

**Rural County Representatives of California
Board of Directors Meeting
March 13, 2024 – 9:00 a.m.
1215 K Street, Suite 1650
Sacramento, CA 95814**

MINUTES

Call to Order, Determination of Quorum and Self Introductions

Chair, Supervisor Chris Lopez, Monterey County, presided. Present were President and CEO Patrick Blacklock, General Counsel Arthur J. Wylene, and Director of Board Operations, Maggie Chui, clerk. Chair Lopez called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m. A quorum was determined at that time. Those members present:

Supervisor

David Griffith
Brian Oneto
Doug Teeter
Jack Garamendi
Daurice Smith
Darrin Short
Lori Parlin
Monica Rossman
Rex Bohn
Doug Verboon
EJ Crandell
Aaron Albaugh
Robert Poythress
Miles Menetrey
Glenn McGourty
Daron McDaniel
Geri Byrne
Rhonda Duggan
Chris Lopez
Anne Cottrell
Sue Hoek
Jim Holmes
Kevin Goss
Mindy Sotelo
John Peschong
Bob Nelson
Lee Adams*
Michael Kobseff
James Gore
Mike Ziegenmeyer
Matt Hansen

County

Alpine
Amador
Butte
Calaveras
Colusa
Del Norte
El Dorado
Glenn
Humboldt
Kings
Lake
Lassen
Madera
Mariposa
Mendocino
Merced
Modoc
Mono
Monterey
Napa
Nevada
Placer
Plumas
San Benito
San Luis Obispo
Santa Barbara
Sierra
Siskiyou
Sonoma
Sutter
Tehama

Jill Cox
Dennis Townsend
Kathleen Haff
Gary Bradford

Trinity
Tulare
Tuolumne
Yuba

Absent

Michael Kelley
Matt Kingsley
Kevin Crye
Mitch Mashburn
Angel Barajas

Imperial
Inyo
Shasta
Solano
Yolo

*Attendance via Zoom

Public Comment

None

Consent Agenda

- a. **January 17, 2024 Board of Directors Meeting Minutes**
- b. **RCRC Strategic Plan**
- c. **Ad Hoc Committee Updates: Roadway Infrastructure Ad Hoc Committee and Williamson Act Ad Hoc Committee**

Supervisor Michael Kobseff, Siskiyou County, motioned to approve the consent agenda items. Supervisor Rex Bohn, Humboldt County, seconded the motion. Motion passed with all Supervisors present voting “Aye,” except:

Not Voting: Amador County, Colusa County, Santa Barbara County, Sutter County

RCRC Chair Remarks

Chair, Supervisor Chris Lopez, Monterey County, welcomed supervisors to the March RCRC Board of Directors meeting. Supervisor Lopez discussed upcoming presentations in which he will participate on behalf of RCRC.

Supervisor Lopez expressed gratitude to those who reached out following the recent mass shooting in King City, Monterey County.

President’s Report

Patrick Blacklock, President and CEO, provided a report on recent activities the organization is engaged in that align with the RCRC Strategic Plan goals, encompassing Equitable Access, Impactful Advocacy, Healthy Communities, and Operational Excellence.

Mr. Blacklock introduced individual members that make up the Finance Department.

Member County Concerns and Issues

Chair, Supervisor Chris Lopez, Monterey County, provided an opportunity for the RCRC Board of Directors to discuss their individual member county concerns and issues. RCRC staff will review the concerns and issues raised by RCRC Board Members and assess each item for possible plans of action.

The RCRC Board of Directors heard from the following supervisors:

- Supervisor Darrin Short, Del Norte County, spoke about SB 951's (Wiener) possible effects on coastal counties.
- Supervisor David Griffith, Alpine County, spoke about the California Jobs First program's flawed process. Supervisor Griffith encouraged supervisors to voice their concerns.
- Supervisor Glenn McGourty, Mendocino County, highlighted his concerns regarding match funding for In-Home Supportive Services workers, the Sustainable Groundwater Agency expenses, and jail construction cost overflows due to lack of state funding.
- Supervisor Geri Byrne, Modoc County, addressed the requirements of Assembly Bill 54 regarding recyclable packaging, and supported an exemption for border counties.
- Supervisor Michael Kobseff, Siskiyou County, discussed the dam removal project, highlighting concerns about the lack of water quality monitoring and recent fish kills and other destruction. Supervisor Kobseff also highlighted the ongoing need for electronic publishing of county notices for cost-effectiveness.
- Supervisor Rhonda Duggan, Modoc County, requested recommendations for best practices and accounting software from counties that have county hospitals or local housing authorities.
- Supervisor John Peschong, San Luis Obispo County, discussed the request from the California Cattlemen's Association to sign onto a letter supporting the California Department of Fish and Wildlife's Wolf Livestock Compensation Grants program. Supervisor Ned Coe, Modoc County, and Supervisor Rex Bohn, Humboldt County, echoed Supervisor Peschong's request to support the program.
- Supervisor Doug Verboon, Kings County, emphasized ongoing concerns regarding Kings County's compliance with the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act and the impending review of its probationary status. Supervisor Verboon also discussed challenges with the Federal Emergency Management Agency, including issues such as road closures and reimbursement for the Homekey project.
- Supervisor Ned Coe, Modoc County, revisited the flaws in the 2020 census data and the process for requesting a recount.
- Supervisor Anne Cottrell, Napa County, discussed the AmeriCorps' GrizzlyCorps program, which places recent graduates in local agencies.
- Supervisor Brian Oneto, Amador County, offered his perspectives on the treatment and perception of wildlife between urban and rural areas.
- Supervisor James Gore, Sonoma County, addressed several topics, including the challenges associated with the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control

Board's proposals, excitement about hosting this year's RCRC Annual Meeting in Sonoma County, and his upcoming swearing-in ceremony as the next President for the National Association of Counties (NACo). Supervisor Gore inquired whether any Board Members were interested in NACo committee appointments.

May 2024 County of the Chair Meeting Update

Mary-Ann Warmerdam, Senior Vice President Governmental Affairs, and Chair, Supervisor Chris Lopez, Monterey County, presented information about this year's County of the Chair meeting, which will be hosted by RCRC Chair Lopez in Monterey County from May 15-17, 2024. Ms. Warmerdam requested that supervisors complete the registration form as soon as possible.

State and Federal Legislative Update

Mary-Ann Warmerdam and Sheryl Cohen, Partner, American Continental Group, provided an update on issues being addressed at the state and federal level. At the state level, an update was provided on RCRC-sponsored bills, the status of the Governor's 2024-25 proposed Budget, and efforts to address unfunded state mandates were outlined. At the federal level, an update on the RCRC Officers' recent visit to Washington D.C. for the annual RCRC Fly-In, held in conjunction with the National Association of Counties' Legislative Conference was provided. Additionally, a report was given on FY 24 appropriations and RCRC federal priorities, which include the Farm Bill, the Rural Partnership Network, the bipartisan tax deal, and rural hospitals, among others.

Sarah Dukett, Policy Advocate, provided a status update on Proposition 1, the Governor's behavioral health modernization proposal. John Kennedy, Senior Policy Advocate, discussed various legislation related to Senate Bill 1383 organic waste regulations.

Guest Speaker – California State Transportation Agency

Toks Omishakin, Secretary, California State Transportation Agency (CalSTA), addressed the RCRC Board of Directors regarding CalSTA's priorities, emphasizing efforts to ensure rural communities thrive and maximize funding. Secretary Omishakin also discussed initiatives related to transit, weather, and electric vehicles.

The RCRC Board of Directors closed out the session with a lengthy discussion with Secretary Omishakin on a variety of transportation-related topics.

**The RCRC Board of Directors meeting recessed at 11:30 a.m. Chair, Supervisor Chris Lopez, Monterey County, reconvened the RCRC Board of Directors meeting at 1:00 p.m.

Environmental Protection Agency's Farm, Ranch, and Rural Communities Federal Advisory Committee (FRRCC) Update

Supervisor EJ Crandell, Lake County, a member of the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Farm, Ranch, and Rural Communities Federal Advisory Committee (FRRCC), provided an update on its recent work. As part of his presentation, Supervisor Crandell highlighted the FRRCC's Annual Meeting, which took place in January 2024,

and emphasized recommendations that were passed for final draft submission to the EPA.

California Public Utilities Commission Update

John Kennedy and Tracy Rhine, Senior Policy Advocate, provided an update on the California Public Utilities Commission. Ms. Rhine covered AT&T's application for "Carrier of Last Resort" relief. Mr. Kennedy discussed the Renewables Portfolio Standard Program proceeding, developments in battery storage facilities and electric transmission, and the Board of Forestry's proposed modifications to Forest Practice Rules regarding utility vegetation management activities.

Water Issues Update

Sidd Nag, Policy Advocate, provided on current issues involving California's water policy, including water project allocations, the progression of the Bay-Delta Plan, delays in storage projects by the State Water Commission, potential probationary actions against Groundwater Sustainability Agencies, and recommendations for budget proposals on flood-related matters by the Legislative Analyst's Office.

Forest Management and Wildfire Update

Staci Heaton, Senior Policy Advocate, provided an update on legislative efforts and activities across various state and federal agencies was provided, including updates on the USDA Forest Service Old Growth Rule, wildfire mitigation-related legislation, and the U.S. EPA National Ambient Air Quality Standards. Ms. Heaton notified supervisors about the upcoming California Wildfire and Forest Resilience Task Force meeting.

Adjournment

Chair, Supervisor Chris Lopez, Monterey County, adjourned the RCRC Board of Directors Meeting at 2:00 p.m.