

**SJVIA PARTICIPATION AGREEMENT
for 2026**

THIS AGREEMENT ("Agreement") is made and entered into as of the 12th day of December 2025, by and between **COUNTY OF TULARE**, a political subdivision of the State of California, hereinafter referred to as "**COUNTY OF TULARE**," and the **SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY INSURANCE AUTHORITY**, a joint powers agency, hereinafter referred to as "**SJVIA**." The COUNTY OF TULARE and SJVIA are each a "Party" and together are the "Parties" to this Agreement.

WITNESSETH:

WHEREAS, the purpose of the SJVIA is to develop and provide various health insurance programs for health, pharmacy, vision, dental, and mental health, including related administrative services for such programs to be provided by the insurance provider(s) and the SJVIA and its agents and consultants (collectively, "Various Benefits"), for the benefit of participating entities; and

WHEREAS, the COUNTY OF TULARE wishes to participate in the SJVIA Various Benefits for the purpose of purchasing health insurance programs, and/or other benefits in a cost-effective manner for its participating employees; and

WHEREAS, the COUNTY OF TULARE elects to participate in the selected SJVIA health insurance programs as referenced and summarized in Exhibit "A" which is attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference (collectively, "SELECTED PROGRAMS"); and

WHEREAS, the SJVIA represents that it will contract with Insurance Providers which will provide its Various Benefits under the terms and conditions of a written contracts between the SJVIA and the Insurance Providers (the "Insurance Contracts") for each of the COUNTY OF TULARE's participating employees/ retirees/ Special District employees/ COBRA participants; and

WHEREAS, the SJVIA represents that the rates for the Various Benefits under the SELECTED PROGRAMS to be provided under the Insurance Contracts and by the SJVIA, including the costs of its agents and consultants, are set forth in Exhibit "B" which is attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference; and

WHEREAS, the COUNTY OF TULARE and the SJVIA now desire to enter into this Agreement to secure the COUNTY OF TULARE's commitment to remit premium payments to the SJVIA for the Various Benefits to be provided under the Insurance Contracts, and the COUNTY OF TULARE's portion of the costs of the SJVIA's agents and consultants, as provided herein, in return for SJVIA's commitment to fulfill its obligations hereunder.

NOW THEREFORE, in consideration of their mutual promises, covenants and conditions, the Parties agree as follows:

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1. **COUNTY OF TULARE'S OBLIGATIONS:** The COUNTY OF TULARE acknowledges that this Agreement requires a commitment to participate in SJVIA Various Benefits effective January 1, 2026, through December 31, 2026. Within (10) business days of the date that SJVIA is required under the Insurance Contracts to pay any insurance premium and/or similar charge to the Insurance Provider, the COUNTY OF TULARE shall remit to SJVIA the amount necessary to pay the required premium payment based on the intervals of such payments under the Insurance Contracts.

The COUNTY OF TULARE may also participate in SELECTED PROGRAMS as referenced in Exhibit "A" and shall comply with all applicable terms and provisions of the Insurance Contracts and this Agreement, effective January 1, 2026. The attached rates in Exhibit "B" reference only the SELECTED PROGRAMS the COUNTY OF TULARE is electing. Exhibit "B" also references the effective term such rates apply to the COUNTY OF TULARE which are effective January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2026. The COUNTY OF TULARE agrees that it may only elect to participate in additional health insurance programs, or elect to make changes to the SELECTED PROGRAMS, through subsequent amendment to this Agreement or separate agreement. Subsequent renewals are based on the SJVIA underwriting guidelines. The SJVIA uses actuarially based underwriting standards.

2. **SJVIA'S OBLIGATIONS:** The SJVIA shall approve and execute related Insurance Contracts. Following execution of the Insurance Contracts, (i) SJVIA shall make available the fully-executed copy of the Insurance Contracts to COUNTY OF TULARE, (ii) SJVIA shall enforce SJVIA's rights under the Insurance Contracts for the benefit of COUNTY OF TULARE, and (iii) SJVIA shall perform SJVIA's obligations under the terms and conditions of the Insurance Contracts, including making timely payment of premium payments, and/or any similar charges, necessary to keep the Insurance Contracts in full force and effect.

3. **MODIFICATION:** Any matters of this Agreement may be modified from time to time but only by the written consent of all the Parties hereto without, in any way, affecting the remainder hereof.

4. **NON-ASSIGNMENT:** Neither Party hereto shall assign, transfer, or subcontract this Agreement nor their rights or duties under this Agreement without the prior written consent of the other Party hereto.

5. **AUDITS AND INSPECTIONS:** The SJVIA shall at any time during usual SJVIA business hours, upon request by the COUNTY OF TULARE, and as often as the COUNTY OF TULARE may deem necessary, make available to the COUNTY OF TULARE for examination all SJVIA records and data for inspection, examination, and audit by the COUNTY OF TULARE with respect to the matters covered by this Agreement. SJVIA shall be subject to the examination and audit of the State Auditor General for a period of three (3) years after final payment under contract (Government Code section 8546.7).

6. **NOTICES:** The persons having authority to give and receive notices under this Agreement and their addresses include the following:

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COUNTY OF TULARE

Lupe Garza
Human Resources Director
2500 West Burrel
Visalia, CA 93291
lugarza@tularecounty.ca.gov

SJVIA

Hollis Magill
SJVIA Assistant Manager
2220 Tulare St., 16th Floor
Fresno, CA 93721
hmagill@fresnocountyca.gov

Any and all notices between the COUNTY OF TULARE and the SJVIA provided for or permitted under this Agreement shall be in writing and delivered either by person service, by first-class United States mail, by an overnight commercial courier service, or by telephonic facsimile transmission. A notice delivered by personal service is effective upon service to the recipient. A notice delivered by first-class United States mail is effective three business days after deposit in the United States mail, postage prepaid, addressed to the recipient. A notice delivered by an overnight commercial courier service is effective one business day after deposit with the overnight commercial courier service, delivery fees prepaid, with delivery instructions given for next day delivery, addressed to the recipient. A notice delivered by telephonic facsimile is effective when transmission to the recipient is completed (but, if such transmission is completed outside of COUNTY OF TULARE business hours, then such delivery shall be deemed to be effective at the next beginning of a COUNTY OF TULARE business day), provided that the sender maintains a machine record of the completed transmission. For all claims arising out of or related to this Agreement, nothing in this section establishes, waives, or modifies any claims presentation requirements or procedures provided by law, including but not limited to the Government Claims Act (Division 3.6 of Title 1 of the Government Code, beginning with section 810).

7. **GOVERNING LAW:** The Parties agree that for the purposes of venue, performance under this Agreement is to be in Fresno County, California. The rights and obligations of the Parties and all interpretation and performance of this Agreement shall be governed in all respects by the laws of the State of California.

8. **TERM:** This Agreement shall become effective beginning at 12:01 a.m. on January 1, 2026 and shall terminate on December 31, 2026.

9. **TERMINATION:**

a. The terms of this Agreement, and the health insurance programs, Administrative Services, and/or SJVIA Staff Costs to be provided hereunder, are contingent on the approval of funds by the COUNTY OF TULARE. Should sufficient funds not be allocated, the services provided may be modified, or this Agreement terminated at any time by giving SJVIA 120 days advance written notice.

b. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Article, if the COUNTY OF TULARE fails to make in full any payment when due pursuant to Article 1, the SJVIA shall have the right, in its sole discretion, to terminate this Agreement, without notice, effective at the expiration of the last period for which full premium payment was made. Notwithstanding such termination or suspension, the SJVIA, in its sole discretion, may accept late payment or delinquent amounts and, upon acceptance, this Agreement may be reinstated retroactively to the last date for which full premium payment was made. Any such acceptance of a delinquent payment by the SJVIA shall not be deemed a

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waiver of this provision for termination of this Agreement in the event of any future failure of the COUNTY OF TULARE to make timely payments of any amounts due under this Agreement.

10. SEVERABILITY: In the event any provisions of this Agreement are held by a court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, void, or unenforceable, the Parties will use their best efforts to meet and confer to determine how to mutually amend such provisions with valid and enforceable provisions, and the remaining provisions of this Agreement will nevertheless continue in full force and effect without being impaired or invalidated in any way.

11. DISPUTE RESOLUTION: Any controversy or dispute between the Parties arising out of this Agreement shall be submitted to mediation. The mediator will be selected by mutual agreement. If the matter cannot be resolved through mediation or if the Parties cannot agree upon a mediator, the matter shall be submitted to arbitration and such arbitration shall comply with and be governed by the provisions of the California Arbitration Act, of the California Code of Civil Procedure.

12. ENTIRE AGREEMENT: This Agreement constitutes the entire agreement between the SJVIA and COUNTY OF TULARE with respect to the subject matter hereof and supersedes all previous agreement negotiations, proposals, commitments, writings, advertisements, publications, and understandings of any nature whatsoever unless expressly included in this Agreement.

13. COUNTERPARTS: This Agreement may be executed in one or more original counterparts, all of which together will constitute one and the same agreement.

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(Go to next page for signatures)

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**SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY INSURANCE
AUTHORITY:**

COUNTY OF TULARE

By: _____
Amy Shuklian
SJVIA Board President

By: _____
Pete Vander Poel
Chair, Board of Supervisors

Date: _____

Date: _____

**REVIEWED & RECOMMENDED
FOR APPROVAL**

ATTEST:
Jason T. Britt, County Administrative
Officer/Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

By: _____
~~Lupe Garza-Hollis~~ Magill
SJVIA Manager

By: _____

**APPROVED AS TO LEGAL FORM:
TULARE COUNTY COUNSEL**

By: Jeffrey L. Kuhn
Deputy

Matter No. 20231255

Jlk/11-24-2025/20231255/2476754