

THE RICKMAN REPORT

NEWS FROM DISTRICT 5

August in Action

August was filled with opportunities to celebrate the people and organizations that make our communities such wonderful places to call home.

Throughout the month, I had the privilege of joining residents at community events, recognizing outstanding public servants, supporting local nonprofits and youth organizations, and visiting with the many volunteers who generously give their time to help others. Whether gathering for National Night Out, honoring our public safety officers, or supporting organizations that serve local families, I was reminded once again that the strength of our communities comes from the people who care for one another.

These moments reflect the unique spirit found throughout Tracy, Mountain House, Ripon, Escalon, and our surrounding communities. I am grateful to everyone who volunteers, serves, leads, and works each day to make San Joaquin County an even better place to live.

Thank you for all you do for our communities. As always, it is an honor to serve you.

— **Robert Rickman**
San Joaquin County Supervisor, **District 5**



SAN JOAQUIN
COUNTY
District 5



CONTACT ME

SUPERVISOR
ROBERT RICKMAN
RRICKMAN@SJGOV.ORG
209-468-3113

CHIEF OF STAFF
SCOTT TYRRELL
STYRRELL@SJGOV.ORG

BOARD AIDE
MARIA VALENZUELA
MARIAVALENZUELA@SJGOV.ORG

ENJOYING THE RICKMAN REPORT?



TELL A FRIEND OR NEIGHBOR

Encourage them to sign up
and stay informed.

Share this link

<https://sjgov.org/departments/bos/board-news/sign-up>

COUNTY HIGHLIGHTS

South County Regional Park Project Continues to Progress

At our August 18, 2026, meeting, the Board of Supervisors received an update on the South County Regional Park Project and authorized a \$1,062,546 task order to advance the project into Phase III.

Phase I, Conceptual Design, and Phase II, the Feasibility Study, have been completed. Phase III—Design Criteria and Bridging Documents—will further define the project and establish its design intent at a schematic level.

Extensive public outreach was conducted during the project's earlier phases to gather input from South County residents and community stakeholders. That feedback helped identify community priorities and shape the park's proposed recreational features and overall vision, helping ensure the project reflects the needs of the families it is intended to serve.

Phase III is expected to take approximately nine months to complete. This work will prepare the project for Phase IV, which will include issuing a design-build Request for Proposals, completing the final design, and constructing the park. Once construction begins, it is estimated to take approximately 15 months.

This investment represents another major step toward delivering the regional park South County residents have long deserved. As our communities continue to grow, we must ensure that our recreational opportunities and public spaces grow with them.

View presentation [here](#). (the presentation concludes at 3:35:45.) View South County Regional Park Rendering [here](#).

Read my press release [here](#).

Treatment First: San Joaquin County Helps Shape a National Framework for Addressing Homelessness and Addiction

The White House Office of National Drug Control Policy, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, and U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development recently announced the nation's first "[Treatment First](#)" toolkit addressing addiction and homelessness.

San Joaquin County Health Care Services Director Genevieve Valentine was among just 40 experts nationwide selected to help develop the Best Practices Toolkit: Addressing Homelessness and Addiction Through "Treatment First." The toolkit also highlights the SJ [BeWell Campus](#) as a featured program, placing San Joaquin County's integrated approach to addiction, behavioral health, and homelessness on the national stage.

Homelessness is not simply a housing issue. I have consistently expressed concern that California's "Housing First" strategy has failed to adequately address the underlying conditions that often contribute to homelessness. Many individuals face complex challenges, including untreated mental illness, substance use disorders, and limited access to appropriate care. Providing housing without addressing these underlying needs is not a complete solution.

The SJ [BeWell Campus](#) is a comprehensive behavioral health campus being constructed on approximately 20 acres of County-owned property in French Camp. It is designed to expand access to behavioral healthcare, improve outcomes, reduce reliance on hospital emergency rooms, and provide an alternative to jail for individuals experiencing a behavioral health crisis—ultimately improving lives while reducing costs to taxpayers.

This important project continues to move forward. At our August 4, 2026, meeting, the Board of Supervisors approved several staff-recommended actions to advance the campus. You may review General Government Discussion Item No. 2 [here](#).

Over the past four years, San Joaquin County has pursued a comprehensive strategy that combines treatment, outreach, shelter, supportive housing, and public-safety partnerships. These efforts include [SJ CARES](#); partnerships with the Housing Authority to expand supportive housing; funding for the [Tracy Police Department's Familiar Faces Homeless Outreach Team](#); and County support for emergency low-barrier homeless shelters planned in Lodi, Manteca, and Tracy.

I was proud to help [secure a total of \\$11,409,946](#) for the emergency shelter facility in the City of Tracy. Together, these investments reflect a practical and compassionate approach: helping individuals move beyond homelessness by addressing the underlying conditions.

COUNTY HIGHLIGHTS (Continued)

Ava Community Energy: Delivering Choice, Affordability, and Local Control

When I served as Mayor of Tracy, I was pleased to propose that the City become a member agency of Ava Community Energy. Later, as a County Supervisor, I was proud to lead a Board discussion on September 26, 2023, that ultimately resulted in the Board adopting a resolution to join the Ava Community Energy Authority Joint Powers Agreement on April 9, 2024.

In a [July 2024 letter](#) to Ava, I wrote:

"The high cost of all forms of energy negatively impacts the quality of life of our residents. We look forward to the potential benefits of working collaboratively with Ava Community Energy. Joining Ava's expanding service territory and customer base will diversify the energy load and provide economies of scale, which are expected to offer access to renewable energy at competitive rates while encouraging innovative programs and policies throughout its service territory."

In May 2026, Ava became the default electricity generation provider for residents and businesses in unincorporated San Joaquin County. You may have already noticed the change on your monthly bill. Ava now purchases the electricity delivered to participating customers, while PG&E continues to maintain the electric grid, deliver the power, respond to outages, and issue customer bills.

I fought to bring Ava to San Joaquin County because our residents deserve a lower-cost energy option and greater local control over where their electricity comes from. Looking ahead, I am excited about the additional opportunities Ava offers, including programs such as Ava Bike Electric and SmartHome Battery.

As a member of Ava's Board of Directors, I will continue advocating for affordability, accountability, and programs that provide meaningful benefits to San Joaquin County residents. Learn more about my work on Ava's Board and my commitment to our County, by reading my profile in [Ava's quarterly newsletter](#).

To contact Ava about your electricity generation charges, compare rates, learn about available programs, or opt out of Ava service:

- Call 833-699-3223. Representatives are available Monday through Friday, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- Email customer-support@avaenergy.org
- Visit avaenergy.org/sjc

To contact PG&E regarding power outages, electric delivery charges, natural gas service, or bill payments:

- Call 800-743-5000
- Visit pge.com/en/contact-us.html

LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY: MAKING YOUR VOICE HEARD



SB 1392 "Jay Leno's Law" Advances

On August 12, 2026, I joined Senators Dave Cortese and Shannon Grove, other state legislators, the Specialty Equipment Market Association (SEMA), and classic-car enthusiasts at the State Capitol to rally in support of Senate Bill 1392, also known as "Jay Leno's Law."

SB 1392 would provide a smog-check exemption for qualifying, limited-use collector vehicles, helping preserve California's automotive heritage while recognizing that these vehicles are generally driven far less than everyday automobiles.

The rally helped build momentum ahead of the Assembly Appropriations Committee hearing on August 13, where the bill advanced on a unanimous 15–0 vote. SB 1392 was subsequently amended on August 19 and ordered to a third reading in the Assembly. [View the bill's current status.](#)

I am proud to support this commonsense legislation and will continue advocating for California's classic-car owners and automotive community.

Read my press release [here](#).

LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY:

MAKING YOUR VOICE HEARD (Continued)

AB 1761: Supporting More Transparent and Affordable Electricity Rates

Electricity bills continue to rise across California, driven in part by challenging market conditions and outdated, inefficient regulatory policies.

As a member agency of Ava Community Energy, San Joaquin County supports AB 1761. This legislation would promote energy affordability by improving transparency and providing greater certainty in how the Power Charge Indifference Adjustment (PCIA)—a fee included on nearly all electricity bills—is calculated.

Ava Community Energy serves as the Community Choice Aggregator for Alameda and San Joaquin counties, providing cleaner, competitively priced electricity to more than two million Californians.

As of August 13, 2026, the organizations listed in opposition to AB 1761 include Pacific Gas and Electric Company, San Diego Gas & Electric, and Southern California Edison.

As of August 26, 2026, AB 1761 passed the Senate and the Assembly on concurrence and was expected to be on the Governor's desk August 27, 2026.

View our letter supporting AB 1761 and requesting the Governor's signature [here](#).

Wildfire Liability: County Opposes Shifting Costs to Taxpayers

In response to reports that the Governor and California Legislature are considering changes to wildfire liability laws, our County has joined the League of California Cities, the California State Association of Counties, the Rural County Representatives of California, and a broad coalition of local elected officials, cities, and counties in opposing efforts to limit the ability of public agencies to recover damages when privately owned electric utilities cause wildfires.

The proposed changes are part of the Governor's wildfire liability reform package following the release of the [SB 254 Report](#). The coalition warns that limiting public agency recovery would transfer wildfire-related costs from responsible utilities to local taxpayers and communities already struggling to rebuild.

As the coalition's letter states:

"This proposal will wrongly shift costs to taxpayers and force devastating consequences on public agencies and wildfire victims already struggling to rebuild their communities. The proposal relies on the false hopes that public property, infrastructure, and emergency response costs can be recovered from FEMA or insurance. Limiting public agency recovery will only shift costs to taxpayers and leave public agencies financially stranded—or even worse, bankrupt."

Public agencies and taxpayers should not be left responsible for the enormous costs of damaged infrastructure, emergency response, and community recovery when a private utility causes a wildfire.

Read our coalition letter of opposition [here](#).

Related articles:

- [Utility's idle transmission tower caused 2025 Eaton fire that killed 19, Los Angeles officials say](#)
- [Utilities threaten action if lawmakers fail to cut their wildfire liability risk](#)
- [Newsom returns to a defining California fight: Who pays for wildfire damage?](#)

San Joaquin Valley
AIR POLLUTION CONTROL DISTRICT

HEAVY-DUTY VEHICLE REPLACEMENT PROGRAM

Includes the Following:

- ✓ Funding to replace Class 6 and 7 on-road diesel and non-diesel trucks powered by combustion engine with zero-emission, all-electric trucks
- ✓ Cities and Counties
- ✓ School Districts
- ✓ Universities
- ✓ Nonprofits
- ✓ Private Organizations

Replace Diesel or Gasoline, Go Electric.

1559-230-5800 Apply Today! valleyair.org/grants

Learn more and review program requirements:
<https://tr.ee/vEoE1L>



Update your App to
[NexGen311](#)

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

sjcared@sjgov.org

ARE YOU SIGNED UP FOR SJREADY ALERTS?

Sign Up

Make a Plan Build a Kit Stay Informed

Get #FloodPrepared at SJReady.org

SJReady
Office of Emergency Services

Sign up for emergency alerts at
www.sjready.org

DISTRICT 5 IN ACTION

TRACY

- National Night Out Event
- Youth Battle of the Bands Competition
- Michis y Mochilas Pack it Forward at Tenth Street Barber Shop
- Pregnancy Resource of Tracy Check Presentation (\$11,518)
- 3rd Anniversary & Ribbon Cutting for SkinLane by Mady
- Tracy Interfaith Ministries Check Presentation (\$20,000)
- West High School Agricultural Building Grand Opening
- Tracy Community Collective Event
- La Quinta Inn & Suites by Wyndham Ribbon Cutting & Grand Opening
- Crosstown Classic Football Game - Tracy High vs West High



MOUNTAIN HOUSE

- National Night Out Event
- India Independence Day Event
- Aaria's Blue Elephant Check Presentation (\$10,702)
- MH Rotary Public Safety Officer of the Year Awards
- MH Chamber Coffee Mixer



RIPON

- National Night Out Event
- Chamber Coffee hosted by Spring Creek Golf & Country Club
- District Office Hours
- Farmers Market Event



ESCALON

- National Night Out Event
- District Office Hours
- Escalon Youth Center - 10th Anniversary
- Escalon Fun Bunch Check Presentation (\$5,079)
- Concert in the Park



COUNTYWIDE MEETINGS AND EVENTS (PARTIAL LIST)

- SJC Fire Chiefs Association Collaborator's Meeting
- Board of Supervisors Recognizes Serving Handz Youth Non-Profit of Mountain House
- Golden Valley Health Center-Stockton Healthcare Complex Grand Opening
- University of the Pacific Southwest Hall Ribbon Cutting
- San Joaquin Farm Bureau BOD Meeting
- Board of Supervisors Recognition of Stockton Metropolitan Airport Director Richard Sokol's Retirement
- Family Resource Center NEW Location Ribbon Cutting
- Second R.P.E.S.J.C. Quarterly Membership Meeting
- Knights of Care Check Presentation (\$9,379)
- Board of Supervisors Recognition of Ray McCray's Retirement from the SJCERA Retirement Board (36 yrs)
- San Joaquin Building Trades Council MC3 ARP Graduation
- SJC Historical Museum Grand Opening of Exhibit to Celebrate SIKH History in San Joaquin County
- Presentation of Ballistic Vests to San Joaquin County Sheriff's Office K-9 Unit by the Joaquin Chapter, Order of the Eastern Star
- San Joaquin Council of Governments Meet & Greet

