



Around Tulare County

DELIVERING INFORMATION ABOUT TULARE COUNTY

AUGUST 2018

Supervisors Message: Our New Normal



It has been a long hot summer full of triple digits and raging wildfires burning throughout the State resulting in bad air quality. Although this year's fires have not technically burned in Tulare County, we too are experiencing the effects from Northern California wildfires.

Keep in mind we still have two more dry months ahead and the fire season will be with us until the first snow falls. Let's hope Tulare County will be spared a major fire in 2018.

We have to ask....is this our new normal? The Governor has been very vocal in sharing his beliefs that it is, and the cause – Climate Change.

Then again before we rearrange our budgets to provide more dollars to fight fires, we need to take a good hard look at the forest management in California – and how it is currently funded.

Nearly half of the State, and a large percentage of our state forest areas, belong to the Federal Government. Therefore, the Federal Government needs to be at the table with local and state leaders to address the issue of managing our forest lands.

Together, we need to evaluate the existing policies which have severely hampered our ability to act responsibly and chart a new course in providing immediate as well as long term solutions to the mismanagement of our forests.

I recently read an article in the 2018 summer edition of Property and Environment Research Center (PERC) entitled Fighting Fire with Finance. The article referenced a new tool being explored by the U.S. Forest Service called a Forest Resilience Bond whereby private funding would be available to forest resource beneficiaries such as hydro project operators and water agencies delivering water to agricultural and urban users.

This funding would allow users to do large scale projects which would improve forest health based upon the concept

that the new water developed by the water interests would belong to resource beneficiaries. The revenue derived from incurred water flows would be used to repay bond holders. The article made reference to a pilot project in the Tahoe National Forest.

Developing funding concepts that use private rather than public funds may be a way to jump start a forest management solution, rather than traditional government appropriations. In the light of limited funding resources and the magnitude of the tree mortality crisis the use of private funds is most intriguing.

As residents of California we cannot accept the proposition that the "new normal" will include destruction of property, human life and our natural resources. The time to act is before not after fires are ignited.

Steve Worthley,
District Four
Tulare County Board of
Supervisors

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Tulare is Selected as County of the Month by California State Library

The California State Library selected Tulare County and Visalia as its County and City of the Month for August 2018.

The California State Library made their selection based on dedication of the Tulare County Library, Tulare County Museum, and other like-minded community organizations that are committed to local preservation, outreach to the community, and providing access to historic resources to the public and California State Library.

In recognition of this announcement, the California State Library's California History Section provided information on the State Library's webpage that features the County of the Month and City of the Month. Each page also contains valuable research about Tulare County and Visalia.

The featured information on Tulare County can be view by visiting <http://www.library.ca.gov/california-history/county-month/>.

Additional Tulare County historic resources can be found through the Annie R. Mitchell History Room (located in the Visalia Branch Library), Tulare County Museum, Tulare County Historical Society, Sequoia Genealogical Society, Tulare Historical



Museum, Porterville Museum, and Alta District Historical Society.

This recognition honors the diverse character of California's many counties while providing research tips to individuals interested in finding out more about California local history.

Fun History Fact:

Did you know that the first vote in Tulare County occurred outside?

It's true! In 1852, the designated polling place

was a cabin on Kaweah Creek, but everybody cast their ballot under the Election Tree, a large nearby oak.

History buffs can read the full research guide put together for Tulare County at <http://www.library.ca.gov/Content/pdf/californiaHistory/TulareResearch.pdf>.

Beginning in August 2017, the California State Library started the County and City of the Month program to support the work of local governments and historical societies in promoting and preserving the past.



Have a program you want to highlight? Please send suggestions to:

newsletter@co.tulare.ca.us



County Purchasing Agent Lori Looney Retires

On August 17, Tulare County's Purchasing Agent retired after many years of dedicated service to the County.

Lori Looney brought over 30 years of experience in the purchasing and procurement field, which includes twelve years in the private sector and almost nineteen years in the public sector.

Lori began her career with Tulare County in the Purchasing Department in November 1999 as a Purchasing Assistant I; after six months she was promoted to Purchasing Assistant II; then was reclassified as Contract Administrator.

In June 2006, Lori was promoted to the Buyer position and then appointed as the Purchasing Agent for Tulare County in June 2011 by our Board of Supervisors.



She has been a member of the California Association of Public Purchasing Officers (CAPPO) since 2006 and was the Chapter Chair for the Central Valley Purchasing Group as of January 2011 until recently turned over to staff from Fresno County.

Lori grew up in Easton, Ca with her wonderful husband Don and has been married for 37 years. Lori has two daughters; Jennifer and Melissa and two grandsons; Jonathan 2 1/2 and Emeric almost 6 months old with a new

grandchild arriving in February 2019.

Her mother who is now 83 years old has been a huge support to her throughout her procurement career and Lori looks forward to spending more time with her in retirement.

If you ask Lori, she has enjoyed working for Tulare County and is now looking forward to a new chapter in life with her wonderful growing family.

County Awarded \$1.3 Million in Cal Fire Grants

Tulare County Fire has been awarded five grants from the CA Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (Cal Fire) through their California Climate Investment Grant program.

Tulare County will be receiving \$1.3 million in funding to complete five fire protection and tree removal projects. These projects are geared to help mitigate the current tree mortality crisis in our local mountains.

According to the latest statewide Tree Mortality survey, California now has 129 million dead trees in its forests. Amongst the affected areas in the state, Tulare County is home to the highest number of dead trees with 29 million.

The funds will be spent to assist in completing the following projects:

- Posey Hazard Fuel Reduction Project

- Hartland Hazard Fuel and Tree Reduction Project
- South Fork Hazard Fuel Reduction Project
- Camp Nelson Hazard Fuel and Tree Reduction Project
- Silver City Fuel and Tree Reduction Project

The efforts in receiving this grant funding was made possible by the collaborative work of the following County Departments: Tulare County Fire, HHSA, RMA, and OES.

There are many County employees who are doing outstanding things for their community outside of their job.

Do you know a County employee who should be in the spotlight? Let us know at:

newsletter@co.tulare.ca.us

AROUND TULARE COUNTY

Around Tulare County is published once a month as a service to the public. Unless otherwise noted, articles are written by County staff. For additional information, contact Carrie Monteiro.

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County Supervisors on the Go!



^ Above - Supervisor Ennis Holds Annual Highway 190 Meeting

District Five Supervisor, Mike Ennis, held his annual Highway 190 Corridor meeting on August 22 in Camp Nelsen.

Various countywide agencies joined him in addressing concerns and gathered feedback on possible improvements to the neighboring mountain communities.



^ Above - Lemon Cove Town Hall Meeting

District One Supervisor, Kuyler Crocker, hosts a Town Hall meeting in Lemon Cove on August 22. County staff was on hand to share information on County programs and answer questions. Topics of discussion included County Code Enforcement, Road Improvements and Public Safety.



< Left - Sheriff Unveils New Property/Evidence Facility in Tulare

Tulare County Sheriff Mike Boudreaux unveiled the Department's new Crime Lab and Property/Evidence Facility to the public on August 27.

Construction began last December to remodel the old continuation school in Tulare into a state-of-the-art facility and cost about \$3.7 million.

The new facility is nearly five times the size of the old one, with ten times the storage space!



Places to Go Play: Visalia is the oldest city between Stockton and Los Angeles. This vibrant town of more than 120,000 is the county seat, and offers dozens of fine dining and cultural arts experiences. The historic Fox Theatre routinely showcases concert artists, performances by the Tulare County Symphony and live theatre. Learn more about Visalia, Fox Theatre and other places in Tulare County to "Go Play" at www.tularecountymap.com.