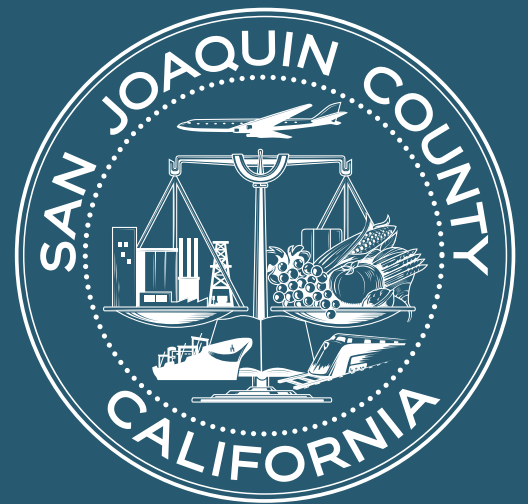




Adopted 2023-2024
Legislative/Regulatory
Platform and Policy Guidelines

FEDERAL
APRIL 25, 2023

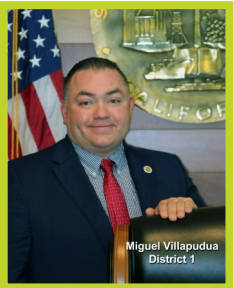


SAN JOAQUIN — COUNTY —

Board of Supervisors



ROBERT RICKMAN, CHAIR
DISTRICT 5



MIGUEL VILLAPUDUA, VICE-CHAIR
DISTRICT 1



PAUL CANEPA, SUPERVISOR
DISTRICT 2



TOM PATTI, SUPERVISOR
DISTRICT 3



STEVEN J. DING, SUPERVISOR

COVER PHOTO

NEW DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE - STOCKTON, CA

San Joaquin County

Adopted 2023 and 2024 Federal Legislative/Regulatory
Platform and Policy Guidelines

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

44 N. San Joaquin Street, Suite 640
Stockton, CA 95202

JEROME C. WILVERDING
County Administrator

SANDRA REGALO
Assistant County Administrator

BRANDI HOPKINS
Assistant County Administrator

HILARY CROWLEY, MPA
Legislative Coordinator
(209) 468-2997

CARPI & CLAY GOVERNMENT RELATIONS THE FERGUSON GROUP (WATER RESOURCES)

DAVID WETMORE
dwetmore@carpiclay.com

601 New Jersey Ave, NW Suite 300
Washington, DC 20001
Phone: (202) 822-8300

ROGER GWINN
rgwinn@tfgnet.com

KRISTI MORE
kmore@tfgnet.com

1901 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20006
Phone: (202) 331-8500



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Message From The Board of Supervisors	8
Board of Supervisors' Board Strategic Priorities 2022-2025	10
San Joaquin County Legislative/Regulatory Policy Guidelines:	
Administration	12
Administration of Justice	12
Agriculture	13
Airport	13
Economic Development.....	13
Environmental Health.....	13
General Services—Facilities Management	14
General Services—Office of Emergency Services	14
Health Care.....	14
Homelessness.....	16
Human Services	16
Public Works—Flood Protection.....	16
Public Works—General.....	17
Public Works—Regulatory Reform	17
Public Works—Solid Waste	17
Public Works—Transportation	17
Public Works—Water	18
Veteran Services	19
Legislative Projects:	
Airport:	
1. Taxiway D Extension	20
Health Care:	
2. Adolescent Substance Use Disorder Facility.....	22
3. Public Health Facility Replacement/Expansion	23
Information Systems:	
4. Cybersecurity.....	24



TABLE OF CONTENTS

(CONTINUED)

Legislative Issues:

Administration of Justice:

- 5. Federal Funding to Combat Illegal Drugs 25
- 6. Human Trafficking..... 26
- 7. Public Safety Reform 27
- 8. Revise the Definition of Inmates Eligible for Reimbursement Under the State
Criminal Alien Assistance Program 28

Agriculture:

- 9. Pest Prevention and Surveillance..... 29

Airport:

- 10. Federal Aviation Administration Discretionary Funds 31
- 11. Passenger Facility Charges 32
- 12. Terminal Modernization and Expansion 33

Community Development:

- 13. Affordable Housing 34
- 14. Homelessness 35

Economic Development:

- 15. Workforce Innovation and Opportunities Act..... 37

Emergency Response:

- 16. Emergency Management Performance Grant Funding for Flood Preparedness 39

Health Care Services Agency: San Joaquin General Hospital:

- 17. 340B Drug Purchasing Program 40
- 18. Behavioral Health Continuum of Care..... 41
- 19. Controlling Tuberculosis 42
- 20. Exclusion of Psychiatric Health Facility from Institute for Mental Disease..... 43
- 21. Funding for Public Health Emergency Services 44
- 22. Health Center Section 330 Grantees 45
- 23. Medicaid and Medicare Funding Programs 46



TABLE OF CONTENTS

(CONTINUED)

24. Mental Health Treatment and the Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant	48
25. Services and Facilities for Veterans	49
26. Shortages of Physicians, Nurses, and Ancillary Clinicians.....	51

Library:

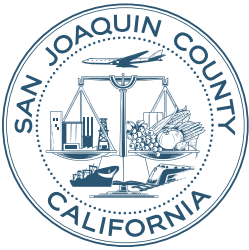
27. E-Rate Funding for Libraries.....	52
28. Expanding Access to Broadband in Libraries.....	53

Public Works:

29. Clean Water Act: Environmental Protection Agency Rule Making, Navigable Waters.....	54
30. Improved Flood Protection	56
31. Invasive Weeds	59
32. Local Road and Bridge Maintenance Backlog.....	60
33. New Water Supplies for San Joaquin County	61
34. Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta	65
35. Transportation Funding.....	69

Registrar of Voters:

36. Help America Vote Act	70
---------------------------------	----



MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

April 25, 2023

The Honorable President Joseph Biden
The Honorable Senator Dianne Feinstein
The Honorable Senator Alex Padilla
The Honorable Representative Josh Harder
The Honorable Representative John Duarte

Dear Mr. President, Senators, and Congressional Representatives:

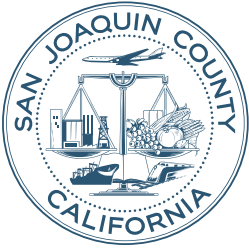
As Chair of the San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors, I am pleased to share our County's Federal policy priorities for 2023 and 2024. These priorities will guide our interactions with your offices and our Federal agency partners. This platform reflects the views of County residents, County personnel, and business and industry that expect our Board to maintain the high quality service and unique quality of life that is a hallmark of San Joaquin County.

Our ability to provide services is enhanced by the resources and assistance we receive through Federal programs. We are very appreciative and want to thank you for the continued Federal support our County receives to enrich and improve our public health and economic recovery as we rebuild from impacts caused by the pandemic.

We ask for your continued partnership as we work to address the needs and aspirations of our mutual constituents in a variety of programmatic areas like economic development, infrastructure modernization, public safety, affordable housing development, and water resource management. Federal programs that support and protect our County's rich agricultural economy, train our workforce, and provide social safety-net supports are critical. The County's partnership with your offices are very important for comprehensive solutions to holistically address our community's mental health needs, for investments in solutions to homelessness, a robust public health system, and in addressing the opioid addiction crisis.

When our County was impacted by the series of storms in early 2023, partnership with your offices and other Federal agencies came through, and for that we are very grateful.

San Joaquin General Hospital (SJGH) has provided health care to our citizens for 150 years and is one of the only remaining public hospitals in the Central Valley with a designated Level III trauma center. Current law has provided a dramatic increase in Medicaid funding, helping to stabilize SJGH and lower County costs, while expanding access to patients seeking services within the County health care system. As you know, Medi-Cal is California's version of Medicaid which maintains coverage at a 50/50 Federal/State funding split.



MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

(CONTINUED)

Nearly 300,000 San Joaquin County residents receive Medi-Cal, which is 40% of our population. When new Federal budget discussions ensue around reforms to entitlement programs, please consider the current health care delivery infrastructure and its financial underpinnings at the county level.

San Joaquin County is located at a vital crossroads in California with major transportation, seaport, airport and water conveyance facilities. We are very pleased with the attention to infrastructure investments as our County and the regional economy will benefit from increased funding, discretionary grants, and program efficiencies available through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. We are poised for increased economic growth through these County assets.

More than 30 million Californians depend on the water supply that flows through San Joaquin County to major population centers like the Bay Area and Southern California. The Delta of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Rivers is a fragile and important part of our State's water resource. Any harm to the Delta would negatively impact the entire economic health of the State. Nearly two-thirds of the Delta comprises approximately one-third of San Joaquin County. The Delta's maze of navigable waterways support maritime commerce and the transportation of goods; boating and recreation; numerous fish and wildlife species; and is a source for local drinking water. This essential regional infrastructure, as well as the safety and economic welfare of our residents, remains an important issue, which can be addressed through the completion of a comprehensive flood protection and levee improvement plan that will benefit not just our County, but California as a whole.

These foregoing issues and others are detailed more fully in our 2023-2024 Federal Platform. We look forward to working with your offices to discuss issues that are important to our County.

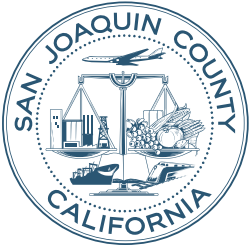
Thank you for your partnership and continued support of San Joaquin County.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Robert Rickman".

Robert Rickman, Chair
San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors

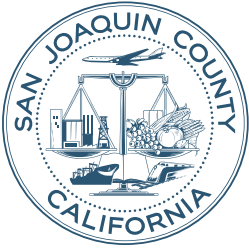
c: San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors
San Joaquin County Department Heads
San Joaquin County Assistant Department Heads
San Joaquin County Federal Delegation
Mayors and City Council Members
Shaw Yoder Antwih Schmelzer & Lange
The Ferguson Group
Carpi & Clay



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS' BOARD STRATEGIC PRIORITIES 2022-2025

On May 24, 2022, the Board adopted three-year Strategic Priorities (B-22-243) covering fiscal years 2022-2023 through 2024-2025 based on the outcome of the February 22, 2022 Special Meeting. The current Board Strategic Priorities are:

- 1. Organizational Capacity/Technology Utilization**
 - a. Improve Recruitment and Retention Rates
 - b. Formalize Succession Planning
 - c. Demonstrate Leadership Development
 - d. Augment Digitization and Automation
- 2. Fiscal Optimization**
 - a. Maintain a Structurally Balanced Budget
 - b. Effectively Manage One-Time Funds
 - c. Proactively Manage Labor Costs
 - d. Responsibly Consider Resources Addressing Pension Liability
- 3. Public Safety/Criminal Justice/Quality of Life**
 - a. Provide Adequate Resources for Public Safety and Criminal Justice
 - b. Reduce Response Times for Emergency Services
 - c. Mitigate Illegal Dumping/Human Waste
 - d. Improve the Juvenile System of Care
- 4. Homelessness**
 - a. Expand Unsheltered Bed Capacity
 - b. Increase Permanent Supportive Housing
 - c. Promote Expansion of Behavioral Health Clinicians and Services
 - d. Mitigate Illegal Dumping Encampments
- 5. Water Management**
 - a. Enhance Water Quality
 - b. Mitigate Illegal Dumping Impacts
 - c. Reduce Flood Risk
 - d. Improve Water Storage/Sustainability
- 6. Economic Development**
 - a. Enhance COVID Recovery
 - b. Expand Small Business Growth
 - c. Increase Transportation/Logistics/Warehousing Businesses
 - d. Increase Local Job Order Contracting (JOC) Participation



LEGISLATIVE/REGULATORY POLICY GUIDELINES

CONTACT: Jerome C. Wilverding, County Administrator
jwilverding@sigov.org
(209) 468-3203

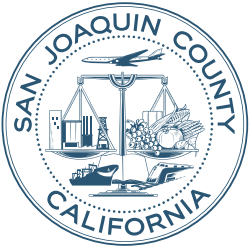
The top legislative directive for all San Joaquin County departments is to make every effort to maintain or increase funding for the continued provision of critical local services to the residents of the County. In addition, the San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors, through appropriate County departments shall:

ADMINISTRATION

1. Support economic stimulus/job proposals which would assist the County in providing vital local government services to its residents, as well as funding for economic development, including infrastructure projects essential to the sustainability of communities.
2. Advocate for maximum Federal financial support and local flexibility in the administration of Federally-mandated programs.
3. Support legislation and/or budgetary proposals which would prevent future sequestration or similar across-the-board funding reductions.
4. Support funding to cover the costs of unfunded Federal mandates on State and local governments, as well as legislation to reduce burdensome and unnecessary regulatory and administrative requirements of Federal programs.
5. Advocate for and support maximum flexibility, simplification, and financial support in Federal legislative and regulatory requirements.
6. Maintain close relationships with San Joaquin County's legislative delegation to foster more effective advocacy and understanding of the County's issues.
7. Seek Federal reimbursement for the County's costs associated with services to undocumented immigrants, including incarceration, public safety, and medical services.
8. Oppose legislation that would permit States to pass Federally-imposed penalties to local agencies, unless the penalty was incurred by the local agency.
9. Support legislative and administrative efforts to ensure protection of tax-exempt bonds, and oppose proposals to reduce or eliminate Federal exemption for interest on municipal bonds.
10. Respond as timely and effectively as possible to legislative issues both by Board of Supervisors action and, if time constraints exist, by the affected department head(s) with concurrence of the County Administrator. If consideration by the Board of Supervisors is not feasible, the County Administrator will notify the Board.
11. Support legislation or regulatory changes that would give greater flexibility for the County to implement pension reform based upon sustainability and affordability of the plan's fiscal health.

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

12. Support Federal funding and equitable distribution of funding for local public safety efforts including law enforcement, drug courts, juvenile justice, delinquency prevention and intervention, counter-terrorism programs, and construction and operation of incarceration facilities.
13. Support legislative and administrative funding opportunities which provide ongoing resources and funding streams to sustain a Family Justice Center.
14. Advocate for legislative and administrative funding to expand opportunities for restorative justice programs.



LEGISLATIVE/REGULATORY POLICY GUIDELINES

(CONTINUED)

15. Support legislative and administrative funding opportunities that develop program programs to combat human trafficking and the commercial exploitation of children.
16. Advocate for development of programs that support coordination of response efforts to events involving mass casualties and other critical incidents amongst local, State, and Federal services and programs.

AGRICULTURE

17. Support legislation and budgetary proposals that would provide funding assistance to local agencies for the development of strategies for prevention, preparedness, and combating agro-terrorism and dangers posed by invasive plant, animal and insect species, imported pests, and other threats posed to the San Joaquin County agricultural economy.
18. Support legislation and budgetary proposals that support and strengthen local control of air-quality and environmental issues related to the agricultural industry.

AIRPORT

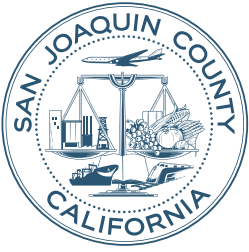
19. Oppose any legislative or administrative actions that would temporarily or permanently divert Federal program resources, such as Airport Improvement Program, Passenger Facility Charges, and the Law Enforcement Officer Reimbursement program, that support the economic viability of the County's Stockton Metropolitan Airport.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

20. Seek, advocate, and support the reinstatement of critical unemployment and mass layoff statistical information gathering, which was excluded by the Bureau of Labor Statistics in 2006.
21. Seek, advocate, and support Federal funding and other economic development related incentives for the development and enhancement of the Innovation Hub (iHub) San Joaquin program.
22. Seek, advocate, and support Federal incentives and grants that support regulatory, administrative, and legislative proposals that would sustain, support, and accelerate economic development in San Joaquin County.
23. Support legislation and budgetary proposals that would address regional economic development and transportation challenges by planning, developing, and delivering cost effective and responsive solutions.
24. Support legislation that would incentivize participation in high school apprenticeship programs by the private sector.
25. Support legislation that would incentivize the hiring of unemployed job seekers from high-risk populations, including the homeless, individuals coming out of jail, the long-term unemployed like welfare recipients, individuals with disabilities, and economically disadvantaged youth with barriers to employment.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

26. Support legislation or regulatory action that promotes the recruitment and retention of Environmental Health workers.



LEGISLATIVE/REGULATORY POLICY GUIDELINES

(CONTINUED)

GENERAL SERVICES-FACILITIES MANAGEMENT

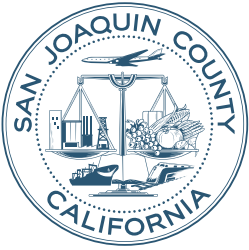
27. Support legislation or budgetary proposals that provide funding assistance to local governments to retrofit existing facilities to reduce energy consumption and/or for renewable energy projects.
28. Support legislation or budgetary proposals that would provide funding assistance to local governments for electric vehicle charging infrastructure.

GENERAL SERVICES-OFFICE OF EMERGENCY SERVICES

29. Support efforts to provide access to affordable flood insurance for property and business owners including agriculture and legacy communities located in the floodplain.
30. Support legislation or regulatory action that will allow the County to plan for, respond to, and receive reimbursement and property tax relief for emergencies and disasters.
31. Support legislation and budgetary actions that provide full and flexible funding for ongoing emergency preparedness, all-hazard planning, and recovery at the local level through opportunities such as: Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities, Homeland Security Grants, and Emergency Management Performance Grants.
32. Support maintaining or reducing current cost-share levels in the Stafford Act.
33. Advocate for emergency management and homeland security policies, practices, and funding to be designed in a way that promotes innovation locally with maximum flexibility for services to target individual community needs, hazards, threats, and capacities.
34. Advocate for additional Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) technical assistance for counties to assist staff in navigating Direct Assistance programs and regulatory requirements for approved disaster projects.

HEALTH CARE

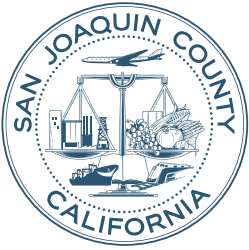
35. Advocate for Federal health care and public health funding formulas that equitably reflect the demographics of California's Central Valley, population characteristics, and health burdens.
36. Seek to preserve and expand Medicare, Medicaid, and other Federal funding for health care programs, while aggressively opposing funding reductions in these programs which would result in decreased access to health care and/or would shift costs or risk to the County.
37. Advocate for San Joaquin County to maximize Federal funds for health care programs and services which result in direct payments to the County.
38. Support legislation and budgetary proposals that address the Central Valley's critical shortage of health care professionals.
39. Support and advocate for programs and funding that would create new and expanded health-focused workforce development training and education programs, and funding to support loans, grants, and scholarship programs to incentivize the health career track.



LEGISLATIVE/REGULATORY POLICY GUIDELINES

(CONTINUED)

40. Support legislation and budgetary proposals for local health department programs which would: A) address prevention of chronic health conditions, B) fund injury and violence prevention, C) support and enhance local disease control and prevention, D) provide a sustainable disease control and outbreak response infrastructure that would include epidemiology, surveillance, investigation, and response, E) support public health infrastructure development to enable national accreditation, and F) support emergency, bioterrorism, and pandemic influenza preparedness, response, and infrastructure development to address public health threats and emergencies.
41. Advocate in support of funding for health care information technology infrastructure to enhance the quality of patient safety, the reporting of diseases to public health to improve surveillance, emergency response, and population health, and the delivery of health care services.
42. Advocate in support of policies that promote healthy eating and increase access to opportunities for physical activity.
43. Support legislative and/or budgetary proposals that support maternal, child, and adolescent programs that: A) provide increased funding; B) protect children from environmental health risks, such as unintentional injuries, lead poisoning, and poor air quality; and C) ensure that women and adolescents have access to unique prevention and health care services.
44. Advocate for the preservation of prevention and public health funds. Advocate for the allocation of funds (rather than competitive grants) to local government health departments with an emphasis on addressing health disparities.
45. Support the County's established Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) Look-Alike Clinics; and ensure appropriate and equitable treatment of County affiliated FQHCs regarding payments, reporting, and operational requirements.
46. Advocate for policies that reduce health inequities within San Joaquin County and address social determinants of health that focus on environmental and social-economic factors that impact personal and public health. These include housing, education, workforce development, family-sustaining wage jobs, transportation, safe neighborhoods, and places for daily physical activity.
47. Advocate for full implementation of mental health parity with physical health services to include mental health and substance use disorder treatments.
48. Support health care reform that does not jeopardize the current health care delivery infrastructure and its financial underpinnings at the County's level, and urge careful deliberation to ensure all County residents have access to affordable and meaningful health care.
49. Oppose efforts to rescind enhanced funding from 1115 Medicaid Waivers which supports SJGH, County outpatient services, and the Organized Delivery System for Drug Medi-Cal to support substance use disorder treatment.
50. Support legislation or other administrative proposals that maintain the appropriate labor workforce to operate SJGH during emergencies including, but not limited to, a public health emergency, pandemic, and other natural disasters or terrorist events.
51. Support the repeal of the Federal Institute of Mental Disease Exclusion which limits Medicaid payments to psychiatric inpatient or residential facilities with more than 16 beds.



LEGISLATIVE/REGULATORY POLICY GUIDELINES

(CONTINUED)

HOMELESSNESS

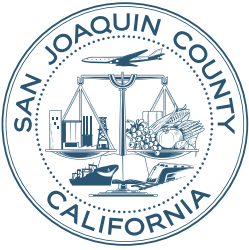
52. Support legislation, regulatory changes, and/or administrative efforts that would provide funding for San Joaquin County to address homelessness. This includes initiatives that would: A) improve the quality and quantity of data collected; B) expand rental assistance; expand job readiness programs; and, C) encourage and facilitate collaboration between the County, cities, agencies, the Continuum of Care, and the private sector to address the permanent housing crisis, so that homelessness is rare, brief, and non-recurring in San Joaquin County.

HUMAN SERVICES

53. Support simplification, flexibility, and lessening of restrictions on Federal benefits pertaining to the maintenance of income requirements to qualify for social services programs.

PUBLIC WORKS-FLOOD PROTECTION

54. Advocate and support legislation that would require coordinated planning and funding levels to provide comprehensive levee evaluations and improvements (including project and non-project levees) to achieve enhanced Statewide urban flood protection.
55. Aggressively oppose legislative efforts to shift Federal and/or State flood control liability or obligations to local agencies.
56. Support legislation and/or regulations that would reduce local impacts related to Federal Emergency Management Agency Flood Insurance Rate floodplain mapping changes.
57. Support legislation or regulatory changes which would mandate coordination between State and Federal agencies relative to flood protection and floodplain management regulations.
58. Support legislative, regulatory, and administrative proposals that would improve coordination between Federal and State levee inspection programs to eliminate redundancies and accelerate correction of problems by requiring: A) joint Federal, State, and local inspections, B) consistent inspection criteria, C) coordination to necessary permitting activities, and D) allowing a reasonable amount of time to complete requirements correction work.
59. Oppose legislative or regulatory efforts that would impose arbitrary increases in flood protection standards without sufficient feasibility studies or identified adequate funding sources for local implementation.
60. Oppose legislation or regulatory changes that would result in duplication of efforts between local, State, and Federal floodplain administrators in evaluating community development projects.
61. Support legislative, regulatory, and budgetary efforts to provide additional surface water storage projects that would provide improved flood control, water supply, and environmental conditions for San Joaquin County.
62. Oppose amendments to the National Flood Insurance Program reauthorization that mandates flood insurance coverage in residual risk areas.
63. Support legislative, administrative, or regulatory efforts that would streamline the permit process for the removal of silt from rivers, flood control channels, and Delta waterways, and provide required funding to perform these activities.



LEGISLATIVE/REGULATORY POLICY GUIDELINES

(CONTINUED)

PUBLIC WORKS—GENERAL

64. Support maximum Federal funding directly to local agencies for various infrastructure projects critical to the economic vitality of San Joaquin County.
65. Seek, advocate, and support legislative actions that support and/or fund innovation and implementation of new and emerging technologies for the purposes of improving mobility and/or safety.
66. Seek, advocate, and support legislation for National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) reform that streamlines environmental compliance processes and regulatory permitting processes.
67. Oppose legislation or administrative proposals that would unreasonably limit the County's discretion in reviewing; imposing conditions and mitigations upon; and permitting private telecommunications and other equipment within the public right-of-way or on private property. County decisions could be based on or include prohibiting aesthetic and other environmental considerations, eliminating the ability to require public benefits in exchange for use of public infrastructure, imposing unreasonable review timelines, and circumventing conventional local agency review and public input processes.
68. Support legislative and/or administrative proposals to streamline grant application and administration processes.

PUBLIC WORKS—REGULATORY REFORM

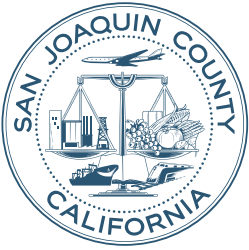
69. Support legislative and administrative efforts that would require an economic evaluation that yields a positive cost benefit analysis before new regulations are implemented.

PUBLIC WORKS—SOLID WASTE

70. Support legislation that would provide for extended producer responsibility or funding for the development and implementation of product recycling programs.
71. Support legislation that would provide incentives for development of landfill gas-to-energy, waste-to-energy, and streamline the permitting process.
72. Oppose legislation that would impose new solid waste disposal requirements on local government unless the funding mechanisms needed to implement the requirements are provided.
73. Oppose legislation or regulatory reform requiring municipal landfills (Class III) to accept semi-hazardous wastes, including medical or radioactive waste products.
74. Support legislation that would provide: A) local control of where locally-produced wastes are disposed, for the purpose of assuring waste diversion mandates are met, and B) adequate funding for implementation.
75. Support legislation that would require State and Federal disposal facilities comply with State-imposed waste diversion mandates or provide local jurisdictions relief from diversion mandates for waste over which they have no control.
76. Support legislation and/or regulations which would establish fair, transparent principles and procedures to manage end-of-life costs of universal and other waste products.

PUBLIC WORKS—TRANSPORTATION

77. Seek, advocate, and support legislation and/or budgetary appropriations which would provide increased Federal and State roadway funding levels to local agencies.



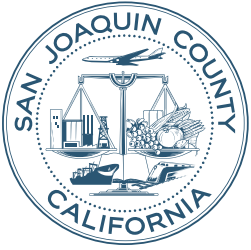
LEGISLATIVE/REGULATORY POLICY GUIDELINES

(CONTINUED)

78. Advocate for California's fair share of contributions from the Federal Highway Trust Fund.
79. Advocate in support of a sustainable, long-term solution to ensure the solvency of the Highway Trust Fund.
80. Advocate for counties and cities to share equitably in the growth of Federal revenues available to California for the network of local roads.
81. Continue to support legislation and/or budgetary proposals that would provide dedicated funding to address local transportation needs, including bridge maintenance projects, safety projects, and bicycling and pedestrian infrastructure improvements.

PUBLIC WORKS-WATER

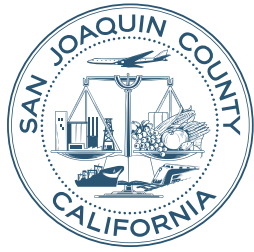
82. Support legislation and/or regulatory reform that would address groundwater overdraft issues in San Joaquin County.
83. Support legislation and/or regulatory reform that would serve to restore the San Joaquin River in-stream flows to the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta (Delta) in accordance with the adopted resolutions and water resources planning documents within the County.
84. Advocate and support legislative or regulatory efforts that would provide for the use of surface water to recharge critically over-drafted groundwater basins.
85. Support in concept the designation of a National Heritage Area (NHA) for the Delta provided such designation, A) will not limit, impact, or prohibit present and future agricultural resources and activities, flood protection facilities, and other public infrastructure; B) considers the foregoing as important resources to be preserved, maintained, restored, managed, protected, promoted, and encouraged within the boundaries of the NHA; and C) provide ongoing Federal funding for the protection, preservation, maintenance, restoration, and management of the Delta, and that the NHA Plan would be written and managed by the Delta Protection Commission.
86. Support State and Federal programs that assist water customers in disadvantaged communities and help ensure that these populations are not denied essential services.
87. Support legislative or administrative proposals that provide robust funding for existing Federal programs that support maintenance and development of water and wastewater infrastructure programs, such as the State Revolving Funds, Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA), Rural Utilities Service, Public Water System Supervision grants, and Public Works and Economic Development programs.
88. Support legislative or administrative proposals to create a drought assistance fund within the Federal government that would be used to assist State, local, tribal, and critical service entities with drought-related activities and would expand the technology transfer of drought and water conservation strategies.
89. Support additional sources of funding for State Financing Authorities applying for WIFIA loans, as prescribed in the Water Resource Development Act (WRDA) 2018 legislation.
90. Support preservation and enhancement of financing mechanisms for investment in water infrastructure, including preserving the tax-exempt status of municipal bonds and lifting the cap on Private Activity Bonds for water infrastructure projects.
91. Support funding professional development training initiatives to assist the development and utilization of innovative activities relating to the workforce development and career opportunities in the water sector, as prescribed in the WRDA 2018 legislation.



LEGISLATIVE/REGULATORY POLICY GUIDELINES

VETERAN SERVICES

92. Continue to advocate in support of funding for the construction and opening/operation of the new Veteran Affairs (VA) expanded health care facilities and Community Living Center adjacent to the San Joaquin General Hospital campus in French Camp.
93. Support congressional efforts to expand Veterans Affairs health care benefits to include Priority 8 veterans.
94. Aggressively seek to maintain the ability of the County public hospital to continue partnering with the VA in providing services to Veterans and their families. Oppose any new VA regulations, such as the draft Request for Proposal from the VA (Draft RFP VA 791-12-R-0009, Medical – Surgical Services, Patient Centered Community Care) to establish a standardized health care contracting system, which would prevent public hospitals from being able to continue working with VA regional offices.



1. Taxiway D Extension

LEGISLATIVE PROJECTS

BOARD STRATEGIC PRIORITY:

Economic Development

LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM:

Seek, advocate, and support an initial \$7.3 million budgetary appropriation to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) for additional FAA funding to provide needed revenue to add a second entrance to the Stockton Metropolitan Airport cargo area. A subsequent \$50 million budgetary appropriation to the FAA will also be needed for additional funding to expand the entire Airport taxiway D.

BACKGROUND:

The taxiway D extension project will further enhance Stockton Metropolitan Airport's ability to market the Airport to prospective air cargo or maintenance, repair, and overhaul (MRO) providers. It will also enhance airport business with the planned development of the Airpark 599 project, thus supporting the Airport's goal of self-sufficiency.

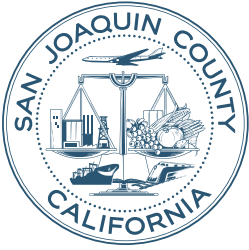
The taxiway D extension project consists of the construction of a new airplane design group (ADG) IV, transportation of dangerous goods (TDG) 5 full-length taxiway, approximately 7000 feet long by 75 feet wide. This taxiway will run parallel to the primary runway, 11L-29R, on the north side and will extend the existing taxiway D from the current cargo apron area near the approach end of runway 11L and along the entire length of the primary runway ending at the approach end of runway 29R. The taxiway D extension will include four connectors to 11L-29R and will be able to support larger aircraft.

The taxiway D extension project will enhance Airport safety by providing separation of cargo aircraft from commercial/general aviation traffic utilizing taxiway B. Currently, all aircraft departing runway 29R utilize taxiway B. This requires aircraft transiting from the cargo apron area to the departure end of runway 29R to cross two runways, continue taxiing past the commercial ramp area, then the general aviation ramp area, and transition South along taxiway B. All aircraft then must past the fixed base operator (FBO) and several general aviation (GA) hangars of various sizes before reaching the departure end of runway 29R. When larger cargo aircraft utilize taxiway B for departure, their proximity to the FBO and T-Hangars along this taxiway have been the subject of many safety conversations.

In addition, there is currently only one way in and out of the cargo ramp area. As a result, if a cargo aircraft is already outbound from the cargo ramp when another one lands, the landing cargo plane may have to wait on the primary runway for the outbound aircraft to exit the cargo area.

Extending the existing taxiway D and adding connectors to the primary runway will enhance safe and efficient entrance/exit for existing and future cargo/MRO tenants by providing alternate routes for aircraft to enter or exit the cargo areas. Furthermore, should a closure of either cargo taxiways or taxiway B be required, this project will reduce the need to back-taxi onto an active runway and ensure operations can continue without interruption.

Airport: Richard Sokol, Director | rsokol@sjgov.org | (209) 468-4709



Taxiway D Extension (Continued)

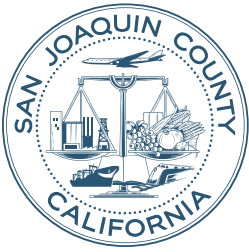
LEGISLATIVE PROJECTS

Finally, by offering efficient and safe aircraft entrance and exit to the north side of the primary runway.

The cost to expand the entire taxiway D is estimated to be \$57.3 million. The first step of this project is adding the second entrance into the cargo area, which has an estimated cost of \$7.3 million.

APPROPRIATION REQUEST: \$7.3 million

TOTAL PROJECT COST: \$57.3 million (approximate)



2. Adolescent Substance Use Disorder Facility

LEGISLATIVE PROJECTS

BOARD STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:

Fiscal Optimization, Organizational Capacity, and Public Safety/Criminal Justice

LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM:

Seek, advocate, and support legislation and/or budgetary appropriations to provide funding assistance for an adolescent substance abuse facility.

BACKGROUND:

San Joaquin County has identified significant needs for a residential substance abuse treatment facility for adolescents ages 14 to 18.

Studies conclude methamphetamine is the most-used drug, while marijuana, opioids, and alcohol are also major drugs of choice among adolescents. An estimated 2,500 youth in San Joaquin County are in need of treatment for alcohol abuse, and approximately 3,300 are in need of treatment for illicit drugs. A 2018 Needs Assessment reported that 3.4% of adolescents ages 12-17 binge drank at least once in the month prior to the survey. In addition, 49% of youth in the 11th grade reported they have been “high” from using drugs. According to Calschls.org 2021 data, 15% of students in San Joaquin County responded “yes” to alcohol or drug use, 33% of whom reported using alcohol and other drugs one or more days in the past 30 days.

This trend is regional so in 2022, San Joaquin, Stanislaus, and Merced Counties, initiated a partnership for a facility to serve the youth in their respective counties. However, it will only address the mental health needs of the 14-18 year old population and not co-occurring substance use disorders.

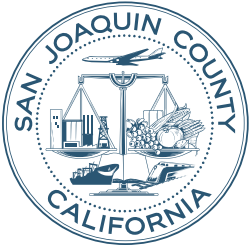
The County seeks additional funds to provide a facility for residential substance abuse treatment for adolescents. The only available option for adolescents needing treatment for alcohol abuse and illicit drug use is outpatient counseling services. If an adolescent needs more than outpatient counseling, no other treatments are available.

APPROPRIATION REQUEST: \$4 million

TOTAL PROJECT COST: \$8 million

(PROJECT LITERATURE AVAILABLE)

Health Care Services Agency: Greg Diederich, Director | gdiederich@sjgh.org | (209) 468-7031
Behavioral Health Services: Genevieve Valentine, Director | gvalentine@sjcbhs.org | (209) 468-8752



3. Public Health Facility Replacement/ Expansion

LEGISLATIVE PROJECTS

BOARD STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:

Fiscal Optimization, Organizational Capacity, and Public Safety/Criminal Justice

LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM:

Seek, advocate, and support legislation which would create a funding stream to construct phase two of the Public Health Services facility located on the Hazelton Avenue campus in Stockton.

BACKGROUND:

The San Joaquin County Public Health Services (PHS) facility was constructed over 50 years ago, in the 1960s, with Hill Burton funds. Since that time, the County population has increased by more than 180%. PHS staff are spread out over multiple locations, in a mixture of County-owned and leased spaces. The Hazelton Avenue replacement building lacks the space necessary to provide critical disease prevention services to the continually expanding number of County residents. The Wilson Way building has been determined to have reached the end of its useful life. There are significant structural barriers to implement safety features in the building, and it is not compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act. Additionally, costs to maintain and upgrade building infrastructure exceed appropriate fiscal allowances.

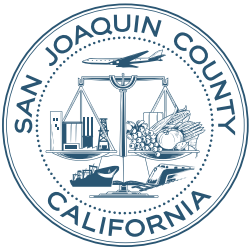
The County seeks to:

1. Obtain sufficient space to provide public health services in a safe and efficient manner;
2. Consolidate PHS operations onto a single site; and
3. Plan sufficient space for future growth.

APPROPRIATION REQUEST: \$5.0 million

TOTAL PROJECT COST: \$48.7 million (approximate)

Health Care Services Agency: Greg Diederich, Director | gdiederich@sjgh.org | (209) 468-7031
Public Health Services: Vacant | (209) 468-3413



4. Cybersecurity

LEGISLATIVE PROJECTS

BOARD STRATEGIC PRIORITY:

Organizational Capacity

LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM:

Seek, advocate, and support legislation and/or budget appropriations which would provide funding assistance to enhance and improve cybersecurity capabilities for San Joaquin County.

BACKGROUND:

San Joaquin County seeks State and Federal assistance for the necessary tools to protect its critical infrastructure from cyberattacks.

San Joaquin County is constantly evaluating methods to protect its critical infrastructure which includes elections systems, telecommunications, information systems, and sensitive constituent data from being compromised. As identified in the latest Department of Homeland Security Grant Program guidance and with the establishment of the Cybersecurity Task Force within the California Office of Emergency Services, cyberattacks have been deemed a major threat to critical infrastructure at both the State and Federal levels.

The County's cybersecurity team constantly monitors its critical infrastructure to prevent, detect, identify, and mitigate potential threats. As cyberattacks evolve and change in nature, so must the tools and procedures used to combat them. The County has performed extensive analysis leveraging partners within the cybersecurity industry, the State, and local agencies to identify improvements to San Joaquin County's cybersecurity systems.

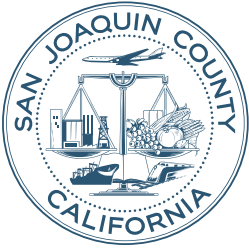
The County has developed a comprehensive plan to upgrade its cybersecurity systems that will require additional investments in technology and training to ensure critical infrastructure is protected from cyberattacks.

APPROPRIATION REQUEST: \$1.1 million

TOTAL PROJECT COST: \$1.1 million

(PROJECT LITERATURE AVAILABLE)

Information Systems Division: Mark Thomas, Director | mthomas@sjgov.org | (209) 468-0215



5. Federal Funding to Combat Illegal Drugs

LEGISLATIVE PROJECTS

BOARD STRATEGIC PRIORITY:

Public Safety/Criminal Justice/Quality of Life

ISSUE:

There is a serious need to increase Federal funding to combat the production, trafficking, and sales of methamphetamine, narcotics, and other illegal drugs.

LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM:

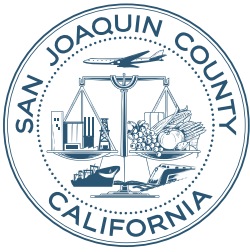
Seek and support legislation and/or budgetary appropriation which would:

1. Increase funding to local law enforcement agencies to combat the production, trafficking, and sales of methamphetamine, narcotics, and other illegal drugs;
2. Increase Federal funding for programs targeted at combating illegal drug production and trafficking; and
3. Provide local government broad latitude and flexibility in allowable expenditure categories of program funds.

BACKGROUND:

Production and trafficking of methamphetamine continues to be a significant issue in San Joaquin County despite the increased seizures of large quantities of methamphetamine and large-scale clandestine laboratories. Although Federal and State laws have been enacted to curtail and restrict the sales of precursor chemicals, drug trafficking organizations have adapted and continue to transport large quantities of methamphetamine into California. Marijuana, cocaine, fentanyl, and heroin trafficking are also increasing in the County. Increased Federal and State funding is necessary to maintain high-level enforcement to combat this issue and to address the growing operating costs, including technological costs of keeping abreast of the sophisticated and elusive drug trafficking organization.

Sheriff: Patrick Withrow, Sheriff | pwithrow@sjgov.org | (209) 468-4319



6. Human Trafficking

LEGISLATIVE PROJECTS

BOARD STRATEGIC PRIORITY:

Public Safety/Criminal Justice/Quality of Life

ISSUE:

Human trafficking has been an ongoing issue within San Joaquin County for the last several years and additional funding and coordination is needed to combat human trafficking and help victims.

LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM:

Seek, advocate, and support efforts which would:

1. Increase funding to local law enforcement agencies to combat human trafficking.
2. Create funding for a regional taskforce to combat human trafficking.

BACKGROUND:

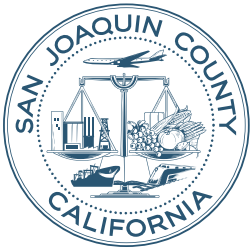
Human trafficking is an umbrella term encompassing all forms of exploitation occurring locally, nationally, and abroad. Jurisdictional and geographic boundaries are often crossed by traffickers and their victims. Human trafficking knows no borders. Though many believe human trafficking occurs only in foreign countries, 83% of all confirmed sex-trafficking victims in the United States are from the United States. Trafficking takes many forms but is most commonly separated into sex and labor trafficking, and people can be victims of both.

Most people think of human trafficking from a sexual exploitation viewpoint, but many times victims are also trafficked and exploited for their labor, possibly as a roadside vendor. When victims are located, the following resources could be impacted: Victim Witness Services, Mary Graham Children's Shelter, Women's Center-Youth & Family Services, San Joaquin General Hospital for Suspected Abuse Response Team (SART) exams, and the offices of the District Attorney, Public Defender, and the County Jail.

The Sheriff's Office has collaborated with other law enforcement agencies within San Joaquin County, however, there is a need for a more formalized local and Federal response to eliminate human trafficking.

A commitment to combating human trafficking will help victims by increasing the amount of resources available in San Joaquin County.

Sheriff: Patrick Withrow, Sheriff | pwithrow@sjgov.org | (209) 468-4319



7. Public Safety Reform

LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

BOARD STRATEGIC PRIORITY:

Public Safety/Criminal Justice/Quality of Life

ISSUE:

Proposals by Congress to change various long-standing operating protocols by peace officers, including the definition of use of force, crowd tactics, immunity standards, and other proposals, can have negative potential impacts to the County Sheriff's Office.

LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM:

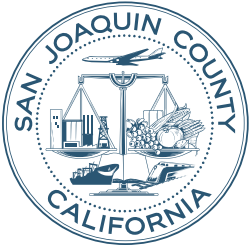
Oppose legislation that would:

1. Eliminate protections for peace officers and public entities;
2. Change other standards and protocols that could have a negative impact on the operation of the County Sheriff;
3. Increase costs to the County.

BACKGROUND:

Each Congressional session, proposals are introduced to make changes to police procedure, protocols, and other standards. Such legislation could have detrimental consequences to County operations.

Sheriff: Patrick Withrow, Sheriff | pwithrow@sjgov.org | (209) 468-4319



8. Revise the Definition of Inmates Eligible for Reimbursement under the State Criminal Alien Assistance Program

LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

BOARD STRATEGIC PRIORITY:

Public Safety/Criminal Justice/Quality of Life

ISSUE:

The Federal government re-interpreted the State Criminal Alien Assistance Program (SCAAP) enabling legislation to exclude pre-trial inmates. Counties have mostly pre-trial, rather than post-conviction inmates, thus losing substantial funding. Also, under Bureau of Justice Assistance regulations, funding is no longer available to agencies that do not fully comply with Federal immigration cooperation and laws, resulting in loss of SCAAP funding.

LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM:

Seek and support legislative action that would:

1. Revise the definition of eligible inmates to include pre-trial as well as post-conviction for undocumented inmates.
2. Remove the restriction of funding availability for agencies that do not fully comply with immigration cooperation and immigration laws.
3. Increase SCAAP funding to ensure reimbursement to states and counties for the cost of housing both pre-trial and post-conviction alien inmates.

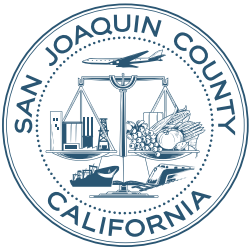
BACKGROUND:

The SCAAP, through the Bureau of Justice Assistance, reimburses states and local governments for the cost of housing criminal undocumented persons with at least one felony or two misdemeanor convictions for violations of State or local law. States and counties are only reimbursed for a small fraction of these costs. Until Federal fiscal year 2002, local expense reimbursements were made based on *all* (both accused as well as convicted) criminal undocumented persons' bed-days. A routine Federal legal review revealed that according to SCAAP statute limits, reimbursement was to be given for convicted criminal aliens only. Since counties house primarily pre-trial inmates, this change in reimbursement resulted in an enormous revenue loss to Sheriffs' departments around the nation.

Due to the following California immigration laws, the Federal requirement to comply with immigration cooperation cannot be met in order to qualify for the continued funding without violating California immigration laws:

- 2014 Truth Act (Assembly Bill 4)
- 2017 Truth Act (Assembly Bill 2792)
- 2017 Values Act (Senate Bill 54)

Sheriff: Patrick Withrow, Sheriff | pwithrow@sjgov.org | (209) 468-4319



9. Pest Prevention and Surveillance

LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

BOARD STRATEGIC PRIORITY:

Economic Development

ISSUE:

Insufficient funding for pest prevention and surveillance detection.

LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM:

Seek, advocate, and support legislation and budget proposals that restore and provide full State and Federal funding for County pest prevention programs and identify alternative sources of funding.

BACKGROUND:

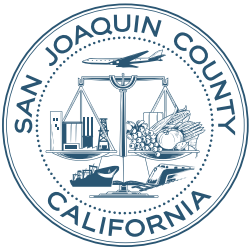
San Joaquin County is the seventh largest agricultural county in California, ranking higher than 15 states nationally. Agriculture is a major factor in the County's economy and way of life. According to a 2020 report, agriculture is responsible for \$5.7 billion per year to the County's economic output and provides more than 33,000 jobs; therefore, funding for early plant pest detection and surveillance is of priority to San Joaquin County. The study and subsequent report, "Economic Contributions of San Joaquin County Agriculture", was conducted for the Office of the Agricultural Commissioner by Drs. Jeff Langholz and Fernando DePaolis of Agricultural Impact Associates, a consulting firm specializing in agricultural economics.

Due to severe budget cuts at both the State and Federal levels, local pest exclusion and pest detection program funding has remained stagnant since the Great Recession. The Pest Prevention program experienced a significant decrease in funding in 2011 as compared to previous years. In 2018-2019, a portion of the program was reduced through Unclaimed Gas Tax funding, however, State and Federal funding has yet to be re-instated, significantly limiting the Agricultural Commissioner's ability to expand programs to detect incoming pests. The County's loss of its pest exclusion dog team funding requires the County to rely on surrounding counties to provide canine inspection services after meeting the inspection needs at post office distribution locations. The anticipated continued growth of FedEx, UPS, and Amazon shipping points expose the County's agricultural industry to significant risks of being placed under State and Federal quarantines. This would restrict the industry's ability to market its \$3.2 billion in agricultural commodities to other countries and states.

The County's agricultural industry continues to battle invasive plant pest detections and infestations.

1. 2009 - Light Brown Apple Moth Infestation (the County experienced its first pest quarantine in 28 years)
2. 2010 - European Grapevine Moth Infestation
3. 2011 - Oriental Fruit Fly Infestation
4. 2014 - Asian Citrus Psyllid Infestation (over half of the County placed under quarantine)

Agricultural Commissioner: Kamal Bagri, Ag. Commissioner | kbagri@sjgov.org | (209) 953-6000



Pest Prevention and Surveillance

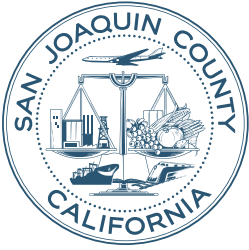
(Continued)

LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

The County continues to find other pests including single finds of Peach and Oriental Fruit Flies in May 2016 and October 2019, and Asian Citrus Psyllid in December 2022. Beginning in 2017-2018, the County began receiving air freight shipments from the Eastern United States, which introduced Japanese Beetles, Emerald Ash Borer, and most recently in 2019, the Spotted Lantern Fly.

Spotted Lantern Fly is of great concern as this pest has shown itself to be especially destructive to grapevines and has no known natural predators in the continental United States. It can destroy a vineyard in a matter of days. San Joaquin County is the number one producer in volume of wine grapes in California per year. In 2019, the County had 88,700 acres of wine grapes in production with a value of \$428 million of unprocessed grapes. Ways of early detection and eradication of the Spotted Lantern Fly are still under development, however, there is inadequate funding to provide an early detection program for this pest.

Other exotic pest finds include Branched Broomrape and Cucumber Green Mottled Mosaic Virus, which have caused quarantines in several production areas within the County, seriously limiting what can be planted in the affected areas. Each of these detections has resulted in State and Federal plant pest quarantines that have seriously impacted the County's agricultural industry and economy.



10. Federal Aviation Administration Discretionary Funds

LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

BOARD STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:

Fiscal Optimization, Public Safety/Criminal Justice, and Economic Development

ISSUE:

The Stockton Metropolitan Airport (Airport) receives \$1.4 million annually from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) as an entitlement grant. However, additional Airport capital is required beyond this level of funding. The FAA has previously made discretionary funding available that would serve as another source of funds for Airport capital projects.

LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM:

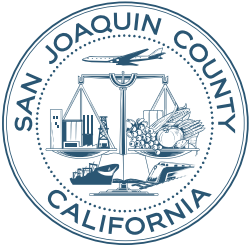
Seek Congressional support for additional FAA discretionary funding to provide revenue to implement the Airport's adopted five-year Capital Improvement Program (CIP).

BACKGROUND:

The San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors annually approves a rolling five-year CIP for the Airport, which has identified over \$63.5 million in capital improvements from 2022 through 2027. These projects are prioritized annually, allowing the Airport to submit grant funding requests to the FAA. Local and Federal entitlement funding remains inadequate to meet project needs as outlined in the Airport's CIP.

Modernizing the Airport's infrastructure will allow it to meet the growing needs of the region as commercial and cargo air carriers continue to recover from the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and as it transforms into a major transportation hub.

Airport: Richard Sokol, Director | rsokol@sjgov.org | (209) 468-4709



11. Passenger Facility Charges

LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

BOARD STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:

Fiscal Optimization and Economic Development

ISSUE:

Nationally, passenger facility charges (PFC) are collected under Federal authority by airports. The current PFC (\$4.50 per passenger), has not been modernized since 2000 and has failed to keep up with inflation, leading to delayed capital and facility improvements at Stockton Metropolitan Airport.

LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM:

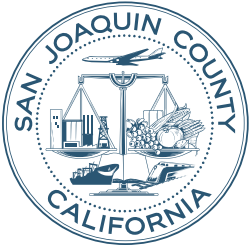
Support Congressional regulatory and/or budgetary actions to increase the PFC.

BACKGROUND:

PFC's are a primary sources of revenue for airports. The PFC is a source for an airport's local cost share to the Federal Aviation Administration's Airport Capital Improvement Program, which includes discretionary and entitlement funding. As a stable source of revenue, many airports leverage the PFC by issuing bond debt based on this revenue stream. With inflation, airports continue to lose ground and have suffered as needs for capital improvements have increased.

Modernization of the PFC would have a significant impact on the Stockton Metropolitan Airport's revenue and would increase their ability to initiate much needed capital improvements. These measures would give the Airport the tools needed to ensure the continued safety, security, and modernization of the facilities.

Airport: Richard Sokol, Director | rsokol@sjgov.org | (209) 468-4709



12. Terminal Modernization and Expansion

LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

BOARD STRATEGIC PRIORITY:

Economic Development

ISSUE:

Stockton Metropolitan Airport seeks to modernize its aging terminal to attract additional air service and better serve the traveling public, tenants, and staff. In order to remain an attractive component for our existing airline and to attract future airline service, the Airport needs to upgrade and modernize its terminal. The current estimate for environmental documentation, planning, design, and construction for this project is \$30-\$50 million. A more accurate estimate can be made after the completion of a terminal needs assessment.

LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM:

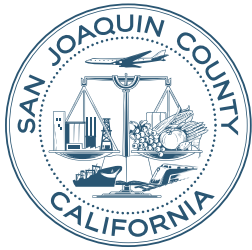
Seek Congressional support to obtain a sufficient level of funding to accomplish the necessary modernization efforts.

BACKGROUND:

A primary mission of the Airport is to facilitate air transportation and provide an economic development engine for the community that we serve. The current terminal was constructed and began operation in 1960. Unfortunately, the air service demands of the 1960s did not have the same dynamic requirements of today and the terminal is in need of a complete modernization effort. In its current configuration, the airport will not meet the operational needs and future demands of airside and landside growth. Projected growth also presents operational and security considerations.

A modernization effort is needed to ensure the long-term viability of commercial operations at the Airport while providing visitors, tenants, and staff with a modern gateway into our fantastic community.

Airport: Richard Sokol, Director | rsokol@sjgov.org | (209) 468-4709



13. Affordable Housing

LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

BOARD STRATEGIC PRIORITY:

Organizational Capacity

ISSUE:

San Joaquin County has seen an increase in the need to locate affordable housing units for tenant-based project programs and for the first-time homebuyer's program.

LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM:

Seek, advocate, and support legislation or a budgetary proposal that would continue to provide local jurisdictions with funding to provide rental assistance and down payment assistance for affordable housing units and homes.

BACKGROUND:

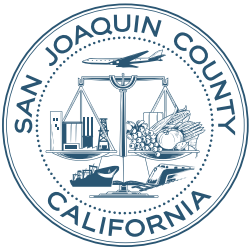
San Joaquin County has experienced an increased demand for rental housing and homeownership. This demand has made it difficult for low-income tenants and low-income first-time homebuyers to locate affordable housing. Because of the demand for housing, the rents and the median price for a house has steadily increased since the Recession of 2006-2007.

Some of the demand for housing has come from the San Francisco Bay Area. Because housing costs have increased astronomically in the Bay Area, many of their residents are moving to San Joaquin County in search of "affordable" housing. This demand is having the effect of increasing the average rents and home prices in the County, making housing more and more unaffordable for our local residents.

The lack of affordable rental housing and homes for purchase may also be a contributing factor to the increase in the homeless population. This in turn can lead to an increase in crime and blight throughout the area.

Federal funding to support the County's affordable housing programs comes from the Department of Housing and Urban Development, specifically under the CDBG (Community Development Block Grant) and HOME (HOME Investment Partnerships) Programs. Without the Federal funding, the County's programs currently being used to address affordable housing in the area would be eliminated.

Community Development: Jennifer Jolley, Director | jjolley@sjgov.org | (209) 468-3121



14. Homelessness

LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

BOARD STRATEGIC PRIORITY:

Homelessness

ISSUE:

The unsheltered homeless population is a growing challenge in San Joaquin County, the region, and the State. Factors contributing to this crisis include untreated mental illness, substance use disorder, and the rising cost and low availability of housing.

LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM:

Seek, advocate, and support legislation or budgetary proposals that would provide local jurisdictions with one-time and/or ongoing funding to develop and sustainably operate programs and services for San Joaquin County households experiencing homelessness, including emergency shelter, substance abuse and behavioral health treatment, permanent supportive housing, homelessness prevention, rental assistance, rapid rehousing, transitional housing, survivors of domestic violence, and data collection systems.

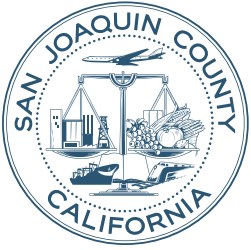
BACKGROUND:

San Joaquin County has experienced a steady increase in rates of homelessness. The impact has become increasingly evident as homeless encampments spring up in urban and unincorporated areas, parks, and along County roads and waterways.

Homelessness results from the inability to obtain and maintain stable housing; individual causes of homelessness are varied, which underscores the need for a multi-faceted approach. Factors such as the sudden loss of employment or other income, physical and mental health issues, incarceration, and addiction can all lead to homelessness. Without assistance in the form of treatment, supportive services, and emergency housing, these factors often become an insurmountable barrier to reestablishing self-sufficiency. However, these factors do not in and of themselves cause households to fall into homelessness. Rates of homelessness in any given community can be predicted by understanding vacancy rates in multi-family housing. Low vacancy rates result in high demand and increased costs, directly correlating to rates of homelessness within that community. Without a broad range of housing available for all income levels, services to address individual homelessness will be frustrated, and rates of homelessness will continue to rise. Permanent housing programs coupled with robust supportive services allow those experiencing homelessness to work toward individual solutions while living in stable housing instead of in emergency shelters or on the street, and make emergency shelter programs more effective by providing more appropriate housing options.

Federal funding for homelessness programs comes from the Department of Housing and Urban Development specifically under their Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) and Continuum of Care (CoC) programs.

Community Development: Jennifer Jolley, Director | jjolley@sjgov.org | (209) 468-3121

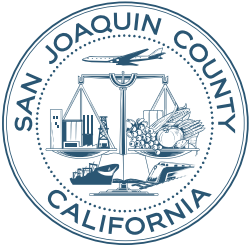


Homelessness

(Continued)

LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

State funding comes from the Department of Housing and Community Development and the California Interagency Council on Homelessness under the State ESG program, and from one-time grant programs such as the California Emergency Solutions and Housing Program (CESH), the Homeless Emergency Aid Program (HEAP), and the Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention Program (HHAP). Additionally, in response to the 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic and the related impacts on communities experiencing homelessness, emergency funds have been made available through the Coronavirus Relief Fund (SB 89), Project Roomkey, Project Homekey, and Housing for the Harvest to expand supports for vulnerable groups experiencing housing insecurity and homelessness. Without Federal and State funding, the County's programs currently being used to alleviate the issues of homelessness would be eliminated.



15. Workforce Innovation and Opportunities Act

LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

BOARD STRATEGIC PRIORITY:

Economic Development

ISSUE:

Funding for Federal workforce development programs in San Joaquin County has declined by 39% since inception of the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) in July 2000 and WIOA enacted in 2015. Ultimately, reduced funding for local workforce development and training programs adversely affects poverty and public assistance rates, and hinders economic development efforts when businesses are unable to access a trained workforce.

LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM:

Support legislation which would:

1. Invest additional funding for the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) to ensure employers have access to a trained workforce;
2. Incentivize employer attraction in high unemployment/high poverty/high public assistance areas, like San Joaquin County; and
3. Increase local flexibility to more efficiently and effectively promote economic development in San Joaquin County.

BACKGROUND:

In 2015, the WIOA replaced WIA, but funding levels have had no significant increases, leaving some of the most challenged workforce development areas, like San Joaquin County, at greater risk. Since fiscal year 2010, local workforce development funding declined when local unemployment rates consistently exceeded the State's rate and the national level.

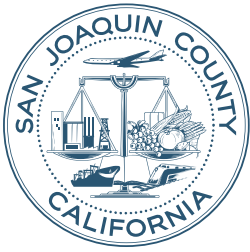
In 2020, the unemployment rate in San Joaquin County reached an unprecedented all-time high in excess of 16%.

Between 2000 and 2021, California saw a reduction of 51% in WIA/WIOA funds, translating to a total of \$4.5 million in reductions in San Joaquin County. These reductions have a direct economic impact on the community when unemployed and underemployed individuals are unable to access training opportunities and other supportive services to facilitate upward mobility. Moreover, a lack of an adequately trained workforce hinders the overall economic expansion efforts in the area.

The COVID-19 pandemic crisis more than doubled the unemployment rate in San Joaquin County with record displacement unseen in the County's workforce development area. During the Great Recession of 2008-2009, San Joaquin County received \$10.9 million from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) stimulus packet to facilitate the transition of dislocated workers back into the labor market.

Employment and Economic Development:

Patricia Virgen, Director | pvirgen@sjcworknet.org | (209) 468-2245



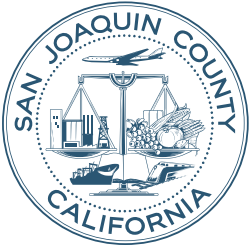
Workforce Innovation and Opportunities Act (Continued)

LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

Unfortunately, the funding from the 2020 Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) and other stimulus packages passed to support workforce development during this crisis, did not reach the

Workforce Development Board as was done under ARRA in 2009. In the first three months of the crisis, 57 companies filed Worker Adjustment and Retraining Notifications (WARN Notices) and reported layoffs, affecting 5,370 employees between April 1, 2020-June 30, 2020. This does not include the thousands of workers displaced when businesses identified as non-essential services closed through the Governor's Executive Order, resulting in an unemployment rate never seen in the history of this nation with San Joaquin County far exceeding the State and national averages.

Workforce development is more critical now than ever before. Businesses that closed their doors as non-essential service providers may never re-open again. Displaced workers will require support, training resources, and employment to transition back into the labor market. It is critical to assist businesses to reopen, remain competitive, and secure a skilled and productive labor force in the new world economy.



16. Emergency Management Performance Grant Funding for Flood Preparedness

LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

BOARD STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:

Fiscal Optimization and Organizational Capacity

ISSUE:

Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) funding for flood preparedness activities and hazards is a vital component of local emergency management programs. The continuation of this funding is essential to assist in ensuring the long-term preparedness and protection of our citizens from potentially devastating flooding in San Joaquin County.

LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM:

Support legislation that increases or maintains grant funding for the Emergency Management Performance Grant, retaining flexibility in the use of funds for non-terrorism specific threats.

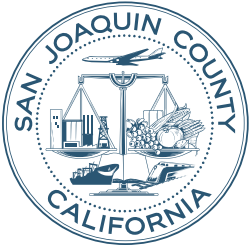
BACKGROUND:

The 1950 Civil Defense Act established a Federal grant program intended to assist local governments to prepare for disasters. These matching grants (50% match) are designed to enhance and sustain the all-hazards core capabilities of State, local, tribal, and territorial Governments, by funding planning operations for local emergency management staff, maintaining and/or purchasing communications equipment, and providing training and exercises.

The EMPG program funding amounts, which have varied over the years, have been significantly less than similar Homeland Security grants which must include a terrorism element. These funds help to offset costs associated with preparedness activities. For San Joaquin County, the EMPG has been the only ongoing and non-local source of funding for permanent emergency staff. The all-hazard orientation of this grant has made it a key resource for flood-related preparedness activities in San Joaquin County over the years. The potential for a catastrophic flood in the Central Valley is a critical concern for local government and the community at large. As the region becomes increasingly populated, the potential loss exposure and threat to life will become a major factor in California's ability to ensure citizens quality of life.

General Services: Marcia Cunningham, Director | mcunningham@sjgov.org | (209) 468-3664

Emergency Services: Tiffany Heyer-Cacho, Director | theyer@sjgov.org | (209) 953-6200



17. 340B Drug Purchasing Program

LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

BOARD STRATEGIC PRIORITY:

Fiscal Optimization

ISSUE:

The 340B Drug Pricing Program has been a critical factor in reducing the cost of drugs prescribed to outpatients of San Joaquin General Hospital (SJGH) and the San Joaquin County Clinics, designated as Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) Look-A-likes. Inpatient drugs are currently excluded from best price calculations, which dictate savings that drug manufacturers pass on to Medicaid providers. The addition of inpatient medications would allow eligible providers such as SJGH and Behavioral Health Services to obtain 15-25% discounting on drug pricing through the 340B Drug Pricing Program.

LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM:

1. Continue to support the 340B Drug Pricing Program for entities that serve uninsured and Medicaid populations.
2. Expand the 340B Drug Pricing Program to include County correctional facilities and behavioral health psychiatric health facility and clinics.
3. Seek legislative and administrative support to include inpatient drugs in the 340B Drug Pricing Program.
4. Ensure continued access to the 340B Program for FQHC Look-A-Likes.

BACKGROUND:

In 1992, Congress created the 340B Program, which allows certain hospitals and clinics that serve vulnerable populations to purchase outpatient drugs at the Medicaid best price from pharmaceutical companies that participate in the Medicaid program. Eligible providers negotiate additional discounts from manufacturers as part of the program, obtaining prices that are approximately 25% lower than those available from group purchasing organizations or other buying arrangements.

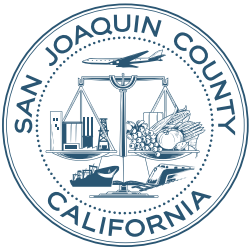
This program has provided significant savings to the patients of SJGH for several years. Other County-owned and operated facilities and clinics that also serve this population could likewise benefit from these discounts, as they have few other options to leverage large pharmaceutical firms to offer them price relief. Both the Senate and House versions of the Medicare Prescription Drug Bill of 2009 included an exemption from the Medicaid best price calculation for inpatient drugs charged to 340B hospitals.

With annual expenditures of over \$4 million for inpatient pharmaceuticals, SJGH could possibly reduce drug purchasing costs by over \$500,000 per year. The County will seek continued and expanded access to the 340B Program.

Health Care Services Agency: Greg Diederich, Director | gdiederich@sjgh.org | (209) 468-7031

San Joaquin General Hospital: Richard Castro, CEO | rcastro@sjgh.org | (209) 468-6042

San Joaquin Health Centers: Farhan Fadoo, CEO & CMO | ffadoo@sjhealth.org | (209) 953-3700



18. Behavioral Health Continuum of Care

LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

BOARD STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:

Fiscal Optimization, Organizational Capacity, and Public Safety/Criminal Justice

ISSUE:

In order to treat behavioral health clients at all levels, it is necessary to support interventions and treatment facilities throughout the continuum of care and ensure that behavioral health patients have access to housing.

LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM:

Support developing infrastructure and increasing capacity for crisis services, including triage personnel, mobile crisis teams, and crisis residential options.

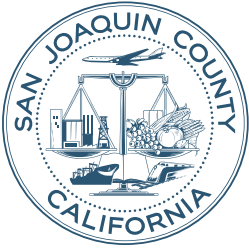
Support funding for facilities that serve consumers in need of a higher level of care, including expansion of beds in institutions for mental diseases and State psychiatric hospitals.

Support funding housing construction, operating subsidies, and supportive services in order to create permanent supportive housing, and/or increase housing affordability for clients with behavioral health conditions.

BACKGROUND:

County mental health plans must provide inpatient and post-stabilization outpatient care to their emergency room patients. However, there is a shortage of crisis and inpatient mental health beds in San Joaquin County and Statewide. Hospitals, law enforcement, and the courts are making efforts to ensure that individuals are not placed in jail because of a lack of adequate crisis intervention and supports. It is important to ensure that San Joaquin County has adequate crisis intervention, treatment services, and housing for behavioral health clients and that supports are in place to treat this population.

Health Care Services Agency: Greg Diederich, Director | gdiederich@sjgh.org | (209) 468-7031
Behavioral Health Services: Genevieve Valentine, Director | gvalentine@sjcbhs.org | (209) 468-8752



19. Controlling Tuberculosis

LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

BOARD STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:

Fiscal Optimization, Organizational Capacity, and Public Safety/Criminal Justice

ISSUE:

Funds lack for preventing, monitoring, controlling, and treating Tuberculosis (TB).

LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM:

Pursue and support legislation that would increase domestic and international funding for continued prevention, monitoring, controlling, and treating TB infection and disease.

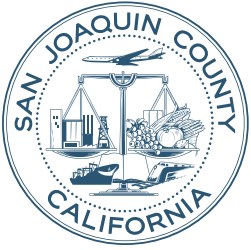
BACKGROUND:

TB remains a persistent global health threat, with 10.6 million cases of active TB and 1.6 million deaths attributed to TB in 2021 worldwide. California continues to report 20% of the active TB cases diagnosed in the United States annually, reporting 1,750 people with active TB in 2021. TB programs within health departments play a critical role in treatment, containment, and prevention. Across California, they evaluate 10,000 persons suspected to have TB, and nearly 20,000 contacts of people with TB each year. According to County Health Status Report of 2022, the rate of TB in San Joaquin County is higher than California average of 5.0 cases per 100,000 resident population. There many factors affecting TB rates in the county including the high poverty rate and the age-risk associated with the influx of immigrants from Southeast Asia during the late 1970s and 1980s. To stop the spread of TB, public health departments oversee identification of active, infectious TB cases, investigation of contacts, and ensure adequate treatment of TB disease, which takes up to 12 months of daily visits for drug susceptible TB and 18 months minimum for drug resistant TB.

The incidence of active TB disease will not decrease substantially until emphasis is placed on treating TB infection. Approximately 2.4 million Californians are infected with TB including an estimated 45,000 people living in San Joaquin County, and treatment is essential to prevent those infections from becoming active and spreading TB to others in our County. In 2022, San Joaquin County reported 1,534 new positive TB blood test results indicating individuals newly diagnosed with TB infection. It is estimated that only 40% of these individuals have started preventative treatment in the first year after diagnosis. The County seeks support for all aspects of TB control, including improved immigrant evaluation and treatment on arrival to the United States and improved treatment of contacts to active TB identified through contact investigation, and individuals with TB infection identified through blood test. Further, support for improved TB infection and disease identification and treatment internationally will greatly help in controlling TB in San Joaquin County.

Health Care Services Agency: Greg Diederich, Director | gdiederich@sjgh.org | (209) 468-7031

Public Health Services: Vacant | (209) 468-3413



20. Exclusion of Psychiatric Health Facility from Institute for Mental Disease

LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

BOARD STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:

Fiscal Optimization and Organizational Capacity

ISSUE:

Behavioral Health Services had operated a 40-bed Psychiatric Health Facility (PHF) for several years that did not qualify for Medicaid payments because it exceeded the Federal 16-bed limit, known as the Institute for Mental Disease Exclusion. The PHF reconfigured its bed capacity to meet the 16-bed limit, however, this size is not adequate for current needs, nor will it be for future projected needs and demand.

LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM:

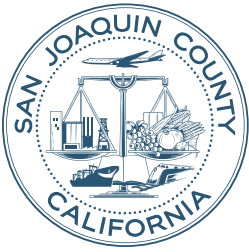
1. Support legislation or regulatory changes that would exclude the County's PHF from the Institute for Mental Disease Exclusion for Medicaid funding.
2. Raise the PHF bed limit above 16.
3. Support legislation or regulations that allows Medicaid payments for multiple County-owned and operated 16-bed PHFs.

BACKGROUND:

Federal law prohibits Medicaid payments to facilities determined to be an Institute for Mental Disease. This type of facility is defined as a psychiatric inpatient or residential facility that has more than 16 beds, unless the facility is licensed as an acute psychiatric inpatient facility. The original intent of this law was to prevent Medicaid payments from going to State hospitals. However, this limitation severely restricts the development of non-medical alternatives to acute psychiatric inpatient facilities. To comply with this regulation, Behavioral Health Services (BHS) reduced its 40-bed PHF to a 16-bed PHF several years ago to qualify for Medicaid payment reimbursement; however, the 16-bed threshold does not and has not meet San Joaquin County's needs. BHS can have multiple 16-bed PHFs, they just cannot be located at the same location.

The PHF offers clinically-based services and cost-effective care that is similar to an acute psychiatric inpatient facility at approximately half the cost. BHS seeks eligibility for County-operated Medicaid payments for additional PHFs or residential treatment programs for substance use disorder; the resulting savings could be reinvested in nuanced and needed behavioral health community programs.

Health Care Services Agency: Greg Diederich, Director | gdiederich@sjgh.org | (209) 468-7031
Behavioral Health Services: Genevieve Valentine, Director | gvalentine@sjcbhs.org | (209) 468-8752



21. Funding for Public Health Emergency Services

LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

BOARD STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:

Fiscal Optimization and Public Safety/Criminal Justice

ISSUE:

To ensure adequate safety and protection of the public, there needs to be a continuation of fair and equitable funding for public health emergency services.

LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM:

Aggressively pursue and support:

1. Sustained State and Federal funding for planning and responding to the medical/health consequences of terrorism, disasters, and/or other public health emergencies.
2. Development of equitable funding formulas which would consider the proximity of jurisdictions to high-profile, high-impact targets, but are not based solely on the presence of such targets or County population.
3. Policies that ensure there will be no financial penalties to the County if staff is pulled from categorically funded programs to respond to terrorism, disasters, and other public health emergencies.

BACKGROUND:

Sustained funding is needed to augment local programs to prepare for, respond to, and recover from all forms of terrorism, including bioterrorism and natural disasters. California's widespread and life-threatening wildfires underscore the impact of natural disasters on local, State, and Federal medical/health response capabilities. Pandemics stemming from influenza and novel viruses like COVID-19, threaten to overwhelm an already fragile medical and public health system. The inadequacies of such resource were evident in the County's COVID-19 response efforts. County government is at a severe disadvantage in its ability to obtain new funding sources to address unexpected and additional public health and safety issues.

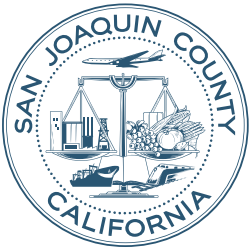
Legislation is needed that increases prevention and response capabilities and strengthens the partnerships between State, Federal, local agencies, and community groups to effectively identify, prevent, and respond to the medical/health consequences of terrorism, disasters, and other public health emergencies. Funding formulas should consider the proximity of communities that would provide mutual aid or serve as evacuation sites to high-profile, high-impact targets as they could be impacted by an influx of large numbers of people seeking shelter and/or treatment.

Staff within local health jurisdictions are often funded by categorical grants. These staff must be trained and when appropriate, engaged in emergency preparedness and disaster response activities.

Sustained staffing capacity is critical for addressing health-related surges where trained staff must respond immediately to contain and mitigate the impacts of the particular crisis. Federal policies must be flexible to ensure a competent, trained workforce is available for response efforts, independent of salary funding streams or employee program assignments.

Health Care Services Agency: Greg Diederich, Director | gdiederich@sjgh.org | (209) 468-7031

Public Health Services: Vacant | (209) 468-3413



22. Health Center Section 330 Grantees

LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

BOARD STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:

Fiscal Optimization and Homelessness

ISSUE:

As a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) Look-Alike, San Joaquin Health Centers (SJ Health) are excluded from meaningful Federal grant funding opportunities through the Health Resources and Service Administration's (HRSA) Health Center Program, specifically section 330 of the Public Health Service Act.

LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM:

Seek, advocate, and support legislation to address funding opportunities for FQHC Look-A-Likes, including development of pathways for Look-A-Likes to transition into section 330 grantee.

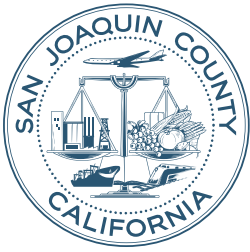
BACKGROUND:

HRSA's Health Center Program is designed to establish and support community health centers (CHCs) delivering comprehensive and culturally competent primary health care services to the most vulnerable individuals and families. This includes low-income individuals, people experiencing homelessness, agricultural workers, residents of public housing, Veterans, and other groups.

CHCs also provide access to pharmacy, mental health, substance use disorder, and oral health services in areas where economic, geographic, or cultural barriers limit access to affordable health care. Most CHC operating funds come from Medicaid, Medicare, private insurance, patient fees, and Federal grant funding.

Additionally, there are CHCs that meet all HRSA Health Center Program requirements but are ineligible to receive Federal award funding. These are designated Health Center Program Look-A-Likes. SJ Health sites are HRSA-designated health center look-A-Likes. As a look-alike, SJ Health can take advantage of programs such as Prospective Payment System reimbursement, discounted drug pricing, free vaccines for children, primary care provider recruitment and retention assistance, training, and technical assistance.

However, as a look-alike, SJ Health is excluded from applying for and receiving funding from a significant number of Federal grant funding programs that FQHC 330 grantees can, such as those for operations and capital projects. This puts look-A-Likes, including SJ Health, at a disadvantage when it comes to being able to compete for resource and funding allocations and impedes efforts to expand access to high quality primary care for residents of San Joaquin County, specifically its low-income and homeless populations.



23. Medicaid and Medicare Funding Programs

LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

BOARD STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:

Fiscal Optimization and Economic Development

ISSUE:

Proposals to reduce Medicaid and Medicare program funding include budgetary measures, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services rule changes, the Medicare Recovery Audit Contractor Program, changes in the Upper Payment Limit, and other mechanisms.

LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM:

Support legislative and/or regulatory efforts which would:

1. Aggressively oppose reductions in reimbursement from Medicaid and Medicare, including any restrictions in Federal financing of Medicaid, which would result in a shift or increase in cost to County safety net health care systems.
2. Oppose Medicaid reform efforts which would result in decreased access to health care, and/or shift costs or risks to counties.
3. Maximize the Federal Medical Assistance Program which provides matching funds for Medicaid, while ensuring that the enhanced funding is directed to counties.
4. Oppose efforts which would negatively impact cost-based rates for the County's affiliated Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) Look-A-Likes.
5. Support adding additional dental benefits to Medicare coverage, and enhance and ensure Federal participation in Medicaid for dental services for covered populations.
6. Support legislation and/or budget appropriations that support opportunities for the County's affiliated FQHC Look-A-Likes to become 330 grantees.
7. Support efforts to extend Federal Community Health Center and primary care workforce funding.
8. Expand Medicare and other support of graduate medical education.

BACKGROUND:

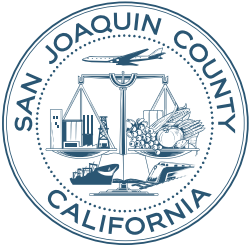
Medicaid and Medicare are the primary mechanisms for supporting the provision of health care coverage for the nation's low-income, disabled, uninsured patients, and the population over age 65. Medicaid and Medicare are the primary sources of revenue supporting the safety net health care systems that provide essential health care services in San Joaquin County.

San Joaquin County's Health Care Services Agency (HCS), San Joaquin General Hospital (SJGH), and San Joaquin Health Centers (SJ Health) are health care safety net providers for the County. Maintaining and increasing revenues is critical to the financial viability of the County's safety net health care delivery system. In 2014, existing County primary care clinics were added to the safety net as designated FQHC Look-A-Likes. This designation has improved reimbursement for and enhanced access to primary care for low-income individuals. The Medicaid cost-based payment program is essential to retaining and expanding safety net services at SJGH, SJ Health, and HCS.

Health Care Services Agency: Greg Diederich, Director | gdiederich@sjgh.org | (209) 468-7031

San Joaquin General Hospital: Richard Castro, CEO | rcastro@sjgh.org | (209) 468-6042

San Joaquin Health Centers: Farhan Fadoo, CEO & CMO | ffadoo@sjhealth.org | (209) 953-3700



Medicaid and Medicare Funding Programs

(Continued)

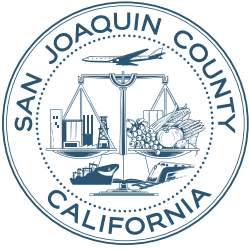
LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

The expansion of health care coverage has significantly reduced the County's mandate for indigent care, provided opportunities to redirect County General Funds into other supportive programs, and has expanded health care employment in the community. Health care coverage helps to ensure a healthier community and workforce.

Medicaid and Medicare funding measures need to ensure that San Joaquin County is protected from unforeseen liability and/or unfunded service obligations, insufficient funding for new and undefined populations, and increased requirements to fund these new obligations.

SJGH and SJ Health specialize in health care delivery programs not otherwise available in the community, serving a disproportionate share of Medicaid and uninsured patients, and relying on over \$90 million a year in supplemental Medicaid funding for its patient care revenues. SJ Health also focuses on providing comprehensive adult and pediatric primary care including chronic disease management services for patients covered by Medicaid and the uninsured. Reductions in Medicaid funding could lead to significant reductions in critical health care programs and could have an adverse impact on the overall health and well-being of the low-income, disabled, and uninsured population in the community.

Currently, dental care is excluded from Medicare coverage. Congress has not amended the dental exclusion since 1980, when it made an exception for inpatient hospital services when the dental procedure itself made hospitalization necessary. The low-income population, particularly seniors, cannot afford the out-of-pocket cost of dental care, and poor dental health can result in significant cost to the Medicare program. Dental care is a critical component to overall health and should be included in the Federal Medicaid program for all covered populations.



24. Mental Health Treatment and the Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant

LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

BOARD STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:

Fiscal Optimization, Organizational Capacity/Technology Utilization, and Public Safety/Criminal Justice/Quality of Life

ISSUE:

There is an increased demand and need for mental health and co-occurring substance use disorder treatment.

LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM:

1. Support legislation and budgetary proposals to combat increasing opioid and methamphetamine addiction.
2. Support efforts to amend 42 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) part 2 to permit information sharing between health care providers.
3. Support efforts to ensure continued Medicaid funding for all forms of substance use disorder treatment.

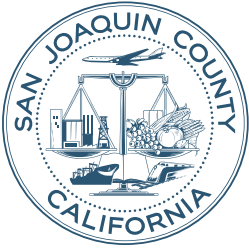
BACKGROUND:

In recent years, Congress has become increasingly interested in addressing mental health and co-occurring substance abuse issues. Enhanced access to treatment should not be forced on patients; other intensive outreach strategies are effective for many non-compliant patients without involving an overwhelmed justice system.

San Joaquin County supports the continuation of Medicaid funding for all forms of substance use disorder treatment. The County continues to experience significant increases in the number of individuals seeking treatment for methamphetamine, alcohol, and opioid addiction.

Due to the stigma associated with substance use disorder, the Federal government enacted extremely strict provisions regarding the privacy of patient treatment records. However, these standards actually impede the care of these patients with co-occurring mental health or physical health issues. Therefore, 42 CFR part 2 must be amended in order to provide better health care to these individuals. Patients still must have a say in who may access their medical records; the existence of mental illness or substance use should not be used as justification to access those records without consent.

Health Care Services Agency: Greg Diederich, Director | gdiederich@sjgh.org | (209) 468-7031
Behavioral Health Services: Genevieve Valentine, Director | gvalentine@sjcbhs.org | (209) 468-8752



25. Services and Facilities for Veterans

LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

BOARD STRATEGIC PRIORITY:

Economic Development

ISSUES:

San Joaquin County needs residential housing facilities for its aging Veteran population, particularly those who are extremely low-income, homeless, and/or in need of supportive services.

There is a severe lack of local, community-based, residential Veterans treatment programs. Needed services include in-home health care, hospice care, socialization, mental health care services, and physical rehabilitation for the County's increasing senior Veterans population.

LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM:

1. Support legislation, administrative actions, and/or budgetary proposals which would:
2. Advocate for additional Federal resources and spending flexibility to address alternate means of providing after-hours health care, behavioral health services, and related supportive services to Veterans and their families.
3. Provide funding to expand education and promotion of the VA Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics (PACT) Act, MISSION Act, suicide prevention programs, and new reimbursable suicide prevention emergency treatment.
4. Widen eligibility criteria to include homelessness for Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH) and Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF).
5. Address transportation barriers that impact Veterans needing access to mental and medical health care services.
6. Advocate for Federal resources to include supervision services and assisted living facilities for senior Veterans who are suffering from cognitive decline.

BACKGROUND:

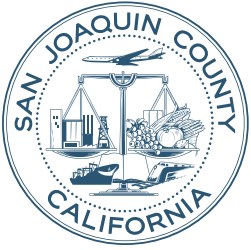
In the last decade, San Joaquin County has made significant strides in addressing low-income and homeless Veterans housing and health care needs. The number of permanent supportive housing units for the exclusive use of low-income and homeless Veterans in San Joaquin County has gone from zero units in 2012 to 123 units in 2022. During this time, nonprofits that administer Federally-funded VA housing programs and SSVF increased from one to three. These nonprofits serve very low-income, unstably housed, at-risk, and homeless Veterans.

Conversely, the ability for Veterans to access specialized residential substance abuse and mental health stabilization programs has significantly declined. In 2018, the Salvation Army Veteran housing program in Lodi, California, ended their 30-year relationship with the Federal VA Grant and Per Diem Program. In early 2023, the remaining Veterans transitional housing facility with substance abuse treatment programming was forced to shut its doors.

Health Care Services Agency: Greg Diederich, Director | gdiederich@sjgh.org | (209) 468-7031

Veteran Services: Susan Feighery, Director | sfeighery@sjhcs.org | (209) 468-2916

San Joaquin General Hospital: Richard Castro, CEO | rcastro@sjgh.org | (209) 468-6042



Services and Facilities for Veterans

(Continued)

LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

The lack of clinical support, behavioral health treatment, and after-hours services are of significant concern for Veterans families and community stakeholders.

In January 2023, Veterans in suicidal crisis became eligible to receive emergency mental health care under Section 201 of the Veterans Comprehensive Prevention Access to Care and Treatment (COMPACT) Act of 2020. The Department of Veterans Affairs will provide, pay, or reimburse treatment of an eligible individual's emergency suicide care, transportation, and follow-up at both non-VA and VA facilities.

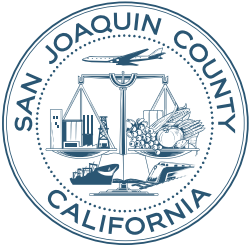
Another Federal initiative to combat Veteran suicidality was the creation of a new national phone number—988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline—for Veterans to quickly connect with mental health resources 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

On a national level, the passage of the historic PACT Act is the largest expansion of VA benefits in 30 years, expanding VA health care and eligibility benefits for approximately four million Veterans.

The VA MISSION Act, replaced the Veterans Choice Program, requiring access to eligible community care when the VA does not offer the services, or when VA facilities are geographically too far away from Veterans.

Local changes include:

- The completion of the new, Stockton VA Community Based Outpatient Clinic by October 2023.
- Construction of a future Community Living Center for medically complex elderly patients in need of skilled nursing care.
- The transfer of administrative and medical assets from the Palo Alto VA Health Care System to the Northern California VA Health Care System.



26. Shortages of Physicians, Nurses, and Ancillary Clinicians

LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

BOARD STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:

Economic Development, Fiscal Optimization, and Organizational Capacity

ISSUE:

San Joaquin County Health Care Services Agency, San Joaquin Health Centers, and San Joaquin General Hospital continue to experience a significant shortage of physicians, nurses, and ancillary clinical staff.

Legislative Platform:

1. Advocate and support legislation or budgetary efforts which would expand health-related training programs, especially for psychiatrists and other physicians, nurses, and ancillary clinicians.
2. Support funding for health-training loans and scholarship programs which target Central Valley needs and shortages, as well as funding for workforce outreach and development in schools and the community.
3. Support legislation which would provide incentives to encourage and attract health care professionals to practice in the Central Valley.
4. Oppose legislation which would impose new staffing ratios or increase demand for health care professionals without adequately addressing the supply of available licensed and/or ancillary clinical staff.

BACKGROUND:

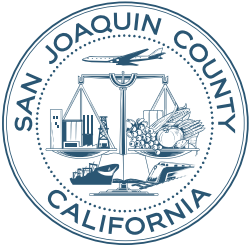
The health care industry continues to face a critical shortage of physicians, psychiatrists, registered nurses, public health nurses, nurse practitioners, and ancillary clinical staff (e.g., radiology, nuclear medicine, microbiology, ultrasound technology, respiratory therapy, physical and occupational therapy, and pharmacy). Shortages also exist for other clinical providers such as Licensed Clinical Social Workers and Marriage and Family Therapists. Expansion of training programs, funding for loan and scholarship programs, career outreach and development programs, and incentives for practice in underserved areas is critical to address these career deficiencies in the health care industry.

The County advocates for funding and for programs that will increase the available pool of health professionals. Legislative efforts continue to attempt to add ratios for other health care ancillary staff without recognition of the critical shortages for these professionals. Requiring staffing levels, when staff is not readily available, creates undue liability for the County.

Health Care Services Agency: Greg Diederich, Director | gdiederich@sjgh.org | (209) 468-7031

San Joaquin General Hospital: Richard Castro, CEO | rcastro@sjgh.org | (209) 468-6042

San Joaquin Health Centers: Farhan Fadoo, CEO & CMO | ffadoo@sjhealth.org | (209) 953-3700



27. E-Rate Funding for Libraries

LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

BOARD STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:

Fiscal Optimization and Organizational Capacity

ISSUE:

Continued reductions in E-Rate funding to schools and libraries would impair the library's ability to continue to provide the public with up-to-date technology.

LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM:

Support legislative and administrative efforts and/or budgetary proposals which would:

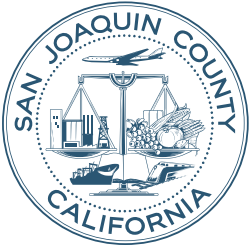
1. Maintain current level E-Rate program funding to libraries, raise the funding cap, and continue simplification of the application and distribution process.
2. Oppose efforts to reduce funding for the program.

BACKGROUND:

E-Rate is the commonly used name for the Schools and Libraries Program of the Universal Service Fund, authorized as part of the Telecommunications Act of 1996. The E-Rate program provides discounts to assist most schools and libraries in the United States to obtain affordable telecommunications and Internet access. Funded at \$2.25 billion annually, the E-Rate program provides funding under four categories of service: telecommunications services, Internet access, internal connections, and basic maintenance of internal connections. E-Rate discounts for support depend on the level of poverty and the urban/rural status of the population served. Discounts range from 20% to 90% of the costs of eligible services, with the deepest discounts going to communities with the greatest need, and is based on the local eligibility levels for participation in the National School Lunch Program.

The E-Rate program has played a pivotal role in helping libraries connect their users to the Internet. More than 95% of the nation's libraries offer Internet access to the public, compared to 1996, when 28% of the library systems offered public access to the Internet in at least one branch. Without the E-Rate program, libraries would not have access to critical resources such as online job information, government information, and educational resources. As technologies evolve and budgets remain tight, libraries depend more and more on E-Rate discounts, and increased funding will be required in the future to meet library needs.

Library Services: Kris Farro, Community Services Director | Kris.Farro@stocktonca.gov | (209) 937-8373



28. Expanding Access to Broadband in Libraries

LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

BOARD STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:

Fiscal Optimization and Organizational Capacity

ISSUE:

Libraries are experiencing an increased reliance on broadband telecommunication services, which require greater broadband deployment and build-out to improve services throughout the County.

LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM:

Support legislative and administrative efforts and/or budgetary proposals which would:

1. Advance accessibility, affordability, and universal service programs.
2. Oppose legislation that would inhibit the growth of any public broadband efforts at the State or Federal level.

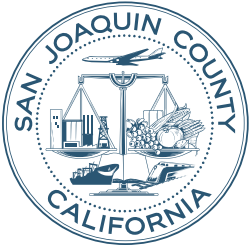
BACKGROUND:

Broadband is generally described as high-speed telecommunications or high-speed Internet.

Despite the recognized benefits of, and increasing demand for, innovative library programs, limited connectivity prevents California librarians from offering programs and services that would be of value to their users. Many California libraries are unable to meet the demands for video conferencing, streaming media, content creation, specialized software, longer sessions on terminals, and unlimited wireless access. Insufficient bandwidth remains a barrier for libraries to fulfill their vital roles in community research and education. In order to empower libraries, particularly in high-needs areas, improved broadband connectivity is critical.

Public debate regarding broadband often comes before the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) rather than Congress so it is important to track issues coming before the FCC.

Library Services: Kris Farro, Community Services Director | Kris.Farro@stocktonca.gov | (209) 937-8373



29. Clean Water Act: EPA Rule Making, Navigable Waters

LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

BOARD STRATEGIC PRIORITY:

Water Management

ISSUE:

The definition of “Waters of the United States” (WOTUS) is being revised with an expected rule making on the Clean Water Act (CWA) that will affect how the agencies (Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Army Corps of Engineers (Corps)) are to implement the Act. The potential implications of an expanded WOTUS Rule are significant as the CWA affects many public and private water sources in San Joaquin County.

LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM:

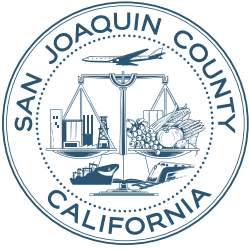
1. Oppose legislative and/or administrative efforts, including the issuance of guidance or a formal rule making, to broaden the application of the CWA to include small isolated wetlands, ephemeral streams and ditches, and other marginal waters that are not directly connected or adjacent to navigable waters but could be determined to be jurisdictional under the CWA using the significant nexus test, especially in light of the recent decision by the Supreme Court to hear the case *Sackett v. EPA*.
2. Support legislative efforts to bar the EPA and the Corps from expanding the jurisdiction of the Federal government under the CWA, including disapproval resolutions under the Congressional Review Act (CRA).
3. Monitor the future Supreme Court decision in *Sackett v. EPA* in the summer of 2023.

BACKGROUND:

On June 9, 2021, the EPA and the Corps announced their intent to revise the definition of WOTUS. This process included two rules: a foundational rule to restore longstanding pre-2015 protections, and an anticipated second rule that builds on that regulatory foundation. The Biden Administration has finalized the first rule making process that repealed the Trump Administration’s *Navigable Waters Protection Rule* regarding the definition of WOTUS under the Federal CWA and put back into place the pre-2015 definition of WOTUS, updated to reflect consideration of Supreme Court decisions. The Biden Administration believes this familiar approach would support a stable implementation of WOTUS while the agencies continue to consult with states, tribes, local governments, and a broad array of stakeholders in both the current implementation and future regulatory actions to redefine WOTUS. These rule making processes follow a review conducted by the EPA and the Corps as directed by President Biden’s January 20, 2021 [Executive Order 13990](#) on “*Protecting Public Health and the Environment and Restoring Science to Tackle the Climate Crisis.*”

The Supreme Court agreed to hear a case concerning the definition of WOTUS (for example, defining adjacent waters to a navigable water as jurisdictional) in *Sackett v. EPA*, and heard oral arguments on the case in October 2022. The Court is expected to provide clarity on a legal definition of WOTUS under the Federal CWA that will affect how agencies implement the Act.

Public Works: Fritz Buchman, Director | fbuchman@sjgov.org | (209) 468-3100



Clean Water Act: EPA Rule Making, Navigable Waters (Continued)

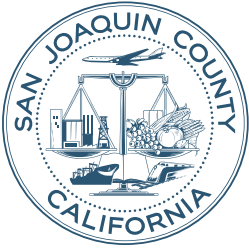
LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

Under the Trump Administration, the EPA and Corps jointly finalized a rule to repeal the Obama Administration's Clean Water Rule over WOTUS with the *Navigable Waters Protection Rule* which clarified protection under the CWA for streams and wetlands that form the foundation of the nation's water resources. The Biden Administration repealed that rule making and put back into place the pre-2015 definition of WOTUS with updates to reflect consideration of past Supreme Court decisions. This is the third Administration to develop a WOTUS Rule that describes how the EPA and Corps will define waters subject to jurisdiction under the CWA. The new WOTUS Rule reflects decisions made by the Supreme Court decisions in *Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County (SWANCC) v. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers* and *Rapanos v. United States* concerning the extent of waters covered by the Act.

In drafting the original CWA, Congress clearly recognized that not all waters should be subject to Federal jurisdiction and regulation. Congress distinguished between water bodies that are jurisdictional and those that are not by limiting the CWA's authority to navigable waters. By definition, any move away from navigable waters to some broader definition could include virtually any wetlands, irrigation canals, roadside ditches, ephemeral pools, and other non-navigable waterways.

Farming practices could be significantly impacted in attempting to improve marginal range land into irrigated pasture. Roadside or private irrigation ditches (some are jurisdictional, but many are not) could all become jurisdictional under a revised WOTUS Rule using the significant nexus test developed in *Rapanos v. United States*. Many routine but vital maintenance operations in small stream channels, dry washes, and man-made water conveyances could be subjected to costly and time-consuming permitting processes, even though such operations have no real effect on water quality. As a consequence, residents could see their water and power rates increase with no improvement in reliability and little or no enhancement of the environment.

In addition, California faces a major challenge in meeting the water and power needs of a growing population, while ensuring the vitality of its environmental resources. Adoption and implementation of the WOTUS Rule could make that task much more difficult. Other potential impacts include the County's operations and maintenance of critical infrastructure such as roads, bridges, and utilities which are often located in close proximity and/or drain in to ditches or channels. Any expansion of the definition could add significant time and expense to these maintenance efforts.



30. Improved Flood Protection

LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

BOARD STRATEGIC PRIORITY:

Water Management

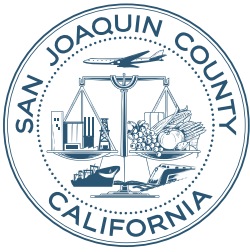
ISSUE:

San Joaquin County relies on a system of levees, reservoirs, channels, ditches, and other structures for the protection of lives, property, and critical infrastructure. State and Federal flood protection standards have become more stringent in recent years which impose additional obligations on local governments to improve the level of flood protection and to increase maintenance of levees and channels along with meeting ever-increasing environmental protection requirements. Current State laws require local governments to generate revenues specific to the flood protection services provided, which are currently insufficient to meet increasing needs and mandates.

LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM:

1. Seek, advocate, and support legislation, regulations, administrative efforts, and/or projects that:
 - a. Fund engineering design and construction of features approved in the Lower San Joaquin River Feasibility Study (LSJRFS) and other flood protection infrastructure;
 - b. Ensure that State and Federal obligations in the operation, maintenance, repair, rehabilitation, and replacement (OMRR&R) of project levees and channels within the State Plan of Flood Control are met, including a coordinated effort to consolidate both State and Federal inspections;
 - c. Repair and restore levees and channels after a flood event under PL84-99 or similar program;
 - d. Provide funding for local levee maintenance activities and relief from certain environmental restrictions for maintenance activities;
 - e. Achieve multiple benefits including flood protection, groundwater recharge, and/or reservoir storage;
 - f. Expedite completion of a Federal feasibility study and all State and Federal permits to provide 200-year flood protection for the Mossdale Tract area;
 - g. Ensure communities in San Joaquin County continue to maintain or establish at least 100-year flood protection to eliminate and/or reduce the cost of flood insurance under the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP); and
 - h. Result in practical reforms to NFIP programs, including maintaining and/or enhancing affordability of flood insurance premiums and ensuring reasonableness and practicality of administering the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) model flood hazards ordinance.
2. Seek, advocate, and support legislative and administrative efforts that would provide funding to analyze, plan, design, construct, and maintain facilities to improve Delta levees and waterways in San Joaquin County for the protection of communities, water supplies, agriculture, and other local businesses.

Public Works: Fritz Buchman, Director | fbuchman@sjgov.org | (209) 468-3100



Improved Flood Protection (Continued)

LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

BACKGROUND:

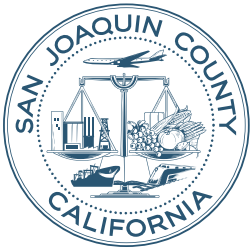
Levee systems in San Joaquin County protect over 400,000 residents and essential infrastructure that is critical to the region's economy and the State's well-being. Major flooding in the County could result in overwhelming negative economic impacts Statewide. Potential impacts to homes, businesses, transportation, farms and agriculture, municipal sewer and water systems, energy infrastructure, and the environment can be minimized with the proper planning, construction, and maintenance of flood protection improvements.

Local governments must participate in the FEMA National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) to remain eligible for Federal funding. Under the NFIP, flood insurance is required for Federally-backed mortgages on properties within Special Flood Hazard Areas (generally those with less than 100-year flood protection). Flood insurance is optional outside of Special Flood Hazard Areas. Congress is required to reauthorize and fund the NFIP with changes to the program proposed from time to time. Additionally, reforms are needed in some areas of the NFIP, such as adding reasonable flexibility in the requirements for structures related to agricultural uses and to ensure that proposed changes keep flood insurance rates affordable for local constituents.

Non-Project Levees

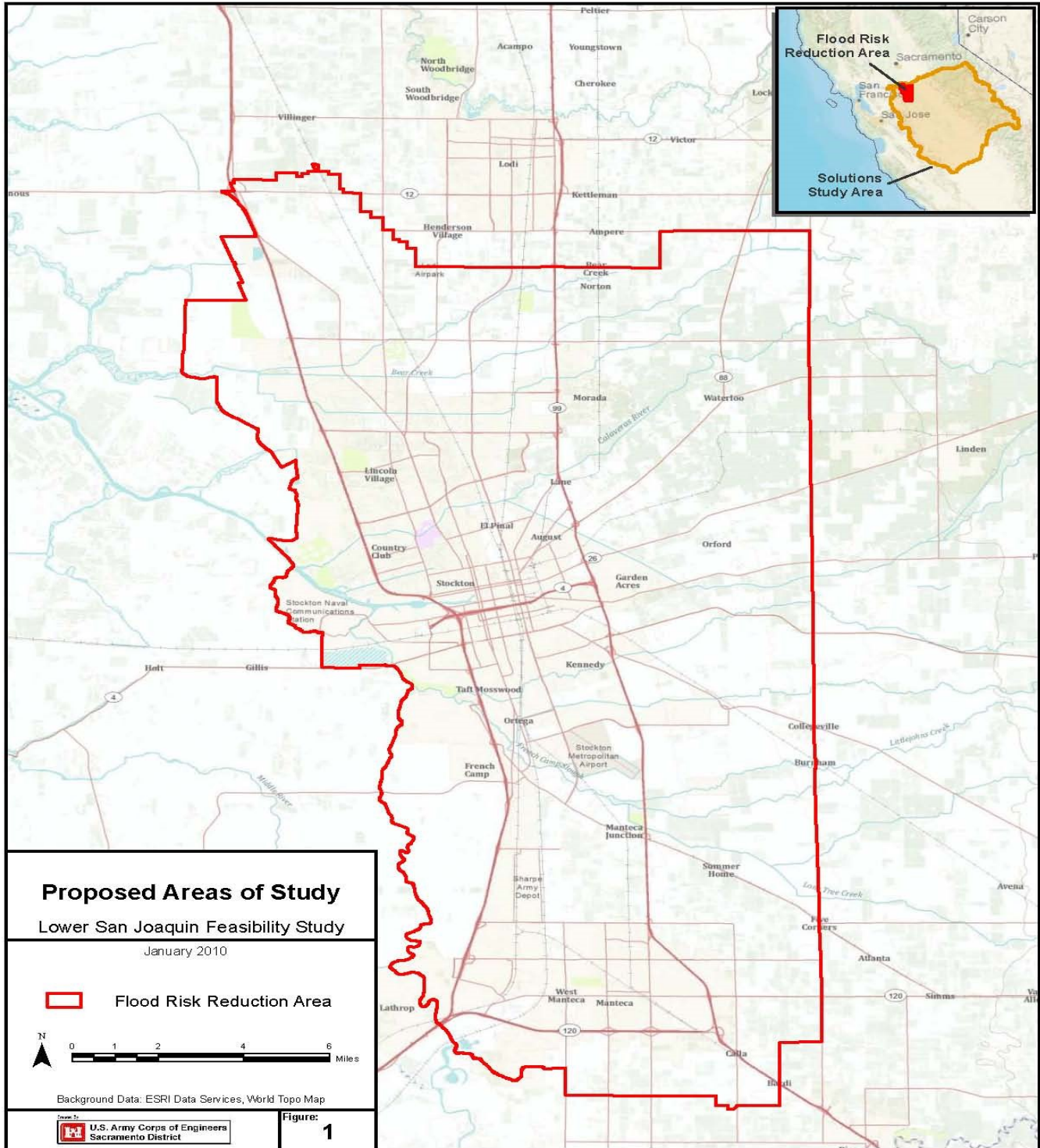
Non-project levees are essential features in the overall system of levees protecting parts of San Joaquin County. Non-project levees are levees that are not built as part of a Federally authorized project. While the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and the State are not involved in the operation and maintenance of non-project levees, many of these levees protect urban areas subject to the State's 200-year protection requirement. Consequently, communities within the County could be faced with a significant unfunded State mandate, and as a result, development, re-development, and critical infrastructure improvements could be halted if funding for both project and non-project levees is not available. Given the importance of non-project levees to this area, future State planning efforts and funding programs to implement the Central Valley Flood Protection Plan should incorporate the improvement needs of both project and non-project levees.

(PROJECT MAP ON PAGE 58; LITERATURE AVAILABLE)

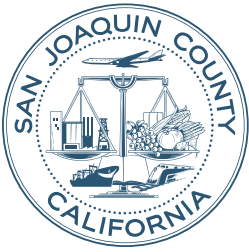


Improved Flood Protection (Continued)

LEGISLATIVE ISSUES



\\amethyst\CIVCAD\ALower_San_Joaquin_River_Feasibility_Study\GIS\IS_P\Projects\3_P\Projects\6_L\lood_risk_reduction_area.mxd



31. Invasive Weeds

LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

BOARD STRATEGIC PRIORITY:

Water Management

ISSUE:

Invasive weeds choke Delta waterways and impede flow, causing degradation of water quality and quantity in waterways. Large mats of water hyacinth are also extremely good breeding grounds and hiding places for mosquitoes, which has challenged local mosquito and vector control agencies to control the spread of the West Nile Virus and other dangerous mosquito-borne illnesses. The spread of water hyacinth, *Egeria densa* (Brazilian waterweed), *Arundo donax* (giant cane/reed), and other invasive weeds in and around local waterways has reduced channel capacities for flood water conveyance, complicated levee maintenance, hindered marine navigation and boater access, and compromised operation of water intakes for agricultural, municipal, and industrial use. Local, State and Federal agencies, private water interests such as Delta farmers, and marina operators, as well as State and Federal water projects are spending millions of dollars annually to combat this problem.

LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM:

Advocate for and support increased funding for research, development, and implementation of a sustainable, long-term invasive weeds management strategy.

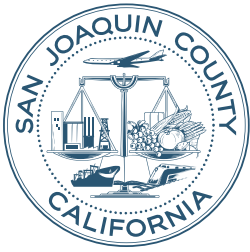
BACKGROUND:

San Joaquin County continues to advocate for a comprehensive long-term strategy for eradication of invasive weeds. Invasive aquatic weeds such as submerged Brazilian waterweed (*Egeria densa*), floating water hyacinth (*Eichhornia crassipes*), and emergent giant reed (*Arundo donax*) are a few of the most prolific and damaging invasive plant species in the Delta.

The California Department of Boating and Waterways has limited resources and permissions to control and eliminate the threat of these invasive aquatic weeds. In recent years, water hyacinth mats occupied several miles of channels and canals and in some cases from bank to bank, choking off access to irrigation. Currently, herbicides are applied at key times of the year under strict conditions from State and Federal regulators.

Cooperation between the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), the Department of Boating and Waterways, and other regulatory agencies have been focused mainly on permitted spraying programs throughout the Delta. Recent inclusion of USDA and National Aeronautics Space Administration researchers has been crucial to developing a science-based, comprehensive management approach to integrated pest and invasive weed management. Efforts to implement these strategies must be increased and include additional coordination across multiple disciplines, jurisdictions, and stakeholder, culminating in a sustainable, long-term Delta-wide integrated pest and invasive weed management strategy.

Public Works: Fritz Buchman, Director | fbuchman@sjgov.org | (209) 468-3100



32. Local Road and Bridge Maintenance Backlog

LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

BOARD STRATEGIC PRIORITY:

Public Safety/Criminal Justice/Quality of Life

ISSUE:

As the County continues to grow, transportation needs exceed existing and foreseeable revenues, requiring additional funding to respond to current and projected transportation infrastructure needs.

LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM:

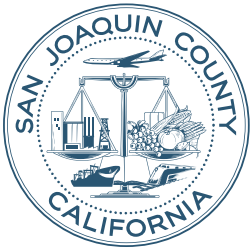
Seek, advocate, and support legislation and/or budget appropriations that would serve to provide funding for the backlog of local road and bridge maintenance projects.

BACKGROUND:

San Joaquin County's current backlog of deferred maintenance includes an estimated \$223 million in pavement maintenance and \$178 million in bridge maintenance. There is also a 10-year capital replacement need for \$265 million in essential components (signs, signals, sidewalks, storm drains, etc.).

This shortfall reflects funds needed to bring the current local roads and bridges to a state of good condition. The shortfall does not include system expansions such as those required to address existing congestion or population growth. Continued delay of this work will result in further declining road conditions and increases in the County's roadway maintenance backlog. The County seeks to be proactive in legislative and policy remedies to address the transportation funding issues impacting the road and bridge maintenance backlog.

Public Works: Fritz Buchman, Director | fbuchman@sjgov.org | (209) 468-3100



33. New Water Supplies for San Joaquin County

LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

BOARD STRATEGIC PRIORITY:

Water Management

ISSUE:

San Joaquin County continues to support the development of locally supported water supply projects in Eastern San Joaquin County. The County has worked with local stakeholders to:

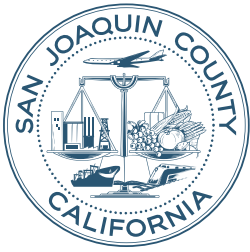
1. Develop and administer the Eastern San Joaquin County Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP);
2. Facilitate implementation of projects in the IRWMP;
3. Apply for grant funding (a) on behalf of member agencies in the IRWMP Coordinating Committee, Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Sustainability Agency, and Tracy Sub-basin Coordinating Committee, and (b) to pursue the priorities set forth in the Board of Supervisors' Water Management strategic priority;
4. Implement the Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Sustainability Plan (ESJ GSP) prepared pursuant to the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act of 2014 (SGMA) by the Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority;
5. Implement the Tracy Sub-basin Groundwater Sustainability Plan (Tracy GSP) prepared by the Tracy Sub-basin Coordinating Committee pursuant to SGMA and submitted to the Department of Water Resources (DWR) in 2022; and
6. Develop Mokelumne River Water Right Application 29835 (Application 29835) and identify projects that would put this water to beneficial use.

LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM:

Seek, advocate, and support legislation and/or budgetary proposals which would:

1. Provide local, State, and Federal support for the project concepts described in the County's amended Water Right Applications 29835 and 29657;
2. Seek State and Federal grant funding for local and regional conjunctive use projects on the Mokelumne River or from other water supply sources such as the Calaveras, Sacramento, and Stanislaus Rivers, and local creeks and sloughs;
3. Provide funding to develop and implement projects and management actions as identified in the adopted Groundwater Sustainability Plans with a priority for those actions that reduce overdraft and achieve sustainability;
4. Advocate for utilization and protection of surface water rights and entitlements from the Mokelumne River and other water sources to support recovery of groundwater levels and to increase groundwater storage in the underlying basin;

Public Works: Fritz Buchman, Director | fbuchman@sjgov.org | (209) 468-3100



New Water Supplies for San Joaquin County (Continued)

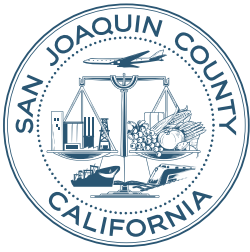
LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

5. Oppose State and Federal Wild and Scenic Rivers designations and/or similar legislation that would unreasonably restrict stream segment utilization and prevent the development of future water supply, flood protection, and ecosystem needs of San Joaquin County and other communities throughout the Mokelumne River watershed;
6. Promote policy(ies) and/or project(s) that provide integrated flood protection, groundwater recharge, and environmental and/or reservoir storage benefits;
7. Provide for local control of decisions related to developing and maintaining a reliable and affordable water supply to local communities;
8. Advance State and Federal policies founded upon sound science that would support sustainable and secure agriculture and help ensure a reliable and sufficient water supply;
9. Encourage the State to include groundwater recharge and storage as a beneficial use of water;
10. Enhance water supply reliability to meet San Joaquin County agricultural, public, industrial, and ecosystem needs, including advocating for State and Federal financial support for new and replacement water infrastructure; and
11. Support the efforts of State and local agencies to successfully implement Sustainable Groundwater Management Act requirements.

BACKGROUND:

IRWMP is a collaborative effort to identify and implement water management solutions on a regional scale that increase regional self-reliance, reduce conflict, and manage water concurrently to achieve social, environmental, and economic objectives. California's Regional Water Management Act (SB 1672) passed in 2002. DWR is coordinating the State's IRWMP program, distributing related bond funds, and ensuring IRWMPs comply with State requirements and guidelines. The County participated in multiple iterations of the IRWMP planning process and produced a number of IRWMPs and plan updates, with the most recent being in 2019. The 2014 IRWMP was prepared under direction of the Northeastern San Joaquin Groundwater Basin Authority. DWR updated the IRWMP guidelines in 2016, and the San Joaquin County IRWMP Coordinating Committee prepared the 2019 IRWMP Addendum. The updated IRWMP allows projects in the region to compete for available Statewide IRWMP grant funding. This update included outreach to Disadvantaged Communities (DACs), formation of a DAC Task Force to review and recommend funding priorities for DAC projects, and work to make the IRWMP compliant with 2016 DWR guidelines. The ESJ GSP projects discussed below and the Lower San Joaquin River Flood Management Plan projects are included in the IRWMP update so that they may be eligible for bond funding from the IRWMP program.

The underlying groundwater basin in eastern San Joaquin County is a primary source of water for farms and residents. The eastern San Joaquin County groundwater basin has been characterized by the DWR as being in "critical overdraft" and has a high-priority designation pursuant to SGMA. To comply with SGMA and preserve local control, the Groundwater Authority (GWA) formed as a Joint Powers Authority of 16 local Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSA). The GWA prepared, adopted, and submitted the final East San Joaquin Groundwater Sustainability Plan to DWR on January 31, 2020. DWR commented in December 2021, and the GWA prepared and submitted a revised GSP to DWR in July 2022. The ESJ GSP contains conjunctive use and other projects designed to achieve sustainability over a 20-year planning horizon. The GSAs and GWA are working to design, fund, and implement the ESJ GSP projects.



New Water Supplies for San Joaquin County (Continued)

LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

The County is working with the Tracy Sub-basin Coordinating Committee and prepared and submitted the Tracy GSP to DWR in January 2022; DWR has two years from that time to review the plan. This Tracy Sub-basin comprises roughly one-third of the County southwest of the San Joaquin River and is considered a medium priority basin by DWR.

The Mokelumne River Regional Water Storage and Conjunctive Use Project (MORE Water Project) was developed to divert un-appropriated flows from the Mokelumne River under Application 29835 to provide a source of surface water in wet years for groundwater recharge, which can then be used in future drought years. The MORE Water Project provides additional storage capability and improves water supply reliability for project participants both locally and regionally. Past San Joaquin County Federal Platforms focused on the proposed Duck Creek Reservoir alternative for Federal advocacy.

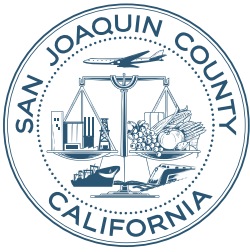
The Groundwater Resources Management Report lists the following findings: Documentation of Duck Creek Reservoir Feasibility and Recommended Surface Water Entitlement Program evaluated the feasibility of Duck Creek Reservoir and found it to be infeasible. The County is now working to develop the below-ground storage alternatives for Application 29835 to put this water to use and help recharge the groundwater basin.

The County secured approximately \$3 million of SGMA GSP implementation grant funding from DWR to further develop projects to make use of this water. The County will seek to use State funding as local match dollars for potential Federal funding opportunities. The goals for the projects to be developed are to store wet year water for dry year use and reduce overdraft for the benefit of the basin.

County water interests have also identified significant opportunities for surface water diversions to direct use in-lieu of groundwater and also for direct groundwater recharge on the Calaveras, Sacramento, and Stanislaus Rivers, and local creeks and sloughs. Pursuing funding from a variety of sources, including Federal funding, is critical to implement projects that take advantage of these opportunities.

Projects envisioned to take advantage of locally available surface water flows not only benefit San Joaquin County interests but also potential inter-regional partners such as East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD). On September 24, 2013, EBMUD and the County entered into a Memorandum of Agreement for the development of the Demonstration Recharge, Extraction, and Aquifer Management (DREAM) project. The DREAM pilot project facilities have been completed, tested, and were operated in fall 2022. EBMUD and the County are uniquely positioned to seek State and Federal funding for future phases of the DREAM project, citing the inter-regional and groundwater storage benefits.

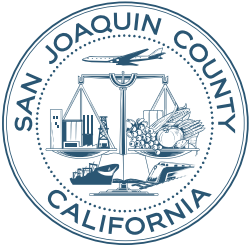
The County worked to support North San Joaquin Water Conservation District (NSJWCD) efforts to secure SGMA GSP Implementation Grant funding of \$3.9 million to fund improvements to their existing infrastructure and will further support efforts to obtain additional State and Federal funding. If successful, future project partnerships with agencies seeking to bank groundwater in eastern San Joaquin County may be possible, which could result in additional water supplies and infrastructure funding for the community.



New Water Supplies for San Joaquin County *(Continued)*

LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

Public Works staff have also coordinated with DWR to develop the Calaveras Watershed Study. DWR is investing roughly \$3 million to develop models to assess multi-benefit project operations, evaluate impacts of climate change, and identify adaptive management strategies to respond to new climate realities. It is anticipated that the adaptive management strategies could include (a) Forecast Informed Reservoir Operations at New Hogan Reservoir, (b) spreading of floodwater and other groundwater recharge efforts, and (c) floodway enhancement efforts to reduce flood risk and achieve multiple water supply and flood risk reduction benefits. DWR is performing this study in coordination with San Joaquin County, the San Joaquin Area Flood Control Agency, and Stockton East Water District.



34. Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta

LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

BOARD STRATEGIC PRIORITY:

Water Management

ISSUE:

Since passage of the Delta Reform Act of 2009, the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta (Delta) has been a top State and Federal legislative priority for the Board of Supervisors. The Newsom Administration is proposing a single-tunnel isolated Delta conveyance, a successor to the failed California Water Fix/EcoRestore Project and the Bay-Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP), which is the latest threat to the economic, social, and environmental viability of the Delta. The Board has engaged with a variety of interests to defend the Delta in the following areas:

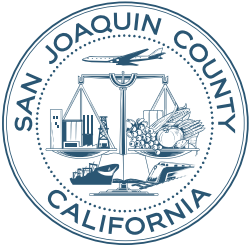
1. Improving and maintaining the system of levees that protect life and property for both agricultural and urban areas and which also support the current system through Delta exports;
2. Advocating for continued access to Delta water supplies of sufficient quantity and quality for farmers, urban users, and the environment;
3. Supporting efforts to have a healthy and viable Bay-Delta Estuary; and
4. Enhancing Delta maritime commerce, recreation, and recognition of the Delta as a place.

The Board of Supervisors supports the development of a comprehensive Statewide plan which includes a robust water portfolio that is a) consistent with the best interests of the Delta within San Joaquin County; b) consistent with the Co-Equal Goals of the Delta Reform Act of 2009 and the policy of the State to reduce reliance on the Delta for future California water needs; and c) protective of the local economy, habitat, water rights, water quality, land-use governance, and way of life in San Joaquin County.

LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM:

1. Seek legislative and administrative support in accordance with the following principles:
 - a. Actions associated with the Delta ecosystem and water supply reliability for areas outside of the Delta must not redirect unmitigated adverse environmental, economic, or social impacts to San Joaquin County;
 - b. Actions and activities associated with the Delta must honor and adhere to water rights, priorities, and area-of-origin protections. San Joaquin County opposes water user fees that would tax water users in the areas of origin and/or general taxpayers for the cost of mitigation efforts in the Delta, or to provide a water supply for those outside of the Delta;
 - c. Water conveyance facilities routed through San Joaquin County must have no adverse effect on the existing and future agricultural operations in the County. Other adverse impacts of water conveyance facilities routed through the County must be fully mitigated. The County must be fully involved in routing and operational issues of water conveyance facilities located within the County;

Public Works: Fritz Buchman, Director | fbuchman@sjgov.org | (209) 468-3100

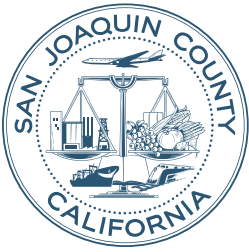


Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta

(Continued)

LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

- d. The Delta Stewardship Council's definition of "Covered Actions" must continue to be narrowly defined as set forth in the Delta Reform Act of 2009 as opposed to being broadly interpreted by the Council. Legislative solutions may be necessary to clarify ambiguous statutory provisions regarding "Covered Actions;"
 - e. Implementation of the Delta Stewardship Council's Delta Plan and future development and implementation of other planning documents must ensure that those documents do not conflict with San Joaquin County land use planning, economic development, agriculture, and recreational opportunities;
 - f. Financial resources must be committed by the State to maintain and enhance vital transportation and flood control infrastructure in areas of the Delta within San Joaquin County. Financial resources also need to be committed to improve emergency response within the Delta; and
 - g. The set of strategies to address problems in the Delta must be comprehensive, accounting for the multitude of causes of the Delta's decline and not simply focusing on one or a limited number of causes.
2. Support legislative and administrative efforts, including budget proposals, which would provide:
 - a. Funding for near-term projects which do no harm to San Joaquin County and its constituents and help further the long-term sustainability of the Delta and its unique economy and environment;
 - b. Funding to continue the Delta Counties Coalition, Coalition to Support Delta Projects, California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley, and other such coalitions or processes that enable the continuation of these efforts or other similar efforts/coalitions to advance a healthy dialogue among Statewide stakeholders. Coalitions and processes are beneficial for identifying and prioritizing near-term projects that further the co-equal goals of improving Statewide water supply reliability and restoring and enhancing the Delta ecosystem in a manner that protects and enhances its unique cultural, recreational, ecological, and agricultural values as it continues to evolve; and
 - c. Funding from State and Federal sources that is disbursed for projects and proposals consistent with the adopted County legislative platforms and does not advance or support the adoption or implementation of the single-tunnel Delta conveyance project.
 3. Seek legislative and administrative support in:
 - a. Protecting San Joaquin County's governmental prerogatives in the areas of local land use authority, tax and related revenues, public health and safety, economic development, and agricultural stability;
 - b. Preventing San Joaquin County's ability to govern, as an elected body, from being usurped by a non-elected, appointed board or council. Any and all councils, commissions, or boards established to "govern" the Delta must include voting membership for elected representatives from the County; and
 - c. Working with the State's representatives implementing the single-tunnel Delta conveyance project, the Delta Stewardship Council's Delta Plan, and the development and implementation of other future planning documents to ensure that those plans do not conflict with San Joaquin County land use planning and economic development, including agriculture or any other County interests.



Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta

(Continued)

LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

4. Aggressively oppose legislative, regulatory, and administrative efforts including water plans and infrastructure proposals that would negatively impact San Joaquin County's urban communities, vital agricultural economy, and the Delta, such as isolated conveyance.

BACKGROUND:

Nearly two-thirds of the Delta comprises approximately one-third of the County area. In total, Delta agricultural production is valued at approximately \$1.5 billion annually, which in turn results in more than \$5 billion in additional State economic benefit. The Delta is also a critical thoroughfare for infrastructure such as highways, natural gas storage and transmission, and water supply conveyance. The Delta's maze of navigable waterways supports maritime commerce and the transportation of goods, boating and recreation, and numerous fish and wildlife species. The Delta is also a source of local drinking water, as the City of Stockton diverts Delta water into its Delta Water Treatment Plant.

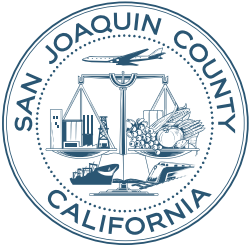
San Joaquin County is unquestionably tied to the long-term economic, social, and environmental viability of the Delta. Current proposals, including the Delta Stewardship Council's Delta Plan and the Delta Conveyance Project, could have significant adverse effects on communities in the Delta and within the Delta watershed. Examples that conflict with the long-term economic, social, and environmental viability of the Delta and San Joaquin County as a whole include:

1. Limiting the sovereignty of local agencies to make land use decisions;
2. The diminution of water rights to the detriment of senior water right holders and the area of origin;
3. The conversion of agriculture in the Delta to shallow water habitat in-lieu of direct mitigation for export pumping and endangered species takings; and
4. Potential for continued deterioration of Delta water quality and quantity, resulting in impacts to agriculture, wildlife, recreation, and commerce in the Delta.

Since the passage of the 2009 Comprehensive Water Package, including the Delta Reform Act of 2009, the need for San Joaquin County's effort to react to and influence the processes, policies, and projects created or proposed by the Water Package have increased greatly. Consistent with the Board of Supervisors' policy direction, County staff are working to represent the County's position, defend the County's interests, and constructively participate in many of the ongoing State and Federal activities surrounding the Delta. The County has engaged with local, State, and Federal legislators, public entities, State and Federal agencies, environmental groups, and private businesses on several fronts to ensure that the County's position and interests are represented in any action or policy affecting the Delta.

San Joaquin County continues to participate in the Delta Counties Coalition (DCC), comprised of Contra Costa, Sacramento, Solano, Yolo, and San Joaquin counties. The DCC was formed to advocate with one voice on behalf of the affected five-Delta county governments and the approximate 4 million people residing in Delta counties.

The DCC will continue working cooperatively to advocate for common issues such as governance, land use, and water supply and quality impacts to Delta communities with State and Federal legislators and agencies. Additionally, the Delta Coalition, which consists of seven cities within San Joaquin County, other local business, and environmental interests, continues to engage the greater County community to protect local interests in the Delta.

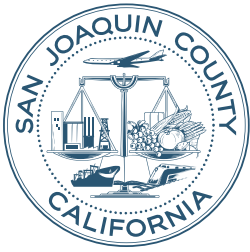


Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta

(Continued)

LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

The County also works to support several coalition building and consensus based efforts, including the Coalition to Support Delta Projects and the DCC/California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley 12-County water work group effort. The 12 Counties of the Delta and the San Joaquin Valley were able to come to consensus on a list of near-term “no regrets” projects that benefit the region.



35. Transportation Funding

LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

BOARD STRATEGIC PRIORITY:

Public Safety/Criminal Justice/Quality of Life

ISSUE:

County transportation needs exceed existing and foreseeable revenues, and additional funding is required to respond to the significantly growing transportation needs.

LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM:

Advocate in support of sustainable long-term solutions to ensure the solvency of the Highway Trust Fund and provide dedicated revenue for local transportation infrastructure. Additionally, advocate for raising and indexing the Federal Gasoline Tax, implementation of a user fee, such as Vehicle Miles Traveled, or other fees that more accurately charge motorists for their use of the transportation system, including reasonable fees for alternative fuel vehicles.

BACKGROUND:

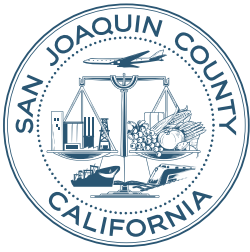
Local jurisdictions have the sole responsibility of operating and managing over 80% of the maintained road miles in California. The local or secondary road network is a critical component to a seamless transportation system.

For the past 50 years, surface transportation programs have been funded by the Highway Trust Fund (as opposed to the U.S. Department of Treasury General Fund). The primary revenue source for the Highway Trust Fund is the 18.4 cents per gallon tax on gasoline and 24.4 cents per gallon tax on diesel fuel. California receives a share of these funds through the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), a Federal transportation program which authorizes \$1.2 trillion for highways, transit, and transportation safety projects nationwide from 2021 through 2025. For most of its history, the Highway Trust Fund has collected more revenue than had been expended. Prior to the passage of the IIJA and since 2008, the Highway Trust Fund has regularly run in deficit, requiring over \$150 billion in Federal transfers to ensure the solvency of the fund through 2022.

As part of the IIJA, Congress authorized \$303 billion for the Highway Trust Fund including a \$90 billion transfer from the general fund through fiscal year 2026.

While the IIJA reestablished dedicated funding for local bridges over the five-year term of the Act, the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) advised local agencies that the Highway Bridge Program continues to be financially constrained. There are more needs than available funding, and an estimated \$660 million backlog of local agency advanced projects.

Public Works: Fritz Buchman, Director | fbuchman@sjgov.org | (209) 468-3100



36. Help America Vote Act

LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

BOARD STRATEGIC PRIORITY:

Organizational Capacity

ISSUE:

In 2019, San Joaquin County purchased a modernized, State-certified voting system with additional security and auditing safeguards that improve services to voters. The County also purchased election technologies that replace paper-based voter rosters and installed cybersecurity systems to enhance the County's election security ecosystem. When the State moved to an all Vote-by-Mail process and opened Remote Accessible Vote-by-Mail voting to all voters, the County had to purchase additional equipment to accommodate these changes.

When Federal and State requirements change, it impacts the changing cybersecurity environment which requires the County to review its existing systems.

At the State level there have been proposals for the entire State to go to the Voter's Choice Act model, and while transitioning to this model is currently optional, it is highly recommended by the Secretary of State's Office. The Voter's Choice Act model includes Vote Center voting, which has been adopted by 27 California counties, with three more counties in the process of transitioning to this model in advance of the March 5, 2024 Primary Election.

LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM:

Support legislation, budgetary, and/or funding proposals that would facilitate the replacement or enhancement of voting systems, election technology, and the augmentation of infrastructure for improved efficiency, security, and accessibility.

BACKGROUND:

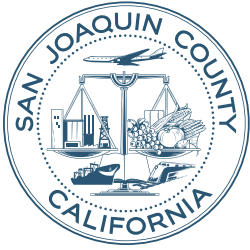
On October 29, 2002, Congress passed the Help America Vote Act (HAVA) to make sweeping reforms to the nation's voting process. Through HAVA, California was allocated approximately \$200 million to improve its voting systems and enhance voter access. San Joaquin County exhausted all funding available through the HAVA grant.

The Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2018 was signed into law on March 23, 2018. It allocated \$380 million through the 2018 HAVA Election Security Fund. Grants were awarded to the State of California to upgrade voting system technology and to make many election security improvements, such as implementing rigorous post-election audits and addressing computer system vulnerabilities.

States and counties throughout the United States need to replace their aging voting systems and enhance election security infrastructure. Many voting systems currently in use are no longer actively supported by the manufacturer, with replacement parts often unavailable.

The security of voting systems and election infrastructure is often based on older technology that has not been upgraded since its original certification.

Registrar of Voters: Olivia Hale, Registrar of Voters | ohale@sjgov.org | (209) 468-3191



Help America Vote Act

(Continued)

LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

There have been significant changes and technical improvements to the voting system used in San Joaquin County since the 2019 recertification of all voting systems throughout California. These systems are critical to the election process; a failure of voting systems during an election would negatively impact the voting process and public confidence. Therefore, legislation and funding opportunities to improve the County's voting system and/or infrastructure should be supported and pursued.



COUNTY of SAN JOAQUIN



SAN JOAQUIN
— COUNTY —

To download additional copies, please visit:
www.sjgov.org/departments/cao

"Advancing San Joaquin County's Legislative Interests"