

RCRC BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING HIGHLIGHTS



March 25, 2026

ACTION ITEM HIGHLIGHTS

The RCRC Board of Directors:

- Approved the RCRC Strategic Plan Update
- Adopted a “Support” position on Assembly Bill 1941 (Gonzalez)
- Adopted a “Support” position on Senate Bill 1176 (Choi) by a vote of 18 to 5, with 1 abstention.

MESSAGE BOARD

An informative Watersheds of California handout, which was well received by Board members, can be accessed [here](#).

The 2026 meeting schedule can be accessed [here](#).

The 2026 Travel Expense Claim can be accessed [here](#). Please complete and submit claims to mchui@rcrcnet.org.

The RCRC 2025-26 Policy Principles can be accessed [here](#).

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 25th, in Sacramento. The RCRC Board of Directors reviewed many issues, and the following are highlights:

BREAKFAST SESSION

Karen Terrill and Kerry Shearer of the Media Survival Group shared guidance on strengthening RCRC Board Members’ communication skills when engaging with the media and the public. Mr. Terrill and Ms. Shearer are sharing the following materials for reference, accessible [here](#).



Pictured: Kerry Shearer

CONSENT AGENDA

Key items of interest on the Consent Agenda: RCRC Strategic Plan Update ([memo](#)); and, California Public Utilities Commission Update ([memo](#)).

Assembly Bill 1941 (Gonzalez): Organized Metal Theft

Assembly Bill 1941 (Gonzalez), Organized Metal Theft, which enhances enforcement against copper wire theft, was pulled from the Consent Agenda for further discussion, where the RCRC Board of Directors adopted a “Support” position. The memo can be accessed [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. The presentation can be accessed [here](#).

GUEST SPEAKER

The Honorable Monique Limón Senate President pro Tempore, California State Senate

Monique Limón, Senate President pro Tempore, addressed the RCRC Board of Directors regarding her perspectives and priorities for the 2025–26 Legislative Session. Pro Tem Limón’s remarks focused on legislative priorities, the State Budget outlook, and issues impacting rural communities.

Following the presentation, RCRC Board Members engaged in an in-depth discussion with pro Tem Limón.



Left: Monique Limón, Senate President pro Tempore
Right: Supervisor Chris Lopez, Mariposa County; Monique Limón, Senate President pro Tempore; and, Supervisor Miles Menetrey, Mariposa County

BUSINESS AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

June 2026 County of the Chair Meeting Update

Annually, the RCRC Board of Directors holds one meeting in the county where the RCRC Chair resides. This year, the meeting will be hosted by Chair Miles Menetrey, Mariposa County, from June 3-5. Supervisors are requested to complete the [registration form](#) and return it to dpoole@rcrncet.org. The memo, which includes the overview of events, can be accessed [here](#).

2025 Financial Summary – RCRC and Affiliated Entities

The RCRC Board of Directors received a comprehensive overview of the 2025 financial standing of RCRC and its affiliated entities. The presentation reflected interest in establishing this report as an annual update moving forward. The presentation can be accessed [here](#).

GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

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

State and Federal Legislative Update

The Governmental Affairs staff provided an update on key state issues, including the Governor's proposed 2026–27 State Budget, sponsored measures, and key legislation. Key legislative topics included household hazardous waste reporting, physician workforce shortages, vape disposal and regulation, property tax processes, and California Environmental Quality Act exemptions for childcare facilities. Additional measures related to battery recycling, wildfire smoke impacts, road maintenance cost recovery, and public health protections were also discussed. State budget priorities included funding for indigent care, investments in wildfire resilience, and opposition to proposed In-Home Supportive Services realignment, among other issues. The memo can be accessed [here](#).

Water Issues Update

An update was provided on California water issues, including activities related to the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act Ad Hoc Committee and updates from the California Department of Water Resources. The presentation also included discussion of the State Water Project and development of the California Water Plan 2028, as well as ongoing legislative proposals affecting water policy. The memo can be accessed [here](#).

Forestry Management and Wildfire Update

An update was provided on legislative efforts and activities across state and federal agencies related to wildfire and forest management. The discussion included recent Executive Orders issued by Governor Newsom, federal proposals to establish a U.S. Wildland Fire Service, and key wildfire-related legislation. Upcoming coordination efforts, including meetings of statewide task forces, were also noted. The memo can be accessed [here](#).

Predatory Species Management Update

An update on increasing human and wildlife conflicts, including federal efforts related to gray wolf delisting and updates to the Wolf-Livestock Compensation Program. The discussion also included key state and federal legislative efforts addressing predatory species such as wolves, bears, and mountain lions. The memo can be accessed [here](#).

Senate Bill 1176 (Choi) – Agricultural Land: Prohibited Foreign Actors – “SUPPORT”

The RCRC Board of Directors considered whether to take a position on legislation that would prohibit certain foreign actors from acquiring or controlling agricultural land in California. The discussion included the bill’s definitions, exemptions, and potential amendments, as well as its potential impacts on rural counties. Following discussion, the RCRC Board of Directors adopted a “Support” position by a vote of 18 to 5, with 1 abstention. The memo can be accessed [here](#).

Discussion on Data Centers

An overview of data center development in counties was provided as a pulse point to gauge the RCRC Board of Directors’ interest and solicit feedback. RCRC Board Members discussed potential opportunities, infrastructure considerations, and local impacts associated with data center development in rural communities.

Informational Presentation Regarding RCRC’s State Mandates Initiatives

An informational presentation was provided with an update on recent developments related to state mandate claims and RCRC initiatives to assist counties. The discussion focused on the status of ongoing efforts to pursue reimbursement for unfunded mandates and next steps in advancing those claims.

Summary of RCRC Roundtables with Candidates for Governor

A summary of the recent RCRC roundtables held with gubernatorial candidates, including Steve Hilton, Chad Bianco, Tom Steyer, and Xavier Becerra. These discussions included participation from RCRC Board Members and provided an opportunity to engage candidates on issues important to rural counties. Staff noted that additional roundtables are being coordinated with other candidates. 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](#).