

Rural County Representatives of California Special Executive Committee Meeting

1215 K Street, Suite 1650 Board Room
Sacramento, CA 95814

In accordance with Executive Orders N-25-20 and N-29-20, the May 4, 2020 RCRC Special Executive Committee meeting was held virtually.

May 4, 2020 – 2:00 p.m.

Executive Committee Members:

Supervisor Daron McDaniel, Merced County
Supervisor Stacy Corless, Mono County
Supervisor Dan Miller, Nevada County
Supervisor Matt Kingsley, Inyo County
Supervisor Kevin Cann, Mariposa County (*Ex-Officio*)

Supervisor Gerry Hemmingsen, Del Norte County
Supervisor Lee Adams, Sierra County
Supervisor Denise Carter, Colusa County
Supervisor Jack Garamendi, Calaveras County
Supervisor Kuyler Crocker, Tulare County

Minutes

Call to Order and Determination of Quorum

RCRC Chair, Supervisor Daron McDaniel, Merced County, called the meeting of the RCRC Special Executive Committee to order at 2:05 p.m. A quorum was determined at that time. Those present were as follows:

<u>Supervisors in Attendance</u>	<u>County</u>
Daron McDaniel	Merced
Stacy Corless	Mono
Dan Miller	Nevada
Matt Kingsley	Inyo
Gerry Hemmingsen	Del Norte
Lee Adams	Sierra
Denise Carter	Colusa
Jack Garamendi	Calaveras
Kuyler Crocker	Tulare
Kevin Cann	Mariposa (Ex-Officio)

Absent Members

None

Staff in Attendance

Greg Norton, President and CEO
Craig Ferguson, Senior Vice President
Lisa McCargar, Chief Operating Officer/Chief Financial Officer
Paul A. Smith, Senior Vice President Governmental Affairs
Arthur Wylene, General Counsel
Layne Frederiksen, IT Director
Maggie Chui, Senior Governmental Affairs Coordinator

Barbara Hayes, Chief Economic Development Officer
Sarah Bolnik, Economic Development Specialist
Julie Lunn, Office Assistant

Others in Attendance

Supervisor Rex Bohn, Humboldt County
Supervisor Bob Williams, Tehama County
Jean Kinney Hurst, Partner, Hurst Brooks Espinosa, LLC

Approval of Minutes of the February 19, 2020 Meeting

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

Supervisor Dan Miller, Nevada County, motioned to approve the minutes of the February 19, 2020 RCRC Executive Committee Meeting as corrected. Supervisor Stacy Corless, Mono County, seconded the motion. Motion passed with all Supervisors present voting “Aye,” except as follows:

Abstaining: Supervisor Kuyler Crocker, Tulare County

Public Comment

None.

Discussion Regarding Implementation of COVID-19 Stay-at-Home Orders in Rural Counties and Possible Timelines for Reopening

Paul A. Smith, Senior Vice President Governmental Affairs, Arthur Wylene, General Counsel, and Jean Kinney Hurst, Partner, Hurst Brooks Espinosa, LLC, provided a review and update regarding implementation of the coronavirus (COVID-19) stay-at-home orders and possible timelines for reopening.

Several hours ago, Governor Gavin Newsom provided an update to the state’s four-stage framework and the state’s progress toward reopening. In the press conference, Governor Newsom indicated that California is preparing to move into the early phase of Stage 2. Detailed guidelines on Stage 2 of reopening will be released later this week which would allow gradual reopening of some of the businesses in the retail, manufacturing, and logistics sector. Counties that desire to move more quickly through Stage 2 will need to attest that they meet the state’s readiness criteria, including demonstrating they have a low number of COVID-19 infections, meeting testing and contact tracing criteria, that the county’s health care system is prepared for any sudden rise in infections, and that the county have plans to protect the high-risk populations. Mr. Smith, Mr. Wylene, and Ms. Hurst encouraged counties to consult with the Governor’s Office regarding their reopening plans, and advised counties to not reopen sectors that are not part of Stage 2.

The RCRC Executive Committee engaged in a lengthy discussion on how the COVID-19 stay-at-home orders are being handled in their respective counties. RCRC will continue to closely monitor the rapidly evolving situation surrounding COVID-19 as it continues to take hold.

Discussion Regarding Implementation of CARES Act's Funding to Counties Under 500,000 Population

Paul A. Smith, Arthur Wylene, and Jean Kinney Hurst engaged in a discussion with the RCRC Executive Committee regarding the current status of funding to smaller counties as part of the recently-enacted Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act to navigate the impacts of COVID-19. While the CARES Act provides direct funding to counties with populations in excess of 500,000, counties with less than 500,000 population are required to obtain allocation through the state.

The delayed payments to low-population counties have resulted in undue hardship and fiscal strain particularly for RCRC Member Counties. Unfortunately, Mr. Smith, Mr. Wylene, and Ms. Hurst indicated that low-population counties will have to wait until the release of the Governor's May Revise or post-May Revise to receive details on payment disbursements. In addition, there is currently a coordinated effort led by County Administrator Officers to urge Governor Newsom of an 80 percent split to counties and a 20 percent to cities on funding. On the federal level, there are California-only efforts led by Representative Paul Cook (R-San Bernardino) for funding to support low-population counties.

As the focus of COVID-19 related conversation is constantly evolving and becoming more robust, the next federal aid package is expected to be more comprehensive. RCRC will provide an update to the RCRC Executive Committee at the upcoming May 20th RCRC Executive Committee meeting.

Adjournment

Chair, Supervisor Daron McDaniel, adjourned the meeting of the RCRC Special Executive Committee at 3:27 p.m.