



Special Executive Committee Meeting

**Thursday,
May 2, 2019
10:30 A.M.**

**The Oasis at Death Valley (The Inn)
Gold Rush Room
Hwy 190
Death Valley, CA 92328**

**Rural County Representatives of California
Special Executive Committee Meeting
The Oasis at Death Valley (The Inn)
Gold Rush Room
Hwy 190
Death Valley, CA 92328**

May 2, 2019

10:30 a.m. or Upon Adjournment of the RCRC Board of Directors Meeting

Executive Committee Members:

Supervisor Matt Kingsley, Inyo County
Supervisor Daron McDaniel, Merced County
Supervisor Stacy Corless, Mono County
Supervisor Rex Bohn, Humboldt County
Supervisor Kevin Cann, Mariposa County (*Ex-Officio*)

Supervisor Michael Kobseff, Siskiyou County
Supervisor Aaron Albaugh, Lassen County
Supervisor Diane Dillon, Napa County
Supervisor Jack Garamendi, Calaveras County
Supervisor Kuyler Crocker, Tulare County

Agenda

I. Call to Order and Determination of Quorum

Chair, Supervisor Matt Kingsley, Inyo County

II. Pledge of Allegiance

III. Approval of Minutes of the March 13, 2019 Meeting

(Board Members absent from the meeting will be recorded as abstained unless the Board Member indicates otherwise)

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IV. Public Comment

At this time any member of the public may address the Board. Speakers are asked to state their name for the record. Comments are usually limited to no more than 3 minutes per speaker.

V. Governmental Affairs (Discussion and possible action relative to)

*Paul A. Smith, Vice President Governmental Affairs
Mary-Ann Warmerdam, Senior Legislative Advocate*

**a. RCRC Supporting the Confirmation of Karen Ross, Secretary
of the California Department of Food and Agriculture - ACTION**

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VI. Adjournment

Meeting facilities are accessible to persons with disabilities. By request, alternative agenda document formats are available to persons with disabilities. To arrange an alternative agenda document format or to arrange aid or services to modify or accommodate persons with a disability to participate in a public meeting, contact Sarah Bolnik by calling (916) 447-4806 at least 48 hours before the meeting.

Agenda items will be taken as close as possible to the schedule indicated. Any member of the general public may comment on agenda items at the time of discussion. In order to facilitate public comment, please let staff know if you would like to speak on a specific agenda item. The agenda for this meeting of the Executive Committee of the Rural County Representatives of California was duly posted at its offices, 1215 K Street, Suite 1650, Sacramento, California, 72 hours prior to the meeting.

**Rural County Representatives of California
Executive Committee Meeting
1215 K Street, Suite 1650 Board Room
Sacramento, CA 95814
(916) 447-4806**

March 13, 2019

Executive Committee Members:

Supervisor Matt Kingsley, Inyo County	Supervisor Michael Kobseff, Siskiyou County
Supervisor Daron McDaniel, Merced County	Supervisor Aaron Albaugh, Lassen County
Supervisor Stacy Corless, Mono County	Supervisor Diane Dillon, Napa County
Supervisor Rex Bohn, Humboldt County	Supervisor Jack Garamendi, Calaveras County
Supervisor Kevin Cann, Mariposa County (<i>Ex-Officio</i>)	Supervisor Kuyler Crocker, Tulare County

Minutes

Call to Order and Determination of Quorum

RCRC Chair, Supervisor Matt Kingsley, Inyo County, called the RCRC Executive Committee to order at 1:56 p.m. A quorum was determined at that time. Those present were as follows:

<u>Supervisors in Attendance</u>	<u>County</u>
Matt Kingsley	Inyo
Daron McDaniel	Merced
Stacy Corless	Mono
Aaron Albaugh	Lassen
Diane Dillon	Napa
Jack Garamendi	Calaveras
Kevin Cann	Mariposa (Ex-Officio)

Absent Members

Rex Bohn	Humboldt
Michael Kobseff	Siskiyou
Kuyler Crocker	Tulare

Staff in Attendance

Greg Norton, President and CEO
Craig Ferguson, Vice President
Paul A. Smith, Vice President Governmental Affairs
Sarah Bolnik, Economic Development Specialist
Staci Heaton, Regulatory Affairs Advocate

Others in Attendance

None

Approval of Minutes of the February 20, 2019 Meeting

(Board Members absent from the meeting will be recorded as abstained unless the Board Member indicates otherwise)

Supervisor Diane Dillon, Napa County, motioned to approve the minutes of the February 20, 2019 RCRC Executive Committee Meeting. Supervisor Staci Corless, Mono County, seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment

None

RCRC Supporting the Confirmation of Wade Crowfoot, Secretary of the Natural Resources Agency - ACTION

Paul A. Smith, Vice President Governmental Affairs, discussed RCRC taking a formal "Support" position on the confirmation of Wade Crowfoot as Secretary of the Natural Resources Agency. Staci Heaton, Regulatory Affairs Advocate, discussed the long-standing relationship between RCRC and Secretary Crowfoot with the Executive Committee. The confirmation is expected to be on Wednesday, March 20th.

Staff Recommendation

RCRC staff recommends the RCRC Executive Committee to support the gubernatorial appointment of Sectary Crowfoot during the confirmation process in the State Senate.

It should be noted that a 2/3rds vote of the RCRC Executive Committee is required to formally garner support for a nominee.

Supervisor Diane Dillon, Napa County, motioned to Support the Confirmation of Wade Crowfoot, Secretary of the Natural Resources Agency. Supervisor Daron McDaniel, Merced County, seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

RCRC Supporting the Confirmation of Thom Porter, Chief of the California Department of Fire and Forestry Protection - ACTION

Paul A. Smith discussed RCRC taking a formal "Support" position on the confirmation of Thom Porter as Chief of the California Department of Fire and Forestry Protection. Staci Heaton explained to the Executive Committee the relationship between RCRC and Chief Porter, adding that the Chief is very in-tune to rural issues and was the recommendation of the former Chief for his replacement.

Staff Recommendation

RCRC staff recommends the RCRC Executive Committee to support the gubernatorial appointment of Chief Porter during the confirmation process in the State Senate.

It should be noted that a 2/3rds vote of the RCRC Executive Committee is required to formally garner support for a nominee.

Supervisor Daron McDaniel, Merced County, motioned to Support the Confirmation of Thom Porter, Chief of the California Department of Fire and Forestry Protection. Supervisor Staci Corless, Mono County, seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Adjournment

Chair, Supervisor Matt Kingsley, Inyo County, adjourned the meeting of the RCRC Executive Committee at 1:58 p.m.



To: RCRC Executive Committee
From: Paul A. Smith, Vice President Governmental Affairs
Mary-Ann Warmerdam, Senior Legislative Advocate
Date: April 23, 2019
Re: RCRC Supporting the Confirmation of Karen Ross, Secretary of the California Department of Food and Agriculture - **ACTION**

Summary

This memo addresses the possibility of RCRC supporting Karen Ross, Governor Gavin Newsom's appointment to serve as the Secretary of the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA). If approved, RCRC would convey its support during the confirmation process in the State Senate.

Background

Under the State's Constitution, the Governor is afforded a large number of appointments to head various state agencies. Furthermore, the Governor appoints hundreds of individuals to various state and regional boards and commissions. Most, but not all, senior appointments require the advice and consent of the State Senate. The review of gubernatorial appointments is primarily conducted by the Senate's Rules Committee, which is chaired by the Senate President pro Tempore (the effective leader of the State Senate). The Senate Rules Committee is comprised of five members – currently three Democrats and two Republicans. Assuming the consent of the Rules Committee, the name is subsequently brought to the Senate Floor for consideration. The overwhelming majority of appointees are subject to majority vote approval; however, some must be confirmed by a 2/3rds vote. Typically, an appointment by the Governor allows an individual to be seated immediately; however, Senate confirmation must occur within one year of the appointment.

Issue

On January 9, 2019, Secretary Ross was appointed to serve as the Secretary of CDFA by Governor Gavin Newsom. Secretary Ross was initially appointed by Governor Jerry Brown Jr. in 2011.

Prior to CDFA, Ross served as the Chief of Staff to U.S. Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack in 2009. In the private sector, she served as President of the California Association of Winegrape Growers from 1996 to 2009, and as Vice-President of the Agricultural Council of California from 1989 to 1996. Before moving to California,

Secretary Ross served as Director of Government Relations for the Nebraska Rural Electric Association and as Field Representative for U.S. Senator Edward Zorinsky.

Secretary Ross grew up on a farm in Western Nebraska. She and her husband, Barry, own 800 acres of the family farm where her younger brother, a fourth-generation farmer, grows dryland wheat, feed grains, and cattle. She earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and is a graduate of the Nebraska Ag Leadership Program.

Staff Recommendation

RCRC staff recommends the RCRC Executive Committee support the gubernatorial appointment of Secretary Ross during the confirmation process in the State Senate. Secretary Ross has always been extremely responsive to RCRC member county concerns, and has worked closely with RCRC staff on issues relating to environmental stewardship. Secretary Ross has unmatched leadership experience in agricultural issues nationally, internationally, and in California.

It should be noted that a 2/3rds vote of the RCRC Executive Committee is required to formally garner support for a nominee.

Attachment

- Draft Letter of Support for Karen Ross



RURAL COUNTY REPRESENTATIVES
OF CALIFORNIA

April xx, 2019

The Honorable Toni Atkins
Senate President Pro Tempore
Chair, Senate Rules Committee
State Capitol, Room 205
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Confirmation of Karen Ross as Secretary of the California Department of Food and Agriculture - SUPPORT

Dear Senator Atkins:

On behalf of the Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC), I am writing to express our support for the confirmation of Ms. Karen Ross as Secretary of the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA). RCRC is an association of thirty-six rural California counties, and the RCRC Board of Directors is comprised of elected supervisors from those member counties.

RCRC believes it is imperative that the Secretary of CDFA have an acute understanding of the importance of working with local governments as partners in preserving and regulating California's agricultural industry. RCRC has had a long and successful relationship with Secretary Ross in her tenure as Secretary. We are confident of her abilities in furthering the State's agriculture stewardship as well as working with local governments to ensure environmental stewardship remains a top priority.

For the above reasons, RCRC strongly supports the confirmation of Secretary Ross. We look forward to continuing our close and productive relationship with her into the future. If you should have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Matt Kingsley
Member, Inyo County Board of Supervisors
RCRC Chair

cc: Members of the Senate Rules Committee
Secretary Karen Ross, California Department of Food and Agriculture

1215 K Street, Suite 1650, Sacramento, CA 95814 | www.rcrcnet.org | 916.447.4806 | Fax: 916.448.3154