

# COUNTY OF TULARE

## BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Administration Bldg. 2800 West Burrel Visalia, CA 93291

Telephone: (559) 636-5000

Fax: (559) 615-3009

July 9, 2024

The Honorable Judge, Nathan Ide  
County Civic Center, Room 303  
221 S Mooney Blvd  
Visalia, CA 93291

RE: Grand Jury Report: "Parks Facelift"

Dear Judge Ide:

On behalf of the Tulare County Board of Supervisors, the following is the Board's response to the findings and recommendations included in the 2023/24 Tulare County Grand Jury Report titled "Parks Facelift."

### Findings and Board Responses:

**Finding 1:** *It is a constant demand on the County to preserve and maintain parks into perpetuity.*

**Response:** The Board agrees with this finding.

**Finding 2:** *All monies invested into the parks since 2022 and forward, have been necessary and needed infrastructure improvements and patron friendly amenities for all to enjoy.*

**Response:** The Board agrees with this finding.

**Finding 3:** *All residents in the Tulare County area need to be aware of the model of good stewardship in order for our parks to survive to be enjoyed by future generations.*

**Response:** The Board agrees with this finding.

### Recommendations and Board Responses:

**Recommendation 1:** *The County of Tulare should continue to strive to make the decisions for the parks system for the best benefit of its residents by increasing budget and park staffing.*

**Response:** This recommendation has not been implemented, but may be implemented in the future when there is sufficient funding to do so.

**Recommendation 2:** *The PAC should continue its outreach efforts to every school, church and organization to constantly invent ways to better the parks, raise awareness of good stewardship and searching for volunteers when in need.*

**Response:** This recommendation has been implemented. The Parks Division of the General Services Agency initiated the Strategic Outreach Plan to increase community involvement, donations, and grants to help offset staffing shortages and budget deficits.

Larry Micari  
District One

Pete Vander Poel  
District Two

Amy Shuklian  
District Three

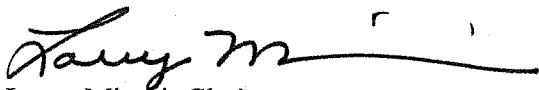
Eddie Valero  
District Four

Dennis Townsend  
District Five

**Recommendation 3:** *The County of Tulare should continue to seek out any grants or any funds available to keep up with the demands of continuing maintenance, repairs and groundskeeping.*

**Response:** This recommendation has been implemented. The County has and will continue to seek grant funding wherever practical. Over the last 4 years the Board of Supervisors has approved 10 requests from the Tulare County General Services Agency for application to grants related to park maintenance and improvements. Additionally, we invest in staff training to enhance our grant application capabilities and collaborate with a third-party vendor who specializes in grant writing assistance. This multifaceted approach ensures that we are continuously exploring and securing funding avenues to meet the demands of our park's maintenance and operational requirements.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Larry M", followed by a horizontal line.

Larry Micari, Chair

Tulare County Board of Supervisors

cc: Tulare County Civil Grand Jury

Tulare County General Services Agency