

**Rural County Representatives of California  
Board of Directors Meeting  
Wednesday, March 8, 2023 – 8:00 a.m.  
1215 K Street, Suite 1650  
Sacramento, CA 95814**

**MINUTES**

**Call to Order, Determination of Quorum and Self Introductions**

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

**Supervisor**

David Griffith  
Doug Teeter  
Jack Garamendi  
Daurice Smith  
Darrin Short  
Lori Parlin  
Rex Bohn  
Matt Kingsley  
Doug Verboon  
EJ Crandell  
Aaron Albaugh  
Robert Poythress  
Miles Menetrey  
Glenn McGourty  
Daron McDaniel  
Geri Byrne  
Chris Lopez\*  
Anne Cottrell\*  
Sue Hoek  
Jim Holmes  
John Peschong  
Bob Nelson  
Tim Garman  
Lee Adams  
Michael Kobseff\*  
James Gore  
Mat Conant  
Bill Moule  
Jill Cox  
Dennis Townsend  
Kathleen Haff

**County**

Alpine  
Butte  
Calaveras  
Colusa  
Del Norte  
El Dorado  
Humboldt  
Inyo  
Kings  
Lake  
Lassen  
Madera  
Mariposa  
Mendocino  
Merced  
Modoc  
Monterey  
Napa  
Nevada  
Placer  
San Luis Obispo  
Santa Barbara  
Shasta  
Sierra  
Siskiyou  
Sonoma  
Sutter  
Tehama  
Trinity  
Tulare  
Tuolumne

Angel Barajas  
Gary Bradford

Yolo  
Yuba

**Absent**

Brian Oneto  
Thomas Arnold  
Michael Kelley  
Rhonda Duggan  
Kevin Goss  
Dom Zanger  
Mitch Mashburn

Amador  
Glenn  
Imperial  
Mono  
Plumas  
San Benito  
Solano

\*Attendance via Zoom

**Public Comment**

A written public comment was received and distributed to the RCRC Board of Directors via e-mail, and is available for public review by contacting RCRC.

**Consent Agenda – ACTION**

- a. **January 18, 2023 Board of Directors Meeting Minutes**
- b. **Drought and Water Resiliency Ad Hoc Committee**
- c. **Appointment to Fill Executive Committee Region 5 Vacancy**
- d. **RCRC Strategic Plan**
- e. **Cannabis Local Jurisdiction Retail Access Grant**
- f. **Updated 2023 Meeting Schedule**

Chair, Supervisor Doug Teeter, Butte County, called for approval of the above-listed consent agenda items.

**Supervisor Mat Conant, Sutter 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: El Dorado County**

**Recognition of Senator Jim Nielsen, Member of the California State Senate (Retired)**

Chair, Supervisor Doug Teeter, Butte County, recognized retired California State Senator Jim Nielsen. Supervisor Teeter presented Senator Nielsen with a commemorative plaque in appreciation of his service to California’s rural counties throughout the years.

**RCRC Chair’s Report**

Chair, Supervisor Doug Teeter, Butte County, welcomed supervisors to the March RCRC Board of Directors meeting.

## **President's Report**

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

Craig Ferguson, Senior Vice President, introduced individual members that make up the Business Development and Operations Department.

## **Member County Concerns and Issues**

RCRC's 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair, Supervisor Geri Byrne, 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 Kathleen Haff, Tuolumne County, regarding the California Department of Human Resources' personnel system; Supervisor Geri Byrne, Modoc County, regarding the Safe Streets and Roads for All Grant Program's funding match requirements; on behalf of a supervisor who could not attend the meeting, Supervisor Byrne relayed concerns about broadband funding and major flooding events due to looming forecasts; Supervisor Aaron Albaugh, Lassen County, regarding local school bus issues; Supervisor Ned Coe, Modoc County, regarding Senate Bill 525's (Durazo) potential impacts; Supervisor Robert Poythress, Madera County, regarding the lack of acute care services statewide, and a recently-introduced legislation on transportation; Supervisor James Gore, Sonoma County, regarding the legal landscape with local and tribal issues; Supervisor David Griffith, Alpine County, regarding AT&T no longer servicing Bear Valley during winter; Supervisor Glenn McGourty, Mendocino County, regarding jail funding, damaged roads, weather conditions, and the University of California Cooperative Extension; Supervisor Miles Menetrey, Mariposa County, regarding RCRC's monthly meetings with Pacific Gas and Electric's (PG&E) and progress made by PG&E; Supervisor Tim Garman, Shasta County, regarding local ambulance services, jail funding, and employment vacancies; Supervisor Jill Cox, Trinity County, regarding the Secure Rural Schools (SRS) program funding; Supervisor Mat Conant, Sutter County, regarding weather conditions, and jail funding; Supervisor Bob Nelson, Santa Barbara County, regarding pallet shelters to address homelessness in Santa Barbara County; Supervisor Anne Cottrell, Napa County, regarding PG&E's work-in-progress on tree removal, housing challenges, and assistance with accessing federal programs; Supervisor Sue Hoek, Nevada County, raised the issues of affordable housing, insurance cost challenges, cannabis enforcement, and weather conditions; and, Supervisor Rex Bohn, Humboldt County, regarding a multi-agency effort to assist ranchers with their livestock due to recent winter storms.

\*Supervisor Gary Bradford, Yuba County, departed the meeting at 9:49 a.m.

### **May 2023 County of Chair Meeting Update**

Dorothy Poole, Governmental Affairs Operations Manager, provided an update on this year's County of the Chair meeting to be hosted by RCRC Chair Doug Teeter in Butte County from May 11-12, 2023. Ms. Poole provided a brief overview of the events, and requested supervisors to complete the registration form as soon as possible.

### **Guest Speaker – California Department of Fish and Wildlife**

Chuck Bonham, Director, California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), addressed the RCRC Board of Directors on CDFW's efforts, such as flood preparedness. Director Bonham heard from several supervisors in regard to their viewpoints. RCRC will work with CDFW to arrange regular discussions to address RCRC Member Counties' concerns going forward.

\*Supervisor Mat Conant, Sutter County, departed the meeting at 11:00 a.m.

### **State Legislative Update**

Mary-Ann Warmerdam, Senior Vice President Governmental Affairs, provided an update on issues being addressed at the state level. Topics covered include the latest developments of the 2023 Legislative Session, particularly RCRC's sponsorship of 6+ measures relating to solid waste, cannabis, and open meetings.

Sarah Dukett, Policy Advocate, provided an update on bills relating to county operations, health and human services, public safety, and emergency management.

John Kennedy, Policy Advocate, provided an update on bills relating to the California Environmental Quality Act, solid waste, and energy.

### **Federal Legislative Update**

Sheryl Cohen, Partner, American Continental Group, provided an update on issues being addressed at the federal level. Topics covered include RCRC's priorities for the 118<sup>th</sup> Congress, including the Farm Bill reauthorization, housing, SRS/Payment in Lieu of Taxes, cannabis banking, the Save America's Rural Hospital's Act, and matters being addressed at the Executive Branch.

### **Environmental Services Joint Powers Authority Update**

Staci Heaton, Senior Policy Advocate and ESJPA Deputy Executive Director, provided an update of the Rural Counties' Environmental Services Joint Powers Authority's (ESJPA). Ms. Heaton highlighted the ESJPA Board of Directors meeting taking place on March 9<sup>th</sup>, a recent landfill tour, and the United States Environmental Protection Agency's Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling grant program.

### **California Public Utilities Commission Update**

Leigh Kammerich, Policy Advocate, and John Kennedy provided an update on RCRC's involvement at the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC). Topics covered include an update on PG&E proposed plan to sell non-nuclear generation assets, RCRC's recent and upcoming meetings with PG&E, and a fast trip power outages workshop by CPUC.

### **Water Issues Update**

Sidd Nag, Policy Advocate, provided an update on current issues involving California water policy, including Governor Newsom's extension of the drought emergency order, and key water-related bills.

### **Forest Management and Wildfire Update**

Staci Heaton provided an update on efforts in the Legislature and various state and federal agencies to address California's persistent and catastrophic wildfire events, including key forest resilience/wildfire-related bills, the release of the updated California Fire Hazard Severity Zone maps, and the USDA Forest Service's (USFS) 2022 tree mortality survey.

**RCRC Closed Session: Initiation of Litigation:** Conference with Legal Counsel pursuant to Government Code section 54956.9 subdivision (d)(4). One case. (*Forest Service Employees for Environmental Ethics v. United States Forest Service*, United States District Court, District of Montana Case No. 9:22-CV-00168-DLC – RCRC Participation as Intervenor.)

**RCRC Closed Session: Existing Litigation:** Conference with Legal Counsel regarding litigation that has been formally initiated, pursuant to Government Code section 54956.9 subdivision (d)(1). The name of the case is *Rural County Representatives of California v. California State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection, et al.*, Fresno County Superior Court Case No. 22CECG00123.

The RCRC Board of Directors convened a closed session at 12:34 p.m. per Sections 54956.9 (d)(4) and 54956.9 (d)(1) of the Government Code.

The RCRC Board of Directors reconvened into open session at 1:10 p.m.

### **Report of any Actions taken under Items 11 and/or 12 Pursuant to Section 54957.1 of the Government Code**

Chair, Supervisor Doug Teeter, Butte County, deferred to Arthur J. Wylene, General Counsel, to provide a summary on the Closed Sessions.

As it relates to Item 11, Mr. Wylene reported that the RCRC Board of Directors in Closed Session, authorized RCRC to participate in a coalition that is seeking to intervene in *Forest Service Employees for Environmental Ethics v. United States Forest Service*. The substance of the litigation matter concerns supporting USFS in defending against a claim that the aerial application of fire retardant by USFS violates the Clean Water Act and should be enjoined nationwide. The approval vote was unanimous with all supervisors present voting "Aye."

As it relates to Item 12, no action was taken.

**Adjournment**

Chair, Supervisor Doug Teeter, Butte County, adjourned the RCRC Board of Directors Meeting at 1:11 p.m.