

State of California  
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*Promoting excellence in agriculture awareness and education.*

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## **PRESS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** January 27, 2020  
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### **WINEMA HALL SELECTED FOR CRITICAL UPGRADE**

**YREKA** – The 10<sup>th</sup> District Agricultural Association is pleased to announce that the Siskiyou Golden Fairgrounds has been awarded competitive grant funding to upgrade the Winema Hall heating and cooling system. Included in Proposition 68, a 2018 parks and water bond, was some funds for fairground improvement projects with priority put on projects that assist with emergencies and health and human services. “Winema Hall is the building used for emergency services in the summer and winter on the fairgrounds” stated CEO, Cliff Munson, “The antiquated heating system, two 1950’s propane heaters, and the swamp coolers are just not adequate to serve the needs of the community during a disaster.” The competitive grant had all 76 California Fairgrounds submit 5 projects each and from the 380 projects 12 were selected for a “deep dive” by the committee. The Winema HVAC project was selected for the “deep dive” and the fairgrounds received notice last week that our project had been awarded the \$351,000.00 to make the requested improvements.

In addition to the Proposition 68 funds, our very own 10<sup>th</sup> DAA Friends of the Fair has spent two years working to create a commercial kitchen in Winema Hall and that project is in phase II this year and should be completed in early March 2020. The newly renovated kitchen will be fully certified and available for rent to our local cottage industries that require a commercial kitchen to create products. “This kitchen project combined with the new HVAC system will make Winema Hall a great location for family events, meetings and gatherings of all kinds,” stated Cliff Munson, CEO, “and in times of emergency, it will be able to provide the services required to serve our community.”

California Fairgrounds were defunded for most of the last decade after funding was eliminated in 2011. Catastrophic wildfires have had fairgrounds across the State put into service to serve our communities in a completely different way from traditional fairground uses where the facilities were utilized for community events. The Siskiyou Golden Fair started in 1859 in Fort Jones and moved to Yreka in 1866, where the fair was held in the park on Miner Street. It moved to the current location in 1925 when the property was purchased by locals and donated to the county. The 2020 Siskiyou Golden Fair, “Seeing is Believing” will be held August 12-16, 2020.