



# Around Tulare County

DELIVERING INFORMATION ABOUT TULARE COUNTY - AUGUST 2011

## Supervisor's Message: Solutions to water issues move forward



Each member of the Tulare County Board of Supervisors is committed to a variety of issues that impact our constituents. Two key issues I'm committed to are water - supply, sustainability, and quality - and marijuana eradication. In July, progress was made on both through a historic water meeting and an educational marijuana tour.

### Water Issue

County Supervisors representing the San Joaquin Valley and the Bay Area's Delta region have been meeting for the past year to work on projects that would improve the water needs of both regions.

These meetings were called due to the lack of progress in securing and improving water quality and supplies over the last few decades. The lack of progress can be traced to the fact that there has been regional disagreement between the

Delta and San Joaquin Valley counties over how to improve water supply.

At a meeting in July, Supervisors representing both regions mutually agreed upon developing a water projects list that will increase water reliability and quality. Within two months, this water projects list will be created and jointly submitted to the Governor and State Legislators. The building of Temperance Flat Dam on the San Joaquin River will likely be included on this short list of water projects.

The battle for water between these two regions has created a lot of headaches and ill-will between elected leaders and constituents. The July meeting outcome of creating and submitting a water projects list proves that it will take a cross regional approach to find a desirable outcome.

### Marijuana Issue

The Tulare County Board of Supervisors recently had an opportunity to fly over their respective districts to get a first hand view of marijuana cultivation on the San Joaquin Valley floor. The outcome of these flyovers gave context to what most residents

suspect: marijuana cultivation on the Valley floor is an expanding problem.

Because of the easy access to Valley grow sites and growers, local law enforcement has reported an increase in home invasion robberies and deaths. One example of this happened last year within one-half mile of my home when a man was shot and killed stealing a marijuana grower's plants.

After witnessing the scope of the problem first hand, there is no question that the State must take swift action to strengthen its guidelines on the growing and distribution of marijuana. Strengthening guidelines will provide local law enforcement the tools it needs to arrest and prosecute and protect our law-abiding residents.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding these issues, please do not hesitate to contact me or my staff at 559/636-5000 or by email at [aishida@co.tulare.ca.us](mailto:aishida@co.tulare.ca.us).

Allen Ishida, District One  
Tulare County Board of Supervisors

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## STEP UP YOUTH CHALLENGE LOGO CONTEST:

The Tulare County Gang Prevention Task Force is sponsoring a months-long program for middle school-aged youth. The Step Up Junior High Challenge will enable middle and junior high schools to engage a diverse group of students in a project-based learning challenge throughout the course of the 2011-12 school year. Do you have what it takes to create a logo for this program?

We need a fun, vibrant digital logo that will compliment this service learning, project-based program for our youth. Please submit your entries by August 31, 2011 to [stepuptc@co.tulare.ca.us](mailto:stepuptc@co.tulare.ca.us). Please call Jed Chernabaeff at 559/636-5000 if you have any questions.

**Redistricting Committee Presents 3 Maps for Review**

“The Redistricting Committee is very pleased with the entire redistricting process, and we are confident we have presented three solid options to the Supervisors.”  
Dick Eckhoff,  
Tulare County Redistricting Committee Chairman

Tulare County’s Redistricting Committee presented three draft maps that detail possible new Supervisorial district lines for possible adoption by the Tulare County Board of Supervisors.

The draft maps are available for comment and review online as well as during two Board of Supervisors public hearings in August. The Redistricting Committee presented their final report and unveiled the proposed maps at the July 26 Board of Supervisors meeting.

Tulare County supervisorial district lines are reviewed and redrawn every 10 years based upon United States Census information. These district boundaries define the political representation on the Board of Supervisors.

The Redistricting Committee received input from the public on sample maps during five outreach meetings, one in each Supervisorial district. The committee took five

scenarios to the public outreach meetings, and received five additional proposals from members of the public. After the public outreach forums, the committee met four times to review the public comments and ultimately decided to recommend three scenarios to the Board of Supervisors for possible adoption.

At three separate public meetings in April and May, residents were asked to provide their input on what criteria should be used to draw Tulare County’s supervisorial lines. Criteria that were selected include: topography; geography; continuity and compactness; avoid dividing cities; and avoid dividing urban growth areas, among others.

“The Redistricting Committee is very pleased with the entire redistricting process, and we are confident we have presented three solid options to the Supervisors,” said Dick Eckhoff, Chairman

of the Tulare County Redistricting Committee. “We are especially thankful to the members of the public that participated in this important process.

The draft maps are available for review on the Tulare County Redistricting Committee’s website at: <http://co.tulare.ca.us/government/redistricting/maps.asp>.

Comments and suggestions can be submitted to the Board of Supervisors on the website, in writing or at any of the Board of Supervisors meetings.

All information regarding the redistricting process and meetings can be found at <http://www.co.tulare.ca.us/government/redistricting/default.asp>.

**Council Seeks to Recognize Child-Friendly Businesses**



The Tulare County Child Care Planning Council wants to recognize Tulare County businesses that have child-friendly employment practices. The Council is currently seeking nominations for the Business and Children Award. The award recognizes a Tulare County business with progressive programs such as "flextime" or job-sharing options, company-provided child care benefits, or an on-site child care center.

The award program also highlights benefits of a child-friendly workplace – benefits that include

increased employee motivation and loyalty, and enhanced company reputation. Previous award recipients include: UPS Corporate Credit Visalia, TPG Consulting, Inc., Visalia Ceramic Tile, Inc., and Adair & Evans, An Accountancy Corporation.

“It is important that the community recognize businesses for their efforts to meet the needs of employees with children,” said Tulare County Superintendent of Schools Jim Vidak.

“During difficult financial times, affordable child care is

a major concern for working families,” Tulare County Board of Supervisors Chairman Mike Ennis said.

Nomination forms are available online at [www.tularecountykids.org](http://www.tularecountykids.org). For more information contact Tina Shirley, Planning Council Coordinator at (559) 651-1723. Nominations must be received by September 16, 2011. The winner will be announced at the fourth annual Tulare County Child Care Planning Council Legislative Breakfast on October 6, 2011.

## Employee Spotlight: Phil Lozano & Raiza



Editor's Note: The August spotlight features Probation Officer Phil Lozano and his K-9 partner Raiza.

**Name:** Phil Lozano  
**Title:** Supervising Probation Officer  
**Years of Service:** 18 ½ years  
**Duties:** Probation Department K-9 Narcotic Detection Handler

**Name:** Raiza  
**Title:** Narcotic Detection K-9  
**Years of Service:** 2 ½ years  
**Duties:** Assist Probation Officers and Law Enforcement Agencies in the search and detection of illegal narcotics.

**Describe your working relationship with Raiza:**  
Raiza and I have a great working relationship as we

spend so much time together both on and off duty. We train constantly day to day and also spend a considerable amount of our leisure time together. I just wish I had her energy!

### **What is your most rewarding experience while working as a team with Raiza?**

Placing 2<sup>nd</sup> two years in a row (2009 and 2010) in our division at the South County K-9 Trails.

### **Share one of Raiza's shining moments:**

Although Raiza has had larger narcotics finds, the one find I believe was her most challenging or shinning was when she alerted on and located a package containing marijuana at the Federal Express office in Visalia. What made this particular find so amazing was the way in which the marijuana had been packaged. It was placed in a large cardboard box with packaging foam then inside an ice chest with a

silicone sealed lid. Inside the ice chest was 10 one pound vacuumed sealed double plastic bags of marijuana. Pepper sauce had been placed inside the first plastic baggie to further diminish the odor of the marijuana. The package was being sent to the east coast and had an estimated street value of over 50,000 dollars.

### **Please tell us something other employees might not know about you and Raiza:**

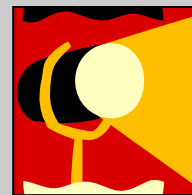
On our off duty time, Raiza and I like to swim and play fetch in our pool.

### **Where is your favorite place to visit in Tulare County?**

Any golf course in the county.

### **Where is Raiza's favorite place to visit in Tulare County?**

Raiza enjoys going to the Sports Complex or any open field for that matter, to play fetch with her favorite toy.



**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](mailto:newsletter@co.tulare.ca.us)

## Program Spotlight: OffenderWatch

The Tulare County Sheriff's Department is pleased to provide OffenderWatch, the nation's leading registered sex offender management and community notification tool.

Tulare County's law enforcement utilizes OffenderWatch to manage and monitor the whereabouts, conduct and compliance status of the registered offenders in Tulare County. Offender-Watch provides the most accurate and timely information available and now this information is available to you!

OffenderWatch is updated instantaneously throughout the day as offender addresses and other offender information is updated. You may enter any address in the County and see real-time information on the publishable offenders within the specified radius of the address you enter.

Offenders move frequently, so instead of having to check the maps on a weekly basis, the best way to stay informed is to take advantage of a free email alert system. You may confidentially register as many addresses in the County

as you wish, and the Sheriff's Department will continuously monitor the addresses and send you an email alert if a new offender registers an address within the specified radius of any address you register. There is no cost for this service and no limit to the number of addresses you can register - your email address and physical addresses are all confidential. Tell your friends and neighbors and be sure to register your home, school, work, gym, day care, park, soccer field, parents or children's homes - any address of interest to you!

If you have any questions about our this program, please call: 733-6218 or e-mail administrator Lt. John Weller at [jweller@co.tulare.ca.us](mailto:jweller@co.tulare.ca.us)



**Want your program to be in the spotlight? Please send suggestions to:**

[newsletter@co.tulare.ca.us](mailto:newsletter@co.tulare.ca.us)

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**Unsecured Property Taxes are Due**

Rita A. Woodard, Auditor-Controller/Treasurer-Tax Collector, would like to remind taxpayers that Unsecured Tax bills are now due. Please note that the delinquent date is August 31st. This deadline is a month earlier than last year. If your payment is not received or postmarked by the delinquent date, a 10% penalty will be added to your bill.

The 2011/2012 Unsecured Tax bills were mailed on July 14, 2011. If you do not receive your Unsecured Tax bill or are unable to find it, you may view and print a copy from our website at [www.tularecountytax.com](http://www.tularecountytax.com), or you may come to our office at 221 South Mooney Blvd., Room 104E, Visalia. The Tax Collector's new phone number is 559-636-5250.

**Payment options:** Payments can be made by mail in the envelope provided with your

bill, or in the office by cash or check. Additionally, taxpayers can pay online at our website ([www.tularecountytax.com](http://www.tularecountytax.com)) or by phone (1-888-320-7064) by either credit card or Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT). Please note that a convenience fee will be charged by our vendor for credit card or EFT transactions.

**Drop Box:** The Tax Collector's office has a new curbside drop box for tax payments made by check. It is located in the northeast parking lot (next to Mooney Blvd.) at the Visalia Courthouse. The box is easy to locate by following the signs and looking for the red white and blue flags hanging in the parking lot. No more worrying about parking; just drive up and drop your payment in the box! Please include your Assessor Parcel Number (APN) on your check and enclose your payment

stub in your envelope.

**Payee & address:** Please make your property tax check payable to Rita A. Woodard, Tulare County Tax Collector, put your parcel number in the memo field, include your payment stub(s) and mail your payment to:

Tulare County Tax Collector  
PO BOX 30329  
Los Angeles, CA 90030-0329

**Property Value**

**Questions:** Any questions regarding values, addresses, or assessments should be directed to the Tulare County Assessor's Office at 559-636-5100

**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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[www.aroundtularecounty.com](http://www.aroundtularecounty.com)

**AUGUST COUNTY ACTIVITIES, DEADLINES, EVENTS, MEETINGS**

**Meeting: (Date/Time)**

- L.A.F.C.O. Meeting. August 3. 2 p.m.
- Tulare County Water Commission: August 8. 3 p.m.
- Tulare County Youth Commission: August 8. 3 p.m.
- Board of Supervisors' Meeting: August 9, 16, 30. 9 a.m.
- Tulare County Planning Commission: August 10, 24. 9 a.m.
- T.C.A.G. Meeting: August 15. 1 p.m.

**More Information:**

- 559/624-7000
- 559/636-5000
- 559/636-5000
- 559/636-5000
- 559/624-7000
- 559/624-7000

For more information, visit: [www.co.tulare.ca.us](http://www.co.tulare.ca.us) and click on "County Calendar"



**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](http://www.tularecountymap.com).