



THE RICKMAN REPORT

NEWS FROM DISTRICT 5



Dear Friends,

I hope you enjoy the latest edition of The Rickman Report, with more news and updates from across our communities in Tracy, Mountain House, Ripon, and Escalon.

As your representative on the San Joaquin Council of Governments, I want to share a quick update on a major transportation project that will benefit the entire region.

The State Route 99/120 Connector project is well underway. This two-year effort will improve safety and traffic flow between two of our busiest freeways. By adding new lanes, improving ramps, and upgrading nearby roads, this project will make commutes faster and safer for drivers, reduce congestion, and improve air quality across the Central Valley.

Phase One kicked off in August 2024 and construction will continue through 2026. You can stay informed about closures, detours, and progress updates by visiting the project webpage: [SJCOC SR 99/120 Updates](#).

Thank you for staying engaged. I will continue working to bring smart infrastructure investments to District 5 and beyond.

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[www.sjgov.org/departmen
t/bos/district-5](http://www.sjgov.org/departmen/t/bos/district-5)

Help Shape the Future of South County Regional Park



I am committed to turning the long-promised South County Regional Park into a reality. Every year, we have made steady progress on this major project, a large regional park near Tracy that will offer recreational space, educational programs, and community amenities. Now, we need your input to help shape it.

The County Parks Department has launched a [brief survey](#) to hear directly from you. What features matter most? What should this park include? Your feedback will also help guide future funding for maintenance and improvements.

Take a few minutes to share your thoughts. Your voice will help bring this park to life.

Your Voice Matters: Help Improve Sidewalks in Your Community

San Joaquin County is working to make walking safer, easier, and more accessible, and we want to hear from YOU. Your input will help prioritize improvements and shape future sidewalk investments.

The [virtual workshop will be held on August 19, 2025 from 5:30pm to 7:00pm](#), where you can share your ideas and help improve sidewalk connectivity in your neighborhood.

If you are unable to attend, you can still share your feedback by contacting Marilissa Loera at mloera@sjgov.org.



SPARK Grant helps Small Business Recovery

To help offset the lasting effects of COVID-19 on local businesses, San Joaquin County launched the Spark Relief Grant Program for Small Business Assistance. This initiative is part of the County's continued commitment to helping small businesses not just recover but thrive in a post-pandemic economy.

Eligible small businesses can receive grants of up to \$5,000 to cover utility expenses if they experienced financial hardship due to the pandemic. This targeted financial support is designed to provide relief where it is most needed and strengthen the long-term health of our business community.

For more information visit [here](#).

Questions? Contact SparkGrant@sjcworknet.org or call 209-468-3615. To apply visit [here](#).



Visit www.valleyair.org

Supervisor Rickman is on the Governing Board and urges you to visit the District's website for air quality updates and incentive programs for businesses, agriculture, and households.



Visit MySanJoaquin
Use the non-emergency reporting system to report issues such as illegal dumping, potholes, inoperative traffic signals.

Available in the app store



SJCARES

Homeless Response Team

sjcares@sjgov.org



Visit

www.sjgov.org

View past or upcoming Board meeting materials or watch a Board meeting.

LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY: MAKING YOUR VOICE HEARD

PG&E

The prolonged Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS) that took place in June in the southwest portion of our county was disruptive, frustrating, and unfair to the families and businesses affected. These types of extended shutoffs should not be the new normal.

As a follow-up, South County Fire Authority Chief Randall Bradley and I have been invited by PG&E to tour their Grid Control Center on August 1, 2025. I intend to make it clear that San Joaquin County residents deserve answers, transparency, and meaningful improvements that reduce the likelihood and duration of future shutoffs. I will keep pressing for long-term solutions that prioritize both safety and reliability.

Support: SB 712 – Classic Car Smog Check Exemption

SB 712 continues to progress through the legislative process and was read a second time and amended. It has been re-referred to the Committee on Appropriations. This bill provides exemptions for collector motor vehicles from smog checks - a win for car enthusiasts and preservationists alike.

Oppose: AB 470 As Amended – Carrier of Last Resort Mandate

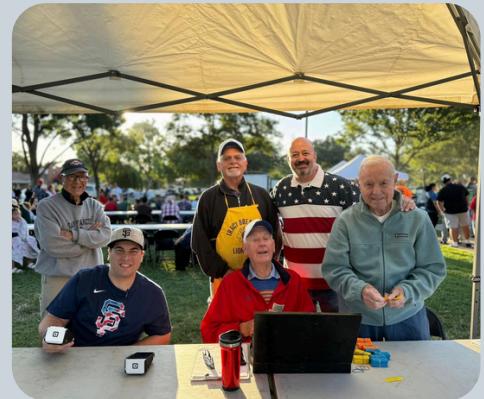
The County, along with the California Farm Bureau Federation, remains opposed to Assembly Bill 470, as amended, and we submitted our updated letter of opposition on July 10, 2025.

AB 470 would dismantle core public obligations and accelerate the erosion of reliable, affordable telephone service, particularly in rural and high-risk areas. We should not prioritize company convenience over consumer protection.



TRACY

- Check Presentation to Boys & Girls Clubs in support of the youth sports programs "Summer Shootout Basketball Camp" (\$20,000)
- Joined Tracy Community during 4th of July traditional celebrations & Fireworks Show
- Check Presentation to West High School Home Field Advantage Booster Club - Merrill F. West High School Cheerleading Program for USA Cheer Camp (\$19,826)
- Boys & Girls Club Summer Shootout – Last day of Camp Celebration
- City of Tracy Community Block Party Event
- 20th Anniversary Celebration – California Advantage Real Estate



RIPON

- Ripon Chamber Coffee Mixer at San Joaquin Swiss Club
- Ripon Chamber Board Installation & Awards Dinner
- Ripon Chamber Evening Mixer at Ripon Social



MOUNTAIN HOUSE

- City of Mountain House State of the City address and One Year of Cityhood Anniversary drone show.
- Mountain House Chamber Mixer at THUB Café
- Mountain House Chamber hosts Spicy Bites Grand Opening at Cordes Plaza

ESCALON

- Check Presentation to Escalon Strong's Community Garden Project (\$10,780)
- Board Aide connects with business community during District Hours – Thursdays, 11- 1 p.m. at City Hall
- Olivia Dawn Candle Co. Host Woman in Business Elevated Coffee Connection
- Lumberyard Cellars 4th Anniversary Celebration
- Escalon Chamber Business of the Month Mixer at eTrans City of Escalon
- Senior Mr & Mrs Escalon Luncheon reception
- Escalon Small Town Stride | Monthly Community Walk
- Escalon Park Fete Community Event



COUNTYWIDE MEETINGS AND EVENTS (partial list)

- San Joaquin County Fire Chiefs Association Collaborator's Meeting
- Leadership Stockton Class project Ribbon Cutting event for the unveiling of the Veterans' Mural
- POW/MIA Flag Raising Ceremony
- American Legion Post 249 Hall Grand Re-Opening and Ribbon Cutting
- San Joaquin Farm Bureau Board of Directors Meeting
- DLA Distribution San Joaquin, CA - Change of Command | Col. Kevin Chunn, USMC relinquished command to Col. Brogan Issitt, USMC
- AG Spanos Companies | Westlake Recreation Center Special Celebration and Tour of the New Recreation Center at Westlake
- Pioneer Village Groundbreaking Ceremony
- Economic Development Board Meeting
- Stockton East Water District Expansion Groundbreaking
- Groundbreaking Ceremony for the East Channel Street Streetscape and Connectivity Project
- Meeting with Senator McNerney regarding County and Regional issues

