



Robert Rickman
Board of Supervisors
Representing the Fifth District

SCOTT TYRRELL
Chief of Staff

44 N. San Joaquin St.
Suite 627
Stockton, CA 95202
Ph: 209-468-3113
Fax: 209-468-2189

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 3, 2025

Contact: Scott Tyrrell
(209) 468-0181 / (209) 636-3303 / styrrell@sjgov.org

Board Approves Supervisor Rickman's Proposal to Provide \$10,780 From Supervisorial District 5 Funds for Escalon Strong Community Garden Materials
Supporting Local Organizations

STOCKTON – At its Board meeting on Tuesday, June 3, 2025, the San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors approved Supervisor Rickman's proposal to provide \$10,780 to Escalon Strong to help cover costs of materials for the expansion of the Escalon Strong Community Garden.

Escalon Strong is a non-profit organization serving the underserved, southeast, rural populations of San Joaquin County with a mission statement that reads: "A Community Driven Approach to Aiding and Addressing Various Quality of Life Issues Affecting the Citizens of South San Joaquin County." In 2022, Escalon Strong developed their Community Garden. Thus far, the Community Garden has been slowly growing, but they have only been able to develop 25% of the land made available to them. As food insecurity continues to grow in the region, Escalon Strong Community Garden and the Escalon & Farmington Garden Club have partnered in a project to help relieve that insecurity. The project will develop the remaining 75% of the land, to increase availability of individual boxes, and to grow produce to be donated to the Escalon Strong Giving Pantry for distribution to residents experiencing food insecurity. The one-time funds requested will be used to acquire materials to expedite the expansion of the community garden.

"I have seen the community benefit of the Escalon Strong Giving Pantry, and I am proud to secure funding for this latest collaborative effort to expand and make full use of the land made available to them for this worthy purpose," said Robert Rickman, Fifth District Supervisor.

The Supervisorial District Funds were re-established by the Board of Supervisors in the 2023-2024 Adopted Budget, to afford each supervisor the opportunity to address district-specific unmet needs. Supervisorial district-funded projects are subject to existing County policy and business practice.

Learn more about Supervisor Rickman at <https://www.sjgov.org/departments/bos/districts/district-5>.

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"I hope I shall possess firmness and virtue enough to maintain (what I consider the most enviable of all titles), the character of an honest man."
- George Washington -