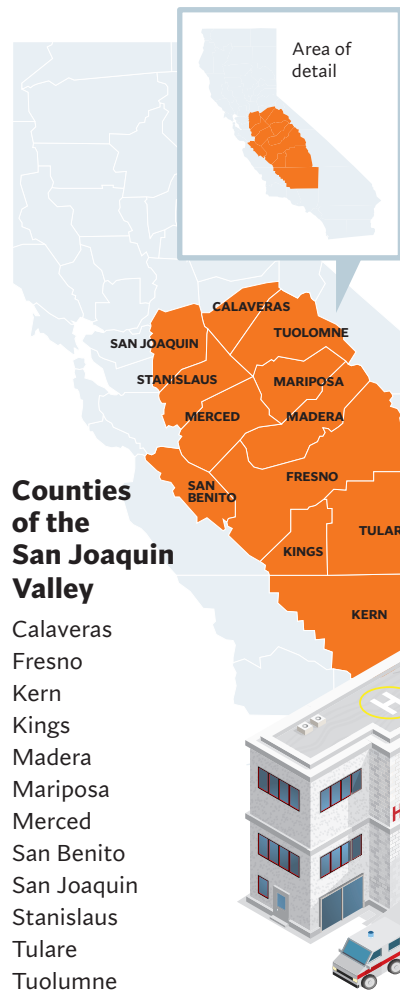


Modernizing California's Hospital Disaster Preparedness Standards — The Future of Care Delivery in the San Joaquin Valley Hangs in the Balance

As hospitals in the San Joaquin Valley recover from the devastating impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, they face a looming building standards mandate that will divert billions of dollars from patient and community investments. After decades of work and billions already spent to make California hospitals the gold standard for structural safety, hospitals are well-prepared to respond to earthquakes or other disasters. Now, it is time for lawmakers to focus on the future of care delivery by prioritizing policies that ensure ongoing emergency services and provide hospitals time to recover from the pandemic.



Every year, at hospitals in the San Joaquin Valley:



344,141
Inpatient stays



1.7 million
ED visits



47%
Medi-Cal enrollees as a % of total population



120,833
Directly employed and 'ripple effect' jobs



\$23.9 billion
Total economic output



56,518
Births



California hospitals are struggling

39% of hospitals operate in the red

More than **\$10 billion** in losses, even after federal CARES Act funding (2020-21)



Community priorities hospitals in the San Joaquin Valley would like to invest in:

- Workforce training and retention programs for nurses and allied health professionals
- Mobile health clinics for farm workers
- Partnerships with community organizations to address food insecurity
- Expansion of outpatient and ambulatory care services
- Expansion of behavioral health prevention programs
- Digital infrastructure to support telehealth and other remote care capabilities



To be better prepared for future disasters, hospitals say the San Joaquin Valley needs:

- Improved back-up power systems
- Advanced detection and care for infectious diseases
- Improved patient transportation services and evacuation capabilities
- Enhanced regional emergency communications capabilities
- Expanded EMS resources