

RCRC BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING HIGHLIGHTS



March 8, 2023

ACTION ITEM HIGHLIGHTS

The RCRC Board of Directors:

- Approved the Drought and Water Resilience Ad Hoc Committee's final report and recommendations.
- Approved the appointment of Supervisor Bob Nelson (Santa Barbara County) to serve on the 2023 RCRC Executive Committee.
- Approved the updated RCRC Strategic Plan.

MESSAGE BOARD

The 2023 RCRC Membership Handbook can be accessed [here](#).

The 2023 Meeting Schedule can be accessed [here](#).

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

For the latest news and updates, please subscribe to the Barbed Wire [here](#).

The Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC) Board of Directors meeting took place on Wednesday, March 8th. The RCRC Board of Directors reviewed many issues, and the following are highlights:

Recognition of Senator Jim Nielsen, Member of the California State Senate (Retired)

Chair, Supervisor Doug Teeter, Butte County, recognized retired California State Senator Jim Nielsen. A commemorative plaque was presented to Senator Nielsen in appreciation of his service to California's rural counties throughout the years.



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](#).

Craig Ferguson, Senior Vice President, introduced individual members that make up the Business Development and Operations Department.

CONSENT AGENDA

Drought and Water Resiliency Ad Hoc Committee - APPROVED

The RCRC Board of Directors approved the Drought and Water Resiliency Ad Hoc Committee's report of findings and recommendations. The memo/report can be accessed [here](#).

Appointment to Fill Executive Committee Region 5 Vacancy – APPROVED

Representatives from Region 5 selected, and the RCRC Board of Directors subsequently approved the appointment of Supervisor Bob Nelson (Santa Barbara County) to participate on the 2023 RCRC Executive Committee. The memo can be accessed [here](#).

RCRC Strategic Plan - APPROVED

The RCRC Board of Directors approved the proposed alterations to the 2023-25 RCRC Strategic Plan. The memo can be accessed [here](#). The alterations can be accessed [here](#).

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

May 2023 County of the Chair Meeting Update

Annually, the RCRC Board of Directors holds one Board of Directors meeting in the county of the RCRC Chair. This year, the meeting will be hosted by Chair Doug Teeter in Butte County from May 11-12, 2023. Supervisors are requested to complete the [registration form](#) and return it to dpoole@rcrcnet.org. The memo, which includes the overview of events, can be accessed [here](#). The online registration form can be accessed [here](#). The California Department of Water Resources' Safety and Security Protocols for tour of the Edward Hyatt Powerplant can be accessed [here](#).

GUEST SPEAKERS

California Health and Human Services

Stephanie Welch, Deputy Secretary of Behavioral Health, California Health and Human Services Agency (CalHHS), addressed the RCRC Board of Directors on CalHHS endeavors, particularly on the Community Assistance, Recovery and Empowerment Court program.

California Department of Fish and Wildlife

Chuck Bonham, Director, California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), addressed the RCRC Board of Directors on CDFW's efforts, such as flood preparedness. Director Bonham heard from several supervisors in regard to their viewpoints. RCRC will work with CDFW to arrange regular discussions to address RCRC Member Counties' concerns going forward.

GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

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

State and Federal Legislative Update

Mary-Ann Warmerdam, Senior Vice President Governmental Affairs, and American Continental Group's (ACG) Senior Partner Sheryl Cohen, provided an update on issues being addressed at the state and federal level.

At the state level, Ms. Warmerdam focused on the latest developments of the 2023 Legislative Session. Of importance, RCRC is sponsoring 6+ measures relating to solid waste and cannabis. Members of the Governmental Affairs Department discussed key bills of interest. The memo can be accessed [here](#). A listing of all bills tracked can be accessed [here](#).

At the federal level, Ms. Cohen focused on RCRC's priorities, including the Farm Bill reauthorization, housing, Secure Rural Schools/Payment in Lieu of Taxes, cannabis banking, the Save America's Rural Hospital's Act, and matters being addressed at the Executive Branch. The memo can be accessed [here](#). The presentation can be accessed [here](#).

Environmental Services Joint Powers Authority Update

Staci Heaton, Senior Policy Advocate and ESJPA Deputy Executive Director, provided an update of the Rural Counties' Environmental Services Joint Powers Authority's (ESJPA). Ms. Heaton highlighted the recent landfill tour, and the United States Environmental Protection Agency's Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling grant program. RCRC Board Members were encouraged to attend the ESJPA Board of Directors meeting (March 9th) whereby the ESJPA Board will take action to appoint the 2023 Chair and Vice Chair as well as consider Kings County's membership. The memo can be accessed [here](#).

California Public Utilities Commission Update

An update on Pacific Gas and Electric's (PG&E) proposed plan to sell non-nuclear generation assets, RCRC's recent and upcoming meetings with PG&E, and a fast trip power outages workshop by the California Public Utilities Commission were provided. The memo can be accessed [here](#). The list of RCRC open proceedings list can be accessed [here](#).

Water Issues Update

An update on current issues involving California water policy, including Governor Newsom's extension of the drought emergency order, and key water-related bills were 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 key forest resilience/wildfire-related bills, the release of the updated California Fire Hazard Severity Zone maps, and the USDA Forest Service's 2022 tree mortality survey were provided. The memo can be accessed [here](#).

CLOSED SESSIONS

The RCRC Board of Directors discussed Item 11. RCRC Closed Session: Initiation of Litigation. The name of the case is *Forest Service Employees for Environmental Ethics v. United States Forest Service*, United States District Court, District of Montana Case No. 9:22-CV-00168-DLC – RCRC Participation as

Intervenor. Thereafter, it was reported that the RCRC Board of Directors authorized RCRC to participate in a coalition to support the United States Forest Service in defending against a claim that the aerial application of fire retardant by the Forest Service violates the Clean Water Act.

The RCRC Board of Directors discussed Item 12. RCRC Closed Session: Existing Litigation. The name of the case is *Rural County Representatives of California v. California State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection, et al.*, Fresno County Superior Court Case No. 22CECG00123.

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](#).

