

RCRC BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING HIGHLIGHTS



March 13, 2024

ACTION ITEM HIGHLIGHTS

The RCRC Board of Directors:

- Approved updates to the 2022-25 RCRC Strategic Plan.

The Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC) Board of Directors meeting took place on Wednesday, March 13th in Sacramento. The RCRC Board of Directors reviewed many issues, and the following are highlights:

CONSENT AGENDA

RCRC Strategic Plan

The RCRC Board of Directors adopted updates to the 2022-25 Strategic Plan, which include advocacy recommendations from the Property Insurance Ad Hoc Committees, among others. The memo can be accessed [here](#). The alterations for 2024 can be accessed [here](#).

The RCRC Board of Directors will kick off the next strategic planning cycle for 2025-27 at the May County of the Chair Board meeting in Monterey County.

Ad Hoc Committee Updates: Roadway Infrastructure Ad Hoc Committee and Williamson Act Ad Hoc Committee

An informational update on the Roadway Infrastructure Ad Hoc Committee and the Williamson Act Ad Hoc Committee was created by the RCRC Board of Directors in January 2024. The charters and membership listing can be accessed [here](#) (Roadway Infrastructure) and [here](#) (Williamson Act). The memo can be accessed [here](#).

MESSAGE BOARD

The 2024 Meeting Schedule can be accessed [here](#).

The Travel Expense Claim can be accessed [here](#). Please complete and submit your claim to mchui@rcrcnet.org.

For the latest news and updates, please subscribe to the Barbed Wire [here](#).

President's Report

Patrick Blacklock, President and CEO, provided a report on recent activities the organization is engaged in that align with the RCRC Strategic Plan. Additionally, Mr. Blacklock introduced members that make up the finance team. The presentation can be accessed [here](#).

BUSINESS AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

May 2024 County of the Chair Meeting Update

Annually, the RCRC Board of Directors holds one meeting in the county of the RCRC Chair. This year, the meeting will be hosted by Chair Chris Lopez in Monterey County from May 15-17, 2024. Supervisors are requested to complete the [registration form](#) and return it to dpoole@rcrcnet.org. The memo, which includes the overview of events, can be accessed [here](#). The online registration form can be accessed [here](#).

GUEST SPEAKER



California State Transportation Agency

Toks Omishakin, Secretary, California State Transportation Agency (CalSTA), addressed the RCRC Board of Directors regarding CalSTA's priorities, emphasizing efforts to ensure rural communities thrive and maximize funding. Secretary Omishakin also discussed initiatives related to transit, weather, and electric vehicles. The RCRC Board of Directors closed out the session with a lengthy discussion with Secretary Omishakin on a variety of transportation-related topics.

GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

The Governmental Affairs Department's presentation can be accessed [here](#).

State and Federal Legislative Update

Mary-Ann Warmerdam, Senior Vice President Government Affairs, and American Continental Group's (ACG) Senior Partner Sheryl Cohen, provided an update on issues being addressed at the state and federal level. At the state level, an update was provided on RCRC-sponsored bills, the status of the Governor's 2024-25 proposed Budget, and efforts to address unfunded state mandates were outlined. At the federal level, the RCRC Board of Directors received an update on the RCRC Officers' recent visit to Washington D.C. for the annual RCRC Fly-In, held in conjunction with the National Association of Counties' Legislative Conference. Additionally, an update was given on FY 24 appropriations and RCRC federal priorities, which include the Farm Bill, the Rural Partnership Network, the bipartisan tax deal, and rural hospitals, among others.

Sarah Dukett, Policy Advocate, provided an update on Proposition 1, the Governor's behavioral health modernization proposal. John Kennedy, Senior Policy Advocate, discussed various legislation related to SB 1383 organic waste regulations.

The memo can be accessed [here](#). The presentation from ACG can be accessed [here](#).

Environmental Protection Agency's Farm, Ranch, and Rural Communities Federal Advisory Committee (FRRCC) Update

Supervisor EJ Crandell (Lake County) provided an update on the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Farm, Ranch, and Rural Communities Federal Advisory Committee (FRRCC). Supervisor Crandell highlighted the FRRCC's Annual Meeting, which took place in January, and emphasized recommendations that were passed for final draft submission to the EPA. The presentation can be accessed [here](#).

California Public Utilities Commission Update

An update on the California Public Utilities Commission was provided, covering various topics such as AT&T's application for "Carrier of Last Resort" relief, the Renewables Portfolio Standard Program proceeding, and developments in battery storage facilities and electric transmission. Additionally, the Board of Forestry's proposed modifications to Forest Practice Rules regarding utility vegetation management activities was discussed. The memo can be accessed [here](#). The list of RCRC open proceedings can be accessed [here](#).

Water Issues Update

An update was provided on current issues involving California's water policy, including water project allocations, the progression of the Bay-Delta Plan, delays in storage projects by the State Water Commission, potential probationary actions against Groundwater Sustainability Agencies, and recommendations for budget proposals on flood-related matters by the Legislative Analyst's Office. The memo can be accessed [here](#).

Forest Management and Wildfire Update

An update on legislative efforts and activities across various state and federal agencies was provided, including updates on the USDA Forest Service Old Growth Rule, wildfire mitigation-related legislation, and the U.S. EPA National Ambient Air Quality Standards. Staci Heaton, Senior Policy Advocate, notified the RCRC Board of Directors about the upcoming California Wildfire and Forest Resilience Task Force [meeting](#) in Escondido, CA, scheduled for April 4-5, 2024. The memo can be accessed [here](#).

Please refer to the RCRC Board Packet for further details related to the items above, as well as other items covered during the meeting. The RCRC Board Packet can be accessed [here](#).