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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CALIFORNIA GOVERNOR GAVIN NEWSOM TOURS KINGS COUNTY IN RESPONSE TO FLOOD ADVOCACY EFFORTS

HANFORD, CA (April 26, 2023) – On Tuesday, April 25, 2023, California Governor Gavin Newsom and members of his Administration visited the Tulare Basin to tour flooding impacts firsthand, meet with local community leaders, and reiterate the state's commitment to supporting and providing appropriate assistance to counties impacted by recent and anticipated flooding this spring and summer. Supervisor Richard Valle (District 2) and Acting County Administrative Officer Kyria Martinez represented Kings County at the event, which included participation from Karla Nemeth, DWR Director, and Nancy Ward, Cal OES Director.

The Governor's visit follows a productive regional meeting held last Friday between Kings County, Tulare County, and representatives from the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) and the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES).

"The safety and well-being of our residents and community remain, and we are committed to advocating for the resources needed to address this issue immediately," said Kyria Martinez, Acting County Administrative Officer. *"We appreciate the Governor's support, and look forward to working with his Administration to properly prepare for the flooding impacts expected in the coming months."*

The Governor's tour began in Allensworth in Tulare County and concluded at the Hansen Ranches, private landowner, in Corcoran. Hansen Ranches provided a tour of his property, directing the Governor and participants through flood impacted areas in the unincorporated areas.

"California is here for the Tulare Basin, the Central Valley and all parts of our state still dealing with the impacts of the historic deluge of atmospheric rivers we experienced and preparing for future flooding due to snowmelt," said Governor Newsom. *"Our focus is keeping these communities safe, and we're working with our federal and local counterparts to provide on-the-ground assistance and the support locals need. This weather whiplash is what the climate crisis looks like – and that's why California is investing billions of dollars to protect our communities from weather extremes like flooding, drought and extreme heat."*

Kings County continues to work with the state to secure resources to address both the recent and the anticipated flooding impacts.

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