



# RCRC BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

*March 26, 2025*

## ACTION ITEM HIGHLIGHTS

The RCRC Board of Directors:

- Approved the establishment of the Recruitment and Retention Ad Hoc Committee
- Approved the 2025 Revised Operating Budget

## MESSAGE BOARD

The RCRC Membership Handbook can be accessed [here](#). If you would like a hard copy, please send a request to [mchui@rcrcnet.org](mailto:mchui@rcrcnet.org).

For Board Members interested in receiving ACH reimbursements, please complete the form, accessible [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](#).

The Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC) Board of Directors meeting took place on Wednesday, March 26<sup>th</sup> in Sacramento. The RCRC Board of Directors reviewed many issues, and the following are highlights:

## CONSENT AGENDA

### **Establishment of Board of Directors Ad Hoc Advisory Committee on Recruitment and Retention – APPROVED**

The RCRC Board of Directors approved the establishment of the Recruitment and Retention Ad Hoc Committee to address the issues surrounding the recruitment and retention of the public sector workforce in rural areas. The Committee will explore the challenges around public sector recruitment and retention in rural areas and develop policy solutions and priorities to advocate for in the 2025-26 legislative session and beyond. The memo can be accessed [here](#). The charter can be accessed [here](#).

### **Proposed 2025 RCRC Revised Operating Budget - APPROVED**

The RCRC Board of Directors approved the 2025 revised budget. The revision incorporates an updated contract service fee from the Golden State Connect Authority (GSCA), RCRC's affiliate entity, which covers payroll, payroll taxes, and employee benefits necessary to support GSCA's upcoming construction projects. The memo can be accessed [here](#).

### **Other key informational items of interest on the Consent Agenda:**

Water Issues Update ([memo](#)); and, California Public Utilities Commission Update ([memo](#)).

## 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. New staff members were introduced to the RCRC Board. The presentation can be accessed [here](#).

## **GUEST SPEAKER**



### **California Natural Resources Agency**

Wade Crowfoot, Secretary, California Natural Resources Agency, presented the agency's programs and his outlook related to water, wildfire resilience, wildlife management, and economic development opportunities. Secretary Crowfoot can be contacted via email at [wade.crowfoot@resources.ca.gov](mailto:wade.crowfoot@resources.ca.gov).

## **BUSINESS AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**

### **June 2025 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 Geri Byrne in Modoc County from June 25-27. Supervisors are requested to complete the [registration form](#) and return it to [dpool@rcrcnet.org](mailto:dpool@rcrcnet.org). The memo, which includes the overview of events, 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 Governmental Affairs, and members of the Governmental Affairs Department provided an update on issues being addressed at both the state and federal levels. At the state level, highlights include updates on RCRC-sponsored measures and key legislation (see presentation for a list of key bills). At the federal level, key issues focused on appropriations and the exclusion of Secure Rural Schools from the federal budget. The memo can be accessed [here](#). A listing of state bill status can be accessed [here](#).

## **Discussion on Energy Matters**

John Kennedy, Senior Policy Advocate, and Leigh Kammerich, Policy Advocate, led a discussion with the RCRC Board of Directors to gather feedback on energy-related topics, including affordability, new service connection times and delays, and permitting challenges. Feedback was also sought on rising electricity costs, ratepayer programs, electrification barriers, positive experiences with energy developers, and opportunities for counties to engage in energy discussions. The memo can be accessed [here](#).

## **Forest Management and Wildfire Update**

Staci Heaton, Senior Policy Advocate, provided an update on legislative efforts and activities across various state and federal agencies. Topics discussed included federal agency staff changes, administrative actions on forest resilience and timber, efforts to streamline federal land management agencies, and regulations on the five-foot noncombustible zone. The discussion also covered wildfire mitigation legislation, land use related to wildfire, and the ongoing work of the California Wildfire and Forest Resilience Task Force. 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](#).