

**Rural County Representatives of California
Board of Directors Meeting
Wednesday, June 17, 2020 – 9:00 a.m.
1215 K Street, Suite 1650
Sacramento, CA 95814**

In accordance with Executive Orders N-25-20 and N-29-20, the June 17, 2020 RCRC Board of Directors meeting was held virtually.

MINUTES

Call to Order, Determination of Quorum and Self Introductions

Chair, Supervisor Daron McDaniel, Merced County, called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m. A quorum was determined at that time. Those present:

| <u>Supervisor</u> | <u>County</u> |
|--------------------------|----------------------|
| David Griffith | Alpine |
| Brian Oneto | Amador |
| Doug Teeter | Butte |
| Jack Garamendi | Calaveras |
| Denise Carter | Colusa |
| Gerry Hemmingsen | Del Norte |
| Lori Parlin | El Dorado |
| John Viegas | Glenn |
| Rex Bohn | Humboldt |
| Michael Kelley | Imperial |
| Matt Kingsley | Inyo |
| E.J. Crandell | Lake |
| Aaron Albaugh | Lassen |
| Kevin Cann | Mariposa |
| Carre Brown | Mendocino |
| Daron McDaniel | Merced |
| Geri Byrne | Modoc |
| Stacy Corless | Mono |
| Chris Lopez | Monterey |
| Diane Dillon | Napa |
| Dan Miller | Nevada |
| Jim Holmes | Placer |
| Anthony Botelho | San Benito |
| Lynn Compton | San Luis Obispo |
| Les Baugh | Shasta |
| Lee Adams | Sierra |
| Michael Kobseff | Siskiyou |
| Mat Conant | Sutter |
| Bob Williams | Tehama |
| Jeremy Brown | Trinity |

| | |
|----------------|----------|
| Kuyler Crocker | Tulare |
| Sherri Brennan | Tuolumne |
| Randy Fletcher | Yuba |

Absent

| | |
|---------------|--------|
| David Rogers | Madera |
| Kevin Goss | Plumas |
| Lynda Hopkins | Sonoma |
| Gary Sandy | Yolo |

Others in Attendance

Supervisor Terry Woodrow, Alpine County
Supervisor Bill Connelly, Butte County
Supervisor Estelle Fennell, Humboldt County
Supervisor Bruno Sabatier, Lake County
Supervisor Miles Menetrey, Mariposa County
Supervisor Ted Williams, Mendocino County
Supervisor Ned Coe, Modoc County
Supervisor John Peters, Mono County
Supervisor Susan Hoek, Nevada County
Ed Horton, Placer County Water Agency
Jeffrey Thorsby, Nevada County
Randy Hanvelt, Associated California Loggers
John Kabateck, Kabateck Strategies
Mayor Michael Saragosa, Placerville
Jonathan Underland, Paschal Roth Public Affairs
Elizabeth Howard Espinosa, Howard Brooks Espinosa LLC
Crystal Crawford, Ygrene Energy Fund

Staff in Attendance

Greg Norton, President and CEO
Lisa McCargar, Chief Operating Officer/Chief Financial Officer
Craig Ferguson, Senior Vice President
Paul A. Smith, Senior Vice President Governmental Affairs
Barbara Hayes, Chief Economic Development Officer
Mary-Ann Warmerdam, Senior Legislative Advocate
John Kennedy, Legislative Advocate
Tracy Rhine, Legislative Advocate
Staci Heaton, Senior Regulatory Affairs Advocate
Arthur Wylene, General Counsel
Terrance Rodgers, Economic Development Officer
Sarah Bolnik, Economic Development Specialist
Maggie Chui, Senior Governmental Affairs Coordinator
Leigh Kammerich, Regulatory Affairs Specialist
Milena De Melo, Controller
Dorothy Poole, External Affairs Coordinator

Layne Frederickson, IT Director
Elizabeth Jensen, Assistant Controller
Sanjay Lee, Financial Analyst
Yevgeniy Pislari, Legal Intern

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of Minutes – March 11, 2020

Chair, Supervisor Daron McDaniel, Merced County, called for approval of the minutes from the March 11, 2020 Board of Directors Meeting.

Supervisor Dan Miller, Nevada County, motioned to approve the minutes from the March 11, 2020 Board of Directors Meeting. Supervisor David Griffith, Alpine County, seconded the motion. Motion passed with all Supervisors present voting “Aye,” except as follows:

Abstaining: Supervisor Michael Kobseff, Siskiyou County

RCRC Chair’s Report

Chair, Supervisor Daron McDaniel, Merced County, welcomed fellow supervisors to the RCRC Board of Directors meeting held via Zoom. Supervisor McDaniel acknowledged that the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic and reopening of California have been the subject of much discussion, and will be discussed later in the meeting.

Member County Concerns and Issues

Supervisor David Griffith, Alpine County, shared his concern regarding the Governor’s Executive Order that makes California employers liable if employees contract COVID-19. As a result, many Alpine County employees, if able, are working from home. Currently, Alpine County has not had an issue with the spread of COVID-19.

Supervisor Griffith shared that the Federal Communications Commission’s application deadline to improve internet in rural areas is approaching, and inquired fellow supervisors on suggestions on how to encourage the Gold Country Broadband Consortium to engage.

Supervisor Brian Oneto, Amador County, requested RCRC to consider adopting a resolution in support of police officers in light of recent events and protest.

Supervisor Oneto also spoke about Assembly Constitutional Amendment 5 (Weber), which would repeal provisions enacted by Proposition 209, and requested that it be discussed at a future RCRC Board of Directors meeting.

Supervisor Lori Parlin, El Dorado County, shared her concern about the conflicting messages with the state’s stay-in-place order that are still in effect alongside guidelines for reopening as El Dorado County is working to reopen its tourism industry.

Supervisor Michael Kelley, Imperial County, shared that U.S. Vice President Mike Pence and Governor Newsom recently highlighted the high-rate of COVID-19 infections in Imperial County. Imperial County is working hard to reduce the spread.

Supervisor Aaron Albaugh, Lassen County, requested that RCRC work with the California Department of Water Resources to extend the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act's implementation deadline due to public input limitations caused by COVID-19.

Supervisor Kevin Cann, Mariposa County, shared that Mariposa, Madera, Tuolumne, and Mono Counties have been working with Yosemite on reopening hotel businesses. Supervisor Cann reported the 4 counties petitioned the Governor to act based on locality, which have resulted in an opportunity to speak with Director of the California of Public Health and State Health Officer Dr. Sonia Angell.

Supervisor Ted Williams, Mendocino County, concurred with the concerns made by fellow supervisors regarding inconsistent messaging on the reopening of California as it relates to tourism.

Supervisor Geri Byrne, Modoc County, shared that Modoc County held a water rally on May 29th that was attended by a number of legislators and Members of the U.S. Congress.

Supervisor Byrne also reported that there has been no COVID-19 cases in Modoc County.

Supervisor Stacy Corless, Mono County, shared that Mono County held successful protests and discussions that were supported by both the Black Lives Matter movement and local law enforcement.

Supervisor Chris Lopez, Monterey County, spoke in support of the continued need for investments in rural broadband. Supervisor Lopez also concurred with the concerns made by fellow supervisors regarding inconsistent messaging on the reopening of California as it relates to tourism.

Supervisor Diane Dillon, Napa County, concurred with the concerns made by fellow supervisors regarding reopening and tourism. Supervisor Dillon also spoke about the high-rate of COVID-19 infections in Lake Berryessa.

Supervisor Dan Miller, Nevada County, shared that the Nevada County Fair Board has cancelled the Nevada County Fair for the first time.

Supervisor Miller also expressed his concern regarding the costs of operating juvenile halls in the face of declining populations in these facilities.

Supervisor Anthony Botelho, San Benito County, reported that San Benito County is currently in Phase 3 of reopening, and noted there is an increase of COVID-19 cases.

Supervisor Botelho expressed his concern of the inconsistent messaging by the Governor regarding reopening of California.

Supervisor Botelho also revealed that San Benito County is experiencing resistance since the County's Public Health Officer issued a mandatory order to wear masks in public settings.

Supervisor Lynn Compton, San Luis Obispo County, shared that the tourism and agriculture industry have been hit economically as a result of COVID-19. Supervisor Compton expressed her concern of the inconsistent messaging by the Governor regarding reopening of California.

Supervisor Compton also discussed the following: an active shooting situation whereby the suspect was eventually killed; recent protests that led to many letters submitted by residents; support of Supervisor Oneto's request on a resolution in support police officers; and, the cancellation of the San Luis Obispo County Fair.

Supervisor Les Baugh, Shasta County, spoke about the lift on capacity for faith-based gatherings when social distancing is followed, and would like that applied to all other venues.

Supervisor Baugh also spoke in support of Supervisor Oneto's request on a resolution in support police officers.

Supervisor Michael Kobseff, Siskiyou County, shared that the Siskiyou County Fair was cancelled.

Supervisor Kobseff conveyed his concern about the increase in fees imposed on gravel pit owners.

Supervisor Kobseff also spoke in support of Supervisor Oneto's request on a resolution in support police officers.

Supervisor Mat Conant, Sutter County, spoke in support of Supervisor Oneto's request on a resolution in support police officers.

Supervisor Conant shared his concern regarding local hospitals experiencing revenue loss and lay-offs that is hurting the local economy.

Supervisor Conant conveyed his dissatisfaction toward RCRC when Sutter, Yuba, and Modoc Counties requested the Governor to reopen early-on, but RCRC did not provide support.

Supervisor Bob Williams, Tehama County, inquired about the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act funding, including what it could be used for and return of unused funds protocol.

Supervisor Jeremy Brown, Trinity County, reported that Trinity County is currently in Phase 3 of reopening, and has had 2 COVID-19 cases. Supervisor Brown shared that local residents have voiced their concerns due to increase in tourism by outsiders which could potentially increase the spread of COVID-19. As it relates to COVID-19, the Trinity County Board of Supervisors are in discussions to assess risk management for County employees.

Supervisor Brown shared that a Trinity County Sheriff's Deputy was placed on administrative leave pending investigation for posting an inappropriate item on social media. Supervisor Brown praised the Trinity County Sheriff-Coroner Tim Saxon for addressing the public immediately following the incident.

Supervisor Brown shared that Trinity and San Joaquin Counties have filed lawsuit against Westlands Water District's contract renewals, and asked if any counties are interested to reach out to him to discuss.

Supervisor Kuyler Crocker, Tulare County, requested that the July 8th RCRC Executive Committee Meeting be rescheduled, citing a scheduling conflict with the National Association of Counties' Public Lands Steering Committee meeting.

Supervisor Sherri Brennan, Tuolumne County, echoed Supervisor William's inquiry regarding the CARES Act funding, as well as access of the funds from the state. Supervisor Brennan also echoed Supervisor Miller's concern regarding the costs of operating juvenile halls.

Supervisor Randy Fletcher, Yuba County, shared that Yuba County and several other RCRC Member Counties would like RCRC to present RCRC's role on the COVID-19 situation at the September RCRC Board of Directors meeting.

Public Comments

None

President's Report

Greg Norton, President and CEO, provided a status update regarding the reopening of the RCRC office. RCRC management is continuing to adhere to public health official guidelines and other recommendations. At this time, the RCRC office is scheduled to reopen on July 6, 2020.

Approval of the 2019 RCRC Audited Financial Statements

Lisa McCargar, Chief Operating Officer/Chief Financial Officer, and Milena De Melo, Controller, informed supervisors that Moss Adams LLP, independent auditors, had concluded its audit for year ended December 31, 2019. Ms. McCargar and Ms. De Melo reported that Moss Adams LLP issued financial statements that contained an unmodified audit opinion. Moss Adams LLP also issued the required communication letter to Those Charged with Governance, noting no significant matters were identified. Ms. McCargar

and Ms. De Melo reported that the financial statements and the communication letter have been approved by the RCRC Executive Committee at their May 20, 2020 meeting.

Recommendation

It was recommended that the RCRC Board of Directors review and approve the 2019 audited financial statements and communication letter as presented.

Supervisor Gerry Hemmingsen, Del Norte County, motioned to approve the RCRC 2019 audited financial statements and communication letter. Supervisor Michael Kobseff, Siskiyou County, seconded the motion. Motion passed with all Supervisors present voting “Aye.”

Designate Two Members of the RCRC Board to Serve on the Golden State Natural Resources, Inc. Board of Directors

Greg Norton presented on the annual action to designate two members of the RCRC Board of Directors to serve on the Golden State Natural Resources, Inc. (GSNR) Board of Directors for a one-year term. Mr. Norton recommended that the RCRC Board of Directors consider the reappointments of Supervisor Matt Kingsley (Inyo County) and Supervisor Stacy Corless (Mono County) to serve on the GSNR Board of Directors.

Staff Recommendation

It was recommended that the RCRC Board of Directors designate Supervisor Matt Kingsley, Inyo County, and Supervisor Stacy Corless, Mono County, to serve on the GSNR Board of Directors for a one-year term.

Supervisor Carre Brown, Mendocino County, motioned to approve the above-mentioned recommendation. Supervisor Dan Miller, Nevada County, seconded the motion. Motion passed with all Supervisors present voting “Aye.”

Change to RCRC 2020 Budget, Waiver of Member County Dues

Greg Norton and Lisa McCargar, discussed RCRC management’s proposal, and subsequently the approval by the RCRC Executive Committee at their May 20, 2020 meeting to waive all member county dues for the period from July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021 in response to the COVID-19 pandemic to provide limited relief to RCRC member counties. Traditionally, dues are billed annually to each member county for the period July 1st to June 30th based on member county population. The RCRC Executive Committee was approved the revision to the RCRC 2020 calendar year Operating Budget which will result in a reduction in revenues of \$142,500, and a carryover impact of \$142,500 to 2021 for a total impact of \$285,000.

Rural County Photo Contest

Dorothy Poole, External Affairs Coordinator, and Maggie Chui, Senior Governmental Affairs Coordinator, outlined the guidelines and submission requirements for RCRC’s 4th Annual Rural County Photo Contest (Contest). The Contest was created to promote tourism and local economic development. The winning image will be unveiled at the September RCRC Board of Directors meeting, and may be used in various RCRC

materials throughout 2021. Beginning July 1, 2020, RCRC will be accepting photo submissions. Photos must be submitted by July 31, 2020 for them to be considered.

Financial Update

In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, Lisa McCargar and Milena De Melo provided a brief financial update on RCRC's current financial standing. Despite the economic downturn, RCRC is in good financial standing.

Approval of Letter to Governor Newsom Regarding the Next Steps Toward Reopening Rural California

RCRC Officers, Chair Daron McDaniel (Merced County), First Vice Chair Stacy Corless (Mono County), Second Vice Chair Dan Miller (Nevada County), and Immediate Past Chair Matt Kingsley (Inyo County), led a discussion with the RCRC Board of Directors regarding approval of a proposed letter to Governor Newsom addressing the next steps in the reopening of rural California. RCRC Officers have prepared a draft letter to be considered and approved by the RCRC Board of Directors.

Citing that the letter is now considered out-of-date since the RCRC June Board of Directors' meeting Main Packet went to print, Supervisor Miller proposed revisions to the letter for the RCRC Board of Directors' consideration and to further facilitate the discussion.

The RCRC Board of Directors engaged in a lengthy discussion on how to approach the letter. The RCRC Board of Directors also discussed the impact COVID-19 has had on their respective counties. A majority of the RCRC Board of Directors expressed their perspective, including the pros and cons of sending a letter to the Governor at this time. The RCRC Board of Directors highlighted three key requests, including: give counties more local control, include rural representation on the Governor's Economic Advisory Team, and release of the CARES Act monies to counties.

Recommendation

It was recommended that the RCRC Board of Directors endorse the sending of the revised letter as proposed by Supervisor Miller in addressing the next steps toward reopening rural California to Governor Newsom.

Supervisor Kuyler Crocker, Tulare County, motioned to modify the revised letter as Supervisor Miller proposed, as well as inclusion of a request to release CARES Act monies. Supervisor Chris Lopez, Monterey County, seconded the motion.

Following the above-mentioned motion, Paul A. Smith, followed-up with the status of the CARES Act funding being secured by the 2020-21 State Budget Package, and recommended three possible options for the RCRC Board of Directors to consider. The three options:

1. Approve the letter with revisions as proposed by Supervisor Miller. In addition, the letter will be revised to further thank the Governor for his response to the COVID-19 outbreak, as well as expand on the request to add rural representation on the Governor's Economic Advisory Team;
2. Create an Ad Hoc Committee comprised of the RCRC Officers and Supervisor Kevin Cann (Mariposa County), Chair of the Golden State Finance Authority, to work with RCRC staff to modify and finalize the draft letter whereby the Ad Hoc Committee will have the final authority to approve the letter; or,
3. Defer the discussion to a future RCRC Executive Committee or the RCRC Board of Directors meeting.

A substitute motion was presented: Supervisor Diane Dillon, Napa County, motioned to approve option number 2 as outlined above. Supervisor Stacy Corless, Mono County, seconded the motion. Motion passed with all Supervisors present voting "Aye." Supervisor Lynn Compton, San Luis Obispo, and Supervisor Randy Fletcher, Yuba County, absent.

Following the passage of the above-mentioned motion, RCRC staff noted that a final letter will be distributed to the RCRC Board of Directors.

Rental Affordability Act

Paul A. Smith and Tracy Rhine, Legislative Advocate, presented the Rental Affordability Act, and indicated that this measure addresses local government's ability to impose rent control to confront the state's affordable housing crisis. Specifically, the Rental Affordability Act gives local jurisdictions more authority to establish their own rent controls on housing that is 15 years or older. If approved, cities and counties would be authorized to limit the amount a landlord can increase rent when a new renter occupies the unit. The Rental Affordability Act will appear on the November 2020 General Election ballot.

Staff Recommendation

Similar to the position from Proposition 10 in 2018, RCRC staff recommended the RCRC Board of Directors adopt a "No Position" position on the Rental Affordability Act.

Supervisor Bob Williams, Tehama County, motioned to approve a "No Position" position on the Rental Affordability Act. Supervisor Chris Lopez, Monterey County, seconded the motion. Motion passed by the following roll call vote taken:

"Aye": Supervisor David Griffith, Alpine County; Supervisor Brian Oneto, Amador County; Supervisor Jack Garamendi, Calaveras County; Supervisor Denise Carter, Colusa County; Supervisor Gerry Hemmingsen, Del Norte County; Supervisor Lori Parlin, El Dorado County; Supervisor John Viegas, Glenn County; Supervisor Michael Kelley, Imperial County; Supervisor Matt Kingsley, Inyo County; Supervisor Bruno Sabatier, Lake County; Supervisor Aaron Albaugh, Lassen County; Supervisor Kevin Cann, Mariposa County; Supervisor Carre Brown, Mendocino County; Supervisor Daron McDaniel,

Merced County; Supervisor Geri Byrne, Modoc County; Supervisor Stacy Corless, Mono County; Supervisor Chris Lopez, Monterey County; Supervisor Diane Dillon, Napa County; Supervisor Dan Miller, Nevada County; Supervisor Jim Holmes, Placer County; Supervisor Anthony Botelho, San Benito County; Supervisor Les Baugh, Shasta County; Supervisor Lee Adams, Sierra County; Supervisor Michael Kobseff, Siskiyou County; Supervisor Mat Conant, Sutter County; Supervisor Bob Williams, Tehama County; Supervisor Jeremy Brown, Trinity County; Supervisor Kuyler Crocker, Tulare County

“No”: Supervisor Doug Teeter, Butte County; Supervisor Rex Bohn, Humboldt County

Absent: Supervisor Lynn Compton, San Luis Obispo County; Supervisor Sherri Brennan, Tuolumne County; Supervisor Randy Fletcher, Yuba County

Senate Bill 10 – Bail Reform Referendum

Paul A. Smith and Elizabeth Howard Espinosa, Partner, Hurst, Brooks, Espinosa LLC, presented the bail reform referendum, and indicated that this measure would overturn Senate Bill 10 (Hertzberg, 2018) which replaced the money bail system with a system for pretrial release based upon individualized risk assessments and supervision conditions. RCRC did not offer any formal position on the final version of SB 10. The bail reform referendum will appear on the November 2020 General Election ballot. Mr. Smith encouraged supervisors to consider the arguments as presented in the RCRC Board of Directors’ meeting Main Packet

Proponents of SB 10 were asked to speak. Jonathan Underland, Paschal Roth Public Affairs, spoke in support of the ballot measure. Following Mr. Underland’s presentation, opponents of SB 10 were asked to speak. John Kabateck, Kabateck Strategies, and Mayor Michael Saragosa, Placerville, spoke in opposition of the ballot measure.

Staff Recommendation

RCRC staff recommended the RCRC Board of Directors adopt a “No Position” position for the Bail Reform Ballot Initiative.

Supervisor John Viegas, Glenn County, motioned to approve a “No Position” position on the Senate Bill 10 – Bail Reform Referendum. Supervisor Denise Carter, Colusa County, seconded the motion. Motion passed by the following roll call vote taken:

“Aye”: Supervisor David Griffith, Alpine County; Supervisor Brian Oneto, Amador County; Supervisor Jack Garamendi, Calaveras County; Supervisor Denise Carter, Colusa County; Supervisor Gerry Hemmingsen, Del Norte County; Supervisor Lori Parlin, El Dorado County; Supervisor John Viegas, Glenn County; Supervisor Michael Kelley, Imperial County; Supervisor Matt Kingsley, Inyo County; Supervisor Bruno Sabatier, Lake County; Supervisor

Kevin Cann, Mariposa County; Supervisor Carre Brown, Mendocino County; Supervisor Daron McDaniel, Merced County; Supervisor Geri Byrne, Modoc County; Supervisor Stacy Corless, Mono County; Supervisor Chris Lopez, Monterey County; Supervisor Diane Dillon, Napa County; Supervisor Jim Holmes, Placer County; Supervisor Anthony Botelho, San Benito County; Supervisor Lynn Compton, San Luis Obispo County; Supervisor Lee Adams, Sierra County; Supervisor Michael Kobseff, Siskiyou County; Supervisor Jeremy Brown, Trinity County

“No”: Supervisor Doug Teeter, Butte County; Supervisor Rex Bohn, Humboldt County; Supervisor Dan Miller, Nevada County; Supervisor Les Baugh, Shasta County; Supervisor Bob Williams, Tehama County; Supervisor Kuyler Crocker, Tulare County

Absent: Supervisor Aaron Albaugh, Lassen County; Supervisor Mat Conant, Sutter County; Supervisor Sherri Brennan, Tuolumne County; Supervisor Randy Fletcher, Yuba County

Public Safety Ballot Initiative

Paul A. Smith presented the Public Safety Ballot Initiative, and indicated that this measure would, among other provisions, restrict parole for non-violent offenders, and authorize felony sentences for certain offenses currently treated as misdemeanors. Mr. Smith noted that RCRC has supported components of the Public Safety Ballot Initiative when they appeared as bills in the legislative process. The Public Safety Ballot Initiative will appear on the November 2020 General Election ballot.

Staff Recommendation

RCRC staff recommended the RCRC Board of Directors adopt a “Support” position for the Public Safety Ballot Initiative.

Supervisor Michael Kobseff, Siskiyou County, motioned to approve a “Support” position on the Public Safety Ballot Initiative. Supervisor Dan Miller, Nevada County, seconded the motion. Motion passed with all Supervisors present voting “Aye.” Supervisor Lynn Compton, San Luis Obispo, Supervisor Sherri Brennan, Tuolumne County, and Supervisor Randy Fletcher, Yuba County, absent.

Forest Management and Wildfire Update

Staci Heaton, Senior Regulatory Affairs Advocate, provided an update on current efforts in the Legislature and various state and federal agencies to address California’s persistent and catastrophic wildfire events.

Ms. Heaton discussed several wildfire prevention and homeowners insurance legislation, including Assembly Bill 3074 (Friedman), Assembly Bill 3164 (Friedman), Assembly Bill 2076 (Bigelow), Assembly Bill 2167 (Daly), Assembly Bill 2367 (Gonzalez), and Assembly Bill 3012 (Wood).

Ms. Heaton also spoke about the Governor's Forest Management Task Force's recent meeting, in which topics related to forest management and wildfire prevention were discussed. The recent Governments for Forest Health Working Group meeting discussed issues related to local governments and forest health. Ms. Heaton also spoke about the California Fire Safe Councils' new County Wildfire Mitigation Coordinators Program that would support implementation of fire prevention and preparedness efforts. Lastly, Ms. Heaton shared that the U.S. Department of Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue recently issued a memorandum calling on the U.S. Forest Service to simplify regulations and deliver modern systems.

2020-21 State Budget Update

Paul A. Smith provided a brief initial analysis of the 2020-21 State Budget, which remains incomplete. On June 15th, both houses of the Legislature approved the main 2020-21 State Budget (Senate Bill 74) and two budget trailer bills that assist in implementing the 2020-21 State Budget Package. It is expected remaining issues will be considered and adopted over the next several days and weeks.

Mr. Smith reported on the following items: release of the federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act monies to counties and cities; delay of action on Cap-and-Trade revenues for various greenhouse gas reduction programs, including Senate Bill 901 forest health and wildfire prevention activities and the FARMER Program; and, defer to a later discussion a \$1 billion backfill to Realignment programs to account for the loss of sales tax monies that support the Realignment structure.

Mr. Smith encouraged supervisors to review *The Rural Rundown: A Summary of the Initial 2020-21 State Budget Package* for a full summary of the initial 2020-21 State Budget Package and its impacts on rural counties. RCRC staff will provide an update at the August RCRC Board of Directors meeting when it is anticipated there will be a clearer understanding of the state's revenues.

State Legislative Update

Paul A. Smith provided an update on the Legislature's calendar. The Assembly will adjourn for Summer Recess on June 19th through July 13th. The Senate will adjourn for Summer Recess on July 2nd through July 13th.

Mr. Smith provided a brief overview on Assembly Bill 860 (Berman), regarding vote-by-mail ballots for the November 2020 General Election. AB 860 requires county elections officials to mail a ballot to every registered voter and permits any voter to cast a ballot using the vote-by-mail system. The bill is moving quickly, and it is expected that Governor Newsom will sign it into law soon.

Federal Legislative Update

Paul A. Smith provided a brief update on issues at the federal level that are of importance to RCRC Member Counties. Mr. Smith shared that Congress is continuing to work on the next round of federal stimulus funding. RCRC staff recently submitted a letter to congressional leaders in support of direct, increased aid to states and counties, as well

as provide maximum flexibility to utilize federal assistance dollars. In addition, the letter urged the inclusion of payroll tax credits to both public and private sector employees in any subsequent COVID-19 relief package, and increased funding for rural broadband. RCRC staff also submitted a letter in support of Representative Paul Cook's (R-Yucca Valley) H.R. 7090, the Coronavirus County Relief and Stability Act, which would provide additional federal relief funding to counties that are struggling amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as reauthorize the federal Payments In Lieu of Taxes program for five years.

Mr. Smith also spoke about S. 3422 by Senator Cory Gardner (R-Colorado), and co-sponsored by Senate Dianne Feinstein (D-California) and Senator Kamala Harris (D-California). This bill would fully and permanently fund the Land and Water Conservation Fund and address priority repairs in U.S. National Parks and other land management agencies. S. 3422 is expected to be signed into law. Finally, Mr. Smith stated that there are ongoing efforts by Congress to reauthorize a highway bill when the current highway bill is set to expire in September 2020.

Environmental Services Joint Powers Authority Update

Staci Heaton provided a brief update on the Rural Counties' Environmental Services Joint Powers Authority's (ESJPA) recent activities, including: the California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery's (CalRecycle) fourth final draft of the Senate Bill 1383 Short-Lived Climate Pollutants regulations, which was rejected by the Governor's Office of Administrative Law; COVID-19 regulatory relief for local solid waste and recycling operations coalition efforts; CalRecycle's appointment to the Assembly Bill 1583 Statewide Commission on Recycling Markets and Curbside Recycling tasked with developing recommendations on recyclables and compostable; and, grant updates as it relates to the used oil payment program and tire amnesty grant. Ms. Heaton also encouraged supervisors to attend the ESJPA Board of Directors meeting, which will be held via Zoom on June 25, 2020 at 9 a.m.

Following Ms. Heaton's update, Supervisor Rex Bohn, Humboldt County, inquired about the status of the buy-back of empty California Refund Value beverage containers as a result of COVID-19-related closures.

California Air Resources Board Advanced Clean Trucks Regulations Update

Staci Heaton provided an update of the California Air Resources Board's requirements on truck manufacturers and reporting requirements for fleet operators of light/medium duty and heavier trucks. Ms. Heaton reminded supervisors of the negative impacts the regulations would have on RCRC member counties should these regulations go into effect. The reporting requirements are burdensome, and indicate further regulatory restrictions on fleet makeup and purchases in the future. RCRC staff has filed formal comments on the proposed amendments which outlined concerns with both the amendments and the Costs and Benefits Analysis.

California Public Utilities Commission Update

Staci Heaton provided a brief update on the progress of several California Public Utilities Commission proceedings, including how utilities undertake wildfire hazard mitigation and de-energization of power lines to prevent high-severity wildfires, the Self-Generation Incentive Program, Emergency Disaster Relief Program, Microgrids and Resiliency, and the California Advanced Service Fund.

Water Issues Update

Mary-Ann Warmerdam, Senior Legislative Advocate, provided an update on issues involving California water policy. At the state level, Ms. Warmerdam shared that general obligation bonds to fund resource programs will likely not occur this year. As for Voluntary Agreements, Supervisor Jack Garamendi (Calaveras County) and Supervisor Doug Teeter (Butte County) recently penned a letter to Governor Newsom regarding RCRC's appreciation of the efforts to maintain California's water supply; however, it is believed that it will not be adopted anytime soon. As for the Safe and Affordable Drinking Water Fund, RCRC recently submitted comments to the State Water Resources Control Board on draft fund expenditure plan, and outlined the importance of delivering critical drinking water needs in disadvantaged communities. Ms. Warmerdam also spoke briefly about the Water Resiliency Initiative Portfolio and the status of the implementation of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act.

At the federal level, Ms. Warmerdam briefly discussed the Drought Resiliency and Water Supply Infrastructure Act, the Securing Access for the Central Valley and Enhancing Water Resources Act, and the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee legislation whereby two bills were introduced by Senators John Barrasso (R-Wyoming) and Tom Carper (D-Delaware) aimed at boosting the country's water infrastructure.

Following Ms. Warmerdam's update, Supervisor Carre Brown, Mendocino County, inquired about possible drought funding attempts by the Legislature.

Adjournment

Chair, Supervisor Daron McDaniel, Merced County, adjourned the RCRC Board of Directors Meeting at 3:24 p.m.