SACRAMENTO pat hume COUNTY SUPERVISOR

"all mental tension comes from not letting go" -yung pueblo, inward

Is it just me, or did this feel like one of the longest Januarys ever? Hard to believe we are only days into the second month of the New Year but at least the days are staying light a little longer. This month has been super busy with social engagements: crab feeds, chamber award galas and Lunar New Year celebrations, but we've also made some good progress on some of our priority projects and had one very important win.

Writing the first newsletter intro after the *Year in Review* is always the hardest; it feels as though I *just* talked about all the things we are working on. Even with that, a new year brings new opportunities and a chance to lean in anew on unresolved issues.

Obviously, the devastating fires in L.A. have fire safety front of mind and so that seemed like an obvious subject for our main article. I participated in a meeting with the south county fire chiefs the other day to discuss a gaps analysis between their volunteer fire departments. It was a productive discussion and they were receptive to exploring how we can bolster communication and collaboration for public safety response.

As evidenced by one of the initial Executive Orders issued from the White House, the new administration is keenly interested in California water policy. We will be keeping a close eye on how to leverage that attention toward the forward-thinking goals I have been proposing around Delta solutions. Speaking of the Delta, you may have heard news reports about the troubles down in Isleton. Our staff is working closely with the management contractors they have hired to sort out the city's financial situation and keep essential services available for the residents.

Also speaking of water, I have seen the first blush of the report from the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) from the modeling they have put together regarding the Cosumnes River. Our staff has put together a pretty aggressive timeline to identify potential projects for seeking funding by late summer this year. I will be reaching out to the landowners and other stakeholders over the next month to gauge interest in some of the different proposals.

Finally, the win: last week I took time to attend a hearing at the courthouse regarding the placement of a sexually violent predator on the outskirts of Galt. Thankfully, the judge agreed with my comments and the pleading prepared by the District Attorney's office on behalf of the People to deny this placement of this individual. We stopped it this time, for this person, but the judge made it clear that rural areas are most likely to absorb the lion's share of these placements. I'll keep my eye on it.

As always, please share this newsletter with a friend or neighbor and encourage them to <u>subscribe</u> for future newsletters or check out my Facebook page <u>here</u>.

PAT

Supervisor Pat Hume Sacramento County Supervisor District 5

700 H Street, Suite 2450 Sacramento, CA 95814 916-874-5465 PatHume@saccounty.gov

In the February Issue:

- Fire Preparedness
- Waterman Road Update
- TOT Grant
- Out & About in District 5

Upcoming Events

Fire Preparedness

With the unprecedented wildfires that have faced Southern California, I know many of you have questions on whether such an event would be possible in Sacramento County and if we're prepared.

Sacramento County Water Agency, or SCWA, is one of 27 water purveyors in Sacramento County, providing water for over 68,000 homes and businesses.



SACRAMENTO COUNTY

Our water system is a robust, conjunctive-use system designed to adapt to both wet and dry years. When there is plenty of rain and snowmelt, we're able to draw surface water from the Sacramento River. During drier years, we rely on more than 70 groundwater wells spread throughout our service area to keep the water flowing.

Water supply and availability can be a contentious issue, one that many people are fortunate enough to not have to think about in their day-to-day lives, unless their work revolves around it, such as in our agricultural community. I am doing everything I can to stay up on this issue, working alongside our local WATER AGENCY groundwater agencies and promoting projects that will improve upon our sustainability efforts and water delivery systems, such

as with the Harvest Water Project, while also fighting against the Delta tunnel which would divert water out of the Sacramento region.

The SCWA surface water intake and treatment plant, as well as the major groundwater wells, all have backup power generators that help to keep water flowing to fire hydrants and homes even during power outages and emergency events. Additionally, SCWA has multiple tanks in the South Sacramento/Elk Grove service area, with over 30 million gallons of storage capacity, which work to maintain pressure in the system during periods of high demand.



When it comes to fire protection, SCWA designs, constructs and operates its water system to meet standard fire flow requirements. We also utilize a state-of-the-art Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) system to constantly monitor our water treatment and distribution system for any loss in pressure or significant leaks. This technology allows us to respond to problems quickly and avoid discovering issues during an emergency event. The SCADA system also allows real-time operational adjustments to prioritize water flow where it is needed most during emergencies.

SCWA also collaborates with the Sacramento Metro Fire District and Cosumnes Fire Department year-round to ensure that our systems are ready for fire season and can support emergency response efforts. In light of the devastating wildfires in Southern California, SCWA recently met again with the Cosumnes Fire Department to reaffirm system capacity, review storage tank and hydrant locations, and ensure we are communicating effectively and in a timely manner about any operational or maintenance issues.

While no urban water system is designed to withstand the sheer size and magnitude seen in the Southern California wildfires, SCWA and other local water purveyors are working to learn from those events and continuously improve upon our ability to respond to fire emergencies.

I sincerely hope we never see another catastrophic fire like that again, where resources are stretched to capacity, but I'm confident that our leaders at the County Department of Water Resources and all the local fire departments, fire fighters and first responders are learning what they can from these tragic events in order to maintain the highest level of fire safety for Sacramento County.

Waterman Road Update

Last week, I had the pleasure of joining the Sacramento County Department of Transportation (SacDOT) for a community meeting where we provided updates on the long-awaited Waterman Road Improvement Project in the Vineyard community.

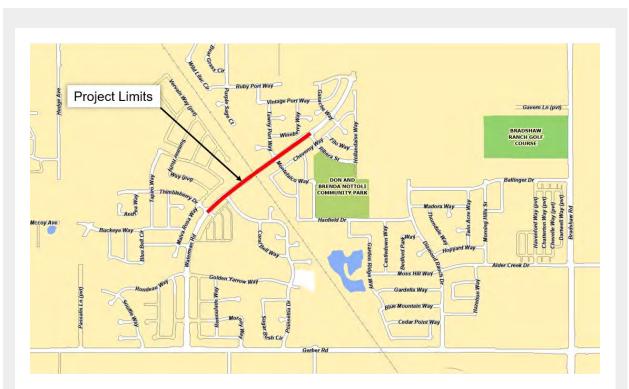


This project is the installation of a new at-grade railroad crossing on Waterman Road at the existing Central California Traction Company (CCTC) railroad and is designed to enhance connectivity, improve safety and reduce congestion for all modes of transportation. Pedestrians and cyclists will also benefit from the addition of Class 2 bike lanes and sidewalks along Waterman.

One of the primary challenges in this project stems from regulatory requirements. Both CCTC and the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) mandate that the existing railroad right-of-way be treated as active, which has posed difficulties in advancing the project. However, SacDOT staff have been actively coordinating with staff from the railroad to overcome these challenges.

A long-standing railroad guideline requires the removal of three at-grade crossings elsewhere in the County for every new at-grade crossing added. This condition has been a sticking point for years, as removing three crossings is not a viable solution for the County. Since alternatives like an overpass or underpass were deemed impractical due to the factors of cost, utility relocation, and neighborhood constraints, the County recently completed a Feasibility Study (or as our friends at SacDOT were calling it, an "infeasibility study") to demonstrate that a grade-separated crossing is not viable at this location. As a result, the railroad has agreed to waive its 3:1 guideline, allowing the project to move forward with an at-grade crossing.

We're very fortunate the current management team at the railroad has shown such a pragmatic approach and we appreciate their willingness to work and collaborate with the County to make this at-grade crossing a reality.



The project is driven by two key goals: enhancing connectivity for all travel modes on Waterman Road across the CCTC right-of-way and implementing pavement markings, signage and medians to deter reckless driving behaviors, such as speeding and illegal street racing. These improvements will make the corridor safer and more efficient for the entire community.

The project is now advancing through the standard approval and construction process. Next steps include:

- Feasibility Study: Completed January 2025
- CEQA Clearance: October 2025
- UPRR/CPUC Approval: March 2026
- Right-of-Way Acquisition: October 2026
- Construction Start: Spring 2027

I'm encouraged by the progress being made on this project and look forward to seeing this vision come to life as Waterman Road will finally be connected from one end to the other.

TOT Grant

I am excited to announce that the 2025-2026 Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT) Grant Program is now live and accepting applications through February 14, 2025.



For the last eight years the Board of Supervisors have dedicated annually \$1,000,000 of the TOT revenue towards supporting nonprofit organizations located in Sacramento County. Since 2017, the Board has awarded funds to organizations that carry out community-based programs

and/or services in the areas of economic and workforce development, arts and culture, community development and health and human services.

In 2024, many organizations located in my district were awarded funds from this Grant Program including: Courtland Pear Fair, Elk Grove Fine Arts Center, California Capital Airshow, Galt Teen Center, Sacramento Splash, Sacramento Literacy Foundation, Strauss Film Festival, Chicks in Crisis, Next Move Homeless Services, Rancho Cordova Food Locker, Saint John's Program for Real Change, Sunshine Food Pantry and WEAVE.

I know how challenging it can be to keep a business afloat during these times, and it's especially hard when you rely on donations, grants and volunteerism to keep your doors open. With the minimum grant awarded at \$5,000 and the maximum grant award at \$50,000, I strongly encourage all interested nonprofit organizations to apply for these County funds. To help folks better understand how the TOT Grant Program works, the County offered a virtual workshop earlier this month. If you didn't get a chance to watch it, here's the <u>link</u> to the recording which is filled with information on guidelines and eligibility and how to apply.

Once all applications have been received, they will be reviewed by the County TOT Committee and final recommendation will be presented to the Board of Supervisors at one of our regularly scheduled meetings where we will make the final decision on the 2025 grant awardees.

For more information on the Grant Program, to access the TOT Grant Portal application site or to sign up to receive email or mobile text message updates related to your application, please visit the TOT Grant Program website <u>here</u>.

Out & About in District 5



Walking in the Annual March For The Dream honoring Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Top photo from left: FCUSD Board Chair Christopher Clark, Elk Grove City Councilmember Darren Suen, me, Sacramento City Councilmember Lisa Kaplan and family. Bottom photo: me and Sacramento Assoc. of REALTORS Immediate Past President, Samantha Tov.



Celebrating the Lunar New Year with the Asian and Pacific Islanders Caucus. Left photo: Sou Saelee, Kevin Nguyen and me.



Fun times at the Delta Chamber & Visitors Bureau Roaring 20's themed Dinner. Top photo: Karen Chandler, me, Chris Davis, Ty Melott, Marika Paternostro, Bill Wells, Andrea Padilla, Blaire Hake, Nicole Goehring, Fred Weibel, Tressa Dahlberg, Eric Koster. Bottom left photo: me and Tina Flores. Bottom right photo: me and Karen Chandler.



Community discussion at the Independence at Mather Homeowners Association meeting.



"Wall breaking" for the Rancho Cordova Food Locker Expansion Project. Top photo from left: Supervisor Rich Desmond, RC Food Locker Director Carrie Johnson and me. Bottom

photo: RC Food Locker board members, staff, local leaders and elected officials including Rep. Ami Bera, former Assemblyman Ken Cooley,Rancho Cordova City Councilmember Garret Gatewood, Sac Metro Fire Chief Adam House and Chiefs Brad Cecchi and Patrick Mulvaney.



District Attorney Thien Ho's Prop 36 implementation and enforcement press conference. Top photo: me and District Attorney Thien Ho. Bottom photo: Roundtable discussion with local leaders and County staff.

Upcoming Events



RANCHO CORDOVA POLICE DEPARTMENT CITIZENS ACADEMY SPRING 2025



The II-week program is designed to provide our residents with information about the police department and its proactive policing programss. This engaging and informative program is designed to increase understanding of law enforcement practices, protocols, and principles.

APPLICATION DEADLINE MONDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2025

• EVERY WEDNESDAY

- · 6:00 PM TO 8:00 PM
- · START DATE IS MARCH 12, 2025
- GRADUATION ON MAY 21, 2025





Scan the QR code or use this link to apply: https://www.ranchocordovapd.com/getinvolved/citizen-s-academy

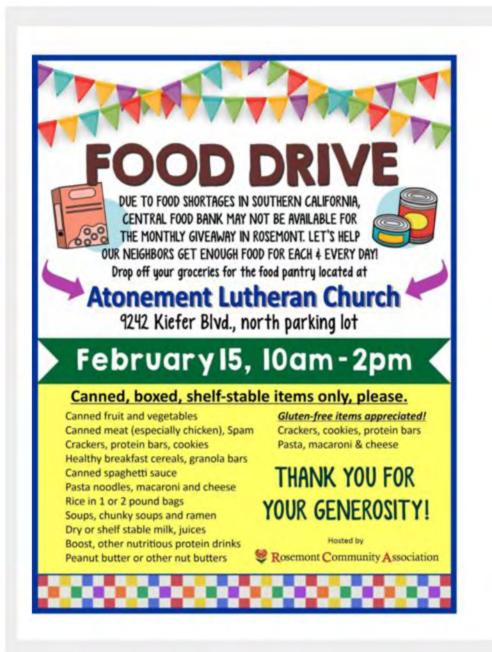
Applicant must be minimum 18 years old, live or work in the City of Rancha Cordova or Sacramenta County East Division, have no prior felony convictions, and have no misdemeanor arrests within one year of application.

(C) (916) 875-5852

RCPDCrimePrevention@RanchoCordovaPD.com

2 2897 Kilgore Road, Rancho Cordova, California 95670













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