

RCRC BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

October 1, 2021

ACTION ITEM HIGHLIGHTS

- The RCRC Board of Directors approved the RCRC 2022 meeting calendar.



Ramiro Ruiz
Monterey County
“Field of Green”

MESSAGE BOARD

Based on RCRC Board Member interest regarding fiscal impact statements on locally initiated ballot measures, Monterey County’s policy can be accessed [here](#), and San Luis Obispo County’s policy can be accessed [here](#).

The **2021 Travel Expense Claim** can be accessed [here](#). Please complete and submit your claim to Milena De Melo at mdemelo@rcrcnet.org.

The RCRC Board of Directors meeting took place on Friday, October 1st. The RCRC Board of Directors reviewed many issues, and the following are highlights:

RCRC Chair’s Report

Chair, Supervisor Stacy Corless, Mono County, thanked everyone for attending the 2021 Annual Meeting. The 2021 Annual Meeting County Basket Auction & Drawing raised approximately \$55,000 for the charities Supervisor Corless selected, which include Disabled Sports Eastern Sierra/National Wounded Warrior Center, the Eastern Sierra Conservation Corps, the Valentine Eastern Sierra Reserves, and the Mono Arts Council.

President’s Report

Patrick Blacklock, President and CEO, reported that the Wildfire and Forest Stewardship Ad Hoc Committee held their first meeting. Mr. Blacklock provided an update on the Golden State Connect Authority. Additionally, Mr. Blacklock reminded interested RCRC Board Members to review the 2022 RCRC 2nd Vice Chair and Officer Election process, as well as complete the RCRC Communication Survey. Recent Governmental Affairs Department’s advocacy efforts were also discussed. The PowerPoint presentation can be accessed [here](#).

GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

The Governmental Affairs Department’s PowerPoint presentation can be accessed [here](#). The American Continental Group’s PowerPoint presentation on federal issues can be accessed [here](#).

California Public Utilities Commission Update

John Kennedy, Legislative Advocate, provided an update on RCRC’s involvement at the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC), and highlighted the following: Pacific Gas & Electric’s “whack and stack” of post-wildfire felled wood on residential properties; and, RCRC’s engagement with counties affected by frequent power outages. The memo can be accessed [here](#).

Forest Management and Wildfire Update

Staci Heaton, Senior Regulatory Affairs Advocate, provided an update on efforts in the Legislature and various state and federal agencies to address California's persistent catastrophic wildfire events. Ms. Heaton focused the discussion on RCRC's Wildfire and Forest Stewardship Ad Hoc Committee, the Wildfire and Forest Resilience Task Force Executive Committee meeting, the Wildfire and Forest Resilience Expenditure Plan, and key pieces of wildfire/forestry legislation. The memo can be accessed [here](#).

Drought/Water Issues Update

Sidd Nag, Legislative Advocate, provided an update on current issues involving California's drought policy and California water policy. Mr. Nag highlighted the appropriation of billions of dollars for water programs in the State Budget Package, including \$1 billion for water priorities, and over \$200 million for drought response. Additionally, Mr. Nag highlighted key water bills pending Governor Newsom's consideration. The memo can be accessed [here](#).

Federal Legislative Update

Mary-Ann Warmerdam, Senior Vice President Governmental Affairs, and American Continental Group's Senior Partner Sheryl Cohen and Associate Max Seltzer provided an update on the Bipartisan Infrastructure Act, reconciliation, emergency debt limit raise, Continuing Resolution, and emergency supplemental funding. RCRC successes during 2020/2021 were also highlighted. The memo can be accessed [here](#).

State Legislative Update

Mary-Ann Warmerdam, Senior Vice President Governmental Affairs, discussed the adjournment of the 2021 Legislative Session and the Governor's victory in the recall election. Ms. Warmerdam highlighted this year's expansive State Budget Packet with funding that benefits California's rural counties, as well as issues the Governmental Affairs Department will engage on in 2022. Sarah Dukett, Legislative Advocate, provided an update on legislation related to public safety, public employment, the public employee retirement system, and elections redistricting. To view all the legislation tracked by the Governmental Affairs Department during the 2021 Legislative Session, click [here](#). RCRC signature and veto request letters to the Governor can be accessed [here](#). Select state legislative measures of importance to California's rural counties can be accessed [here](#).

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

Adoption of the 2022 RCRC Meeting Schedule

The RCRC Board of Directors adopted the 2022 RCRC meeting schedule. The 2022 RCRC meeting schedule can be accessed [here](#).

Please refer to the RCRC Board Packet and Supplemental Packet for further details related to the items above, as well as other items covered during the meeting. The RCRC Board Packet and Supplemental Packet can be accessed [here](#).

GSFA BOD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

The GSFA Board of Directors meeting took place on Friday, October 1st. Here are some of the highlights:

- Barbara Hayes, RCRC Chief Economic Development Officer, provided an update on GSFA and RCRC's efforts related to Broadband expansion, noting that the application for the grant with the U.S. Economic Development Administration application has been submitted and we are currently in a waiting period. Additionally, with the approval of the Board during August's meeting to establish Golden State Connect Authority, 10 counties have since joined with more expected to join after the upcoming October County Boards of Supervisors meetings. The presentation can be accessed [here](#).
- Bob Burris, RCRC Deputy Chief Economic Development Officer, presented to the Board a proposed infrastructure initiative to identify new and expanded funding opportunities and priority areas. In short, this program seeks to identify and track the comprehensive economic development plans (CEDs) in each of our member counties, the infrastructure projects included within those plans, and then have RCRC act as a conduit for connecting projects with available funding. The presentation can be accessed [here](#).
- Greg Norton, GSNR President, provided a detailed update on the latest GSNR activities which included the potential acquisition of property for a second Northern California site, two possible port sites, the CEQA timeline, offtake agreements and emerging conversations with potential private partners. Mr. Norton also provided a financial update on GSNR including uses of cash advances from the GSFA loan through July 31, 2021. The presentation can be accessed [here](#).

Please refer to the GSFA Board Packet for further details related to the items above, as well as other items covered during the meeting. The GSFA Board Packet can be accessed [here](#).

Leadership and learning are indispensable to each other.

– John F. Kennedy