

**Rural County Representatives of California
Board of Directors Meeting
Wednesday, April 28, 2021 – 9:00 a.m.
1215 K Street, Suite 1650 – Board Room
Sacramento, CA 95814**

In accordance with Executive Orders N-25-20 and N-29-20, the April 28, 2021 RCRC Board of Directors meeting was held virtually.

MINUTES

Call to Order, Determination of Quorum and Self Introductions

Chair, Supervisor Stacy Corless, Mono County, called the meeting to order at 9:04 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
EJ Crandell	Lake
Gary Bridges	Lassen
Miles Menetrey	Mariposa
Daron McDaniel	Merced
Geri Byrne	Modoc
Stacy Corless	Mono
Chris Lopez	Monterey
Diane Dillon	Napa
Dan Miller	Nevada
Bob Tiffany	San Benito
Les Baugh	Shasta
Lee Adams	Sierra
Mat Conant	Sutter
Bob Williams	Tehama
Jill Cox	Trinity
Dennis Townsend	Tulare
Kathleen Haff	Tuolumne
Randy Fletcher	Yuba
<u>Absent</u>	
Paul Barr	Glenn

Matt Kingsley	Inyo
David Rogers	Madera
Glenn McGourty	Mendocino
Jim Holmes	Placer
Kevin Goss	Plumas
John Peschong	San Luis Obispo
Michael Kobseff	Siskiyou
James Gore	Sonoma
Angel Barajas	Yolo

Others in Attendance

Supervisor January Riddle, Alpine County
Supervisor Ned Coe, Modoc County
Supervisor John Peters, Mono County
Supervisor Anaiah Kirk, Tuolumne County
Tony Shaw Lassen County
Matthew Wang, Tulare County
Jennifer Shiffert, Tulare County
Jeffrey Thorsby, Nevada County
Crystal Crawford, Ygrene Energy Fund
Randy Hanvelt, Associated California Loggers
Robbie Bendorf, Capitol PFG
Lisa Ludovici, Charter-Spectrum
Lisa Holmes, Enterprise Holdings
Julie Tone, AT&T
Cynthia Cook, 3Strands Global Foundation
Jessica Morse, California Natural Resources Agency
Carolyn Gallagher
David Nelson
Carrie Scarlata

Staff in Attendance

Patrick Blacklock, President and CEO
Lisa McCargar, Chief Operating Officer/Chief Financial Officer
Craig Ferguson, Senior Vice President
Staci Heaton, Acting Regulatory Affairs Advocate
Barbara Hayes, Chief Economic Development Officer
Arthur Wylene, General Counsel
John Kennedy, Legislative Advocate
Tracy Rhine, Senior Legislative Advocate
Sarah Dukett, Legislative Advocate
Sidd Nag, Legislative Advocate
Maggie Chui, Senior Governmental Affairs Coordinator/Clerk of the Board
Leigh Kammerich, Regulatory Affairs Specialist
Milena De Melo, Controller
Dorothy Poole, External Affairs Coordinator

Layne Frederickson, IT Director
Elizabeth Jensen, Assistant Controller
Sanjay Lee, Financial Analyst
Anthony Rahill, Data and Program Development Manager
Terrance Rodgers, Economic Development Officer
Sarah Bolnik, Economic Development Officer
Mary Pitto, Consultant
Greg Norton, GSNR President

Pledge of Allegiance

Review and Approval of March 10, 2021 Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Chair, Supervisor Stacy Corless, Mono County, called for approval of the minutes from the March 10, 2021 Board of Directors Meeting.

Supervisor Dan Miller, Nevada County, motioned to approve the minutes from the March 10, 2021 Board of Directors Meeting. Supervisor David Griffith, Alpine County seconded the motion. Motion passed with all Supervisors present voting “Aye,” except as follows:

Not Voting: Amador County; Lake County

RCRC Chair’s Report

Chair, Supervisor Stacy Corless, Mono County, welcomed supervisors to the RCRC Board of Directors meeting. Supervisor Corless also welcomed President and CEO Patrick Blacklock to RCRC.

Supervisor Corless shared her enthusiasm for the relaunch of the Governor’s Forest Management Task Force, which will focus on implementing the *California’s Wildfire and Forest Resilience Action Plan*, and RCRC’s new role in the leadership structure.

Supervisor Corless spoke about the upcoming June 2021 Board of Directors/County of the Chair Meeting as well as the September 2021 Annual Meeting. Supervisor Corless noted this may be the last RCRC Board of Directors meeting held via Zoom as California starts reopening following over a year of coronavirus (COVID-19) related restrictions.

Lake County departed the RCRC Board of Directors Meeting at 9:16 a.m.

Member County Concerns and Issues

Supervisor Bob Williams, Tehama County, shared his concern that probation officers are not listed as public safety employees under the current Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act funding guidelines. Supervisor Williams asked for RCRC federal advocacy team assistance in including probation officers in the next CARES Act funding guidelines.

Supervisor David Griffith, Alpine County, stated that at the California State Association of Counties’ 2021 Legislative Conference, following a presentation by the United State

Department of Agriculture, Supervisor Ned Coe (Modoc County) discussed the difficulty of forming Resource Advisory Committees (RAC) in small communities. Supervisor Griffith asked what more can be done to get this issue resolved.

Supervisor Mat Conant, Sutter County, shared his concern regarding the Federal Emergency Management Agency's problematic regulations as it pertains to floodplain management issues in Sutter County.

Supervisor Geri Byrne, Modoc County, shared that Modoc County recently had their RAC appointed. Supervisor Byrne also conveyed her interest in the federal bill that has been championed by Senator Ron Wyden (D-Oregon) that would provide public land counties additional federal aid.

Supervisor Gary Bridges, Lassen County, thanked Acting Vice President Governmental Affairs Staci Heaton for her assistance in preparing a letter to Governor Gavin Newsom expressing RCRC's concerns regarding the closure of the California Correctional Center in Lassen County.

Supervisor Denise Carter, Colusa County, shared her concern that small local pharmacies in Colusa County are at a competitive disadvantage as compared to larger pharmacies when reimbursement rates on prescriptions are low.

Public Comments

None

Introduction and Comments from President and CEO

Patrick Blacklock, President and CEO, welcomed supervisors to the RCRC Board of Directors meeting.

Mr. Blacklock discussed RCRC's strategic planning timeline and process, which will be discussed at future RCRC Board of Directors meetings and adopted by the end of the year. Mr. Blacklock discussed RCRC's 2021 broadband strategy, including initial plans to obtain federal funds and efforts to assist local jurisdictions to start deploying fiber. Mr. Blacklock also discussed meetings with RCRC staff and key partners. Mr. Blacklock has been travelling to individual RCRC Member Counties to meet with RCRC Board Members. Mr. Blacklock thanked Greg Norton for serving as the President of the Golden State Natural Resources.

Mr. Blacklock highlighted the following Governmental Affairs Department's recent successes: influencing change in the California Public Utilities Commission's (CPUC) wireline infrastructure and microgrids proceedings; turning Senate Bill 261 (Allen) into a 2-year bill; advocating for amendments on Assembly Bill 1344 (Arambula); engaging on the RCRC-sponsored Assembly Bill 1431 (Frazier); and, urging the California Department of Water of Resources to certify California Environmental Quality Act exemption for projects on federal lands that have already passed through the National Environmental Policy Act process pursuant to Senate Bill 901 (Dodd) exemptions.

June 2021 Board of Directors/County of the Chair Meeting Update

Dorothy Poole, External Affairs Coordinator, provided an update on the June 2021 RCRC Board of Directors meeting slated to be held in the County of the Chair (Mono County) from June 16-18, 2021. Ms. Poole discussed the overview of events, including tours of Mono County, a number of group activities, and meal functions. The RCRC Board of Directors meeting will take place on Thursday, July 17th, and the Golden State Finance Authority Board of Directors meeting will take place on Friday, July 18th. The schedule is subject to change which will be dependent on California's COVID-19 reopening protocols. RCRC Board Members were encouraged to register via the online form or contact Ms. Poole directly.

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. Ms. Heaton briefly discussed legislative forestry and wildfire budget actions. The Newsom Administration recently released its \$1 billion proposal on wildfire prevention and forest resilience programs in the 2021-22 funding year allocations before the start of the 2021 wildfire season. The California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA) Deputy Secretary, Forest Resources Management, Jessica Morse, will be presenting this topic later this morning.

Ms. Heaton discussed the relaunch of the Governor's Forest Management Task Force (Task Force). The Task Force features a new collaborative leadership structure utilizing experts at all levels of government, and includes RCRC Chair Supervisor Stacy Corless (Mono County). The Task Force will focus on implementing the *California's Wildfire and Forest Resilience Action Plan (Action Plan)*. Ms. Heaton discussed Senator John Laird's (D-Santa Cruz) amended Senate Bill 456, which would codify several provisions of the Action Plan and require the Task Force to report annually to the Legislature on its progress in implementing the strategies.

Ms. Heaton provided an update on efforts to pursue legislative actions as part of RCRC's Wildfire Prevention and Response Package. Three bill - Assembly Bill 1431 (Frazier), Assembly Bill 1154 (Patterson), and Assembly Bill 1458 (Frazier) – have been introduced with more to follow. John Kennedy, Legislative Advocate, will be testifying in support of AB 1431 before the Assembly Natural Resources Committee, where it is expected to pass. Unfortunately, AB 1154 and AB 1458 will likely not be heard this Legislative Session due to COVID-19-related legislative constraints.

Guest Speaker - 3Strands Global Foundation

Cynthia Cook, PROTECT Director, 3Strands Global Foundation, provided an update on the RCRC-funded PROTECT program, the Human Trafficking Prevention Program, to the RCRC Board of Directors. Following Ms. Cook's presentation, supervisors and Ms. Cook engaged in a question and answer period.

Guest Speaker – California Natural Resources Agency

Jessica Morse, Deputy Secretary, Forest Resources Management, CNRA, provided an overview on the state's legislative forestry and wildfire budget actions, including Governor Newsom's \$1 billion Wildfire and Forest Resilience Expenditure Plan. Ms. Morse highlighted the 2021-21 early action and Budget Year 2021-22 action on resilient landscapes programs, Wildland Urban Interface, community hardening, and economic, science and research investments. Following Ms. Morse's presentation, supervisors and Ms. Morse engaged in an extended question and answer period.

Assembly Bill 125 (R. Rivas) – Equitable Economic Recovery, Healthy Food Access, Climate Resilient Farms Bond Act of 2022

Sidd Nag, Legislative Advocate, and Staci Heaton presented Assembly Bill 125 (R. Rivas) to the RCRC Board of Directors and indicated that this bill would authorize the issuance of \$3.122 billion in general obligation bonds to finance a variety of agriculture-related investments. Mr. Nag outlined key aspects of AB 125, noting that this bill shifts from traditional resources bond proposals by focusing on supporting agricultural programs and related infrastructure.

Mr. Nag noted that while the measure may be turned into a two-year bill or shelved by legislative leadership interested in more traditional resources bond proposals, a strong showing of support of AB 125's unique approach may still influence other resources bond measures.

The RCRC Board of Directors discussed at length the pros and cons of supporting the proposal, as well as the impact AB 125 would have should the RCRC Board of Directors support the bill at this time. Several RCRC Board of Directors member advised adopting a "No Position" position in place of a "Support" position for now.

Staff Recommendation

RCRC staff recommended the RCRC Board of Directors adopt a "Support" position for AB 125.

Supervisor Dan Miller, Nevada County, motioned to approve a "No Position" position for AB 125. Supervisor Dennis Townsend, Tulare County, seconded the motion. Motion passed by the following roll call vote taken:

"Aye": Alpine County; Butte County; Calaveras County; Colusa County; Del Norte County; El Dorado County; Humboldt County; Imperial County; Mariposa County; Merced County; Modoc County; Nevada County; Shasta County; Tehama County; Trinity County; Tulare County

"No": Mono County; Monterey County; Napa County; San Benito County; Sierra County; Tuolumne County

Abstaining: None

Not Voting: Amador County; Lake County; Lassen County; Sutter County; Yuba County

Assembly Bill 428 (Mayes) – Board of Supervisors Terms Limits and Compensation
Staci Heaton and Arthur J. Wylene, General Counsel, presented Assembly Bill 428 (Mayes) to the RCRC Board of Directors and indicated that this bill deals with term limits and compensation for county Boards of Supervisors. AB 428 would provide that when term limits are imposed for a county Board of Supervisors, the limit must be no fewer than two terms. AB 428 would explicitly codify that the county Board of Supervisors is included in the definition of county officers for whom the county Board of Supervisors is required to prescribe compensation.

As noted by supporters, a one-term limit appears inadequate for members of the county Board of Supervisors to develop necessary experience in county government or to provide for accountability through the reelection process. The two-term minimum provided in AB 428 will ensure the necessary expertise to provide for continuity of county operations without impairing the voters' ability to establish meaningful term limits.

Staff Recommendation

RCRC staff recommended the RCRC Board of Directors adopt a "Support" position for AB 428.

Supervisor Bob Williams, Tehama County, motioned to approve a support position for AB 428. Supervisor Dan Miller, Nevada County, seconded the motion. Motion passed by the following roll call vote taken:

"Aye": Alpine County; Butte County; Calaveras County; Del Norte County; El Dorado County; Humboldt County; Imperial County; Mariposa County; Merced County; Modoc County; Mono County; Monterey County; Napa County; Nevada County; San Benito County; Shasta County; Sierra County; Tehama County; Trinity County; Tulare County; Tuolumne County

"No": None

Abstaining: None

Not Voting: Amador County; Colusa County; Lake County; Lassen County; Sutter County; Yuba County

State & Federal Legislative Update

The Governmental Affairs Department provided an update on issues being addressed at the state and federal level. At the state level, Staci Heaton announced that policy committees must pass all fiscal bills in their house of origin by April 30, 2021, and non-fiscal bills by May 7, 2021. Assembly and Senate Appropriations Committees must pass fiscal bills to their respective floors by May 21, 2021, and bills must pass their house of origin by June 4, 2021.

Ms. Heaton highlighted Assembly Bill 339 (Lee) which would have added onerous requirements to the Brown Act for local agencies related to participation in public meetings. RCRC staff will continue to monitor AB 339 as the bill moves through the legislative process.

Tracy Rhine, Senior Legislative Advocate, highlighted legislation related to broadband access in rural communities. There are approximately 29 distinct broadband-related bills, and approximately 46 bills that touch upon local government information technology.

Sarah Dukett, Legislative Advocate, highlighted legislation dealing with elections (Assembly Bill 759; McCarty), telehealth (Assembly Bill 32; Aguiar-Curry), and juvenile justice (Senate Bill 493; Bradford).

Sidd Nag highlighted legislation dealing with the Clean Water Act and impaired waters (Assembly Bill 377; Rivas), as well as the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (Assembly Bill 754; Mathis). Mr. Nag thanked Supervisor Geri Byrne (Modoc County) for testifying in support of AB 754 on behalf of RCRC.

Finally, John Kennedy, Legislative Advocate, highlighted legislation dealing with the Department of Toxic Substances Control's fiscal and governance reform (Assembly Bill 1; C. Garcia), treated wood waste (Assembly Bill 332; Environmental Safety & Toxic Materials Committee), organic waste (Senate Bill 619; Laird), and beverage containers (Assembly Bill 1311; Wood).

The RCRC Board of Directors were encouraged to review the memo as contained in the Supplemental Packet for federal legislative updates.

Board of Forestry State Fire Safe Regulations Update

In the absence of Tracy Rhine, Staci Heaton and Arthur J. Wylene, provided a brief update on the Board of Forestry's (BOF) revisions to the State Fire Safe Regulations. On April 23, 2021, the "State Minimum Fire Safe Regulations, 2021" was published on the Office of Administrative Law Regulatory Notice Register thereby beginning the formal 45-day public comment period. The BOF has scheduled a regulatory hearing for June 22, 2021. RCRC staff will be preparing comprehensive comments in response to the proposed rulemaking as well as a county template letter.

California Public Utilities Commission Update

Leigh Kammerich, Regulatory Affairs Specialist, provided an update on the progress of several CPUC proceedings. As it relates to the Wildfire Mitigation Plans, Ms. Kammerich focused the discussion on CPUC's approval of a resolution to place the Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) into an "Enhanced Oversight and Enforcement" process for insufficient progress for wildfire mitigation efforts. Ms. Kammerich thanked Supervisor Diane Dillon (Napa County) for informing RCRC staff of PG&E's change of practice regarding the Wildfire Wood Management Program. Ms. Kammerich also provided a brief

update on De-Energization, Frontier Communications' bankruptcy update, and RCRC's recent motion for party status in Rule 20 Undergrounding.

California Air Resources Board Advanced Clean Trucks Regulations Update

Staci Heaton provided an update on the California Air Resources Board's (CARB) established sales requirements on truck manufacturers and reporting requirements for fleet brokers and operators of light/medium duty and heavier trucks. Following the Advanced Clean Truck regulations adoption in mid-2020, CARB is now beginning the process on an Advanced Clean Fleets rule to begin regulating the phase-in of zero-emission vehicles of 8,500 pounds gross vehicle weight rating into commercial and municipal fleets. RCRC is currently seeking meetings with CARB staff to discuss the developing Advanced Clean Fleets rule to clarify several provisions in the broad proposal.

Water Issues Update

Sidd Nag provided an update on issues involving California water policy. Mr. Nag discussed the Newsom Administration's drought emergency declaration for Mendocino and Sonoma Counties as well as the Administration requiring state agencies to respond to worsening drought conditions statewide. Mr. Nag also announced the Senate's budget action plan in response to worsening drought conditions.

Mr. Nag highlighted Assembly Bill 1434 (Friedman) regarding indoor residential water use, and Senate Bill 552 (Hertzberg) regarding drought planning.

Adjournment

Chair, Supervisor Stacy Corless, Mono County, adjourned the RCRC Board of Directors Meeting at 2:18 p.m.