

THE RICKMAN REPORT

NEWS FROM DISTRICT 5

Honoring Our First Responders: The Extraordinary Response to the Medline Warehouse Fire

This month, I want to recognize the extraordinary response to the devastating fire at the Medline warehouse in Tracy. What began as a rapidly developing industrial fire quickly grew into one of the largest warehouse fires in our region's history. It required a massive, coordinated effort from fire agencies, law enforcement, emergency management personnel, public health officials, and mutual aid partners from throughout the region.

Despite extremely challenging conditions, firefighters successfully prevented the fire from spreading to numerous surrounding businesses, protected nearby communities, and ensured that all employees were safely evacuated with no reported injuries.

Throughout the incident, San Joaquin County activated a coordinated response through our Office of Emergency Services, Public Health Services, and numerous partner agencies. They supported firefighting operations, monitored air quality, provided timely public information, and helped protect the health and safety of our residents.

The professionalism, teamwork, and dedication displayed by our first responders and emergency personnel were truly remarkable.

As your County Supervisor, I had the opportunity to visit the Incident Command Post and witness firsthand the tremendous effort being made to safeguard our community.

I extend my sincere gratitude to every firefighter, law enforcement officer, emergency manager, public health professional, and support staff member who answered the call. Their commitment serves as a powerful reminder of the strength of our community and the importance of working together during times of crisis.

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



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As we celebrate Independence Day and America's 250th Anniversary, I wish you and your loved ones a safe and Happy Fourth of July!

COUNTY HIGHLIGHTS

JUNE 2026

State Route 99/120 Connector Project

As the San Joaquin County Supervisor for District 5 and a member of the San Joaquin Council of Governments (SJCOG) Board, I am proud to celebrate the new, safer, and more efficient State Route 99/120 Connector ramp, along with the longer, wider, and improved Austin Road overcrossing.

Projects like this are essential to maintaining mobility on our state highway system. They improve access for commuters, enhance public safety, support commerce, and help preserve the quality of life that makes our region such a great place to live, work, and do business.

These are significant investments that will serve our communities for decades to come.

For SJCOG, this project also represents an important milestone—the agency's first construction project led from concept through completion. This more than \$50 million project was delivered on time and on budget, demonstrating what can be accomplished through strong partnerships, sound planning, and a shared commitment to improving transportation infrastructure for San Joaquin County residents.



ANOTHER BALANCED BUDGET FOR SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY

As your District 5 Supervisor, I'm pleased to share that the Board of Supervisors has approved a responsible \$3.3 billion balanced budget for Fiscal Year 2026-2027 that prioritizes what matters most to our families and communities.

This budget continues strong investments in public safety — because the safety of our residents is not negotiable. We're supporting our Sheriff's Office, expanding diversion programs, improving our Juvenile Justice Center, and building critical training facilities for those who protect us every day.

We are also expanding access to behavioral health services, mental health and substance use treatment, support for our seniors and veterans, and vital care at San Joaquin General Hospital. When we invest in the well-being of our residents, we build stronger, more resilient families across San Joaquin County.

Fiscal responsibility isn't just a slogan — it is our duty. This balanced budget reflects smart stewardship of your tax dollars while delivering real results on infrastructure, parks, and essential services.

2026 DRAFT RTP/SCS UPDATE - PUBLIC REVIEW AND COMMENT PERIOD

The San Joaquin Council of Governments (SJCOG) is updating the long-range transportation plan for the San Joaquin region, and they need your help. Tell them what you think the priorities should be for transportation in San Joaquin County. Review the draft plan [here](#) and submit your comment(s) to rtp@sjcog.org or at the next scheduled public hearing, July 9, 2026, at 1:00 PM during the Executive Committee meeting at the SJCOG office building, 555 E. Weber Avenue, Stockton, CA 95202.



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LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY: MAKING YOUR VOICE HEARD

AB 109: The bill – AB 109 – delivered to the Governor late on June 15th, is not the final budget that will be signed into law, it is a placeholder that allows the Legislature to meet its constitutional requirement and continue negotiations with the Governor. The final enacted budget, effective July 1, will consist of AB 109 and accompanying trailer bills and “budget bill(s) junior” that amend the Legislature’s budget plan to reflect a final three-party agreement.

Right now, counties are pressing the Governor to maintain proper funding for state-mandated programs and resist shifting financial burdens onto our counties, placing significant pressure on local budgets. San Joaquin County has written to the Governor stating our positions. **See [here](#).**

Proposition 36: In the November 2024 general election, California voters overwhelmingly passed Proposition 36 (Prop 36). Prop 36 increases penalties for certain drug and retail theft crimes. Since passing, Sacramento has resisted properly funding its implementation. Counties estimated that proper implementation would require a minimum of \$250 million. The current Budget proposal includes \$50 million in one-time funding, which falls far short of what counties need to expand treatment and recovery services. Without sustained investments across all impacted county departments, voter expectations will not be met.

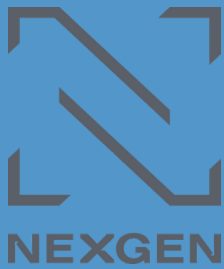
San Joaquin County has written to the Governor stating our positions. **See [here](#).**

AB 2108: To further the insult to California voters, AB 2108 is proceeding through the legislative process and would undermine Prop 36, creating a sweeping and overly broad diversion eligibility scheme for theft-related offenses, including petty theft, shoplifting, grand theft, receiving stolen property, and vandalism, while conspicuously failing to disqualify individuals with prior theft convictions. This omission is not incidental. It directly conflicts with the core purpose of Prop 36, which specifically targets repeat offenders. By ignoring prior theft history, AB 2108 reopens the very loopholes voters sought to close.

San Joaquin County has written to the Senate Public Safety Committee stating our opposition. **See [here](#).**

SB 125: This bill restructures the Managed Care Organization Provider Tax to impose a new flat assessment of \$8.85 per month on private health plans, which could raise private insurance premiums for Californians. The Legislative Analyst's Office believes Californians could see about a 1.5% increase in their monthly premiums if health plans pass the entire tax to their members. The California Association of Health Plans, the health insurance lobby, estimates this would translate to consumers paying about \$100 more in premiums each year. That means a family of four could be looking at \$400 more a year in health premiums.

See my opposition letter submitted to the Governor asking for a veto, **[here](#).**



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LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY: (CONTINUED)

SB 1392: As amended, Cortese. Smog check: exemption: collector motor vehicles.

As you know, I have provided my support for this legislation and continue to track its progress. The bill is scheduled for a hearing June 29th at 2:30 pm before the Assembly Transportation Committee - 1021 O Street, Room 1100 - 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 would be known, and may be cited, as Jay Leno's Law.

SB 1392 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.

AT&T'S EFFORTS TO SIDESTEP OBLIGATIONS UNDER CA LAW:

I first brought this to the Board in 2024, earning their support to register official opposition. AT&T petitioned to have the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) declare that "any California law or regulation that interferes with or otherwise conditions AT&T's ability to discontinue Plain Old Telephone Service (POTS) as authorized by the Commission is preempted, and that the Commission "declare that its approval of AT&T's Discontinuance Applications preempts the CPUC's Carrier of Last Resort rules, and any other state requirements to the extent they impede AT&T from fully discontinuing POTS to existing customers in the Affected Service Area, such that AT&T may proceed with discontinuance without securing any additional state authorization.

See the County's opposition comments to the FCC [here](#).

ACA 9: Further, Assembly Constitutional Amendment 9 was introduced in March of this year. This proposed constitutional amendment would, if approved by the voters, change the size and composition of the membership of the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) and delete telephone corporations from those public utilities regulated by the CPUC.

See the County's opposition letter to ACA 9 [here](#).

SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY AIR POLLUTION CONTROL DISTRICT:

Air District: June 16, 2026, the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District Governing Board adopted the District's 2026-27 Recommended Budget. The District continues to manage an expanding and increasingly complex workload driven by more stringent rules and standards and will continue extensive planning efforts to meet federal Clean Air Act requirements and protect public health. Still, we need help from our state partners. State agencies continue to put stringent rules in place without providing adequate funding needed to implement proven incentive programs. The Funding Agricultural Replacement Measures for Emission Reductions (FARMER) Program, is a proven program the state has not included in the currently debated Budget.

See Budget presentation [here](#), including 2025 achievements.
See my previous letter to the legislature requesting funding for FARMER [here](#).
See County letter requesting the Governor's support for Funding for Whole Orchard Recycling [here](#).

JUNE 2026

DISTRICT 5 IN ACTION

JUNE 2026

TRACY

- Tracy Apartments Wall Raising Ceremony
- Temporary Emergency Housing Facility-Phase II Navigation Center Ribbon Cutting
- 007 Towing Ribbon Cutting
- Downtown Block Party
- Annual Juneteenth Celebration and Scholarship Presentations
- 102nd Annual Holy Ghost Festa Celebration
- Animal Rescue of Tracy Internship Awards
- People of Christ Missionary Baptist Church 30th Anniversary Banquet
- Tracy Theater Arts Collaborative Check Presentation (\$11,393)



MOUNTAIN HOUSE

- Juneteenth Celebration honoring the Trailblazing Black Cowboys & Cowgirls
- Pie Baking Contest Judge
- Farmers Market Event



RIPON

- Retirement Ceremony for Detective Perry, Ripon Police Department
- District Office Hours at Ripon City Hall
- Farmers Market Event



ESCALON

- Reminisce Day at Escalon Historical Museum
- District Office Hours at Escalon City Hall
- Community Check-in with Escalon Library
- Farmers Market on Main Street



COUNTYWIDE MEETINGS AND EVENTS (PARTIAL LIST)

- San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors Recognition of Portuguese Awareness Month
- San Joaquin County Fire Chiefs' Association Luncheon
- MC3 Apprentice Readiness Program Graduation
- San Joaquin Farm Bureau 112th Annual Meeting
- District Attorney's Office & Law Enforcement Briefing on mitigation of Retail Theft, Fentanyl Use, and Sideshows
- Women Veterans & Military Service Summit
- 2026 San Joaquin AgFest
- State Route 99 & 120 Phase 1A Ribbon Cutting
- 11th Annual County Night at the Stockton Ports
- St. Mary's Pathways Neighborhood Open House
- Guest Speaker at CSDA Stanislaus - San Joaquin Chapter Meeting
- San Joaquin County Agricultural Advisory Board Meeting
- Business Council Executive Committee Meeting
- Correctional Officer Class 186 Graduation Ceremony
- Selection of the 2026-27 SJC Grand Jury & Discharge of 2025-26 Grand Jury
- District Attorney's Youth Leadership Academy Graduation

