

City Council Agenda Item ZC-057-2026, proposing an amendment to Ordinance No. 2025-O-223 to allow an **Animal Care Substation with indoor and outdoor animal confinement** at 140 Ceniso Loop

1. Level of Alignment

- Strong
 Moderate – Indirectly supports or contributes to the intent of a verbatim goal or policy.
 Weak/None
-

2. Supporting Goal(s)/Policy(ies)

Goal 7.1

“All residents have access to a variety of health services that support their well-being.”

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Source: *Viva Laredo City of Laredo Comprehensive Plan*

Relevance:

The proposed Animal Care Substation supports community well-being through the intake, care, and placement of stray animals. The facility contributes to public health and neighborhood safety by addressing animal control and welfare needs within the community.

Policy 6.1.1

“Encourage development that is compatible with surrounding land uses and contributes to a cohesive urban form.”

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Source: *Viva Laredo City of Laredo Comprehensive Plan*

Relevance:

The proposal introduces expanded animal confinement activities within a predominantly residential area. While compatibility concerns exist due to surrounding residential uses and a nearby public high school, the Conditional Use Permit overlay imposes operational limitations, buffering, noise reduction, fencing, and screening requirements intended to mitigate impacts and improve compatibility.

Goal 1.1

“Encourage the efficient use of land and resources in Laredo through appropriate infill, redevelopment, and coordinated growth patterns.”

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Source: *Viva Laredo City of Laredo Comprehensive Plan*

Relevance:

The amendment represents the continued use and modification of an existing governmental/community service facility within an already developed urban area, supporting efficient land utilization and reinvestment rather than outward expansion.

3. Summary of Alignment

The proposed amendment to allow indoor and outdoor animal confinement at the existing Animal Care Substation demonstrates **moderate alignment** with the *Viva Laredo Comprehensive Plan*. The request supports broader public welfare objectives under **Goal 7.1** by providing enhanced animal care, intake, and placement services that contribute to neighborhood safety, public health, and animal welfare.

The proposal also aligns with **Goal 1.1** through the adaptive reuse and intensification of an existing public service facility within a developed area. Additionally, the Conditional Use Permit framework and accompanying operational conditions—including noise reduction measures, fencing, landscaping, limitations on outdoor confinement, and restrictions on overnight boarding—attempt to address compatibility concerns in accordance with **Policy 6.1.1**.

However, the Future Land Use Map identifies the area as **Low Density Residential**, and the staff report acknowledges that the expanded use “may be anticipated to have a negative impact to the surrounding neighborhood and area.” The proximity to residential neighborhoods, a public high school, and a church limits full consistency with the Comprehensive Plan’s compatibility objectives.

The proposal intersects with broader planning themes including **public safety, community services, animal welfare, and land use compatibility**.
