



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors
Approves Launch of *CLEAN SAN JOAQUIN*
*The All-Out Effort to Rid the Region of Blight and Trash will be Led by the County
in Partnership with Local Municipalities, Businesses, Residents and the United
Way***

(**STOCKTON, CA**) – Today, the San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors unanimously approved the launch of the *Clean San Joaquin* program which will dramatically reduce the amount of littering, graffiti and illegal dumping in the region and improve the quality of life for residents, businesses and visitors.

The Board's approval of the *Clean San Joaquin* program was proudly acclaimed by Supervisor Miguel Villapudua, chairman of the board, who regularly hosts clean-up programs in his district:

"This indeed is a very momentous day as we signal the official start of *Clean San Joaquin*, a program that has been months in the making. We are extremely humbled by the tremendous pride residents have in their communities and have already offered their unwavering support for this Countywide endeavor. Our hats are off to the United Way for their partnership in securing donations to designated 501(c)(3) charities that will serve our program's mission to address blight, homelessness and litter and graffiti abatement throughout the County."

Clean San Joaquin is aimed at beautifying neighborhoods and roads, increasing property values, improving business, reducing crime and showing civic pride. Its goals are to:

- Reduce littering, graffiti, illegal dumping and other wasteful acts
- Inform residents about community clean-up programs and services
- Promote civic responsibility, community pride, environmental care
- Build a network of volunteers to assist in community beautification
- Save taxpayer dollars

Supervisor Chuck Winn led the *Clean San Joaquin* effort and the working group which included representatives from County departments including the Sheriff, the District Attorney, and the Fire Chief that is credited for putting all the pieces together to make this program a reality, with the priority of serving the public interest in all areas of concern:

“Communication and coordination are key to ensuring *Clean San Joaquin* gets off to a good start and all voices are heard to assist residents who have issues to report or wish to volunteer or donate to the program to aid in its success. With that, we developed brochures, an educational video and a user-friendly website that will enable any organization or individual who wishes to volunteer, offer donations or report issues of concern regarding illegal dumping or other safety issues. The program cannot be a success without the active engagement and input of residents who truly care about making San Joaquin County a safe and happy place to live.”

In fiscal year 2018-2019, the San Joaquin County Public Works Department’s total cleanup costs for just levee and road maintenance rose to \$1.2 million. In addition, the Sheriff’s Department’s budget was augmented by \$100,000 to address the removal of abandoned watercraft and other large debris from the County’s unincorporated area roads and waterways.

“We have every reason to believe *Clean San Joaquin* will be embraced by people of all backgrounds given the recent record set for trash collection by the more than 800 volunteers who engaged in the 2019 Coastal Clean-Up Day last month. In just three short hours, they picked up 76,677 pounds of trash along the banks of the Delta, rivers, streams and homeless encampments. That was more than three times the amount collected in 2018. It’s a true testament to the tremendous pride the people of this great County have for the place they call home. This is just the beginning of a Countywide coordinated effort to take pride in our communities,” said Supervisor Winn.

The *Clean San Joaquin* website, www.cleansjc.org will go live by November 20, 2019, and will feature background information, ways to volunteer or donate and an educational video. Brochures will also be made available and distributed to community-based organizations, businesses, and residents during Countywide events.

"United Way is delighted to be part of this important community cleanup effort," said Kristin Birtwhistle, President/CEO of United Way of San Joaquin County. "Clean San Joaquin recognizes the impact littering, graffiti and illegal dumping can have on residents, businesses and visitors. We hope that through our involvement to raise public awareness and encourage community action, we can all work together to keep San Joaquin County a beautiful place to live, work and visit."

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