

**Rural County Representatives of California
Board of Directors Meeting
Wednesday, March 13, 2019 – 9:00 a.m.
Capitol Event Center
1020 11th Street
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 9:01 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
Rex Bohn	Humboldt
Michael Kelley	Imperial
Matt Kingsley	Inyo
Bruno Sabatier	Lake
Aaron Albaugh	Lassen
David Rogers	Madera
Kevin Cann	Mariposa
Carre Brown	Mendocino
Daron McDaniel	Merced
Ned Coe	Modoc
Stacy Corless	Mono
Diane Dillon	Napa
Dan Miller	Nevada
Jim Holmes	Placer
Anthony Botelho	San Benito
John Peschong	San Luis Obispo
Les Baugh	Shasta
Lee Adams	Sierra
Mat Conant	Sutter
Bob Williams	Tehama
Bobbi Chadwick	Trinity
Sherri Brennan	Tuolumne
Jim Provenza	Yolo
Randy Fletcher	Yuba

Absent

John Viegas	Glenn
Kevin Goss	Plumas
Michael Kobseff	Siskiyou
Lynda Hopkins	Sonoma
Kuyler Crocker	Tulare

Others in Attendance

Supervisor Miles Menetrey, Mariposa County
Jamme Yang, Yuba County
Connie Stewart, California Center for Rural Policy
Crystal Crawford, Ygrene Energy Fund
Robert Bendorf Jr., Ygrene Energy Fund
Ashlie Bryant, 3Strands Global
Randy Hanvelt
Gloria Hanvelt

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
Tracy Rhine, Legislative Advocate
John Kennedy, Legislative Advocate
Staci Heaton, Regulatory Affairs Advocate
Arthur Wylene, General Counsel
Barbara Hayes, Chief Economic Development Officer
Michael Likosky, Director of Infrastructure
Maggie Chui, Governmental Affairs Coordinator
Santinia Pasquini, External Affairs Coordinator
Sarah Bolnik, Economic Development Specialist
Leigh Kammerich, Regulatory Affairs Specialist
Meagan Harris, Program Coordinator

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of Minutes – January 16, 2019

Chair, Matt Kingsley, Inyo County, called for approval of the minutes from the January 16, 2019 Board of Directors Meeting.

Supervisor David Rogers, Madera County, motioned to approve the minutes from the January 16, 2019 Board of Directors Meeting. Supervisor Rex Bohn, Humboldt County, seconded the motion. Motion passes.

Abstaining: Supervisor Doug Teeter, Butte County; Supervisor Bruno Sabatier, Lake County; Supervisor Anthony Botelho, San Benito County; Jim Provenza, Yolo County

RCRC Chair's Report

Chair, Supervisor Matt Kingsley, Inyo County, welcomed fellow supervisors to the March Board of Directors meeting.

Supervisor Kingsley spoke briefly about the successful advocacy trip on Capitol Hill earlier this month with RCRC Officers, Board Members, and RCRC staff on RCRC's federal priorities.

Supervisor Kingsley also announced that President Donald Trump recently signed a public lands bill that included the official designation for Alabama Hills in Inyo County as a National Scenic Area.

In regards to Supervisor Michael Kelley's request at the January Board of Directors meeting regarding the changing of RCRC Board of Directors Sacramento meetings to a different day, Supervisor Kingsley announced that a survey will be circulated to determine the most suitable day and time of future RCRC Board of Director meetings.

Member County Concerns and Issues

Supervisor Brian Oneto, Amador County, spoke about his concern regarding the ongoing issue of homeowners facing insurance cancelations and non-renewals in high wildfire risk areas.

Supervisor Miles Menetrey, Mariposa County, shared that the United States Census Bureau (Census Bureau) will not transmit census applications to P.O. Boxes. Supervisor Menetrey noted that many people that live in rural communities possess P.O. Boxes, and explained that this is not an ideal approach by the Census Bureau to reach out to rural areas.

Supervisor Bobbi Chadwick, Trinity County, echoed the sentiments of Supervisor Menetrey regarding the Census Bureau's approach of reaching out to rural communities, and added that it is far more difficult to reach those that lived in areas that were devastated by recent wildfires and are still displaced.

Supervisor Rex Bohn, Humboldt County, also expressed his opinion on fellow supervisors' discussion regarding the Census Bureau's approach of reaching out to rural communities. Supervisor Bohn shared that he believes the Census Bureau is working on different methods to reach out to rural communities.

In response to the discussion regarding the Census Bureau, Connie Stewart, California Center for Rural Policy, who has been involved with the Census Bureau and outreach discussion, spoke briefly to the RCRC Board of Directors. Ms. Stewart noted that there continues to be a lot of work to be done on rural outreach.

Supervisor Bruno Sabatier, Lake County, thanked fellow supervisors on their discussion about the Census Bureau. In addition, Supervisor Sabatier noted the importance of the State's upcoming regulations on hemp, and asked for support to encourage the State to release them as soon as possible.

Supervisor Sabatier also noted the importance of being aware of extreme weather conditions across California, such as wildfires during fire season which lead to mudslides during the winter season.

Supervisor Gerry Hemmingsen, Del Norte County, spoke about the status of the Last Chance Grade Project located south of Crescent City on Route 101 in Del Norte County, and complimented the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) on doing a great job.

Supervisor Hemmingsen also shared his concern about Governor Gavin Newsom threatening to withhold Senate Bill 1 funds if housing goals are not met.

Supervisor Denise Carter, Colusa County, shared that the Sacramento Valley water contractors recently submitted its proposal to the State Water Resources Control Board to address the water flow issues. Supervisor Carter encouraged RCRC to interact and engage with Sacramento Valley.

Supervisor Les Baugh, Shasta County, asked fellow supervisors and RCRC staff on what does and does not work in addressing homeless housing issues.

Supervisor Jim Holmes, Placer County, shared the recent gubernatorial appointment of Supervisor Jennifer Montgomery, Placer County, to serve as the Director of the Forest Management Task Force. Supervisor Montgomery's last day with the Placer County Board of Supervisors is March 31, 2019. The Placer County Board of Supervisors will be given 30 days to appoint a new supervisor.

Supervisor David Griffith, Alpine County, voiced his concern regarding Highway 4 and Highway 88's extended road closures due to heavy snow. Supervisor Griffith shared his frustration with Caltrans' response to the road closures. And, due to the heavy snow, Supervisor Griffith also voiced his frustration with AT&T's refusal to repair phone outages for nearly five-weeks.

Supervisor Lori Parlin, El Dorado County, spoke on the challenge of dealing with homeowners' insurance cancelations and non-renewals in high wildfire risk areas.

Supervisor Oneto shared his concern regarding the requirement of new snow blower equipment in order to meet the State's emission goals by the California Air Resources Board (CARB). However, Supervisor Oneto noticed that many of the CARB-compliant snow blower equipment that Caltrans utilizes are nonfunctional.

Supervisor Stacy Corless, Mono County, shared that there is currently a massive search and rescue effort underway for a missing U.S. Marine Lieutenant. Supervisor Corless asked fellow supervisors to keep the missing Marine Lieutenant in their thoughts and prayers.

In response to the discussion regarding CARB and equipment, Supervisor Corless shared that Mono County had similar issues, and encouraged fellow supervisors to reach out to her to discuss possible solutions.

Supervisor Bohn shared that the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors has allocated \$1.5-\$3 million towards cannabis promotion and a micro-grant branding program. Supervisor Bohn also shared that the State announced a grant program for the cannabis industry, with application closing on April 1, 2019.

Public Comments

Randy Hanvelt of Tuolumne County shared with the RCRC Board of Directors that he is engaged on forest management issues in a new professional capacity.

President's Report

Greg Norton, President & CEO, provided a brief highlight of recent meetings which include meetings with Director Vicki Christiansen of the United States Forest Service; Secretary Wade Crowfoot of the California Natural Resources Agency; Secretary Karen Ross of the California Department of Food and Agriculture; and, Chair Mary Nichols of the California Air Resources Board.

Mr. Norton provided an update on recent county visits by RCRC staff. Counties visited in recent weeks included El Dorado, Glenn, Lake, Mariposa, Nevada, Sutter, Tulare, Tuolumne, and others.

Mr. Norton requested Craig Ferguson, Vice President, to introduce new staff member Meagan Harris, Program Coordinator, to the RCRC Board of Directors.

April/May 2019 Board of Directors Meeting Update

Justin Caporusso, Vice President External Affairs, provided an overview of the April 30th – May 2nd RCRC Board of Directors meeting taking place in Inyo County, the County of the RCRC Chair. This year's meeting will be held at The Inn at The Oasis at Death Valley in Inyo County, with a morning tour of the Death Valley National Park scheduled on May 1st, followed by an RCRC-hosted dinner. The RCRC Board of Directors meeting will be held on May 2nd. Mr. Caporusso showed a video on The Oasis at Death Valley.

Chair, Supervisor Matt Kingsley, provided a brief description of the different events that will be taking place in Inyo County. The RCRC Board of Directors was asked to RSVP to Santinia Pasquini, External Affairs Coordinator.

RCRC Supporting Gubernatorial Appointments

Paul A. Smith, Vice President Governmental Affairs, discussed the possibility of RCRC supporting gubernatorial appointments during the confirmation process in the State

Senate. Mr. Smith noted that Governor Newsom recently announced several appointments to state agencies that are significant to RCRC member counties.

Mr. Smith explained that due to interest by current RCRC Chair Matt Kingsley, RCRC staff reviewed the RCRC bylaws, particularly Section 6.7.2 regarding Powers and Limitations of the RCRC Executive Committee. At their February 20, 2019 meeting, the RCRC Executive Committee, by an 8 to 1 majority, voted to bring the topic to the RCRC Board of Directors for consideration. Mr. Smith described the proposed revised policy, in which a name would be brought to the RCRC Chair. The RCRC Chair would take it to the RCRC Executive Committee whereby a two-thirds vote of the RCRC Executive Committee would be required to formally garner support for a nominee. Under this proposed structure, the RCRC Board of Directors would entrust this decision to the RCRC Executive Committee.

Mr. Smith recognized that the decision to offer support to gubernatorial appointees has a variety of rewards, but also significant risks. Mr. Smith also clarified that RCRC will only provide declarations of support, which will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis. The RCRC Board of Directors discussed at length to determine an official position on supporting gubernatorial appointments.

Staff Recommendation

RCRC staff recommended the RCRC Board of Directors fully discuss this proposal.

The RCRC Board of Directors amended Section 6.7.2 regarding Powers and Limitations to read “approve, upon presentation by the Chair and a two-thirds vote of the full membership, a “support” position for State Senate confirmation of a Gubernatorial appointee.”

Supervisor Randy Fletcher, Yuba County, motioned to adopt a “Support” position on RCRC Supporting Gubernatorial Appointments. Supervisor Jim Holmes, Placer County, seconded the motion. Motion passes with all Supervisors present voting “Aye.”

Guest Speaker

Ashlie Bryant, Co-Founder, 3Strands Global, provided an update on the RCRC-funded PROTECT program to the RCRC Board of Directors.

Following Ms. Bryant’s presentation, supervisors and Ms. Bryant engaged in a question and answer period.

California Forest Watershed Alliance (CAFWA) Update

Justin Caporusso and Staci Heaton, Regulatory Affairs Advocate, provided an update on the ongoing efforts of the California Forest Watershed Alliance (CAFWA), of which RCRC is a Charter Member.

Mr. Caporusso highlighted several efforts, including workgroups that have a specific focus on state policy, federal policy, and communication efforts. The State Policy Workgroup

recently developed state-level policy recommendations, and is working to schedule introductory meetings with the Newsom Administration. The Federal Policy Workgroup has been engaged in advocacy efforts surrounding the 2018 Farm Bill.

Ms. Heaton thanked the Sierra Nevada Conservancy for their support in elevating the voice on the state-level to address forestry issues. Lastly, Ms. Heaton shared that meetings have been tentatively scheduled with the California Natural Resources Agency Secretary Wade Crowfoot and the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection Director Thom Porter.

RCRC staff will continue to update the RCRC Board of Directors on CAFWA's advocacy efforts.

NACo Legislative Conference and Federal Advocacy Update

RCRC Officers and RCRC Board Members provided a brief summary of their advocacy trip to Washington, D.C. in conjunction with the National Association of Counties (NACo) Legislative Conference that took place February 27 - March 4, 2019. RCRC Officers and RCRC Board Members advocated for the Secure and Fair Enforcement Banking Act of 2019, enactment of a Secure Rural Schools Endowment Fund, and enactment of a rural infrastructure package.

Supervisor Stacy Corless, Mono County, and Supervisor Lee Adams, Sierra County, presented Supervisor Rex Bohn, Humboldt County, with a humorous presentation of a toilet as a result of a meeting they had with the Director of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) that granted Supervisor Bohn a new toilet in the Humboldt County BLM office.

State Legislation

Tracy Rhine, Legislative Advocate, reported on the following issues:

- Housing – Draft language for the Governor's Proposed Budget item to increase housing stock and create local government accountability for housing production has been released by the Department of Finance. The proposed trailer bill language includes incentive funding for local jurisdictions that meet short-term housing goals that will be created by the Department of Housing and Community Development. Additionally, the draft language includes a process to improve the current Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) and authorization for the State to withhold transportation funding from any jurisdiction that does not meet the new RHNA production goals. The proposed trailer bill language has yet to be introduced in a legislative bill.
- In-Home Supportive Services – Draft language for the Governor's Proposed Budget item to implement the In-Home-Support Services (IHSS) has been released by the Department of Finance. This proposed trailer bill language changes the current IHSS Memorandum of Effort (MOE) to address concerns with increased county costs for IHSS program. Specifically, the proposed trailer bill language lowers the base costs to counties, eliminates the redirection of Health and Mental Health realignment funding and County Medical Services Provider (CMSP), and decreases the annual county cost inflator to four percent (from seven

percent). Additionally, this proposal eliminates realignment growth funding to CMSP until the organization decreases its substantial reserve fund to three months operating expenses. Ms. Rhine noted that RCRC, along with stakeholders, submitted a letter of support for the rebased MOE to the Budget Subcommittees in February 2019.

Staci Heaton reported on the following legislation:

- Assembly Bill 19 (Waldron), in which RCRC is sponsoring, would create a grant program for local governments to purchase equipment to clear debris alongside county roads to prevent wildfire.
- Assembly Bill 343 (Patterson), which requires the California Natural Resources Agency to create and implement a program to offset the costs of transporting fuels to a biomass energy facility. RCRC is in support of AB 343.
- Senate Bill 190 (Dodd), which creates a model defensible space program for local governments and requires the Office of the State Fire Marshal to provide training resources for local building officials, builders, and fire service personnel to improve building fire safety standards. RCRC is in support of SB 190.

Mary-Ann Warmerdam reported on the following issues:

- Safe Drinking Water - The Newsom Administration's proposal, which will be quite similar to last year's Senate Bill 623 (Monning), to address safe drinking water in contaminated rural communities. In addition, Ms. Warmerdam also stated that Senator Anna Caballero, Assembly Member Eduardo Garcia, and Senator Bill Monning are expected to release legislation to address safe drinking water.
- Groundwater and Groundwater Recharge – There are several legislative measures regarding groundwater and groundwater recharge issues: Assembly Bill 658 (Arambula), which would codify the current emergency regarding the groundwater permitting process; Assembly Bill 441 (Eggman) dealing with excess flows; and, Senate Bill 762 (Jones) dealing with groundwater storage.
- Senate Bill 45 (Allen), the Wildfire, Drought, and Flood Protection Bond Act of 2020, which is similar to last year's water bond initiative by Jerry Meral.

John Kennedy, Legislative Advocate, reported on the following legislation:

- Assembly Bill 161 (Ting), which requires at point-of-sale the proof of purchase to be provided only in electronic form.
- Assembly Bill 394 (Obernotle), which expedites fire safety improvements for subdivisions that are at significant fire risk and lack a secondary escape route. Mr. Kennedy noted that AB 394 would likely set-up hearings dealing with CEQA exemptions. RCRC is in support of AB 364.
- Assembly Bill 417 (Arambula), which authorizes the California Department of Food and Agriculture to take several actions to support rural communities and further the development of rural agricultural economies. Mr. Kennedy noted that Assembly Member Arambula recently took a leave of absence. RCRC is in support of AB 417.

- Assembly Bill 1080 (Gonzalez), which requires the state to source, reduce, or recycle 75 percent of single-use packaging and products sold in California by 2030. RCRC has a “Support if Amended” position on AB 1080.
- Assembly Bill 1347 (Boerner Horvath), which would place a green energy mandate upon state and local government buildings.
- Assembly Bill 1583 (Eggman) relating to the Recycling Market Development Act.
- Senate Bill 667 (Hueso) relating to organic waste reduction and recycling targets. RCRC is in support of SB 667.

RCRC Participation in CPUC Wildfire Proceedings

Staci Heaton, Regulatory Affairs Advocate, provided an overview of the California Public Utilities Commission’s Utility Wildfire Mitigation Plans and the De-Energization Rulemaking proceedings. Ms. Heaton noted that these proceedings will have significant impacts on how investor-owned utilities engage with the public on wildfire hazard mitigation and de-energization of power grids to prevent high severity wildfires. And, due to the complex nature of both the development of the wildfire hazard mitigation plans and the de-energization programs, as well as the potential impacts both proceedings could have on RCRC member counties, Ms. Heaton explained the need to file for party status in both rulemakings to enable full participation throughout the process. These proceedings will also intersect with actions being undertaken at the California Board of Forestry and Fire Protection throughout the year to implement Senate Bill 901 (Dodd, 2018), as well as other potential legislative actions on utilities and fire prevention.

RCRC staff will update the RCRC Board of Directors on both proceedings as they progress in the coming months

Staff Recommendation

It was recommended that the RCRC Board of Directors approve RCRC staff’s recommendation to file for party status on both the Utility Wildfire Mitigation Plans proceeding (Docket No. R.18-10-007) and the De-Energization Rulemaking (Docket No. R.18-12-005) in order to fully participate in the public process.

Supervisor Daron McDaniel, Merced County, motioned to approve RCRC Participation in CPUC Wildfire Proceedings. Supervisor Brian Oneto, Amador County, seconded the motion. Motion passes with all Supervisors present voting “Aye.”

Forest Management and Wildfire Update

Staci Heaton and Justin Caporusso provided an update on the Forest Management Task Force (FMTF) and recent wildfire events. Ms. Heaton highlighted several efforts that are underway in the Legislature and various state and federal agencies to address California’s persistent wildfire events, including: California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection’s Community Wildfire Prevention & Mitigation Report which includes immediate recommendations and long-term goals to prevent and mitigate wildfires; update on the FMTF’s progress and recent appointment of Supervisor Jennifer Montgomery of Placer County to serve as the Director for FMTF; the progress of

discussion regarding fire insurance; and, recent legislative hearings regarding impacts of wildfire on communities.

Mr. Caporusso spoke briefly about RCRC's participation on the Forest Health Education and Outreach campaign to educate California about wildfire threats.

Waters of the United States

Staci Heaton provided an update of the regulatory actions as it relates to the Waters of the United States.

Ms. Heaton noted that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has begun the next step of the Executive Order, and has released a pre-publication version. The revised version of the rulemaking makes drastic changes to the rule that was finalized in 2015. Ms. Heaton encouraged supervisors to file their comments during the 60-day public comment period, which are due by April 15, 2019. RCRC will be submitting a letter that would request clarifying definitions of the terms used in the revised version to reduce misinterpretation.

Ms. Heaton also noted that RCRC staff is continuing to work with the California State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) on changes to the Final Draft of the Procedures (Procedures). SWRCB staff initially intended to request SWRCB Board for adoption on February 5, 2019; however, due to the overwhelming pushback from stakeholders and the need for more clarity in the language and intent of the Procedures, members of SWRCB directed staff to continue to work with stakeholders. As a result, SWRCB staff has proposed a number of changes to the Final Draft, and has delayed adoption of the Procedures to the April 2, 2019 meeting. While the proposed changes do not address all local agency concerns, they do ease some of the requirements. Ms. Heaton still expects future litigations to take place once the regulation is passed.

Environmental Services Joint Powers Authority Update

Staci Heaton provided an update on the Rural Counties' Environmental Services Joint Powers Authority's (ESJPA) recent activities. Ms. Heaton highlighted several efforts that are underway, including: California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery's Senate Bill 1383 Short-Lived Climate Pollutants Regulation; SWRCB's Storm Water Industrial General Permit; the Department of Toxic Substances Control hazardous waste regulation on photovoltaic modules; used oil and tire amnesty grants; and, ESJPA's upcoming social media presence and webinars.

Water Issues Update

Mary-Ann Warmerdam provided a brief update on issues involving California water policy at the state and federal levels, which include: the Bay-Delta Water Quality Plan, Sustainable Groundwater Management Act basin boundary finalization, Siskiyou County Groundwater Litigation, and California WaterFix.

Ms. Warmerdam shared that E. Joaquin Esquivel was designated by Governor Newsom to serve as SWRCB Chair in February 2019. Noticeably, Felicia Marcus was not

reappointed to serve as SWRCB Chair. And, Dorene D'Adamo was selected to serve as SWRCB Vice Chair.

Ms. Warmerdam noted that amendments were adopted by SWRCB to the Bay-Delta Water Quality Plan, and additional regulatory actions will be required. The revisions allow opportunities for additional Voluntary Stewardship Agreements (VSAs) to be developed. Ms. Warmerdam also noted that it is Governor Newsom's desire to see the needs of the Bay-Delta Water Quality Plan be met through the adoption of VSAs, not only for the San Joaquin River tributaries, but also for Sacramento River water users. A letter has been signed by water users, conservation groups, and state and federal agencies that expresses their commitment to further analyze and work to reach voluntary agreements that can serve as an alternative path to implementing the Bay-Delta Plan's objectives.

As it relates to California WaterFix, Ms. Warmerdam noted that Governor Newsom is not in favor of the twin tunnel, and has conceptually supported a single tunnel configuration. As such, SWRCB has been requested to temporarily place the petition for a change in point of diversion in abeyance and issue a temporary 60-day stay on all California WaterFix proceedings.

Adjournment

Chair, Supervisor Matt Kingsley, Inyo County, adjourned the RCRC Board of Directors Meeting at 1:51 p.m.