



Around Tulare County

DELIVERING INFORMATION ABOUT TULARE COUNTY – JULY 2013

Supervisor's Message: Time for More Water Storage is Now



There would not be a \$5.6 billion agriculture industry in Tulare County if it weren't for one natural resource - water. Water keeps our agriculture industry alive and preserves its profound impact to our economy.

However, with drought seasons behind us, upon us, and more on the horizon, agriculture is in danger in Tulare County as well as the San Joaquin Valley.

According to the United States Geological Survey, since about 1960, groundwater in the San Joaquin Valley has depleted by almost 60 million acre-feet, which is, on average, enough to supply every California resident with water for eight years.

This issue has been up for debate for years and often is overshadowed by other statewide problems. However, as a farmer and County Supervisor, the time to address this issue is now.

One Solution

Many of the water supply problems we have faced can be solved through increasing surface storage in California. There are many types of surface water storage systems, but I'm advocating for the construction of additional dams. For the San Joaquin Valley, the construction of the Temperance Flat Dam and Reservoir upstream from Friant Dam would be a great option.

A California Water Bond is scheduled to come before California's voters next year. Some legislators in Sacramento would like to see funding stripped away from water storage projects and put towards conservation, safe drinking water and restoring the Delta. While

there is merit to those types of projects, it would be foolish to strip funding away from water storage projects.

There are several advantages to having more water storage infrastructure in place.

Constructing more dams can smooth out the impacts on drought years. The more water we can hold in the Sierra Nevada and foothills, the more water we can preserve without waste. Dams create reservoirs that supply water for many uses, including industrial, municipal, and agriculture.

Dams prevent the loss of life and property caused by flooding.

Last, but certainly not least, having more water storage would protect agriculture in the San Joaquin Valley.

Allen Ishida, District One Board of Supervisors

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Supervisors Approve Salary Increases

“Looking forward, we will continue to take cautious measures when considering salary increases, cost-of-living adjustments, or equity adjustments.”
Jean Rousseau,
County Administrative Officer

Tulare County employees in unrepresented bargaining groups will receive salary increases starting in July.

A \$1.7 million salary increase proposal for Tulare County’s employees in unrepresented bargaining groups was approved unanimously by the Board of Supervisors during its June 25 meeting.

The last time similar salary adjustments were granted was December 2008. Of the \$1.7 million included in the salary increase proposal, \$530,000 would be spent from the General Fund.

There are 540 employees in unrepresented bargaining groups, which include the Board of Supervisors, county elected officials, confidential clerical workers, professionals, mid-management, executive management/department heads, probation management, and assistant department heads.

With the approval, the following employees will receive salary increases:

- The Board of Supervisors will receive a 3 percent increase, effective 60 days after adoption of the annual budget. (November 2013)

- Unrepresented employees will receive a 3 percent increase, effective July 14, 2013.

- Probation Officer-Supervisors will receive a 4 percent increase, effective July 14, 2013 and 4 percent equity adjustment on January 26, 2014.

- County Elected Officials will receive a 3 percent increase, upon adoption of annual budget in September 2013.

- The positions of Chief Deputy County Counsel, Attorney-Supervisors, Attorney-Supervisor (At Will), Attorney Civil V, and Attorney-Chief Child Support will receive an additional 2 percent equity adjustment effective January 26, 2014.

- The proposed increase is just one of a few agreements reached with different bargaining groups this year.

For example, the following bargaining groups have already reached agreements on June 11 with the County:

- The Tulare County District Attorney Investigators Association (TCDAIA) employees will receive a 3 percent increase effective

July 14, 2013.

- The Government Lawyers Association of Workers (G-LAW) employees will receive a 3 percent salary increase effective August 11, 2013. In addition, Attorney V’s in that group will receive an additional 2 percent salary increase effective January 26, 2014.

Other bargaining units whose contracts expire this year include: Tulare County Corrections Association (TCCA); United Auto Workers (UAW); District Attorney Criminal Investigators Association Tulare County (DACIATC); and Professional Association of Tulare County Physicians (PATCOP). It is anticipated that contract agreements for these bargaining units will be brought to the Board of Supervisors in July.

Bargaining units whose contracts expire next year include: Service Employees International Union (SEIU); Tulare County Professional Firefighters Association (TCPFA); Professional Law Enforcement Managers Association (PLEMA); and the Tulare County Deputy Sheriff’s Association (TCDSA).

Literacy Program Needs Volunteers



Tulare County’s Read to Succeed Library Literacy Center is looking for adult volunteers to help other adults learn to read, get a GED or be able to read to their children.

This program serves all Tulare County adult residents. A training class will be held July 26 from 9 a.m. to noon for prospective tutors. To find out

more or to sign up for training, call [559-713-2745](tel:559-713-2745).

Qualifications

- At least 20 years of age, with the ability to speak, read and write well in English.
- Ability to be sensitive, patient, and respectful of our learner’s situations and goals.
- Excellent communication skills.

- Commitment to providing a positive and supportive environment for one’s learner.
- Completion of tutor training, and participation in ongoing training as needed.
- Willingness to become a partner, not an instructor.

Employee Spotlight: Walking Works Participants



Auditor/Controller employees walk in record steps.

More than 680 Tulare County employees from 23 departments participated in the 2nd Annual Walking Works Challenge in May. For the whole week, more than 28.6 million steps, or 8,711 steps per day, were taken by Tulare County employees!

The purpose of the week-long Walking Works Challenge is to encourage employees to improve their physical fitness, which can ultimately lead to better health and a reduction in health insurance costs.

Tulare County was not the only government agency to participate. Fresno County, the City of Tulare, and the City of Ceres also participated.

In Tulare County, steps were tracked by pedometers provided by Anthem Blue Cross and Delta TeamCare both years. Statistics were compiled and compared. For those who had a chance to participate, Tulare County employees increased their number of steps per day from 8,251 steps in 2012 to 8,711 steps per day, which equates to a 17 percent increase.

Out of the 23 County departments, the 30 employees from the Auditor-Controller's office by far had more steps on average than any other department by logging an average of 13,976 steps per day. Way to go!

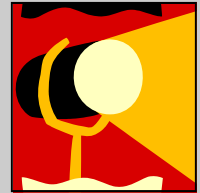
Top Departments

Average Steps Per Day

1. Auditor-Controller: 13,976
2. Workforce Investment Board: 13,908
3. Board of Supervisors: 12,737
4. General Services: 11,722
5. Tulare County Fire Department: 10,492

Number of Participants

1. HHSA: 238
2. Sheriff's Department: 81
3. Child Support : 50
4. District Attorney: 42
5. Probation 38



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

Program Spotlight: K/T AAA

Tulare County senior citizens can look forward to an increase and wider range in points of access for services. On May 20, the Kings/Tulare County Area Agency on Aging (K/T AAA) Governing Board ratified a contract with Community Services Employment Training (CSET) to provide service delivery for many programs that are currently being delivered directly by K/T AAA staff.

As of July 1, CSET will provide service delivery for legal services, information and assistance, hot meals and home-delivered meals, senior center site activities, and chronic disease management programs.

"Senior citizens can expect to see a lot more services and resources in more parts of Tulare County by leveraging funding from the Federal Older American's Act and Older Californian's Act with the resources of CSET," said Timothy Lutz, Director of the K/T AAA. This represents a tremendous opportunity to develop new partnerships that will greatly benefit the seniors in Tulare County."

The K/T AAA has operated under a Joint Powers Agreement between Kings and Tulare Counties since 1980 and has a mission to "provide service to senior citizens who are underserved,

due to cultural, economic, or language barriers." These changes will assist in meeting that mission.

The K/T AAA and Tulare County Health & Human Services Agency will continue to manage the Health Insurance Counseling & Advocacy Program (HICAP) and the Multipurpose Senior Services Program (MSSP).

You can find more info about K/T AAA at www.ktaaa.org or at tchhsa.org.

Want your program to be in the spotlight? Please send suggestions to:
newsletter@co.tulare.ca.us

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How to Attend

District 1 – Thursday, July 25, Exeter Hometown Emporium

District 2 – Thursday, July 11, Tulare Chamber of Commerce, Tulare Trade Room

District 3 – Wednesday, July 31, Visalia Chamber of Commerce, Chamber Board Room

District 4 – Thursday, August 8, Dinuba Recreation Department

District 5 – Thursday, August 15, Porterville City Council Chambers

Please note: All meetings will be held 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Outreach Meetings Scheduled to Discuss Environmental Health Fees

In an effort to promote transparency, accountability, and good governance, the Tulare County Health & Human Services Agency is offering open forums countywide to discuss Environmental Health permit fees and inspection experiences.

The permit fees are generally geared towards event organizers; non-profit event coordinators; caterers; restaurant owners; mobile food vendors; temporary food vendors; and businesses.

The goal of these meetings is for vendors, organizers, and community leaders to share their views and participate in an on-going process of designing a fee structure that works for Tulare County and complements the permits required by the California Health & Safety Code.

be some pivotal changes so that permit fee structures will be accessible and yield a better business climate in Tulare County,” said Dr. Cheryl Duerksen, Agency Director. “We hope business and community leaders will come to the table as HHSA seeks to better understand the needs of the business community.”

All meetings will be held from 6 p.m. -7:30 p.m.

These meetings will give HHSA a more complete picture of what type of fee structure will work for Tulare County, provide an opportunity for HHSA to present basic information on current permit requirements, and build a better governance and business climate in Tulare County. Comments and questions can be directed to

fee@tularehhsa.org and [559-624-7439](tel:559-624-7439).

The Board of Supervisors voted to set current permit fees to the 2012 level of \$326.00 and refund checks have been issued to vendors who overpaid for the year. If vendors believe they overpaid, they can submit their names to Environmental Health staff to begin the one-week process.

“HHSA realizes there needs to

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 Jed Chernabaeff.

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JULY COUNTY ACTIVITIES, DEADLINES, EVENTS, MEETINGS

Meeting: (Date/Time)

More Information:

Board of Supervisors’ Meeting: 9 a.m. July 9, 16,* 23, 30.	559/636-5000
Tulare County Water Commission: 3 p.m. July 8.	559/636-5005
Tulare County Association of Governments: 1 p.m. July 22.	559/624-7274
Tulare County Planning Commission: 9 a.m. July 10, 24.	559/624-7000

* The July 16 Board of Supervisors meeting will be held at 7 p.m. in Visalia.



Places to Go Play: The Exeter Historical Museum, located at 125 South “B” Street, was constructed in 1913. The museum focuses on the history of Exeter, including Mineral King and Conifer in Sequoia National Park, Yokohl Valley, Rocky Hill and other surrounding landmarks. The Courthouse Gallery of the Arts is also located next door to the museum. Learn more about Exeter and other places to “Go Play” at www.tularecountymap.com.