

**Rural County Representatives of California
Board of Directors Meeting
Wednesday, March 15, 2017 – 9:00 a.m.
1215 K Street, Suite 1650 – Board Room
Sacramento, CA 95814**

MINUTES

Call to Order, Determination of Quorum and Self Introductions

Chair, Supervisor Bob Williams, Tehama County, called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m. A quorum was determined at that time. Those present:

<u>Supervisor</u>	<u>County</u>
David Griffith	Alpine
Brian Oneto	Amador
Doug Teeter	Butte
Jack Garamendi Jr.	Calaveras
Gerry Hemmingsen	Del Norte
Michael Ranalli	El Dorado
John Viegas	Glenn
Rex Bohn	Humboldt
Matt Kingsley	Inyo
Jim Steele	Lake
Aaron Albaugh	Lassen
David Rogers	Madera
Kevin Cann	Mariposa
Carre Brown	Mendocino
Geri Byrne	Modoc
Stacy Corless	Mono
Diane Dillon	Napa
Jim Holmes	Placer
Anthony Botelho	San Benito
Les Baugh	Shasta
Lee Adams	Sierra
Michael Kobseff	Siskiyou
Larry Munger	Sutter
Bob Williams	Tehama
John Fenley	Trinity
Kuyler Crocker	Tulare
Randy Hanvelt	Tuolumne
Matt Rexroad	Yolo
Andy Vasquez	Yuba

Absent

Kim Dolbow Vann	Colusa
Michael Kelley	Imperial

Daron McDaniel	Merced
Dan Miller	Nevada
Kevin Goss	Plumas
Lynn Compton	San Luis Obispo

Others in Attendance

Supervisor Lynn Morgan, Amador County
Supervisor Miles Menetrey, Mariposa County
Supervisor Ed Valenzuela, Siskiyou County
Emily Goodwin, Ygrene Energy Fund
Robin Rau, Ygrene Energy Fund
George Apostolopoulos, Ygrene Energy Fund
Robert Bendorf Jr., Renovate America / HERO Program
Geoffrey Neill, CSAC
Ed Horton

Staff in Attendance

Greg Norton, President & CEO
Craig Ferguson, Vice President
Lisa McCargar, Chief Financial Officer
Justin Caporusso, Vice President External Affairs / Administration
Paul A. Smith, Vice President Governmental Affairs
Mary-Ann Warmerdam, Senior Legislative Advocate
Tracy Rhine, Legislative Advocate
Mary Pitto, Regulatory Affairs Advocate
Staci Heaton, Regulatory Affairs Advocate
Sarah Bolnik, Office Manager
Terrance Rodgers, Economic Development Officer
Maggie Chui, Governmental Affairs Assistant
Santinia Pasquini, Legislative Analyst
Nick Konovaloff, Legislative Analyst

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of Minutes – January 18, 2017

Chair, Bob Williams, Tehama County, called for approval of the minutes from the January 18, 2017 Board of Directors Meeting.

Supervisor David Rogers, Madera County, motioned to approve the minutes from the January 18, 2017 Board of Directors Meeting. Supervisor Michael Kobseff, Siskiyou County, seconded the motion. Motion passes unanimously.

Abstaining: Supervisor Diane Dillon, Napa County; Supervisor John Fenley, Trinity County; Supervisor Matt Rexroad, Yolo County

RCRC Chair's Report

RCRC Chair, Supervisor Bob Williams, Tehama County, welcomed all of the Supervisors to the meeting.

Member County Concerns and Issues

Supervisor Gerry Hemmingsen, Del Norte County, reported that "Last Change Grade" – a key segment of U.S. Highway 101 in Del Norte County – was constricted to 18 feet wide after the majority of the pavement eroded. Supervisor Hemmingsen noted that many of the roads in Del Norte County are in a deplorable condition.

Supervisor Carre Brown, Mendocino County, reported that she received a notice for a seminar on USFS/BLM coordination laws being held in Yolo County and urged other counties to attend. Supervisor Brown reminded her peers that their voice does matter.

Supervisor Les Baugh, Shasta County, asked RCRC staff the status of Senate Bill 54 (de León), which addresses the ability of state and local law enforcement to have conversations with federal officials regarding the enforcement of federal immigration-related laws.

Supervisor Andy Vasquez, Yuba County, voiced his concern that Proposition 1 water bond monies should not be diverted to assist in the repair of the Oroville Spillway. It was his sentiment that these monies are needed and approved for projects that would augment water supply projects such as the Sites Reservoir Project. The responsibility for repairs more appropriately lies with the California Department of Water Resources and the State Water Project Contractors, owners and operators of the project, respectively.

Supervisor Jim Steele, Lake County, reported that the Valley Fire and the recent flooding are keeping Lake County in a continued state of emergency and disaster.

Supervisor Larry Munger, Sutter County, reported that with the recent emergencies in Butte County due to the damages sustained at the Lake Oroville Spillway, Sutter County hosted a meeting that more than 300 people attended. The meeting focused on additional flood control and emergency evacuation procedures.

Supervisor Dave Rogers, Madera County, echoed the concerns expressed by Supervisor Vasquez regarding the Proposition 1 water bond monies being diverted away from their original purpose. Of particular concern is the implication of diverting these monies from projects such as Temperance Flat Reservoir.

Supervisor Rogers also expressed his views that the High-Speed Rail Project is flailing due to pronouncements that there will be no additional federal funding.

Supervisor Randy Hanvelt, Tuolumne County, discussed two bills of concern to residents in Tuolumne County: Assembly Bill 71 (Chiu), which addresses funding for farmworker housing but also eliminates the mortgage deduction for interest payments on a second home; and Assembly Bill 199 (Chu), which would apply prevailing wage to

specified residential housing projects that involve public monies. Supervisor Hanvelt requested RCRC staff provide a brief update on these measures during the Legislative Update portion of the Agenda.

Supervisor Hanvelt also expressed concerns about the inadequacies of the Forest Carbon Action Plan (Plan), stating that it doesn't do much to lay out a plan to manage the State's forest lands. Supervisor Hanvelt urged counties to comment on the Plan by the comment deadline.

Supervisor Matt Rexroad, Yolo County, informed the RCRC Board of Directors how the majority of the evacuees from the Lake Oroville Spillway disaster took shelter in Yolo County. Supervisor Rexroad discussed issues that occurred with the American Red Cross in order to have Butte County residents utilize sleeping cots.

Supervisor Lynn Morgan, Amador County, inquired about Assembly Bill 496 (Fong) related to transportation funding. Supervisor Morgan was advised that this bill will be discussed later in the Agenda when the RCRC Board of Directors discusses Senate Bill 1 (Beall)/Assembly Bill 1 (Frazier) – a comprehensive transportation funding proposal.

Public Comments

None

President's Report

Greg Norton, President and CEO, updated the Board of Directors on recent staff visits. In the past two months, staff has made visits to Butte, Calaveras, Colusa, Lake, Napa, Tehama, and Yuba Counties to attend seminars, meetings, or to make presentations at the Board of Supervisors weekly meetings. Upcoming visits are scheduled for Nevada, Alpine, Butte, and Sutter Counties in the coming weeks.

Mr. Norton reported that Justin Caporusso, Vice President of External Affairs/Administration, has been appointed Chair of the California Forestry Watershed Alliance (CAFWA).

Speakers

Special Guests, Jeff Gozzo, Office of Senate President pro Tempore Kevin de León, and Kevin Bassett, Chief of Staff, Senator Patricia Bates, presented to the RCRC Board of Directors on how to be more effective in legislative advocacy efforts. Drawing on their respective experiences, both provided their perspectives in advancing issues of importance for RCRC.

April 2017 Board of Directors Meeting

Justin Caporusso provided an overview of the April 26-27, 2017 Board of Directors meeting taking place in Tehama County, the County of the current RCRC Chair.

Chair, Supervisor Bob Williams, provided a detailed description of the different events that will be taking place in Tehama County during this two-day gathering.

The Board of Directors is asked to please RSVP to Sarah Bolnik, Office Manager, by April 13, 2017.

Speaker

Special Guests, Ashlie M. Bryant, President and Co-Founder of 3Strands Global Foundation, and Vanessa Russell, Founder and Executive Director of Love Never Fails, presented to the RCRC Board of Directors on the PROTECT human trafficking education program. RCRC is a major sponsor of PROTECT.

NACo Legislative Conference and Federal Advocacy Update

The RCRC Officers recently attended the National Association of Counties (NACo) Legislative Conference in Washington D.C. Chair Supervisor Bob Williams, First Vice Chair Supervisor Rex Bohn, Humboldt County, Second Vice Chair Supervisor Randy Hanvelt, Supervisor Kevin Cann, Mariposa County (serving as RCRC's representative to WIR), and Supervisor Lee Adams, Sierra County (who attended in place of the Immediate Past Chair, Supervisor John Viegas, Glenn County), discussed their time in Washington attending a variety of meetings, including an extensive number of lobbying visits on Capitol Hill. The RCRC Officers lobbied on topics such as the reauthorization of the Secure Rural Schools (SRS) program, full funding for the Federal Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) program, the Wildfire Disaster Funding Act, and efforts to secure a transportation/infrastructure funding package. Supervisor Bohn also addressed a number of meetings regarding the ability of state-sanctioned cannabis industry participants to secure financial services under federal law.

Paul A. Smith, Vice President Governmental Affairs, provided an update on the status of the reauthorization of SRS and full funding for Federal PILT. Mr. Smith also stated that it is expected that legislation will be released regarding forestry reform, and it will likely address short-term funding of SRS.

California Tree Mortality Task Force

Staci Heaton, Regulatory Affairs Advocate, provided the RCRC Board of Directors an update on the California Tree Mortality Task Force (Task Force). Ms. Heaton attends monthly Task Force meetings as well as multiple meetings each month of various Task Force subcommittees. Ms. Heaton updated the Board on a Task Force workshop held on February 9, 2017 to address questions for counties regarding homeowners insurance being cancelled and/or not renewed due to high fire risk. In attendance was staff from the Department of Insurance, the Personal Insurance Federation, and the Association of California Insurance Companies.

Ms. Heaton discussed a joint hearing on February 27, 2017 between the Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee and the Assembly of Natural Resources Committee. The meeting was the first in a series to discuss the issues and solutions surrounding California's forest management and tree mortality problems, and focused on the use of prescribed fire.

In-Home Support Services MOE Update

Tracy Rhine, Legislative Advocate, and Kelly Brooks-Lindsey, Hurst Brooks Espinosa, discussed the status of the In-Home Support Services (IHSS) MOE. Specifically, Ms. Brooks-Lindsey outlined the ongoing negotiations with the Department of Finance and the Legislature to mitigate the impacts of the action taken by the Governor in January 2017 that is estimated to shift \$623 million in costs to California counties this upcoming fiscal year. The Department of Finance is working with the County Welfare Directors Association to determine the county-by-county impacts of the IHSS MOE repeal, and different options for addressing future costs, including creating a new MOE.

State Legislation

Paul A. Smith discussed recently-introduced legislation, including items that RCRC is sponsoring and/or offering a position:

- One specific measure is Senate Bill 148 (Wiener), which authorizes the State Board of Equalization or a county (upon agreement with the Board of Supervisors) to collect payments for satisfying tax and fee obligations from cannabis-related businesses for a state agency. RCRC has suggested a number of amendments to the author, and if those amendments are accepted, RCRC will provide an active “support” position. The amendments, if adopted, will provide an option for counties to utilize in order that county-imposed fees and taxes are adequately collected.
- Mr. Smith also made the RCRC Board of Directors aware of Senate Bill 691 (Lara), and Senate Constitutional Amendment 11 (Lara), which would convert locally-elected offices into partisan offices. Mr. Smith indicated that these two legislative items are likely to be placed on the April 2017 RCRC agenda for the Board’s consideration.
- Per Supervisor Hanvelt’s request during County Concerns, Mr. Smith provided an update on the status of both Assembly Bill 71 (Chiu) and Assembly Bill 199 (Chu).

Mary-Ann Warmerdam, Senior Legislative Advocate, noted there are a number of bills of interest, but called to the Board’s attention to two areas of particular activity:

- Senate Bill 58, authored by Senator Mike McGuire and sponsored by RCRC, is a re-introduction of last year’s SB 1188, also by Senator McGuire. This measure would restore the requirement that the State’s Payment in Lieu of Taxes program funding be a mandatory obligation of the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. Specifically, SB 58 reverses legislation enacted nearly two years ago which could make these payments permissive. There is no opposition to the measure, and, based on past experience, SB 58 is anticipated to move to the Senate Appropriations Suspense File where it will be considered sometime in May 2017.

- There are several measures that rely on the use of the CalEnviroScreen tool to define Disadvantaged Communities (DACs). Given that CalEnviroScreen does not capture many of the communities in RCRC member counties, RCRC is meeting with the various authors to advocate on behalf of multiple definitions, any one of which might allow our communities an opportunity to compete for the program benefits that might be available. The programs involved range from worker training funds to solar installations. Even if not successful in having alternative definitions incorporated into the various measures, we are using this as an opportunity to educate legislators and staff of the limitations of relying on CalEnviroScreen as the only definition.

Staci Heaton, Regulatory Affairs Advocate, discussed:

- Assembly Bill 524 (Bigelow), which would provide a personal tax deduction for tree removal of dead and dying trees on personal property. RCRC has a support position on this bill.
- Assembly Bill 1433 (Wood), which relates to greenhouse gasses. RCRC was approached to provide comments on this legislation as it proposes that 20 percent of Cap-and-Trade monies be allotted to forest health and restoration annually. Of concern to RCRC is that the entire 20 percent allocation would be given to the Wildlife Conservation Board instead of other agencies such as CAL FIRE and the Sierra Nevada Conservancy that already have established grant programs and projects to work with the USFS to improve forest and watershed health on federally managed lands.

Tracy Rhine discussed three bills involving revisions to the Williamson Act: Assembly Bill 1564 (Arambula); Assembly Bill 925 (Frazier); and Senate Bill 435 (Dodd). RCRC will be part of a stakeholder group that will be reviewing these measures as well as overall improvements to the Williamson Act, including ways to resume subventions to counties.

Senate Bill 1 (Beall)/Assembly Bill 1 (Frazier): Transportation Funding

Paul A. Smith provided a brief overview to the RCRC Board of Directors regarding transportation funding, indicating that the most-viable legislation to enhance funding is Senate Bill 1/Assembly Bill 1. SB 1/AB 1 is an extensive tax increase upon motorists to better fund transportation improvements, primarily state highways and local thoroughfares. Mr. Smith provided the Board with an overview of the pros and cons to AB1/SB1, and explained that given the nature of this very controversial proposal, the RCRC Board of Directors should arrive at a position without a staff recommendation.

The Board of Directors discussed at length the different pros and cons as it related to their particular counties.

Supervisor Michael Kobseff, Siskiyou County, motioned to adopt a “No Position” position on SB1/AB1. Supervisor Doug Teeter, Butte County, seconded the motion. Motion fails by the following roll call vote:

Aye: Supervisor Doug Teeter, Butte County; Supervisor Michael Ranalli, El Dorado County; Supervisor Aaron Albaugh, Lassen County; Supervisor Geri Byrne, Modoc County; Supervisor Michael Kobseff, Siskiyou County; Supervisor Bob Williams, Tehama County

Nay: Supervisor David Griffith, Alpine County; Supervisor Brian Oneto, Amador County; Supervisor Jack Garamendi, Calaveras County; Supervisor John Viegas, Glenn County; Supervisor Rex Bohn, Humboldt County; Supervisor Matt Kingsley, Inyo County; Supervisor Jim Steele, Lake County; Supervisor Kevin Cann, Mariposa County; Supervisor Carre Brown, Mendocino County; Supervisor Stacy Corless, Mono County; Supervisor Diane Dillon, Napa County; Supervisor Jim Holmes, Placer County; Supervisor Les Baugh, Shasta County; Supervisor Lee Adams, Sierra County; Supervisor Larry Munger, Sutter County; Supervisor John Fenley, Trinity County; Supervisor Kuyler Crocker, Tulare County; Supervisor Randy Hanvelt, Tuolumne County; Supervisor Andy Vasquez, Yuba County

Abstain: Supervisor Gerry Hemmingsen, Del Norte County

Absent: Supervisor Kim Dolbow-Vann, Colusa County; Supervisor Michael Kelley, Imperial County; Supervisor David Rogers, Madera County; Supervisor Daron McDaniel, Merced County; Supervisor Dan Miller, Nevada County; Supervisor Kevin Goss, Plumas County; Supervisor Anthony Botelho, San Benito County; Supervisor Lynn Compton, San Luis Obispo County; Supervisor Matt Rexroad, Yolo County

Supervisor Andy Vasquez, Yuba County, motioned to adopt a “Support” position on SB1/AB1. Supervisor Stacy Corless, Mono County, seconded the motion. Motion passes by the following roll call vote taken:

Aye: Supervisor David Griffith, Alpine County; Supervisor Brian Oneto, Amador County; Supervisor Jack Garamendi, Calaveras County; Supervisor John Viegas, Glenn County; Supervisor Rex Bohn, Humboldt County; Supervisor Matt Kingsley, Inyo County; Supervisor Jim Steele, Lake County; Supervisor Kevin Cann, Mariposa County; Supervisor Carre Brown, Mendocino County; Supervisor Stacy Corless, Mono County; Supervisor Diane Dillon, Napa County; Supervisor Jim Holmes, Placer County; Supervisor Les Baugh, Shasta County; Supervisor Lee Adams, Sierra County; Supervisor Larry Munger, Sutter County; Supervisor John Fenley, Trinity County; Supervisor Kuyler Crocker, Tulare County; Supervisor Randy Hanvelt, Tuolumne County; Supervisor Andy Vasquez, Yuba County

Nay: Supervisor Doug Teeter, Butte County; Supervisor Michael Ranalli, El Dorado County; Supervisor Aaron Albaugh, Lassen County; Supervisor Geri Byrne, Modoc County; Supervisor Michael Kobseff, Siskiyou County; Supervisor Bob Williams, Tehama County

Abstain: Supervisor Gerry Hemmingsen, Del Norte County

Absent: Supervisor Kim Dolbow-Vann, Colusa County; Supervisor Michael Kelley, Imperial County; Supervisor David Rogers, Madera County; Supervisor Daron McDaniel, Merced County; Supervisor Dan Miller, Nevada County; Supervisor Kevin Goss, Plumas County; Supervisor Anthony Botelho, San Benito County; Supervisor Lynn Compton, San Luis Obispo County; Supervisor Matt Rexroad, Yolo County

California Air Resources Board Low-Income Communities Under Assembly Bill 1550 (Gomez)

Staci Heaton reported that the California Air Resources Board is developing a methodology for determining low-income communities under Assembly Bill 1550 (Gomez), which was signed into law last year and will allocate 5 percent of Cap-and-Trade funds annually to low-income communities around the State. While most RCRC counties are left out of CalEPA's definition of disadvantaged communities, the low-income communities' definition is so far capturing most of the RCRC member counties that are the most socioeconomically challenged and could benefit from the funds. RCRC supported AB 1550 when it was introduced last year, as it originally proposed to allocate 25 percent of the Cap-and-Trade fund to low-income communities.

Environmental Services Joint Powers Authority Update

Mary Pitto, Regulatory Affairs Advocate, provided an update on recent activities relating to ESJPA. Ms. Pitto invited all the RCRC Board Members to attend the ESJPA meeting which is taking place on Thursday, March 16, 2017.

Ms. Pitto provided a review on the Beverage Container Recycling Program (Bottle Bill) reform efforts. Cal Recycle, which administers the program, had anticipated insufficient funds for the program as early as July 2017. However, Ms. Pitto explained the most recent quarterly report indicates that the insufficient funds are now not projected until July of 2019. In light of this, stakeholders believe that the reform efforts may no longer be part of the Administration's priorities, and may not be dealt with as part of the budget process. Different aspects of bottle bill reform could be taken up in the legislative process and likely in a variety of bills.

Ms. Pitto updated the Board on the implementation of Senate Bill 1383 (Lara) regarding Short Lived Climate Pollutants and landfill methane emissions. SB 1383 requires that by January 1, 2018, the California Air Resources Board must approve and implement a strategy to reduce emissions of methane by 40 percent, gasses by 40 percent, and black carbon by 50 percent. In addition, SB 1383 requires CalRecycle to adopt regulations to achieve organic waste landfill diversion goals of 50 percent in 2020, and 75 percent 2025, which would not become effective until January 1, 2022. CalRecycle

has started the informal process of developing the regulations and plans to complete the formal process by the end of 2018 or early 2019 to allow jurisdictions ample time to prepare to meet the requirements.

Water Issues Update

Supervisor Doug Teeter, Butte County, reported on his meetings with key water policy committee consultants from both caucuses in the Assembly and Senate. He noted that the meetings provided an opportunity to review RCRC water priorities, as well as give a first-hand account of the Oroville Spillway situation. Supervisor Teeter also hopes to follow up with key Legislators on the two water policy committees within the next few weeks. He expressed his appreciation to RCRC staff for setting up the meetings and looks forward to the coming back to Sacramento.

Mary-Ann Warmerdam noted that there are a host of water policy initiatives currently moving forward, on various timelines. Many of these initiatives have been evolving over the past few years. Key among them is the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) with its next deadline of June 30, 2017 for the establishment of a Groundwater Sustainability Agency. Ms. Warmerdam also gave a brief update on Senate Bill 252, authored by Senator Bill Dodd, which would require a more active review, by counties and cities, of well permits. Senator Dodd's measure is more narrowly tailored than a similar measure introduced by Senator Lois Wolk last year. However, as written, the measure would move well permits from a ministerial action to a permissive activity, and therefore, may require a review as required by the California Environmental Quality Act. RCRC is working to address these concerns with Senator Dodd, but no amendments have been accepted to date.

The State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) is in the middle of its "California WaterFix" hearings regarding a change in diversion for both the State and Federal water projects as it relates to the Governor's Twin Tunnel initiative. It is expected this process will conclude in early 2018.

Also of note is a draft proposal by the SWRCB which sets water flow and salinity objectives for the Bay-Delta Estuary. As proposed, both the Sacramento and San Joaquin Rivers would be subject to higher flow criteria, which would substantially reduce water available for consumptive uses. RCRC submitted comments opposing the approach being proposed by the SWRCB, particularly its implications to implementation of SGMA.

Ms. Warmerdam also shared that the Governor announced earlier in the day his appointments to fill two vacancies on the SWRCB. Ms. Tam Doduc was re-appointed to one of two seats designated for an individual with an engineering background. The second seat was vacated due to the retirement of Ms. Francis Spivy-Weber, who retired after several years of service. She held a seat designated for a member of the public, and the Governor appointed Mr. Joaquin Esquivel to the seat. He is currently with the California Natural Resources Agency as part of the Secretary's staff.

Adjournment

Chair, Supervisor Bob Williams adjourned the RCRC Board of Directors Meeting at 3:31 p.m.