



VOL. 2 ISSUE 3

# COUNTY CROSSROADS

Official Newsletter of  
the San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors

## A View from the Dais

CHAIR PAUL CANEPA, DISTRICT TWO

As Chair of the Board this year, I've adopted a practice of condensing our complex work and recognitions into a few defining words—a way to make our overwhelming tasks more manageable and meaningful.

This month, I had the honor of recognizing the North Stockton Mercy Peddlers. For two years, this extraordinary team has been a beacon of hope for our unsheltered community. By providing essentials, clothing, and serving over 12,000 meals—45-60 lunches three days a week—they embody two powerful words: kindness and service.

Our celebration of San Joaquin County's 175 Years of Growing Greatness with the City of Stockton was particularly meaningful. As we travel to each city this year, we'll honor our rich history while looking forward to an even brighter future.

These moments remind me that our work is about more than policy—it's about people, connection, and continuous growth.

## This issue:

NEWS OF NOTE

Page 02

MARCH - RED CROSS MONTH

Page 02

HOMELESSNESS IN SAN JOAQUIN  
COUNTY

Page 03

SUPPORT YOUTH PROGRAMS

Page 04

SOUTH COUNTY PARK UPDATE

Page 05

175TH ANNIVERSARY

Page 06

CONTACT INFORMATION

Page 07

Board of Supervisors  
44 North San Joaquin Street  
Sixth Floor, Suite 627  
Stockton, CA 95202  
Phone: (209) 468-3113  
[allboardmembers@sjgov.org](mailto:allboardmembers@sjgov.org)



## News of Note

- [San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors Approves New Cold Case Task Force](#)
- [Board of Supervisors Appoints Genevieve Valentine to Lead Health Care Services](#)
- [Board Approves Additional Staffing for Community Development Department](#)
- [Supervisors Mario Gardea and Steve Ding Secure District Funds to Provide Transportation for AgVenture Students](#)
- [Board Supports Veterans and Public Safety with Stimulus Interest Funding](#)
- [ZeroAvia Commences Liquid Hydrogen R&D Activity at Stockton Metropolitan Airport to Advance Clean Energy Innovation in Aviation](#)
- [Board Approves Three-Year Nursing Contract](#)

## March is Red Cross Month

The San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors proudly proclaimed March 2025 as American Red Cross Month to recognize the compassionate work of the Red Cross and the incredible volunteers who make a difference in times of crisis. From disaster relief and life-saving blood donations to supporting military families and offering first aid courses, the Red Cross plays a vital role in our community.

As part of our support, the Board of Supervisors hosts local blood drives regularly to encourage employees who are eligible to donate. In the last year, County employees at these drives have donated enough blood to help over 200 people in need.

We encourage everyone who can to donate blood or volunteer with a local Red Cross office to continue supporting this important cause.







## Homelessness in San Joaquin County

### A Critical Problem that Needs a Comprehensive Solution

The San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors is taking meaningful action to address homelessness with a thoughtful and comprehensive strategy. We have developed an approach that goes beyond simply moving people off the streets, focusing instead on helping individuals rebuild their lives and find stability.

The Board's strategy begins with the SJCares Team, which ensures different departments work together more effectively. This collaborative approach allows for more targeted and supportive interventions for people experiencing homelessness.

A key part of the plan involves significantly increasing shelter capacity by doubling the number of available beds in local cities. The Board is also considering safe camping areas that provide temporary accommodations, giving individuals a stable and safe environment while working towards permanent housing.

We recognize the deep connection between homelessness and mental health challenges, so the Board is developing a comprehensive behavioral health campus. This facility will offer critical services to help vulnerable residents address underlying issues that contribute to housing instability.

The approach extends beyond government action. The Board is actively partnering with local non-profit organizations, the Sheriff's department, and community groups to create a supportive network. These collaborations ensure a more holistic and effective response to homelessness.

By balancing compassionate intervention with practical solutions, San Joaquin County is demonstrating a commitment to understanding and addressing the complex challenges of homelessness. The strategy aims to provide genuine opportunities for individuals to stabilize their lives with dignity and hope.

#### Key efforts include:

- Doubling shelter capacity across local cities
- Updating no camping ordinances
- Creating safe camping zones
- Developing a behavioral health campus near French Camp
- Comprehensive Support

#### A behavioral health campus with:

- Mental health treatment
- Substance abuse services
- Residential and outpatient care
- Short-term supportive housing
- Community Partnerships

#### The Board is collaborating with:

- St. Mary's emergency shelter
- Pathways Project
- CalTrans
- Local cities
- Continuum of Care
- Citizens United Against Decay





## Initiatives to Support Youth Programs

### Safe Routes to Schools Sidewalk

San Joaquin County leaders want money from Congress to build better sidewalks and crosswalks around four schools in Stockton. The project will fill in missing sidewalk sections and add safety features like flashing lights. This will make it safer for kids to walk or bike to school and help connect neighborhoods to important places like parks, jobs, and healthcare.

By making these improvements, the initiative seeks to increase student safety, encourage walking and bicycling, and develop more connected, vibrant communities with better access to essential destinations.

### Stockton Youth Workforce

San Joaquin County is supporting the Stockton YESS (Youth Employment Summer Success) program, which provides 100 young people aged 16-19 with a six-week summer employment opportunity. Participants earn \$23 per hour for up to 30 hours weekly and receive professional development training in areas like resume writing, interview skills, and financial literacy.

The program aims to offer first-time job experiences that build confidence, develop transferable skills, and promote civic engagement among local youth.



## Events for the Youth:

Delta College Public Policy Forum  
San Joaquin County WorkNet  
Youth Job Fair  
Sundown Little League

Chair Canepa expressed appreciation for local leadership and commitment to the future of Stockton's youth. These programs help strengthen families, neighborhoods, and the local economy. The County commends the City of Stockton for prioritizing youth employment and urges continued support for programs that provide more opportunities for young people.







## Progress Continues on South County Regional Park

San Joaquin County is making steady progress on the highly anticipated South County Regional Park, a 100-acre recreational and environmental space just outside the City of Tracy. Envisioned as a vibrant destination for nature, wellness, and community connection, the project aims to enhance regional quality of life through a blend of active recreation, environmental conservation, and educational opportunities.

Following the County Board of Supervisors' approval of the conceptual design in early 2024, the project is now advancing toward its next major milestone—Phase 2: Feasibility and Environmental Review, scheduled for January 2026. This phase will include public outreach, site studies, and environmental assessments.

The park will feature trails, bike paths, a BMX track, nature observation areas, picnic sites, an amphitheater, and a community garden, among other amenities. With sustainability in mind, it will incorporate energy-efficient infrastructure and eco-friendly landscaping.

The estimated \$65 million project is projected to open to the public in early 2029. San Joaquin County continues to engage local residents, environmental groups, and community organizations to ensure the park reflects shared values and priorities.

Public input remains a vital part of the planning process. Community members are encouraged to participate in upcoming engagement events, including the Stockton Earth Day at Victory Park on April 27.

For more information or to stay involved, visit the County's official website at <https://www.sjparks.com> or attend an upcoming event.



### Where to Find Out More:

- Sunday April 27th – Stockton Earth Day – Victory Park
- October 2025 - State of the County - Stockton





## 175th Anniversary Update: Celebration in Stockton

### Stockton Celebrates 175 Years: A Legacy of Growth and Community

On Tuesday, March 18th, the City of Stockton and San Joaquin County marked a significant milestone—the first of eight planned celebrations commemorating the region's rich history. This inaugural event kicked off a series of celebrations designed to build civic pride and encourage residents to connect more deeply with their local heritage.

### A City Built on Resilience and Innovation

Founded in 1849 by Captain Charles Weber, Stockton emerged from a humble "Tent City" during the California Gold Rush to become a pivotal hub of innovation and diversity. Uniquely, Stockton holds the distinction of being the first city in California with a name neither Spanish nor Native American, instead honoring Commodore Robert F. Stockton, a key figure in securing California for the United States.

The city's early years were defined by hardworking pioneers who transformed the landscape into California's agricultural powerhouse. By the late 1800s, local innovators like the Holt Manufacturing Company were revolutionizing farming, introducing the Stockton Gang Plow and the first gasoline-powered tractor in 1906. The Port of Stockton, established in 1933 as California's first inland seaport, further cemented the city's importance in trade and industry.

### A Diverse and Dynamic Community

Stockton has always been a city of builders. From its early Chinese, Mexican, Japanese, and Filipino communities to the establishment of the University of the Pacific in 1924, the city has continuously shaped generations of leaders. The population has grown dramatically—from 3,679 residents in 1860 to approximately 320,000 today—reflecting its ongoing evolution and appeal.

Throughout its history, Stockton has played crucial roles in national efforts, from supporting wartime production during World War II to developing critical infrastructure like its airport, which began as the 68th Air Base Group during the war.

### Looking Forward with Optimism

Stockton remains a city of opportunity and promise. As more families seek an affordable, high-quality life, the community continues to embrace innovation and welcome new neighbors. The ongoing celebration of its 175-year history is not just about looking back, but about committing to future growth.

Stockton remains a city of pioneers, dreamers, and doers—growing greatness, together.





## Board Contact Information

Phone: (209) 468-3113

Email: [allboardmembers@sjgov.org](mailto:allboardmembers@sjgov.org)



District One

Supervisor Mario Gardea

[dist1@sjgov.org](mailto:dist1@sjgov.org)

Chief of Staff: Michael Anderson

Aide: Edith Villapudua



Chair, District Two

Supervisor Paul Canepa

[dist2@sjgov.org](mailto:dist2@sjgov.org)

Chief of Staff: Gina Calder

Aide: Nancy Muniz



Vice Chair, District Three

Supervisor Sonny Dhaliwal

[dist3@sjgov.org](mailto:dist3@sjgov.org)

Chief of Staff:

Angel Sepulveda

Aide: Beckett Kelly



District Four

Supervisor Steve Ding

[dist4@sjgov.org](mailto:dist4@sjgov.org)

Chief of Staff:

Nicole Goehring

Aide: Gavin Cline



District Five

Supervisor Robert Rickman

[dist5@sjgov.org](mailto:dist5@sjgov.org)

Chief of Staff:

Scott Tyrrell

Aide: Maria Valenzuela

Clerk of the Board

Rachel DeBord

[rdebord@sjgov.org](mailto:rdebord@sjgov.org)

Public Information Officer

Katie Albertson

[kalbertson@sjgov.org](mailto:kalbertson@sjgov.org)

The San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors is on Instagram, Facebook and Threads. Stay connected to upcoming events, news and updates from the Board.

Facebook: [San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors](https://www.facebook.com/SanJoaquinCountyBoardofSupervisors)

Instagram: [@sjc\\_supervisors](https://www.instagram.com/sjc_supervisors)

Threads: [@sjc\\_supervisors](https://www.threads.net/@sjc_supervisors)

YouTube:

[@SanJoaquinCountyCA](https://www.youtube.com/@SanJoaquinCountyCA)

