## SUBMITTAL TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA



ITEM: 3.71 (ID # 27983) MEETING DATE: Tuesday, May 20, 2025

FROM: SUPERVISOR V. MANUEL PEREZ AND SUPERVISOR YXSTIAN GUTIERREZ

**SUBJECT:** SUPERVISOR V. MANUEL PEREZ and SUPERVISOR YXSTIAN GUTIERREZ: Commitment to Become a No-Kill Community in which we Strive to Save Every Dog and Cat in a Shelter who can be Saved and Where 90% of the Companion Animals that Enter its Facilities Leave Alive, All Districts \$0.

#### **RECOMMENDED MOTION:** That the Board of Supervisors:

- 1. Adopt Resolution No. 2025-133 committing Riverside County to becoming a no-kill community in which we strive to save dogs and cats in County shelters who can be saved, and where 90% of the companion animals that enter County facilities leave alive.
- 2. Direct the Department of Animal Services to develop and launch a comprehensive public awareness campaign promoting the County's no-kill mission.
- 3. Direct the Department of Animal Services to report quarterly on the progress toward becoming a no-kill community from July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026, and to provide annual progress updates thereafter, on or before June 30 of each successive year.
- 4. Receive and file the Department of Animal Services' "Year-to-Date Highlights" comparing results from the first quarter of the calendar year to the same time frame the previous year.

**ACTION:Policy** 

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

5/16/2025 Su

On motion of Supervisor Perez, seconded by Supervisor Gutierrez and duly carried by unanimous vote, IT WAS ORDERED that the above matter is approved as recommended.

Ayes:

Medina, Spiegel, Washington, Perez and Gutierrez

Nays:

None

Absent: Date:

None

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May 20, 2025

XC:

BOS-D4, BOS-D5, Animal Services

3.71

Board

Kimberly A. Clerk of the

### SUBMITTAL TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

### C.E.O. RECOMMENDATION: Approve BACKGROUND:

Riverside County Department of Animal Services (DAS) has faced significant challenges in the last several years with high animal intakes, leading to overcapacity issues and insufficient staffing to provide the desired level of services. There has been a significant societal shift since the peak of COVID (during which shelters had many fewer animals) to now as more and more owners turn in their animals to our shelters or abandon them outright. This trend persists not only in Riverside County, but also across California and the nation; regardless, the impacts to Riverside County communities are real. These challenges have contributed to increased euthanasia rates, sparking criticism from animal advocacy groups and the public at large.

In response to these concerns, the Board of Supervisors and DAS have made concerted efforts to transform the shelters and increase live release rates, including but not limited to:

- Funding the re-opening of the San Jacinto Valley Animal Campus;
- Funding the procurement of two spay-and-neuter buses;
- Increasing staff to enhance the adoption, foster, and pet support programs;
- Investing in numerous spay and neuter events, free adoption events, and unique foster programs that encourage the public to help;
- Increasing the number of Veterinary Medicine positions to increase spay-and-neuter opportunities, as well as medical treatment of shelter animals; and
- Enhancing efforts to provide meaningful information and data to the public, increasing transparency.

To address systemic issues, Riverside County engaged a consulting team of experts tasked with evaluating current policies, developing a strategic plan to increase live outcomes for animals, and assisting staff support. This collaboration shows the County's commitment to transforming DAS into a model of effective and humane animal care. With these additional resources, DAS has made positive progress in implementing lifesaving strategies. Steps include increased adoption events; rescue flights; partnering with Petco Love Lost to reunite lost pets with their owners; enhanced spay-and-neuter clinics; shifting shelter hours to be open Sundays and later in the week to enhance adoption opportunities; enhanced pet fostering programs; and return-to-owner fee waivers, among others. Other initiatives have also either started or will soon launch. Additionally, our County took a significant step with the hiring of a new Animal Services Director, Mary Martin, earlier this year.

These steps, done through the hard work of our dedicated Animal Services staff tasked with implementing these measures, have led to improving trends in our live release rate and decreasing euthanasia as shown in the DAS "January through March 2025 Impact Report," which compares results from the first quarter of the calendar year to the same time frame the previous year. While we are making real progress, the County can and must do more.

To guide our next steps, the County of Riverside resolves to become a no-kill community in which we strive to save every dog and cat in a shelter who can be saved and where 90% of the companion animals that enter its facilities leave alive. Additionally, DAS will develop and launch a comprehensive public awareness campaign promoting the County's no-kill mission. DAS will report quarterly on the progress toward this goal for the first year and then provide annual updates thereafter.

#### SUBMITTAL TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

While challenges persist, particularly regarding resource limitations and shelter capacity, the initiatives undertaken, ranging from expert consultations to community engagement and expanded services, demonstrate a multifaceted approach to addressing these important community issues. Continued collaboration among government entities, advocacy groups, and the public will be essential in achieving the goal of a humane and sustainable animal shelter system in Riverside County. By making this commitment, we affirm the value of every life and take a meaningful step toward a more compassionate and humane community.

#### **Fiscal Impact**

Progress toward the goal of becoming a no-kill community will require additional resources. DAS will be presenting a staffing enhancement plan and funding request as part of the Fiscal Year 2025/26 budget process, with additional requests being made as necessary. This plan will also result in an increase to our city partners through an increase in the contract rates.

#### ATTACHMENTS:

- A. Resolution 2025-133
- B. DAS Year-to-Date Highlights (April 2025)

#### **BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

#### **COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE**

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-133

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE

COMMITS TO CREATING A NO-KILL COMMUNITY COMMITTED TO SAVING EVERY

DOG AND CAT WHO CAN BE SAVED AND WHERE 90% OF THE COMPANION

ANIMALS THAT ENTER OUR FACILITIES LEAVE ALIVE

WHEREAS, Riverside County is home to one of the highest-intake shelter systems in the nation, taking in over 30,000 cats and dogs each year from the unincorporated areas of the County and sixteen contract Cities within the County, serving a total human population of over 2.4 million; and

WHEREAS, the County of Riverside is an open admission shelter system, acting as a safety net for every animal that comes through the doors, taking in animals that are turned away elsewhere, at the end of life, victims of cruelty and neglect, ill or injured pets whose owners are in crisis, dangerous animals and lost pets, which requires a balance of responsible care and humane treatment of shelter animals with upholding public safety; and

WHEREAS, Riverside County's animal shelters currently house more than 1,100 animals daily, challenged with the volume of animals entering the shelters, the speed at which they enter, and a lack of sufficient placement opportunities, requiring program expansion to create capacity beyond physical shelter walls; and

WHEREAS, the Riverside County Board of Supervisors recognizes that the humane treatment of animals reflects the values and compassion of our community; and

WHEREAS, the County of Riverside is committed to protecting the welfare of animals, promoting responsible pet ownership throughout the County and using creative and innovative solutions to maximize lifesaving for the diverse animals and communities we serve; and

WHEREAS, the County of Riverside is committed to supporting efforts to become a nokill community, defined as a philosophy and commitment to saving every dog and cat in a shelter

who can be saved and where 90% of the companion animals that enter its facilities leave alive; and

WHEREAS, the County acknowledges the need for dedicated efforts of Riverside County Department of Animal Services, contract cities, community partners, nonprofit organizations, volunteers, and residents in improving animal outcomes and maximizing lifesaving; and

WHEREAS, the County recognizes that achieving and sustaining no-kill status requires a comprehensive, collaborative approach including but not limited to robust spay-neuter programs, pet retention efforts, robust foster, transport, and adoption programs, behavioral rehabilitation services, community education, transparent data reporting, and coordinated engagement with local jurisdictions; and

WHEREAS, the County recognizes the importance of the human-animal bond and by providing community services such as accessible spay-neuter resources, pet owner support programs, return-to-field initiatives, and proactive outreach, maximum lifesaving can be accomplished; and

WHEREAS, because many cities within Riverside County contract with the County for animal sheltering services, and the success of a no-kill model depends on close collaboration with these contract cities to implement consistent policies, support diversion programs, and ensure shared accountability for humane outcomes; and

WHEREAS, The Board of Supervisors has already taken steps to support the Department of Animal Services in efforts to maximize lifesaving in Riverside County Shelters, including:

- Funding the re-opening of the San Jacinto Valley Animal Campus;
- Funding the procurement of two spay-and-neuter buses;
- Increasing staff to enhance the adoption, foster and pet support programs;
- Investing in numerous spay-and-neuter events, free adoption events, and unique foster programs that encourage the public to help;
- Increasing the number of Veterinary Medicine positions to increase spay-and-neuter opportunities, as well as medical treatment of shelter animals;

- Contracting with a team of subject matter experts to assist in a transformative process
  to maximize lifesaving rates by enhancing operations, programs, marketing, data
  reporting, and proactive support options in the County's shelters; and
- Enhancing efforts to provide meaningful information and data to the public, increasing transparency.

WHEREAS, It is important that Riverside County strive toward a no-kill shelter community.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Board of Supervisors that County of Riverside:

- 1. Commits to becoming a no-kill community in which we strive to save every dog and cat in a shelter who can be saved and where 90% of the companion animals that enter its facilities leave alive.
- 2. Continues to advocate for the creation of sustainable best practices in animal sheltering that will maximize lifesaving.
- 3. Pledges to work collaboratively with public and private partners, animal welfare organizations, veterinary professionals, contract cities, and residents to implement programs and policies that reduce euthanasia and increase the live release rate of shelter animals.
- 4. Supports transparent and regular public reporting of shelter outcomes, including intake, adoptions, transfers, return-to-owner, euthanasia, and other relevant metrics in accordance with industry's best practices.
- 5. Encourages continued investment in resources, staffing, and infrastructure to support lifesaving programs and ensure the humane treatment of all animals in their care.
- 6. Will prioritize efforts to reduce shelter intake by:
  - Continuing to support and expand accessible spay/neuter and vaccination programs;
  - Implementing community-based pet retention services, such as temporary boarding,
     behavioral assistance, and veterinary support;

- Enhancing Return-to-Owner efforts and field-based interventions to prevent unnecessary impoundments; and
- Continuing to promote Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) and Return-to-Field (RTF) programs for community cats.
- 7. Will commit to working in close partnership with all contract cities that rely on County shelter services, encouraging alignment on lifesaving policies, resource investment, and coordinated outreach to reduce intake and improve outcomes.
- 8. Will implement and promote community engagement measures to include:
  - Regular public stakeholder meetings to provide updates and receive feedback on nokill progress;
  - Volunteer outreach campaigns and training programs to increase public involvement in fostering, adoption, transport, and education efforts;
  - Public awareness initiatives to educate residents on responsible pet ownership, spayneuter access, and available shelter and community services; and
  - Partnerships with local schools, community centers, and civic organizations to promote compassion and involvement from youth and underserved communities.

1	ROLL CALL:				
2					
3	Ayes:	Medina, Spiegel, Washington, Perez, and Gutierrez			
4	Nays:	None			
5	Absent:	None			
6					
7	The foreg	going is certified to be a true copy of a resolution adopted by said Board of Supervisors			
8	on the date therin set forth.				
9		KIMBERLY A. RECTOR, Clerk of the Board			
10					
11		By:			
12		Deputy			
13					
14					
15	APPROVED AS TO FORM:				
16	May 15, 2025				
17					
18	By: M	linh C. Tran			
19	M	INH C. TRAN			
20	C	ounty Counsel			
21					
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28					



# YEAR-TO-DATE HIGHLIGHTS



# THE STORY BEHIND THE NUMBERS

In the first three months of 2025, Riverside County Department of Animal Services partnered with Outcomes Consulting Group to identify and implement proven lifesaving strategies at one of the busiest animal sheltering systems in the country, serving more than 35,000 animals annually across four shelter locations. This report provides a comparative snapshot of progress made, for cats and dogs, from January through March 2025, compared to the same period in 2024.

Many of these early wins reflect the groundwork laid by dedicated staff and consulting partners, and in March, RCDAS welcomed Mary Martin as its new Director to help sustain and expand this progress. By implementing focused operational changes, targeted adoption strategies, and enhanced community engagement, measurable gains were achieved across key metrics. The following sections highlight the tangible impact of these efforts—showcasing not only improved statistics, but **lives saved**.

# LIVE RELEASE RATE

The live release rate (LRR) saw a significant increase, rising from 72% in January–March 2024 to **80.9%** in the same period of 2025.

6.5

percentage points for dogs

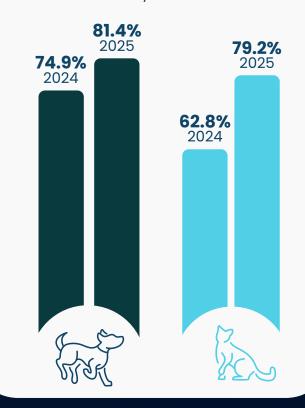
16.4
percentage
points for cats

The cat LRR reached 79.2%. This is the highest LRR in 7 years in the first three months.



2025 Live Release Rate
Compared to 2024

January - March



Data compares January-March 2025 to January-March 2024. To view more data for Riverside County Depeartment of Animal Services visit rcdas.org/statistics



# LIVE OUTCOMES

When comparing the number of adoptions to the number of intakes, the rate of cat and dog adoptions increased in January - March 2025, climbing from 34% to 42%, compared to 2024.





#### **TRANSFERS**

Transfer-out rates improved for both dogs and cats.



Dog transfer rates rose from **23% to 27%** 



Cat transfer rates rose from **16% to 25%** 

Data compares January-March 2025 to January-March 2024. To view more data for Riverside County Depeartment of Animal Services visit rcdas.org/statistics



# DECREASE IN EUTHANASIA

From January - March 2025 there was a 33% reduction in euthanasia, meaning 540 fewer animals were euthanized compared to the same period last year. This decline was consistent across all shelters and driven mostly by dogs.

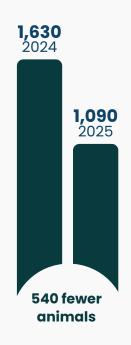


21% (68) fewer cats euthanized

This is the lowest January - March rate in 7 years for cats.



January - March



Data compares January-March 2025 to January-March 2024. To view more data for Riverside County Depeartment of Animal Services visit rcdas.org/statistics



# THE DAILY REPORT CARD

POINT-IN-TIME TRANSPARENCY IN ACTION

While the progress made from January through March is worth celebrating, we continue to operate in overflow, with more pets in our care than our facilities are built to hold. To keep our community informed, we've launched a Daily Report Card on our homepage, offering point-in-time data on intakes, outcomes, and kennel space. Now more than ever, we need adopters, fosters, volunteers, and donors to help us save lives.



We are committed to full transparency into our shelter operations. We've added a Daily Report Card to our homepage with point-in-time data on intakes, outcomes, kennel space, and more.

Check it out at www.rcdas.org.

## MAY 1ST REPORT CARD SNAPSHOT

#### **Intakes**

Dogs Cats **42 51** 

Other 13

Total **106** 

#### **Outcomes**

72 Cats

ots Other **4** 

Total 93

#### **Overall Space**



Status: Critical Overflow Total Dogs: 776 Dogs Total Public Kennels: 382 39%

Status: high
Total Cats: 91 Cats
Total Public Kennels: 241

\*Spaces dedicated for injured, ill, quarantine and protective custody may not be used for general population purposes.

#### **FYTD Live Release Rate**



**Dogs** 77.65%



**Cats** 73.22%



76.56%



RCDAS.ORG (f) (a) @RiversideCountyAnimalServices



## Western Riverside County/City Animal Shelter

6851 Van Buren Blvd Jurupa Valley, CA 92509 (951) 358-7387 (PETS)

#### **Coachella Valley Animal Campus**

72-050 Pet Land Place Thousand Palms, CA 92276

(760) 343-3644

#### San Jacinto Valley **Animal Campus**

581 S. Grand Ave. San Jacinto, CA 92582

(951) 358-7387 (PETS)

#### **Blythe Animal Shelter**

245 S Carlton Blythe, CA 92225

(760) 921-7857

Monday - Friday 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

#### **Hours**

Tuesday, Thursday - Sunday 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Wednesday 10 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Blythe Animal Shelter Only

Monday - Friday 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.



#### Riverside County Board of Supervisors Request to Speak

Submit request to the Clerk of the Board (right of podium), Speakers are entitled to three (3) minutes, subject to Board Rules listed on the reverse side of this form. The Board may limit the public input on any item, based on the number of people requesting to speak and the business of the Board.

SPEAKER'S NAME: MOYO	Levi						
Address:							
City:	Zip:						
Phone #:							
Date:	Agenda # 3.7						
PLEASE STATE YOUR POSITION BELOW:							
Position on "Regular" (non-appealed) Agenda Item:							
Support	Oppose	Neutral					
<b>Note:</b> If you are here for an agenda item that is filed for "Appeal", please state separately your position on the appeal below:							
Support	Oppose	Neutral					
give my 3 minutes to:							
Parking validations available for speaker	rs only – see Clerk of the E	Board.					
Revised: 04/23/2025)							

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#### Power Point Presentations/Printed Material:

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#### **Group/Organized Presentations:**

Group/organized presentations with more than one (1) speaker will be limited to nine (9) minutes at the Chair's discretion. The organizer of the presentation will automatically receive the first three (3) minutes, with the remaining six (6) minutes relinquished by other speakers, as requested by them on a completed "Request to Speak" form, and clearly indicated at the front bottom of the form.

Addressing the Board & Acknowledgement by Chair:
The Chair will determine what order the speakers will address the Board and will call on all speakers in pairs. The first speaker should immediately step to the podium and begin addressing the Board. The second speaker should take up a position in one of the chamber ais es to quickly step up to the pocium after the preceding speaker. This is to afford an efficient and timely Board meeting giving all attendees the opportunity to make their case. Speakers are prohibited from making personal attacks, and/or using course, crude, profane or vulgar language while speaking to the Board members, staff, the public and/or meeting participants. Such behavior, at the discretion of the Board Chair may result in removal from the Board Chambers by Sheriff Deputies.

#### Flores, Kate

From:

Acquia Mail

Sent:

Tuesday, May 20, 2025 8:35 AM

To:

Lopez, Daniel

Cc:

Clerk of the Board

Subject:

Request to Speak Web Submission



Thank you for submitting your request to speak. The Clerk of the Board office has received your request and will be prepared to allow you to speak when your item is called. To attend the meeting, please call (669) 900-6833 and use **Meeting ID** # 864 4411 6015. Password is 20250520. You will be muted until your item is pulled and your name is called. Please dial in at 9:00 am with the phone number you provided in the form so you can be identified during the meeting.

Submitted on May 20, 2025

Submitted values are:

**First Name** 

Mara

**Last Name** 

Levi

**Phone** 

9512868187

**Email** 

danlopez@rivco.org

**Agenda Date** 

05/20/2025

Agenda Item # or Public Comment

3.71

State your position below

Oppose

**Do you need a Spanish translator?** No



#### Riverside County Board of Supervisors Request to Speak

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SPEAKER'S NAME: LISA	Blagett						
Address:							
City:	Zip:						
Phone #:							
Date:	Agenda # 3.7						
PLEASE STATE YOUR POSITION BEL	OW:						
Position on "Regular" (non-appealed) Agenda Item:							
Support	Oppose	Neutral					
<b>Note:</b> If you are here for an agenda item that is filed for "Appeal", please state separately your position on the appeal below:							
Support	Oppose	Neutral					
give my 3 minutes to:							
Parking validations available for speakers	s only – see Clerk of the Bo	oard.					
(Revised: 04/23/2025)							

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#### Indiv dual Speaker Limits:

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#### Flores, Kate

From:

Acquia Mail

Sent:

Monday, May 19, 2025 3:54 PM

To:

lisablodgett12@gmail.com

Cc:

Clerk of the Board

Subject:

Request to Speak Web Submission



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Submitted on May 19, 2025

Submitted values are:

#### **First Name**

Lisa

#### **Last Name**

Blodgett

#### Address (Street, City and Zip)

47970 Vía Nice

#### **Phone**

7603990113

#### **Email**

lisablodgett12@gmail.com

#### **Agenda Date**

05/20/2025

#### Agenda Item # or Public Comment

Agenda Item 3.71



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SPEAKER'S NAME: Tiffani	Lobue						
Address: (Only if follow-up mail respon	se requested)						
City:	Zip:						
Phone #:							
Date:	Agenda # 3.7						
PLEASE STATE YOUR POSITION BEL	OW:						
Position on "Regular" (non-appealed) Agenda Item:							
Support	Oppose	Neutral					
<b>Note:</b> If you are here for an agenda item that is filed for "Appeal", please state separately your position on the appeal below:							
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I give my 3 minutes to:							
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(Revised: 06/13/2024)							

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Individual speakers are limited to a maximum of three (3) minutes. The Board may limit the public input on any item, based on the number of people requesting to speak and the business of the Board. Please step up to the podium when the Chair calls your name and begin speaking immediately. Pull the microphone to your mouth so that the Board, audience, and audio recording system hear you clearly. Once you start speaking, the "green" podium light will light. The "yellow" light will come on when you have one (1) minute remaining. When you have 30 seconds remaining, the "yellow" light will begin flash, indicating you must quickly wrap up your comments. Your time is up when the "red" light flashes. The Chair adheres to a strict three (3) minutes per speaker. Note: If you intend to give your time to a "Group/Organized Presentation", please state so clearly at the very bottom of the reverse side of this form.

#### **Group/Organized Presentations:**

Group/organized presentations with more than one (1) speaker will be limited to nine (9) minutes at the Chair's discretion. The organizer of the presentation will automatically receive the first three (3) minutes, with the remaining six (6) minutes relinquished by other speakers, as requested by them on a completed "Request to Speak" form, and clearly indicated at the front bottom of the form.

#### Addressing the Board & Acknowledgement by Chair:

The Chair will determine what order the speakers will address the Board and will call on all speakers in pairs. The first speaker should immediately step to the podium and begin addressing the Board. The second speaker should take up a position in one of the chamber aisles to quickly step up to the podium after the preceding speaker. This is to afford an efficient and timely Board meeting, giving all attendees the opportunity to make their case. Speakers are prohibited from making personal attacks, and/or using course, crude, profane or vulgar language while speaking to the Board members, staff, the public and/or meeting participants. Such behavior, at the discretion of the Board Chair may result in removal from the Board Chambers by Sheriff Deputies.

#### Flores, Kate

From:

Acquia Mail

Sent:

Monday, May 19, 2025 6:41 PM

To:

bwtiffani@hotmail.com

Cc:

Clerk of the Board

Subject:

Request to Speak Web Submission



Thank you for submitting your request to speak. The Clerk of the Board office has received your request and will be prepared to allow you to speak when you item is called. To attend the meeting, please call (669) 900-6833 and use **Meeting ID** # 864 4411 6015. Password is 20250520. You will be muted until your item is pulled and your name is called. Please all in at 9:00 am with the phone number you provided in the form so you can be identified during the meeting.

Submitted on May 19, 2025

Submitted values are:

#### **First Name**

Tiffani

#### **Last Name**

LoBue

#### Address (Street, City and Zip)

4028E PASEO LUISA

#### Phone

(760) 835-1066

#### **Email**

bwtiffani@hotmail.com

#### **Agenda Date**

05/20/2025

#### Agenda Item # or Public Comment

Agenda item 3.71

#### State your position below

#### Support

Do you need a Spanish translator?

No