

**Rural County Representatives of California
Board of Directors Meeting
Wednesday, September 16, 2020 – 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 September 16, 2020
RCRC Board of Directors meeting was held virtually.

MINUTES

Call to Order, Determination of Quorum and Self Introductions

Chair, Supervisor Daron McDaniel, Merced 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
Denise Carter	Colusa
Gerry Hemmingsen	Del Norte
Lori Parlin	El Dorado
John Viegas	Glenn
Rex Bohn	Humboldt
Michael Kelley	Imperial
Matt Kingsley	Inyo
Aaron Albaugh	Lassen
Robert Poythress	Madera
Kevin Cann	Mariposa
Carre Brown	Mendocino
Daron McDaniel	Merced
Geri Byrne	Modoc
Stacy Corless	Mono
Diane Dillon	Napa
Dan Miller	Nevada
Jim Holmes	Placer
Anthony Botelho	San Benito
Lynn Compton	San Luis Obispo
Les Baugh	Shasta
Lee Adams	Sierra
Bob Williams	Tehama
Bobbi Chadwick	Trinity
Kuyler Crocker	Tulare
Sherri Brennan	Tuolumne
Randy Fletcher	Yuba

Absent

Jack Garamendi	Calaveras
E.J. Crandell	Lake
Chris Lopez	Monterey
Kevin Goss	Plumas
Michael Kobseff	Siskiyou
Lynda Hopkins	Sonoma
Mat Conant	Sutter
Gary Sandy	Yolo

Others in Attendance

Supervisor Terry Woodrow, Alpine County
Supervisor Miles Menetrey, Mariposa County
Supervisor Lloyd Pareira, Merced County
Supervisor Ted Williams, Mendocino County
Supervisor Ned Coe, Modoc County
Supervisors John Peters, Mono County
Jeffrey Thorsby, Nevada County
Cole Przybyla, Tuolumne County
Crystal Crawford, Ygrene Energy Fund
Susan Bonilla, California Pharmacists Association
Michelle Rivas, California Pharmacists Association
Sheila Johnston, California Pharmacists Association
Patrick Blacklock, County Medical Services Program
Kari Brownstein, County Medical Services Program
Carolyn Gallagher

Staff in Attendance

Greg Norton, President and CEO
Lisa McCargar, Chief Operating Officer/Chief Financial Officer
Craig Ferguson, Senior Vice President
Paul A. Smith, Senior Vice President Governmental Affairs
Barbara Hayes, Chief Economic Development Officer
Mary-Ann Warmerdam, Senior Legislative Advocate
John Kennedy, Legislative Advocate
Tracy Rhine, Legislative Advocate
Staci Heaton, Senior Regulatory Affairs Advocate
Arthur Wylene, General Counsel
Terrance Rodgers, Economic Development Officer
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

Darin DuPont, Legal Intern

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of Minutes – August 12, 2020

Chair, Supervisor Daron McDaniel, Merced County, called for approval of the minutes from the August 12, 2020 Board of Directors Meeting.

Supervisor Les Baugh, Shasta County, motioned to approve the minutes from the August 12, 2020 Board of Directors Meeting. Supervisor Rex Bohn, Humboldt County, seconded the motion. Motion passed with all Supervisors present voting “Aye,” except as follows:

Abstaining: Supervisor Jim Holmes, Placer County

Absent: Supervisor Aaron Albaugh, Lassen County; Supervisor Anthony Botelho, San Benito County

RCRC Chair’s Report

Chair, Supervisor Daron McDaniel, Merced County, welcomed fellow supervisors to the RCRC Board of Directors meeting held via Zoom. Supervisor McDaniel shared that the recruitment process for the RCRC President position is underway. The RCRC Executive Committee will convene a Special Executive Committee meeting following the conclusion of today’s meeting to meet with the recruitment firm to further discuss the process.

Supervisor McDaniel also provided an update on Merced County’s coronavirus (COVID-19) response efforts. Supervisor McDaniel spoke about the recent COVID-19 outbreak at the Foster Farms facility in Merced County, and thanked the federal government for their assistance.

Member County Concerns and Issues

Supervisor Carre Brown, Mendocino County, shared her concern that the state’s emergency declarations due to widespread wildfires failed to include all counties affected. Supervisor Brown is surprised that some affected counties were not included in the emergency declarations since Mendocino County had structures destroyed and residents evacuated.

Supervisor Gerry Hemmingsen, Del Norte County, concurred with Supervisor Carre Brown’s concern regarding affected counties being left out of the state’s wildfire emergency declarations. Supervisor Hemmingsen also noted his dissatisfaction with the U.S. Forest Service’s lack of wildfire response when structures are not involved.

Supervisor Denise Carter, Colusa County, shared that the California State Association of Counties (CSAC) developed a Rural Caucus Working Group that would be meeting with the California Health and Human Services Secretary Dr. Mark Ghaly and others on a

weekly basis. Supervisor Carter asked fellow supervisors to send their items of interest for the Working Group to her.

Supervisor Carter inquired if any counties are still bargaining with their In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) workers. Supervisor Carter shared that negotiations have been difficult since the Service Employees International Union began representing IHSS workers.

Supervisor Geri Byrne, Modoc County, asked if fellow supervisors have insight about the statewide forest closures and how that would affect hunting season. In response to Supervisor Byrne's question, Supervisor Stacy Corless, Mono County, Supervisor John Peters, Mono County, Supervisor David Griffith, Alpine County, Supervisor Rex Bohn, Humboldt County, and Supervisor Gerry Hemmingsen, Del Norte County, provided their perspectives. Supervisor Bohn shared that he has sent a request to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to extend the hunting season by one week at the end of the season.

Supervisor Rex Bohn, Humboldt County, conveyed his concern regarding the American Red Cross' wildfire-related assistance. In response to Supervisor Bohn's concern, Supervisor Diane Dillon, Napa County, shared that Napa County in 2015 decided not to use the American Red Cross as the primary responder for emergency and disaster assistance.

Supervisor Jeremy Brown, Trinity County, shared his concern about an inaccurate 2020 Census count as there has only been a 30 percent response rate. While there has been discussion that the deadline of October 5th may be pushed back, it is not likely.

Supervisor David Griffith, Alpine County, echoed Supervisor Jeremy Brown's concern regarding an inaccurate 2020 Census count, and shared his continued concern that COVID-19 impacts the 2020 Census count due to resort closures and individuals relocating to other areas.

Supervisor Les Baugh, Shasta County, shared that he was informed that local grocery stores in Shasta County received notifications from the Occupational Safety and Health Administration to make COVID-19 requirement standards permanent. Supervisor Baugh asked the validity of these notifications.

Public Comments

None

President's Report

Greg Norton, President and CEO, notified the supervisors that there will be a Golden State Natural Resources update during the Golden State Finance Authority Board of Directors meeting later today.

Mr. Norton shared his regret that the 2020 RCRC Annual Meeting was cancelled as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Absent COVID-19, the 2020 RCRC Annual Meeting would have been held in Napa County this week.

RCRC President Recruitment Update

Chair, Supervisor Daron McDaniel (Merced), and 1st Vice Chair, Supervisor Stacy Corless (Mono), provided an update regarding the recruitment for RCRC President. At their September 2nd RCRC Special Executive Committee meeting, Russell Reynolds Associates was selected as the executive search firm to conduct the recruitment. The RCRC Executive Committee will provide updates to the RCRC Board of Directors at future meetings as the recruitment progresses.

Adoption of the 2021 RCRC Meeting Schedule

Paul A. Smith, Senior Vice President Governmental Affairs, presented the 2021 RCRC meeting schedule. While the Annual Installation Reception is slated to take place in mid-January 2021, it may be cancelled due to COVID-19. In June 2021, the RCRC Board of Directors is scheduled to travel to Mono County, the 2021 County of the Chair, for a three-day meeting. In September 2021, the RCRC Annual Meeting will be held for the first time in Monterey County. Mr. Smith noted that since the RCRC Board of Directors were unable to attend the 2020 County of the Chair meeting in Merced County due to COVID-19 public health restrictions, RCRC staff hopes to organize a RCRC Board of Directors meeting to take place in Merced County in 2021. Depending on COVID-19 public health restrictions, dates are subject to change.

Staff Recommendation

RCRC staff recommended that the RCRC Board of Directors approve the 2021 RCRC Meeting schedule as proposed.

Supervisor Gerry Hemmingsen, Del Norte County, motioned to approve the adoption of the 2021 RCRC meeting schedule. Supervisor Denise Carter, Colusa County, seconded the motion. Motion passed with all Supervisors present voting “Aye.” Supervisor Kevin Cann, Mariposa County, absent.

Recognition of the Rural County Photo Contest Winner Recipient

Supervisor Lori Parlin, El Dorado County, congratulated Jason Brand of El Dorado County for his winning submission of the RCRC's 4th Annual Rural County Photo Contest. Unfortunately, Mr. Brand was unable to attend this meeting. Mr. Brand's winning photo of Mack Lake in Inyo County may be used in various marketing materials or work products throughout the next year.

Financial Update

Milena De Melo, Controller, provided a brief financial update on RCRC's current financial status. Despite the economic downturn as a result of COVID-19 on top of a waiver of member county dues for the period from July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021, RCRC continues to be in good financial standing. Greg Norton concurred that RCRC continues to be in a good financial position.

Upcoming November 2020 Ballot Measures Update

Paul A. Smith provided an update on the statewide ballot measures that are slated for the November 2020 General Election ballot. Following the conclusion of today's meeting, the RCRC Board of Directors will have considered nine of the 12 statewide ballot measures that would impact rural counties.

Proposition 22 – Protect App-Based Drivers and Services Act

Paul A. Smith presented Proposition 22, the Protect App-Based Drivers and Services Act, and indicated this measure would enact labor and wage policies that are specific to app-based transportation and delivery drivers. Mr. Smith explained that Proposition 22 would override the enactment of Assembly Bill 5 (Gonzalez, 2019), which was designed to determine a worker's status as an independent contractor or an employee or agent. RCRC did not offer any formal position on AB 5 when it was being considered during the legislative process. Proposition 22 will appear on the November 2020 General Election ballot.

Staff Recommendation

RCRC staff recommended the RCRC Board of Directors adopt a "No Position" position on Proposition 22.

Supervisor Randy Fletcher, Yuba County, motioned to approve a "No Position" position on Proposition 22. Supervisor Brian Oneto, Amador County, seconded the motion. Motion passed by the following roll call vote taken:

"Aye": Supervisor David Griffith, Alpine County; Supervisor Brian Oneto, Amador County; Supervisor Doug Teeter, Butte County; Supervisor Denise Carter, Colusa County; Supervisor Lori Parlin, El Dorado County; Supervisor John Viegas, Glenn County; Supervisor Rex Bohn, Humboldt County; Supervisor Michael Kelley, Imperial County; Supervisor Matt Kingsley, Inyo County; Supervisor Aaron Albaugh, Lassen County; Supervisor Robert Poythress, Madera County; Supervisor Carre Brown, Mendocino County; Supervisor Daron McDaniel, Merced County; Supervisor Geri Byrne, Modoc County; Supervisor Stacy Corless, Mono County; Supervisor Diane Dillon, Napa County; Supervisor Dan Miller, Nevada County; Supervisor Jim Holmes, Placer County; Supervisor Anthony Botelho, San Benito County; Supervisor Lynn Compton, San Luis Obispo County; Supervisor Les Baugh, Shasta County; Supervisor Lee Adams, Sierra County; Supervisor Jeremy Brown, Trinity County; Supervisor Kuyler Crocker, Tulare County; Supervisor Sherri Brennan, Tuolumne County; Supervisor Randy Fletcher, Yuba County

"No": None

Abstaining: Supervisor Gerry Hemmingsen, Del Norte County

Absent: Supervisor Kevin Cann, Mariposa County; Supervisor Bob Williams, Tehama County

Ad Hoc Advisory Committee on Homeowner's Insurance

The Ad Hoc Advisory Committee on Homeowner's Insurance Committee (Committee) Chair Sherri Brennan (Tuolumne County), Staci Heaton, Senior Regulatory Affairs Advocate, and Paul A. Smith, provided a report of findings from the Committee. The Committee requested that the RCRC Board of Directors adopt and approve the following recommendations:

- 1) Instruct RCRC staff to remain engaged with the Legislature, the Department of Insurance and the insurance industry on potential legislation or administrative proposals to appropriately represent the impacts of insurance nonrenewals on rural homeowners and communities in the wake of the failure to pass Assembly Bill 2167 (Daly) and Senate Bill 292 (Rubio) in their pre-amended forms.
- 2) Communicate the following list of wildfire mitigation actions to member counties for their consideration:
 - Adopt local ordinances that reinforce and strengthen existing state defensible space mandates.
 - Reinforce the new fire-resistant standards adopted by the state for new building construction.
 - Work in concert with local fire prevention agencies such as Fire Safe Councils and Resource Conservation Districts to establish financial assistance programs for low income, elderly and disabled residents that cannot feasibly maintain their own defensible space or afford home hardening upgrades.
 - Encourage community-wide fire mitigation activities along with individual homeowner efforts, such as shaded fuel breaks, and work with local fire prevention agencies to leverage state and federal grant funding to complete projects.
- 3) Instruct RCRC's advocacy team to pursue the following state legislative priorities:
 - Support a statewide, permanent funding mechanism for land use planning, home hardening and defensible space efforts for wildfire prevention.
 - Support legislative proposals that will facilitate insurer market penetration into high fire hazard severity zones that also ensure insurance affordability.
 - Support modifications to current insurance reimbursement practices that make it easier for homeowners to recover losses after a catastrophic fire event.
 - Support legislative proposals that include feasible, implementable standards to strengthen defensible space, home hardening and local land use planning requirements for wildfire mitigation.

Other members of the Committee were asked to speak, including Supervisor Brian Oneto, Amador County, and Supervisor Lori Parlin, El Dorado County, who voiced their frustration with the state's disregard in addressing the availability and affordability of homeowner's insurance coverage in high wildfire risk areas. The RCRC Board of

Directors engaged in a long discussion regarding the Committee's recommendations and next steps.

In addition to the Committee's recommendations as outlined above and contained in the Main Packet, Supervisor Brennan requested RCRC staff to incorporate the listing of Firewise USA as a resource to help homeowners access wildfire-related information, as well as the inclusion of RCRC staff to continue coordinated communication with RCRC Member Counties, stakeholders, and policymakers.

Committee Recommendations

The RCRC Ad Hoc Advisory Committee on Homeowner's Insurance requested that the RCRC Board of Directors adopt and approve the outlined recommendations, as revised.

Supervisor Dan Miller, Nevada County, motioned to approve the Committee's above-mentioned recommendations, as revised. Supervisor Randy Fletcher, Yuba County, seconded the motion. Motion passed by the following roll call vote taken:

“Aye”: Supervisor David Griffith, Alpine County; Supervisor Brian Oneto, Amador County; Supervisor Doug Teeter, Butte County; Supervisor Denise Carter, Colusa County; Supervisor Gerry Hemmingsen, Del Norte County; Supervisor Lori Parlin, El Dorado County; Supervisor John Viegas, Glenn County; Supervisor Rex Bohn, Humboldt County; Supervisor Michael Kelley, Imperial County; Supervisor Matt Kingsley, Inyo County; Supervisor Aaron Albaugh, Lassen County; Supervisor Kevin Cann, Mariposa County; Supervisor Carre Brown, Mendocino County; Supervisor Daron McDaniel, Merced County; Supervisor Geri Byrne, Modoc County; Supervisor Stacy Corless, Mono County; Supervisor Diane Dillon, Napa County; Supervisor Dan Miller, Nevada County; Supervisor Jim Holmes, Placer County; Supervisor Anthony Botelho, San Benito County; Supervisor Les Baugh, Shasta County; Supervisor Lee Adams, Sierra County; Supervisor Jeremy Brown, Trinity County; Supervisor Kuyler Crocker, Tulare County; Supervisor Sherri Brennan, Tuolumne County; Supervisor Randy Fletcher, Yuba County

“No”: None

Abstaining: None

Absent: Supervisor Robert Poythress, Madera County; Supervisor Lynn Compton, San Luis Obispo County; Supervisor Bob Williams, Tehama County

Guest Speaker – California Pharmacists Association

Susan Bonilla, President, California Pharmacists Association (CPhA), Michelle Rivas, Executive Vice President, Government Relations & Corporate Affairs, CPhA, and Sheila Johnston, Senior Vice President, Business Operations, CPhA, provided an overview of rural communities' primary care services provided by pharmacists. Ms. Bonilla, Ms. Rivas, and Ms. Johnston, also discussed the CPhA-sponsored legislation, Assembly Bill 2100 (Wood), which would promote the ability of pharmacists to vaccinate. Based on the RCRC Board of the Directors' interest in CPhA's presentation, RCRC staff will distribute copies of the presentation, including the social graphics.

Guest Speaker – County Medical Services Program

Patrick Blacklock, County Administrator, Yolo County, County Medical Services Program (CMSP) Member, and Kari Brownstein, Administrative Officer, CMSP, provided a presentation on current health related program offerings for CMSP member counties. Based on the RCRC Board of the Directors' interest in CMSP's presentation, RCRC staff will distribute copies of the presentation.

Update on 2020 RCRC Sponsored Legislation

Paul A. Smith provided an update on the proposals RCRC sponsored/co-sponsored during the 2020 Legislative Session. Mr. Smith provided an update on Assembly Bill 2459 (Bigelow), which provides Mariposa and Napa Counties additional alcoholic beverage licenses. AB 2459 has been signed into law by the Governor.

Other RCRC sponsored/co-sponsored legislation - Assembly Bill 2612 (Maienschein) regarding solid and organic waste recycling, Assembly Bill 1936 (Rodriguez) regarding Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS) price gouging protections, Senate Bill 1191 (Dahle) regarding local flexibility for organic waste management, and Assembly Bill 2539 (Bigelow) regarding PSPS impacts on election - failed to move. RCRC staff will present new proposals for the 2021 Legislative Session at a future RCRC Board of Directors meeting.

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.

At the state level, Ms. Heaton explained that RCRC-supported Assembly Bill 3074 (Friedman) and Assembly Bill 3164 (Friedman) which would establish a 5-foot ember-resistant zone around homes in the wildland-urban interface and develop a risk model for use by local governments awaits the Governor's consideration. Additionally, Assembly Bill 3012 (Wood) which provides nonrenewed homeowners with additional assistance finding coverage and eases itemization requirements for homeowners that have suffered total losses during an emergency also await the Governor's consideration. Unfortunately, the RCRC-supported Assembly Bill 1659 (Bloom), a large-scale funding bill for forest management, wildfire prevention, and emergency response bill, failed to reach the Governor's desk.

As it relates to the 2020-21 State Budget Package, Ms. Heaton noted that the revised State Budget Package did not include an expenditure plan for the Assembly Bill 32 Cap-and-Trade Auction proceeds.

At the federal level, Ms. Heaton discussed the RCRC-supported S. 4431, the Emergency Wildfire and Public Safety Act, by Senator Dianne Feinstein.

The RCRC Board of Directors engaged in a lengthy discussion regarding their concerns and frustration, particularly that no forest management funding from the state has been allocated for the 2020-21 budget year at this time.

Water Issues Update

Mary-Ann Warmerdam provided an update on issues involving California water policy. At the state level, Ms. Warmerdam explained that the development of Voluntary Agreements continues to be at a standstill. Ms. Warmerdam highlighted the reinstatement of RCRC and CSAC's Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) Working Group. This week, the SGMA Working Group will be hosting a webinar. Additionally, the Department of Water Resources' recent filing of a validation action with the Sacramento County Superior Court regarding financing of the proposed Delta Conveyance Project is now open for comment. Ms. Warmerdam encouraged supervisors to review the memo contained in the Main Packet for information regarding other water-related updates.

California Public Utilities Commission Update

John Kennedy, Legislative Advocate, and Leigh Kammerich, Regulatory Affairs Specialist, provided an update on the progress of several California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) proceedings, including how utilities undertake wildfire hazard mitigation and de-energization of power lines to prevent high-severity wildfires, the Self-Generation Incentive Program (SGIP), Emergency Disaster Relief Program, Microgrids and Resiliency, and the California Advanced Service Fund.

State & Federal Legislative Update

Paul A. Smith provided an update on issues being addressed at the state and federal level. At the federal level, RCRC staff continues to engage on another round of federal COVID-19 relief package, which would likely occur after the November General Election. RCRC staff continues to advocate for support of direct, increased aid to states and counties, as well as provide maximum flexibility to utilize federal assistance dollars. In addition, Mr. Smith discussed the reauthorization of the surface transportation bill.

Mr. Smith also called attention to Congress's task to enact a continuing resolution (CR) to fund the government past September 30th. The CR is expected to last through mid-December. A CR into December would allow Congress to return for a lame-duck session following the November General Election to complete a spending legislation for the FY 2021. The passage of a CR would maintain the status quo on the Payment in Lieu of Taxes program payments to counties.

At the state level, the 2020 Legislative Session came to an end upon adjournment on August 31st. The Legislature is slated to convene in early December to commence the 2021 Legislative Session, unless a Special Session is called to convene. Mr. Smith encouraged supervisors to review George Skelton's article as contained in the Supplemental Packet.

Mr. Smith reported on the following:

- Assembly Bill 6 (Reyes), which would have authorized the Attorney General to enter into a settlement agreement with opioid manufacturers on the state's behalf. Many counties, along with RCRC and a large coalition of stakeholders, strongly opposed the bill. AB 6 failed passage.
- Senate Bill 1159 (Hill), which would provide enhanced workers' compensation benefits to persons who are not classified as public safety personnel in light of COVID-19. RCRC and a large coalition of stakeholders expressed strong concerns. SB 1159 awaits the consideration of the Governor.
- Assembly Bill 2168 (McCarty), which would have required the installation of electric vehicle charging stations to be deemed complete within five business days by a building official in local jurisdictions. RCRC and a coalition of stakeholders opposed the bill. While AB 2168 failed passage, Mr. Smith encouraged RCRC Member Counties to adopt ordinances if they have not already done so. A similar bill is expected to return in the 2021 Legislative Session.
- As it relates to the 2020-21 State Budget Package, Mr. Smith called attention to Senate Bill 823 (Senate Budget & Fiscal Review Committee), which closes the Division of Juvenile Justice's facilities and realign the juvenile justice population responsibility to county governments. SB 823 is expected to be signed into law by the Governor. Mr. Smith encouraged supervisors to review RCRC's revised 2020-21 State Budget Package document as referenced in the Main Packet.

Tracy Rhine

- Assembly Bill 2421 (Quirk), which would streamline local permitting process for siting back-up power generators on macro cellular tower sites through January 1, 2024. The RCRC-supported bill awaits the consideration of the Governor.
- Senate Bill 182 (Jackson), which would establish wildfire reduction standards and planning requirements for new housing developments in fire prone areas of the state. The RCRC-supported bill awaits the consideration of the Governor.

John Kennedy

- Assembly Bill 1080 (Gonzalez), which would have required the state to reduce the waste associated with single use packaging and products to 75 percent by 2030. Unfortunately, the RCRC-supported bill failed passage.
- Assembly Bill 995 (Garcia), which would create a new governance structure for the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) and increases a wide variety of fees on local governments to partially offset DTSC's fiscal imbalance. RCRC staff has expressed concerns with the fee on local governments provisions. AB 995 awaits the consideration of the Governor.

Adjournment

Chair, Supervisor Daron McDaniel, Merced County, adjourned the RCRC Board of Directors Meeting at 2:09 p.m.