

Quarterly Public Affairs Report
First Quarter 2024
Sonora, CA
January – March, 2024

COMMUNITY ISSUES: During the first quarter of 2024 it was determined the most significant issues facing our coverage area were:

- + Government
- + Business
- + Public Safety
- + Homelessness
- + Transportation

Public Affairs Program – Mother Lode Views

This 30-minute interview program features a guest or guests from the community who speak for a group or organization, or in some way represents the public interest. The program airs both Saturday and Sunday at 9:30am on KVML-AM and FM and on Sundays at 10am on KKBN-FM and at 9am on KZSQ-FM. The program addressed the significant issues of the community during the third quarter.

January 6-7 – Government

Mother Lode Views continued a series featuring the individual Tuolumne County Supervisors. District Four Supervisor Kathleen Haff, who represents the Groveland region, talked about county housing regulations, biomass projects coming online, and planned park improvements in Groveland.

January 13-14 – Government

Mother Lode Views featured District Three Tuolumne County Supervisor Anaiah Kirk who represents Twain Harte and Tuolumne. He spoke about the SERAL Project in the Stanislaus National Forest, problems on Tuolumne Road, and economic development planning.

January 20-21 – Government

Mother Lode Views Featured District 8 Republican Assemblyman Jim Patterson who represents parts of the Sierra Foothills and the Central Valley. He talked about the Governor's new state budget proposal, concerns about a bill that would ban youth tackle football, and efforts to crackdown on fentanyl.

January 27-28 – Government

Mother Lode Views featured Yosemite National Park Ranger and Spokesperson Scott Gediman. He talked about the development of a new reservation system that will be utilized during the peak times. He also gave an update on transportation projects in the park.

February 3 - 4 – Transportation

Mother Lode Views featured Tuolumne County Transportation Council Executive Director Darin Grossi. He spoke about a proposed trail system to connect Sonora and Columbia, plans to widen Highway 49 in Jamestown, and changes coming to transit services.

February 10-11 – Homelessness

Mother Lode Views featured a deep dive into efforts to address homelessness in Tuolumne County and properties that are being purchased to house residents. Guests were Tuolumne County Homeless Services Coordinator Michael Roberson and Tuolumne County Health and Human Services Director Annie Hockett.

February 17-18 – Government

Mother Lode Views featured District 9 Republican Assemblyman Heath Flora, who represents communities like Oakdale, La Grange and Copperopolis. Flora provided an overview of the new state budget and legislation that he is authoring this session. Other topics included challenges facing agriculture and AT&T's plans to reduce landline availability.

February 24-25 – Government

Mother Lode Views featured a recap of the recent multi-day Tuolumne County Board of Supervisors workshop in which goals and priorities were identified for the coming year. The guest was District One Supervisor, David Goldemberg. Priorities range from attracting a USDA meat processing facility to relocating the sheriff's office dispatch and administration center.

March 2-3 – Business

Mother Lode Views featured a panel of guests from the Tuolumne County Chamber of Commerce. The non-profit business organization has a new CEO, Natasha Eaves, and a new Board Chair, Mat Galvan. They were joined on the show by past board chair, and longtime supporter, Dave Souther. They spoke about programs that help local businesses.

March 9-10 – Government

Mother Lode Views featured Tuolumne County Community Development Director Quincy Yaley. She spoke about an effort underway to streamline the process for reviewing projects by her department. It relates to the Title 17 zoning ordinance that was developed in response to the 2019 General Plan Update.

March 16-17 – Government/Water

Mother Lode Views featured Angels Camp City Administrator Rebecca Callen. Topics included multi-million-dollar upgrades at Utica Park, a pair of roundabouts planned in the city, economic development, and a water rate study.

March 23-24 – Public Safety

Mother Lode Views featured the new sheriff of Tuolumne County, David Vasquez. He spoke about his goals and priorities for the department. He also detailed efforts to change the culture of the office following some bad actors in recent years.

March 30-31 – Government

Mother Lode Views featured District 5 Republican Congressman Tom McClintock. He weighed in on the recently failed immigration bill, why he opposed a ban on TikTok, efforts to improve forest health, water projects he is pushing for, and proposals to regulate artificial intelligence.