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Board of Supervisors
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Board Approves Supervisor Rickman's Proposal to Provide \$18,668 From Supervisorial District 5 Funds to the Tracy FFA Foundation for a Tracy High School FFA Senior Project
Supporting Local Youth Programs

STOCKTON – At its Board meeting on Tuesday, September 9, 2025, the San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors approved Supervisor Rickman's proposal to provide \$18,668 to the Tracy Future Farmers of America (FFA) Foundation for a Tracy High School FFA Senior Project led by senior Abigail Silva.

Agriculture is at the heart of San Joaquin County's economy and is the number one industry in the state of California. There is a need for demanding curriculum to meet the increasing employment demands in production, environmental science, resource management and plant and animal sciences.

Located in K-12 schools, FFA supports students interested in agriculture and fosters leadership. The FFA organization is dedicated to making a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth, and career success through agricultural education.

Tracy FFA Foundation promotes, aids, and assists, financially or otherwise, Tracy High's FFA to ensure the success of agricultural education by preparing tomorrow's agricultural leaders. It provides individuals, businesses, foundations and others the opportunity to invest in a secondary agricultural education leadership development program at Tracy High School.

Tracy High School senior Abigail Avila is among a selected few students to be a part of the school's Ag/Science Academy (Academy), an advanced academy designed for students with a strong interest in science or agriculture and pushes students to excel in academics and in the agriculture industry. Academy students must complete a senior project – and research paper that connects to the project – that strives to leave a mark or impact on the school or the community, while offering the student life lessons.

Ms. Avila's senior project will construct a newly refurbished Tracy High School Barn. This will reduce impediments experienced by students that become discouraged from raising and showing livestock

"I hope I shall possess firmness and virtue enough to maintain (what I consider the most enviable of all titles), the character of an honest man."
- George Washington -

Rickman Press Release 9/09/25

County Supervisor Robert Rickman Gains Support and Secures Funding for Tracy High School FFA Senior Project

due to not having a proper space to keep livestock, expanding opportunities for more students to participate in Tracy FFA.

Youth and Ag related programs are a priority for Supervisor Rickman, as he has secured funding for San Joaquin AgFest and several FFA and 4-H programs.

“These programs provide our students with important educational opportunities and exposure to our county’s Ag driven economy. As parents of two daughters that participated in Ag programs, Karen and I are believers in the importance these programs both in the development of the student and in the development of local talent needed to sustain and hopefully grow, our county’s Ag economy. So, it warms my heart to secure these funds in support of an ambitious student like Ms. Silva and her worthy project,” said Fifth District Supervisor Robert Rickman.

The Supervisorial District Funds were re-established by the Board of Supervisors in the 2023-2024 Adopted Budget, to afford each supervisor the opportunity to address district-specific unmet needs. Supervisorial district-funded projects are subject to existing County policy and business practice.

Learn more about Supervisor Rickman at <https://www.sjgov.org/departments/bos/districts/district-5>.

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