



# Around Tulare County

DELIVERING INFORMATION ABOUT TULARE COUNTY

JANUARY 2017

## Chairman's Message: 2017 State of the County



*Editor's Note:* Below is an excerpt from the State of the County, delivered on Jan. 24, 2017. To see the full speech, please visit [www.aroundtularecounty.com](http://www.aroundtularecounty.com)

Working together, we have achieved many great accomplishments in 2016. We remained fiscally sound and passed a balanced budget that provided ample funding to all county departments, made necessary salary adjustments, and increased our financial reserves. This Board will remain dedicated to fiscal responsibility and living within our means, regardless of Federal and State budget impacts.

As Chairman in 2017, I plan to move Tulare County down a path towards a sustainable future for a strong quality of life for the people of Tulare County.

I will share some strategies including the proposal of a financial plan and ways in continuing economic development efforts to combat these potential challenges. In addition, I will touch on some work of our various County Departments and what you can expect to see in 2017.

In maintaining the Board's focus on fiscal responsibility, I would like this Board to consider the adoption of a Strategic Financing Plan to address current and future financial challenges that will serve the best interests of the residents of Tulare County.

This proposed strategic financing plan should prudently address the following key components:

- (1) Potential reorganization of the County's financial services departments;
- (2) Construction, operational staffing and provision of health services for the criminal justice and public safety facilities now under construction;
- (3) Development of transportation improvements and infrastructure to better our rural communities, roads, bridges, water facilities, wastewater facilities, flood control facilities, and parks;
- (4) Public employee compensation including health benefits, retirement and salary; and
- (5) Structural balancing of key departmental budgets that are routinely in deficit.

This Board will continue to promote economic development within Tulare County. This means the County will seek to guide, where feasible, economic development by creating the conditions under which business development can

thrive. This includes maintaining a business friendly permit process, a reasonable permit fee structure, and the expeditious construction of public improvements and infrastructure.

Looking ahead, an important part of the County's ongoing economic development program will be to approve a "Target Marketing Plan." I would request the CAO return to this Board later this year with a proposed Target Marketing Plan designed to promote economic development on a countywide basis.

I want to share with all of you some of the projects and programs we expect to turn out this year. First off, I would like to start with the reoccurrence of evening meetings of the Tulare County Board of Supervisors this year. Five Board meetings in 2017 will be held during the evening hours and will be located throughout the County, one in each Supervisorial District.

I would also like to mention my anticipation of the results of the efforts put forward by various newly constituted Advisory Committees. The Homeless Task Force will have a busy year collaborating with all jurisdictions in the County to address the many issues surrounding homelessness. The Parks Advisory Committee and the Animal Services Advisory

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Committee will be equally active helping to guide the operation/policy of their respective subject areas.

This Board is dedicated to laying the groundwork for a viable future for Tulare County. We plan to look ahead and not only address the challenges approaching us tomorrow, but also prepare for the obstacles we expect will head our way in the years to come. We continue down the path the Board has historically traveled upon and we will strive to lay the foundation for a sustainable future.

Pete Vander Poel  
District Two  
Tulare County Board

## County Receives \$1.21 Million Grant for Monson



On January 18, the State Water Resources Control Board authorized \$1.21 million out of their Cleanup and Abatement Account for the Monson Emergency Water Supply Project. This was the final piece necessary to complete the funding package for this project.

Tulare County, the Monson community, Self Help Enterprises, and other partners have worked for many years to bring a long-term solution to the area which has been plagued by individual wells with high levels of nitrate and, more recently, dry wells due to the catastrophic drought.

In 2015, the County secured \$500,000 in USDA Emergency Community Water Assistance Grant and \$400,000 from the California Department of Water Resources. The \$2.11

million total in secured monies will be used to drill a new municipal supply well in Monson and construct the first phase of the water distribution system that will bring water to approximately 30 homes.

“This is great news for the residents of Monson who have endured water quality issues for years, even before recent drought impacts causing reduced groundwater supplies,” stated District Four Supervisor Steve Worthley who represents the communities of Monson and Sultana. “This long term solution will also benefit Sultana residents with additional water for their system.”

While the drought exacerbated the community's problem, it also provided

unique financing opportunities from Federal and State agencies. Historically, communities comprised of individual wells have not been eligible for traditional water system grant programs, but in order to address private domestic well failures, innovative drought funding programs were developed.

Construction of the project is slated to start this spring and should be completed within six months. A second phase of the project is proposed to include additional water distribution infrastructure that will interlink to the nearby community of Sultana.

Work is underway on a governance consolidation for both the Monson-Sultana communities which will provide them with the ability to be self-governing.

## Human Trafficking Awareness Event

On February 1, the Office of the Tulare County District Attorney and Porterville College will screen “Chosen,” a documentary film dedicated to raising awareness of human trafficking among students and youth.

The film screening, followed by a panel of experts comprised of prosecutors, law enforcement, and victim advocates,

will begin at 6:30 pm in the Porterville College gymnasium. Event entry and parking is free.

“The question of whether human trafficking happens in our communities has been answered, and the unfortunate answer is yes,” said District Attorney Tim Ward. “In partnering with Porterville College, we can bring awareness and education of this terrible crime. It will also serve as a message to those who prey on the vulnerable – trafficking will not be tolerated in our communities.”

Human trafficking is modern day slavery that controls victims through force, fear or coercion for sex or labor services. According to the Polaris Project,

21 million people a year are trapped in trafficking globally, making it a multi-billion dollar industry.

Since the creation of the District Attorney's Human Trafficking Coalition in 2014, two individuals have been sentenced to prison for trafficking minors for sex in Tulare County. Another 11 defendants are currently in the court process and nearly 30 victims have been identified.

If you suspect a trafficking situation is taking place, contact law enforcement immediately. Learn the signs at <http://www.da-tulareco.org/HumanTrafficking.htm>.

The Office of the District Attorney  
County of Tulare  
and  
Porterville College  
present a film screening of  
**CHOSEN**  
TO RAISE  
**HUMAN TRAFFICKING AWARENESS**  
FOLLOWED BY A PANEL OF  
LOCAL EXPERTS REPRESENTING  
NON-PROFITS, VICTIM ADVOCATES,  
PROSECUTORS, AND  
LAW ENFORCEMENT  
**February 1, 2017**  
**6:30 pm to 8:00 pm**  
**Porterville College Gym**  
**Free to attend**

## New Supervisors Sworn into Office

On January 10, the Honorable Tulare County Superior Court Judge Brett Alldredge performed the official swearing-in ceremony of Supervisor Kuyler Crocker, District One, Supervisor Amy Shuklian, District Three, and Supervisor Pete Vander Poel, District Two.

Supervisor Vander Poel was also selected as this year's Chairman of the Board along with Supervisor Steve Worthley as Vice Chair.

### **Supervisor Kuyler Crocker – District One**



Supervisor Crocker was elected in November 2016, filling the seat vacant by Former Supervisor Allen Ishida's retirement. Crocker is a third-generation resident of Strathmore and received a degree in Public Administration from Fresno State University. In addition he studied Business Management, with an emphasis in Organizational Leadership; GIS mapping; and Urban and Regional Planning. He is an avid Bulldog enthusiast.

Shortly after graduating from Fresno State, Supervisor

Crocker sought work and found it in the form of a Night Shift Supervisor at a local citrus packing house. Upon finishing the season, he found employment with a local energy company in their Government Relations department. There he advocated for customers, partners with local industry groups in agriculture, business, and labor, and facilitated large charitable contributions to local non-profit organizations in need.

Supervisor Crocker is very active in the community serving on a local Credit Union Board of Directors, Strathmore Alumni Association, Boys & Girls Club local committee, Friends of SCICON, and at his church. He also farms citrus and olives alongside his uncle and father in Lindsay/Strathmore.

Supervisor Crocker is focused on working on water issues related to California's Sustainable Groundwater Management Act, building Temperance Flat via the San Joaquin Valley Water Infrastructure Authority, and advocating in our capitals for meaningful water legislation. He is committed to working with his colleagues and staff to have safe communities, as well as, enhancing economic development opportunities for Tulare County.

Supervisor Crocker resides in Strathmore with his Fox Red Labrador Retriever, Red.

### **Supervisor Amy Shuklian – District Three**

Supervisor Shuklian was born in Visalia and raised on her family's farm on the Tulare/Kings county line. She was active in both 4-H and Future Farmers of America. She graduated from



California State University, Fresno with a Bachelor of Science degree in Recreation Administration and worked in the Mental Health and Physical Rehabilitation field for 30 years prior to being elected to the Board of Supervisors.

Supervisor Shuklian served on the Visalia City Council from 2007-2016. During her nine years on the Council she served as Vice Mayor (2009-2011) and Mayor (2011-2013).

In 2001 she was instrumental in starting the first off leash Dog Park in Tulare County which started her on the path of community service. Amy lives in the City of Visalia with her Partner of 23 years, Mary. They have two Chocolate Labrador retrievers, Georgee and Gracee. Amy enjoys golfing, going to the shooting range, cooking and home improvement projects.

Supervisor Shuklian is committed to helping Tulare County enhance public safety services, gaining public trust through accessibility and transparency, being a good steward of public funds, developing opportunities for County and City cooperation, and improving our regions quality of life.



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^ Above - County Supervisors Sworn into Office

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^ Top Left - Sheriff Unveils New Tool to Fight Ag Crime

On January 18, Tulare County Sheriff Mike Boudreaux announced a new innovative high-tech tool, SmartWater CSI, that links criminals to stolen property directly back to victims. This invisible witness tool will help to prevent agricultural crimes in the County. Tulare County Sheriff's Office is the first law enforcement agency in the western U.S. to publicly launch the tool.

< Left - Earlimart Park Groundbreaking

On January 9, Supervisor Pete Vander Poel joined in breaking ground on the Earlimart Neighborhood Park project. The park was made possible from multiple funding sources including Prop 84 Grant, Earlimart School District, Tulare County Flood Control District, and County General Services & Capital. The park is expected to be completed in August 2017.



**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 Crane.

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**UPCOMING COUNTY ACTIVITIES, DEADLINES, EVENTS, AND MEETINGS**

<b>Event/Meeting: (Date/Time)</b>	<b>More Information:</b>
Board of Supervisors Meeting: 9:00 a.m. January 31, February 7, February 14 (1:00 p.m.) <i>No Meeting: February 21,</i>	(559) 636-5000
Tulare County Planning Commission: 9:00 a.m. February 8, February 22	(559) 624-7000
Tulare County Water Commission: 3:00 p.m. February 13	(559) 636-5000
Tulare County Youth Commission: 3:00 p.m. February 27	(559) 636-5000

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**Places to Go Play:** Woodlake is located among citrus and olive orchards at the base of the foothills of the Sierra Nevada. The city is a short drive from Sequoia National Park. Close by, Woodlake enjoys the amenities of Lake Kaweah and the Kaweah and St. John's rivers. Bravo Lake, an irrigation facility located within city limits, provides bird watching and walking opportunities. Learn more about Woodlake and other places to "Go Play" at [www.tularecountymap.com](http://www.tularecountymap.com).