



Rural County Representatives of California

Special Executive Committee Meeting

Monday
June 15, 2026
1:30 P.M.

1215 K Street, Suite 1650
Sacramento, California 95814

**Rural County Representatives of California
Special Executive Committee Meeting
June 15, 2026 – 1:30 p.m.
1215 K Street, Suite 1650
Sacramento, CA 95814**

Executive Committee Members:

Supervisor Miles Menetrey, Mariposa County	Supervisor Madeline Cline, Mendocino County
Supervisor Bob Nelson, Santa Barbara County	Supervisor Sue Hoek, Nevada County
Supervisor Anne Cottrell, Napa County	Supervisor Gary Bradford, Yuba County
Supervisor Geri Byrne, Modoc County	Supervisor David Griffith, Alpine County
Supervisor Daron McDaniel, Merced County (<i>Ex-Officio</i>)	Supervisor John Peschong, San Luis Obispo County

**Additional Teleconference Locations are Listed on the
Last Page of this Agenda**

(All Teleconference Locations are Accessible to the Public)

This meeting will also be livestreamed for public access. Members of the public can watch or listen to the meeting using one of the following methods:

1. Join the Zoom meeting application on your computer, tablet or smartphone:

Go to: <https://rcrcnet.zoom.us/j/82724241834>

Enter Password: 833172

2. Call-in and listen to the meeting:

Dial +1 (669) 444-9171

Enter meeting ID: 827 2424 1834

Enter password: 833172

PUBLIC COMMENT USING ZOOM: Members of the public who join the Zoom meeting, either through the Zoom app or by calling in, will be able to provide live public comment at specific points throughout the meeting.

EMAIL PUBLIC COMMENT: One may also email public comment to mchui@rcrcnet.org before or during the meeting. All emailed public comments will be forwarded to all RCRC Executive Committee members.

AGENDA

1. Call to Order and Determination of Quorum

Chair, Supervisor Geri Byrne, Modoc County

2. Public Comment

At this time any member of the public may address the Board. Speakers are asked to state their name for the record. Comments are usually limited to no more than 3 minutes per speaker.

3. Governmental Affairs Matters (Discussion and possible action relative to)

**a. RCRC Supporting the Confirmation of Meghan Hertel, Director,
California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) - ACTION**

Staci Heaton, Senior Policy Advocate

Page 1

4. Adjournment

Agenda items will be taken as close as possible to the schedule indicated. Any member of the general public may comment on agenda items at the time of discussion. In order to facilitate public comment, please let staff know if you would like to speak on a specific agenda item. The agenda for this special meeting of the Executive Committee of the Rural County Representatives of California was duly posted at its offices, 1215 K Street, Suite 1650, Sacramento, California, 24 hours prior to the meeting.

Any written materials related to an open session item on this agenda that are submitted to the RCRC Executive Committee less than 24 hours prior to the meeting, and that are not exempt from disclosure under the Public Records Act, will promptly be made available for public inspection on the RCRC website, <https://www.rcrcnet.org/meetings-and-events/>.

Additional Teleconference Location(s)

Alpine County Government Center 99 Water St. Markleeville, CA 96120	Mariposa County Government Center 5100 Bullion Street Second Floor Mariposa, CA 95338
Mendocino County 501 Low Gap Rd, Conference Room B Ukiah, CA 95482	Merced County Administration Building 2222 M Street, Basement Level Conference Center, Atwater Room Merced, CA 95340
Modoc County 3701 County Road 114 Tulelake, CA 96134	Nevada County Eric Rood Administrative Center Empire Conference Room Suite 278 950 Maidu Ave. Nevada City, CA 95959
San Luis Obispo County Government Center 1055 Monterey St, San Luis Obispo, CA 93408	Santa Barbara County Betteravia Government Center 511 E. Lakeside Parkway, Suite 47 Santa Maria, CA 93455
Yuba County Board of Supervisors 915 8 th St, Suite 109 Marysville CA 95901	



To: Members of the RCRC Executive Committee
From: Staci Heaton, Senior Policy Advocate
Date: June 12, 2026
Re: RCRC Supporting the Confirmation of Meghan Hertel, Director, California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) - **ACTION**

Summary

This memo addresses the possibility of RCRC supporting the confirmation of Meghan Hertel, Director, to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW). If approved, RCRC would convey its support during the confirmation process in the State Senate.

Background

Under the State's Constitution, the Governor is afforded a large number of appointments to various state agencies and departments. Furthermore, the Governor appoints hundreds of individuals to various state and regional boards and commissions. Most, but not all, senior appointments require the advice and consent of the State Senate. The review of gubernatorial appointments is primarily conducted by the Senate's Rules Committee, which is chaired by the Senate President pro Tempore (the effective leader of the State Senate). The Senate Rules Committee is comprised of five members – currently three Democrats and two Republicans. Assuming the consent of the Rules Committee, the name is subsequently brought to the Senate Floor for consideration. The overwhelming majority of appointees are subject to majority vote approval; however, some must be confirmed by a 2/3rds vote. Typically, an appointment by the Governor allows an individual to be seated immediately; however, Senate confirmation must occur within one year of the appointment.

Issue

In December 2025, longtime CDFW Director Charlton Bonham announced his departure from the position. Subsequently, Governor Gavin Newsom appointed Meghan Hertel, who was at the time Deputy Secretary for Biodiversity and Habitat at the California Natural Resources Agency, to succeed Mr. Bonham in the role. Ms. Hertel had been instrumental in CNRA's "Cutting Green Tape" initiative to streamline permitting and regulatory requirements for resilience projects. She also worked to implement large-scale habitat restoration projects for CNRA across various landscapes. Prior to her time at CNRA, Ms. Hertel was the North American Director for Land Life, a technology-driven nature restoration organization, and held multiple roles at Audubon California.

In her brief time in the CDFW role, Ms. Hertel has already vastly improved outreach, communication and collaboration with RCRC member counties. She has led an effort to improve the Wolf-Livestock Compensation Program, initiating a stakeholder working group which includes RCRC to refine the program with the input of the ranching community. In addition, Ms. Hertel has met with the RCRC Predatory Species Management Ad Hoc Committee to hear concerns about wolves, mountain lions and other predators, as well as attending the County of the Chair meeting in June 2026 to hear concerns about various issues with predatory species and lake and streambed alteration policies. She has committed to cultivating relationships with RCRC and its members, and has already been available and engaged with RCRC on various topics.

Staff Recommendation

RCRC staff recommends the RCRC Executive Committee support the gubernatorial appointment of Meghan Hertel, Director, to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, during the confirmation process in the State Senate.

It should be noted that a 2/3rds vote of the RCRC Executive Committee is required to formally garner support for a nominee.