

**Rural County Representatives of California  
Board of Directors Meeting  
Thursday, April 21, 2016 – 8:30 a.m.  
Holiday Inn Express, Willows  
545 North Humboldt Avenue  
Willows, CA 95988**

**MINUTES**

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

Chair, Supervisor John Viegas, Glenn County, called the meeting to order at 8:34 a.m.  
A quorum was determined at that time. Those present:

<b><u>Supervisor</u></b>	<b><u>County</u></b>
Mary Rawson	Alpine
Doug Teeter	Butte
Kim Dolbow Vann	Colusa
Michael Ranalli	El Dorado
John Viegas	Glenn
Rex Bohn	Humboldt
Matt Kingsley	Inyo
Anthony Farrington	Lake
Aaron Albaugh	Lassen
Kevin Cann	Mariposa
Carre Brown	Mendocino
Geri Byrne	Modoc
Tim Fesko	Mono
Diane Dillon	Napa
Nate Beason	Nevada
Kevin Goss	Plumas
Anthony Botelho	San Benito
Les Baugh	Shasta
Lee Adams	Sierra
Larry Munger	Sutter
Bob Williams	Tehama
John Fenley	Trinity
Allen Ishida	Tulare
Randy Hanvelt	Tuolumne
Roger Abe	Yuba

**Absent**

Brian Oneto	Amador
Cliff Edson	Calaveras
Dave Finigan	Del Norte
Michael Kelley	Imperial
David Rogers	Madera

John Pedrozo	Merced
Jim Holmes	Placer
Lynn Compton	San Luis Obispo
Michael Kobseff	Siskiyou
Matt Rexroad	Yolo

### **Others in Attendance**

Nadine Bailey, Family Water Alliance  
Wanda Ishida

### **Staff in Attendance**

Greg Norton, President & CEO  
Patricia Megason, Executive Vice President  
Paul A. Smith, Senior Legislative Advocate  
Mary-Ann Warmerdam, Legislative Advocate  
Mary Pitto, Regulatory Affairs Advocate  
Staci Heaton, Regulatory Affairs Advocate  
Justin Caporusso, Director of Public Affairs  
Sarah Bolnik, Office Manager

### **Pledge of Allegiance**

### **Approval of Minutes – March 16, 2016**

Chair, John Viegas, Glenn County, called for approval of the minutes from the March 16, 2016 Board of Directors Meeting.

**Supervisor Roger Abe, Yuba County, motioned to approve the minutes from the March 16, 2016 Board of Directors Meeting. Supervisor Kevin Goss, Plumas County, seconded the motion. Motion passes unanimously.**

#### ***Abstaining:***

***Supervisor Anthony Farrington, Lake County; Supervisor Carre Brown, Mendocino County; Supervisor Geri Byrne, Modoc County; Supervisor Tim Fesko, Mono County; Supervisor Nate Beason, Nevada County; Supervisor Anthony Botelho, San Benito County***

### **RCRC Chair's Report**

Chair, Supervisor John Viegas, Glenn County, thanked the RCRC Board of Directors as well as the RCRC Staff for a wonderful event and for making the trip to Glenn County. Supervisor Viegas announced the hiring of a Glenn County Economic Development Officer. Ms. Jody Samons is currently working on soliciting new businesses to move to Glenn County.

## **Member County Concerns and Issues**

Supervisor Kim Dolbow Vann, Colusa County, informed the Board of Directors that Colusa County submitted a letter of opposition to Senator Lois Wolk regarding her Senate Bill 1396 dealing with the Inner Coast Range Conservancy.

Supervisor Nate Beason, Nevada County, raised the issue of electric vehicles and an upcoming California Public Utilities Commission ruling on a PG&E proposal which will result in ratepayers paying for all charging stations. Supervisor Beason stated that there are many unanswered questions such as how this will impact low-income residents.

Supervisor Carre Brown, Mendocino County, discussed the broadband policy that CSAC has been developing.

Supervisor Brown informed the RCRC Board of Directors that Mendocino County took action to oppose Assembly Bill 2395 (Low), relating to telecommunications. If enacted, rural county residents will have no right to have a land phone line in their home. With little to no coverage for cell phone use, this poses a huge safety threat.

Supervisor Brown also raised the issue of PG&E soliciting Mendocino County residents asking them to sign an agreement which would prevent any future addition of solar to their property.

Supervisor Doug Teeter, Butte County, informed the Board of Directors about an individual from Solano County who was convicted of sexually assault and will be released in Butte County. Supervisor Teeter advised that Butte County residents are unhappy about Smith's relocation to Butte County, and that he will probably relocate again to another county.

## **Public Comments**

None

## **President's Report**

Greg Norton, President & CEO, announced the addition of Tracy Rhine as Legislative Advocate. Tracy will cover land use, health and human services, telecommunications, and overall infrastructure issues. Ms. Rhine comes from the Department of Consumer Affairs where she served as Chief Deputy Director. Ms. Rhine's first day with RCRC is April 25, 2016.

Mr. Norton informed the Board of Directors about the recent RCRC-sponsored Regional Information Summit on Human Trafficking held in Redding on April 7, 2016. The North State Summit was hosted by the Human Exploitation and Trafficking (H.E.A.T.) Institute out of Alameda County. The North State Summit provided a venue for local government representatives to share their experiences with human trafficking and the H.E.A.T. Institute ahead of their development of policy and programming recommendations to the State. Supervisor Les Baugh, Shasta County, provided opening remarks and welcomed the crowd of more than 100 individuals to Shasta

County. RCRC Chair, Supervisor John Viegas, Glenn County, RCRC First Vice Chair, Supervisor Bob Williams, Tehama County, and Supervisor Michael Kobseff, Siskiyou County were all in attendance. RCRC's sponsorship allowed for the North State to participate in the statewide discussion, and resulted in print, broadcast, and online media coverage.

Mr. Norton announced the launch of the PROTECT Program, the human trafficking education and training program being made available to RCRC's 35 member counties over the course of the next three years. The PROTECT Program will first roll-out to Merced, Shasta, Lassen, Imperial, and Sierra counties in Fall 2016, 11 additional RCRC member counties in 2017-18, and the remaining RCRC member counties in 2018-19. The counties are selected by a formula of truancy and loss of funding.

Mr. Norton informed the Board of Directors that RCRC was recently awarded the 2015 Frederick Douglass Family Initiatives Human Rights Award. This Award is given annually to organizations and/or individuals that do the most to support and/or demonstrate the spirit of Frederick Douglass. The Award was presented to RCRC for their use of resources to advance prevention and education efforts of human trafficking in California.

Mr. Norton noted recent visits by staff to Glenn, Shasta, and Mariposa Counties.

### **Administrative Matters**

Patricia Megason, Executive Vice President, unveiled a new tool used by RCRC staff to request action from RCRC member counties. The RCRC Action Alert is an electronic communication tool utilized to efficiently request action and/or feedback from RCRC member counties related to the pertinent business of the organization (legislative issues, administrative issues, etc.). The Action Alert will be utilized sparingly, and will strive to be brief, succinct, and clearly communicated.

### **Senate Bill 1396 (Wolk) Inner Coast Range Conservancy**

Mary-Ann Warmerdam, Legislative Advocate, provided a report to the Board of Directors on Senate Bill 1396 (Wolk). If passed, SB 1396 would establish the Inner Coast Range Conservancy (Conservancy) including all or part of the following counties: Colusa, Del Norte, Glenn, Humboldt, Lake, Mendocino, Napa, Shasta, Siskiyou, Solano, Tehama, Trinity, and Yolo. The legislation is modeled after Assembly Bill 2600 of 2004, which established the Sierra Nevada Conservancy. Ms. Warmerdam expressed two primary concerns with SB 1396. The first concern is the legislation's imbalance between local and state representation on the Conservancy Board. The second concern is the current version includes language for protection and improvement of the water supply which could inhibit any future water infrastructure projects. The RCRC Board of Directors discussed at length about the pros and cons to such a conservancy.

### **Staff Recommendation**

RCRC staff recommended an "Oppose Unless Amended" position. Staff proposes that these amendments include addressing the imbalance on the Conservancy Board by adding two local board members and by adding clarifying language that any future

proposed water supply projects are not negatively impacted. Should these amendments be included in the measure, RCRC staff recommends that RCRC take a neutral position.

**Supervisor Bob Williams, Tehama County, made a motion to approve the staff recommendation. Supervisor Les Baugh, Shasta County, seconded the motion. Motion passes with one member county abstaining, Supervisor Anthony Farrington, Lake County.**

### **California Water Commission Water Storage Investment Program**

Mary-Ann Warmerdam reviewed with the Board of Directors the status of the California Water Commission's draft regulations for the Water Storage Investment Program. Ms. Warmerdam acknowledged the hard work of Ms. Kathy Mannion, Legislative Advocate, over the last year in working diligently on how Proposition 1's funds could be utilized most efficiently. Ms. Warmerdam reviewed RCRC's submitted comments regarding the proposed regulations with a focus on projected costs as well as project review.

### **California Tree Mortality Task Force**

Staci Heaton, Regulatory Affairs Advocate, provided an update on the California Tree Mortality Task Force (Task Force). The Task Force is led by the Governor's Office, the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE), and the Governor's Office of Emergency Services (CAL OES). The Task Force includes a wide range of stakeholders brought together to tackle the urgent issue of tree die-off due to invasive pests in California. Ms. Heaton informed the Board of Directors that the current focus is facilitating tree removal in six counties identified by the State as "high hazard" -- Madera, Mariposa, Tuolumne, Tulare, Fresno, and Kern Counties. Ms. Heaton shared that CAL FIRE is currently finalizing a revised map of the high hazard zones to include broader forest health and landscape-level planning issues, and is planning to expand the membership of the Task Force beyond the six original counties. Additional counties anticipated for inclusion are Placer, Calaveras, Amador, and El Dorado. Ms. Heaton indicated that Supervisor Michael Ranalli, El Dorado County, had been asked to join the Task Force.

### **Bureau of Land Management Resource Management Planning Regulations**

Staci Heaton informed the Board of Directors that the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is in the process of amending their planning rule. Current amendments will establish the regulations used to prepare, revise, or amend land-use plans under the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA). Ms. Heaton urged the members that if they have BLM land in their county, to submit comments by May 25, 2016.

### **Air Resource Board's Aliso Canyon Methane Leak Climate Impacts Mitigation Program**

Mary Pitto, Regulatory Affairs Advocate, informed the Board of Directors that the Air Resources Board has adopted a mitigation program. The program was created to achieve "full mitigation" of the climate impacts generated by the Aliso Canyon natural gas leak which occurred in October 2015. Mitigation projects considered for potential

funding include dairy and solid waste projects. Ms. Pitto urged member county staff and other interested local agencies to research this potential funding opportunity.

### **Update on *Evenwel v. Abbott* – Legislative re-Districting**

Paul A. Smith, Senior Legislative Advocate, provided a summary of a recent U.S. Supreme Court (Court) case *Evenwel v. Abbott* which addressed the way state legislative districts are constructed in the State of Texas. On April 4, 2016, the Court unanimously voted to uphold the method of counting all individuals in a district instead of using a method that only accounts for “eligible voters.” The Court’s ruling leaves in place an individual state’s ability to design legislative districts based on “total population,” as is the case in California. Had the Court struck down Texas’ method of drawing legislative districts, a new method would have been likely for a number of states.

### **State Legislation Update**

Paul A. Smith provided an update on Assembly Bill 2395 (Low) relating to telecommunications. Mr. Smith informed the Board that staff recently issued an Action Alert encouraging all RCRC member counties to adopt an “Oppose” position. Mr. Smith and Justin Caporusso, Director of Public Affairs, discussed the statewide media campaign which will occur once a large number of RCRC member counties have officially opposed AB 2395.

Mr. Smith gave an overview of the status of Assembly Bill 2678 (Gray). This RCRC supported bill would provide much needed fair funding.

Mary-Ann Warmerdam provided an update on Senate Bill 1188 (McGuire) regarding the State Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) program. Ms. Warmerdam discussed the RCRC-sponsored bipartisan legislative effort to amend the Fish and Game Code to restore language that makes State PILT payments to counties required as opposed to permissive.

Ms. Warmerdam also gave an update on Senate Bill 1317 (Wolk) regarding conditional use permits. This RCRC-opposed bill would interfere with conditional use permits if passed.

Mary Pitto announced the Governor signed the two Surface Mining and Reclamation Plan reform bills, AB 1142 (Gray) and SB 209 (Pavley). After many years of attempts, these bills are the result of the Administration-led stakeholder process last year that included local government, the mining industry, the Department of Conservation staff, and the environmental community. While these bills update procedures and timing of inspections, reporting, and financial assurances, they also protect local jurisdictions ability to conduct inspections.

Mr. Smith provided the Board of Directors with a brief update on the status of transportation funding. Jurisdictions throughout the state have seen a decline in the amount of transportation dollars coming into their counties for a variety of transportation-related projects. The Legislature continues to have discussions about a

number of funding options, many of which would be tax/fee increases/impositions. As such, a 2/3rds vote is required - meaning a number of Republican members would need to support the effort.

### **Federal Update**

Paul A. Smith informed the Board of Directors that the 2015 Secure Rural Schools (SRS) payments for Title I and Title III should have been received by County Auditors. These are the second of two payments authorized by Congress in early 2015.

### **Adjournment**

Chair, Supervisor John Viegas, Glenn County, adjourned the RCRC Board of Directors Meeting at 11:41a.m.