

THE RICKMAN REPORT

NEWS FROM DISTRICT 5

Preparing for a Bright New School Year

As July comes to a close and students prepare to head back to school, it is a season of fresh beginnings and new opportunities. Whether it is a child's first day of kindergarten, a student returning for another year, or a young adult beginning the next chapter of their education, this time of year reminds us that investing in our children is an investment in the future of San Joaquin County.

This month was filled with reasons to celebrate across District 5, from the opening of Pombo Elementary School and community events that brought neighbors together to recognizing local businesses, nonprofits, and the dedicated people who make our communities stronger. These moments remind us that the strength of San Joaquin County is not measured only by projects completed, but by the people who invest their time, talent, and heart into making our communities stronger.

I hope you enjoy this edition of the Rickman Report featuring stories and photos highlighting another month of progress throughout District 5. As always, thank you for the opportunity to serve. It is a privilege I never take for granted.

— **Robert Rickman**
San Joaquin County Supervisor, **District 5**



CONTACT ME

SUPERVISOR
ROBERT RICKMAN
RRICKMAN@SJGOV.ORG
209-468-3113

CHIEF OF STAFF
SCOTT TYRRELL
STYRRELL@SJGOV.ORG

BOARD AIDE
MARIA VALENZUELA
MARIAVALENZUELA@SJGOV.ORG



*FOURTH OF JULY CELEBRATION
TRACY, CA*

FIGHTING CRIME THROUGH COMMUNITY REPORTING

Standing Together Against All Regional Theft (STAART) is a community safety initiative featuring the **FastSTAART Home** app designed to deter quality of life crimes – retail theft, illegal dumping, sideshows, and related criminal activity – by giving merchants and communities a simple way to safely document and submit incidents through real-time reporting, so the appropriate agency or business can act on it, build evidence, and increase accountability.

In 2024, the San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors **awarded** the **Greater Stockton Chamber of Commerce** \$1.2 million for the STAART initiative. Public awareness of the initiative and participation are key to STAART's effectiveness and success. I recently secured additional funding to support the **billboard campaign** furthering awareness and encouraging business and community participation.



CRACKING DOWN ON CATALYTIC CONVERTER THEFT

The Board of Supervisors approved an amendment to San Joaquin County Code Title 10 that gives the Sheriff's Office a stronger tool to combat catalytic converter theft—a crime that has cost residents thousands of dollars in repairs and left many without their vehicles for weeks or even months.

Under current state law, deputies often could not seize a detached catalytic converter unless they could identify the specific victim, making it difficult to prosecute thieves and recover stolen property.

The new ordinance makes it unlawful to possess a catalytic converter that is not attached to a vehicle unless the person can provide documentation proving lawful ownership or possession. Acceptable documentation may include a bill of sale, records from an auto repair shop, electronic proof of transfer, or other documentation specified in the ordinance.

Violations may result in criminal or administrative penalties of up to \$1,000, imprisonment for up to six months, or both.

SUPPORTING OUR SENIOR COMMUNITY

I recently had the pleasure of speaking with a wonderful group of residents at Marbella Tracy. I truly enjoyed the visit and want to thank Residents Council President Judy Griffith for the invitation.

The visit reinforced the importance of supporting our senior community, especially after recently securing District 5 funding for the Escalon Senior Fun Bunch, an organization dedicated to supporting and empowering seniors through social activities, education, and community engagement.

Our Board of Supervisors also proclaimed May 2026 as Older Americans Month in San Joaquin County, recognizing the countless contributions older adults make to our communities. According to the California Department of Aging, more than 160,000 residents age 60 and older call San Joaquin County home, representing 19.5 percent of our county's population.

Our Board also recently approved an amendment to the **San Joaquin County 2023-2031 Housing Element** related to Mountain House's incorporation as a city. As part of that process, we continued our commitment to ensuring that appropriate housing opportunities remain available for seniors. One important focus has been increasing accessible and affordable housing options for older adults and individuals with disabilities.

A great example is the upcoming **Tracy Apartments** development, which will provide affordable housing specifically designed for seniors in Tracy.



AIR QUALITY TIPS CHECK BEFORE YOU GO

Before spending time outdoors, check current air quality using:

- Valley Air App
 - RAAN
 - AirNow
- Green: Good
● Yellow: Moderate
● Orange: Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups
● Red: Unhealthy

[San Joaquin Valley
Air Pollution District](#)



[Update your App to
NexGen311](#)

Use the non-emergency reporting system to report issues such as illegal dumping, potholes, inoperative traffic signals.

Available in the app store



SJCARES

Homeless
Response Team

sjcares@sjgov.org



Sign up for emergency alerts at
www.sjready.org

RESIDENTS ENCOURAGED TO SUPPORT AG OFFICIAL SURVEYS TO HELP PROTECT LOCAL CITRUS

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service and California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) have confirmed the positive identification of citrus yellow vein clearing virus (CYVVCV) in a residential citrus tree in the Lodi area of San Joaquin County. While CYVVCV does not pose a threat to human or animal health, it does reduce citrus tree vigor and yield, and may result in a reduction of fruit size, which can have a negative effect on fruit quality. CYVVCV can be spread by pests as they feed from tree to tree, including citrus whitefly, green citrus aphid, melon or cotton aphid, and cowpea aphid, which are known to be present in California.

Read the [press release](#) to see how you can help.

LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY: MAKING YOUR VOICE HEARD FUNDING SECURED FOR NEW TRACY COURTHOUSE

It is satisfying to see our collective advocacy result in the successful inclusion of [funding for the New Tracy Courthouse](#) in California's 2026–27 State Budget.

This milestone advances the long-awaited project, restoring essential court services to the rapidly growing southern portion of San Joaquin County while providing significant public safety benefits for local law enforcement and the communities they serve.

I was proud to support the efforts of the Judicial Council of California and the San Joaquin County Superior Court to secure this funding. My office worked with south county law enforcement agencies and city leaders to build support for the project, secured a [letter of support](#) from the San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors, and I [personally submitted a letter](#) to the Governor urging inclusion of funding for the New Tracy Courthouse in the 2026–27 State Budget.

AB 46: AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 1001.36 OF THE PENAL CODE, RELATING TO DIVERSION, PASSED JUNE 29, 2026, AND WAS CHAPTERED BY SECRETARY OF STATE

Passed June 29, 2026, and Chaptered by the Secretary of State, this is a critical public safety measure and was [co-sponsored by our San Joaquin County District Attorney's Office](#). I want to thank them for their efforts and congratulate them on its passage.

This [legislation](#) strengthens and clarifies California's mental health diversion statute (Penal Code section 1001.36) and is a commonsense solution to the negative consequences the statute has created. It makes various changes to the mental health diversion program, including modifying the public safety consideration in determining suitability of a particular defendant for diversion, restoring balance to the court's decision-making process, and ensuring the process remains focused on treatment while strictly protecting community safety.

SB 1392: AS AMENDED, CORTESE. SMOG CHECK: EXEMPTION: COLLECTOR MOTOR VEHICLES

As I continue to support and track its progress, I am pleased to report that the [Assembly Transportation Committee](#) passed SB 1392 unanimously at its June 29th hearing and re-referred it to the Committee on Appropriations. It is now pending the [Assembly Appropriations Committee](#).

This bill would expand the definition of a collector motor vehicle to include a motor vehicle that is at least 35 model years old and meets other criteria, as [specified](#). This bill, also known as Jay Leno's Law, will make it clear that California is a classic car-friendly state - that many consider the birthplace of hot rodding - and supports our state's aftermarket parts industry, worth billions to our economy.

TRACY

- West High School Home Field Advantage Booster Club Check Presentation (\$9,139)
- South Side Community Organization Flag Raising Ceremony & Check Presentation (\$8,843)
- Fourth of July Community Pancake Breakfast, Hot Air Balloon Lift-off, Parade and Fireworks Festivities
- Guest Speaker at Marbella Tracy- Senior Living Community
- TUSD New Educators Welcome Mixer
- Elite Wrestling Camp, Tracy High School
- Tracy Fire vs. Tracy PD Flag Football Game



MOUNTAIN HOUSE

- State of the City Event
- Chamber Networking Coffee
- Pombo Elementary School Ribbon Cutting
- Mountain House Fire Department Badge Pinning
- Mountain House Dog Park Ribbon Cutting



RIPON

- District Office Hours at City Hall
- Farmers Market Event
- Ripon Chamber Board Installation & Awards Dinner
- Business Check-in with Main Street Floral
- Ripon Police Department - Unity in our Community



ESCALON

- District Office Hours at City Hall
- Lumberyard Cellars 5 Year Anniversary Celebration
- Senior Mr. & Mrs. Escalon Ceremony honoring Mr. & Mrs. Mantooth
- Escalon Fire District Badge Pinning - Battalion Chief Ryan Burr
- Park Fete Parade and Event
- Escalon High School CTE Classroom Ribbon Cutting Ceremony



COUNTYWIDE MEETINGS AND EVENTS (PARTIAL LIST)

- San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors Recognition of Dr. Grewal's Retirement (June)
- Child Abuse Prevention Council Check Presentation (\$1,999)
- San Joaquin County Fire Chiefs Association Meeting
- Ribbon Cutting Ceremony of NEW Stockton City Hall
- East Channel Street Streetscape and Connectivity Project Ribbon Cutting
- 175th Anniversary Celebration, University of the Pacific
- All Armed Forces Military Ball Gala
- SJC Sheriff's Foundation Fallen Officer Memorial Groundbreaking Ceremony
- Diablo Grande Canyon Power Plant Tour
- 11th Annual Block Party by SJC Department of Child Support Services
- SJC Probation Department Pinning & Swearing- In Ceremony
- Annual SJC Probation Chief's Recognition Luncheon Ceremony
- Speaker at STAART-TIME Trailer Unveiling and Community Safety Workshop
- Pioneer Village Living History Center Grand Opening
- San Joaquin County Women for Agriculture Industry Tour

