

VALLEY PUBLIC RADIO (KVPR/KPRX) - Issues Report Q1 2024
 Reports produced locally airing Mon. - Fri. and featured on KVPR.org

Issues of importance for the communities of KVPR/KPRX including the following*:				Agriculture	Homelessness		
				Arts & Culture	Housing		
				Business & Economy	Immigration		
				Crime & Punishment	LGBTQ (concerns/rights)		
				Education	Labor		
				Energy	Multicultural (concerns/rights)		
				Environmental	Parks & Recreation		
				Government & Politics	Science & Technology		
				Healthcare	Transportation		
				Health & Safety			
Date	Duration	Times AM	Times PM	Issues	Reporter(s)	Title	Narrative
1/2/2024	1:00	-	6:04	Education, Government & Politics	Rachel Livinal	College students in California can now complete a simpler new FAFSA form to access financial aid	The California Student Aid Commission launched the new application on December 31st.
1/3/2024	1:00	-	6:04	Arts & Culture	Crescencio Rodriguez-Delgado	A prominent broadcaster, Gil Garcia Padron, in the San Joaquin Valley has died	The Gil Garcia Padron Show debuted in 1989 – and in the course of its time was broadcast on channels like Telemundo, Arteca America and Estrella TV.
1/4/2024	1:00	7:45	-	Health & Safety, Crime & Punishment	Esther Quintanilla	The DOJ and the DEA released a report addressing the fentanyl crisis in California	Fentanyl is a synthetic opioid that's nearly 50 times more powerful than heroin. The DEA found that seven out of 10 pills tested in their labs contain a potentially deadly dose of the substance.
1/4/2024	4:17	-	6:04	Environmental, Health & Safety	Kerry Klein	Three years after the Creek Fire have been a time of healing and recovery	Three years ago this winter, the Creek Fire was finally contained. It remains California's fifth largest blaze, after destroying nearly 400,000 acres and hundreds of homes in the Sierra Nevada east of Fresno
1/5/2024	1:13	-	6:04	Health & Safety, Government & Politics	Kerry Klein	In race to replace Kevin McCarthy, health experts hope valley fever remains a priority	While in Congress, Kevin McCarthy helped direct a national spotlight toward the fungal disease.
1/8/2024	1:00	-	6:04	Government & Politics	Joshua Yeager	Gov. Newsom orders a special election on March 19 for the 20th congressional district	Bakersfield Assemblyman Vince Fong says voters in California's reddest district should plan on seeing his name on both ballots
1/9/2024	1:03	-	6:04	Government & Politics, Housing	Esther Quintanilla	\$13 million is allotted for assistance to Planada homes and businesses affected by flooding	Since June, residents of the Merced County community of Planada have been anxiously awaiting \$20 million in state funds for flood recovery.
1/10/2024	1:06	-	6:04	Education, Business & Economy	Rachel Livinal	Many Valley students rely on financial aid for college. Here's how a new application makes the process easier	The federal government recently rolled out the new FAFSA form, which college applicants fill out for financial aid. Despite some initial hiccups, the changes can benefit San Joaquin Valley students.
1/11/2024	1:00	7:45	-	Transportation, Government & Politics	Elizabeth Arakelian	Fresno City officials unveil a new public works crew dedicated to fixing potholes	In the last budget cycle, city officials set aside 1.7 million dollars to address the potholes, which have long been a complaint by Fresno residents.
1/12/2024	1:00	7:45	-	Government & Politics, Community	Esther Quintanilla	Fresno is gearing up to celebrate the 95th birth anniversary of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.	His legacy has been honored in Fresno for 40 years through the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Unity Committee.
1/12/2024	1:09	-	6:04	Violence, Community	Esther Quintanilla	Reedley residents gathered to remember a family who was murdered	The community was shaken when Reedley police found the bodies of Guadalupe, Billy, Darrell and Matthew Bonds.
1/16/2024	4:26	-	6:04	Energy, Business & Economy	Joshua Yeager	California's oil country faces an 'existential' threat. Kern County is betting on the carbon removal industry to save it.	Kern County is California's largest oil producer and a top producer of agricultural products. But climate change – and the state's effort to mitigate it – pose a threat to those economic mainstays.
1/17/2024	1:05	-	6:04	Environmental, Government & Politics	Crescencio Rodriguez-Delgado	After years of losing water, Kern County was actually able to save it...and put it away	The heavy storms last year sent so much water downstream it was enough to fill Lake Isabella four times.
1/18/2024	1:04	-	6:04	Energy, Environmental	Joshua Yeager	Air quality, pipeline risks top environmental advocates' concerns about proposed Kern carbon storage project	A public meeting on Jan. 17 provided a glimpse into the tensions surrounding a carbon capture and storage project proposed for the foothills above Bakersfield, California, in the heart of the state's oil country.
1/19/2024	1:10	-	6:04	Labor, Education	Rachel Livinal	Valley CSU faculty will call for higher wages during strike. Some say their request is too costly	Unionized faculty from California State University are striking after failing to come to a deal with the 23-campus system.
1/22/2024	4:11	7:45	-	Labor, Education	Rachel Livinal	'We're eating into our savings.' A budget crunch at UC Merced hits campus lecturers	Close to half of all instructors at the University of California, Merced – the youngest UC campus in the state – are lecturers. As the university faces a budget deficit, lecturers can be some of the first to take a hit.
1/22/2024	1:05	-	6:04	Environmental, Parks & Recreation	Kerry Klein	Restoration efforts are helping the giant sequoias bounce back	In 2021, the KNP Complex Fire in the Sequoia National Forest killed thousands of giant sequoias.
1/23/2024	1:00	-	6:04	Government & Politics, Business & Economy	Kerry Klein	A water treatment plant near Tehachapi is in dire financial straits	In a report, the Kern County Grand Jury writes that the wastewater treatment plant in the community of Stallion Springs is out of state compliance and needs urgent repairs by 2025
1/24/2024	1:04	-	6:04	Labor, Education	Rachel Livinal	CSU reached a tentative agreement with the faculty union after hundreds came out to strike	The agreement could give faculty a retroactive 5% raise from 2023 and another 5% in June if state budget permits, and even higher for lecturers.
1/25/2024	4:20	7:45	-	Community, Environmental	Kerry Klein	How survivors of one of California's largest wildfires are moving forward	California's Creek Fire was contained on Dec. 24, 2020, after destroying nearly 400,000 acres and hundreds of homes in the Sierra Nevada.
1/26/2024	1:15	7:45	-	Multicultural (concerns/rights), Government & Politics	Esther Quintanilla	Thousands of Sikh residents in the Central Valley plan to take part in historic vote for a new nation	Known as "The Khalistan Referendum," the vote is largely symbolic but calls attention to persecution of those who follow the Sikh faith.
1/26/2024	4:00	-	6:04	Government & Politics/Environmental	Kerry Klein	US Senate candidates vying to fill Dianne Feinstein's seat stay largely quiet on issue of water	A new report from Politico explains Senate contenders are likely making the calculation that they can get enough votes without needing to weigh in on such a divisive subject.
1/29/2024	4:50	-	6:04	Government & Politics, Multicultural Concerns	Crescencio Rodriguez-Delgado	What Julián Castro wants Latinos in America to see for themselves	In January, Julian Castro became the new CEO of the Latino Community Foundation – the largest Latino-serving philanthropic organization in the country.
1/30/2024	1:03	-	6:04	Labor, Education	Rachel Livinal	After last week's strike, some faculty are opposing the tentative labor agreement reached with CSU	A group called California State Faculty United is leading a campaign to vote "no" on the agreement for lack of clarity.
1/31/2024	1:00	7:45	-	Homelessness, Housing	Joshua Yeager	A tiny-home community serving homeless residents in Kern County is nearly complete	The project is called Hope on Heart, and it'll have 50 units for long-term homeless people in the community of Dildale.
2/1/2024	1:05	-	6:04	Labor, Agriculture	Crescencio Rodriguez-Delgado	A job fair was held for workers laid off by Fresno-based agricultural company, Prima Wawona	Prima Wawona, which grows and packages peaches, nectarines, plums and apricots, filed for bankruptcy in October. During harvest, the company employed as many as 8,000 people.
2/2/2024	1:12	7:45	-	Government & Politics	Joshua Yeager	Congressional candidates in two closely watched races met in Hanford last night for public forums	Several Republican candidates are looking to replace Kevin McCarthy in District 20, and there's a possible toss up in District 22.
2/6/2024	1:13	-	6:04	Immigration, Government & Politics	Esther Quintanilla	City of Fresno looking at next steps for asylum seekers who arrived from Texas	A group of asylum seekers arrived in Fresno, California, last week. It's believed to be part of efforts by the state of Texas to send migrants across the country.
2/7/2024	1:06	-	6:04	Energy, Business & Economy	Joshua Yeager	Two of California's largest oil companies are merging	California Resources Corporation will acquire Bakersfield-based Aera Energy in a merger valued at \$2.1 billion. Both companies have invested heavily in the growing technology known as carbon capture as the state moves to cut fossil fuels.
2/8/2024	1:08	7:45	-	Environmental, Science	Kerry Klein	A palm husk was mysteriously floating over a Fresno street. We asked a meteorologist about it.	A bizarre video from Fresno, California, captured a weather phenomenon more common than you might think.

2/8/2024	3:55	-	6:04	Government & Politics	Cresencio Rodriguez-Delgado	City of Lindsay replaces its youngest serving mayor	The city of Lindsay, California, made headlines in 2022 after appointing a 24-year old mayor – the youngest in the city's history.
2/9/2024	1:12	7:45	-	Housing, Government & Politics	Esther Quintanilla	A historic Fresno toy store transforms into affordable housing. 'A new chapter.'	A new affordable housing complex in Fresno had its grand opening this week. The development sits in a cherished piece of Fresno history.
2/9/2024	1:00	-	6:04	Healthcare, Business & Economy	Cresencio Rodriguez-Delgado	UCSF Health and Adventist Health join in new proposal to purchase Madera Community Hospital	UCSF Health and Adventist Health have developed a potential plan to purchase the shuttered Madera Community Hospital as a separate deal currently makes its way through court.
2/12/2024	1:03	7:45	-	Labor, Energy	Joshua Yeager	An \$11 million grant aims to help displaced oil and gas workers in Kern County find new jobs	Despite that investment, the California EDD says the transition will likely still be challenging for Kern County's oil and gas workforce.
2/12/2024	1:30	-	6:04	Transportation, Community	Joshua Yeager	On Bakersfield's new freeway, the bicycles get to ride first	The \$1.5 billion interchange connects both sides of Highway 58 from Highway 99. The former used to end abruptly in the middle of a neighborhood, causing accidents and traffic jams.
2/13/2024	1:00	7:45	-	Government & Politics, Education	Rachel Livinal	In the upcoming election, Fresno County will vote on Measure E, a local tax that would go toward improvements at Fresno State	Measure E targets improvements to Fresno State's existing infrastructure, academic programs and endowments.
2/14/2024	1:21	-	6:04	Healthcare, Government & Politics	Kerry Klein	Judge approves Madera Community Hospital reopening plan, declining proposal by UCSF Health, Adventist	A judge approved a plan by American Advanced Management to operate Madera Community Hospital, capping off a lengthy day of hearings and a year of legal hurdles for the bankrupt hospital.
2/15/2024	1:04	-	6:04	Community, Government & Politics	Esther Quintanilla	Why a largely Latino, farmworking community in the middle of California is calling for a Gaza ceasefire	The city of Madera became the first in the San Joaquin Valley to call for a permanent ceasefire in Gaza amid the Israel-Hamas war. It was a unanimous decision.
2/16/2024	5:57	7:45	-	Healthcare, Government & Politics	Kerry Klein	A judge has decided who will reopen Madera Community Hospital. Here's how we got here	Many health experts, community advocates and lawmakers had hoped the federal judge would delay his decision to allow for more time for UCSF, Adventist and Madera County to develop a competing offer on the hospital.
2/20/2024	5:40	7:45	-	Arts & Culture, Crime & Punishment	Elizabeth Arakelian	The life and tragic death of Betty Willis, a 1960s soul singer with Fresno roots	Betty Willis once worked with music industry heavyweights like Leon Russell and Phil Spector. Following her murder, independent journalist Joseph Fenity wants to make sure her story and musical legacy aren't forgotten.
2/21/2024	4:10	-	6:04	Energy, Labor	Joshua Yeager & Emma Foehringer Merchant	California's oil country hopes carbon management will provide jobs. It may be disappointed.	The first carbon storage facility in Kern County, California, will only produce a handful of permanent positions.
2/22/2024	4:06	-	6:04	Agriculture, Health & Safety	Kerry Klein	Why experts say Merced County was hit hard by nationwide bird flu outbreak	Since the beginning of the outbreak in Feb. 2022, 7 million birds have been euthanized in California. More than half of those were in Merced County.
2/23/2024	1:00	-	6:04	Community, Health & Safety	Kerry Klein	8 killed in crash involving farmworker van outside Madera	Madera County authorities are investigating a collision that killed eight men, most of whom were farmworkers, early Friday morning.
2/28/2024	1:04	-	6:04	Education	Rachel Livinal	Most California high school students aren't college-ready, analysis shows. What it means for the Valley	Most California high school students aren't eligible to attend the public universities – and students in the San Joaquin Valley are among the most impacted, according to a recent report by the news outlet EdSource.
2/29/2024	1:12	-	6:04	Violence, Government & Politics	Esther Quintanilla	Pro-Palestinian advocates rally in downtown Fresno	With voting around the corner, the Pro-Palestinian movement has taken a position in local races.
3/1/2024	4:04	7:45	-	Government & Politics	Elizabeth Arakelian	Ballots are already being tabulated for Kern County residents who voted by mail in the March 5 primary.	If voters forget to sign their ballot, or signatures don't match, the county then goes through the process of contacting residents to verify their ballot. By state law, the county has 30 days after Election Day to ensure every valid ballot is counted.
3/4/2024	1:28	-	6:04	Government & Politics	Esther Quintanilla	Fresno County takes fight for 'local control' to the ballot. But what does it mean?	A disagreement between a Fresno County community and the Board of Supervisors could be decided when voters cast their ballots on Super Tuesday. A legal fight stems from the renaming of Yokuts Valley, and it hasn't let up.
3/5/2024	1:21	7:45	-	Government & Politics	Kerry Klein	In California's House District 22, those who don't vote may have just as much power as those who do	Covering a large swath of the San Joaquin Valley – a red, rural, agricultural region of an otherwise densely populated blue state – House District 22 is the very definition of a swing district.
3/5/2024	1:00	-	6:04	Government & Politics	Joshua Yeager	The Valley's 22nd Congressional District could decide which party controls the House next year	Democratic candidate Rudy Salas cast his vote in the tight primary race this morning. The former assemblyman hopes to be one of the two candidates who make it to the November General Election.
3/6/2024	1:16	7:45	-	Government & Politics	Cresencio Rodriguez-Delgado	Voter turnout was a big question yesterday as voters submitted their ballots for the state's primary election	Surveys had suggested voters were less enthusiastic about this election than those prior, but many were drawn to the polls by national politics.
3/6/2024	1:00	-	6:04	Government & Politics	Esther Quintanilla	Early primary results in races for seats on the Fresno county Board of Supervisors have set up two competitive races for November	District 3 incumbent Sal Quintero was in high spirits and will likely go head-to-head with current city councilmember Luis Chavez in the general election. Elsewhere in the county, District 2 incumbent Steve Brandau and opponent Garry Bredfeldt are also likely to face a runoff. In the District 6 race, Supervisor Nathan Magsig saw overwhelming support.
3/7/2024	1:04	7:45	-	Government & Politics	Joshua Yeager	Results are flowing in on the crowded 20th District race to replace Kevin McCarthy	It appears the November election will be a face-off between two Republicans, Vince Fong and Tulare County Sheriff Mike Boudreaux.
3/8/2024	3:58	-	6:04	Education, Veterans	Rachel Livinal	Why it's now easier for children of injured veterans to get into college in California	In the San Joaquin Valley, the number of veterans with a service-connected disability has increased in the last four years. Yet, income thresholds allowed by colleges has been a common challenge in accessing college for many children of those same injured veterans.
3/11/2024	1:00	7:45	-	Energy, Government & Politics	Joshua Yeager	Appeals court orders Kern County to rewrite oil permit ordinance – again	The ruling found the county's environmental review didn't go far enough to protect farmlands, groundwater and communities living within a few hundred feet of oil and gas production.
3/11/2024	1:15	-	6:04	Community, Government & Politics	Esther Quintanilla	Memorial services were held this weekend for the seven farmworkers who were killed in a crash last month	A traditional Catholic Mass was held at Kernan High School. It gathered more than 700 people who wanted to honor the lives lost. Kernan Mayor Maria Pacheco, with the help of the local organization FUERZA, helped organize a vigil to raise funds for the families who were left behind.
3/12/2024	1:01	-	6:04	Healthcare	Cresencio Rodriguez-Delgado	Hospitals in the Fresno area are reporting a surge in patients	Hospitals like Community Regional Medical Center in downtown Fresno are asking patients to check before visiting the emergency room. The hospital released a guide to help residents determine what kind of visit you may need depending on your symptoms.
3/13/2024	1:10	7:45	-	Government & Politics	Joshua Yeager	Voters in California's 20th District may be feeling Deja Vu this month	After last Tuesday's primary, voters are returning to polls. This time to decide who should serve the remainder of McCarthy's term in Congress.
3/14/2024	1:01	-	6:04	Education, Technology	Cresencio Rodriguez-Delgado	School districts in Merced County have reportedly fallen victim to ransomware attacks in the last three years	Merced County is not alone in the ransomware attacks. Some 2,000 schools faced similar breaches in 2022. Merced school staff are undergoing training to prevent future attacks.
3/14/2024	1:00	7:45	-	Environmental, Education	Kerry Klein	As the climate heats up, the San Joaquin Valley's crops are getting thirstier	The so-called "invisible water surcharge" has driven up crop water demand by 4% in the last decade, compared to the 30 previous years.
3/18/2024	1:12	-	6:04	Government & Politics	Joshua Yeager	Congressional match between Fong, Boudreaux is set. But first, a Tuesday special election	Voters in California's 20th District will choose between two Republicans in the race to replace Kevin McCarthy this November.
3/19/2024	1:00	-	6:04	Government & Politics	Joshua Yeager	Polling sites are sleepy as voters decide who should replace Kevin McCarthy in today's special election	The winner will fill the remainder of McCarthy's term through the end of this year. Polls close at 8pm.
3/20/2024	28:18	7:45	-	Arts & Culture, Immigration	Elizabeth Arakelian	Author interview: Lisa Hamilton's latest tells the story of a Hmong rice farmer in Fresno	"The Hungry Season: A Journey of War, Love, and Survival" is a study in resilience and a testament to the power of one woman's strength to move forward.
3/21/2024	1:04	-	6:04	Labor, Agriculture	Kerry Klein	Thousands of employees have been laid off by one of the country's largest stone fruit producers	Fresno-based Prima Wawona, which produced and distributed peaches, nectarines, plums and apricots, declared bankruptcy in October. This month, layoffs went into effect for 5,400 mostly seasonal workers.
3/25/2024	4:07	-	6:04	Community, Immigration	Esther Quintanilla	Why a Central Valley funeral home helps farmworkers return to their native country after death	The deaths of seven farmworkers in a crash last month shook the rural city of Kernan in Fresno County. In the wake of the loss, a small funeral home played a big role in getting the men home.

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3/26/2024	1:00	7:45	-	Healthcare, Government & Politics	Kerry Klein	Fresno County's top law enforcement official is defending high salaries at Valley Children's Hospital	Tax returns published last week show executive pay is among the highest of any children's hospital nationwide. District Attorney Lisa Smittcamp is a board member at Valley Children's and responded to the revelations made on KVI radio station.
3/27/2024	3:30	-	6:04	Environmental, Parks & Recreation	Joshua Yeager	Pollution reaching California's Sierra Nevada has created the country's most-polluted national parks, study says	The country's four most-polluted national parks are all in California. Sequoia National Park tops the list human-caused air pollution. The parks with the biggest risk are all here in California.
3/28/2024	4:11	-	6:04	Education	Rachel Livinal	To address cost of college for students, Valley campuses experiment with zero-cost or discounted textbooks	While some college textbook programs have eased the struggle, others may be more hassle than they're worth, students at San Joaquin Valley colleges say.
3/29/2024	1:00	7:45	-	Healthcare, Government & Politics	Kerry Klein	Following financial revelations regarding Valley Children's Hospital, two Fresno City Councilmembers are requesting a state investigation	Councilmembers Miguel Arias and Garry Bredeloff co-signed a letter to Attorney General Rob Bonta expressing their quote - "deep concern and dismay" over some elements of the hospital's finances.
3/29/2024	1:07	-	6:04	Community, Immigration	Esther Quintanilla	Dozens gathered at a downtown Madera park for a small candlelight vigil to remember seven farmworkers killed in a crash last month	The men were laid to rest in their hometowns in Mexico earlier this month, much of the costs paid through fundraisers.
*This list does not include all the issues responded to by the station or all the ways the station responded to those issues.							