

VALLEY PUBLIC RADIO (KVPR/KPRX) - Issues Report Q3 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	Parks & Recreation		
				Government & Politics	Transportation		
				Healthcare			
Date	Duration	Times AM	Times PM	Issues	Reporter(s)	Title	Narrative
7/3/2023	1:00	-	6:04	Health & Safety, Law Enforcement	Joshua Yeager	Kern County Fire Department plans to use drones to catch illegal fireworks	With the arrival of the Fourth of July holiday, several Valley cities are urging residents not to celebrate with illegal fireworks.
7/4/2023	1:44	7:45	-	Community, Education	Cresencio Rodriguez-Delgado	A book checked out in 1940 is finally returned to a Fresno library	A note in the package where the book came noted that the person who checked out the book was a 13-year-old girl at the time and had recently passed away.
7/6/2023	5:48	11:52	-	Environmental, Government & Politics	Kerry Klein	Water Whiplash: How the Valley's floods brought forth 'inconvenient truths' about preparation	An independent climate researcher and advocate warns that the San Joaquin Valley's flood protection and mitigation plans need significant updating in order to be prepared for the next wet winter.
7/7/2023	1:00	7:45	-	Environmental, Government & Politics	Esther Quintanilla	Could a civil lawsuit be coming in Merced County over floods?	Hundreds of Merced County residents joined together this week to file government claims against the county as a result of its flood response.
7/7/2023	1:00	-	6:04	Labor, Transportation	Joshua Yeager	Union strike could disrupt travel for many in Tulare County	Transportation workers across Tulare County – including Sequoia National Park – are gearing up for a strike that could disrupt travel plans for many.
7/10/2023	1:07	-	6:04	Technology, Environmental	Cresencio Rodriguez-Delgado	Cal Fire says an AI tool will help it fight state wildfires	Cal Fire is getting into the artificial intelligence game.
7/11/2023	4:03	-	4:45	Housing, Environmental, Health	Esther Quintanilla	Black mold could be 'blooming' inside Planada homes that flooded	While Merced County residents have been slowly rebuilding their homes from the winter flooding, experts warn that the combination of lingering moisture and summer heat may cause some new complications.
7/12/2023	1:10	7:45	-	Agriculture, Environmental	Kerry Klein	How are Valley orchards faring after wet winter? It's too early to tell	A Tulare County farm advisor warns we may not determine the cumulative impacts of flooding and extreme rainfall on fruit and nut crops until sometime in 2024.
7/13/2023	1:00	-	6:04	Environmental, Health & Safety	Joshua Yeager	A 'heat dome' over Fresno, Valley this weekend could topple century-old heat temperatures	An excessive heat warning will take effect Saturday morning in the San Joaquin Valley and last through Monday, as an extended heatwave swelters the state.
7/14/2023	1:02	-	6:04	Arts & Culture, Religion	Esther Quintanilla	Dancing for happiness.' Annual Buddhist festival in Fresno returns	The Obon Festival aims to commemorate those who have reached Nirvana.
7/17/2023	1:03	7:45	-	Labor, Agriculture, Health & Safety	Joshua Yeager	As California heat wave intensifies, farmworkers are bearing the brunt	As a brutal heatwave bears down on the San Joaquin Valley, thousands of farmworkers remain out in fields – where temperatures could reach 115 degrees.
7/18/2023	1:00	-	6:04	Health & Safety, Transportation	Joshua Yeager, Soreath Hok, Elizabeth Arakelian	Forecasters say triple digits could stick around all month in San Joaquin Valley	Forecasters say the San Joaquin Valley will experience little relief from a heat wave strangling the Southwest this month.
7/19/2023	1:27	-	6:04	Energy, Environmental	Joshua Yeager	State releases draft plan to plug leaky oil wells, many of them in Kern County	California officials unveiled a plan to permanently seal some of the state's more than 5,000 orphaned oil wells, including dozens nestled among Kern County neighborhoods that have been the focus of advocate attention for decades.
7/20/2023	1:16	-	6:04	Government & Politics, Business & Economy	Soreath Hok	With so much infrastructure money coming to Fresno, the city creates a whole new department	The Fresno City Council unanimously approved a new Capital Projects Department to facilitate infrastructure projects.
7/21/2023	1:08	7:45	-	Education, Energy	Kerry Klein	Porterville Unified the only California district chosen for federal grant on energy upgrades	Porterville Unified School District will receive energy upgrades thanks to a \$5.8 million "Renew America's Schools" grant from the U.S. Department of Energy.
7/21/2023	1:00	-	6:04	Environmental, Parks & Recreation	Joshua Yeager	Some of California's epic snowpack holding up despite sweltering heat wave	California continues to buckle under a sweltering heat wave with no end in sight. But the state's epic snowpack isn't going anywhere just yet.
7/24/2023	3:52	-	6:04	Community, Parks & Recreation	Cresencio Rodriguez-Delgado	'We're trying something new.' How a Valley town is reviving its community park, finding purpose	By cleaning up their community park and painting a colorful mural, residents in Woodville, California, are trying to improve their town for older and younger residents alike.
7/25/2023	1:16	-	6:04	Health & Healthcare, Business & Economy	Soreath Hok	Madera Community Hospital close to signing a 'very viable' partner, unlocking county funding	Madera County Supervisors are agreeing to fund \$500,000 in hospital operating costs for 30 days, but only if a new partner's letter of intent is in place.

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7/26/2023	3:57	11:42	-	Agriculture, Business & Economy	Kerry Klein	In normally dry Kings County, Tulare Lake has carved a long, soggy road ahead for farmers	Kings County officials estimate billions of dollars in agricultural losses after nearly 100,000 acres of cotton, tomato, safflower, pistachios and other commodities were wiped out by Tulare Lake.
7/26/2023	1:00	-	6:04	Homelessness, Government & Politics	Esther Quintanilla	Report: Homelessness in Fresno, Madera increased from last year	The annual Fresno Madera Continuum of Care report shows how many people in the region experienced homelessness at the beginning of the year.
7/27/2023	1:00	-	6:04	Health & Healthcare, Business & Economy	Soreath Hok	Adventist Health plans to manage services at Madera Community Hospital amid funding challenges	Madera Community Hospital has sat closed since December 2022.
7/28/2023	1:09	7:45	-	Health & Healthcare, Government & Politics	Cresencio Rodriguez-Delgado	Officials shut down illegal Reedley medical lab reportedly making COVID-19, pregnancy tests	City code enforcement officers began trying to investigate possible code violations inside a downtown warehouse back in March.
7/28/2023	1:20	-	6:04	Crime & Punishment, Immigration	Elizabeth Arakelian	Merced County sheriff's deputies uncover apparent human smuggling at marijuana operation	According to the Merced County Sheriff's office, there is no evidence of physical harm, but deputies suspect the people to be victims of an illegal drug and human trafficking operation.
7/31/2023	1:16	7:45	-	Government & Politics	Joshua Yeager	Sen. Melissa Hurtado files to run for congressional seat in 2024	The two-term Democrat filed her paperwork a week after Democrat Rudy Salas announced his own campaign.
8/1/2023	1:00	7:45	6:04	Health & Safety, Government & Politics	Soreath Hok	Timeline: How health, city officials unraveled a secretive medical lab in Fresno County	Fresno County health officials began raising concern over an unauthorized medical lab operating in Reedley long before the lab became widely known by the public in recent weeks.
8/3/2023	1:23	-	6:04	Government & Politics, Business & Economy	Joshua Yeager	Rep. Adam Schiff brings his campaign for Senate to the Central Valley	Barely a month after House Republicans voted to censure him, Congressman Adam Schiff seemed to relish campaigning in the heart of House Speaker Kevin McCarthy's district.
8/4/2023	1:03	-	6:04	Health & Safety, Government & Politics	Elizabeth Arakelian, Cresencio Rodriguez-Delgado	During Valley visit, House Speaker McCarthy addresses Reedley lab discovery	During a visit to his new district office in Clovis, House Speaker Kevin McCarthy addressed reporters' questions on local issues.
8/7/2023	1:00	-	6:04	Environmental, Technology	Kerry Klein	Near Tulare Lake, state disaster relief includes millions for mosquito abatement	One mosquito abatement district in Tulare County has reportedly purchased its first-ever drone, amphibious vehicle and airboat.
8/8/2023	1:11	7:45	-	Education, Community	Rachel Livinal	Higher education comes to West Fresno with opening of city college satellite campus	Fresno City College is debating its new campus in West Fresno as students kick off the fall semester.
8/8/2023	1:09	-	6:04	Labor, Healthcare	Esther Quintanilla	Fresno County in-home care workers call for higher wages, healthcare benefits	More than 100 unionized healthcare workers disrupted a Fresno County Board of Supervisors meeting. The union is demanding higher wages and healthcare benefits.
8/9/2023	1:00	7:45	-	Violence, Government & Politics	Joshua Yeager	Counties in the San Joaquin Valley report state's highest murder rates	California's murder rate declined in 2022, but the data tells a different story across much of the San Joaquin Valley.
8/9/2023	1:12	-	6:04	Health & Safety, Government & Politics	Soreath Hok	Reedley city leaders defend months-long investigation into illegal medical lab	For the first-time since discovering that a medical lab was stored inside a downtown Reedley warehouse, city leaders publicly-addressed the issue.
8/10/2023	1:04	7:45	-	Law Enforcement, Violence	Elizabeth Arakelian	Father of baby boy killed in Goshen massacre files wrongful death lawsuit	In a lawsuit filed in Tulare County Superior Court, the father's attorneys allege local law enforcement and child protective services knew the home was not a safe place for the young mother and her son, but did not take action.
8/11/2023	1:04	-	6:04	Healthcare, Government & Politics	Kerry Klein	Doctor at center of fraud settlement now embroiled in investigation at Coalinga psychiatric hospital	Dr. Francis Lagattuta, who recently paid \$11.4 million to settle a case alleging Medi-Cal and Medicare insurance fraud at a system of pain clinics, is now at the center of an investigation into possible hepatitis C exposure at a pain clinic he operated at a state-run psychiatric hospital.
8/14/2023	1:19	7:45	-	Environmental, Parks & Recreation	Elizabeth Arakelian	Wildlife officials find gray wolves in Tulare County — 200 miles south of nearest pack	In July, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife got word of a gray wolf sighting in Sequoia National Forest.
8/16/2023	1:19	7:45	-	Energy, Environmental	Joshua Yeager	US Energy Department awards \$20M to jumpstart carbon capture projects in Kern County	New federal funding aims to supercharge carbon capture technology in Kern County as the government pursues ambitious climate goals.
8/16/2023	4:06	-	6:04	Health & Safety, Environmental	Esther Quintanilla	Swamp coolers pump smoke into homes during wildfires. Experts see a solution in the Central Valley	The brutal Mineral Fire in 2020 caused hundreds of rural western Fresno County residents to seek shelter indoors. But even inside their homes, many couldn't avoid the health effects of wildfire smoke. A team of researchers is testing a new way to improve indoor air quality.
8/17/2023	1:09	7:45	-	Crime & Punishment, Government & Politics	Cresencio Rodriguez-Delgado	Sen. Shannon Grove's bill on sex trafficking remains in limbo	Senate Bill 14 would make sex trafficking of minors a serious crime eligible under the Three Strikes Law.
8/17/2023	1:14	-	6:04	Education	Rachel Livinal	Fresno-area professors sue California Community Colleges over diversity, equity rules	The lawsuit was filed on behalf of six college professors at Reedley, Madera, and Clovis Community College.

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8/18/2023	1:23	7:45	-	Environmental	Elizabeth Arakelian	Hurricane Hilary will send brief summer rain to the San Joaquin Valley	Steering winds and extreme heat on the West Coast are luring Hurricane Hilary north to California. It's unusual for a tropical storm to make landfall in the state. Forecasters expect heavy rain to hit Southern and Central California on Monday.
8/21/2023	4:12	7:45	-	Education, Anti-harrasment	Rachel Livinal	After spotlight on sexual misconduct at CSUs, Valley campuses try to meet accountability	After the California State University chancellor's public resignation last year over accusations of mishandling sexual harassment complaints, a law firm was brought in to assess every Title IX office in the CSU.
8/21/2023	1:23	-	6:04	Housing, Government & Politics	Joshua Yeager	The rents are too damn high.' Visalia rally pushes support for state rent control measure	Data shows cities in the San Joaquin Valley have experienced some of the biggest rental price surges post-pandemic. Low-income residents and their families often feel that pinch the hardest.
8/22/2023	4:00	11:42	-	Government & Politics	Elizabeth Arakelian	Could Fresno's private budget subcommittee pose legal problems?	Several experts told news outlet Fresnoand the confidential meetings could be problematic, even a violation of the Brown Act, which gives the public the right to attend certain local legislative meetings.
8/22/2023	1:13	-	6:04	Government & Politics, Health & Safety	Soreath Hok	Fresno officials propose ordinance around medical labs operating within city limits	Councilmembers detailed a new plan to increase transparency and accountability following discovery of an illegal lab being stored in Reedley.
8/23/2023	1:20	7:45	-	Labor, Transportation	Joshua Yeager	Transit workers are riding again in Visalia, Sequoia National Park after six-week strike	Transit workers in Visalia and Sequoia National Park are back on the job after a 42-day labor strike ended over the weekend.
8/23/2023	1:09	-	6:04	Parks & Recreation, Health & Safety	Kerry Klein	Ten years later, the Rim Fire remains Yosemite's largest wildfire	The 77,000 acres it incinerated in the park inspired an expansion of fire prevention efforts.
8/24/2023	4:07	-	6:04	Education	Rachel Livinal	Valley CSUs falling short of graduation goals. But some campuses are still trying	A report by The Campaign for College Opportunity shows state universities in the San Joaquin Valley may not meet graduation goals set for 2025.
8/25/2023	1:10	7:45	-	Heathcare, Government & Politics	Soreath Hok	With \$50 million in state funds now available, Madera Community Hospital sees a path to reopening	State money has been set aside to help the bankrupt Madera Community Hospital reopen -- nearly a year after it shut its doors.
8/28/2023	4:02	7:45	-	Environmental, Government & Politics	Kerry Klein	In a burn scar along California's Sierra Nevada, 'green glaciers' hold a key to forest health	Referred to by some as "green glaciers," many meadows in the Sierra Nevada have been overgrown, burned, or degraded by industry. But they serve important functions in forests. And a key to restoring them, say experts, is to think like rodents.
8/28/2023	1:02	-	6:04	Underserved Communities, Environmental	Esther Quintanilla	Tule River Indian Tribe declares water shortage after Tropical Storm Hilary	A thunderstorm brought on by Tropical Storm Hilary filled the Tule River with debris and caused a power outage on the Tule River Indian Reservation. The tribe declared an emergency after the reservation's water treatment system failed.
8/29/2023	1:03	-	6:04	Healthcare, Underserved Communities	Kerry Klein	Kern County maternal mortality at the center of a state medical board meeting	Following years of advocacy work from locals, the Medical Board of California held a meeting in Bakersfield to learn more about the region's high maternal mortality rate.
8/31/2023	1:22	-	6:04	Health & Safety, Government & Politics	Esther Quintanilla	City of Fresno releases emails, call logs detailing Reedley illegal lab investigation	The city of Fresno released documents detailing its efforts to report an illegal biomedical lab found in Reedley. City officials claim the state did not act quickly enough to help shut it down.
9/1/2023	1:03	7:45	-	Health & Safety, Labor	Esther Quintanilla	Kaiser Permanente distributes 'heat resiliency kits' to Valley farmworkers	A new grant from Kaiser Permanente will help pay for heat safety supplies for farmworkers in the Fresno-Madera area.
9/1/2023	1:03	-	6:04	Immigration, Government & Politics	Esther Quintanilla	Immigration advocates push for legislation, protest outside Speaker McCarthy's offices	In early September, pro-immigration protesters gathered at the offices of House Speaker Kevin McCarthy in Clovis, Bakersfield and Washington D.C.
9/5/2023	1:08	-	6:04	Agriculture, Business & Economy	Kerry Klein	Some of the highest-quality cotton in the US is among the casualties of Tulare Lake	Much of the world's highest quality cotton is grown right here in the San Joaquin Valley. But the return of Tulare Lake has threatened this year's crop.
9/6/2023	4:43	-	6:04	Minorities, Sports	Elizabeth Arakelian	She just wanted to ride': New book features America's first female Black jockey	Cheryl White became the first female Black jockey licensed to ride in America in 1971. She was a barrier-breaking athlete, and yet still remains relatively unknown.
9/7/2023	1:09	7:45	-	Youth, Crime & Punishment	Esther Quintanilla	Disability rights group raises alarm over conditions at Kings County Juvenile center	A new report reveals disabled youth in the Kings County Juvenile Center have experienced "horrific conditions" for years.
9/11/2023	1:03	-	6:04	Military, Environmental	Kerry Klein	Three years after the Creek Fire, national guardsmen who rescued campers receive hero's welcome	In September 2020, soldiers with the California Army National Guard rescued hundreds of people who had been trapped near a Sierra Nevada lake by the Creek Fire. This past weekend, the helicopter crews who conducted those rescues were reunited with the survivors and honored during a Fresno State football game.

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9/13/2023	1:00	7:45	-	Education, Business & Economy	Rachel Livinal	California State University trustees vote to increase tuition	Students will pay more to attend a California State University campus this fall after the school's board of trustees voted Wednesday to raise tuition by 6% each year for the next five years. At Fresno State, many students were unaware of the coming hike.
9/14/2023	4:15	-	6:04	Education, Healthcare	Rachel Livinal	The San Joaquin Valley needs more doctors. New university programs are producing them	UC Merced and UCSF Fresno are training Valley students close to home.
9/15/2023	1:17	-	6:04	Education, Healthcare	Rachel Livinal	UC Merced looks to Valley high schools for next generation of local doctors	The program started their first cohort of 15 students in late August, but recruiting has already begun for the next group.
9/19/2023	1:00	-	6:04	Education, Energy	Joshua Yeager	CSU Bakersfield partners with Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory	A prestigious national laboratory is partnering with CSU Bakersfield to advance green energy research in the San Joaquin Valley. Kern County may hold the key to unlocking California's carbon-neutral goals.
9/22/2023	1:30	7:00	-	Education, Government & Politics	Rachel Livinal	At Merced County high schools, students are going all in on climate, sustainability projects	The U.S. Department of Education took a visit to Atwater High School as part of a tour of schools who received an honor for school sustainability.
9/22/2023	4:00	7:45	-	Housing, Environmental	Kerry Klein	Why are homes becoming swampland near Lake Isabella?	A massive renovation was supposed to prevent water from seeping through the dams on Lake Isabella, but neighbors say the problem wasn't solved. An interview with Lois Henry of the news outlet SJV Water.
9/25/2023	4:13	7:45	-	Healthcare, Minorities	Esther Quintanilla	In California, doctors from Mexico help fill the need for some patients. 'As good as any doctor.'	A law created in 2002 paved the way for Mexican physicians to practice in communities across California. Twenty years later, half a dozen are practicing in the San Joaquin Valley.
9/25/2023	1:30	-	6:04	Education, Community	Rachel Livinal	Merced man opens time capsule he buried 47 years ago	Louis Padilla is 96 years old and in 1976, he worked at Merced High School. That's when he was tasked with burying a time capsule on the grounds of what is now Yosemite High.
9/26/2023	4:10	-	6:04	Education, Crime & Punishment	Rachel Livinal	A new California law could improve higher education outcomes among the formerly incarcerated	A California senate bill set to take effect in January will allow parolees to transfer to a different county than the one they're assigned, but under certain circumstances.
9/27/2023	4:13	-	6:04	Environmental, Health & Safety	Joshua Yeager	Avian botulism is brewing in Tulare Lake	Tulare Lake's sudden return earlier this year flooded farms and threatened residential areas. It also created a paradise for millions of migrating birds. Now, wildlife teams are working to contain a large botulism outbreak among the birds to prevent a mass die-off.
9/29/2023	1:00	-	6:04	Environmental, Energy	Joshua Yeager	California Assembly Bill 1167 would hold oil companies liable for idle and abandoned oil wells	Environmental groups are pushing Governor Newsom to sign a bill aimed at cleaning up oil fields. Over 28,000 oil and gas wells, just here, are idled or orphaned.