



Animal Services Planning Agency JPA Background and Next Steps

Background

- ▶ Prior to Yolo Animal Services Planning JPA there was a City/County Animal Services Working Group
- ▶ Inspired by a collective interest to control costs, the Working Group met throughout 2018 and 2019 to discuss the governance structure, with a shared interest in developing a Joint Powers Authority to create a governance entity that would have:
 - ▶ operational and budgetary control over animal services operations
 - ▶ authority to make improvements to shelter facilities
- ▶ The Animal Shelter Working Group participants agreed that the JPA start as a planning agency only, and that the operational and program options be studied first, before proceeding to consideration of facility options.

Animal Services Planning Agency JPA Formation

- ▶ On February 25, 2020, the Yolo County Board of Supervisors and the cities of Davis, Winters and Woodland formed the Yolo Animal Services Planning Agency Joint Powers Authority (JPA). West Sacramento joined the JPA in November 2023.
- ▶ **The purpose** of this body was to function as a planning JPA which would explore operational models for Animal Services and potentially develop an Operational JPA to take over governance of Animal Services; and that may include the development of a shelter facility.
- ▶ Delays due the COVID-19 pandemic (2020 - 2022) created a barrier to early progress

JPA Vision and Mission Statement

Adopted May 26, 2022

- ▶ **Vision:** Animal Services in Yolo County are an adequately funded and fiscally-sustainable community and public-private partnership that facilitates the best outcomes for animals and people
- ▶ **Mission:** Building upon a foundation of community partnership, the mission of the Yolo county Animal Services Planning JPA is to create an adequately funded and fiscally sustainable governance structure for animal services in Yolo County that facilitates positive outcomes for animal and human health and well-being through education, outreach, and implementing best practices and efficient delivery systems for animal control and sheltering, including an animal shelter that will facilitate these goals on a long term basis.
- ▶ **Goals:** Animal and Human Health and Well-Being
 - ▶ Education & outreach
 - ▶ Adequate funding and fiscal sustainability
 - ▶ Best practices in animal control and sheltering
 - ▶ Plan for an animal shelter (new or renovated) that facilitates the JPA's vision and mission on a long-term basis

Meanwhile: Animal Services Transitions

- ▶ December 6, 2022, the Board directed Animal Services to be moved from the Sheriff's office to the County Administrator's Office (CAO) with the intention the CAO would take responsibility for Animal Services to address operational concerns, strengthen key relationships and determine a permanent placement for the division.
- ▶ January 23, 2024, Animal Services was placed in the Department of Community Services (DCS)

Progress and Consideration to Create Operational JPA

The Planning JPA has made meaningful progress as an advisory body by advocating for improvements, and by supporting the work of staff. However, the Planning JPA decided to table the idea of formation of an Operational JPA:

- ▶ On January 23, 2024 Board of Supervisors meeting: staff requested the Animal Services Planning JPA to formally consider its collective interest in creating an Operational JPA, which would:
 - ▶ Take over governance of Countywide Animal Services
 - ▶ Develop a budget, hire staffing, etc.
 - ▶ Contract with the County for Animal Services
- ▶ **February 14, 2024, Planning JPA discussed the Operational JPA shared governance model and determined it would be a “heavy lift” and decided to see how Animal Services works under DCS**

Improvements Under DCS Leadership

Throughout 2024, the Planning JPA was provided updates on plans and improvements at the shelter facilities and operations, including:

- ▶ The County allocated \$650,000 to make improvements at the shelter and at 2780 E Gibson Rd to create a community spay neuter clinic (in progress)
- ▶ Improvements were completed to the existing animal shelter and operations, including
 - ▶ Hired permanent veterinarian staffing, which improved animal spay/neuter and medical treatments
 - ▶ New roof (in progress)
 - ▶ Improved sound dampening in the dog area
 - ▶ New HVAC installed
 - ▶ Improvements to the dog exercise areas
 - ▶ Contracted with an animal licensing service which improved dog licensing and is increasing revenue
 - ▶ Received numerous grants, including funding for Clinic in a Can to replace the Big Fix Rig

Animal Services Planning JPA Today

- ▶ Meets every-other month (typically)
- ▶ Receives staff updates
- ▶ Allows a forum for JPA members to ask questions and provide feedback to staff
- ▶ Serves as a forum for public comment
- ▶ Supplements monthly city / county staff working group meetings
- ▶ Has no budget/funding, and no dedicated staffing
- ▶ Does not have decision-making authority for Animal Services.
- ▶ JPA may make recommendations to the Board of Supervisors, however only the Board of Supervisors may direct staff and make decisions on operations, service levels or capital improvements

Summary

The Yolo Animal Services Planning Agency JPA:

- ▶ Was created out of a collective desire to create a new governance structure so as to explore operational models, staffing and program options; and to consider the development of an Operational JPA that would take over governance of Animal Services, and that may include shelter construction, management and/or operations
- ▶ Adopted a Vision, Mission, and Goals in 2022, but has not made substantial progress since that time.
- ▶ Now mainly serves as a forum to provide updates and receive public comment
- ▶ Considered whether to move forward with the development of an Operational JPA in February 2024 and decided wait and see how it goes under DCS leadership.

Next Steps:

Recommendations:

- ▶ That the Planning Agency JPA once-again consider its collective interest in creating an Operational JPA, which would:
 - ▶ Take over governance of Countywide Animal Services
 - ▶ Develop a budget, hire staffing, etc.
 - ▶ Contract with the County for Animal Services
- ▶ If no intent to form an operational governance structure exists, consider a future agenda item to discuss next steps for the Planning JPA, which could include:
 - ▶ Review and revise the Planning JPA purpose to align with current practices or new desired outcomes;
 - ▶ Or consider other stakeholder engagement models that would better meet the current practices of the group.