

County in line for \$10 mil loan to build animal shelter

By Nick Baptista / The Valley Springs News / February 27, 2026

A new animal shelter in Calaveras County moved closer to reality with word Wednesday that a \$10 million loan for the proposed facility received the green light.

The existing animal shelter has been under grand jury scrutiny for nearly two decades.

The jury's 2023 report entitled "Teaching An Old Dog New Tricks," said, "the shelter is understaffed, unsanitary, underfunded, overcrowded, as well as unappealing and in need of replacement."

"I am pleased to inform you that today (Wednesday) the IBank Board has approved Calaveras County's request for financing through the Infrastructure State Revolving Fund Program for the Calaveras County Animal Services Facility Project," Calaveras County Chief Executive Officer Teresa Hitchcock informed the Board of Supervisors. "The approval authorizes funding in an amount not to exceed \$10,000,000."

The county's supervisors back in October unanimously approved a recommendation by the county's Debt Advisory Committee to work with the California Infrastructure Economic Development Bank, IBank for short, to bring a financing package back for board consideration and approval.

IBank's proposed terms and conditions for financing are scheduled to come before supervisors at their March 10 meeting. Should the board approve the terms, the county will begin negotiating a financing agreement, which will then be brought back to the supervisors for final approval.

Engineers have estimated construction costs at \$13 million for the shelter with an estimated funding gap of \$9.9 million from money the county has already set aside for the project. In addition, the county has completed construction plans for the full shelter buildout.

IBank offers low interest loans through its Infrastructure State Revolving Fund Program. The animal shelter qualified as an eligible project under the loan guidelines and Calaveras County is an eligible borrower.

According to its website, IBank was created in 1994 to finance public infrastructure and private development that promote a healthy climate for jobs, contribute to a strong economy and improve the quality of life in California communities.

IBank has broad authority to issue tax-exempt and taxable revenue bonds, provide financing to public agencies, provide credit enhancements, acquire or lease facilities, and leverage state and federal funds. IBank's current programs include the Infrastructure State Revolving Fund Loan Program, Expanding Venture Capital Access Program, the Climate Catalyst Revolving Loan fund, Small Business Finance Center and the Bond Financing Program. If supervisors approve the final agreement, payments on the loan could be spread over 20 to 30 years.