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The Community Action Project (CAP) administers the Calaveras Planning Coalition (CPC), which is comprised of regional and local organizations, community groups, and concerned individuals who promote public participation in land use and resource planning to ensure a healthy human, natural, and economic environment now and in the future.

Learn more at

www.calaverascap.com

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Join Us!

Get a glimpse into what CPC membership is like by attending a meeting. There is no commitment, just show up and listen in!

Next Calaveras Planning Coalition Meeting May 3, 2021 3 P.M. - 5 P.M. New Members Welcome at CPC Meetings

Organizations, groups, and individuals (known as associate members) may join the Calaveras Planning Coalition (CPC). Prospective members may attend two consecutive meetings before making a final decision on membership in the Coalition. The membership form is a pledge to support and advocate for the Coalition's eleven Land Use and Development Principles, which you will find on our website:

www.calaverascap.com.

There is no membership fee. However, members are encouraged to donate to the Community Action Project/Calaveras Planning Coalition. Visitors and prospective members will, by necessity, be excluded from attorney/client privileged discussions.

If you are interested in membership, please email CPC Facilitator Tom Infusino, tomi@volcano.net, to receive a membership form, agenda, and the Zoom meeting connection.

To help prevent the spread of Covid-19 in our county, all CAP and CPC meetings will be held online via Zoom until restrictions are lifted by the Public Health Department.

Board of Supervisors Meeting
April 27, 2021 - [Agenda](#)
Planning Commission Meeting
May 13, 2021

**TUD board, attorney vow work will continue despite
general manager's firing**

By Alex MacLean / Union Democrat / April 7, 2021

Ed Pattison has served as general manager of Tuolumne Utilities District since October 2018.

Ed Pattison is no longer the general manager of Tuolumne Utilities District after the water and sewer agency's board voted to release him from his contract Thursday afternoon.

The board voted 3-1-1 in closed session at a special meeting to terminate Pattison's contract without cause before it expired in 2023, despite concerns raised by some in the public about the potential impacts the move could have on several major projects currently underway at TUD.

Directors Ron Ringen, Lisa Murphy and Board President Barbara Balen voted in favor of parting ways with Pattison, while Director Jeff Kerns was opposed and Director David Boatright abstained.

Jesse Barton, TUD's attorney, said in an email Friday he doesn't believe ongoing negotiations with Pacific Gas and Electric Co. for the district to acquire the utility's water rights and Phoenix Hydroelectric Project in the South Fork Stanislaus River watershed will not be affected by Pattison's absence.

"I am confident that TUD staff, TUD's consultants, and my office can handle every aspect of the intended acquisition and that there will be no negative impacts or delays caused by Mr. Pattison's termination," he said. "TUD's Board remains steadfast in its desire to acquire the Phoenix Project and related facilities from PG&E."

Barton said he and Tom Johnson, the TUD board's contract negotiator, have been and will continue to be the primary points of contact with PG&E regarding the acquisition.

The process with PG&E was initiated under former TUD General Manager Tom Haglund, who served from November 2015 to June 2018, when the company approached the district about purchasing the water rights and infrastructure, Barton said.

Haglund also was the general manager when the district began working toward a contract with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation for additional rights to water out of New Melones Reservoir, which is also still currently ongoing.

"I was involved with both of those with Haglund," Barton said.

Other major projects that started prior to Pattison taking over as TUD general manager in October 2018 included a nearly \$20 million project to upgrade the district's aging sewage treatment plant in Sonora and the proposed construction of the Sierra Pines treatment plant near Twain Harte.

Barton said Pattison did contribute and accelerate progress on the projects during his time with the district, including obtaining substantial additional funding for the sewage plant upgrades.

"We do not expect Pattison's absence to create any sort of problems for their progress," he said.

The move to terminate Pattison's employment comes less than a week after the board voted 3-1-1, along the same lines, to place him on paid administrative leave until further notice and immediately revoke his access privileges after a closed-session performance evaluation at a special meeting on March 26. No details have been provided about the specific reasoning behind either decision, with Balen citing confidentiality requirements under laws pertaining to personnel matters.

Barton said Pattison will receive a lump-sum payment for his regular hours worked up to his termination and unused vacation and administrative pay, which equals \$33,826.76 before taxes and other deductions.

The contract also entitles Pattison to six months of his salary and medical benefits to be paid in a lump sum if he signs a severance and release agreement, which Barton said he had not done as of Friday afternoon. That could total to more than \$100,000 because his salary in November was about \$202,500 per year, not including health and retirement benefits.

Pattison said in a phone interview on Friday that he was surprised by the board's decision.

"I'm disappointed," he said. "We had great accomplishments over the last several years, and I'm deeply humbled that I was able to serve Tuolumne County."

Among the specific accomplishments cited by Pattison were his contributions at progressing the aforementioned projects, as well as seeing through changes to regulations on the lake level at Pinecrest Reservoir that will allow the district to withdraw more water if needed during times of drought.

Work on the lake-level issue began under former TUD General Manager Pete Kampa, whose contract was similarly terminated by the board in 2013. The previous requirements prevented TUD from taking additional water from the reservoir in 2014 during the height of the most recent drought, which resulted in water-use cutbacks of up to 50%. "That's an enormous value for Tuolumne County," he said. "It had been worked on for 10 years, then in my two years with the organization we were able to get it across the finish line. It balances water supply for Tuolumne County and recreation interests at Pinecrest."

Pattison, who lives in Modesto with his wife and four children, said he had not yet decided his next step and was first going to take time to celebrate Easter with his family this weekend.

Kerns, who cast the lone dissenting vote against placing Pattison on leave and terminating his contract, said on Friday that he too was disappointed in the decision because he felt the former general manager was accomplishing goals that had long eluded the district in the past.

"That Melones water rights issue has been sitting for 50 years and nobody's ever done anything on it until Ed came along," he said.

Bob Rucker, the former TUD board president who decided not to seek reelection last year, was also critical of the decision. He had proposed extending Pattison's contract through 2025 after the Nov. 3 election, which saw former TUD Director Ron Kopf get voted out after Balen, Murphy and Boatright finished with more votes. Rucker's ultimately unsuccessful proposal also generated controversy for inclusion of extending Pattison's potential severance from six months to a full year salary if terminated early, because some argued it would hamstring the incoming board.

“He’s the type of person who has the energy, intelligence, the drive, the education and the desire to pull all of these things off and make them happen,” Rucker said. “It takes a special kind of a person to make that happen, not just a person to run the everyday operations of a utilities district.”

The district has already initiated the process of seeking an interim replacement for Pattison.

Balen said on Friday that she couldn’t comment on the specific reasons why she voted in favor of Pattison’s release due to confidentiality as a personnel matter, but she had “100% confidence” in the TUD staff’s ability to continue advancing the projects that are currently underway.

“I feel that the board is 100% committed to ensuring that this county has water now and into the future for growth,” she said. “There is no course correction here. We’re all moving full steam ahead.”

Murphy addressed the board’s decision in a Facebook post after the meeting and acknowledged frustration about not being able to discuss the specifics behind it without possibly opening up TUD to a lawsuit.

“I do think this is what is in the best interest of the county and want to assure you that all things that the district is involved in will move ahead smoothly,” she said. “We have very competent and dedicated TUD staff. Legal (counsel) and contractors have been, and will continue to be, the prime negotiators in our current endeavors.”

Contact Alex MacLean at amaclean@uniondemocrat.net or (209) 768-5175.

Plan to thin out forest on Mount Pinos draws immediate opposition

A disagreement about how to defend southern Kern County mountains against wildfire may spread westward to Mount Pinos.

The U.S. Forest Service, still in court over its efforts to thin out the woods near Frazier Park, has proposed chopping down trees less than two feet wide across 2 1/2 square miles near the highest peak in the Los Padres National Forest, two miles southeast of Pine Mountain Club.

A public comment period on the project opened Wednesday and extends for almost another month. It's unclear how soon tree removal could begin.

INVITING OPPOSITION

Santa Barbara-based Los Padres ForestWatch is urging people to write in and register their opposition to the proposal. It says the area is an important Chumash site popular with outdoor enthusiasts and home to sensitive plants and animals.

Noting trees removed from the mountain may end up sold for profit as timber, it accuses the Forest Service of exploiting a loophole to bypass a fuller environmental review of the project.

ForestWatch said in a news release Wednesday sensitive species such as the Mt. Pinos larkspur and flax-like monardella "may be negatively affected by the use of heavy logging and mastication equipment."

"As we race to address climate change, the need to protect our last remaining wild forests is more important than ever," ForestWatch Director of Advocacy Rebecca August said in the release. "A healthy mature network of ecosystems,

as is found on Mt. Pinos, is naturally adapted to wildfire and sequesters enormous amounts of carbon. Cutting trees will just cause unnecessary damage to these important qualities."

But the Forest Service says it's trying to address over-competition for limited resources. Spokesman Andrew Madsen said the idea is to reduce density of growth "so that these larger trees can have a fighting chance to survive."

PHYSICAL EVIDENCE

The agency says the evidence is in the high density, overlapping crown canopies and thick undergrowth on the eastside shoulder of Mount Pinos between Cuddy and Lockwood valleys covering parts of Kern and Ventura counties."

Treating these areas would reduce competition, improve the health of the (remaining) trees and increase the overall average stand diameter," a webpage about the project states. "Trees between the 24-inch and 64-inch diameter would be retained provided they are healthy and do not pose a safety risk to the public."

Information about the proposal is available online at https://www.fs.usda.gov/nfs/11558/www/nepa/113939_FSPLT3_5616166.pdf.

ForestWatch says forests like the one on Mount Pinos are "naturally resilient" to wildfire because of historical blazes that have allowed the main type of forest in the area to evolve to withstand mixed-intensity fires that burn most areas at low or moderate intensity "with patches throughout the burn at high intensity."

"Such wildfire creates complex and diverse habitat that is vital for dozens of plant and animals species," the release said.

Thinning out trees can make wildfire risks worse, it asserted, by increasing heating and drying of the forest floor, taking away fire-resistant trees and promoting the growth of invasive plants that ignite more easily.

Instead of removing trees killed by fire, drought or insects, ForestWatch wrote, they should be left as habitat and soil nutrient. It said wildfire protection efforts should focus on creating defensible space next to homes and retrofitting structures with fire-safe materials.

RECENT HISTORY

The Forest Service says the project was first shared with the public in late 2019 but that it dates back to a wildfire protection plan dating to 2006. It notes the Mount Pinos Forest Health Project is located within a federally designated insect and disease treatment area with a high risk of substantial tree mortality during the next 15 years.

It notes that in 2014 Congress categorically excluded from normal federal review procedures certain projects within areas infested by insects and disease.

In August a federal judge ruled in favor of the Forest Service's forest-thinning project near Frazier Park, finding that a full environmental review of the project was unnecessary.

The ruling has since been appealed by the plaintiff, Mountain Communities for Fire Safety, joined by Los Padres ForestWatch and the John Muir Project. It is one of two lawsuits over the government's forest-thinning efforts; the other is also on appeal after losing in federal court.

The lawsuits challenge a combined 2,800 acres, a little less than the total proposed on Mount Pinos.

Public comments about the more recent proposal, on Mount Pinos, may be submitted electronically at <https://cara.ecosystem-management.org/Public/CommentInput?Project=58380>.

The deadline is May 7. Comments may also be submitted to the Mt. Pinos Ranger District office: 34580 Lockwood Valley Road, Frazier Park, California 93225.

When wildfires rage close, Perimeter wants to tell you where to go

By Danny Crichton / April 12, 2021 / TC Tech Crunch

Out the window, a fire is raging — and it's moving ever closer. Confusion. Fear. A run for the car. Roads open and then suddenly closed by authorities. Traffic jams. A fire break that stalls the flames and then suddenly the flames jump, changing direction. Everyone has a plan for what to do — a plan that gets ripped up the second someone leaves their home to evacuate.

In the heat of the moment, everyone needs to know exactly what to do and where to go. Unfortunately, that information is rarely available in the format they need.

Bailey Farren's family has experienced this four times living in California north of San Francisco. The wildfires are more common than ever with the aridness of climate change, yet the evacuations remain a pandemonium. While a student at Berkeley, she started investigating what was happening, and why

her family constantly lacked the information they needed to get out safely and swiftly. “I thought that first responders had everything they need,” she said.

They don’t. Firefighters on the frontlines often lack the technology needed to relay accurate information to operations centers, which can then guide citizens on how to evacuate. With the pressing need to keep citizens up-to-date, most authorities rely on simple text messages to just tell everyone in, say, an entire county to evacuate, with nary more detail.

The Camp Fire in California in 2018, the worst fire in California’s history, triggered her to go beyond interviewing public safety officers to building a solution. She graduated in spring 2019, and at the same time, founded Perimeter with fellow Berkeley grad Noah Wu.

Perimeter is an emergency response platform designed to “bridge the gap between agencies and citizens” in Farren’s words by offering better two-way communication centered on geospatial data.

The company announced today that it has raised a \$1 million pre-seed round led by Shawn Merani of Parade Ventures and Dustin Dolginow, social-impact organization One World, and Alchemist Accelerator participating. Alchemist was the first money into the startup.

Using Perimeter, citizens can upload geospatial-tagged information such as a new fire outbreak or a tree that has fallen and is now blocking a road.

“Sometimes citizens have the most accurate and real-time information, before first responders show up — we want citizens to share that with ... government officials,” Farren said. That information is not immediately disseminated to the public though. Instead, first responders can vet the information, ensuring that citizens are always using accurate information in planning their actions. “We do not want it to be a social-media platform,” she explained.

In the other direction, operations centers can use Perimeter to send citizens accurate and detailed evacuation maps with routes on where to go. Unlike with just a text message, Perimeter will send both the message and a URL, which can then display maps and real-time information on how a disaster is progressing.

Right now, the platform is distributed as a web app, so that citizens don't need to have it pre-installed when a disaster strikes. Farren noted that the company is working on native apps as well, particularly for first responders who need robust offline capabilities due to intermittent cell signals that are typical in disaster zones.

Farren and her team have interviewed emergency management agencies extensively, and she says that her first customer is Palo Alto's Office of Emergency Services. Over the past two fire seasons, "we had an R&D focus in that we were building hand-in-hand with agencies ... and we took two fire seasons to beta test our technology," she said.

The company has four full-time employees working remotely, but all based in California.

CCWD must be transparent in the sale of this acreage - Letter to the Editor

By Nancy Henderson / April 15, 2021 / Calaveras Enterprise

Editor

As Copperopolis continues to grow, with the hope of retaining our rural character and improving our water system infrastructure, District 4 Supervisor

Amanda Folendorf will be focusing on several issues. Two of those issues should be:

1. An approved Copperopolis Community Plan and
2. Water and sewer infrastructure retrofit, upgrade and expansion.

Currently CCWD (Calaveras County Water District) is beginning the process of selling 92 surplus acres of land located near the Copper Cove wastewater treatment plant off Little John Road. According to CCWD General Manager Mike Minkler, there have been ongoing discussions with Tom Hix of Copper Valley Investments/Development regarding the 92 acres. These discussions were held before CCWD publicly designated the property as surplus. If sold to developer interests this will be the first of multiple access roads to the future Tuscany Hills subdivision while providing extra access to the existing Copper Valley subdivision.

CCWD must be transparent in the sale of this acreage as it will impact all of the Copper Cove community. Holding private discussions before the 92 acres were designated as district surplus was not the way for the district to build and retain confidence with their rate payers.

I look forward to having Supervisor Folendorf and CCWD working together so transparency is ensured.

Nancy Henderson,

Copperopolis

The following articles are excerpted from RCRC's publication The Barbed Wire

[Governor Signs Historic Wildfire Funding Package](#)

On Tuesday, Governor Gavin Newsom signed a historic \$536 million spending plan for early action budget funding geared toward wildfire prevention, forest resilience, and fire suppression efforts to help protect residents statewide from impacts from catastrophic wildfire events. The spending package is the largest funding commitment the state has ever made to wildfire prevention and forest resilience programs, and comes in the wake of the most destructive wildfire season in California history in 2020.

The funds include \$125 million in Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (GGRF) dollars to fulfill the Legislature's second year of commitments under Senate Bill 901 (Dodd, 2018), which promised five consecutive years of \$200 million annual appropriations from the GGRF for forest health programs. Funding in the plan includes:

- \$155 million to CAL FIRE for state forest health programs;
- \$123 million to CAL FIRE for local community fire prevention grants;
- \$25 million to CAL FIRE and CalOES for programs to assist homeowners with fire prevention retrofits (home hardening);
- \$2 million to CAL FIRE to fortify defensible space inspection activities;
- \$20 million to the Sierra Nevada Conservancy to implement projects in high fire risk areas;
- \$16 million for the Climate Catalyst Fund to help stimulate industries with low-interest finance for low carbon projects and programs such as woody biomass utilization or methane capture technologies;
- \$3 million to the Governor's Office of Planning and Research to develop strategies to encourage the use and development of new wood products;
- \$6 million to CAL FIRE and the Workforce Development Board to help develop the state's forest health and wildfire prevention workforce.

The official announcement on the early action wildfire funding can be found on Governor Gavin Newsom's website [here](#).

Bill of the Week: Assembly Bill 9 (Wood) – Fire Safety: Wildfires: Fire Adapted Communities

RCRC and a coalition of stakeholders voiced its support for Assembly Bill 9, authored by Assembly Member Jim Wood (D-Santa Rosa). AB 9 will codify the Regional Forest and Fire Capacity (RFFC) program, which creates a new regional approach to develop strategies for wildfire risk reduction project development.

As part of the 2018-19 State Budget, the state appropriated \$20 million to develop regional approaches that improve forest health and fire resilience.

The appropriation resulted in the RFFC program, which has helped fill the existing capacity gaps by granting funds to regional entities to work with local, state, and federal partners to develop Regional Priority Plans.

AB 9 will codify the RFFC program and support the Department of Conservation (DOC) in creating new regional entities and sustaining the regional entities funded to date. Additionally, AB 9 will provide statutory guidance to DOC in expanding the focus of the RFFC program to examine project development within communities as well as projects on the landscape.

As California continues to grapple with devastating impacts of catastrophic wildfires that are increasing in intensity and frequency, more tools and strategies must be developed to prevent these devastating fires. As such, RCRC and the coalition believes regional approaches are the best way to bring diverse interests together to address the unique challenges faced throughout the state.

AB 9 currently awaits consideration in the Assembly Local Government Committee. The coalition letter can be accessed [here](#). For more information,

contact Staci Heaton, RCRC Acting Vice President Governmental Affairs, by email or call (916) 447-4806.



From the wildflower laden foothills to the snowy Sierra crest, wildlife deserve connected blocks of habitat so they can move with the seasons... Photo Megan Fiske (c) yosemitenorthphotography.com

Did you know ... **California has lost over a million acres of natural land in the last twenty years?**

And right now, **we have an opportunity in California to make sure we don't lose a million more acres!** An exciting new plan to conserve 30% of California's lands and waters by 2030, called 30x30, is underway, and there are opportunities for public involvement. Keep your eyes on your inbox for the upcoming action alert with more information about this unique and significant opportunity for Californians to engage in conservation efforts in the state.

Calaveras County moves into orange tier as COVID-19 case numbers plummet

Dakota Morlan / Calaveras Enterprise / April 20, 2021

With positivity rates and demand for testing in sharp decline, Calaveras County turned another corner in the COVID-19 pandemic, entering into the less-restrictive orange tier of the state's monitoring system on Tuesday.

Interim director for the county's public health department Sam Leach announced during Tuesday's board of supervisors meeting the shift in tier placement, which is good news for restaurants and businesses that were under stricter capacity limits while in the red tier.

While the introduction to the orange tier will bring a greater sense of normalcy to Calaveras County, California Gov. Gavin Newsom announced earlier this month that the state would be moving beyond its Blueprint for a Safer Economy tier system due to 20 million vaccines administered and dropping case rates, allowing the economy to fully reopen on June 15. "On June 15, all industries across the state can return to usual operations with common-sense risk reduction measures such as masking and vaccinations," the state's website reads. "We will only progress to this stage if we continue to stay vigilant, keep wearing our masks and getting vaccinated. The state will monitor hospitalization rates, vaccine access and vaccine efficacy against variants with the option to revisit the June 15 date if needed."

To date, nearly half of Calaveras County's eligible population (those over the age of 16) have received at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine. Leach said that 10,707 residents were fully vaccinated as of April 13, while 5,504 had received their first dose.

Vaccination clinics are continuing Tuesdays and Thursdays at the Calaveras County Fairgrounds, though appointments may slow to once a week as demand is expected to drop significantly in mid-May.

Mark Twain Medical Center (MTMC) in San Andreas and local pharmacies also continue to administer vaccines, with the hospital hosting vaccine clinics each Saturday, all available through myturn.ca.gov or by calling the state's COVID-19 hotline: (833) 422-4255. Although mobile testing sites are continuing for now in locations like Copperopolis, they may soon come to an end as the demand declines.

"Testing has gone to a crawl because the need isn't so dramatic," Leach said.

As of Tuesday, there were 10 active COVID-19 cases in Calaveras County and no hospitalizations.

Testing appointments will continue to be available at Ironstone in Murphys, MTMC and local pharmacies.

[\\$500,000 grant to support broadband planning in Central Sierra](#)

Dakota Morlan / Calaveras Enterprise / April 22, 2021

The U.S. Department of Commerce's Economic Development Administration (EDA) recently awarded a \$500,000 CARES Act Recovery Assistance grant to the County of Tuolumne to create a guiding document on the development of broadband in the five-county Central Sierra region.

The grant will fund the Broadband Roadmap Project, which will guide the development of broadband in Calaveras, Amador, Alpine, Mariposa and Tuolumne counties by “addressing current business access, policies to help guide counties on a day-to-day basis, and opportunities to reduce barriers for current internet service providers to build infrastructure in the region,” an EDA news release reads.

Currently, more than 14,000 households in the region do not have broadband internet service.

Calaveras County District 5 Supervisor Ben Stopper and Economic Development Director Kathy Gallino were “integral” in acquiring the grant, which will aid the region in improving internet connectivity, according to grant writer, Cole Przybyla, Director of Innovation and Business Assistance for Tuolumne County.

“In working closely with Cole Przybyla in Tuolumne County, and Tara Schiff in Mariposa County, we focused in on this need last year—especially given the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic and the glaring disparities of high speed internet that is common to rural areas. It became very clear that we needed to address the inequality of access to reliable, minimum standard broadband—and the EDA grant was just the mechanism for us to take the first step,” Gallino told the Enterprise. “The main principal of our Broadband Roadmap Project will be to provide a guiding document on the development of broadband in the Central Sierra region by addressing current business access, policies to help guide counties on a day-to-day basis, address opportunities to reduce barriers for current internet service providers, and ultimately build infrastructure in the region.”

The Calaveras County Board of Supervisors voted to support the Broadband Roadmap application for the EDA’s CARES Act Grant.

The CARES Act (Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act), signed into law in March 2020 by former President Donald Trump, provided \$1.5 billion to the EDA for economic assistance programs addressing the impacts of the pandemic. Administered under the authority of the bureau's Economic Adjustment Assistance program, the CARES Act has provided a wide range of financial assistance to eligible communities.

The grant awarded to Tuolumne County in early April will fund planning for improved connectivity in the region, but there is still much to be done to solve Calaveras County's "internet dilemma," Gallino said.

Future efforts will include promoting private broadband businesses to leverage the municipal infrastructure and support their core networks, encouraging utilities to take on systems for co-location services during expansions, developing an organizational structure for marketing the region's capacity, identifying anchor institutions and ensuring that these infrastructure assets are secure.

"Lastly, the Broadband Roadmap will be a physical document that our Central Sierra counties will leverage to advocate efficiently that our region needs additional funding in the way of grants to encourage private infrastructure investments into our communities," Gallino said.

[Pachinger appointed director of public works](#)

Noah Berner / Calaveras Enterprise / April 22, 2021

The Calaveras County Board of Supervisors recently appointed a new department head with strong ties to the community and a long career with the county.

At a meeting on April 13, the board named Robert Pachinger, 59, of San Andreas, as the director of public works and transportation.

"You've shown your investment into this county, your loyalty, your dedication," Board Chair Ben Stopper said at the meeting. "We appreciate you, and this is well-earned from my perspective."

While Pachinger grew up in San Francisco, his parents were originally from Nicaragua. His grandfather was born in Germany, but grew up in the United States.

"He became a United States Marine and was sent to Nicaragua in the 1920s, where he met my grandma," Pachinger said.

Pachinger grew up in the Mission District of San Francisco. After studying engineering at the University of California, Berkeley for two years, he decided to join the Air Force in 1983. He served for seven years, and received a bachelor of science degree in civil engineering from the University of Colorado, Denver.

In September of 1990, Pachinger took a job with Calaveras County Public Works as a junior civil engineer. This led to a long career with the county in which Pachinger played numerous roles and worked on a wide range of projects.

"I've been involved in every aspect of public works at one time or another—budgeting, maintenance, engineering," he said. "I have a lot of experience, I know the roads, and I'm very familiar with what's going on here in the county."

Pachinger has also served as county surveyor since 2014. His recent appointment to public works director came after serving as interim director

following the departure of Joshua Pack at the end of last year. Prior to that, he served as deputy director of public works/engineering.

Over the past 30 years, Pachinger has worked with almost 10 different interim directors or directors of public works, and served as interim director three times.

Moving forward, Pachinger said that he is focused on public safety and project delivery. Fostering collaboration between various partners, including other departments, contractors and the community is also a high priority, he said.

"We have a long list of projects," Pachinger said. "We have projects in many different communities of the county, and they're all counting on us to deliver."

Pachinger keeps busy when he's not working, and is a member of the Native Sons, the American Legion and the Italian Catholic Federation. He is also on the board of Common Ground Senior Services. He and his wife, Annette, have four children between the ages of 11 and 16, whom they homeschool. He also had four children during a previous marriage, the oldest of which passed away.

"She was a part of the choir from Toyon that went to Carnegie Hall," he said. "I've had a couple of kids that were in the choir with Mrs. Hjelmervik."

Pachinger said that he is grateful to live in Calaveras County and be a part of the community.

"We all know each other here," he said. "We all pull for each other. Look at what happened in the Butte Fire. Everybody came together. I go to the store, and it's hard to get out of there quick because there's so many people that I want to talk to."

While multiple department heads have left the county for jobs elsewhere in recent years, Pachinger plans on staying put.

"I have a vested interest in the community," he said. "I'm involved in many other things besides just work. I don't intend to go anywhere. I intend to stay here. I'm not looking for a stepping stone. This is my home."

Pachinger spoke briefly following his appointment at the April 13 board of supervisors meeting.

"Chair Stopper and supervisors, thank you for your support," he said. "Thank you also to my county partners, especially my public works team. I have received support from all of you for many years. I hope to continue to merit your support. You will always have mine. We have a lot of work to do. We will get it done together."



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