

Exhibit A

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From: [Kim Bartholomay](#)
To: [Jensen, Fiona](#); berettim@countyofmonterey.com; spencerc@countyofmonterey.com
Cc: [Carie Broecker](#); [Hap Albers](#); [Brittney Schloss](#)
Subject: POMDR cancellation
Date: Tuesday, March 17, 2026 12:33:35 PM
Attachments: [PastedGraphic-1.png](#)

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Dear Fiona and Supervising Staff,

I am writing to inform you that we are formally withdrawing from the proposed Senior Dog Haven project and cancelling the escrow contract we have been operating under for the past ten months. This decision is the direct result of critical information that was disclosed to us by Fiona Jensen only last week regarding a limitation on the number of dogs permitted on the property provided by Valiska Lujan at Animal Control.

Our organization entered this process in good faith after being advised by County Planning staff that the appropriate path forward for the project was to pursue a use permit. From the beginning, we were fully transparent about the scope of our proposed project and the fact that the sanctuary was specifically designed to care for approximately 20 senior dogs.

Over the past ten months we have worked diligently through the county's process. This has included preparing and submitting the application, working with consultants, responding to requests from County staff, negotiating an extension of escrow, and participating in multiple meetings. As a result, our nonprofit has incurred substantial non-refundable costs related to the project.

In addition to the impact on our nonprofit, it is also important to recognize the considerable County resources that have been devoted to this project over the past ten months. Planning staff time, consultations, document review, and preparation for the upcoming hearing have all been expended on a proposal that ultimately could not proceed due to a regulatory requirement that was not identified until the final stage of the process.

At no point during our initial meetings, the application preparation, or subsequent communications were we informed that Animal Control regulations will limit the number of dogs on the property to 12. That limitation fundamentally changes the viability of our project. Instead, we were informed only last week, days before our March 25th Planning Committee hearing, that the project would be limited to 12 dogs rather than the 20 dogs that formed the basis of our proposal. Had this limitation been identified during our early meetings or at any point, we would have redirected our efforts to elsewhere. Instead, the project was allowed to proceed for ten months before this critical issue was raised.

During this time, our organization also worked extensively to address concerns raised by neighboring property owners. Despite facing significant opposition, we made every effort to engage respectfully, provide information, and respond thoughtfully to concerns. We handled those conversations professionally and with the goal of maintaining positive relationships within the community.

The late disclosure of a fundamental limitation on the project has now placed our organization in an impossible position and forced us to abandon a project that has already required extensive financial investment and commitment.

Our organization entered this process with the sincere intention of creating a responsible sanctuary for senior dogs that have very few options for long term care. We relied on the guidance provided by the county

throughout this process. The manner in which this critical issue surfaced at the final stage reflects a serious breakdown in due diligence within the county's consultation and review process.

It is difficult to understand how a project centered entirely around the number of dogs permitted could proceed for ten months without this fundamental constraint being identified and communicated. The failure to raise this issue until the two weeks before our hearing and lack of care on your part has resulted in significant, and entirely avoidable, financial and operational consequence's for our organization.

Sincerely,



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POMDR is a resource and advocate for senior dogs and senior people on California's Central Coast.

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