

**Rural County Representatives of California  
Executive Committee Meeting  
July 23, 2025 – 10:00 a.m.  
1215 K Street, Suite 1650  
Sacramento, CA 95814**

Executive Committee Members:

Supervisor Geri Byrne, Modoc County	Supervisor Rex Bohn, Humboldt County
Supervisor Miles Menetrey, Mariposa County	Supervisor Lori Parlin, El Dorado County
Supervisor Bob Nelson, Santa Barbara County	Supervisor Anne Cottrell, Napa County
Supervisor Chris Lopez, Monterey County	Supervisor David Griffith, Alpine County
Supervisor Daron McDaniel, Merced County ( <i>Ex-Officio</i> )	Supervisor John Peschong, San Luis Obispo County

**MINUTES**

**Call to Order and Determination of Quorum**

RCRC 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. RCRC Chair Byrne called the meeting to order at 10:39 a.m. A quorum was determined at that time. Those members present:

**Supervisor**

Geri Byrne  
Miles Menetrey  
Bob Nelson  
Rex Bohn  
Lori Parlin  
Anne Cottrell  
David Griffith  
John Peschong\*  
Daron McDaniel

**County**

Modoc  
Mariposa  
Santa Barbara  
Humboldt  
El Dorado  
Napa  
Alpine  
San Luis Obispo  
Merced (Ex-Officio)

**Absent**

Chris Lopez                      Monterey

\*Attendance via Zoom

**Public Comment**

None

**Consent Agenda**

- a. **May 14, 2025 Executive Committee Meeting Minutes**
- b. **June 18, 2025 Special Executive Committee Meeting Minutes**

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

**Supervisor Lori Parlin, El Dorado County, motioned to approve the consent agenda. Supervisor Anne Cottrell, Napa County, seconded the motion. Motion passed with all Supervisors present voting “Aye.”**

### **State and Federal Legislative Update**

An overview of key legislative and regulatory developments at both the state and federal levels was provided. At the federal level, Sheryl Cohen, Senior Partner, American Continental Group, updates on the One Big Beautiful Bill Act, the Rescissions Act of 2025, the Fix Our Forests Act, the Federally Integrated Species Health Act, and FY 2026 appropriations. Ms. Cohen shared updates on the Farm Bill, the disaster emergency supplemental, and ongoing initiatives led by RCRC’s affiliated entity, Golden State Natural Resources (GSNR). Ms. Cohen also addressed developments related to the Secure Rural Schools (SRS) program, which was removed from recent legislation, although efforts to advance it continue.

At the state level, Mary-Ann Warmerdam, Senior Vice President Governmental Affairs, discussed the legislative schedule, noting the Legislature is in Summer Recess while staff continue working on key bills. Ms. Warmerdam also provided updates on RCRC ad hoc committees for Carrier of Last Resort, recruitment and retention, the Williamson Act, and a proposed ad hoc committee on predator management species.

John Kennedy, Senior Policy Advocate, discussed key bills related to energy and solid waste, as well as legislation concerning California Environmental Quality Act reform and exemptions. Staci Heaton, Senior Policy Advocate, provided an update on federal cuts affecting rural counties, particularly the SRS program within the federal spending package.

### **RCRC Strategic Plan Mid-Year Update**

Carolyn Jhaji, Communications Director, provided a mid-year update on the implementation and timeline of the 2025-2027 RCRC Strategic Plan. Key mid-year highlights include progress in broadband deployment through the Golden State Connect Authority, housing affordability initiatives via the Golden State Finance Authority, insurance advocacy, enhanced legal efforts, the educational tour led by the Rural Advancement Institute, forest resiliency advancements through GSNR, grant applications and awards, integration of artificial intelligence technology into RCRC operations, and member communications.

### **Condensed Balance Sheet (June 30, 2025)**

Milena De Melo presented the RCRC Condensed Balance Sheet as of June 30, 2025, as compared to 2024 and 2023.

### **Investment Report (Period Ended June 30, 2025)**

Milena De Melo presented the RCRC Investment Report which provided a summary of investment transactions from December 31, 2024, to June 30, 2025

**Budget v. Actual Report (Period Ended June 30, 2025)**

Milena De Melo presented the RCRC Statement of Revenues and Expenses which provided a summary of the budget to actual comparison for the period ended June 30, 2025.

It was noted that the timing of the current Budget vs. Actual report may not fully reflect the organization's financial position. A historical comparison will be prepared for the next RCRC Executive Committee meeting.

**Adjournment**

RCRC Chair, Supervisor Geri Byrne, Modoc County, adjourned the meeting of the RCRC Executive Committee at 11:56 a.m.