

NORTH COUNTY

News



Behavioral Health Remains Top of Mind

During the 2026 NACO Legislative Conference, County Supervisor Steve Ding and Health Care Services Director Genevieve Valentine met with top HUD Official Dr. Robert Marbut who has consulted with more communities and organizations on issues of homelessness than anyone else in the USA. He is a disruptor who understands that the status quo approaches have not been working, and there is urgent need to help communities change how they address homelessness in order to successfully reduce homelessness.

The purpose of the meeting was twofold: A request to the Administration to lift the 16 bed cap at mental health facilities and to propose a Tiny Home Pilot Project for San Joaquin County with HUD/HHS in DC, aiming to fill the gap between treatment, transitional housing, and permanent supportive housing. The proposal included a new stepping stone in the housing continuum: a stabilization transitional housing option for those moving from incarceration or behavioral health residential treatment. This model combines independent living and treatment compliance from a client health and wellbeing lens.



Supervisor Ding and Health Care Services Director Valentine meeting with key officials from the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)

Supervisor Ding and Health Care Services Director Valentine meeting with key Health and Human Services (HHS) Department Policy Advisors



Join Us

**THORNTON COMMUNITY CENTER
BASKETBALL CLINIC**

12PM

RIBBON CUTTING CEREMONY WITH
SUPERVISOR STEVEN DING



**APRIL
3
2026**

12PM-2PM



Supervisor Ding and Health Care Services Director Valentine meeting with Robin Cheung, Policy Advisor, Congressman Dan Goldman (D-NY), author of the Michelle Go Act to repeal the IMD exclusion

One Veteran Making a Difference

Supervisor Ding thanks former VA Field Examiner Bob Bentz, SJC Assessor-Recorder-County Clerk (ARCC) Steve Bestolarides, and SJC Veterans Service Officer Jose Garcia for their teamwork.



Veteran Bob Bentz suggested to ARCC Bestolarides a way to make it easier to get vital records. These records are important for veterans and their families to get or keep their VA benefits.

Veterans can now use one form to request vital records through the Veterans Service Office. This saves them time, avoids the hassle of parking, and cuts down on trips to the downtown Stockton County Administration Building. Plus, there are no fees.

“This change is just common sense,” said Supervisor Ding, who brought the item to the Board for approval. “It makes it easier for widows or dependents to get benefits, often about \$1,800 a month, showing the value of serving our country and boosting the local economy.”

[Read more here.](#)

2026 Recycle Drop-Off Events

Don't miss the opportunity to declutter your home and responsibly dispose of items that shouldn't be placed curbside at no additional cost. Events are exclusively to residents of City of Lodi and San Joaquin County.

| | | |
|-----------------|-----------------------|------------------------------|
| Mar. 07 | 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. | 1333 E Turner Rd. Lodi CA |
| *Apr. 04 | 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. | |
| Jun. 06 | 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. | |
| Sep. 05 | 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. | |

Accepted Items:

- E-waste
- Secure document shredding
- Tires (limit 2 per household)
- Mattresses (limit 2 per household)

* Special Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) and compost giveaway event

Community Clean Ups

These events will be held on Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

May 16, 2026

Woodbridge Elementary School
1290 Lilac Street, Woodbridge

May 30, 2026

Linden High School
18527 E. Front St., Linden
Parking lot of Performing Arts Center

June 6, 2026

Thornton Community Hall
26590 N. Sacramento Blvd, Thornton

June 20, 2026

Harvest Bible Church
10088 N HWY 99, Stockton

July 25, 2026

Lockeford Community Center
19258 N. Jack Tone Rd, Lockeford

Accepted: appliances, furniture, mattresses, bagged trash, bundled yard waste, electronics, up to 9 tires

NOT Accepted: stumps, commercial/hazardous waste.

No U-Hauls or commercial vehicles allowed

For more information call
209-468-3141

Thank you to the Community Development Department, the Department of Public Works, On-site Recycling, Inc., the San Joaquin County Sheriff's Office, and the Great Valley Conservation Corps for making this event possible.

Supervisor Ding Leads Board Effort to Support A Practical Path to Protect California's Water

The San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors has voted to support SB 872, following a recommendation brought forward by District Four Supervisor Steven J. Ding. SB 872, authored by State Senator Jerry McNerney, takes a direct, common-sense approach to strengthening California's existing water infrastructure by dedicating \$300 million annually over 20 years for critical Delta levee repairs and improvements to existing State Water Project canals south of the Delta. The legislation invests equally in protecting communities in the Sacramento San Joaquin Delta and in stabilizing canals that deliver water to millions of Californians.

"The Delta is not just a regional issue, it is the heart of California's water system," said Supervisor Ding. "For too long, we have allowed the conversation to be framed as North versus South. This bill focuses on something every Californian should agree on, protecting what we already have, fixing what is failing, and doing it before costs spiral further out of control."

[Full story](#)

Acampo Drainage Study

The winter of 2023 highlighted flooding issues in Acampo due to local drainage. Staff sought funding for engineering evaluations and drainage improvements, including retention basins to mitigate flood risk and enhance recharge. They successfully secured \$2.25 million through congressional earmarks for engineering work and project initiation. A DWR funding agreement was approved in December 2024, leading to a solicitation for a consultant to develop project plans and specifications, with a contract awarded on October 7, 2025. Community outreach meetings are anticipated to share ideas and gather feedback.



Critical Resources

24/7 Mental Health Crisis Phone Line
209-468-8686

24/7 Peer Support Warmline
209-468-3585

Suicide Hotline
1-800-SUICIDE
(784-2433)

Institute for Aging Friendship Line
1-800-971-0016

Veterans' Crisis Line
1-800-273-8255

Local Resources
211

SJREADY
Sign up for emergency alerts at www.sjready.org





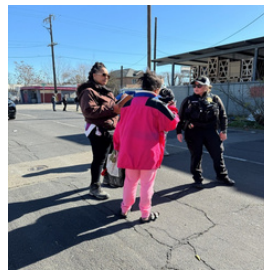
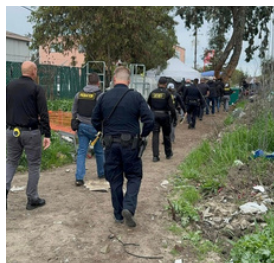
SJCARES Homeless Team Update

Measurable Impact (Since inception – July 2024)

- 6,862 total outreach contacts
- 822 unique individuals engaged
- 261 active clients currently receiving support
- 722 individuals linked to services
- 123 temporarily housed
- 34 permanently housed (28% of those housed)

San Joaquin County Probation launched SJ CARES (San Joaquin Community Assessment Response and Engagement Services) to connect outreach efforts with housing and health systems through a multidisciplinary team. They focus on proactive outreach in high-need areas to build trust and ensure stabilization.

To enhance effectiveness, the County introduced SHINE (Supporting Homeless to Interact, Navigate and Engage), a platform for real-time coordination that provides officers with instant access to outreach history and service referrals. This combination improves service linkage, increases housing placements, enhances safety, and creates a scalable model for reducing unsheltered homelessness.



MAC Meetings

Thornton MAC - 1st Wed. 6:30pm –
Thornton Community Center
Contact: Lisa Swinyard
lisa@swinyard@yahoo.com

Morada MAC - 1st Thurs. 5:30pm –
Waterloo-Morada Fire District
(January, March, May, July,
September, November)
Contact: Gavin Cline
gcline@sjgov.org

Linden MAC - 3rd Wed. 7pm
(January, March, May, July,
September, November)
Contact: Nicole Goehring
ngoehring@sjgov.org

Lockeford MAC - 3rd Thurs. 7pm –
Lockeford Community Center
Contact: Patti Stetson
plstetson@sbcglobal.net

Woodbridge MAC - 4th Thurs.
6:30pm – Woodbridge Fire Dept.
Contact: Priscilla Stringer
priscillastringer@gmail.com



San Joaquin County Receives \$38.2 Million from State of California to Expand Behavioral Health Treatment Capacity

San Joaquin County has been awarded \$38,230,841 in Bond Behavioral Health Continuum Infrastructure Program (BHCIP) Round 2: Unmet Needs funding from the State of California, enabling major new expansion of Phase 2 of the County's SJ BeWell Campus. Phase 1 is underway and scheduled to be open in July of 2027.

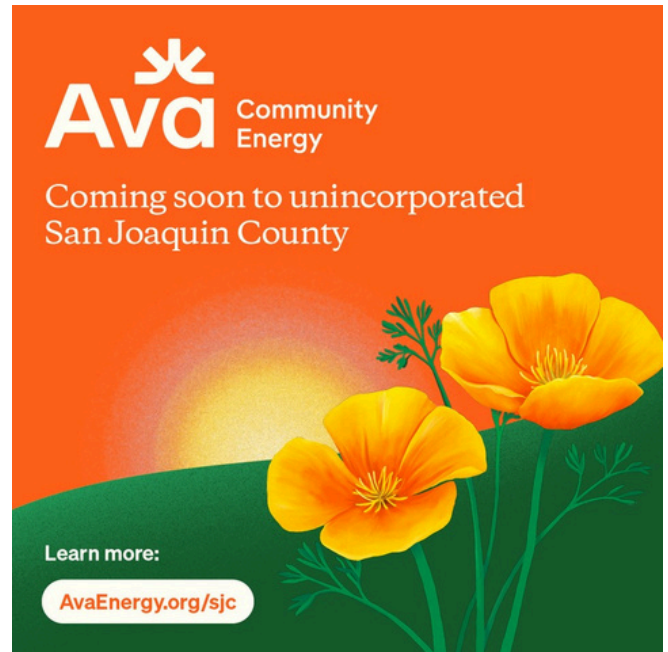
[Full story](#)

Ava Community Offers Lower Prices to County Customers

In 2024, the San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors unanimously decided to join Ava Community Energy, a not-for-profit electricity provider, offering residents a choice in electricity sources.

Since its 2018 launch, Ava has saved over 1.7 million customers more than \$180 million. It currently serves Tracy, Stockton, Lathrop, and most of Alameda County, with plans to expand to unincorporated San Joaquin County in May 2026. Customers will be enrolled in Ava's Bright Choice plan, which is 0.5% cheaper than PG&E and offers more renewable energy. Savings accumulate as excess revenue is reinvested in the community.

Solar customer enrollment will occur from June 2026 to April 2027, with automatic opt-out options. Notices will be sent to residents starting March 2026. For more details, visit AvaEnergy.org/sjc.





Contact Information

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On Facebook and Instagram
Supervisor Steve Ding

