

Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors Watch

By Ken Carlson

Modesto Bee, Wednesday, January 9, 2013

Vito Chiesa took the helm Tuesday as chairman of the Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors. He will preside over county board meetings this year. Supervisor Jim DeMartini was appointed vice chairman. Chiesa's district includes Turlock, Hughson and the southeastern section of the county. He praised former Chairman Bill O'Brien for leading the board in the past year while serving on numerous panels, such as the *San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District board* and Modesto Regional Fire Authority board.

Supervisors dealt with a light agenda Tuesday, taking the following action:

- Accepted an audit report on purchasing cards by the auditor-controller's office
- Heard a progress report on the Stanislaus County employee mentor program. County employees work with Modesto City Schools to serve as mentors for students. They have provided more than 20,500 hours of mentoring since the program's inception 14 years ago.
- Approved an agreement with the California Highway Patrol for traffic control services during improvements to the Highway 99 and Kiernan Avenue interchange
- Canceled a public hearing on changes to hardship eligibility for the indigent adult health program

[Letter to the Lodi News Sentinel, Thursday, Jan. 10, 2013:](#)

We all deserve better air to breathe

Fireplace wood smoke is a genuine problem in the Valley. Unfortunately, California no longer has a population of 15 million people; it's more like 38 million people. With an increase in the population, the potential for air pollution has reached a health concern level.

I'm glad that the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District has taken action on this fireplace wood-burning air pollution problem. In my neighborhood here in Lodi, the smoke from fireplaces can get thick. You can sometimes see the smoke pouring out of some chimneys like a steam locomotive from the 1800s.

My family has experienced breathing and other respiratory problems from wood smoke. It isn't a happy thing to see your family and other families suffering from something that really isn't necessary. Having to take medication and use an inhaler isn't a happy thing at all.

With the restrictions, retrofit incentives and the poor heating ability of standard fireplaces, it just doesn't make sense to burn wood anymore. We plan to install the natural gas insert in our fireplace to help the situation. It's time for better health for people in the Valley. Let's do our part to make it happen.

Ben Sanacore, Lodi