

THE RICKMAN REPORT

NEWS FROM DISTRICT 5

Merry Christmas from Supervisor Rickman

As we celebrate Christmas and the holiday season, I want to take a moment to say thank you to the people who make San Joaquin County such a special place to call home.

This time of year reminds us of the values that truly matter—faith, family, service, and community. Across District 5 and throughout our county, I have seen neighbors helping neighbors, volunteers stepping up for those in need, and families coming together to celebrate traditions passed down through generations. That spirit is what makes our communities strong.

Over the past year, I have continued working to keep our neighborhoods safe, support local families, strengthen infrastructure, and invest in the future of South County. None of that progress happens without the trust, engagement, and partnership of the people I am honored to serve.

As you gather with loved ones this Christmas, I hope your homes are filled with peace, gratitude, and joy. May the coming year bring health, opportunity, and continued growth for every family in San Joaquin County.

From my family to yours, Merry Christmas, Happy New Year, and God bless.

— Supervisor Robert Rickman



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**MERRY
CHRISTMAS!**



HAPPY NEW YEAR!

San Joaquin County Health Care Services Agency Shares Community Support and Resources

Given recent events impacting communities locally, nationally, and internationally, our Health Care Services Agency is providing the following support:

- **Counseling and Crisis Support:** Our Behavioral Health Department offers a 24/7 Warmline for those in need of a friendly and supportive voice. Our trauma-informed services are available for families, children, and community members affected.
- **Community Healing Events:** Behavioral Health and Public Health will be partnering with local faith organizations, nonprofits, and community-based organizations to host safe spaces for collective healing.
- **Public Resources and Information:** Public Health will provide resource information from the Office of Violence Prevention and plans to work on evidence-based community prevention activities detailed in the California Roadmap for Firearm Prevention Report

HCSA Available Resources:

- 24/7 Crisis Line: 209-468-8686
 - Walk-in: 1212 N. California Street, Stockton, CA
- Non-urgent behavioral health services: 209-468-9370
 - N. Aurora St., Stockton CA
 - 1212 N. California St., Stockton, CA
- PHS Injury & Violence Prevention: 209-468-8584
 - 1601 E. Hazelton Ave., Stockton, CA

San Joaquin County Releases Independent Review of Emergency Shelter System

I have long called for an accounting of funds spent on our county's homelessness responses and outcomes. On December 9, 2025, our Board received an independent review of the county's emergency shelters. The report looks at how many beds are available, how the shelters are run, and how well they serve people who need a safe place to stay. It gives fact-based findings to help the County improve its work to reduce homelessness and to hold itself accountable with real results. The review found that results vary depending on the type of shelter and the needs of the people staying there. It also highlights opportunities to enhance staffing, expand training, improve data quality, and enhance coordination, allowing shelters to focus more on helping people transition into stable housing. This enables the public to clearly see where progress is being made and where improvements are needed.

Key Facts and Figures: Since 2021, the County has invested more than \$56 million in emergency shelter operations, construction, and upgrades.

These investments have supported:

- **339 new shelter beds across the county**
 - Upgrades to existing shelter facilities
 - Strengthened partnerships with local service providers

The evaluation highlights system changes and needs, including:

- More non-congregate shelter beds for adults, which intentionally gives people more privacy and safety
- Continued growth of shelter options in cities across the County
- Increased demand for shelter, as more people are seeking help
- More complex client needs, including behavioral health, medical conditions, and age-related challenges

You can view the [full presentation](#) and the Board's discussion and review of the shelter review and homelessness strategy as the County continues its commitment to measurable progress.



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reporting system to report
issues such as illegal
dumping, potholes,
inoperative traffic signals.

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SJCARES

Homeless
Response Team

sjcares@sjgov.org



Visit

www.sjgov.org

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



Sign up for emergency
alerts at
www.sjready.org

LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY: MAKING YOUR VOICE HEARD

California State Association of Counties (CSAC) Annual Conference

I am proud to represent San Joaquin County on the California State Association of Counties (CSAC) Board of Directors as one of my ancillary duties. We met for this year's Annual Conference the first week of December. CSAC is a nonprofit corporation governed by its member elected county supervisors and serves as the effective advocate and unified voice of California's 58 counties. The primary purpose of CSAC is to represent county government before the California Legislature, administrative agencies, and the federal government. CSAC places a strong emphasis on educating the public about the value and need for county programs and services.

Some topics discussed at this year's conference included agriculture, wildfire resilience and response, revenue solutions for counties, veterans services, data privacy and government efficiency, county indigent care responsibilities, homelessness funding, county role and responsibilities in providing healthcare to incarcerated individuals, Proposition 36 (2024) implementation updates, water resources, public safety, and much more.

San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District

Another ancillary duty I am assigned is representing San Joaquin County on the Valley Air District Governing Board. The Air District has had significant positive impacts on our air quality that can be read about in their [Annual Report](#).

At our December meeting, we recognized Central Valley students who participated in our Healthy Air Living Kids' Calendar contest. Student artists from across the San Joaquin Valley submitted their artwork, and a number of them were selected to be featured in the 2026 edition of the [Healthy Air Living Kids' Calendar](#).

I am proud to recognize the following San Joaquin County students featured in the calendar:

- Natalia Owens, 12th grade, Stockton – Cover artist "Let's Keep Our Air Clean"
- Alexandra Diaz Chavez, 10th grade, Stockton – "Breathe Clean Air"
- Aashvi Praveen Bhimaneni, 4th grade, Tracy – "Walking and biking every day keeps air pollution away."

To request calendars, email public.education@valleyair.org or call (559) 230-6000. Calendars can also be picked up at the Modesto Office located at 4800 Enterprise Way.

Mariposa Road and Escalon-Bellota Road Specific Plan Second Community Workshop

On December 8, 2025, the County held a workshop to share draft design concepts of potential improvements to enhance traffic flow, safety, and accessibility along Mariposa Road. These concepts were developed using input gathered from a previous workshop. The public's feedback is essential to help refine the final plan and ensure it reflects community needs and priorities.

Project details may be viewed [here](#). If you have any questions or comments on the project, please reach out at MEB.plan@sjgov.org or call (209) 231-5263.

[Sign up for future project email updates here.](#)

TRACY

- SOL STRANDS and Soft Washing Grime Busters Ribbon Cutting Ceremony
- Central Valley Association of Realtors Denim & Diamonds Event
- Tracy Rural Fire District Naming Dedication of Station 95 honoring Chief Gene LeBlanc
- Downtown Tracy Holiday Parade of Lights & Tree Lighting Ceremony
- GFWC Tracy Woman's Club Holiday Dinner Fundraiser
- Wreaths Across America Ceremony at the Tracy Public Cemetery
- South San Joaquin County Fire Authority Captain Jim Haskell & Captain Eric Oliveri Retirement Ceremony
- Chabad of Tracy Jewish Center Chanukah Celebration
- Tracy Unified School District Meeting
- Hospital on Wheels Fundraiser



RIPON

- Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony hosted by Hospice of San Joaquin
- Christmas Light Parade
- Terrazza Market 5th Anniversary Ribbon Cutting Ceremony
- The Terraces at Bethany Grand Opening Ceremony



MOUNTAIN HOUSE

- Holiday Parade of Lights & Tree Lighting
- Sewa Diwali Annual Food Donation Drive Recognitions
- Bethany Playground Grand Reopening and Ribbon Cutting Ceremony
- Chanukah Celebration



ESCALON

- Tree of Lights Ceremony by Hospice of San Joaquin
- Community Garden Expansion and Unveiling hosted by Escalon Strong
- Christmas on Main and Light Parade
- Mariposa Road and Escalon-Bellota Road Specific Plan Community Workshop
- Escalon Fire District Toy Drive Distribution Event



COUNTYWIDE MEETINGS AND EVENTS (PARTIAL LIST)

- District Attorney's Family Justice Center's Open House
- San Joaquin County Fire Chiefs Association Collaborator's Meeting
- San Joaquin County Building and Construction Trades Council Holiday Luncheon
- Annual Victims' Witness Candlelight Vigil hosted by San Joaquin County District Attorney and SJC Victims Witness Unit
- Fire Department Academy 25-2 Graduation Ceremony
- San Joaquin County Agricultural Advisory Board Meeting
- San Joaquin County Housing Authority Park Center Apartments Ribbon Cutting Ceremony
- Ava Community Energy Board of Directors Meeting
- Larch Clover Community Center Basket Distribution
- Larch Clover Community Center Toy Giveaway
- Board of Supervisors Open House

