

**Rural County Representatives of California
Board of Directors Meeting
January 8, 2025 – 9:00 a.m.
1215 K Street, Suite 1650
Sacramento, CA 95814**

MINUTES

Call to Order, Determination of Quorum and Self Introductions

Chair, Supervisor Geri Byrne, Modoc County, presided. Present were President and CEO Patrick Blacklock, General Counsel Arthur J. Wylene, and Director of Board Operations, Maggie Chui, clerk. Chair Byrne called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m. A quorum was determined at that time. Those members present:

Supervisor

David Griffith
Bill Connelly
Amanda Folendorf
Daurice Smith
Darrin Short
Lori Parlin
Monica Rossman
Rex Bohn
Jen Roeser
Doug Verboon
EJ Crandell
Aaron Albaugh
Robert Poythress
Miles Menetrey
Madeline Cline
Daron McDaniel
Geri Byrne
Rhonda Duggan
Chris Lopez
Anne Cottrell
Sue Hoek
Shanti Landon
Kevin Goss
Mindy Sotelo
John Peschong
Bob Nelson
Kevin Crye
Lee Adams*
Michael Kobseff
Mike Ziegenmeyer
Matt Hansen

County

Alpine
Butte
Calaveras
Colusa
Del Norte
El Dorado
Glenn
Humboldt
Inyo
Kings
Lake
Lassen
Madera
Mariposa
Mendocino
Merced
Modoc
Mono
Monterey
Napa
Nevada
Placer
Plumas
San Benito
San Luis Obispo
Santa Barbara
Shasta
Sierra
Siskiyou
Sutter
Tehama

Jill Cox
Dennis Townsend
Gary Bradford

Trinity
Tulare
Yuba

Absent

Brian Oneto
Vacant
Wanda Williams
James Gore
Jaron Brandon
Angel Barajas

Amador
Imperial
Solano
Sonoma
Tuolumne
Yolo

*Attendance via Zoom

Public Comment

None

Consent Agenda

- a. **December 11, 2024 Board of Directors Meeting Minutes**
- b. **RCRC Resolution 25-01: RCRC Board Travel Policy**
- c. **RCRC Resolution 25-02: Board of Directors Code of Conduct**
- d. **RCRC Resolution 25-03: Approving Membership of Rural County Representatives of California in Public Risk Innovation, Solutions, and Management (PRISM), and Related Matters**

e. 2025 Appointments

- I. Designate One Member of the RCRC Board to Serve on the Golden State Natural Resources, Inc. (GSNR) Board of Directors**

The following RCRC Board Member has been designated to serve on the Golden State Natural Resources, Inc. Board of Directors:

Supervisor EJ Crandell, Lake County

The term will commence on February 1, 2025 and expire on January 31, 2027.

- II. Designate First Deputy Chair and Second Deputy Chair of the RCRC Board to Serve on the Water and Natural Resources Matters, Regulatory Matters, and Legislative Matters**

The following RCRC Board Members have been appointed to serve as the 2025 First Deputy Chairs and Second Deputy Chairs:

Water and Natural Resources Matters

First Deputy Chair: Supervisor Dennis Townsend, Tulare County

Second Deputy Chair: Supervisor Gary Bradford, Yuba County

Regulatory Matters

First Deputy Chair: Supervisor Daurice Smith, Colusa County

Second Deputy Chair: Supervisor Mindy Sotelo, San Benito County

Legislative Matters

First Deputy Chair: Supervisor John Peschong, San Luis Obispo County

Second Deputy Chair: Supervisor Lee Adams, Sierra County

III. Rural Counties' Nominee to Serve on the National Association of Counties' Western Interstate Region Board

The following RCRC Board Member has been nominated for the 2025 role:

Supervisor Rex Bohn, Humboldt County

IV. Appointment of Two Members of the RCRC Board to Serve on the Rural Advancement Institute (RAI) Board

The following RCRC Board Members have been appointed to serve as 2025 RCRC designated directors:

Supervisor Aaron Albaugh, Lassen County

Supervisor Rhonda Duggan, Mono County

Additionally, Supervisor Miles Menetrey, Mariposa County, has been appointed to serve as the designee in place of the RCRC Chair Director.

f. RCRC 2025 Investment Policy Renewal

Chair, Supervisor Geri Byrne, Modoc County, called for approval of the above-listed consent agenda items.

Supervisor Michael Kobseff, Siskiyou County, motioned to approve the consent agenda items. Supervisor Rex Bohn, Humboldt County, seconded the motion. Motion passed with all Supervisors present voting "Aye," except:

Not Voting: Sutter County

2025 Officers Swearing-In

Chair, Supervisor Geri Byrne, Modoc County, introduced Congressman Doug LaMalfa to the RCRC Board of Directors. Congressman LaMalfa conducted the swearing-in of the 2025 Officers:

Chair

Supervisor Geri Byrne, Modoc County

First Vice Chair
Second Vice Chair
Immediate Past Chair

Supervisor Miles Menetrey, Mariposa County
Supervisor Bob Nelson, Santa Barbara County
Supervisor Chris Lopez, Monterey County

RCRC Outgoing Chair Remarks

Immediate Past Chair, Supervisor Chris Lopez, Monterey County, expressed gratitude to the RCRC Board of Directors for placing their confidence in him as Chair in 2024.

Chair, Supervisor Geri Byrne, Modoc County, presented Supervisor Lopez with a gift as a token of appreciation on behalf of RCRC.

RCRC Incoming Chair Remarks

Chair, Supervisor Geri Byrne, Modoc County, welcomed supervisors to the January RCRC Board of Directors meeting. As Chair for 2025, Supervisor Byrne plans to make the most of networking opportunities and form ad hoc committees to address emerging rural county issues.

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 goals, encompassing Equitable Access, Impactful Advocacy, Healthy Communities, and Operational Excellence.

Member County Concerns and Issues

Chair, Supervisor Geri Byrne, Modoc County, provided an opportunity for the RCRC Board of Directors to discuss their individual member county concerns and issues. RCRC staff will review the concerns and issues raised by RCRC Board Members and assess each item for possible plans of action.

The RCRC Board of Directors heard from the following supervisors:

- Supervisor Jill Cox, Trinity County, spoke on Trinity County's efforts related to the homeowners insurance survey and encouraged counties to participate in completing it. Supervisor Cox also inquired about the actions being taken by counties to address homelessness.
- Supervisor Lee Adams, Sierra County, expressed concern regarding the California Department of Public Health's request for repayment of the full 25 percent advance payment allocated to Sierra County Public Health, and asked for assistance in resolving the issue.
- Supervisor Michael Kobseff, Siskiyou County, noted that Siskiyou County is the only county currently under a drought emergency order, with the State Water Resources Board having the authority to implement curtailment regulations. Supervisor Kobseff also expressed concerns about conflicts between Assembly Bill 1955 and Siskiyou County's contracts with schools for mental health services.

- Supervisor Rex Bohn, Humboldt County, welcomed the new RCRC Board Members and encouraged them to reach out to fellow supervisors and RCRC staff if they encounter any county-related issues.
- Supervisor Bob Nelson, Santa Barbara County, spoke about rural community colleges facing challenges from California State Universities over their ability to offer bachelor's degrees. Supervisor Nelson encouraged county coordination to create a unified response and ensure local students have access to higher education opportunities.
- Supervisor Rhonda Duggan, Mono County, shared that the jail project in Mono County has been delayed due to the State not approving funding, which has pushed back the timeline for bidding and construction. Mono County has already increased its budget to meet state requirements and is seeking assistance to resolve the issue.

Appointment to Fill Executive Committee Region 3 Vacancy

Patrick Blacklock addressed the RCRC Board of Directors regarding a recent vacancy on the RCRC Executive Committee, and the need to fill the second year of the two-year position for Region 3.

RCRC Board Members from Region 3 convened to caucus and selected a representative to serve on the 2025 RCRC Executive Committee. Following the caucus, the RCRC Board of Directors reconvened and Region 3 reported the following selections for the 2025 Executive Committee:

Region 3: Supervisor Anne Cottrell, Napa County

Appointment to Fill Executive Committee Region 5 Vacancy

Patrick Blacklock addressed the RCRC Board of Directors regarding a recent vacancy on the RCRC Executive Committee, and the need to fill the second year of the two-year position for Region 5.

RCRC Board Members from Region 5 convened to caucus and selected a representative to serve on the 2025 RCRC Executive Committee. Following the caucus, the RCRC Board of Directors reconvened and Region 5 reported the following selections for the 2025 Executive Committee:

Region 5: Supervisor John Peschong, San Luis Obispo County

Supervisor Bob Nelson, Santa Barbara County, motioned to confirm the appointments of Supervisor Anne Cottrell, Napa County, and Supervisor John Peschong, San Luis Obispo County, to serve on the 2025 RCRC Executive Committee. Supervisor EJ Crandell, Lake County, seconded the motion. Motion passed with all Supervisors present voting "Aye," except:

Not Voting: Sutter County

RCRC Resolution 25-04: Authorizing the RCRC President to Approve a Bond Anticipation Loan to Golden State Connect Authority in an Amount Not to Exceed \$1 Million

Patrick Blacklock and Arthur J. Wylene, General Counsel, presented the RCRC Resolution 25-04, which would authorize the RCRC President to Approve a Bond Anticipation Loan to Golden State Connect Authority in an Amount Not to Exceed \$1 Million.

Recommendation

It was recommended that the RCRC Board adopt RCRC Resolution 25-04 authorizing the RCRC President to Approve a Bond Anticipation Loan to Golden State Connect Authority in an Amount Not to Exceed \$1 Million.

Supervisor David Griffith, Alpine County, motioned to approve the above-mentioned recommendations, as amended. Supervisor Kevin Goss, Plumas County, seconded the motion. Motion passed with all Supervisors present voting “Aye,” except:

Not Voting: Sutter County

State and Federal Legislative Update

Mary-Ann Warmerdam, Senior Vice President, Governmental Affairs, provided an update on issues at both the state and federal levels. At the state level, the Legislature returned on January 6th, with a bill introduction deadline of February 21st and the Governor’s proposed Budget set for release on January 10th. At the federal level, key dates include the inauguration on January 20th and the RCRC Officer Fly-In the week of February 24th. Key federal issues include the debt ceiling, Secure Rural Schools funding, and extending tax relief.

Ms. Warmerdam introduced the members of the Governmental Affairs Department and outlined their respective policy areas.

First Deputy Chair of Legislative Matters Supervisor John Peschong, San Luis Obispo County, provided an overview of the various appointments taking place under the new presidential administration.

Water Issues Update

Sidd Nag, Policy Advocate, provided a brief update on current issues involving California’s water policy. The update covered the adjustments to water project allocations, an extended Bay-Delta Plan comment period, secured funding for Delta Conveyance, and Senator Alex Padilla’s inclusion of flood and water provisions in the infrastructure legislation. The State Water Resources Control Board is set to review withdrawals from Mono Lake, and the Kern Subbasin has finalized its Groundwater Sustainability Plan.

California Public Utilities Commission Update

John Kennedy and Leigh Kammerich, Policy Advocate, provided an update on the California Public Utilities Commission and RCRC's engagement in proceedings covering energy and communications-related issues. This included an update on energy and communications-related issues, with RCRC engaged in 16 active formal proceedings.

Key efforts include legislative initiatives such as Assembly Bill 50 (Wood) and Senate Bill 410 (Becker), energy affordability and battery storage initiatives, AB 205 permitting, and the recent establishment of the RCRC Carrier of Last Resort Ad Hoc Committee.

Environmental Services Joint Powers Authority Update

Staci Heaton, Senior Policy Advocate, provided an update on current activities of the Rural Counties' Environmental Services Joint Powers Authority (ESJPA), including recent leadership changes, with Supervisor Lori Parlin, El Dorado County, elected as Chair and Supervisor Rhonda Duggan, Mono County, as Vice Chair. ESJPA Chair, Supervisor Parlin, presented ESJPA Past Chair Michael Kobseff, Siskiyou County, with a gift as a token of appreciation and honored him for his 12 years of service as ESJPA Chair.

Other key updates include work on the California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery's (CalRecycle) Rural Zero Waste Plan, preparations to launch the Affiliate Entity Program, and engagement with CalRecycle on regulations related to single-use plastics mandates.

Adoption of RCRC's 2025-26 Policy Principles

Mary-Ann Warmerdam provided an overview of the proposed RCRC 2025-26 Policy Principles, and explained that the December 2024 RCRC Board Packet contained the draft Policy Principles.

There was a suggestion to incorporate artificial intelligence policies into future Policy Principles.

Staff Recommendation

RCRC staff recommends that the RCRC Board of Directors approve the draft 2025-26 Policy Principles as proposed, including the amendments and edits proposed by RCRC member counties and staff.

Supervisor Michael Kobseff, Siskiyou County, motioned to approve the proposed 2025-26 Policy Principles. Supervisor Rex Bohn, Humboldt County, seconded the motion. Motion passed with all Supervisors present voting "Aye."

Williamson Act Ad Hoc Committee Final Report

Chair, Supervisor Geri Byrne, Modoc County, in her capacity as the Chair of the Williamson Act Ad Hoc Committee, and Sidd Nag discussed the topics covered by the Committee and presented the final report, which includes policy recommendations for consideration.

Staff Recommendation

It was recommended that the RCRC Board of Directors consider and take action on the policy recommendations.

Supervisor Dennis Townsend, Tulare County, motioned to approve the above-mentioned recommendations, as amended. Supervisor Daurice Smith, Colusa County, seconded the motion. Motion passed with all Supervisors present voting “Aye,” except:

Not Voting: Monterey County; Shasta County

Discussion and Possible Action on Revised Policy Recommendations for the Roadway Infrastructure Ad Hoc Committee

Supervisor Miles Menetrey, Mariposa County, in his capacity as the Chair of the Roadway Infrastructure Ad Hoc Committee, and Sidd Nag presented the revised policy recommendations for the Roadway Infrastructure Ad Hoc Committee. The remaining policy recommendation pertains to the future state and federal legislative policy on increasing local roadway weight limits.

Recommendation

On behalf of the Roadway Infrastructure Ad Hoc Committee, staff recommended incorporation of the proposed language into the RCRC Policy Principles.

Supervisor Gary Bradford, Yuba County, motioned to approve the above-mentioned recommendations, as amended. Supervisor Rhonda Duggan, Mono County, seconded the motion. Motion passed with all Supervisors present voting “Aye,” except:

Not Voting: Shasta County

Adjournment

Chair, Supervisor Geri Byrne, Modoc County, adjourned the RCRC Board of Directors Meeting at 12:00 p.m.