

# RCRC BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING HIGHLIGHTS



*July 12, 2023*

## ACTION ITEM HIGHLIGHTS

The RCRC Board of Directors:

- Approved 3 board governance policies.
- Approved the 2023 RCRC revised operating budget.
- Approved, as amended, the establishment of a Property Insurance Ad Hoc Committee. Supervisor Kathleen Haff (Tuolumne) was added as a member.
- Approved the President and CEO compensation.



2023 Photo Contest Winner  
Arlene Winfrey  
Tulare County

The Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC) Board of Directors meeting took place on Wednesday, July 12<sup>th</sup> in Sacramento. The RCRC Board of Directors reviewed many issues, and the following are highlights:

### **President's Report**

Patrick Blacklock, President and CEO, provided a report on recent activities the organization is engaged in that align with the RCRC Strategic Plan. The presentation can be accessed [here](#).

Arthur J. Wylene, General Counsel, introduced members that make up the legal team.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

#### **RCRC Governance Polices Update - APPROVED**

The RCRC Board of Directors approved the adoption of policies on “Public Comments During ‘Brown Act’ Meetings of RCRC and Affiliated Entities,” “RCRC Member County concerns and Issues,” and “Time and Place of Meetings.” The memo can be accessed [here](#).

#### **Proposed 2023 RCRC Revised Operating Budget - APPROVED**

The RCRC Board of Directors approved the 2023 RCRC revised operating budget, as proposed. The memo can be accessed [here](#). The revised budget can be accessed [here](#).

### **GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS**

The Governmental Affairs Department's presentation can be accessed [here](#).

#### **Governor's Behavioral Health Modernization Proposal Overview**

An overview of the Governor's behavioral health modernization proposal, Assembly Bill 531 (Irwin) and Senate Bill 326 (Eggman), was provided. RCRC key priorities include flexibility for rural

The Travel Expense Claim can be accessed [here](#). Please complete and submit your claim to [mchui@rcrcnet.org](mailto:mchui@rcrcnet.org).

counties, equity in the withholding/sanction process, and fiscal protections. The memo can be accessed [here](#).

### **GUEST SPEAKER**



### **California Environmental Protection Agency**

Yana Garcia, Secretary, California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA), addressed the RCRC Board of Directors on CalEPA's initiatives, particularly on implementation of SB 1383, hazardous waste management, air quality in wildfire areas, and water rights.

### **State and Federal Legislative Update**

An update on issues being addressed at the state and federal level was provided. At the state level, Mary-Ann Warmerdam, Senior Vice President Governmental Affairs, focused on the State Budget, recent leadership changes, and the legislative calendar.

Tracy Rhine, Senior Policy Advocate, provided an overview of the housing and homelessness budget and the AT HOME plan.

John Kennedy, Senior Policy Advocate, provided an update on RCRC's sponsored bills relating to solid and organic waste recycling, and hazardous materials. Mr. Kennedy also discussed bills relating to energy, biomass energy facilities, and underground storage tanks.

At the federal level, Sheryl Cohen, Senior Partner, American Continental Group's (ACG), focused on RCRC's priorities, including the status of key legislation involving protection of California's giant sequoias, government employee housing, cannabis banking, rural hospitals, and disaster relief. Of note, Under Secretary Xochitl Torres-Small of the U.S. Department of Agriculture was confirmed on July 11<sup>th</sup>. ACG's presentation can be accessed [here](#).

The memo can be accessed [here](#). A listing of all state bills tracked can be accessed [here](#).

## **Water Issues Update**

An update on current issues involving California water policy, including Governor Newsom's infrastructure proposal that now excludes the Delta Conveyance Project, and key water-related bills was provided. The memo can be accessed [here](#).

## **Forest Management and Wildfire Update**

An update on efforts in the Legislature and various state and federal agencies, including an update on the California Fire Hazard Severity Zone maps, U.S. EPA's National Ambient Air Quality Standards requirements, and key state and federal wildfire and forest health-related bills was provided. The memo can be accessed [here](#).

## **Establishment of Board of Directors Ad Hoc Advisory Committee on Property Insurance – APPROVED**

The RCRC Board of Directors approved, as amended, the creation of a Property Insurance Ad Hoc Committee. Chair, Doug Teeter, Butte County, recommended the addition of Supervisor Kathleen Haff, Tuolumne County, to the membership roster. The memo can be accessed [here](#). The charter can be accessed [here](#).

## **Environmental Services Joint Powers Authority Update**

ESJPA Chair, Supervisor Michael Kobseff, Siskiyou County, and Staci Heaton, in her capacity as ESJPA Deputy Executive Director, provided an update on current activities. Of note, Kings County recently joined ESJPA, bringing the number of member counties to 27. Ms. Heaton highlighted the recent appointment of ESJPA Technical Advisory Group's Tedd Ward, Del Norte County, to serve on the Advisory Board for the Plastic Pollution Prevention and Packaging Producer Responsibility Act. The memo can be accessed [here](#).

## **California Public Utilities Commission Update**

An update on the California Public Utilities Commission, including RCRC's engagement on the Center for Biological Diversity's petition on biomass facilities, electrical transmission facilities proceeding, Wildfire Mitigation Plans, and the Rule 20A program, was provided. The memo can be accessed [here](#). The list of RCRC open proceedings can be accessed [here](#).

## **ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**

### **Rural County Photo Contest – WINNER SELECTED**

The RCRC Board of Directors voted on the three finalist photos, and the winner of RCRC's 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Rural County Photo Contest was chosen. The winning photo was submitted by Arlene Winfrey, a photo taken in Tulare County. The presentation can be accessed [here](#).



Grand Prize Winner



Second Place Winner



Third Place Winner

### **Annual Meeting – County Basket Auction & Drawing**

Following Thursday night's dinner at RCRC's 2023 Annual Meeting, individual county baskets will be auctioned off during the county basket auction and drawing. Chair, Supervisor Doug Teeter, Butte County, has selected the following charities to benefit from the proceeds: Chico Velo, Magalia Park, Honey Run Covered Bridge, Butte County Search and Rescue, Kirschner Animal Sanctuary, and Four Winds of Indian Education. The memo can be accessed [here](#). The presentation can be accessed [here](#). Please contact Eric Will at [ewill@rcrcnet.org](mailto:ewill@rcrcnet.org) with any questions or need additional information.

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

