



**Robert Rickman**  
Board of Supervisors  
Representing the Fifth District

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November 5, 2025

The Honorable Alex Padilla  
United States Senate  
331 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Adam Schiff  
United States Senate  
112 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Josh Harder  
Member of Congress  
209 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Adam Gray  
United States House of Representatives  
1230 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Subj: Federal Government Shutdown

Dear Senator Padilla, Senator Schiff, Congressman Harder, and Congressman Gray;

On behalf of the residents of San Joaquin County's Fifth Supervisorial District, I respectfully request your swift action to fully reopen the federal government and restore the reliability county governments need to serve our residents effectively. Counties, as the level of government closest to the people, are on the frontlines in delivering services, including public health, social services, and emergency management. When federal funding lapses, counties often are forced to shift budgeting priorities and utilize local resources to keep essential programs running, with uncertainty about when or if federal reimbursements will be made once the government reopens.

The ongoing government shutdown threatens to disrupt the consistent, reliable flow of resources and the important relationships we maintain with federal officials on the ground. From ensuring our residents' day-to-day safety, to undertaking infrastructure projects, responding to and recovering from disasters, administering federal programs for vulnerable populations and managing air, road and rail transit, county responsibilities often depend on federal, state and local resources and collaboration. Without this consistent funding, counties have felt local fiscal strain and may be unable to serve our residents effectively. Counties are committed to providing reliable services to our residents, which requires strong, predictable intergovernmental partnerships.

In San Joaquin County, the government shutdown has not only impacted the widely reported Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) with \$25 million in CalFresh benefits issued monthly, potentially affecting 131,891 of our 816,108 – 16% – residents who receive CalFresh Benefits, but also holds potential implications to impact and disrupt important housing programs, Head Start programs, and grants and operations for agencies like our Air District. We have an agriculturally driven

"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 -

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economy that may be affected by the United States Department of Agriculture's pause on new loan and loan guarantee activity and, our economy may further be impacted by the Small Business Administration's pause on new business loans. Finally, County projects that have been approved for grants by the Environmental Protection Agency may be impacted and delayed.

Thank you for your continued service to the people of San Joaquin County. We look forward to further opportunities to collaborate and continue our intergovernmental partnership.

Sincerely,



Robert Rickman  
Supervisor, Fifth District  
San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors

Copy: SJC CAO, SJC COB, Federal Legislative Delegation

DTG: 30225/01ST