



VOL. 2 ISSUE 4

# COUNTY CROSSROADS

Official Newsletter of  
the San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors

## A View from the Dais

CHAIR PAUL CANEPA, DISTRICT TWO

In today's divided political climate, I'm proud to serve on a cooperative, non-partisan Board of Supervisors focused on delivering real results for San Joaquin County. Local government is where the impact is felt most — from the roads we drive on to the deputies who respond in emergencies.

Whether it's helping families access food assistance, supporting those facing mental health challenges, or ensuring safe business practices, our 28 County departments work every day to serve you. We're also the gateway to vital state and federal services, helping residents navigate complex systems with care and efficiency.

The power of local government lies with you — the people. Your voice matters here more than anywhere else. That's why I strongly support efforts to engage voters and encourage civic participation. Keep an eye out for opportunities where you can give back to the community on our various boards, commissions, and committees.

Stay informed. Get involved. We're here to serve.

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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

- [Behavioral Health Services to Receive \\$137 Million State Grant](#)
- [New Whistleblower Hotline Announced for San Joaquin County](#)
- [San Joaquin County Unveils 175th Anniversary Commemorative Seal](#)
- [San Joaquin County Awarded \\$6 Million For Farmworker Jobs Program](#)
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- [San Joaquin County Requests Nearly \\$27 million in Funding from Federal Lawmakers](#)

## San Joaquin County Recognizes April as Donate Life Month

The San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors proudly proclaimed April as Donate Life Month, joining communities across the nation in honoring the lifesaving impact of organ, eye, and tissue donation. Donate Life Month is a time to recognize the generosity of donors and the hope they bring to thousands of individuals waiting for a second chance at life. By choosing to register as a donor, one person can save up to eight lives and heal many more through tissue and cornea donation.

The County encourages all residents to consider the powerful difference they can make by registering as organ, eye, and tissue donors.

Be a hero—register today at [RegisterMe.org](https://www.registerme.org).

Together, we can save lives and offer renewed hope to countless families.







## Safe Camping: A Smarter, More Compassionate Path Forward

San Joaquin County is exploring a Safe Camping proposal that would turn a portion of the former Oakmoore Golf Course into a structured, service-supported site for unsheltered residents. Modeled after Placer County's success, the site would provide a clean, secure space with rules, basic services, and access to care—offering a safer alternative to growing street encampments. While not a permanent solution, Safe Camping is a critical first step on the path to stability, treatment, and housing.

### Local Leadership, State Alignment

The state's new "model ordinance" for unhoused communities calls on cities and counties to address homeless encampments. San Joaquin County is already on that path:

- Shelter First: We've doubled local shelter capacity using County funds—offering real options before enforcement.
- Respectful Enforcement: Safe Camping will offer structure and services, creating stability and accountability.
- Integrated Services: Programs like the BeWell Campus connect people to mental health, addiction treatment, and housing.
- Strong Partnerships: We coordinate with CalTrans, CHP, Union Pacific, and nonprofits to create a united response.

### Leading Beyond the Model

San Joaquin County goes further:

- SJCARES, led by Probation, builds relationships and accountability to promote positive outcomes.
- Technological Tools track available shelter beds in real time, improving outreach and response.
- Emergency Funds from opioid settlements help keep shelters open and serving the most vulnerable.
- Strategic Enforcement now sits within Human Services to ensure compassion and consistency.

San Joaquin County is not waiting to be told what to do—we are leading. Safe Camping is a realistic, responsible step toward restoring public spaces, protecting our most vulnerable residents, and building a stronger path to housing and recovery.

## Why Safe Camping Matters

- Cleaner Communities – Safe camping helps reduce street camping and keeps parks and public spaces clean and accessible for everyone.
- Support for Pets and Partners – It lets people stay with their loved ones, including pets, while they work toward stability and housing.
- A First Step Forward – Safe camping offers structure, services, and a path toward recovery, shelter, and permanent housing.





# Be Well Campus Hits Major Milestones: A New Era of Mental Health Care for San Joaquin County

San Joaquin County is taking bold action to transform the future of behavioral health—and this month, the vision behind the Be Well Campus took two major leaps forward.

## A First-of-Its-Kind Facility

In April, the Board of Supervisors unanimously approved a \$261.8 million budget to launch the project’s first phase and awarded a design agreement to Herrero-McGuire Hester Joint Venture. Just weeks later, the County received a \$137 million grant from the State’s Behavioral Health Continuum Infrastructure Program—one of the largest single investments in County behavioral health infrastructure to date.

Together, these milestones mark the official beginning of a project that will bring comprehensive mental health and substance use treatment services together under one roof.

“This isn’t just about building a facility—it’s about building a system of care,” said Board Chair Paul Canepa. “The Be Well Campus will help us meet the mental health and substance use needs of our residents, reduce homelessness, and create pathways to long-term recovery—all here in our community.”

Located on 23 acres of County-owned land in French Camp near San Joaquin General Hospital, the Be Well Campus will serve as a regional hub for crisis care, detox and sobriety services, youth and family outpatient support, and residential mental health treatment. When complete, it will offer 172 beds dedicated to psychiatric and substance use disorder care—many of them the first of their kind in the San Joaquin Valley.

*An artist’s rendering of the BeWell Campus and the campus master plan*







## Be Well Campus Hits Major Milestones: A New Era of Mental Health Care for San Joaquin County (continued)

Supervisor Sonny Dhaliwal emphasized the importance of keeping care close to home:

“When a young person experiences a mental health crisis, families shouldn’t have to drive hours to find help. Be Well means help is right here—in our community—when it’s needed most.”

### Securing the Funding—and the Future

The Be Well Campus is being funded through a mix of local, State, Federal, and private contributions, including National Opioid Settlement dollars, Proposition 1 funds, and allocations secured by the late Senator Dianne Feinstein. With the State’s recent grant, the County has now secured over \$200 million of the total project cost, with additional funding in the pipeline.

Supervisor Robert Rickman credited years of planning and responsible budgeting:

“Because of strong financial stewardship, we’re able to bring in major outside funding without burdening local taxpayers. This is the result of teamwork and long-term vision.”

### What’s Next

Construction is expected to begin in late 2025, following environmental review and permitting. The first phase is scheduled for completion by mid-2027. A public groundbreaking ceremony will be held later this year.

As Supervisor Steve Ding put it:

“This project means real care, close to home—for Lodi, for Stockton, for the entire County. We’re not just talking about change—we’re building it.”

The Be Well Campus represents a commitment to compassion, coordination, and community. San Joaquin County is proud to lead the way.

# CALL 988 IN CRISIS SITUATIONS

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209-468-8686

24/7 CONSUMER WARMLINE  
209-468-3585

FRIENDSHIP LINE (ELDERLY)  
1-800-971-0016

VETERANS’ CRISIS LINE  
1-800-273-8255

SUICIDE HOTLINE  
1-800-SUICIDE(784-2433)



## 175th Anniversary Update: Celebration in Lodi and Tracy

San Joaquin County's 175th Anniversary celebrations continued this month with two joyful events in partnership with the cities of Lodi and Tracy—communities that reflect the rich history and promising future of our region. At both events, County leaders joined with city officials, community members, and local partners to honor a legacy of growth and a shared vision for progress.

In Lodi, the celebration highlighted the city's evolution from a frontier settlement to a thriving agricultural and economic hub. With deep roots in farming and winemaking, Lodi's success has been built through decades of partnership, innovation, and perseverance. Leaders reflected on historic milestones—from the arrival of the railroad in 1869 to today's investments in infrastructure and local industry—that have shaped the city's identity and future.

In Tracy, celebration attendees reflected on the city's remarkable journey—from its beginnings as a vital stop along the Central Pacific Railroad to its role today as one of the fastest-growing and most forward-looking cities in San Joaquin County. Tracy's success is rooted in a deep sense of civic pride, strong community values, and a shared vision for the future. This milestone is more than a historical marker—it's a testament to the people, partnerships, and perseverance that continue to shape a brighter, stronger future for us all.

These events in Lodi and Tracy mark the second and third of eight planned celebrations taking place across the county in 2025. Each event is an opportunity to unite our communities, reflect on 175 years of history, and recommit to building a more connected, innovative, and inclusive future. Our next event will be in Manteca on Tuesday, June 3<sup>rd</sup> at 5:00 pm.

The theme for this year's celebration—175 Years of Growing Greatness—reminds us that the work of past generations has laid the foundation for tomorrow's success.







## 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)

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