

2021 Kern County Community Survey Results

A community priorities study was conducted by the independent research firm of FM3 in Kern County. The results show residents prioritize funding for public safety and life services, including maintaining law enforcement, fire and 911 emergency response, and recruiting qualified firefighters and paramedics in these challenging times.

Kern County Fire Chief Aaron Duncan echoes the importance of this investment.

“Residents understand that seconds count in an emergency. With a bit more than six in ten calls made to County dispatch being medical emergencies or rescues, we must ensure we are adequately recruiting, retaining, training and equipping our first responders so they can save lives in any type of emergency. It’s important we continue this conversation with the community about public safety needs,” he said.

Kern County commissioned this study to solicit input throughout our region on community priorities. Specifically, in light of Sacramento attacks on the regional economy and increasingly expensive state regulations. Respondents indicated addressing mental health and addiction challenges are among their top priorities, with three-quarters of respondents saying the County needs additional local funding.

Chief Administrative Officer Ryan Alsop is grateful for resident’s feedback in this capacity.

“This community input is invaluable and appreciated. Public safety is always our top priority as well,” he said.

Alsop continues to stress the importance of supporting our community’s most critical needs and services.

“In the last ten years alone, Kern County has lost \$103 million dollars due to Sacramento’s extreme regulations. We must continue to address our own region’s local concerns and priorities without their interference, and I look forward to continuing this conversation with County residents,” Alsop continued.

“We want to thank the hundreds of Kern County residents that took the time to respond to this study and will utilize this critical input moving forward as we plan for the FY 2022-2023 budget,” said Alsop.

Please be advised this critical conversation will be ongoing, as we diligently work to strengthen the community and find solutions to the most pressing issues in Kern County.