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**For Immediate Release**

## **San Joaquin Valley Insurance Authority Attributes Calculated Growth and Responsible Planning to Competitive and Successful Renewal for 2015**

The San Joaquin Valley Insurance Authority (SJVIA) recently approved an overall rate increase that is equal to **1.17%** for its HMO and PPO health plans for member entities effective January 1, 2015. The favorable renewal follows several years of low, single-digit increases for the SJVIA that has been lower than the industry trend and averages less than 4.5%.

Fresno County Supervisor Debbie Poochigian, who serves as Chair on the SJVIA Board of Directors, said **"The SJVIA has brought much needed stability to health insurance premiums based on careful planning and a focus on minimizing fixed costs"**. Tulare County Supervisor Pete Vander Poel, who serves as Vice Chair on the SJVIA Board, said **"The innovative approach focusing on wellness exemplifies our continued focus on the well-being of our employees"**.

The SJVIA was formed in late 2009 intent on achieving efficiency and stability through a larger purchasing pool. It has grown since its formation from the founding entities, the County of Fresno and the County of Tulare, to now include 12 additional Public Sector Entities. At that time the SJVIA had expenditures of approximately \$66 million providing healthcare benefits for over 12,000 employees and dependents. With the additional growth and additional lines of coverage, the SJVIA's 2015 budget has grown to over \$100 million providing benefits to more than 17,000 members. The SJVIA growth will continue with the addition of several new members in January 2015.

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