



COUNTY OF TULARE
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

NEWSLETTER

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ISSUE #7 JUNE 2022 HIGHLIGHTS

State of the County



Celebrating Tulare County

Community, Commitment, and Connections are the central tenets of this year's State of the County address given by the current Chair of the Tulare County Board of Supervisors, Eddie Valero. During his oration, Chair Valero highlighted a couple of the county's achievements this past year, while setting the stage for what people can expect in 2023.

With the next fiscal year in less than a month, Tulare County's budget is projected to be \$1.6 billion. This budget features the largest general fund in our county's 150-year history. Because of the County's fiscal responsibility, we are in a position that will allow for continued investment in our communities, while also ensuring that we can confidently face the concerns of the future. Some of the investments made in 2022 will include: \$30 million for the County Fire Department to acquire additional firefighting equipment, 47 new road projects under the County Transportation Improvement Plan, and capital improvements that will augment our existing and future County-owned facilities.

In addition to these allocations, the Board of Supervisors will continue its commitment to addressing homelessness. The County and Self-Help Enterprises entered into an agreement to construct two new major housing projects. The first project is for rental housing known as "The Lofts", which will be featured in Visalia, and the second will be for ownership housing at the Goshen Village East.

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Larry Micari
District One

Pete Vander Poel
District Two

Amy Shuklian
District Three

Eddie Valero
District Four

Dennis Townsend
District Five

BOARD STAFF: Tammie Weyker Adkins, Chief of Staff ■ Patrick Burks ■ Cameron Pietila ■ Israel Sotelo ■ CLERK OF THE BOARD: Melinda Benton, Chief Clerk

State of the County (continued)

Tulare County's commitment to the people also extends to our environment and way of life. In March, the County entered into a Master Stewardship Agreement with the USDA and the United States Forest Service. This agreement will facilitate better communication and coordination of the care necessary to preserve the Sequoia National Park and the Sequoia National Monument. The County has also made great strides in protecting our water resources. At the start of 2022, the County broke ground on the \$187 million construction project to fix the Friant-Kern Canal and restore its conveyance capacity. Seeking to leverage technology to better serve the public, the County's Assessor/Clerk-Recorder is actively involved in a data conversion project that will usher in a modern property tax computer mainframe and convert the department's workflow to a paperless system. The new web-based system will allow the Assessor, Auditor-Controller, Tax Collector-Treasurer, Clerk of the Board, and all taxpayers to access property tax information accurately, efficiently, and securely.

In conclusion, that State of the County is strong because of the people. "We are committed, community-driven, and connected. When faced with highs and lows, we must muster through the storm. From our residents, businesses, libraries, and schools to our frontline workers and first responders, health care professionals, teachers, and our veterans – we are a community that is resilient, steadfast, and renewed." Eddie Valero Tulare Chair of the Tulare County Board of Supervisors.

New Logo, New Outreach Plan

On May 10, Tulare County Parks presented the Board of Supervisors with a new Strategic Outreach Plan (SOP) that will be used to increase public engagement and community participation. The new SOP will encourage businesses, organizations, and individuals to invest in our parks and inspire community-wide pride.

Partnering with the Arts Consortium, Tulare County Parks reached out to the Tulare County artists community. This outreach resulted in the creation of a new logo; thanks to the winning artist, Travis Walter!

Tulare County Parks will offer a sponsorship program for organizations, adopt an arbor program, memorial bench, and tree program, as well as offering an individual membership. There will also be volunteer opportunities to help restore and clean up our parks. If you are interested in the program, please visit <https://tularecountyparks.org/support-the-parks/>



Health Permit Reimbursements

The COVID-19 pandemic affected all sectors of the economy in 2020 and 2021. Many businesses saw their supply chains interrupted, demand for their products and services decline, and experienced government-mandated closures.

As a result, the Tulare County Environmental Health Division took forward an agenda item to the Tulare County Board of Supervisors to refund two years' worth of health permit fees that were paid by Body Art and Food Industries between February 1, 2020, through January 31, 2022. If you are a body art practitioner, restaurant/bar proprietor, or an annual temporary event organizer, you may have received reimbursement for your health permits.

If you did not receive a refund and you believe you are eligible, please contact the Environmental Health office at (559) 624-7400.



Road Construction in the Works

Tulare County’s Resource Management Agency (RMA) is responsible for daily maintenance and expansion of the nearly 3,000 miles of roads throughout Tulare County. In March, RMA patched 56,550 potholes, repaired/replaced 494 vandalized or worn traffic signs, and responded to 48 constituent calls for service. As a reminder, the best way to report any county road issue is to contact RMA. RMA can be reached at (559) 624-7000, at rma@tularecounty.ca.gov , or by filling out an online form at this link: <https://bit.ly/3Me6iXX> .



Road 160 Sidewalk Improvement Project

This project will entail pedestrian improvements between Road 160, Avenue 328, and Ivanhoe Elementary School. Currently, RMA is conducting public meetings with property owners to discuss construction impacts and schedule. The Road 160 Sidewalk improvement project is expected to be completed by Fall 2023.

Firebaugh Avenue Road Reconstruction

Reconstruction of Firebaugh Ave starting from State Route 65 to the Exeter City Limits is underway. The project will include replacement of curb, gutter, sidewalk, and ADA ramps. The reconstruction will also widen Ave 273 to an ultimate width of 32 feet. This project is expected to be completed by Spring 2023.



Avenue 174 Friant-Kern Canal Bridge

This project will include the replacement of the existing two-lane bridge with a wider two-lane connection to accommodate larger vehicles. This project is located on Avenue 174 over the Friant-Kern Canal, north of the City of Porterville. Completion date is expected to be Fall 2022.

Overhead Flashing Beacons Safety Project

This project will be at the intersection of Avenue 256 and Road 164. The design phase of this development is expected to be completed in a couple months’ time. The improvements will include increased visibility at all rural all-way stop-controlled intersections. The scope of work will include shoulder excavations, overhead beacon installation, and signing/stripping.

Husky looking for a new family

Did you know that Eirwen means Blessed Snow in Welsh?

Even though it’s summertime now, this beautiful husky could hit the slopes with you any day! This sweet girl is playful and independent, but still likes to check in with you for scratches and snuggles. She enjoys playing with other dogs and would love to become your new best friend!

If you think Eirwen might be for you, come down and meet her at 14131 Ave 256 in Visalia. We are open Monday-Saturday 10am-4pm. You can call 559-636-4050 Ext 0 if you have any questions or would like to make an appointment to see her.

