



COUNTY OF TULARE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

NEWSLETTER

Administration Bldg. 2800 West Burrel Visalia, CA 93291 TEL: (559) 636-5000 FAX: (559) 733-6898

ISSUE #9 DECEMBER 2022 HIGHLIGHTS



Over 100 years and counting

One hundred years ago, Tulare County was home to 59,000 people. Today, our county is home to a little over 430,000 residents. Twenty-one Tulare County seniors born in the roaring 20s became centenarians this year, some can attest to seeing the first convertible cars, automatic streetlights, and the advent of girl scout cookies. Centenarians are individuals who are over 100 years of age, providing the next generation with valuable advice and wisdom that comes from a lifetime of experience.

On October 4, 2022, the Tulare County Board of Supervisors presented 21 proclamations in recognition of our centenarians throughout the region. This year's honored centenarians are Antonia Alcalá, Raquel Alcalá, Mae Ewert, Bonnie Jensen, Lora Lorene Porter, Lois Wright, Francisca Degracia, Enrique Zambrano, Mary Leal, Felipe Ibarra, Erika Fraga, Mildred "Mille" Sullivan, Betty Treaster, Juanita Gutierrez, Geraldine "Jerry" Soultz, Astrid "OZ" Wagenschutz, Evangelina Diaz, Elvera Avila, Anita Soleno, Marie Kuchenbecker, and Donna Gray.

Tulare County is lucky to host so many centenarians who continue to call the Central Valley home. Thank you to the many friends and family who support the elders of our communities. We look forward to next year, when we will induct the newest generation of centenarians.



Larry Micari
District One

Pete Vander Poel
District Two

Amy Shuklian
District Three

Eddie Valero
District Four

Dennis Townsend
District Five

BOARD STAFF: Israel Sotelo, Chief of Staff

Patrick Burks ■ Cameron Pietila ■

CLERK OF THE BOARD: Melinda Benton, Chief Clerk

Blissful Christmas with Brett

Brett is an adorable, year-old boxer pug mix. He is such a sweetheart that does amazing with other dogs and people. To top it off, he also walks well on leash and loves to play fetch!

Tulare County Animal Services would love to see this amazing boy find a home this holiday season. For more information call (559) 636-4050.



Legislative Activism

Did you know that the Tulare County Board of Supervisors collaborates with state and federal representatives to voice the Central Valley's opinion on upcoming laws and regulations?

In 2022 the Board submitted over 40 letters of support and opposition to upcoming laws and regulations. The county's legislative platform emphasizes economic development, strengthening public safety agencies, and protecting our communities' water rights. Here is a brief list of some of the key letters and positions submitted in 2022:

Friant Kern Canal: California's failure to invest in large surface water storage has left our county with no options to store excess runoff during the rainy season. The lack of above ground infrastructure, coupled with historic years of drought and an over-reliance on groundwater pumping has resulted in ground subsidence. This severe subsidence damaged the main water conveyance system in the region, the Friant-Kern Canal.

Since its construction in 1951, the Friant-Kern Canal has lost roughly 60% of its delivery capacity due to the sinking valley floor. This means that 300,000 acre-feet of water cannot reach the end of the canal which services 55 disadvantaged communities and more than 1 million acres of farmland. The Tulare County Board of Supervisors successfully petitioned the state to invest in a multi-million-dollar project to repair the canal and allow much needed relief to eastern Tulare County.



Save our Sequoias (SOS): Tulare County is home to the vast majority of the 37,000 acres of Giant Sequoias. These ancient trees have survived several millennia only to be threatened by forest management practices that have created a massive build-up of fuels in and around these sacred groves. Although Giant Sequoias are naturally fire-resilient, the accumulation of fuel has contributed to devastating high-severity wildfires that have killed nearly one-fifth of all Giant Sequoias on earth. With this expedited timeline of destruction, the very existence of our world-renowned Giant Sequoias is at risk.



Significant action to mitigate the danger of these wildfires through fuel reduction practices has been advancing at a snail's pace due to lack of resources, environmental regulations, and litigation. It is estimated to take the U.S. Forest Service approximately 52 years to treat 19 of the most at-risk Giant Sequoia groves. We need to take immediate action to secure the health and longevity of our Sequoias. The SOS Act will provide land managers with the emergency tools and resources needed to save the remaining gentle giants.



Domestic Energy Production: As a result of the pandemic and policies related to domestic energy production, fuel prices across the nation have more than doubled this past year. The average price of gasoline hit a new record of \$5.104 per gallon, even before the executive order restricting Russian oil was announced.

Californians consume more than 1.6 million barrels of oil per day, with the majority of all vehicle miles traveled powered by fossil fuels and non-renewable energy. Our state is also the largest consumer of petroleum products in the nation. The realities of today's current petroleum market have crippled millions of hard-working Americans who rely on their cars for work, school, and commerce.

The price of filling up our constituent's fuel gauge is devastating our agriculture, transportation and construction industries while reducing consumer spending. The current economic trend in our post covid economy is setting the stage for another recession during a year of record-breaking inflation. The Board continues to advocate to put our natural oil resources to work to help stabilize our nation's economy.



Assembly Bill (AB) 1899: False Personation: AB 1899 is a common-sense measure that would modernize California's laws for impersonation via electronic means and tackle the growing trend in fraudulent activity. According to a report from the Federal Trade Commission, 2.8 million fraud reports were filed in 2021. This is a 70% increase in fraud reports compared to 2020, with the majority of reported fraud taking place electronically. AB 1899 would expand the existing definition of "electronic means" to include impersonation via cellular telephone or any other device that can transfer signs, signals, text, images, sounds, or data. Additionally, AB 1899 provides further protection for those individuals who use text telephone devices, telecommunication devices for the deaf, and all other devices used to assist communication with hearing and visually impaired individuals.



As the elected governing body of a rural county, it is very important that we limit the spread of misleading information from individuals seeking to promote their own agendas under the false guise of a county official. Tulare County is close to 5,000 square miles in size with multiple isolated communities spread across the region. Due to the geographic culture of the area, word of mouth is very important and the risk of an individual falsely claiming to represent the county could create irreputable divides in the community and mistrust of their local government.

For more information about our Tulare County's Legislative stance, call the Board of Supervisors at (559) 636-5000 our visit or website at <https://tularecounty.ca.gov/board/legislative-responses/2022/>

