

**Rural County Representatives of California
Board of Directors Meeting
June 5, 2026 - 8:30 a.m.
Tenaya Lodge at Yosemite
1122 Highway 41
Fish Camp, CA 93623**

MINUTES

Call to Order, Determination of Quorum and Self Introductions

Chair, Supervisor Miles Menetrey, Mariposa County, presided. Present were President and CEO Patrick Blacklock, General Counsel Arthur J. Wylene, and Director of Board Operations, Maggie Chui, clerk. Chair Menetrey called the meeting to order at 8:59 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
Rusty Robinson
Aaron Albaugh
Robert Poythress
Miles Menetrey
Madeline Cline
Daron McDaniel
Geri Byrne
Rhonda Duggan
Chris Lopez
Sue Hoek
Shanti Landon
Kevin Goss
Mindy Sotelo
John Peschong
Bob Nelson
Chris Kelstrom
Lee Adams
Nancy Ogren
Jeff Stephens
Matt Hansen
Jill Cox

County

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

Dennis Townsend
Mike Holland
Gary Bradford

Tulare
Tuolumne
Yuba

Absent

Brian Oneto
Ryan Kelley
EJ Crandell
Anne Cottrell
Mitch Mashburn
James Gore
Shiela Allen

Amador
Imperial
Lake
Napa
Solano
Sonoma
Yolo

Public Comment

None

Consent Agenda

- a. March 25, 2026 Board of Directors Meeting Minutes**
- b. Approval of Audited Financial Statements – December 31, 2025**
- c. California Public Utilities Commission Update**
- d. Rural County Photo Contest**

Chair, Supervisor Miles Menetrey, Mariposa County, called for approval of the above-listed consent agenda items.

Supervisor Rhonda Duggan, Mono County, motioned to approve the consent agenda items. Supervisor Madeline Cline, Mendocino County, seconded the motion. Motion passed with all Supervisors present voting “Aye.”

RCRC Chair’s Report

Chair, Supervisor Miles Menetrey, Mariposa County, welcomed supervisors to the June RCRC Board of Directors meeting in Mariposa County, and expressed his appreciation to the supervisors and RCRC staff for visiting his community.

Supervisor Menetrey shared updates on the RCRC Officers' attendance at the National Association of Counties' Western Interstate Region Conference, the California State Association of Counties' Legislative Conference, and the work of the RCRC-affiliated Rural Advancement Institute. Supervisor Menetrey also highlighted the Mariposa County visit by California State Treasurer Fiona Ma, which included a productive discussion related to hospital retrofit concerns.

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. Current initiative updates were provided on efforts related to the Regional Behavioral Health Advisory Committee grant, National Homeownership Month, the

indigent care proposal, the Rural Advancement Institute Advisory Council kickoff, the Golden State Natural Resources transportation project, the California Wildfire & Forest Resilience Task Force meeting, the RCRC photo contest, and the release of branded clothing.

Member County Comments and Reports

Chair, Supervisor Miles Menetrey, Mariposa 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 David Griffith, Alpine County, shared that Alpine County and the Western Rivers Conservancy had been awarded funding to acquire and preserve a ranch property near Markleeville. Supervisor Griffith also discussed recent wildlife activity and related community concerns.
- Supervisor Lori Parlin, El Dorado County, raised concerns regarding the California Chamber of Commerce's proposed ballot initiative on the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), noting that it could significantly impact local control.
- Supervisor Jen Roeser, Inyo County, provided an update on Inyo County's efforts to update its General Plan and requested input from fellow supervisors regarding the process.
- Supervisor Rusty Robinson, Kings County, discussed a recent Kings County election recall matter and the potential precedent it may establish.
- Supervisor Monica Rossman, Glenn County, spoke on an upcoming senior expo focused on supporting seniors and veterans in Glenn County.
- Supervisor Nancy Ogren, Siskiyou County, announced Siskiyou County's upcoming county fair.
- Supervisor John Peschong, San Luis Obispo County, announced San Luis Obispo County's upcoming county fair and scheduled entertainment.
- Supervisor Rhonda Duggan, Mono County, provided an update on local fuel reduction efforts, including biomass utilization opportunities, green waste management, and a proposed geothermal project. Supervisor Duggan also raised concerns regarding a proposed mining project near a recreational area in Mono County.
- Supervisor Geri Byrne, Modoc County, spoke on efforts to construct fencing at the Modoc County airport, and discussed ongoing challenges related to the Tule Lake Segregation Center site, including recent actions by the National Trust for Historic Preservation.
- Supervisor Rex Bohn, Humboldt County, shared concerns regarding a recent animal rescue situation and encouraged counties to ensure that animal rescue facilities are properly inspected.
- Supervisor Madeline Cline, Mendocino County, provided an update on the Potter Valley Project, including recent federal interest in maintaining project infrastructure and ongoing discussions regarding water rights and project operations. Supervisor

Cline also noted a productive conversation with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife Director Meghan Hertel, as well as thanked Supervisor Menetrey for hosting the County of the Chair event.

- Supervisor Sue Hoek, Nevada County, thanked RCRC staff for providing a presentation to the Nevada County Board of Supervisors. Supervisor Hoek also provided updates on the County's housing assistance program, behavioral health facility project, youth workforce initiatives, and efforts to construct tiny homes utilizing locally sourced timber.
- Supervisor Bill Connelly, Butte County, shared information regarding a publicly accessible repository of Oroville Dam-related documents and resources.
- Supervisor Daurice Smith, Colusa County, provided an update on the Sites Reservoir project, noting that recently released documents differed from prior proposals and expressed support for returning to the original framework. Supervisor Smith also thanked Supervisor Menetrey for hosting the County of the Chair event.
- Supervisor Jeff Stephens, Sutter County, spoke on the Cap-to-Cap event, including discussions with the United States Department of Agriculture regarding available funding opportunities for rural infrastructure projects. Supervisor Stephens also thanked Supervisor Menetrey for hosting the County of the Chair event.
- Supervisor Darrin Short, Del Norte County, requested assistance from fellow supervisors regarding an energy-related issue. Supervisor Short also thanked Supervisor Menetrey for hosting the County of the Chair event.
- Supervisors Lee Adams, Sierra County; Bob Nelson, Santa Barbara County; Jill Cox, Trinity County; and Gary Bradford, Yuba County, thanked Supervisor Menetrey and RCRC staff for their efforts in organizing the County of the Chair event in Mariposa County.

President/CEO Annual Compensation

Chair, Supervisor Miles Menetrey, Mariposa County, and members of the RCRC Officers addressed the RCRC Board of Directors on how the RCRC Executive Committee reached the decision to approve the RCRC President and CEO Patrick Blacklock's annual compensation. At meetings held in February and April, the RCRC Executive Committee completed the annual performance evaluation and compensation review.

Arthur J. Wylene, General Counsel, orally reported the recommendation for final action on Mr. Blacklock's compensation.

Recommendation

It was recommended that the Board of Directors approve the following as just and reasonable:

- A 3% increase in the President/CEO's annual salary, to \$453,645, effective June 27, 2026;
- A further 3% increase, to \$467,254, effective on the first day of the last pay period in June 2027;

- A further 3% increase, to \$481,272, effective on the first day of the last pay period in June 2028; and,
- A one-time performance incentive for the President & CEO in the amount of \$35,000, to be included on the July 15, 2026 payroll.

Supervisor Lee Adams, Sierra County, motioned to approve the recommendations on the President/CEO Annual Compensation. Supervisor Sue Hoek, Nevada County, seconded the motion. Motion passed with all Supervisors present voting “Aye.”

RCRC Long-Term Office Space Needs Discussion

Patrick Blacklock and Arthur J. Wylene discussed RCRC's long-term office space needs, including options related to a potential lease extension and potential property acquisition opportunities. The RCRC Board of Directors provided feedback regarding organizational needs and considerations as staff continues to evaluate future office space options.

Informational Presentation Regarding RCRC State Mandate Reimbursement Claims Program

Patrick Blacklock provided an update on RCRC's ongoing efforts related to state mandate reimbursements. This included county-specific reimbursement reports and a proposed master contract, led by RCRC affiliate Golden State Finance Authority, to support participating member counties with reimbursement claims. The RCRC Board of Directors discussed the reimbursement report and proposal at length, including the opportunities it could provide for rural counties.

2026 Annual Meeting Overview

Dorothy Poole, Governmental Affairs Operations Manager, provided an overview of the RCRC 2026 Annual Meeting, scheduled to occur September 23-25, 2026, in Santa Barbara County at the Hilton Santa Barbara Beachfront Resort. Ms. Poole highlighted the processes for registration, the county basket drawing and auction, and sponsorship opportunities.

State and Federal Legislative Update

Senior Policy Advocates Tracy Rhine, John Kennedy, and Sarah Dukett provided an update on key state and federal legislative and regulatory developments affecting California's rural counties. The discussion included ongoing budget negotiations, trailer bill activity, Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund investments, impact mitigation fee proposals, H.R. 1, the Distressed Hospital Loan Program, behavioral health funding proposals, and Proposition 36 implementation.

Mr. Kennedy and Ms. Dukett also provided updates on legislation and policy issues within their respective portfolios, including wildfire liability, beverage container recycling, battery recycling and safety, household hazardous waste, vaping products, CEQA implementation, tribal consultation, artificial intelligence, autonomous systems, labor policy, and tort reform.

RCRC Closed Session: Initiation of Litigation – Conference with Legal Counsel pursuant to Government Code section 54956.9 subdivision (d)(4). Two cases.

The RCRC Executive Committee convened the closed sessions at 10:49 a.m. per Sections 54956.9(d)(4) of the Government Code.

The RCRC Executive Committee reconvened into open session at 11:39 a.m.

Report any Actions Taken Under Item 10 Pursuant to Section 54957.1 of the Government Code

RCRC Chair Supervisor Miles Menetrey, Mariposa County, deferred to Arthur J. Wylene, General Counsel, to report the following action:

The RCRC Board of Directors in closed session authorized the General Counsel to initiate litigation of one case, and to initiate litigation of a second case upon certain conditions. When and if the actions are formally commenced, the title and nature of the actions, the defendants, and other particulars shall be disclosed to any person upon inquiry, unless to do so would jeopardize RCRC's ability to effectuate service of process on one or more unserved parties, or that to do so would jeopardize RCRC's ability to conclude existing settlement negotiations to its advantage.

All Supervisors present voted “Aye,” except:

“No”: El Dorado County; Nevada County; Sutter County

Absent: Sierra County; Tuolumne County

Adjournment

Chair, Supervisor Miles Menetrey, Mariposa County, adjourned the RCRC Board of Directors Meeting at 11:41 a.m.