



Around Tulare County

DELIVERING INFORMATION ABOUT TULARE COUNTY

MARCH 2019

Supervisors Message - What are we doing on Homelessness?



As the Chair of the County Task Force on Homelessness I am often asked what I am doing to help alleviate this crisis. First, I tell them that we are not alone and that no County in California is immune to Homelessness. The State has also realized this and is making funding available to address this crisis.

We see County services as a critical component of any homeless effort. The task force has adopted a true interagency approach with a group of stakeholders ranging from city officials, homeless service providers, law enforcement, faith community, and other important stakeholders.

We have used this group as a vehicle to facilitate several collaborations and are currently preparing to launch a strategic planning effort to guide long-term efforts and clearly define

the roles of every stakeholder at the table.

The Board of Supervisors directly supports a number of the new initiatives. Most recently, the County contributed funds to the Visalia Warming Center at St. Paul's Church, the only low barrier shelter option for the homeless community in Tulare County.

Additionally, we have pledged \$75,000 to the Kings/Tulare Homeless Alliance's Landlord Mitigation Fund, which is critical for increasing local housing stock for the homeless housing programs.

We have appointed a Homeless Initiative Program Coordinator, Charles Felix, who has done a tremendous job of pulling together stakeholders, resources and potential funding.

Tulare County administers a robust safety net for low-income individuals, including Medi-Cal, Women Infant and Children (WIC), and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). We offer over a dozen programs in the area of significant housing and housing assistance to the homeless community.

In addition, we provide supportive services that are critical for people to maintain housing stability, including mental

health and alcohol and other drug services.

We work hard to help prevent individuals that are at-risk of homelessness from actually becoming homeless and estimate that the point-in-time homeless count would be far greater without the availability of our County services.

Additionally, the County has implemented a ride along pilot with the Visalia Police Department in which a social worker rides with the HOPE team and helps connect people with a range of support services.

All of these initiative and programs are being driven and put into place by you, the hard working employees of Tulare County, and our community partners and stakeholders.

So the next time someone asks me what am "I" am doing to alleviate the homeless crisis, I will tell them everything "YOU" are doing. Keep up the good work Tulare County!

Amy Shuklian,
District Three
Tulare County Board of
Supervisors

County Breaks Ground on Yettem-Seville Water System

On March 5, members of the Yettem-Seville Community Services District, Self-Help Enterprises, County officials, residents and community partners gathered to break ground on the Yettem-Seville Water System Improvement Project.

“It is an exciting time for the residents of Yettem and Seville as their long journey in getting clean water is now becoming a reality,” stated Tulare County Supervisor Eddie Valero who represents the communities of Yettem and Seville.

Yettem and Seville are unincorporated communities located in Tulare County, approximately nine miles north of the City of Visalia. Both communities have experienced struggles in having a reliable water supply and have been plagued with water quality

issues due to nitrate contamination.

The County of Tulare owns and operates the Yettem water system built in 1995. In 2009, the County took over receivership of the Seville water system. Since then county officials, state agencies and stakeholders have been working to bring solutions in fixing the aged water systems. Funding for the Yettem-Seville Water System Improvement Project was provided through the State Water Resources Control Board.

Construction on the new water systems will commence in two phases, with Phase 1 set to be completed by the end of this year. Phase 1 will replace the water distribution system in the community of Seville, include new smart water meters, and include a new water storage tank. The next phase of the project will provide a connection pipeline of both water systems.



In total, the project is estimated to cost \$8 million to complete. Funding for the Yettem-Seville Water System Improvement Project was provided through the State Water Resources Control Board.

In November 2018, the voters approved Measure Y to form the Yettem-Seville Community Services District and the newly formed district will operate the new water systems once construction is complete.

^ Above - Yettem-Seville Water Project Groundbreaking
County officials, members of the Yettem-Seville CSD, state agencies, and community partners gather to break ground on the long awaited Yettem-Seville Water Improvement project.

Supervisors to Host Night Meetings

The Tulare County Board of Supervisors will host their regularly scheduled meetings during the evening four times this year. Board of Supervisors meetings are usually held at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesdays.

Chairman of the Board of Supervisors, Kuyler Crocker says the goal of hosting the night meetings is to improve the access in our rural communities.

“I hope our rural residents join us and attend these meetings to express their concerns or learn more about Tulare County government,” Chairman Crocker said.

The first of four night meetings will be held at 7:00 pm on **April 2, 2019** at the Strathmore Memorial Hall located at 23100 Ave 196 in Strathmore.

The other four night meetings are to be determined. Once dates and locations are finalized, information will be published in future issues of the Around Tulare County



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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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