

**Rural County Representatives of California  
Board of Directors Meeting  
Friday, September 26, 2014 – 8:30 a.m.  
The Resort at Squaw Creek  
400 Squaw Creek Road  
Olympic Valley, CA 96146**

**MINUTES**

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

Chair, Supervisor Nate Beason, Nevada County, called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. A quorum was determined at that time. Those present:

<b><u>Supervisor</u></b>	<b><u>County</u></b>
Mary Rawson	Alpine
Brian Oneto	Amador
Doug Teeter	Butte
Merita Callaway	Calaveras
Kim Dolbow Vann	Colusa
David Finigan	Del Norte
John Viegas	Glenn
Rex Bohn	Humboldt
Linda Arcularius	Inyo
Anthony Farrington	Lake
Aaron Albaugh	Lassen
David Rogers	Madera
Kevin Cann	Mariposa
Carre Brown	Mendocino
John Pedrozo	Merced
Geri Byrne	Modoc
Tim Fesko	Mono
Diane Dillon	Napa
Nate Beason	Nevada
Terry Swofford	Plumas
Jerry Muenzer	San Benito
Les Baugh	Shasta
Lee Adams	Sierra
Michael Kobseff	Siskiyou
Larry Munger	Sutter
Bob Williams	Tehama
Debra Chapman	Trinity
Allen Ishida	Tulare
Randy Hanvelt	Tuolumne
Jim Provenza	Yolo
Roger Abe	Yuba

### **Absent**

Brian Veerkamp	El Dorado
Michael Kelley	Imperial
Jim Holmes	Placer

### **Others in Attendance**

Supervisor Richard Forster, Amador County  
Supervisor Denise Carter, Colusa County  
Supervisor Katherine Rakow, Alpine County  
Supervisor Ed Valenzuela, Siskiyou County  
Supervisor Sherri Brennan, Tuolumne County  
Ed Horton, Placer County Water Agency  
Jim Branham, Sierra Nevada Conservancy  
Arthur Wylene, County Counsel, Tehama County  
Carmel Angelo, CEO, Mendocino County  
Wendy Tyler, CAO, Trinity County  
James Brown, CEO, Merced County  
Thane Young, Van Scoyoc Associates  
Steve Palmer, Van Scoyoc Associates  
Crystal Crawford, Ygrene Energy Fund  
Mike Lemyre, Ygrene Energy Fund  
Alexander Tengolics, Intergovernmental Relations Manager, Yolo County  
Jerry Bird, USDA Forest Service Region 5  
Wanda Ishida

### **Staff in Attendance**

Greg Norton, President & CEO  
Patricia Megason, Executive Vice President  
Craig Ferguson, Vice President  
Lisa McCargar, Chief Financial Officer  
Paul A. Smith, Senior Legislative Advocate  
Kathy Mannion, Legislative Advocate  
Mary Pitto, Regulatory Affairs Advocate  
Staci Heaton, Regulatory Affairs Advocate  
Cyndi Hillery, Legislative Advocate  
Justin Caporusso, Public Affairs Specialist  
Sarah Bolnik, Office Manager  
Santinia Pasquini, Legislative Analyst  
Nick Walter, IT Manager

### **Pledge of Allegiance**

### **Approval of Minutes – August 13, 2014**

Chair, Supervisor Nate Beason, Nevada County, called for approval of the minutes from the August 13, 2014 Board of Directors Meeting.

**Supervisor David Rogers, Madera County, motioned to approve the minutes from the August 13, 2014 Board of Directors Meeting. Supervisor Kevin Cann, Mariposa County, seconded the motion. Motion passes unanimously.**

***Abstaining:***

***Supervisor Linda Arcularius, Inyo County; Supervisor Anthony Farrington, Lake County; Supervisor Kevin Cann, Mariposa County; Supervisor Diane Dillon, Napa County; Supervisor Terry Swofford, Plumas County; Supervisor Jerry Muenzer, San Benito County; Supervisor Debra Chapman, Trinity County; Supervisor Jim Provenza, Yolo County***

**Member County Concerns and Issues**

Supervisor Diane Dillon, Napa County, provided the Board of Directors with an overview of the earthquake that occurred in Napa County on August 24, 2014 in the early morning. The 6.0 earthquake has caused over \$400 million in damages. Supervisor Dillon provided pictures of some of the devastation that has occurred in Napa County and discussed the issues that occurred and the need for emergency preparedness planning.

Supervisor Michael Kobseff, Siskiyou County, discussed with the Board of Directors the Boles Fires that occurred in the town of Weed, in Siskiyou County on September 15, 2014. Over 200 structures were damaged or destroyed in the fire including the high school and elementary school. In total, just over 500 acres were burned. Supervisor Kobseff explained that debris removal will begin in the coming week and Governor Brown has offered to cover 100% of the debris removal costs.

Supervisor Mary Rawson, Alpine County, announced that Alpine County has recently received two awards. Supervisor Katherine Rakow, Alpine County, spoke to the Board of Directors regarding a program Alpine County implemented. In March 2014, Alpine County and the Washoe Tribe created a memorandum of understanding to provide child welfare services to families of the Washoe Tribe. Having this agreement in place allows the Alpine County Child Welfare Social Services to work with all children and families within the county. This ensures that everyone can receive the full, comprehensive child welfare services available in California. For this program, CSAC awarded Alpine County the 2014 Challenge Award and NACO awarded Alpine County the 2014 Achievement Award.

Supervisor Geri Byrne, Modoc County, referenced an issue regarding the integration of County Social Services and Health Services Departments.

Supervisor Lee Adams, Sierra County, inquired about other counties having issues with software contracts.

Supervisor Tim Fesko, Mono County, thanked his fellow Supervisors for a wonderful time at the RCRC Annual Meeting. Supervisor Fesko also thanked RCRC Staff for a job well done in planning such a great and informative program.

RCRC Chair Nate Beason thanked everyone for attending the Annual Meeting and the dinner last night. Supervisor Beason announced that \$17,285.00 was raised for Anew Day Charity, and the Supervisor thanked everyone for their support and participation.

### **Public Comments**

Wanda Ishida thanked staff for putting together a wonderful event at the Basket Raffle dinner Thursday night.

### **President's Report**

Greg Norton, President & CEO, thanked the RCRC staff for a job well done. Mr. Norton reported that staff has made recent county visits to Colusa, El Dorado, Modoc, Lassen, Lake, Glenn, Imperial and Shasta Counties.

### **Adoption of the 2015 RCRC Meeting Schedule - ACTION**

Patricia Megason, Executive Vice President, presented the Board of Directors with the 2015 Board Meeting schedule.

### **Staff Recommendation:**

Staff recommends that the RCRC Board of Directors approve the 2015 RCRC Board Meeting Schedule as proposed.

**Supervisor Michael Kobseff, Siskiyou County, motioned to approve the 2015 RCRC Board Meeting Schedule. Supervisor John Pedrozo, Merced County, seconded the motion. Motion unanimously passed.**

### **Proposition 1 “The Water Quality, Supply and Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2014” – ACTION**

Kathy Mannion, Legislative Advocate, reported on Proposition 1 which will appear on the November 4, 2014 ballot. Ms. Mannion explained that Proposition 1 would authorize the issuance of bonds in the amount of \$7.12 billion and would reallocate \$425 million of the unissued bonds authorized by Propositions 1E, 13, 44, 50, 84, and 204.

### **Staff Recommendation**

RCRC staff recommended that the RCRC Board of Directors adopt a “Support” position on Proposition 1. None of the previous six water bonds passed by voters since 1996 allocated funding for storage. State funding for the public benefits of storage is vital to storage project feasibility.

**Supervisor Diane Dillon, Napa County, motioned to approve the staff recommendation. Supervisor Randy Hanvelt, Tuolumne County, seconded the motion. Motion unanimously passes.**

***Abstaining: Supervisor Michael Kobseff, Siskiyou County***

***Absent: Supervisor Brian Veerkamp, El Dorado County; Supervisor Michael Kelley, Imperial County; Supervisor Jim Holmes, Placer County***

### **Proposition 47 “The Safe Neighborhoods and Schools Act” – ACTION**

Paul A. Smith, Senior Legislative Advocate, reviewed Proposition 47, the Safe Neighborhoods and Schools Act. Mr. Smith explained that under Proposition 47, penalties for a variety of offenses would be reduced, and the savings from prosecuting and housing these offenders would be placed in programs to support K-12 schools, victim services, as well as mental health and drug treatment programs. Mr. Smith stressed that Proposition 47 represents another major change in the county correction’s process so soon after the passage of criminal justice realignment, commonly referred to as AB 109.

### **Staff Recommendation**

RCRC staff recommended the RCRC Board of Directors adopt an “Oppose” position on Proposition 47.

**Supervisor Doug Teeter, Butte County, motioned to approve the staff recommendation. Supervisor Kim Dolbow Vann, Colusa County, seconded the motion. Motion passes.**

***Nay: Supervisor Tim Fesko, Mono County; Supervisor Merita Callaway, Calaveras County***

***Absent: Supervisor Brian Veerkamp, El Dorado County; Supervisor Michael Kelley, Imperial County; Supervisor Jim Holmes, Placer County***

### **2013-14 End of Legislative Session Update**

Paul A. Smith informed the Board of Directors that the Governor has numerous bills on his desk and he has until September 30<sup>th</sup> to either sign or veto those bills.

Mr. Smith reported on Senate Bill 1219 (Torres) which relates to retired annuitants and an exemption from reinstatement for elected officials. This measure did not secure passage.

Mr. Smith discussed Senate Bill 1262 (Correa) regarding the creation of a regulatory framework for medical marijuana. This bill failed in the last weeks of the Legislative Session. RCRC had an “oppose unless amended” position as many provisions were not in agreement with the RCRC Policy Principles. A similar version of SB 1262 is expected to be introduced in the next Legislative Session.

Cyndi Hillery, Legislative Advocate, gave an update on legislation regarding the following topics: concurrent enrollment, Home-to-School transportation funding, and timber harvest plans. Ms. Hillery informed the Board of Directors that no allocation will be made from the Indian Gaming Special Distribution Fund this year.

Kathy Mannion gave an update on Assembly Bill 52 (Gatto) regarding Native Americans and the California Environmental Quality Act process. RCRC removed its opposition to the bill and expects that the Governor will sign the measure. Ms. Mannion reported on

Senate Bill 1353 (Nielsen) relating to the Williamson Act, and shared that Senate Bill 1353 has been signed by the Governor.

Ms. Mannion also reported on Assembly Bill 2188 (Muratsuchi) relating to solar energy permits. The bill is currently on the Governor's Desk and RCRC staff expects the bill will be signed by the Governor.

### **Federal Affairs Update**

Paul A. Smith introduced RCRC's Federal Lobbyists Steve Palmer and Thane Young from Van Scoyoc Associates. Mr. Palmer and Mr. Young provided an update on a number of issues of concern to California's rural counties being addressed in Congress and at the federal level, including the reauthorization of the federal Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) program and the Secure Rural Schools (SRS) program, funding for wildfire disasters, reforming the federal Endangered Species Act, and the tribal recognition process.

### **Wildfire Strategy**

Cyndi Hillery provided an outline of an updated and refocused strategy for wildfire advocacy. The comprehensive strategic plan includes three main components – Advocacy, Outreach, and Communications/Media Relations. Justin Caporusso, Public Affairs Specialist, reported on the communications and media relations plan. Ms. Hillery reported on a historical timeline that reviews all of the different strategies used over the past decade. Ms. Hillery stressed the importance of member counties adopting the Wildfire Resolution presented at the August Board of Directors Meeting.

### **Sierra Nevada Forest and Community Action Plan**

Jim Branham, Executive Officer of the Sierra Nevada Conservancy, gave a briefing to the Board of Directors on the Sierra Nevada Forest and Community Initiative (SNFCI), the Council's newly-outlined Sierra Nevada Forest and Community Action Plan.

### **Bay Delta Conservation Plan Update**

Kathy Mannion reported on the Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP) Update. On August 26<sup>th</sup>, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) reviewed, and publically commented on the environmental impacts of major federal actions. The EPA released a very critical critique of the BDCP, and many of the concerns raised were the same concerns that RCRC had expressed. Ms. Mannion reported that there will now be a newly re-circulated BDCP available in 2015.

### **Sustainable Groundwater Management Act**

Kathy Mannion reported on the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act which was signed into law on September 16, 2014. Ms. Mannion noted that while RCRC was successful in securing a number of amendments to the legislative bill package, additional modifications and changes to the Act are necessary and will be pursued in the 2015 Legislative Session. Ms. Mannion urged member counties to closely review the new law, and to provide comments on specific areas of concern to counties (along with suggested changes) for use in continuing discussions next year.

### **Waters of the United States**

Staci Heaton, Regulatory Affairs Advocate, informed the Board of Directors that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has released a rule in conjunction with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to alter the definition of what constitutes a “water of the United States”. The EPA will be accepting written public comments until October 20, 2014. Ms. Heaton urged all member counties to file comments prior to the deadline. Mr. Thane Young also recommended that counties send comment letters to their Senators as well.

### **Cap and Trade Update**

Staci Heaton gave the Board of Directors an update on the Cap and Trade funds. Ms. Heaton reported that the 2014-15 State Budget allocates funds from the Assembly Bill 32 cap and trade auctions to various state agencies for greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reductions projects. Some of the state agencies have begun releasing details on how they will spend those funds, including CALFIRE, the Department of Conservation, and CalEPA. Ms. Heaton informed the Board that CalEPA has adopted the CalEnviroScreen definition of Disadvantaged Communities despite RCRC’s concern and Tehama County Supervisor Bob Williams testimony that it eliminates most of the rural counties from qualification. Ms. Heaton encouraged member counties to distribute this information to appropriate county staff. RCRC will continue to update the Board on the progress of the various funding programs as more information becomes available.

### **Adjournment**

Chair, Supervisor Nate Beason, Nevada County, adjourned the RCRC Board of Directors Meeting at 11:29 a.m.