



# **Executive Committee Meeting**

**Wednesday,  
March 13, 2019**

**Capitol Event Center  
1020 11<sup>th</sup> Street  
Sacramento, California 95814**



**Rural County Representatives of California  
Special Executive Committee Meeting  
Capitol Event Center  
1020 11<sup>th</sup> Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814**

**March 13, 2019**

**1:00 p.m. or Upon Adjournment of the RCRC Board of Directors Meeting**

Executive Committee Members:

Supervisor Matt Kingsley, Inyo County  
Supervisor Daron McDaniel, Merced County  
Supervisor Stacy Corless, Mono County  
Supervisor Rex Bohn, Humboldt County  
Supervisor Kevin Cann, Mariposa County (*Ex-Officio*)

Supervisor Michael Kobseff, Siskiyou County  
Supervisor Aaron Albaugh, Lassen County  
Supervisor Diane Dillon, Napa County  
Supervisor Jack Garamendi, Calaveras County  
Supervisor Kuyler Crocker, Tulare County

**Agenda**

- I. **Call to Order and Determination of Quorum**  
*Chair, Supervisor Matt Kingsley, Inyo County*
- II. **Pledge of Allegiance**
- III. **Approval of Minutes of the February 20, 2019 Meeting** Page 1  
*(Board Members absent from the meeting will be recorded as abstained unless the Board Member indicates otherwise)*
- IV. **Public Comment**  
*At this time any member of the public may address the Board. Speakers are asked to state their name for the record. Comments are usually limited to no more than 3 minutes per speaker.*
- V. **Governmental Affairs** (Discussion and possible action relative to)  
*Paul A. Smith, Vice President Governmental Affairs*  
*Staci Heaton, Regulatory Affairs Advocate*
  - a. **RCRC Supporting the Confirmation of Wade Crowfoot, Secretary of the Natural Resources Agency - ACTION** Page 5
  - b. **RCRC Supporting the Confirmation of Thom Porter, Chief of the California Department of Fire and Forestry Protection - ACTION** Page 9
- VI. **Adjournment**

Meeting facilities are accessible to persons with disabilities. By request, alternative agenda document formats are available to persons with disabilities. To arrange an alternative agenda document format or to arrange aid or services to modify or accommodate persons with a disability to participate in a public meeting, contact Sarah Bolnik by calling (916) 447-4806 at least 48 hours before the meeting.

Agenda items will be taken as close as possible to the schedule indicated. Any member of the general public may comment on agenda items at the time of discussion. In order to facilitate public comment, please let staff know if you would like to speak on a specific agenda item. The agenda for this meeting of the Executive Committee of the Rural County Representatives of California was duly posted at its offices, 1215 K Street, Suite 1650, Sacramento, California, 72 hours prior to the meeting.



**Rural County Representatives of California  
Executive Committee Meeting  
1215 K Street, Suite 1650 Board Room  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
(916) 447-4806**

**February 20, 2019 – 10:00 a.m.**

**Executive Committee Members:**

Supervisor Matt Kingsley, Inyo County  
Supervisor Daron McDaniel, Merced County  
Supervisor Stacy Corless, Mono County  
Supervisor Rex Bohn, Humboldt County  
Supervisor Kevin Cann, Mariposa County (*Ex-Officio*)

Supervisor Michael Kobseff, Siskiyou County  
Supervisor Aaron Albaugh, Lassen County  
Supervisor Diane Dillon, Napa County  
Supervisor Jack Garamendi, Calaveras County  
Supervisor Kuyler Crocker, Tulare County

**Minutes**

**Call to Order and Determination of Quorum**

RCRC Chair, Supervisor Matt Kingsley, Inyo County, called the RCRC Executive Committee to order at 10:12 a.m. A quorum was determined at that time. Those present were as follows:

<b><u>Supervisors in Attendance</u></b>	<b><u>County</u></b>
Matt Kingsley	Inyo
Daron McDaniel	Merced
Stacy Corless	Mono
Rex Bohn	Humboldt
Michael Kobseff	Siskiyou
Aaron Albaugh	Lassen
Diane Dillon	Napa
Jack Garamendi	Calaveras
Kuyler Crocker	Tulare
Kevin Cann	Mariposa (Ex-Officio)

**Absent Members**

None

**Staff in Attendance**

Greg Norton, President and CEO  
Craig Ferguson, Vice President  
Lisa McCargar, Chief Financial Officer  
Paul A. Smith, Vice President Governmental Affairs  
Justin Caporusso, Vice President External Affairs  
Barbara Hayes, Economic Development Officer  
Michael Likosky, Director of Infrastructure  
Terrance Rodgers, Economic Development Officer  
Sarah Bolnik, Economic Development Specialist  
Arthur Wylene, General Counsel

**Others in Attendance**

Supervisor Bob Williams, Tehama County  
Supervisor Mat Conat, Yolo County

**Approval of Minutes of the November 14, 2018 Meeting**

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

**Supervisor Stacy Corless, Mono County, motioned to approve the minutes of the November 14, 2018 RCRC Executive Committee Meeting. Supervisor Rex Bohn, Humboldt County, seconded the motion. Motion passed.**

**Public Comment**

None

**RCRC Supporting Gubernatorial Appointments**

Paul A. Smith, Vice President Governmental Affairs, discussed the controversial topic of RCRC offering a "support" position for gubernatorial appointments during their State Senate confirmation process. The Executive Committee discussed at length the various pros and cons to supporting individuals who have been involved in bettering rural California. If the RCRC Executive Committee wishes to move forward and support gubernatorial appointments that require Senate confirmation, the RCRC bylaws will need to be amended. Mr. Smith reviewed the RCRC bylaws, particularly Section 6.7.2 regarding Powers and Limitations of the Executive Committee. Under a revised policy, staff would inform the Chair of the individual who would be considered for support from RCRC. And, the Chair would take it to the Executive Committee whereby a 2/3rds vote of the Executive Committee would be required to formally garner support for a nominee.

**Supervisor Rex Bohn, Humboldt County, motioned to present this proposed RCRC Baylaws amendment to the full RCRC Board of Directors for adoption. Supervisor Stacy Corless, Mono County, seconded the motion. Motion passed by a roll call vote:**

**Aye: Calaveras, Humboldt, Inyo, Lassen, Merced, Mono, Napa, Tulare**

**Nay: Siskiyou**

**NACo Legislative Conference**

Paul A. Smith discussed the activities taking place in Washington D.C. in the coming week when the RCRC Officers and staff will be traveling to the NACo Annual Legislative Conference. Mr. Smith briefly discussed the issues that they will be advocating for: 1) the Secure and Fair Enforcement Banking Act of 2019; 2) enactment of a Secure Rural Schools Endowment Fund; and, 3) enactment of a rural infrastructure package. He noted that the attendees will be receiving a preliminary agenda ahead of the trip. And, a private meeting with the Director of the United States Forest Service is on the calendar.

### **State Legislative Update**

Paul A. Smith reported to the Executive Committee that Friday, February 22nd is the bill introduction deadline. RCRC staff will be busy reviewing an overwhelming amount of bills over the next couple weeks. Mr. Smith expects legislation will be unveiled regarding land-use and fire issues. Mr. Smith also believes that there will be a variety of cannabis-related bills that could involve licensing at the local level. One such cannabis measure is Senate Bill 67 where RCRC has been involved. Mr. Smith also noted that staff is very involved with the writing of a regulatory bill regarding hemp.

### **RCRC Quarterly Budget and Investment Reports**

Lisa McCargar, Chief Financial Officer, presented the Quarterly Investment Report, the Budget Report, and the Liquidity Report for period ending December 31, 2018.

### **April/May Board of Directors Meeting**

Justin Caporusso, Vice President External Affairs, provided a brief overview of the 2019 County of the Chair Board Meeting. This year's meeting will be held in Furnace Creek (Inyo County) on April 30 – May 2. There will be a dinner and activity on April 30<sup>th</sup> followed by a full day of tours on May 1<sup>st</sup> and the Board of Directors dinner. The Board of Directors meeting will be held the following morning on May 2<sup>nd</sup>.

### **Altering Dates of the Board of Directors Meetings in Sacramento**

Paul A. Smith informed the Executive Committee that during the January Board of Director's Meeting, Supervisor Michael Kelley of Imperial County inquired about the possibility of moving the dates of the RCRC Board meetings held in Sacramento. Supervisor Kelley suggested moving the meetings from Wednesday to Thursday as this would likely lessen travel-related challenges for many board members. Supervisor Kelley also pointed out that all the RCRC Member Counties meet on Tuesdays. Mr. Smith relayed this discussion from January to the RCRC Executive Committee to seek their feedback. It was agreed upon that this issue would be addressed during the next Board of Directors meeting.

### **RCRC Closed Session**

#### **Conference with Legal Counsel – Initiation of Litigation**

The Rural County Representatives of California Executive Committee convened a closed session at 1:18 p.m. pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(1) regarding *County of El Dorado et al. v. Superior Court (Austin)*, California Court of Appeal, Third District, Case No. C088409 – RCRC Participation as Amicus Curiae.

**At 1:25 p.m., the closed session of the RCRC Executive Committee was adjourned and the Executive Committee reconvened the open session.**

Upon direction of the Chair, Supervisor Matt Kingsley, the General Counsel reported that the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors of the Rural County Representatives of California in closed session, February 20, 2019, authorized the

General Counsel to represent RCRC as amicus curiae in California Court of Appeal, Third District, Case No. C088409, *County of El Dorado et al. v. Superior Court (Austin)*. The substance of the litigation matter concerns the proper remedy and statute of limitations for a local agency's failure to make the required "five year" findings under the Mitigation Fee Act. The vote was unanimous by all members present.

**President/CEO Goals and Objectives Update**

The Executive Committee elected, by consensus, to waive receiving the President & CEO Goals and Objectives Update.

**Adjournment**

Chair, Supervisor Matt Kingsley, Inyo County, adjourned the meeting of the RCRC Executive Committee at 1:26 p.m.





**To:** RCRC Executive Committee  
**From:** Paul A. Smith, Vice President Governmental Affairs  
Staci Heaton, Regulatory Affairs Advocate  
**Date:** March 11, 2019  
**Re:** RCRC Supporting the Confirmation of Wade Crowfoot, Secretary of the Natural Resources Agency - **ACTION**

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### **Summary**

This memo addresses the possibility of RCRC supporting Wade Crowfoot, Governor Gavin Newsom's appointment to serve as the Secretary of the California Natural Resources Agency. If approved, RCRC would convey its support during the confirmation process in the State Senate.

### **Background**

Under the State's Constitution, the Governor is afforded a large number of appointments to head various state agencies. Furthermore, the Governor appoints hundreds of individuals to various state and regional boards and commissions. Most, but not all, senior appointments require the advice and consent of the State Senate. The review of gubernatorial appointments is primarily conducted by the Senate's Rules Committee, which is chaired by the Senate President pro Tempore (the effective leader of the State Senate). The Senate Rules Committee is comprised of five members – currently three Democrats and two Republicans. Assuming the consent of the Rules Committee, the name is subsequently brought to the Senate Floor for consideration. The overwhelming majority of appointees are subject to majority vote approval; however, some must be confirmed by a 2/3rds vote. Typically, an appointment by the Governor allows an individual to be seated immediately; however, Senate confirmation must occur within one year of the appointment.

### **Issue**

Mr. Crowfoot was appointed Secretary for the California Natural Resources Agency by Governor Newsom on January 11, 2019. Secretary Crowfoot brings more than 20 years of public policy and environmental experience to the office, with expertise in water, climate and sustainability issues. He most-recently served as chief executive officer of the Water Foundation and led its transition into an independent organization early in 2017.

Prior to joining the Foundation, he served in Governor Jerry Brown's Administration as deputy cabinet secretary and senior advisor to the Governor, leading the

Administration's drought response efforts. He previously served as West Coast regional director for the Environmental Defense Fund and a senior environmental advisor to then-San Francisco Mayor Newsom.

**Staff Recommendation**

RCRC staff recommends the RCRC Executive Committee support the gubernatorial appointment of Secretary Crowfoot during the confirmation process in the State Senate. Secretary Crowfoot has an established relationship with RCRC and its member counties and understands the rural county perspective. In his previous capacity as Deputy Cabinet Secretary for Governor Edmund G. Brown, Secretary Crowfoot worked closely with RCRC member counties and staff on the Governor's Tree Mortality Task Force to ensure immediate action and allocation of state resources to counties for tree removal projects, and also in joint requests to Congress on vital forest and water policy issues. Secretary Crowfoot has already taken steps in his new role to improve the current Forest Management Task Force at the request of RCRC and others, facilitating the appointment of now former Placer County Supervisor Jennifer Montgomery as the new Task Force leader. RCRC anticipates continuing our strong relationship with the Secretary should he be confirmed.

It should be noted that a 2/3rds vote of the RCRC Executive Committee is required to formally garner support for a nominee.

**Attachment**

- Draft Letter of Support for Wade Crowfoot



RURAL COUNTY REPRESENTATIVES  
OF CALIFORNIA

March 13, 2019

The Honorable Toni Atkins  
Senate President Pro Tempore  
Chair, Senate Rules Committee  
State Capitol, Room 205  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: Confirmation of Wade Crowfoot as Secretary of the California Natural Resources Agency - SUPPORT**

Dear Senator Atkins:

On behalf of the Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC), I am writing to express our support for the confirmation of Wade Crowfoot as Secretary of the California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA). RCRC is an association of thirty-six rural California counties, and the RCRC Board of Directors is comprised of elected supervisors from those member counties.

RCRC member counties are the stewards of much of the State's natural resources, including forests, watersheds, and wildlife habitat. It is imperative that the person overseeing CNRA have an acute understanding of the importance of working with local governments as partners in preserving California's natural resources, as well as an action-oriented mindset toward partnerships between state, local, and federal land managers. RCRC has had a long and successful relationship with Secretary Crowfoot, and is confident that while we may not always share the same perspective, we can work through our differences to a mutual understanding that is beneficial for the good of the entire State.

For the above reasons, RCRC strongly supports the confirmation of Secretary Crowfoot. We look forward to continuing our strong relationship with him into the future. If you should have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Matt Kingsley  
Member, Inyo County Board of Supervisors  
RCRC Chair

cc: Members of the Senate Rules Committee  
Secretary Wade Crowfoot, California Natural Resources Agency

1215 K Street, Suite 1650, Sacramento, CA 95814 | [www.rcrcnet.org](http://www.rcrcnet.org) | 916.447.4806 | Fax: 916.448.3154





**To:** RCRC Executive Committee  
**From:** Paul A. Smith, Vice President Governmental Affairs  
Staci Heaton, Regulatory Affairs Advocate  
**Date:** March 11, 2019  
**Re:** RCRC Supporting the Confirmation of Thom Porter, Chief of the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection - **ACTION**

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### **Summary**

This memo addresses the possibility of RCRC supporting Thom Porter, Governor Gavin Newsom's appointment to serve as the Director of the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE). If approved, RCRC would convey its support during the confirmation process in the State Senate.

### **Background**

Under the State's Constitution, the Governor is afforded a large number of appointments to head various state agencies. Furthermore, the Governor appoints hundreds of individuals to various state and regional boards and commissions. Most, but not all, senior appointments require the advice and consent of the State Senate. The review of gubernatorial appointments is primarily conducted by the Senate's Rules Committee, which is chaired by the Senate President pro Tempore (the effective leader of the State Senate). The Senate Rules Committee is comprised of five members – currently three Democrats and two Republicans. Assuming the consent of the Rules Committee, the name is subsequently brought to the Senate Floor for consideration. The overwhelming majority of appointees are subject to majority vote approval; however, some must be confirmed by a 2/3rds vote. Typically, an appointment by the Governor allows an individual to be seated immediately; however, Senate confirmation must occur within one year of the appointment.

### **Issue**

Chief Porter was designated Acting Director of CAL FIRE by Governor Jerry Brown on December 14, 2018. On January 8, 2019, Chief Porter was appointed to serve as the Director of CAL FIRE by Governor Gavin Newsom. Previously, he served as the Southern Region Chief, Assistant Region Chief, and San Diego Unit Fire Chief.

Chief Porter's depth of fire department management expertise is balanced by his forestry background. He is a Registered Professional Forester in California with a Bachelor of Forestry Degree from the University of California, Berkeley.

### **Staff Recommendation**

RCRC staff recommends the RCRC Executive Committee to support the gubernatorial appointment of Chief Porter during the confirmation process in the State Senate. Chief Porter has already been working closely with RCRC member counties and staff on fuels treatment, wildfire prevention, tree mortality, and other important programs and issues. He has been extremely responsive to county concerns regarding local CAL FIRE unit response and staffing, and as a registered professional forester has made an even stronger commitment to broadening CAL FIRE's attention to forest health programs to prevent future catastrophic wildfires and restore California's forests.

It should be noted that a 2/3rds vote of the RCRC Executive Committee is required to formally garner support for a nominee.

### **Attachment**

- Draft Letter of Support for Thom Porter



RURAL COUNTY REPRESENTATIVES  
OF CALIFORNIA

March 13, 2019

The Honorable Toni Atkins  
Senate President Pro Tempore  
Chair, Senate Rules Committee  
State Capitol, Room 205  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: Confirmation of Chief Thom Porter as Director of the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection - SUPPORT**

Dear Senator Atkins:

On behalf of the Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC), I am writing to express our support for the confirmation of Chief Thom Porter as Director of the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE), which comes before the Senate Rules Committee on <Date TBD>. RCRC is an association of thirty-six rural California counties, and the RCRC Board of Directors is comprised of elected supervisors from those member counties.

RCRC member counties contain the vast majority of California's forested lands and have suffered many of the State's most damaging wildfires in the past decade. Our counties have a history and need to work with the State's forest management and firefighting agency to ensure the public health and safety of our counties' residents through fuels reduction, wildfire prevention, community protection, and mutual aid prior to and during wildfire events. RCRC member counties and staff have already established a strong working relationship with Chief Porter through his work with the Governor's Forest Management Task Force and his quick attention to issues at local CAL FIRE units. As a registered professional forester, RCRC believes in the even stronger commitment Chief Porter has already made to broadening CAL FIRE's attention to forest health programs to prevent future catastrophic wildfires and restore California's forests while strengthening community protection efforts statewide.

For the above reasons, RCRC strongly supports the confirmation of Chief Porter. We look forward to continuing our strong relationship with him into the future. If you should have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

1215 K Street, Suite 1650, Sacramento, CA 95814 | [www.rcrcnet.org](http://www.rcrcnet.org) | 916.447.4806 | Fax: 916.448.3154

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MODOC MONO NAPA NEVADA PLACER PLUMAS SAN BENITO SAN LUIS OBISPO SHASTA SIERRA SISKIYOU SONOMA SUTTER TEHAMA TRINITY TULARE TUOLUMNE YOLO YUBA

The Honorable Toni Atkins  
Confirmation of Chief Thom Porter  
March 13, 2019  
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Sincerely,

Matt Kingsley  
Member, Inyo County Board of Supervisors  
RCRC Chair

cc: Members of the Senate Rules Committee  
Chief Thom Porter, California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection