

Board Update

BY SUPERVISOR STEVE DING, FOURTH DISTRICT

In the last month, the Board of Supervisors has been representing the residents of San Joaquin County at the state and federal government level. Counties are unique among government, as we often do the work of the state or feds on the local level. In many cases, if you are going to receive a state or federal benefit, your interaction is actually with a County employee. So, it is important that we advocate for our community on those larger stages. This month Board members took the opportunity to do that important work. In Sacramento, we visited with our state legislators and heard from state legislative leaders on the impending State budget crisis. We have seen in the past that when revenues go down at the State level, they often turn to the counties, as the service providers, to make up the difference. If this happens again, we want to minimize impacts to local residents and services. The Board also visited with federal legislators and agencies in Washington, DC this month. Many of the projects that we need in our local area will be funded through transportation and infrastructure bills passed in DC. We spent time there explaining to the folks, some of whom are not from our area, the importance of these projects to our local residents, businesses and economy. (Continued on page 2)

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News of Note

- Board Addresses Disparity in Trash Charges in County Pockets
 Within the City of Stockton, Moves Forward with SB 1383
 Compliance Countywide
- <u>County Offers New Modernized Permitting Services for Local Residents and Businesses</u>

Board Update (continued)

Basic services like public safety and infrastructure like safe road and waterways form the backbone of our relationship with the federal government, and we want to ensure that they know what we need and the impacts these improvements and maintenance will have on the lives of our residents. Finally, we have such great news to celebrate this month – after almost twenty years and countless hours of advocacy by this Board and our local veterans, we were able to attend the grand opening of the Richard A. Pittman VA Clinic in French Camp. I want to encourage you to read about the event and the years of work that led up to it. We want to thank our local veterans for their tireless efforts to get our local heroes the local care they need and deserve.



Chairman's Initiative - District 3

At our April meeting, Supervisor Tom Patti recognized the Sheriff's Department Foundation as part of the Chairman's nonprofit initiative for the year. The San Joaquin County Sheriff's Foundation assists the Sheriff for materials and equipment to support education and public safety efforts for the people of San Joaquin County.





VA Northern California Health Care System cordially invites you to the

Richard A. Pittman
VA Clinic Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

Thursday, April 25, 2024, at 10 AM



Richard A. Pittman VA Clinic Opening

In a day that has been decades in the making, on Thursday, April 25th, the San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors joined more than 1,000 local residents to celebrate the opening of the Richard A. Pittman VA Clinic in French Camp. The clinic is the first phase of a VA campus in our community that will include residential treatment and specialty care. This day would not have been possible without the strong and consistent support of the Board of Supervisors and the diligent and steady work of County staff who worked alongside federal partners at the VA to ensure that the voices of our local veterans were heard and heeded.



Beginning in 2003, when the VA announced a realignment of care for veterans in Northern California, the Board has worked with local veterans to understand their needs and help communicate those needs and desires to the VA staff and leadership. This included surveying local veterans to see where they would like a local facility to be located, presentations and testimony at the CARES hearings, local advocacy, and working with federal agencies to ensure that the property could be purchased and used as desired.

The Board Chairman, Miguel Villapudua, issued the following statement after the grand opening:

"On behalf of the entire San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors, I want to say thank you to the veterans of our community, who have tirelessly advocated for this facility over the past twenty years; we have been a proud partner with you and consider it an honor to have stood behind you in relentless pursuit of this goal. With approximately 32,000 veterans in San Joaquin County, with many more in surrounding areas, French Camp is an ideal location of this new clinic, which will allow our veterans, who have honorably and nobly served our nation, to be treated close to home."

Veterans like Tino Adame, Cary Martin, and Medal of Honor Recipient, Master Sergeant Richard Pittman took their oaths and their commitment to our nation seriously, and they continued to serve their fellow veterans and our community over the past two decades to hold the VA accountable in providing quality, local care. Our community and our nation remain in their debt, and I want to honor them especially today.

Finally, I want to say thank you to the former elected officials, County Supervisors, and staff who laid the groundwork for today's accomplishment in quiet dedication to their work, we hope this is just the start of better care for our veterans, throughout the Valley and Foothills."

VIETNAM VETERAN

VA Clinic (continued)

The Board's continuous goal throughout this process has been simple; we need local care for local heroes. No veteran's access to the care should be hampered by location. They have earned and deserve these benefits. We will continue to fight for the build out of the VA residential care facility to allow our local veterans access to rehabilitation and nursing home care in our local community, where they are surrounded by loved ones.

A partial timeline of County advocacy includes:

2003 - Supervisor Ornellas, SJC County Officials, and Veterans testify at C.A.R.E.S. hearing in Livermore.

2004 – VA approves Livermore for Realignment.

2005 - San Joaquin County submits proposal to VA offering property on the San Joaquin General Hospital Campus in French Camp.

2005 - SJC Board of Supervisors sought local, state, and federal support for the County's proposal.

2006/2007 - San Joaquin County's proposal including in SJCOG's One Voice trip to D.C., where County officials advocated for the CBOC to be built in French Camp.

2007 - County officials met with newly elected Rep. McNerney to brief him on the County's proposal.

2007 – VA Secretary approves CLC in the Central Valley.

2009 – VA Secretary approves CLC in San Joaquin County.

2010 – \$55 million approved by Congress to purchase 9-acres (Fremont) and 32 acres (French Camp)

2011 – French Camp Site is selected for new Central Valley CBOC/CLC.

2012 – Schematic design was completed by architect.

2015 – Design Development completed FFY 2015.

2015 – President's budget request/FY16 Omnibus Appropriations bill.

Spring 2017 – Transition of AE Contract to USACE/Acceptance memo signed.

Summer 2017 – Construction Documents (CD) (95% design)

incorporates 500-year floodplain mitigation

Fall 2017 – CD (100% design) anticipated (formerly 2016).

Spring 2018 – Advertise Date & Bid opening.

Winter 2018 – Construction Award/Ground-breaking (formerly 2017).

Spring 2024 – Richard A. Pittman VA Clinic Grand Opening (formerly 2020-21).







OneVoice 2024

Members of the San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors joined partners from the San Joaquin County Council of Governments (SJCOG) and our local cities last week for the annual OneVoice trip to Washington, DC. During this time, the Board members met with federal elected officials and numerous federal agencies to advocate for our fair share of resources, allocations, and grants. These meetings took place over several days in the nation's capital and included requests for more than \$196 million in funding for local priority projects.

Board Chairman Miguel Villapudua, in reflecting on the trip, commented, "I am proud to have been a part of this visit to advocate on behalf of San Joaquin County residents and get the vital information needed to move our projects forward in a timely fashion. I want to thank SJCOG and all of our city representatives for the cooperation and collaboration on this trip and these important improvement projects for our community. We are stronger advocates when we work together and speak with one voice."

Projects included the County's top priority project of the Grant Line Road Corridor Improvement. This project is critical to improving air quality and congestion, improving safety, and improving the quality of life for residents of Banta. The delegation also asked for funding for the State Route 99/120 Connector project to improve safety and traffic flow on this important corridor in the County.

"As we have seen unprecedented growth in south county, many of our top priorities for the county are centered in that area," commented Supervisor Robert Rickman, who represents the Fifth District. "The Board is committed to securing resources for these improvements to ensure accessibility, improve traffic patterns and safety along these corridors. Public safety and infrastructure are two essential local government services. Thanks to Measure K tax revenue and development fees, we can provide local revenue to match state and federal funds to complete projects that impact our communities and quality of life."







OneVoice 2024 - Part 2

In addition to the legislative meetings with funding requests, the Board members met with organizations like the Department of Transportation to explain local plans for the Stockton Airport and detail local investments that can trigger additional federal resources for economic development in our local region.

"Our improvements at the Stockton Airport shows the federal government that we are committed to investing resources into this vital transportation hub to provide area residents with an easy and inexpensive way to get to larger airports. Now we can tap additional federal resources to continue projects and make this a vital transportation hub and economic engine for Stockton and San Joaquin County," commented Supervisor Tom Patti.

Board members also met with staff at the Department of Housing and Urban Development to work on solutions to the problem of homelessness that impacts cities throughout the County. Information on HUD grants and priorities allow local staff and elected officials to best align our plans with federal goals to get the maximum amount of help from our federal partners.

Projects like the Lodi Energy Center Hydrogen Conversion Project supports California's goals to reduce carbon emissions while providing clean energy and jobs for our local communities. This project will provide hydrogen to local and regional fuel fleets, railroad and heavyduty transportation fueling stations and support similar decarbonization efforts at the Port of Oakland.

"I am proud that one of the two Hydrogen Conversion Projects for all of California will be located here in San Joaquin County," commented Supervisor Ding. "The City of Lodi, the County and our federal officials recognize the importance of clean energy, and we are proud to bring these innovative projects and the jobs that come with them to our local community."







OneVoice 2024 - Part 3

Supervisors Patti and Ding were able to meet with the Army Corps of Engineers and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to advocate for common sense water solutions for all Californians in their roles as the County's representatives of the Delta Counties Coalition. They stressed the importance of the Delta to our economy, our community, and our region.

While in DC, the Board members also remembered and paid tribute to San Joaquin K9 Duke, who was killed in the line of duty in February 2023. K9 Duke was recognized by Deputy Stewart and 25 others who were there to honor Duke's service and sacrifice. The recognition was held at the National Peace Officers Memorial in DC.

"As a Board, we were thankful for the opportunity to support our sheriff's deputies as they honored and remembered Duke. The men and women of our local law enforcement agencies make sacrifices that few of us can imagine, and we were proud to stand in solidarity with them as they remembered their friend and K9, Duke," commented Supervisor Paul Canepa.

The delegation was greeted warmly at each of our federal offices. Each member of Congress thanked the Board and city and local leaders for their willingness to work together to accomplish regional goals. Large infrastructure projects, issues like homelessness, water conservation, and economic development, have to be regional goals with regional solutions. #onevoice2024







Community Close Un Events

Community Clean-Up Events

The Board of Supervisors is proud to partner with the Community Development Department (CDD) to offer community clean-up events. Event times have been updated to 9:00 am to 1:00 pm, based on vendor availability. Free pick-up is available for seniors and veterans; arrangements must be made in advance of the event. For more information, contact Code Enforcement at 209-468-3141.

These events allow County residents the opportunity to dispose of unwanted household waste in their local area at no-cost.

Remember, this is also an opportunity to get rid of e-waste like computers, monitors, televisions and old phones. We have collected more than 5,900 lbs. of e-waste at our first three events.

Municipal Advisory Council Meetings

Lockeford MAC

May 16, 2024 7:00 pm Lockeford Community Center 19258 N Jack Tone Rd, Lockeford

Woodbridge MAC

May 23, 2024 6:30 pm Woodbridge Fire Department 400 E Augusta St, Woodbridge

Thornton MAC

June 5, 2024 6:30 pm Thornton Community Center 26675 N Sacramento Blvd, Thornton

Morada MAC

June 6, 2024 6:30 pm Waterloo-Morada Fire District 6925 Foppiano Ln, Stockton

Linden MAC

July 17, 2024 7:00 pm Linden-Peters Fire Dept. 17725 E. Highway 26<u>, Linden</u>

Upcoming Dates

Woodbridge: May 18, 2024 Morada: June 1, 2024 Country Club: June 15, 2024 Lockeford: June 29, 2024 Garden Acres: July 13, 2024 Gianone Park: July 27, 2024 Kennedy: August 3, 2024 Taft: August 17, 2024

Free Pick-Up for seniors and veterans - call 209-468-3141 to schedule in advance of event.



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