



Central Valley Journalism Collaborative Announces New Leadership in Pivotal Moment of Growth

CVJC Board Names Joe Kieta Executive Director, Victor Patton Promoted to Executive Editor

FRESNO, Calif. – The [Central Valley Journalism Collaborative](#) (CVJC) announced today that its Executive Editor, Joe Kieta, has been promoted to Executive Director, and the organization’s Editor in Chief, Victor Patton, will assume the role of Executive Editor. The Fresno-based nonprofit was founded in 2021 and serves as a hub for local news in the Central Valley by supporting media and journalists, identifying and advocating for regional media needs, and producing original news.

The leadership announcement comes at a time of significant growth for the organization, as it expands its funder partners and offerings in the Central Valley. The region lacks high-quality news sources compared to more affluent regions, and CVJC is supported by several national, California-based, and regional philanthropic foundations to form partnerships to provide content, reporters, and/or training to organizations like [Cap Radio](#), [Fresnoland](#), [KVPR](#), [SJV Water](#), and the [Stockton Observer](#).

“CVJC has made impressive progress in its work, staff, and impact across the Central Valley, and Joe has been a big reason why,” said [Priscilla Enriquez, President and CEO of the James B. McClatchy Foundation](#), an early funder of CVJC. Enriquez, who serves as CVJC’s Board Chair, continued, “Joe has been an innovative editor and then executive leader for CVJC since joining, expanding its offerings, partnerships, and reach in ways that have increased the amount and quality of trustworthy news in the region.”

Kieta joined CVJC as Executive Editor in 2024 after decades of leadership and editor roles in newsrooms, including the *Fresno Bee*, *Modesto Bee*, and *Merced Sun-Star*, among others. He will hand over Executive Editor duties to Patton, a veteran editor and journalist with ties to the Central Valley. Patton served as CVJC’s Editor-in-Chief since 2023 and held editor and reporter roles at the *Fresno Bee*, *Modesto Bee*, *Sacramento Business Journal*, and *Merced Sun-Star*.

“CVJC and the Central Valley are incredibly fortunate to have a local, veteran journalist like Victor,” said Kieta. “Victor has exhibited — in his previous roles and now at CVJC — a keen eye for how newsrooms can tell the stories that need to be told, especially for issues and communities too often overlooked.”

As Executive Editor, he will oversee a diverse staff who produce original reporting for multiple newsrooms and reporting initiatives that CVJC started, all for free, to readers and media partners. This includes the *Modesto Focus*, *Merced Focus*, and *Intersection*, a “Health Equity Reporting Lab” that provides free content to media organizations.

About the Central Valley Journalism Collaborative

The Central Valley Journalism Collaborative (CVJC) is the hub for local news in and for the Central Valley. The Fresno-based nonprofit strengthens and expands trustworthy local news in the region, particularly the San Joaquin Valley, by supporting media and journalists, identifying and advocating for regional media needs, and producing original news with reporters who are from and represent our diverse communities. Learn more at www.cvlocaljournalism.org.