



Ridgecrest Remains Strong After Earthquakes

Thursday morning, July 4 brought a 6.4 forequake to the Ridgecrest community and on Friday evening the 7.1 earthquake rattled the area. Throughout the ordeal, Ridgecrest residents stepped up to help one another cope with the fear, clean up the damage and support one another. On Friday, Representative Kevin McCarthy, Assemblyman Vince Fong and Senator Shannon Grove toured Ridgecrest and China Lake surveying the damage from the forequake. On Saturday, Governor Gavin Newsom took a tour of the area with Ridgecrest Police Chief Jed McLaughlin and City Manager Ron Strand as well as 1st District Supervisor, Mick Gleason. By Sunday afternoon the Ridgecrest community was focused on transitioning from response to recovery mode. Those on hand at the Town Hall Meeting to talk about the community response to the earthquakes and what comes next included Supervisor Mick Gleason, Ridgecrest Chief of Police Jed McLaughlin, the California Office of Emergency Services, Assemblyman Vince Fong, Tracey Reynolds from Senator Shannon Grove's office, Clayton Fowler from Representative Kevin McCarthy's office, a representative from NAWA China Lake, and Mayor Peggy Breeden. Community members were encouraged to continue to check on one another, maintain a sense of preparedness, and speak out if you need assistance. Mayor Breeden ended her talk, proclaiming "Ridgecrest Rocks". On Friday, July 12 a 4.9 aftershock rattled the area, it was recorded 5 miles from Ridgecrest.



Regions Rise Together

Recently, Governor Newsom announced his new "Regions Rise Together" initiative. The initiative was discussed at a luncheon hosted by Kern COG on June 19 with Egon Terplan from the Governor's office. Launched in partnership with California Forward and the California Economic Summit, this initiative is in recognition of the fact that the substantial economic and job growth that the state has experienced since 2010 has been concentrated in the state's coastal areas and has largely passed over the state's inland regions. By the Governor's own calculations, residents of California's inland regions have seen their per capita income drop dramatically while 70% of job growth in the state during this same period has occurred in the state's coastal regions. With the Regions Rise Together initiative, Governor Newsom intends on turning his "California for All" slogan into a strategy to design a comprehensive economic plan that will ensure sustainable and inclusive growth across the state and benefit all parts of California.

Lenny Mendonca and Kate Gordon from Governor Newsom's team are holding a series of listening sessions throughout inland California this summer/fall to feed stakeholder input into the Governor's initiatives for revitalizing the California Dream for all Californians, which the Governor will announce at the California Economic Summit on November 7-8 in Fresno. Kern COG has been asked to assist the Governor's team in holding a listening session in the Southern San Joaquin Valley in late September. Stay tuned for more information.

Grant Funds Free Rides for Bakersfield College Students

Kern Transit Route 110 stops in Shafter, Wasco and McFarland to pick up passengers including Bakersfield College students. A couple of years ago, Kern Transit acquired a grant from the State of California to fund free travel for any student with a valid Bakersfield College ID. The grant will continue to fund this service for college students through the summer and Bakersfield College and Kern Transit are discussing options for continuing the service. Shaylinda Manning, a Route 110 driver stated: "I had a student thank me for taking them to school because they wouldn't have had a consistent ride otherwise. They felt reassured they could take more courses and would be able to get to and from school." For non-student passengers, the one-way fare is \$3 per person or you can get a monthly pass for \$65.



Upcoming Events

August 5 - National Night Out, KC Sheriff's Department
August 13 - 2019 CNG 101 for Freight Fleets Symposium in Shafter
August 29 - 2019 Rideshare Week Kickoff Luncheon
September 14-22 - National Drive Electric Week
September 18 - 29 - Kern County Fair (Kern COG booth)
September 25 - Tehachapi Fall Business Showcase
October 2 - California Clean Air Day
October 7-11 - CommuteKern 2019 Rideshare Week
October 13 - Tehachapi Apple Fest with EV Ride and Drive