year has been spent leasing the current premises and boarding large animals elsewhere. I view this as fiscally irresponsible and a waste of my tax dollars.

It's my understanding that you support the construction of a new shelter. For that I thank you, and I request that you stand firm against those on the Board who lack your common sense, compassion, and vision.

Sincerely,



Mary Lou Giles

COPY SENT TO BOARD MEMBERS
FOR THEIR INFORMATION

DATE 6-17-10

cc: DOT
CAO
File

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