



READ AND CONSIDERED
DATE 9/5 BY Ch

City of Cloverdale
124 N. Cloverdale Blvd.
Cloverdale, CA 95425

August 28, 2025

Honorable Judge Chris Honigsberg,
Sonoma County Superior Court
600 Administration Drive Santa Rosa, CA 95403

RE: Response to the 2024–2025 Sonoma County Civil Grand Jury Report “Animal Services in Sonoma County: Separate and Not Equal”

Dear Honorable Presiding Judge,

Pursuant to California Penal Code Sections 933 and 933.05, the Cloverdale City Council submits its official response to the findings and recommendations contained in the 2024–2025 Sonoma County Civil Grand Jury report titled “*Animal Services in Sonoma County: Separate and Not Equal.*”

The City of Cloverdale acknowledges the concerns raised in the report and supports improvements in oversight, transparency, and coordination among jurisdictions. Below are the City’s approved responses on July 23, 2025, to the specific recommendations and findings directed at Cloverdale:

RECOMMENDATIONS

R1. The City of Cloverdale will implement this recommendation. We fully support the establishment of a countywide Animal Services Task Force and commit to participating in its efforts to create consistent and compliant animal service standards.

1) What is the background or criteria of expertise to be assigned on this task force?

R2. The City of Cloverdale will implement this recommendation and will appoint one or more city representatives to participate in the task force by the specified deadline depending on how often the task force meets.

1) Please outline the expertise required to participate in the task force.

2) How often will the task force meet?

R4. The City of Cloverdale will implement this recommendation. We will collaborate with county staff to help educate the public on licensing requirements and rabies prevention measures as part of the campaign launch by July 1, 2026. It is important to note that, prior to the release of this report, North Bay Animal Services (NBAS) had already agreed to increase the frequency and availability of rabies and vaccination clinics within the City of Cloverdale.

R5. The City of Cloverdale will implement this recommendation. We are committed to conducting a thorough evaluation of North Bay Animal Services' shelter conditions and operational performance. Additionally, we recommend that the Grand Jury or alternatively, the proposed Animal Services Task Force develop and publish a standardized animal shelter inspection checklist.

The Chief of Police conducted an inspection of the NBAS facility and observed no open bags of food on the ground or signs of mistreatment of animals. The animal enclosures were clean, and both dogs and cats appeared healthy and well cared for. The facility was orderly, free of clutter, and no concerning conditions were noted. While a few enclosed rooms had stale air, the majority of the facility was well ventilated and maintained.

R6. The City of Cloverdale will implement this recommendation. We will amend our agreement with North Bay Animal Services to include quarterly reporting with quantifiable metrics that demonstrate legal and contractual compliance.

FINDINGS

F1. *Failure by the county and its nine cities to adopt recommendations in the 2012 DHS Animal Services Report has left Sonoma County animal service agencies operating without shared standards, communication channels, data sharing or oversight.*

Response: The City of Cloverdale agrees with this finding. The lack of centralized coordination has created service inconsistencies and hindered effective animal control and public health efforts across jurisdictions. **However**, if the data-sharing component involves proprietary or competitively sensitive information, we believe any such exchange must be agreed upon voluntarily by all the participating animal shelters. Compelled disclosure of confidential operational data between service providers, especially nonprofit agencies operating in overlapping markets, may raise legal or ethical concerns and could jeopardize cooperation.

F2. The City of Cloverdale agrees in part with this finding. While there are areas for improvement, the City has received a recent commitment from NBAS to increase rabies vaccination clinics and improve operational transparency. We will be conducting a formal evaluation of services to ensure future compliance.

F3. The City of Cloverdale agrees with this finding. Coordination during emergencies is critical, and the city supports efforts to clarify roles and improve interoperability among agencies. Our local Citrus Fair (fairgrounds) coordinates with their own non-profit organizations to house pets during emergencies.

F6. The City of Cloverdale concurs with this finding. A uniform fee structure could enhance public understanding and improve the efficiency of enforcement and revenue collection. However, such a structure must not impede the City's ability to negotiate costs based on the specific level of service provided. Standardizing fees across jurisdictions may place smaller cities like Cloverdale at a disadvantage due to limited resources. Additionally, it is important to note

that the fee structure for violations within the City is established by the Cloverdale City Council not the County of Sonoma.

F7. The City of Cloverdale agrees with this finding and is committed to improving licensing compliance through outreach, clinics, and contract revisions. Prior to this report NBAS sent out annual licensing compliance letters to residents of Cloverdale. Licensing was also posted on our city's website listed under the Quick links, Animal Licensing.

F8. The City of Cloverdale agrees with this finding. The City will evaluate online licensing options as part of its broader service review process. The City already promotes licensing on its website and within City Hall. Licensing mailers had already gone out to members of the public to support these efforts by NBAS.

F9. The City of Cloverdale agrees with this finding. Future efforts will include community education and working with NBAS to implement a consistent reminder system.

F10. The City of Cloverdale agrees with this finding. Shared training programs would improve professionalism and service consistency across the county. Please consolidate and provide these available programs or direct the task force to do so upon its creation. The City of Cloverdale will look at the available programs and request those available / suitable to the City of Cloverdale.

F11. The City of Cloverdale agrees in part with this finding. While previous oversight may have been limited, the city has taken steps to improve accountability and will formalize reporting and inspections moving forward.

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin Thompson

Kevin Thompson
City Manager, City of Cloverdale

cc: Cloverdale City Council
Sonoma County Department of Health Services
Sonoma County Civil Grand Jury



124 N. Cloverdale Boulevard
Cloverdale, CA 95425
Phone: 707-894-2521
www.cloverdale.net

AGENDA

REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL AND JOINT MEETING OF THE CLOVERDALE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SUCCESSOR AGENCY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 27, 2025

5:00 CLOSED SESSION

CITY HALL CONFERENCE ROOM

124 N. CLOVERDALE BOULEVARD, CLOVERDALE, CA 95425

6:00 PM - OPEN SESSION

CLOVERDALE PERFORMING ART CENTER

209 N. CLOVERDALE BOULEVARD, CLOVERDALE, CA 95425

The Cloverdale City Council welcomes public interest, attendance, and in-person participation at meetings. Open session meetings are held in-person at the Cloverdale Performing Art Center. You may also view the live streams online: Zoom: www.zoom.us/join Meeting ID: 823 1668 4527 | Youtube: [cloverdale.net/youtube](https://www.youtube.com/c/cloverdale.net)
ATTENTION - the meeting location has been experiencing significant A/V technical difficulties for Livestreaming; Staff is attending to this matter, but reliability is not guaranteed to date - please attend in person.

CLOSED SESSION - 5:00 PM

1. OPENING CLOSED SESSION

1.A Call to Order

1.B Roll Call

1.C Closed Session Agenda Review (Changes and/or Deletions)

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON CLOSED SESSION AGENDA:

Prior to recessing to Closed Session, the Public may speak on Closed Session Items.

3. RECESS TO CLOSED SESSION TO HEAR THE FOLLOWING ITEM(S):

3.A CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNCIL - ANTICIPATED LITIGATION

Initiation of Litigation - One (1) Case

Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(4)

3.B REAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATIONS

Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.8

Property: APN 001-173-006

City Negotiator: City Manager & City Attorney

Property Owner: Sava Foundation

Under Negotiation: Price and Terms

A. OPENING PUBLIC SESSION

A.1 Call to Order

A.2 Pledge of Allegiance

A.3 Roll Call

A.4. Report Out on Closed Session

A.5 Conflict of Interest Declaration

A.6 Agenda Review (Changes and/or Deletions)

B. PUBLIC COMMENTS

B.1 Verbal Comments

Any person wishing to speak in person on an item not listed on the agenda may do so at this time. Pursuant to the Brown Act, the City Council is not allowed to consider issues or take action on any item not listed on the agenda. Three minutes are allotted to each speaker.

B.2 Written Comments

Public written communications sent to Council on items not listed on the agenda may be discussed at this time. Written communications to be discussed will be listed below, if any

C. STUDENT LIAISON REPORT

None. The Student Liaisons have been selected and will start their term at the September 10, 2025 meeting.

D. PROCLAMATIONS

D.1 Women's Equality Day Proclamation

Recipient: Gina Fortino Dickson, Sonoma County Commission on the Status of Women

📎 Womens Equality 2025

E. PRESENTATIONS

None.

F. CONSENT CALENDAR

All items under the Consent Calendar will be considered together by one action of the City Council unless any

Councilmember or member of the public requests that an item be removed and considered separately.

F.1 Consider Approval of a Contract with JDS Emergency Management Specialists for Emergency Operations Center (EOC) Exercise Program and Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) Update

Recommended Action(s):

Adopt a Resolution Entitled, "A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Cloverdale Approving and Agreement with JDS Emergency Management Specialists for Emergency Operations Center (EOC) Exercise Program and Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) Update, Authorizes the City Manager to execute the Agreement and Amend the FY 2025/26 Budget to include \$25,000 for this Contract."

🔗 Agenda Report

🔗 Attachment 1 - Resolution

🔗 Attachment 2 - Proposal

🔗 Attachment 3 - Exhibit A - Budget Amendment Form

F.2 Consider Approving a Resolution to Amend the Budget to Increase the Authorized Expenditure of PEG Funds for Public Meeting Audio/Visual Equipment in an Amount of \$66,227

Recommended Action(s):

Adopt a Resolution Entitled, "A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Cloverdale Approving a Budget Amendment to Increase the Authorized Expenditure of PEG Funds for Public Meeting Audio/Visual Equipment by \$66,227".

🔗 Agenda Report

🔗 Attachment 1 - Resolution

🔗 Attachment 2 - Exhibit A - Budget Amendment Form

🔗 Attachment 3 - Exhibit B - Quote

F.3 Minutes Approval - June 11, 2025

Recommended Action(s):

Approve the June 11, 2025 Draft Minutes

🔗 CC Minutes - June 11, 2025 (Draft)

F.4 Minutes Approval - June 25, 2025

Recommended Action(s):

Approve the June 25, 2025 Draft Minutes

🔗 CC Minutes - June 25, 2025 (Draft)

F.5 Minutes Approval - July 23, 2025

Recommended Action(s):

Approve the July 23, 2025 Draft Minutes

🔗 CC Minutes - July 23, 2025 (Draft)

G. PUBLIC HEARINGS

None.

H. NEW BUSINESS

H.1 Direction Regarding Installation of Crosswalk on Jefferson Street near Jefferson Elementary School

Recommended Action(s):

Provide direction to staff regarding permanent and temporary solutions for installation of a pedestrian crosswalk on Jefferson Street north of the Jefferson Elementary driveway, requested by the Cloverdale Unified School District.

📎 Agenda Report

📎 Attachment 1 - ADA compliance requirements

H.2 Resilient Cloverdale scope of work for Fiscal Year 2025–2026 and Consider authorizing a \$10,000 funding allocation and budget amendment

Recommended Action(s):

Adopt a Resolution Entitled, “A resolution of the City Council of the City of Cloverdale approving the Resilient Cloverdale scope of work for Fiscal Year 2025–2026 and authorizing a \$10,000 funding allocation and budget amendment to the FY 2025-26 budget.”

📎 Agenda Report

📎 Attachment 1 - Resolution

📎 Attachment 2 - Exhibit A - Scope of Work

📎 Attachment 3 - Exhibit B - Budget Amendment Form

H.3 Response to 2024–2025 Sonoma County Civil Grand Jury Report, “Animal Services in Sonoma County: Separate and Not Equal.”

Recommended Action(s):

Adopt a Resolution Entitled, “Response to 2024–2025 Sonoma County Civil Grand Jury Report – “Animal

Services in Sonoma County: Separate and Not Equal.”

📎 Agenda Report

📎 Attachment 1 - Resolution

📎 Attachment 2 - Exhibit A - Report

📎 Attachment 3 - Exhibit B - Response

I. COUNCILMEMBER REPORTS

Councilmembers may provide verbal informational reports regarding their participation in assigned subcommittees, regional boards and commissions, Ad Hoc committees, and other community meetings or civic activities.

J. LEGISLATIVE REPORTS, LETTERS OF SUPPORT/OPPOSITION

J.1 Message From Mayor Lands (Sent to Council from the Chamber of Commerce)

📎 Message from Mayor Lands

K. CITY MANAGER/CITY ATTORNEY REPORTS

Staff may provide verbal informational updates on City business, legal matters, and community activities.

L. COUNCIL DIRECTION ON FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Councilmembers may request placement of items on future City Council or Council Subcommittee agendas. Placement requires consensus of the City Council.

M. ADJOURNMENT

To the next regular meeting of the Cloverdale City Council scheduled for September 10, 2025.

IMPORTANT NOTICES REGARDING CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Members of the public may provide comment on an agenda item in-person during the public comment periods. Commenters will have three (3) minutes to speak. City Council is unable to respond directly to questions or enter into dialogue with commenters. Comments may also be submitted prior to publiccomments@ci.cloverdale.ca.us by 12 p.m. the day of the meeting. Submissions and supplemental attachments are considered public records pursuant to Government Code § 54957.5.

SPECIAL NEEDS ACCOMMODATIONS: In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and Title VI, if you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact the City Clerk's office at cityclerk@ci.cloverdale.ca.us or 707.894-1712. Notification at least 72 hours prior to the meeting will enable the City to make reasonable accommodations are made to provide accessibility to the meeting.

AB 2449: Councilmembers participate in person or teleconference methods consistent with traditional provisions of the Brown Act, Government Code § 54953(b), unless the meeting is being held pursuant to provisions of AB 2449. If a technical issue arises with Zoom or the dial-in option, the meeting will continue unless it is being held pursuant to the provisions of Assembly Bill 2449.

AB 343: Any writings or documents provided to a majority of the City Council regarding any item on this agenda will be made available for public inspection in the City Hall offices located at 124 N. Cloverdale Blvd., Cloverdale, CA 95425 during normal business hours as provided by Assembly Bill 343.

WAIVER WARNING: If you challenge decisions/directions of the City Council in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised at public hearings described in this agenda, or in written correspondence delivered to the City of Cloverdale, or prior to, the public hearing.

AFFIDAVIT OF POSTING

The City Clerk's Office does hereby declare that, in accordance with California Government Code § 54954.2(a), this agenda for the above stated meeting(s) was posted at least 72 hours prior to the meeting (24 hours prior to a Special Meeting) on the outdoor bulletin board at City Hall, 124 N. Cloverdale Blvd., Cloverdale, CA, 95425 and the Cloverdale Performing Art Center, 209 N. Cloverdale Blvd., Cloverdale, CA, 95425, and online at www.cloverdale.net/agendacenter. The agenda is also available for public review at City Hall at least 24 hours in advance of the meeting.

Date posted: August 21, 2025 | **Time posted:** 6:55 p.m. | **City Clerk Signature:** s/Mike Maloney

