



# RCRC BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

*January 8, 2025*

## ACTION ITEM HIGHLIGHTS

The RCRC Board of Directors:

- Approved the RCRC Board Travel Policy
- Approved the 2025 Code of Conduct
- Approved RCRC's membership into PRISM
- Approved the 2025 Investment Policy
- Approved various 2025 appointments, as well as Region 3 and Region 5 vacancies
- Approved a bond anticipation loan to GSCA
- Approved the 2025-26 Policy Principles
- Approved the Roadway Infrastructure Ad Hoc Committee's revised policy recommendation
- Approved the Williamson Act Ad Hoc Committee's final report

The Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC) Board of Directors meeting took place on Wednesday, January 8<sup>th</sup> in Sacramento. The RCRC Board of Directors reviewed many issues, and the following are highlights:

### **2025 Officers Swearing-In**

Congressman Doug LaMalfa conducted the swearing-in of the 2025 Officers:

- Chair - Supervisor Geri Byrne, Modoc County
- First Vice Chair - Supervisor Miles Menetrey, Mariposa County
- Second Vice Chair – Supervisor Bob Nelson, Santa Barbara County
- Immediate Past Chair - Supervisor Chris Lopez, Monterey County



## MESSAGE BOARD

Supervisor Jill Cox, Trinity County, is sharing the Trinity County Fire Safe Council's Anonymous Homeowners Insurance Survey, which can be accessed [here](#).

The 2025 meeting schedule can be accessed [here](#).

The Delegate Information Request Form can be accessed [here](#).

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

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

## CONSENT AGENDA

Key items of interest on the Consent Agenda: RCRC Resolution 25-01: RCRC Board Travel Policy ([memo](#); [resolution](#)); RCRC Resolution 25-02: RCRC Board of Directors Code of Conduct ([resolution](#)); RCRC 25-03: Approval of PRISM Membership and Related Matters ([resolution](#)); RCRC 2025 Investment Policy Renewal ([policy](#)); and, various 2024 appointments:

The RCRC Board of Directors approved the designation of Supervisor EJ Crandell, Lake County, to serve on the Golden State Natural Resources Board of Directors for a two-year term.

The RCRC Board of Directors approved the designations of the following supervisors to serve as the First Deputy Chairs and Second Deputy Chairs:

- Water and Natural Resources Matters
  - First Deputy Chair Dennis Townsend, Tulare County
  - Second Deputy Chair Gary Bradford, Yuba County
- Regulatory Matters
  - First Deputy Chair Daurice Smith, Colusa County
  - Second Deputy Chair Mindy Sotelo, San Benito County
- Legislative Matters
  - First Deputy Chair John Peschong, San Luis Obispo County
  - Second Deputy Chair Lee Adams, Sierra County

Supervisor Rex Bohn, Humboldt County, is the rural counties' nominee to serve on the National Association of Counties' Western Interstate Region Board.

Supervisor Aaron Albaugh, Lassen County, and Supervisor Rhonda Duggan, Modoc County, were appointed to the Rural Advancement Institute Board of Directors. RCRC Chair, Supervisor Geri Byrne, Modoc County, appointed Supervisor Miles Menetrey, Mariposa County, to serve in her place as her designee.

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

## **BUSINESS AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**

### **Appointment to Fill Executive Committee Region 3 Vacancy – APPROVED**

Representatives from Region 3 selected, and the RCRC Board of Directors subsequently approved the appointment of Supervisor Anne Cottrell (Napa County) to participate on the 2025 RCRC Executive Committee. The memo can be accessed [here](#).

### **Appointment to Fill Executive Committee Region 3 Vacancy – APPROVED**

Representatives from Region 5 selected, and the RCRC Board of Directors subsequently approved the appointment of Supervisor John Peschong (San Luis Obispo County) to participate on the 2025 RCRC Executive Committee. The memo can be accessed [here](#).

### **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 – APPROVED**

The RCRC Board of Directors authorized the RCRC President to Approve a Bond Anticipation Loan to Golden State Connect Authority in an Amount Not to Exceed \$1 Million. The memo can be accessed [here](#). The resolution can be accessed [here](#).

## **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, provided an update on issues being addressed at both the state and federal levels. At the state level, the legislature returned on January 6<sup>th</sup>, with a bill introduction deadline of February 21<sup>st</sup> and the Governor's proposed budget set for release on January 10<sup>th</sup>. At the federal level, key dates include the inauguration on January 20<sup>th</sup> and the RCRC Officer Fly-In the week of February 24<sup>th</sup>. Key federal issues include the debt ceiling, Secure Rural Schools funding, and extending tax relief. The memo can be accessed [here](#).

### **California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) Update**

An update on the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) covered issues related to 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. The memo can be accessed [here](#).

### **Environmental Services Joint Powers Authority Update**

An update on the Environmental Services Joint Powers Authority (ESJPA), an RCRC affiliated entity, highlighted recent leadership changes, with Supervisor Lori Parlin, El Dorado County, elected as Chair

and Supervisor Rhonda Duggan, Mono County, as Vice Chair. Past Chair Michael Kobseff, Siskiyou County, was honored for his 12 years of service as ESJPA Chair.

Key updates include the ESJPA's work on the CalRecycle Rural Zero Waste Plan, preparations to launch the Affiliate Entity Program, and engagement with CalRecycle on regulations related to single-use plastics mandates. The memo can be accessed [here](#).

### **Water Issues Update**

A brief update on current issues and recent developments in California's water policy, including adjustments to water project allocations, an extended Bay-Delta Plan comment period, and secured funding for Delta Conveyance, among others. The memo can be accessed [here](#).

### **Adoption of RCRC's 2025-26 Policy Principles – APPROVED**

The RCRC Board of Directors approved the 2025-26 Policy Principles. The Policy Principles can be accessed [here](#).

### **Williamson Act Ad Hoc Committee Final Report – APPROVED**

The RCRC Board of Directors approved the Williamson Act Ad Hoc Committee's final report with the following policy recommendations: 1) RCRC should continue to strongly support the Williamson Act, including the resumption of the State subvention program, as well as agricultural land conservation more largely.; 2) The State should reinstate mechanisms to compensate counties for program costs, as well as institute new mechanisms to support counties as they increasingly bear the program's full administrative burden.; 3) Any changes to Williamson Act law should affirm and strengthen local authority to determine future implementation of the Act. And prior to creating new authorities, the State should consider whether existing authorities, including the solar use easement program, Farmland Security Zones, and nine-year contracting under AB 1265 (2011) are better suited to support current state goals than proposed new programs that may undermine the Act.; and, 4) RCRC should remain in conversation with interested parties, including solar and other renewables developers, and other development interests, as well as conservation interests, over the future of the Act. The memo report can be accessed [here](#).

### **Roadway Infrastructure Ad Hoc Committee Final Report – APPROVED**

The RCRC Board of Directors directed the Roadway Infrastructure Ad Hoc Committee to revise its policy recommendation during the December 2024 meeting. The revised recommendation, concerning future state and federal legislative efforts to increase local roadway weight limits, was then reviewed and adopted. The memo report 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](#).