



**SAN JOAQUIN**  
— COUNTY —  
*Greatness grows here.*

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**Board of Supervisors Acts to  
Protect Livestock During Natural Disasters**

**Stockton, CA** – On Tuesday, October 10, 2023, the San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors voted to allow the Office of Emergency Services (OES) to partner with a Northern California non-profit, Hold Your Horses (HYH), to provide critical support during natural disasters and emergencies in San Joaquin County. Specifically, this agreement protects local livestock by allowing HYH's volunteers and staff to care for animals at the San Joaquin County Fairgrounds if the Animal Services shelter should become full.

“Our county suffered catastrophic flooding in 2023, but this Board is determined to take the lessons from that flooding and prepare for future emergencies to best provide care for and protect the people and property in San Joaquin County,” commented Board Chairman Robert Rickman. “This is about taking that experience and improving our response for the next catastrophe.”

To provide the best possible care for animals in an already stressful evacuation scenario, staff, and volunteers from HYH will reinforce and support the county workers from the Animal Services division. HYH can be authorized to evacuate livestock and provide food, water, and reports on the welfare of animals that were sheltered in place because of the priority of human evacuation. HYH also provides care and support as requested by OES and has participated in assisting other localities including during the recent Caldor and Mosquito fires.

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*The Board of Supervisors is the governing body of San Joaquin County and serves more than 779,000 residents. The Board establishes County policies, passes local ordinances, approves the budget, sets local tax rates, supports community programs, and provides many other essential services.*