

# Citizens Against a Ukiah Slaughterhouse

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Open Letter to Our Members

Hello, everyone.

Now that we're all getting back to work after our holiday break (I hope yours was wonderful!), you may be wondering what's happening with recent efforts to bring a slaughterhouse to our valley, and our work to make sure that doesn't happen. I'm writing to you now with an update, on behalf of our steering committee—Ron Epstein, Julie and Tim Knudsen, Qin Zhi Lau, and Max Mische—which continues to monitor the situation and bring in new research on an ongoing basis.

I'm very happy to tell you we have reason to be *cautiously* optimistic. Over the past several weeks we've received several unofficial reports that Chris Stone is unlikely to pursue his plan to put a facility on Yokayo tribal land, and that Sam Goldberger has decided to explore other locations in the face of strong and widespread opposition in Ukiah.

Please understand—***none of these reports is confirmed***, and to our knowledge no final decisions have been reached. Both Sam and Chris have been keeping a relatively low profile. Chris has been working on another development project. And after a big public splash in local newspapers and several radio interviews, Sam has been eerily silent for some time. We've been told he's considering sites in the Willits area, in Cloverdale, and in Fallon, Nevada. But he's also scheduled to speak to a group of Ukiah businesspeople in January, so at this point we can't really be certain what his plans are.

In the meantime, there are three things that I think should happen.

First, we're biding our time, holding off on public statements until we know more. CAUS is committed to providing our community with the facts as we know them, so we don't want to release statements about slaughterhouse proposals that may no longer be valid. Until we have more information we've decided to keep a low profile ourselves, and hold off on holding public meetings or making official comments to the media. When we know more, we'll do our part to let everyone in town know it, too.

Second, we're keeping a very watchful eye on Sam's and Chris' activities. So far, neither of them has presented any kind of a formal proposal or permit application to the Board of Supervisors or City Council. We anticipate that some official documentation will be available in the coming weeks, and we've positioned ourselves to receive it as soon as it is. And rest assured, if Sam does appear as a speaker here later this month, we'll be there to hear what he has to say. Once again, as soon as we know more, so will you.

Finally—and this is the best part—a great big resounding “Kudos!” is in store for all of you who have written letters, called in to radio programs, talked to friends, come to meetings, and put your heart and energy behind a cause that matters so much to all of us. Sometimes it's easy to feel powerless in a world where so many things seem to be going wrong. If you're like me, you may often feel there's little you can do to make a difference. But there's no question that in this case a small group of local citizens stood up, raised their voices and their pens, and set a potentially devastating threat to our community back on its heels. While it would be premature to launch a full scale celebration just yet (believe me, we will when the time is right!), it is clear that Sam and many of the local officials who supported him have heard you loud and clear, and at the very least they're well aware they face some formidable opposition: the concerned citizens of the Ukiah valley, otherwise known as Citizens Against a Ukiah Slaughterhouse.

For now, we need to remain vigilant. Please continue to monitor our website at [www.NoSlaughterhouse.org](http://www.NoSlaughterhouse.org) for updates, new research, and upcoming meetings (none is scheduled at this time). Keep an eye on the newspapers and an ear to the radio, and be ready to make your opinions known anytime the issue of a slaughterhouse—or a related environmental, economic, or social issue—is raised. And of course, watch your email for updates from us. We promise to keep you informed every step of the way.

In closing, let me say that my love for this community has been renewed by your willingness to walk your talk, and to stand up and take action for what you believe in. I feel blessed to live among people who have that sort of passion and integrity. It's been a great pleasure to meet each of you, and I look forward to seeing you again soon, whether at a public meeting to plan our next strategy—or to raise the roof in celebration.

In the meantime, we'll remain watchful, and I ask you to do the same.

With warm wishes for a peaceful and joyful New Year for you and everyone you love,  
Jan Allegretti.