

VALLEY PUBLIC RADIO (KVPR/KPRX) - Issues Report Q4 2023
 Reports produced locally airing Mon. - Fri. and featured on KVPR.org

Issues of importance for the communities of KVPR/KPRX including the following*:							
				Agriculture	Health & Safety		
				Arts & Culture	Homelessness		
				Business & Economy	Housing		
				Crime & Punishment	Immigration		
				Education	LGBTQ (concerns/rights)		
				Energy	Labor		
				Environmental	Multicultural Concerns		
				Government & Politics	Parks & Recreation		
				Healthcare	Transportation		
Date	Duration	Times AM	Times PM	Issues	Reporter(s)	Title	Narrative
10/3/2023	1:09	-	6:04	Environmental, Agriculture	Kerry Klein	A new water-year just began, and water leaders are preparing for another wet one	California's reservoirs are the fullest they've been in early October in 40 years. And, with El Niño looking likely, there's a possibility a lot of rain will fall in the months ahead. That's the good news.
10/4/2023	1:00	-	6:04	Government & Politics, Community	Joshua Yeager	The consequences of a vacant House Speaker's office could soon feel very familiar	Republican in-fighting culminated this week in the ouster of House Speaker Kevin McCarthy -- a first in American politics.
10/5/2023	1:00	-	6:04	Healthcare, Labor	Elizabeth Arakelian	The nationwide strike by Kaiser Permanente workers is impacting healthcare here in California	Sporadic closures at Kaiser sites across the region mean patients with appointments should confirm their facility is open.
10/6/2023	4:08	-	6:04	Environmental, Government & Politics	Kerry Klein	How 'land barons' steered flooding in the San Joaquin Valley	An interview with L.A. Times Reporter Jessica Garrison about her investigation into the local flood response after the re-emergence of Tulare Lake.
10/9/2023	1:12	-	6:04	Government & Politics, Community	Joshua Yeager	Former Speaker Kevin McCarthy denies reports he is resigning as his district holds firm support	Former House Speaker Kevin McCarthy says he isn't leaving Congress. Meanwhile, support for the besieged member remains strong back home in his Bakersfield district.
10/11/2023	1:00	-	6:04	Immigration, Agriculture	Esther Quintanilla	Newsom signs bill that will allow undocumented Californians to legally work in agriculture	According to some estimates, more than half of the state's farmworkers are undocumented. The program would permit undocumented workers to legally work in the industry.
10/12/2023	1:08	-	6:04	Environmental, Government & Politics	Kerry Klein	The state water board is considering putting part of the San Joaquin Valley under probation	Groundwater sustainability agencies had to draft plans for how they'd curb their pumping. And if their plans aren't good enough, the water board could step in with probation.
10/13/2023	1:37	-	6:04	Science, Education	Rachel Livinal	A 'ring of fire' eclipse is happening on Saturday. Here's what to know.	It's been more than a decade since an annular eclipse was last seen.
10/16/2023	4:06	7:45	-	Government & Politics, Business & Economy	Soreath Hok	'Slippery slope' or needed regulation? Fresno eyes new rules for smoke shops	Tobacco retail is a thriving industry in Fresno. But city officials are eyeing regulations that could change the landscape for smoke shops.
10/17/2023	1:00	-	6:04	Housing, Government & Politics	Esther Quintanilla	The tiny Merced county community of Planada receives \$20 million in state funding for flood relief	The cash infusion from the state is meant to continue helping residents recover from the severe flood in January.
10/18/2023	4:14	7:45	-	Education, Business & Economy	Rachel Livinal	Community colleges in the San Joaquin Valley are increasingly offering bachelor degrees	More and more California community colleges are offering bachelor degrees that some students say they find cheaper, and more accessible.
10/19/2023	1:02	-	6:04	Business & Economy, Crime & Punishment	Cresencio Rodriguez-Delgado	Man linked to Reedley lab discovery arrested on federal charges	The U.S. attorney's office says an investigation by local agencies that began in late 2022 eventually led to the unraveling of Jia Bei Zhu's alleged operation.
10/20/2023	1:09	7:45	-	Environmental, Agriculture	Kerry Klein	Following allegations of pesticide drift, judge orders Bakersfield applicator to stop	On Tuesday, a judge issued a temporary restraining order against a Bakersfield aviation company following allegations that pesticides it had applied had drifted and harmed neighboring crops, pastureland and people.
10/20/2023	4:24	-	6:04	Education, Labor	Esther Quintanilla	Fresno teachers on the brink of strike as voting continues	The Fresno Teachers Association and the Fresno Unified School District have gone back and forth on contract negotiations since last November.
10/23/2023	1:23	7:45	-	Education, Business & Economy	Rachel Livinal	Valley college leaders unveil plan to increase university transfers	Officials unveiled plans Friday for a transfer pathway project they say will encourage students to continue on their path to a bachelor's degree.
10/24/2023	1:00	-	6:04	Education, Labor	Kerry Klein	Teachers from California's third largest school district have voted to strike	Fresno's 4,000 teachers want smaller class sizes, salary raises that keep up with inflation, better health benefits, and smaller special education caseloads.
10/25/2023	1:00	7:45	-	Labor, Immigration	Cresencio Rodriguez-Delgado	California declares Oct. 25 as 'Larry Itliong Day'	The day honors Itliong's long history of labor activism, including in the San Joaquin Valley.
10/26/2023	1:14	-	6:04	Education, Labor	Rachel Livinal	Fresno substitute teachers plan to not cross teacher strike picket line	Fresno Unified says the substitute teachers union violated its agreement that it would provide teaching services during the strike.

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10/27/2023	1:14	-	6:04	Health & Safety, Agriculture	Esther Quintanilla	State investigating after Bakersfield farmworker reportedly run over, killed on the job	State investigating after Bakersfield farmworker reportedly run over, killed on the job.
10/30/2023	1:25	-	6:04	Government & Politics, Education	Rachel Livinal	Valley students speak out amid Israel-Hamas conflict, urge UC Merced, Stanislaus State to act	At UC Merced, anti-war protests followed a resolution that passed the university's student senate last week.
10/31/2023	1:26	-	6:04	Education, Labor	Rachel Livinal	Fresno Unified and teacher's union reach last-minute deal to avoid major strike	Teachers at Fresno Unified were set to go on strike Wednesday, but the last-minute deal averted those plans.
11/1/2023	1:00	7:45	-	Government & Politics, Environmental	Kerry Klein	Congress makes urgent call for Central Valley water infrastructure repairs	A congressional delegation led by Democrat Senator Alex Padilla and Republican Representative Doug LaMalfa urges the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to "prioritize the critical emergency repairs" to levees in the area damaged by winter storms.
11/1/2023	1:01	-	6:04	Arts & Culture, Community	Cresencio Rodriguez-Delgado	In a small Fresno garden, one woman carries the mission of honoring the dead	Every first and second of November, millions of Mexicans around the world honor their dead loved ones.
11/2/2023	4:08	7:45	-	Agriculture, Business & Economy	Kerry Klein	How too much rain – not drought – devastated a popular California crop	The vast majority of the country's table grapes are grown right here in the San Joaquin Valley. But this year, a freak summer storm took a big bite out of that production.
11/2/2023	1:15	-	6:04	Education, Labor	Rachel Livinal	Fresno State faculty plan to participate in CSU strike if it happens	The union that represents faculty at California State University system voted to authorize a strike. Professors at Fresno State are prepared to participate.
11/7/2023	1:12	-	6:04	Education, Labor	Rachel Livinal	As CSU, union negotiations continue, Fresno State faculty push for fair pay	Dozens of faculty members turned out to rally on Fresno State's campus Tuesday for a new contract.
11/8/2023	1:06	-	6:04	Business & Economy, Community	Esther Quintanilla	Fresno's Radio Bilingüe gets funding to improve national broadcast operations	Spanish radio news station Radio Bilingüe received \$2 million in state funding to expand its Fresno headquarters.
11/9/2023	1:00	-	6:04	Crime & Punishment, Business & Economy	Cresencio Rodriguez-Delgado	'They swindled investors.' Bitwise Industries co-founders facing prison in fraud case	"They used lie after lie," prosecutors argued as the co-founders were set to appear in court.
11/10/2023	1:26	7:45	-	Education, Business & Economy	Rachel Livinal	How a 'debt-free' scholarship for California college students became laced with frustration	California students have encountered headaches dealing with the Middle Class Scholarship process. Some of the problems include students not getting their disbursement for months, or the scholarship decreasing
11/10/2023	1:08	-	6:04	Veterans, Healthcare	Cresencio Rodriguez-Delgado	Why this group thinks cannabis helps veterans	The organization Weed for Warriors is among those seeking more research and attention into how cannabis can offer alternatives to treating pain and reducing the harms of opioids.
11/13/2023	4:21	7:45	-	Government & Politics, Business & Economy	Cresencio Rodriguez-Delgado	Fresno's growing Hindu community marks Diwali. It's 'the closest we can get to home'	Diwali marks the triumph of light over darkness – good over evil. During the five days of celebration, devotees promise to see the good in others and make prayers and wishes for wealth and prosperity.
11/13/2023	4:07	-	6:04	Business & Economy, Labor	Esther Quintanilla	Bitwise Industries was a company always running out of time. Then, one day, it did.	At its inception, Bitwise Industries aimed to remove barriers into the technology space. It went after underserved cities, hired hundreds of people and promised to create thousands of jobs. But the company gambled on its dreams and quickly ran out of time.
11/14/2023	3:55	7:45	-	Business & Economy, Labor	Esther Quintanilla	Bitwise Industries may have ended. But laid-off workers say they're just getting started.	Bitwise Industries seemed to be a blooming hub for innovation in Fresno and the Central Valley. When the company crashed earlier this year, it left a void in the community. Former employees are taking the future of the industry in the Valley into their own hands.
11/15/2023	1:00	-	6:04	Government & Politics, Health & Safety	Cresencio Rodriguez-Delgado	A biolab was operating in a California city. Here's what a congressional committee found	The House Select Committee on the Chinese Communist Party issued a report about an illegal medical lab that was discovered in Reedley.
11/16/2023	4:08	7:45	-	Education, Business & Economy	Elizabeth Arakelian	The need for student services at community colleges has changed dramatically since the 1960s. Has state law kept up?	State law requires community colleges to spend at least half their general fund on instructors. But administrators say they want more flexibility to pay for the growing need for student services.
11/17/2023	1:15	7:45	-	Education, Agriculture	Joshua Yeager	Bakersfield College gets into regenerative farming	Bakersfield College runs California's oldest agricultural education program.
11/17/2023	4:15	-	6:04	Healthcare, Business & Economy	Cresencio Rodriguez-Delgado	The latest deal to save Madera Community Hospital falls apart	This summer Adventist Health signed a letter of intent to take over services at the hospital, but now the health network appears to be pulling back from its deal.
11/20/2023	1:07	-	6:04	Transportation, Business & Economy	Esther Quintanilla	New road opens in 'forgotten part of Fresno'	Fresno's long-awaited Veterans Boulevard officially opened to traffic this week. The project has been in the works for nearly four decades.
11/21/2023	1:00	7:45	-	Business & Economy, Housing	Joshua Yeager	\$5M Bezos grant targets Kern County's unhoused, low-income residents. 'They're facing a crisis'	A new, \$5 million grant will help Kern County's leading anti-poverty organization assist families in need and the unhoused.
11/21/2023	1:11	-	6:04	Labor, Education	Rachel Livinal	Teamsters, CSU locked in negotiations amid impasse	The CSU Teamsters went on strike for unfair labor practices. Members from CSU Stanislaus participated.

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11/22/2023	8:09	7:45	-	Crime & Punishment, Environmental	Kerry Klein	How two California prisons came to exist at the edge of a 'ghost lake'	KVPR speaks with independent journalist Susie Cagle about her recent investigation into the construction of two state prisons on the edge of California's Tulare Lake.
11/22/2023	1:00	-	6:04	Housing, Government & Politics	Cresencio Rodriguez-Delgado	Commission raises rent at Fresno mobile home park, but residents still say it's a win	A Fresno city commission was tasked with settling a dispute between a mobile home park's tenants and owners over a proposed rent increase.
11/28/2023	1:08	-	6:04	Healthcare, Business & Economy	Kerry Klein	After two failed deals, two new companies look to run bankrupt Madera Community Hospital	After failed deals with Trinity Health and Adventist Health to reopen Madera Community Hospital, two more companies are eyeing the facility.
11/29/2023	1:10	7:45	-	Violence, Government & Politics	Esther Quintanilla	Pro-Palestine groups call on Fresno-area politicians to join ceasefire efforts	A candlelight vigil was held Monday in downtown Fresno, California, to call for a stop to the war in the Gaza Strip
11/30/2023	4:32	7:45	-	Law Enforcement, Crime & Punishment	Elizabeth Arakelian	Interview: Merced County sheriff says he's grappling with a deputy shortage	Merced County, California, has the highest rate of homicide in the state. It's also severely lacking deputies. Sheriff Vernon Warrick says the shortage is so bad, he's disassembling units, like for gang enforcement, just to cover everyday patrol.
12/1/2023	1:00	7:45	-	Education, Business & Economy	Rachel Livinal	What if you could get a college degree without ever purchasing a textbook?	One Valley university is moving forward with that idea. California State University Bakersfield is the first to create what is called a "Z degree."
12/5/2023	1:00	-	6:04	Agriculture, Community	Kerry Klein	This Tulare County dairy farmer won an award earned by few other Californians	A San Joaquin Valley dairy farmer recently earned a prestigious national award that only four other farmers in the state have won in the last 25 years.
12/6/2023	1:02	7:45	-	Education, Business & Economy	Rachel Livinal	College enrollment in California dipped. It's worse in the San Joaquin Valley.	Statewide college enrollment by recent high school grads was down 5% in 2020. The San Joaquin valley has one of the lowest rates.
12/6/2023	1:25	-	6:04	Government & Politics	Joshua Yeager	Across Kevin McCarthy's district, disappointment and opportunity abound as he steps down from Congress	"I just don't like their (the GOP's) future. They're bickering too much. They're not as strong as they used to be. I don't know where they're heading," one voter said.
12/7/2023	1:16	7:45	-	Technology, Agriculture	Esther Quintanilla	In California's San Joaquin Valley, the future of farming is in tech	State to mark the first year of an initiative between educational institutions and community groups across the San Joaquin Valley.
12/8/2023	4:38	7:45	-	Youth, Education	Elizabeth Arakelian	The 18-year-old prosecutor	18-year-old Peter Park was sworn into the Tulare County District Attorney's Office this week as the youngest prosecutor in the department's history. He's also the youngest person to pass the California bar exam at just 17 years old.
12/8/2023	1:00	-	6:04	Government & Politics	Esther Quintanilla	Former HUD Secretary Julián Castro to lead California philanthropy group aimed at Latinos	The foundation, through its Latino Giving Circle Network, has generated more than \$348,000 to invest Latino-led organizations across the state to increase and mobilize Latino youth leadership, support entrepreneurs and increase
12/11/2023	9:11	7:45	-	Environmental, Government & Politics	Kerry Klein	Why is water in the west so complicated? Fresno State professor dives in with new book	"Water Politics," a new book by Fresno State political science professor Tom Holyoke, explores the competing pressures that have resulted in a complicated, convoluted water policy that is constantly being disputed.
12/11/2023	1:21	-	6:04	Violence, Community	Esther Quintanilla	At a Fresno plaza, the flags of Israel and Palestine fly with controversy	The city of Fresno recently became one of a few cities in the country to raise the Palestinian flag in solidarity with those killed in the Israel-Hamas war.
12/12/2023	1:03	7:45	-	Government & Politics	Cresencio Rodriguez-Delgado	Who is in and who is out in race to replace Kevin McCarthy?	It's been nearly one week since former House Speaker Kevin McCarthy announced he was stepping down from Congress at the end of the year.
12/12/2023	1:00	-	6:04	Government & Politics, Health & Safety	Esther Quintanilla	A small California city brought down an illegal biolab. Now the county will go after them too	A newly adopted policy would require annual inspections of any privately-funded research labs.
12/13/2023	1:02	-	6:04	Labor, Housing	Joshua Yeager	Affordable housing for farmworkers is coming to Bakersfield	Later this month, more than 70 farmworker families will begin moving into the Sagewood Apartments community
12/14/2023	1:03	7:45	-	Government & Politics	Cresencio Rodriguez-Delgado	Who is in and who is out in race to replace Kevin McCarthy?	It's been nearly one week since former House Speaker Kevin McCarthy announced he was stepping down from Congress at the end of the year.
12/15/2023	1:00	-	6:04	Healthcare	Joshua Yeager	Changes are coming to Community Regional Medical Center's pediatric intensive care unit	The Fresno hospital is closing its dedicated pediatric I-C-U, so it can add those 10 beds to its adult ICU. The change is happening because the pediatric unit sees very few patients.
12/18/2023	4:57	7:45	-	Arts & Entertainment, Education	Elizabeth Arakelian	Filmmaker returns to childhood in California's Sierra Nevada with film 'Wild Boys'	Drawing on his unconventional childhood, Vincent Catalina's film "Wild Boys" showcases the beauty of the Central Valley and Sierra Nevada.
12/19/2023	1:00	7:45	-	Healthcare	Kerry Klein	Health officials are advising emergency room visits only if there are truly urgent problems	Fresno County's Emergency Medical Services Director has said hospitals are operating at 20-40% over capacity.
12/20/2023	1:09	-	6:04	Healthcare, Business & Economy	Kerry Klein	Madera hospital's new reopening deal came down to two companies. Here's what we know	In a unanimous vote on Monday, Dec. 18, 2023, the Madera Community Hospital board of trustees selected American Advanced Management, Inc., as its potential new owner.

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12/21/2023	1:00	7:45	-	Crime & Punishment, Business & Economy	Cresencio Rodriguez-Delgado	New Fresno lawsuit pits father against son in struggle for control of Assemi family business	The son of one of Fresno's wealthiest and most politically influential families is suing his father and uncles, accusing them of fraud, mismanagement and "a pattern of racketeering activity."
12/22/2023	1:00	7:45	-	Government & Politics, Multicultural Concerns	Cresencio Rodriguez-Delgado	A Fresno County ballot measure already has opposition ahead of the March 5 primary	Tribal leaders and legislators want to defeat Measure B that gives supervisors control over the naming of geographic features or places in unincorporated areas.
12/22/2023	1:02	-	6:04	Government & Politics, Multicultural Concerns	Cresencio Rodriguez-Delgado	Fresno mayor issues apology as he calls for unity among Jewish, Muslim community	Fresno mayor Jerry Dyer issued a call for unity on Thursday, Dec. 21, 2023, among Jewish and Muslim groups following several actions in the city related to the war in the Middle East.
12/27/2023	3:37	-	6:04	Healthcare, Labor	Esther Quintanilla	High school students in Kern County form mobile clinic service to help farmworkers learn about their health	Farmworkers in the Central Valley often face heightened health risks due to their hard labor, but many don't have easy access to health care. A group of high-schoolers in Bakersfield are finding solutions on their own.
12/28/2023	1:00	7:45	-	Government & Politics	Joshua Yeager	Resigning Congressman Kevin McCarthy may be no stranger to criticism, but the latest voice to join the chorus is surprising	The Bakersfield Californian's editorial board has long endorsed McCarthy, and defended him during his historically brief stint as House Speaker.
12/29/2023	2:24	-	6:04	Government & Politics	Joshua Yeager	Vince Fong secures last-minute victory to appear on ballot for Kevin McCarthy's House seat	California Assemblyman Vince Fong prevailed in his battle with state officials over his right to compete for the congressional seat left vacant by Kevin McCarthy's resignation.
*This list does not include all the issues responded to by the station or all the ways the station responded to those issues.							