

**Rural County Representatives of California
Board of Directors Meeting
January 17, 2024 – 9:00 a.m.
1215 K Street, Suite 1650
Sacramento, CA 95814**

MINUTES

Call to Order, Determination of Quorum and Self Introductions

Chair, Supervisor Chris Lopez, Monterey County, presided. Present were President and CEO Patrick Blacklock, General Counsel Arthur J. Wylene, and Director of Board Operations, Maggie Chui, clerk. Chair Lopez called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m. A quorum was determined at that time. Those members present:

Supervisor

David Griffith
Brian Oneto
Doug Teeter
Jack Garamendi
Daurice Smith
Darrin Short
Lori Parlin
Monica Rossman*
Rex Bohn
Michael Kelley
Doug Verboon
EJ Crandell
Aaron Albaugh
Robert Poythress
Miles Menetrey
Glenn McGourty
Daron McDaniel
Geri Byrne
Rhonda Duggan
Chris Lopez
Anne Cottrell
Kevin Goss
Mindy Sotelo
John Peschong
Bob Nelson
Kevin Crye
Lee Adams
Michael Kobseff*
Mat Conant
Matt Hansen
Jill Cox

County

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

Dennis Townsend
Kathleen Haff
Gary Bradford

Tulare
Tuolumne
Yuba

Absent

Matt Kingsley
Sue Hoek
Jim Holmes
Mitch Mashburn
James Gore
Angel Barajas

Inyo
Nevada
Placer
Solano
Sonoma
Yolo

*Attendance via Zoom

Public Comment

None.

Consent Agenda

- a. **December 6, 2023 Board of Directors Meeting Minutes**
- b. **RCRC Resolution 24-01: RCRC Board Travel Policy**
- c. **RCRC Resolution 24-02: Board of Directors Code of Conduct**
- d. **2024 Appointments**
 - I. **Designate One Member of the RCRC Board to Serve on the Golden State Natural Resources, Inc. (GSNR) Board of Directors**
 - II. **Designate First Deputy Chair and Second Deputy Chair of the RCRC Board to Serve on the Water and Natural Resources Matters, Regulatory Matters, and Legislative Matters**
 - III. **Rural Counties' Nominee to Serve on the National Association of Counties' Western Interstate Region Board**
 - IV. **Appointment of Two Members of the RCRC Board to Serve on the Rural Alliance, Inc. (RAI) Board**
- e. **Establishment of Board of Directors Ad Hoc Advisory Committee on Roadway Infrastructure**
- f. **Establishment of Board of Directors Ad Hoc Advisory Committee on Williamson Act**
- g. **RCRC 2024 Investment Policy Renewal**
- h. **California Public Utilities Commission Update**

Prior to Chair, Supervisor Chris Lopez, Monterey County, calling for approval of the above-listed consent agenda items, Supervisor Miles Menetrey, Mariposa County, and Chair of Roadway Infrastructure Ad Hoc Committee, requested that Supervisor Gary Bradford, Yuba County, be added to the list of members of the Roadway Infrastructure Ad Hoc Committee set forth in the staff report. Additionally, staff noted that the county listing for Supervisor Rhonda Duggan, Mono County, would be corrected.

Supervisor Geri Byrne, Modoc County, motioned to approve the consent agenda items, as amended as listed above. Supervisor Darrin Short, Del Norte County, seconded the motion. Motion passed with all Supervisors present voting “Aye,” except:

Not Voting: Amador County; San Luis Obispo County

2024 Officers Swearing-In

Chair, Supervisor Chris Lopez, Monterey County, introduced Senator John Laird (D-Santa Cruz) to the RCRC Board of Directors. Senator Laird conducted the swearing-in of the 2024 Officers:

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|----------------------|--|
| Chair | Supervisor Chris Lopez, Monterey County |
| First Vice Chair | Supervisor Geri Byrne, Modoc County |
| Second Vice Chair | Supervisor Miles Menetrey, Mariposa County |
| Immediate Past Chair | Supervisor Doug Teeter, Butte County |

RCRC Outgoing Chair Remarks

Immediate Past Chair, Supervisor Doug Teeter, Butte County, expressed gratitude to the RCRC Board of Directors for entrusting him as Chair in 2023.

Chair, Supervisor Chris Lopez, Monterey County, presented Supervisor Teeter with a gift as a token of appreciation on behalf of RCRC.

RCRC Incoming Chair Remarks

Chair, Supervisor Chris Lopez, Monterey County, welcomed supervisors to the January RCRC Board of Directors meeting, expressing both eagerness and commitment to serve as RCRC's 2024 Chair. Supervisor Lopez expressed a desire to collaborate closely with Board Members throughout the year.

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.

Mary-Ann Warmerdam, Senior Vice President Governmental Affairs, introduced individual members that make up the Government Affairs Department.

Member County Concerns and Issues

Chair, Supervisor Chris Lopez, Monterey 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 Geri Byrne, Modoc County, expressed concerns about the grasshopper infestation Modoc County experienced last year and the lack of response from the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service. Supervisor Byrne also inquired if other Member Counties lost their 2022 Resource Advisory Committee rollover dollars, requesting that they contact her if so.
- Supervisor Glenn McGourty, Mendocino County, expressed concern about the rising cost share for the construction of the county jail. Supervisor McGourty also discussed the challenges of unfunded mandates and highlighted the costs associated with operating the Ukiah Valley Basin Sustainable Groundwater Agency. Additionally, efforts by the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board in Region 1 to implement draft General Waste Discharge Requirements for Commercial Vineyards were mentioned.
- Supervisor Jill Cox, Trinity County, discussed unfunded mandates and the financial strain they cause on small county budgets. Supervisor Cox will be sharing a comprehensive list of unfunded mandates that pose a financial hardship to Trinity County with Senator Mike McGuire.
- Supervisor Ned Coe, Modoc County, inquired about flaws in the 2020 census data and the process for requesting a recount. Supervisor Coe also discussed his concerns about the requirements of the USFS Old Growth Rule and mentioned the due date for comments.
- Supervisor Aaron Albaugh, Lassen County expressed ongoing concerns about the California Department of Fish and Wildlife's regulations on handling wildlife.
- Supervisor Mat Conant, Sutter County, spoke about the concerns of county jail unfunded mandates and the impacts it has on Sutter County.
- Supervisor Rhonda Duggan, Mono County, discussed a severely damaged postal office in Mono County with no response from the United States Postal Office. Despite continuous outreach and news coverage, efforts to address the issue continue.
- Supervisor Kathleen Haff, Tuolumne County, inquired about how other counties are responding to Frontier Communications' bankruptcy and the issue of unreliable service affecting not only Tuolumne County but also other counties facing similar challenges.
- Supervisor Matt Hansen, Tehama County, discussed the impacts of Senate Bill 2 and its concealed weapons requirements. Supervisor Brian Oneto, Amador County, echoed Supervisor Hansen's comments.
- Supervisor Anne Cottrell, Napa County, spoke about wildfire mitigation measures to enhance community safety and advocated for legislative efforts and state initiatives to provide more clarity.
- Supervisor Michael Kobseff, Siskiyou County, discussed reduced funding from the Federal Aviation Administration and expressed a need for support. Supervisor Kobseff also expressed ongoing concerns about public noticing requirements in newspapers, seeking assistance for a shift to electronic methods due to the

absence of a local newspaper. Lastly, Supervisor Kobseff urged fellow Board Members to act as a strong voice for the organization.

State and Federal Legislative Update

Mary-Ann Warmerdam and Sheryl Cohen, Partner, American Continental Group, provided an update on issues being addressed at both the state and federal levels. At the state level, Ms. Warmerdam focused on the start of the 2024 Legislative Session, elections, and leadership changes. At the federal level, Ms. Cohen provided updates on appropriations and RCRC federal priorities. These priorities include the Farm Bill, RCRC's population bill, the bipartisan tax deal, rural hospitals, property insurance, and cannabis.

Sarah Dukett, Policy Advocate, provided an update on RCRC's sponsored bills related to the Brown Act and code enforcement. Ms. Dukett also discussed two additional bills: AB 797 (Weber), focused on police review boards, and AB 702 (Jackson), addressing juvenile justice financing.

Overview of State Budget

Mary-Ann Warmerdam and the Governmental Affairs staff provided a brief overview of the Governor's 2024-25 proposed Budget and its implications for California's rural counties. Ms. Warmerdam encouraged supervisors to peruse *The Rural Rundown*, RCRC's overview on specific issue items of the proposal.

Proposition 1 – The Governor's Behavioral Health Modernization Proposal

Sarah Dukett, Policy Advocate, provided an overview of Proposition 1, Governor Newsom's Behavioral Health Modernization Proposal on the March 5, 2024 ballot.

Staff Recommendation

After consultation with the RCRC officers, RCRC staff recommended the RCRC Board of Directors adopt a "No Position" on Proposition 1.

After Board discussion, Supervisor Lori Parlin, El Dorado County, moved that the RCRC Board of Directors take no action with respect to Proposition 1 - The Governor's Behavioral Health Modernization Proposal. Supervisor Daron McDaniel, Merced County, seconded the motion. Motion passed by the following roll call vote taken:

"Aye": Alpine County; Amador County; Butte County; Calaveras County; Colusa County; Del Norte County; El Dorado County; Glenn County; Humboldt County; Imperial County; Kings County; Lake County; Madera County; Mariposa County; Mendocino County; Merced County; Modoc County; Mono County; Monterey County; Napa County; Plumas County; San Benito County; San Luis Obispo County; Santa Barbara County; Sierra County; Siskiyou County; Tehama County; Trinity County; Yuba County

"No": Lassen County; Shasta County; Sutter County; Tulare County; Tuolumne County

Water Issues Update

Sidd Nag, Policy Advocate, provided an update on current issues involving California water policy, including recent actions on the Delta Project, impending actions on the Water Quality Plan, and the state's water conservation targets.

**The RCRC Board of Directors meeting recessed at 11:12 a.m. Chair, Supervisor Chris Lopez, Monterey County, reconvened the RCRC Board of Directors meeting at 11:32 a.m.

Guest Speaker – California Natural Resources Agency

Wade Crowfoot, Secretary, California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA), addressed the RCRC Board of Directors on the 2024-25 State Budget outlook and potential impacts on key CNRA programs, the 2024 water outlook, an update on the 2024 forest resilience plan, and efforts by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. The RCRC Board of Directors engaged in discussion with Secretary Crowfoot.

Adjournment

Chair, Supervisor Chris Lopez, Monterey County, adjourned the RCRC Board of Directors Meeting at 12:18 p.m.