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CANEPA'S CORNER

A DISTRICT TWO DIALOGUE



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Homelessness Forum Sets the Stage for Greater Regional Collaboration

Our Homelessness Forum was a success, bringing together County leaders, community advocates, and local officials to discuss solutions to unsheltered homelessness. Thank you to Sheriff Pat Withrow, Probation Department Director Steve Jackson, and Health Care Services Director Genevieve Valentine for sharing the County's efforts to address this complex issue through behavioral health services, outreach, and enforcement.

Director Valentine has been a driving force behind the SJ BeWell Campus and remains deeply committed to expanding access to comprehensive, wraparound behavioral health services for San Joaquin County residents. Sheriff Withrow discussed how his team works to encourage individuals experiencing homelessness to accept services and seek shelter. While we cannot arrest our way out of homelessness, public safety efforts play an important role in connecting people with resources and helping address the challenges facing our communities. The Probation Department's SJ Cares team has also been instrumental in connecting individuals experiencing homelessness with resources and opportunities to rebuild their lives.

The City of Manteca shared its latest initiative, The Way Veteran Village, a planned tiny-home community that will provide veterans with supportive transitional housing and access to services. Lodi Access Center Director Johnny Coughran offered a personal perspective, drawing on his own experience with homelessness to inform his work helping others navigate similar challenges. (cont.)







We were encouraged by the participation of concerned residents, advocates, and City leaders who came together to share ideas and explore solutions. But this forum was about more than conversation. It was about laying the groundwork for meaningful, lasting action. My office organized this event to foster collaboration, identify opportunities to align our efforts, and move toward a coordinated regional response to homelessness.

I am now working to establish Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) with leaders across our region and mobilize a task force focused on streamlining efforts countywide. Earlier this year, the San Joaquin Continuum of Care (SJCoC) released its 2026 Point-in-Time (PIT) Count, reporting a nearly 50% decrease in the number of unsheltered individuals. This is an encouraging sign of progress, but there is more work to do.

Homelessness is a complex challenge that no single agency or jurisdiction can solve alone. We must build on this momentum, strengthen our partnerships, and turn the ideas shared at our forum into coordinated action. Together, we can build safer and healthier communities throughout San Joaquin County.

Delta Tour Highlights the Threat of Golden Mussels

First District Supervisor Mario Gardea and I had the pleasure of hosting members of the Western Regional Panel on Aquatic Nuisance Species for a firsthand look at the golden mussel infestation threatening our Delta waterways. The panel brings together State, federal, tribal, academic, nonprofit, and industry representatives from 19 western states and four Canadian provinces.



The tour provided a valuable opportunity to raise awareness of this growing threat among leaders dedicated to preventing the spread of invasive species.

Special thanks to the Sheriff's Office and members of the Golden Mussels Task Force for leading the boat tour. Panel members witnessed a diver removing golden mussels from the Smith Canal gate and saw firsthand how mussel buildup in pipes can damage critical infrastructure and disrupt essential operations.



By highlighting the severity of the infestation and its potential impacts, we hope to build broader support and secure critical funding to combat this invasive species. Our Golden Mussel Task Force will continue advocating for the resources and partnerships needed to protect our Delta, safeguard our agricultural communities, and preserve the waterways that are vital to San Joaquin County's economy and way of life.

Making Our Voices Heard in Washington, D.C.



One of the most effective ways to advocate for state and federal funding and support is to take our priorities directly to decision-makers in our nation's capital. I joined my fellow Supervisors, County Department directors, and County Administrator Sandy Regalo in Washington, D.C., to meet face-to-face with federal leaders and make a strong case for the resources and support San Joaquin County needs.

Our discussions focused on some of the County's most pressing priorities, including transportation and infrastructure improvements, the growing golden mussels threat, concerns surrounding the proposed Delta Tunnel project, the SJ BeWell Campus, and the impacts of H.R. 1. We met with Congressman Josh Harder, Senator Adam Schiff, and representatives from the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and the Senate Finance Committee to ensure our County's needs and concerns were heard. These meetings are about more than securing funding. They are about building relationships, elevating local priorities, and ensuring San Joaquin County has a voice in the decisions that affect our communities.

Testifying Against the Delta Tunnels Plan



We continue to do everything we can to stop the Delta tunnels project. I had the opportunity to testify before the Delta Stewardship Council (DSC) in an appeals hearing of the Delta Conveyance Project (DCP). The plan falls under the California Department of Water Resources (DWR), which needs certification from DSC to move the project forward. DWR filed a revised certification of consistency for the DCP earlier this year, which was appealed by three parties, including San Joaquin County. The hearing provided us with a platform to argue why the massive water project fails to meet essential criteria and should return to DWR for revisions. Additionally, I testified that the presence of golden mussels could create conditions for the species to spread.

The DSC is expected to release its decision by December 9.

Download the NextGen 311 App

Do you see potholes and damaged roadways, illegal dumping other maintenance and infrastructure conerns?

There's a quick and easy way to let the County know about it.

NEXGEN 311 is San Joaquin County's online and mobile service request system that allows residents to report non-emergency problems directly to the Department of Public Works.

Supporting the Emergency Food Bank

I cannot express enough gratitude and admiration for the incredible work being done by the Emergency Food Bank Stockton/San Joaquin. This nonprofit organization is making a difference in the lives of our residents every day, not only by providing nutritious food to those in need, but also by empowering individuals and families with the knowledge and resources to lead healthier lives.

I am proud to have committed $150,000 in District Two discretionary funds to support the Food Bank's vital mission. No one in our community should have to worry about where their next meal will come from.



Cracking Down on Smoke Shops

I'm pleased to report that our ongoing partnership between the San Joaquin County Community Development Department, Sheriff's Office, District Attorney's Office, and Stockton Police Department is producing results in our efforts to crack down on illegal smoke shops in the Stockton area.

In recent months, 13 smoke shops were shut down for illegal or unlicensed activity, marking an important step toward addressing an issue that has been a longstanding source of frustration for residents. These coordinated enforcement efforts send a clear message: Businesses that disregard the law and put our communities at risk will be held accountable.

I remain committed to supporting this partnership and ensuring our law enforcement and regulatory agencies have the tools and resources they need to address illegal operations, protect consumers, and maintain safe neighborhoods.

Around District Two



Costco 40th Anniversary Ribbon Cutting Ceremony



Neighborhood Watch Meeting



San Joaquin County Diversity Luncheon



Fall Trades Day at Delta College - Builders Exchange of San Joaquin



Friends Outside Annual Gala



8th Annual White Cane Awareness Walk

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