

RCRC BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING HIGHLIGHTS



July 24, 2024

ACTION ITEM HIGHLIGHTS

The RCRC Board of Directors:

- Approved RCRC Resolution 24-03
- Approved the President and CEO compensation
- Adopted a “No Position” stance on Proposition 4
- Adopted a “No Position” stance on Proposition 5
- Adopted a “Support” position on Proposition 35
- Adopted a “Support” position on Proposition 36



2024 Photo Contest Winner
Lisa Wilhelmi Perkins
Humboldt County

MESSAGE BOARD

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The Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC) Board of Directors meeting took place on Wednesday, July 24th in Sacramento. The RCRC Board of Directors reviewed many issues, and the following are highlights:

CONSENT AGENDA

RCRC Resolution 24-03: Establishing Workers' Compensation Insurance Coverage for RCRC Volunteers - APPROVED

The RCRC Board of Directors approved the resolution establishing workers' compensation insurance coverage for RCRC volunteers. The memo can be accessed [here](#). The Resolution can be accessed [here](#).

2024 Annual Meeting Overview Reminder

Key deadlines for the upcoming RCRC 2024 Annual Meeting (September 18-20, 2024) in Sonoma County:

- Early bird registration ends on August 9th.
- A list of the county basket contents must be submitted by August 30th.
- All wine tasting competition entry forms must be received by August 30th.

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

Other key informational items of interest on the Consent Agenda:

RCRC Proposed 2024 Meeting Calendar ([memo](#)); Roadway infrastructure Ad Hoc Committee and Williamson Act Ad Hoc Committee Updates ([memo](#)); Environmental Services Joint Powers Authority Update ([memo](#)); and, Forest Management and Wildfire Update ([memo](#)).

GUEST SPEAKER



U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Martha Guzman, Regional Administrator, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), addressed the RCRC Board of Directors on the EPA's regulatory and community investment initiatives. The session concluded with an open dialogue on the issues facing rural communities and opportunities for collaboration with the EPA.

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](#).

Barbara Hayes, Chief Economic Development Officer, introduced members that make up the economic development team.



RAI Educational Tour Input – Where should we visit next?

RCRC's affiliate entity, the Rural Advancement Institute (RAI), organizes educational tours for policymakers from urban areas to rural counties. These tours aim to enhance awareness and understanding of the challenges faced by rural regions. To support this effort, RAI is gathering ideas to identify potential areas of interest for the tours. The brief survey (3-5 minutes) is available [here](#).

BUSINESS AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

President/CEO Annual Compensation - APPROVED

The RCRC Board of Directors approved the annual compensation of the President and CEO, as presented. The memo can be accessed [here](#).

Rural County Photo Contest – WINNER SELECTED

The RCRC Board of Directors voted on the three finalist photos, and the winner of RCRC's 8th Annual Rural County Photo Contest was chosen. The winning photo was submitted by Lisa Wilhelmi Perkins a photo taken in Humboldt County. The presentation can be accessed [here](#).



Grand Prize Winner

Second Place Winner

Third Place Winner

RCRC Strategic Plan Development

RCRC is currently in the final year of implementing its strategic plan and will develop a new plan for 2025-2027 throughout this calendar year. Draft themes from the engagement process were highlighted. The memo can be accessed [here](#). The presentation 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, provided an update on issues being addressed at the state and federal level. At the state level, an update was provided on the 2024-25 State Budget Package and key legislative activities, including solid waste management, housing initiatives, wildfire protection, and cannabis regulations. At the federal level, the update focused on the presidential election and the reauthorization of Secure Rural Schools to support forest counties. The memo can be accessed [here](#).

Tracy Rhine, Senior Policy Advocate, discussed various legislation related to regulated gates (AB 2149), digital discrimination (AB 2239), fire safety (SB 571), and wildfire mitigation areas (SB 610).

Sarah Dukett, Policy Advocate, discussed various legislation related to labor (AB 2557 and AB 2561), public safety (AB 2882 and SB 1057), and a status update on RCRC-sponsored bills (AB 491, SB 820, and SB 1064).

John Kennedy, Senior Policy Advocate, provided a status update on the RCRC-sponsored bill related to SB 1383 organic waste regulations (AB 2902).

November 2024 Statewide Ballot Propositions Overview

A brief overview of 10 statewide ballot propositions scheduled for November 2024 was provided. The RCRC Board of Directors considered positions on 4 of these propositions. The memo can be accessed [here](#).

Proposition 4: Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparedness, and Clean Air Bond Act of 2024 – NO POSITION

Sidd Nag, Policy Advocate, provided a summary of Proposition 4, the Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparedness, and Clean Air Bond of 2024. RCRC staff recommended that the RCRC Board of Directors adopt a “Support” position. Following discussion and a vote, the RCRC Board of Directors adopted a “No Position” position. The memo can be accessed [here](#).

Proposition 5: Local Government Financing – Affordable Housing and Public Infrastructure – NO POSITION

Tracy Rhine, Senior Policy Advocate, provided a summary of Proposition 5, which would lower the vote threshold to 55 percent for approval of local bonded-indebtedness and specially-dedicated taxes imposed for specified uses. RCRC staff recommended that the RCRC Board of Directors adopt a “Support” position. Following discussion and a vote, the RCRC Board of Directors adopted a “No Position” position. The memo can be accessed [here](#).

Proposition 35: Protect Access to Healthcare of 2024 Initiative – SUPPORT

Sarah Dukett, Policy Advocate, provided a summary of Proposition 35, the Protect Access to Healthcare ballot initiative, which would permanently channel managed care organization tax revenue to Medi-Cal providers such as hospitals, physicians, women's health and community clinics, and health centers. RCRC staff recommended that the RCRC Board of Directors adopt a “Support” position.

The RCRC Board of Directors heard from Janice Rocco, Chief of Staff, California Medical Association in support of Proposition 35. Following discussion and a vote, the RCRC Board of Directors adopted a “Support” position. The memo can be accessed [here](#).

Proposition 36: The Homelessness, Drug Addiction, and Theft Reduction Act – SUPPORT

Sarah Dukett, Policy Advocate, provided a summary of Proposition 36, the Homelessness, Drug Addiction, and Theft Reduction Act, which modifies the voter-approved Proposition 47 (passed in 2014) by allowing felony charges for possessing certain drugs, including fentanyl, and for thefts under \$950—both currently chargeable only as misdemeanors—with two prior drug or two prior theft convictions, as applicable. RCRC staff recommended that the RCRC Board of Directors adopt a “Support” position.

The RCRC Board of Directors heard from Jeff Reisig, District Attorney, Yolo County, and Vern Pierson, District Attorney, El Dorado County, who spoke on behalf of the “Yes on 36” campaign. Following

discussion and a vote, the RCRC Board of Directors adopted a “Support” position. The “Yes on 36” presentation can be accessed [here](#). The memo can be accessed [here](#).

Water Issues Update

An update on current issues involving California’s water policy was provided. This includes the adoption of a new water conservation rule by the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB), SWRCB’s probationary decision regarding the Tulare Lake Subbasin, the current status of federal and state water project allocations, and the defeat of legislation proposing that agencies deny certain well applications. The memo can be accessed [here](#).

California Public Utilities Commission Update

An update on the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) covered issues related to energy, communications, and water. This includes RCRC joining a new Carrier of Last Resort proceeding, as well as developments in the General Order 131 proceeding, the High Distributed Energy Resources proceeding, the Minimum Service Quality Standards proceeding, and the newly initiated Safety, Reliability, and Resiliency of Electrical Distribution Systems proceeding. The memo can be accessed [here](#).

The county template letter for the Safety, Reliability, and Resiliency proceeding can be accessed [here](#). RCRC Member Counties are encouraged to submit letters to CPUC and send a copy to Leigh Kammerich, Policy Advocate (lkammerich@rcrcnet.org), in the coming weeks.

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](#).