SIDE LETTER TO THE 2019-2022 MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN THE COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO
AND THE SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY EMPLOYEES’ ASSOCIATION PUBLIC SERVICES UNIT (BARGAINING UNIT 01), SUPERVISORY UNIT (BU05), AND CLERICAL UNIT (BU13)

1. COURTHOUSE DOG PROGRAM

1.1 The Courthouse Dog Program incorporates highly trained dogs to provide emotional support for victims of, and witnesses to, crime during the investigation and prosecution of criminal cases, and to assist with mass victimization emergencies and natural disasters. The provisions of the Courthouse Dog Program are outlined in the District Attorney’s Office Courthouse Dog Program document. An employee serving as a courthouse dog handler (handler) does so on a voluntary basis with the approval of the District Attorney or designee. The qualifications and responsibilities of the handler are outlined in the Courthouse Dog Program document.

1.2 Any costs associated with the care of the Courthouse Dog will be paid for by the County or reimbursed to the handler. This includes but is not limited to costs for equipment, training, feeding, grooming, veterinarian services, and transportation. If the handler is assigned to a standby shift or is a member of the Crisis Response Team, the handler shall be compensated pursuant to the standby or Crisis Response Team provisions. If the handler is called to an event or emergency requiring the use of the Courthouse Dog outside of normal work hours, the handler shall be compensated at their regular rate of pay, or any applicable overtime or call back pay for time spent working the event or emergency. The handler shall not receive any additional compensation for the care of the courthouse dog outside of regular hours other than specified in section 1.3 below.

1.3 The handler shall be provided a County vehicle for transporting the dog to and from work or work-related events or, if a County vehicle is not available for the handler’s use, receive compensation and mileage reimbursement pursuant to the County’s Travel Policy for the use of a personal vehicle for transporting the dog to and from work or work-related events. Time spent transporting the dog as part of the handler’s normal commute shall not be considered work time. Time spent transporting the dog for County business separate from the handler’s normal commute shall be paid pursuant to the County’s Travel Policy.

1.4 Any revisions to the Courthouse Dog Program document shall be made after meeting and conferring as required by law.

DATED: 9/1/2020

So Agreed: 
For SLOCEA
For the County

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APPROVED TO FORM AND LEGAL EFFECT:

RITA L. NEAL
County Counsel

By: ____________________________
Nina Neganti, Assistant County Counsel

Dated: 9/9/20