

#5

Sheila de la Guerra **Public Comment**

---

**From:** myjanation@verizon.net  
**Sent:** Monday, February 26, 2024 4:21 PM  
**To:** sbcob  
**Subject:** Letter to the Board of Supervisors, Feb 27, 2024 meeting



**Caution: This email originated from a source outside of the County of Santa Barbara. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify the sender and know the content is safe.**

February 26, 2024

County of Santa Barbara Board of Supervisors

Re: 2024-2025 Federal Legislative Funding of Critical Projects #8, Lompoc Animal Shelter

Members of the Board of Supervisors,

In 2016, County Animal Services began working on a project to have the Lompoc Animal Shelter kennels demolished and rebuilt - even then the kennels were deteriorating. The project faded away. In 2020, the Lompoc Shelter closed for three years, reopening in 2023. During that time, it was discovered that the Lompoc Shelter was an asset for the entire County Animal Services organization not just Lompoc. It became obvious that a third shelter was needed for the additional animal housing and to provide services easily to the residents of Lompoc.

That shelter now needs to be brought up to modern animal sheltering standards, not that of 65 years ago when the kennels were built. It's no longer the 'dog pound', but a facility for homeless animals to get healthy, recover from injury, receive training as needed, with the final goal of finding the animals new homes. Currently the majority of the kennels are marginally usable, with one not useable at all. Plumbing and electric are outdated. An animal shelter runs on its ability to keep kennels clean, to wash blankets and towels and to have water drain without backing up; critical needs to provide a safe, and healthy, place for animals.

As president of the non-profit Companion Animal Placement Assistance (CAPA), we support only the Lompoc Shelter. I've worked daily for the past six years with the Lompoc shelter staff and animals, and as the volunteer 'grounds keeper' while the shelter was closed. I can provide a long list of what needs to be done to upgrade the shelter, but one reason hardly ever mentioned is the Lompoc Shelter is truly part of the community. It's where families come on weekends to play with the animals, where highschoolers come to do their senior projects, where Boys and Girl Scouts come to work on their badges, where homeless animals can be safe. Where every Tuesday we provide pet food for Lompoc families in need, helping to keep their pets in their home and out of the shelter.

I am proud of the work that's done at the Lompoc Animal shelter - the shelter facility shouldn't be a hindrance in that work.

Jan Kays

President, CAPA