



**General Services Agency  
Museum  
COUNTY OF TULARE  
AGENDA ITEM**

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

KUYLER CROCKER  
District One

PETE VANDER POEL  
District Two

AMY SHUKLIAN  
District Three

EDDIE VALERO  
District Four

DENNIS TOWNSEND  
District Five

**AGENDA DATE:** April 9, 2019

Public Hearing Required	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Scheduled Public Hearing w/Clerk	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Published Notice Required	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Advertised Published Notice	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Meet & Confer Required	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Electronic file(s) has been sent	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	N/A <input type="checkbox"/>
Budget Transfer (Aud 308) attached	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Personnel Resolution attached	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Agreements are attached and signature line for Chairman is marked with tab(s)/flag(s)	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

CONTACT PERSON: Maria Benavides    PHONE: 205-1124

**SUBJECT:** Tulare County Museum Agricultural Equipment Restoration Project

**REQUEST(S):**

That the Board of Supervisors:

1. Receive a presentation regarding the Tulare County Museum Agricultural Equipment Restoration Project.

**SUMMARY:**

For over 70 years, the Tulare County Museum has been dedicated to preserving the treasures of local County history. It is home to one of the finest Native American basket collections in the state, an exceptional gun and saddle collection, an entire Pioneer Village of structures dating back to the 1800s, and the History of Tulare County Farm Labor & Agriculture Museum.

From its establishment in 1948 until 1956, the Museum was operated by the Tulare County Historical Society, a local nonprofit organization committed to promoting interest in the history of Tulare County and preserving the heritage for future generations. After 1956, responsibility for the Museum was transferred to the County Board of Supervisors, and oversight authority was delegated to the Museum Board via County Ordinance. Since that time, the Museum Board and Historical Society have continued to work in partnership to raise funds for the restoration of Museum property and advise the Board of Supervisors concerning the promotion of Museum objectives. Both organizations are driven solely by volunteers who care deeply about Tulare County history and have contributed greatly to the Museum's successful achievement of objectives set forth.

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Past restoration projects on which the Museum and Historical Society have partnered include the Bank of Visalia Clock Tower, the Southern Pacific Caboose used on the Visalia Electric Railroad, the Masonic Façade, and the Main Street gallery. Restoration improves the aesthetics of a collection, increases its value, and ensures many generations the opportunity to appreciate its pieces over time. The Museum and Historical Society have found the community of Tulare County ready and willing to support the restoration of its historic artifacts through the direct donation of funds and increased Museum patronage. As such, the Museum maintains a rotating schedule of pieces and structures for restoration.

With the support of the Museum Board and Historical Society, the Museum is currently updating its strategic plan to reflect a changing vision for the Museum in the community. While at its core, the Museum will continue to preserve and promote a shared understanding of Tulare County's past and its place in the future, staff are working to expand the strategy for doing so. Initiatives will include finding new methods for encouraging community engagement, appealing to a broader demographic, cultivating museum expertise, and ensuring the longevity of artifacts and property. Staff anticipate returning to the Board to present a finalized strategic plan in June.

The Agricultural Equipment Restoration Project is an important first step toward achieving the Museum's new vision. Initiated by Historical Society members Carl Switzer and Don Vieira, the project engages community youth through the research and restoration of historic artifacts while adding value to the collection of the Museum.

Leading up to its initiation, an Historical Society working group inventoried the Museum's entire collection of more than 180 pieces of historic agricultural equipment used to develop the County's agricultural economy in the 1800s. Unfortunately, due to limited indoor space, many of these pieces have been sitting outside for several years and are in a deteriorated state. The working group then developed a prioritized restoration schedule, and solicited the help of local Agricultural Science teachers to transform the initiative into a collaborative educational project for high school students.

As a result, nine local high schools, including Central Valley Christian, Corcoran, El Diamante, Golden West, Hanford High, Lindsay, Mount Whitney, Strathmore, and Visalia Technical Early College, are actively restoring eleven pieces of the collection. Through this project, students are encouraged to research the equipment's historic use as well as mechanical restoration methods, and then apply that knowledge practically through the restoration of the equipment. While also educational, this project aims at helping students feel more connected to the history of Tulare County, and foster a long-term relationship with the Museum by contributing directly to an exhibit.

In anticipation of these pieces being returned at the end of the academic year, the Museum is in need of a new structure to safely house the equipment indoors and preserve their restored state. In contribution to this effort, the Historical Society has

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allocated a \$100,000 donation in the name of Stan Miller toward the purchase of materials to build a refurbished agricultural equipment building to the northeast of the History of Tulare County Farm Labor & Agriculture Museum. Staff is currently determining the scope and cost for such a project and anticipate returning to the Board in July or August with a recommendation to include the building in the fiscal year 2019/20 Capital Improvement Plan.

**FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING:**

There is no Net County Cost to the General Fund.

**LINKAGE TO THE COUNTY OF TULARE STRATEGIC BUSINESS PLAN:**

Tulare County's Strategic Plan includes the Quality of Life initiative. The Tulare County Museum Agricultural Equipment Restoration Project supports this initiative by engaging community participation in restoring its Museum's collection and ensuring the longevity of historic artifacts.

**ADMINISTRATIVE SIGN-OFF:**



Brooke Sisk

Assistant General Services Director

cc: County Administrative Office

Attachment(s)

**BEFORE THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
COUNTY OF TULARE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

IN THE MATTER OF TULARE COUNTY )  
MUSEUM AGRICULTURAL EQUIPMENT ) Resolution No. \_\_\_\_\_  
RESTORATION PROJECT )  
)

UPON MOTION OF SUPERVISOR \_\_\_\_\_, SECONDED BY  
SUPERVISOR \_\_\_\_\_, THE FOLLOWING WAS ADOPTED BY THE  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, AT AN OFFICIAL MEETING HELD \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_, BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES:  
NOES:  
ABSTAIN:  
ABSENT:

ATTEST: JASON T. BRITT  
COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER/  
CLERK, BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

BY: \_\_\_\_\_  
Deputy Clerk

\* \* \* \* \*

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