

**Rural County Representatives of California
Board of Directors Meeting
Wednesday, December 11, 2019 – 9:00 a.m.
1215 K Street, Suite 1650 – Board Room
Sacramento, CA 95814**

MINUTES

Call to Order, Determination of Quorum and Self Introductions

Chair, Supervisor Matt Kingsley, Inyo County, called the meeting to order at 9:09 a.m. A quorum was determined at that time. Those present:

<u>Supervisor</u>	<u>County</u>
David Griffith	Alpine
Doug Teeter	Butte
Jack Garamendi	Calaveras
Denise Carter	Colusa
Gerry Hemmingsen	Del Norte
Lori Parlin	El Dorado
John Viegas	Glenn
Rex Bohn	Humboldt
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
Diane Dillon	Napa
Dan Miller	Nevada
Jim Holmes	Placer
Anthony Botelho	San Benito
Lee Adams	Sierra
Michael Kobseff	Siskiyou
Mat Conant	Sutter
Bob Williams	Tehama
Jeremy Brown	Trinity
Kuyler Crocker	Tulare
Sherri Brennan	Tuolumne
Gary Sandy	Yolo
Randy Fletcher	Yuba

Absent

Brian Oneto	Amador
Michael Kelley	Imperial

David Rogers	Madera
Chris Lopez	Monterey
Kevin Goss	Plumas
John Peschong	San Luis Obispo
Les Baugh	Shasta
Lynda Hopkins	Sonoma

Others in Attendance

Supervisor Miles Menetrey, Mariposa County
Jeffrey Thorsby, Nevada County
Ed Horton, Placer County Water Agency
Randy Hanvelt, Associated California Loggers
Erica Manuel, Institute for Local Government
Chief Thom Porter, CAL FIRE
Craig Tolmie, CAL FIRE
Mike Mohler, CAL FIRE
Graham Knaus, California State Association of Counties
Crystal Crawford, Ygrene Energy Fund

Staff in Attendance

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of Minutes – September 27, 2019

Chair, Supervisor Matt Kingsley, called for approval of the minutes from the September 27, 2019 Board of Directors Meeting.

Supervisor Michael Kobseff, Siskiyou County, motioned to approve the minutes from the September 27, 2019 Board of Directors Meeting. Supervisor Rex Bohn, Humboldt County, seconded the motion. Motion passed with all Supervisors present voting “Aye,” except as follows:

Abstaining: Supervisor Denise Carter, Colusa County; Supervisor Ed Crandell, Lake County; Supervisor Anthony Botelho, San Benito County; Supervisor Lee Adams, Sierra County; Supervisor Mat Conant, Sutter County; Supervisor Gary Sandy, Yolo County

RCRC Chair's Report

Chair, Matt Kingsley, welcomed all of the supervisors to the RCRC Board of Directors Meeting. Supervisor Kingsley shared that the RCRC Officers attended the California State Association of Counties' (CSAC) 2019 Annual Meeting which was held in San Francisco on December 2-6, 2019.

Member County Concerns and Issues

Supervisor Carre Brown, Mendocino County, shared her concern about funding for the University of California's (U.C.) Cooperative Extension program.

Supervisor Gerry Hemmingsen, Del Norte County, echoed Supervisor Brown's concern regarding U.C. Cooperative Extension program funding. Supervisor Hemmingsen also shared his continued concern with county jail operations.

Supervisor David Griffith, Alpine County, encouraged fellow supervisors to read the book titled "13 Ways to Kill your Community" by Doug Griffiths. Mr. Griffiths was a speaker at RCRC's 2019 Annual Meeting in El Dorado County.

Supervisor Griffith discussed CSAC's 2019 Annual Meeting, where he heard from presenters on the topics of mental health and county branding/outreach.

Supervisor Sherri Brennan, Tuolumne County, expressed her appreciation for State Treasurer Fiona Ma, who served as a guest speaker at the September 2019 RCRC Board of Directors meeting, for agreeing to pursue efforts to fund county payments under the Williamson Act.

Supervisor Michael Kobseff, Siskiyou County, spoke about state back taxes on funding the Williamson Act and the state payment in lieu of taxes program.

Supervisor Lori Parlin, El Dorado County, shared that El Dorado County will have a local sales tax ballot measure for road repairs; however, Supervisor Parlin does not think it will be successful.

Supervisor Mat Conant, Sutter County, conveyed his concern with unfunded pension liabilities and the rising costs of the California Public Employees' Retirement System.

Supervisor Geri Byrne, Modoc County, spoke about county roads plans in Modoc County.

Supervisor Jeremy Brown, Trinity County, spoke about the Sites Reservoir Project, cannabis cultivation licensing, and multi-county support for cannabis tourism.

Supervisor Rex Bohn, Humboldt County, in response to Supervisor Jeremy Brown's inquiry about the Sites Reservoir Project, shared his insight about the project.

Supervisor Anthony Botelho, San Benito County, shared that San Benito County has formed a committee to address a hemp ordinance.

Public Comments

Erica Manuel, Executive Director, Institute for Local Government (ILG), introduced herself as the new leader of the organization. Ms. Manuel spoke briefly about ILG's mission, and shared her eagerness to work with rural counties.

President's Report

Greg Norton, President & CEO, provided a brief update on recent attendance to conferences and meetings by Economic Development and Governmental Affairs staff. RCRC staff also met with RCRC Board Members in Butte, Inyo, Mariposa, Monterey, Placer, Shasta, Sonoma, and others counties in recent weeks.

Consideration of Revising the RCRC Bylaws to Reassign Mariposa County from Region 5 to Region 4

Greg Norton discussed the potential reassignment of Mariposa County from Region 5 to Region 4. If reassignment is made, Region 5 would consist of 7 counties and Region 4 would consist of 8. Mariposa County believes that attaching itself to Sierra Mountains-oriented counties is more appropriate with its political culture and policy focus.

At their November 13, 2019 meeting, the RCRC Executive Committee approved Mariposa County's request and agreed to forward such a recommendation for the RCRC Board of Directors to consider.

Staff Recommendations

It was recommended that the RCRC Board of Directors approve reassignment of Mariposa County from Region 5 to Region 4 and approve related revisions to the RCRC Bylaws as reflected.

Supervisor Rex Bohn, Humboldt County, motioned to approve the revise the RCRC Bylaws to reassign Mariposa County from Region 5 to Region 4. Supervisor Michael Kobseff, Siskiyou County, seconded the motion. Motion passed with all Supervisors present voting "Aye."

Election of 2020 RCRC Officers and Corporate Officers

Greg Norton explained the election process for the 2020 RCRC Officers, and shared that Supervisor Gerry Hemmingsen, Del Norte County, expressed his interest in the Second Vice Chair position. Shortly afterwards, Supervisor Dan Miller, Nevada County, expressed his interest in the Second Vice Chair position. Supervisors Hemmingsen and Miller addressed the RCRC Board of Directors.

RCRC staff collected one election ballot for each member county present. Mr. Norton, Paul A. Smith, Vice President Governmental Affairs, and Arthur Wylene, General Counsel, counted the votes, and announced the following officers:

2020 Chair	Supervisor Daron McDaniel, Merced County
2020 First Vice Chair	Supervisor Stacy Corless, Mono County
2020 Second Vice Chair	Supervisor Dan Miller, Nevada County
2020 Immediate Past Chair	Supervisor Matt Kingsley, Inyo County

RCRC's 2020 Officer slate becomes effective January 1, 2020. The Officers will be sworn-in at the 2020 Installation of Officers and Rural Leadership Awards Reception on January 15, 2020.

In addition, Mr. Norton nominated the following individuals to serve, in addition to himself, as the 2020 RCRC Corporate Officers:

Lisa McCargar	RCRC Treasurer
Craig Ferguson	RCRC Secretary

Staff Recommendations

It was recommended the RCRC Board of Directors take action to:

1. Elect the 2020 RCRC Board Officers.
2. Confirm the RCRC Corporate Officers.

Supervisor David Griffith, Alpine County, motioned to approve the Election of the 2020 Chair, 2020 First Vice Chair, 2020 Immediate Past Chair, and 2020 RCRC Corporate Officers as noted above. Supervisor Jim Holmes, Placer County, seconded the motion. Motion passed with all Supervisors present voting "Aye."

Supervisor Randy Fletcher, Yuba County motioned to approve the Election of the 2020 Second Vice Chair as noted above. Supervisor Michael Kobseff, Siskiyou County seconded the motion. Motion passed with all Supervisors present voting "Aye."

Election of 2020 RCRC Executive Committee

Greg Norton reviewed the election procedure for the 2020 RCRC Executive Committee. Mr. Norton explained that Board Members selected will serve with the RCRC Officers to collectively comprise the RCRC Executive Committee for a two year term (2020-2021).

Supervisors from each region convened to caucus and selected a Board Member to serve on the RCRC Executive Committee. Representatives from each region reported the following selections for the 2020 RCRC Executive Committee:

Region 1: Supervisor Gerry Hemmingsen, Del Norte County

Region 2: Supervisor Lee Adams, Sierra County
Region 3: Supervisor Denise Carter, Colusa County
Region 4: Supervisor Jack Garamendi, Calaveras County
Region 5: Supervisor Kuyler Crocker, Tulare County

Supervisor Rex Bohn, Humboldt County, motioned to approve the Election of the 2020 RCRC Executive Committee. Supervisor Michael Kobseff, Siskiyou County, seconded the motion. Motion passed with all Supervisors present voting “Aye.”

Give Back Proposal: Human Trafficking Prevention

Greg Norton provided an overview of the RCRC and National Homebuyers Fund (NHF) give back proposal to prevent human trafficking. In 2016, RCRC and NHF provided funding to 3Strands Global’s PROTECT program, a human trafficking prevention and awareness education program through RCRC Member County public schools. Recently, 3Strands Global has submitted a request for additional funding to further their efforts. The request calls for a total of \$194,148 over the three fiscal years of 2020-2021 through 2022-2023.

The NHF Board of Directors approved funding of 50 percent of the request at their meeting earlier in the day. If approved, RCRC would provide 50 percent of the annual request of \$32,358 beginning in 2020-2021. At their November 13, 2019 meeting, the RCRC Executive Committee approved to continue support of the PROTECT program.

The RCRC Board of Directors discussed the program’s effectiveness in their respective counties.

Recommendation

It was recommended that the RCRC Board of Directors consider and discuss the request and approve a three-year commitment of \$32,358 annually beginning in the 2020 RCRC budget, totaling \$97,074 over three years.

Supervisor Michael Kobseff, Siskiyou County, motioned to approve the proposed recommendations. Supervisor Stacy Corless, Mono County, seconded the motion. Motion passed with all Supervisors present voting “Aye.”

2020 Western Interstate Region Conference

Western Interstate Region’s (WIR) President Supervisor Kevin Cann, Mariposa County, Justin Caporusso, Vice President External Affairs, and CSAC’s Executive Director Graham Knaus, provided an overview of the National Association of Counties’ (NACo) 2020 WIR’s Conference. The 2020 WIR Conference is being jointly sponsored by RCRC, CSAC, and Mariposa County, and is slated to occur May 13-15, 2020 at Tenaya Lodge at Yosemite. Supervisor Cann encouraged supervisors to visit www.naco.org/wir2020 to register.

Guest Speaker – Thom Porter, Director, California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

Chair Matt Kingsley, Inyo County, introduced Thom Porter, Director of the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE). Director Porter provided an overview of CAL FIRE's recent activities and programs.

Following the presentations, supervisors and Director Porter engaged in a question and answer period.

Consideration of New Membership Criteria

Greg Norton and Paul A. Smith discussed the proposed new member county criteria for counties interested in RCRC membership. At both the October and November meetings, the RCRC Executive Committee reviewed a number of options to address the issue of new RCRC membership. The RCRC Executive Committee agreed to forward the following criteria to the RCRC Board of Directors to consider:

1. Require all new county members seeking membership in RCRC to adopt a resolution seeking membership by a minimum 4-1 vote of the county board of supervisors;
2. New member counties include in their resolution a commitment to the annually-adopted RCRC Policy Principles which focuses on rural county matters;
3. Limit future new members to counties with populations of less than 600,000 residents on the date of admission to RCRC. Populations growing in excess of 600,000 residents following admission to RCRC will not affect membership in RCRC; and,
4. Approve related revisions to the RCRC Bylaws as reflected.

The RCRC Board of Directors discussed at length possible criteria for non-incumbent counties that may be interested in joining RCRC.

Recommendations

It was recommended by the RCRC Executive Committee that the RCRC Board of Directors discuss and approve the following criteria:

1. Require all new county members seeking membership in RCRC to adopt a resolution seeking membership by a minimum 4-1 vote of the county board of supervisors;
2. New member counties include in their resolution a commitment to the annually-adopted RCRC Policy Principles which focuses on rural county matters;
3. Limit future new members to counties with populations of less than 600,000 residents on the date of admission to RCRC. Populations growing in excess of 600,000 residents following admission to RCRC will not affect membership in RCRC; and,
4. Approve related revisions to the RCRC Bylaws as reflected.

Supervisor Bob Williams, Tehama County, motioned to approve the above-mentioned criteria. Supervisor Carre Brown, Mendocino County, seconded the motion. Motion passes with all Supervisors present voting “Aye,” except as follows:

Supervisor Daron McDaniel, Merced County, and Supervisor Kuyler Crocker, Tulare County, voting “No.”

RCRC Budget Report (September 30, 2019)

Lisa McCargar, Chief Financial Officer, presented the RCRC Quarterly Budget Report which provided a summary of budget to actual comparison for the nine months, ending September 30, 2019.

RCRC 2020 Proposed Budget

Lisa McCargar outlined the proposed 2020 RCRC Operating Budget to the RCRC Board of Directors. Ms. McCargar provided an overall summary, highlighting revenue and expenditures, and outlining the key differences between the 2020 and 2019 Expenditure Budgets. At their November 13, 2019 meeting, the RCRC Executive Committee reviewed and approved the proposed operating budget.

Staff Recommendations

Staff recommended that the RCRC Board of Directors approve the following staff recommendations:

1. Approve the proposed 2020 RCRC Operating Budget.
2. Approve the RCRC contract service fees at the following amounts:
GSFA - \$5,548,000; ESJPA - \$89,000; and NHF - \$1,930,000
3. Approve the RCRC contract Performance Fee from GSFA based on projected GSFA housing and energy program net revenues generated in 2020 in the amount of \$1,629,000.
4. Approve receipt of excess resources/revenues transferred from NHF, per the NHF Bylaws, in the amount of \$1,000,000, to be transferred in equal quarterly amounts of \$250,000 during 2020.
5. Approve 2020-member county dues calculation at the levels approved by the Board on June 13, 2012.
6. Approve the proposed 2020 pay rate schedule.
7. Approve the proposed outlay for capitalized expenditures in the amount of \$265,500

Supervisor Carre Brown, Mendocino County, motioned to approve the RCRC 2020 Proposed Budget. Supervisor John Viegas, Glenn County, seconded the motion. Motion passed with all Supervisors present voting “Aye.”

RCRC Rural Leadership Awards

Paul A. Smith informed the RCRC Board of Directors that at the November 13, 2019 meeting, the RCRC Executive Committee approved RCRC staff’s recommendation of

Senator Hannah-Beth Jackson (D - Santa Barbara) and Assembly Member Jay Obernolte (R - Big Bear Lake) as the recipients of the 2019 RCRC Rural Leadership Award. The Awards will be presented at the 2020 Annual Installation of Officers and Rural Leadership Awards Reception on January 15, 2020.

2020 Installation of Officers and Rural Leadership Awards Reception

Justin Caporusso provided an update on the upcoming RCRC 2020 Installation of Officers and Rural Leadership Awards Reception which will take place at 5 p.m. on January 15, 2020, at the Hyatt Regency in Sacramento. In an effort to have a more succinct program, the installation of incoming RCRC Officers and outgoing RCRC Chair will take place at the January RCRC Board of Directors meeting.

Proposition 13 – “Public Pre-School, K-12, and College Health and Safety Bond Act of 2020”

Paul A. Smith and Tracy Rhine, Legislative Advocate, provided an analysis of Proposition 13, the “Public Pre-school, K-12, and College Health and Safety Bond Act of 2020,” which would provide \$15 billion in bond funding for preschool, K-12, and public college/university facility construction projects. Proposition 13 is slated for the March 3, 2020 Primary Election.

The RCRC Board of Directors discussed at length the pros and cons of Proposition 13 as it pertains to RCRC Member Counties.

Staff Recommendation

RCRC staff recommended the RCRC Board of Directors adopt a “Support” position on Proposition 13.

Supervisor Bob Williams, Tehama County, motioned for a “No Position” on Proposition 13. Supervisor Diane Dillon, Napa County, seconded the motion. Motion passed by the following roll call vote taken:

“Aye”: Supervisor David Griffith, Alpine County; Supervisor Doug Teeter, Butte 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 Rex Bohn, Humboldt County; Supervisor Matt Kingsley, Inyo County; Supervisor Aaron Albaugh, Lassen County; Supervisor Kevin Cann, Mariposa Cann; Supervisor Carre Brown, Mendocino County; Supervisor Daron McDaniel, Merced County; Supervisor Geri Byrne, Modoc County; Supervisor Stacy Corless, Mono County; Supervisor Diane Dillon, Napa County; Supervisor Dan Miller, Nevada County; Supervisor Jim Holmes, Placer County; Supervisor Anthony Botelho, San Benito County; Supervisor Michael Kobseff, Siskiyou County; Supervisor Bob Williams, Tehama County; Supervisor Sherri Brennan, Tuolumne County; Supervisor Randy Fletcher, Yuba County

“No”: Supervisor Lee Adams, Sierra County; Supervisor Jeremy Brown, Trinity County; Supervisor Gary Sandy, Yolo County

Absent: Supervisor E.J. Crandell, Lake County; Supervisor Mat Conant, Sutter County; Supervisor Kuyler Crocker, Tulare County

Proposed 2020 Policy Principles

Paul A. Smith presented the 2020 proposed Policy Principles to the RCRC Board of Directors for review. These principles help guide staff when they review proposed legislation or regulations in order to determine the appropriate RCRC position. RCRC Board Members were requested to review the draft Policy Principles, which contain a number of modifications. Edits, amendments, and comments are to be submitted to Maggie Chui no later than January 3, 2020 so they can be included in the Board Packet and considered at the January RCRC Board of Directors meeting.

Public Safety Power Shut-Offs Update

Staci Heaton, Senior Regulatory Affairs Advocate, and John Kennedy, Legislative Advocate, provided an update on the state’s activities to mitigate impacts utilities’ Public Safety Power Shut-Offs (PSPS) events.

Ms. Heaton and Mr. Kennedy discussed PSPS event that occurred in October, and subsequent action by the California Public Utilities Commission to address how the utilities handled the event. In mid-November, RCRC staff participated in the Pre-Hearing Conference for the Emergency Disaster Relief Program Proceeding, where RCRC staff communicated the need for telecommunications system resiliency during PSPS events and natural disasters, and enumerated numerous system deficiencies and the impacts to residents, local governments, and emergency responders.

Mr. Kennedy discussed a number of bills related to de-energization and community resilience to PSPS events. RCRC staff worked on many of these bills during the 2019 Legislative Session. In the 2020 Legislative Session, RCRC will likely sponsor a number of proposals to reduce the adverse impacts associated with PSPS events.

Forest Management and Wildfire Update

Staci Heaton provided an update on several efforts to address California's persistent wildfire events, including: homeowners insurance availability and affordability; the Forest Management Task Force; the CPUC Wildfire Hazard Mitigation Plans Proceeding; and, the California Vegetation Treatment Program Environmental Impact Report.

Of importance, Ms. Heaton outlined the California Insurance Commissioner Ricardo Lara’s recent actions to address wildfire insurance availability and affordability, including the issuing of an order to, among other provisions, require the Fair Access to Insurance Requirements Plan to offer comprehensive policies, and a voluntary year-long moratorium on qualified homeowners’ insurance non-renewals.

Supervisor Sherri Brennan thanked RCRC staff for their work on the Homeowners Insurance Ad Hoc Committee.

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 (CalRecycle) activities, State Water Resources Control Board activities, and grant update. Ms. Heaton also provided an agenda overview of tomorrow's ESJPA board meeting, and encouraged supervisors to attend.

Senate Bill 1383 Short-Lived Climate Pollutants Regulations

Staci Heaton outlined the status of the Senate Bill 1383 Short-Lived Climate Pollutants Regulation, currently proposed by CalRecycle. Ms. Heaton elaborated on RCRC's regulatory advocacy and legislative advocacy efforts.

In early October, CalRecycle released its most recent draft of the SB 1383 regulations. RCRC filed extensive comments on the proposed changes, detailing insufficiency to exemptions. RCRC is considering possible legislative efforts to explore an alternative program for low population counties. Ms. Heaton noted that the current draft is extremely difficult to implement in rural counties, particularly due to the high cost for full implementation, lack of infrastructure, and insufficient time to site and permit facilities by the proposed mandated deadlines.

Water Issues Update

Mary-Ann Warmerdam, Senior Legislative Advocate, provided a brief update on issues involving California water policy. Ms. Warmerdam spoke on the Water Resiliency Initiative Portfolio, where recommendations were recently submitted to Governor Newsom. A final draft is expected to be circulated in January with a finalized document to be released in the first quarter of 2020. RCRC filed comments and participated on a panel. Ms. Warmerdam also discussed a number of legislative efforts by the Legislature to fund resource programs.

On the federal front, Ms. Warmerdam encouraged supervisors to review the memo for information on: the Water Quality Protection and Job Creation Act; the Drought Resiliency and Water Supply Infrastructure Act; the Securing Access for the Central Valley and Enhancing Water Resources Act; the Water Resources Research Amendments Act; the Water Justice Act; and, the Friant-Kern Canal Fix.

Sustainable Groundwater Management Act Update

Mary-Ann Warmerdam provided a brief update on the Sustainable Ground Water Management Act (SGMA) and its implementation. For those basins/sub-basins designated as critically over-drafted, the Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSPs) are due to the Department of Water Resources (DWR) by January 31, 2020. For basins designated as high- or medium-priority, plans are due on January 31, 2022.

Ms. Warmerdam noted that she expects that DWR will have a lot more work than it can take on, and believes that draft GSPs will be forwarded back to the counties.

State Legislative Update

The Legislature will reconvene for the 2020 Legislative Session on January 6, 2020. Given this is the second year of the 2019-20 State Legislative Session, policy committees will begin hearing two-year bills left over from last year when they return. These bills must be passed out of their house of origin before the January 31, 2020 deadline.

Paul A. Smith requested supervisors to stay tune for the January RCRC Board of Directors meeting to review a number of legislative proposals that RCRC will be pursuing for the 2020 Legislative Session.

Federal Legislative Update

Paul A. Smith encouraged supervisors to review the memo for updates on issues at the federal level that are of importance to RCRC Member Counties, including the Secure Rural Schools Act and the Federal Payments In Lieu of Taxes program, appropriations for FY 2020, cannabis and hemp banking, rural broadband and telecommunications, disaster relief, State and Local Tax Cap, United States–Mexico–Canada Agreement, and infrastructure.

Adjournment

Chair, Supervisor Matt Kingsley, adjourned the RCRC Board of Directors Meeting at 3:17 p.m.