

**Rural County Representatives of California
Board of Directors Meeting
July 24, 2024 – 8:00 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
Doug Teeter
Daurice Smith
Darrin Short
Lori Parlin
Monica Rossman
Rex Bohn
Matt Kingsley*
Rusty Robinson
EJ Crandell
Aaron Albaugh
Robert Poythress
Glenn McGourty
Daron McDaniel
Geri Byrne
Rhonda Duggan
Chris Lopez
Anne Cottrell
Sue Hoek
Jim Holmes
Mindy Sotelo
John Peschong
Bob Nelson
Kevin Crye
Lee Adams
Michael Kobseff
Andy Vasquez*
Mike Ziegenmeyer
Matt Hansen
Jill Cox
Dennis Townsend

County

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

Kathleen Haff*
Angel Barajas
Gary Bradford

Tuolumne
Yolo
Yuba

Absent

Brian Oneto
Jack Garamendi
Michael Kelley
Miles Menetrey
Kevin Goss
James Gore

Amador
Calaveras
Imperial
Mariposa
Plumas
Sonoma

*Attendance via Zoom

Public Comment

Mary Beth Barber, COMPASS Program Manager, California State Library, spoke about a no-cost media and resources program for rural counties.

Consent Agenda

- a. **May 17, 2024 Board of Directors Meeting Minutes**
- b. **RCRC Resolution 24-03: Establishing Workers' Compensation Insurance Coverage for RCRC Volunteers**
- c. **RCRC Proposed 2024 Meeting Calendar**
- d. **Ad Hoc Committee Updates: Roadway Infrastructure Ad Hoc Committee and Williamson Act Ad Hoc Committee**
- e. **Environmental Services Joint Powers Authority Update**
- f. **Forest Management and Wildfire Update**
- g. **2024 Annual Meeting Overview Reminder**

Supervisor Geri Byrne, Modoc County, motioned to approve the consent agenda items. Supervisor Jim Holmes, Placer County, seconded the motion. Motion passed with all Supervisors present voting "Aye," except:

Not Voting: Lassen County; Sutter County

RCRC Chair Remarks

Chair, Supervisor Chris Lopez, Monterey County, welcomed supervisors to the July RCRC Board of Directors meeting. Supervisor Lopez discussed the RCRC Officers' recent North State Tour of Lassen, Modoc, and Siskiyou Counties, as well as the National Association of Counties' (NACo) Annual Meeting in Tampa, Florida.

Dorothy Poole, Governmental Affairs Operations Manager, called attention to key deadlines for the upcoming RCRC 2024 Annual Meeting (September 18-20, 2024) in Sonoma County.

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.

Mr. Blacklock highlighted a feedback form from the Rural Advancement Institute, an RCRC affiliate entity, which is seeking input on future educational tours. Mr. Blacklock encouraged RCRC Board Members to share the feedback form with their county staff to help guide future planning.

Barbara Hayes, Chief Economic Development Officer, introduced individual members that make up the Economic Development Department.

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.

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 concern that senior meal programs are not funded to cover inflationary costs. Additionally, Supervisor Byrne noted that the state has designated opioid settlement funding to behavioral health, but Modoc County would need the ability to allocate some of these funds for law enforcement purposes.
- Supervisor Rex Bohn, Humboldt County, expressed concern regarding Assembly Bill 2223 (Aguiar-Curry) on industrial hemp.
- Supervisor Doug Teeter, Butte County, shared that at the NACo Annual Conference, he found the discussion and toolkit on artificial intelligence to be highly informative.
- Supervisor Rhonda Duggan, Modoc County, discussed concerns about emergency medical services and fire, particularly regarding inadequate supplies and oversight, and the need for regulatory changes.
- Supervisor Kevin Crye, Shasta County, noted that the Shasta County Board of Supervisors sent a letter to the Governor requesting a state of emergency for the homeowner and commercial property insurance marketplace, and adopted a resolution to address fire insurance issues. Supervisor Sue Hoek, Nevada County,

echoed the concerns, highlighting the astronomical costs and emphasizing the importance of taking action.

- Supervisor Michael Kobseff, Siskiyou County, expressed concerns about the passage of Assembly Bill 1955 (Ward), which he believes violates parental rights. Supervisor Kobseff requested either a repeal of the bill or the submission of an amicus brief.

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

Sarah Dukett, Policy Advocate, provided a summary of Proposition 36, the Homelessness, Drug Addiction, and Theft Reduction Act. Proposition 36 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.

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.

Staff Recommendation

RCRC staff recommended the RCRC Board of Directors adopt a “Support” position on The Homelessness, Drug Addiction, and Theft Reduction Act, Proposition 36.

Supervisor Doug Teeter, Butte County, motioned to approve the recommendations on Proposition 36. Supervisor Michael Kobseff, Siskiyou County, seconded the motion. Motion passed with all Supervisors present voting “Aye.”

State and Federal Legislative Update

Mary-Ann Warmerdam, Senior Vice President Governmental Affairs, provided an update on matters at both the state and federal levels. At the state level, Ms. Warmerdam provided a brief update on the 2024-25 State Budget Package and its implications for rural counties. Ms. Warmerdam also discussed key legislative activities involving the Governmental Affairs Department, including solid waste management, housing initiatives, wildfire protection, and cannabis regulations. At the federal level, the update focused on the reauthorization of Secure Rural Schools to support forest counties.

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

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

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

November 2024 Statewide Ballot Propositions Overview

Mary-Ann Warmerdam provided a brief overview of 10 statewide ballot propositions scheduled for November 2024. Among the ten ballot propositions, the RCRC Board of Directors will consider positions on 4 of these propositions (Proposition 4, Proposition 5, Proposition 35, and Proposition 36).

Proposition 35: Protect Access to Healthcare of 2024 Initiative

Sarah Dukett, Policy Advocate, provided a summary of Proposition 35, the Protect Access to Healthcare ballot initiative. Proposition 35 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.

The RCRC Board of Directors heard from Janice Rocco, Chief of Staff, California Medical Association in support of Proposition 35.

Staff Recommendation

RCRC staff recommended the RCRC Board of Directors adopt a "Support" position on the Protect Access to Healthcare ballot initiative.

Supervisor EJ Crandell, Lake County, motioned to approve the recommendations on Proposition 35. Supervisor Jim Holmes, Placer County, seconded the motion. Motion passed with all Supervisors present voting "Aye."

Proposition 5: Local Government Financing - Affordable Housing and Public Infrastructure

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 has supported Assembly Constitutional Amendment 1 in both the 2021 and 2023 legislative sessions.

The RCRC Board of Directors discussed at length the pros and cons of Proposition 5 as it pertains to RCRC Member Counties.

Staff Recommendation

RCRC staff recommended the RCRC Board of Directors adopt a "Support" position for Proposition 5.

Supervisor Aaron Albaugh, Lassen County, motioned to adopt a position of "No Position" on Proposition 5. Supervisor Doug Teeter, Butte County, seconded the motion. Motion passed by the following roll call vote taken:

“Aye”: Alpine County; Butte County; Colusa County; Del Norte County; El Dorado County; Glenn County; Humboldt County; Inyo County; Kings County; Lassen County; Madera County; Merced County; Modoc County; Mono County; Monterey County; San Luis Obispo County; Santa Barbara County; Shasta County; Siskiyou County; Solano County; Sutter County; Tehama County; Trinity County; Tulare County; Tuolumne County

“No”: Lake County; Mendocino County; Napa County; Placer County; San Benito County; Sierra County; Yolo County; Yuba County

Abstaining: Nevada County

Absent: None

Proposition 4: Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparedness, and Clean Air Bond Act of 2024

Sidd Nag, Policy Advocate, provided a summary of Proposition 4, the Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparedness, and Clean Air Bond of 2024. Proposition 4 would authorize the issuance of \$10 billion in general obligation bonds to finance a variety of natural resources investments, with a particular focus on water and wildfire-related investments.

The RCRC Board of Directors discussed at length the pros and cons of Proposition 4 as it pertains to RCRC Member Counties.

Staff Recommendation

RCRC staff recommended the RCRC Board of Directors adopt a “Support” position on the Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparedness, and Clean Air Bond of 2024.

Supervisor Lee Adams, Sierra County, motioned to approve the recommendations on Proposition 4. Supervisor Angel Barajas, Yolo County, seconded the motion.

Substitute motion

A substitute motion was presented: Supervisor Michael Kobseff, Siskiyou County, moved to substitute an amended motion to adopt a position of “No Position” on Proposition 4. Supervisor Jill Cox, Trinity County, seconded the motion. The motion to substitute and the amended motion passed by the following roll call vote taken:

“Aye”: Alpine County; Butte County; Del Norte County; El Dorado County; Glenn County; Humboldt County; Inyo County; Kings County; Lassen County; Madera County; Merced County; Modoc County; Nevada County; San Luis Obispo County; Shasta County; Siskiyou County; Sutter County; Trinity County; Tulare County; Tuolumne County

“No”: Colusa County; Lake County; Mendocino County; Mono County; Monterey County; Napa County; Placer County; San Benito County; Santa Barbara County; Sierra County; Solano County; Tehama County; Yolo County; Yuba County

Abstaining: None

Absent: None

*Supervisor Matt Kingsley, Inyo County, and Supervisor Mike Ziegenmeyer, Sutter County, departed the meeting at 12:20 p.m.

Rural County Photo Contest

Chris Egan, Management Analyst, presented the three finalist photos for the RCRC's 8th Annual Rural County Photo Contest to the RCRC Board of Directors for their consideration. The winning photo will be displayed at RCRC's 2024 Annual Meeting and may be used in various marketing materials or work products throughout the next year.

Staff Recommendation

RCRC staff recommended the RCRC Board of Directors cast their votes on the selected three finalist photos to determine a winner.

Photo “1”: Lake County; Lassen County; Madera County; Modoc County; Placer County; Santa Barbara County; Shasta County; Siskiyou County; Trinity County; Yuba County

Photo “2”: Butte County; Del Norte County; El Dorado County; Glenn County; Humboldt County; Kings County; Mendocino County; Mono County; Monterey County; Napa County; San Benito County; San Luis Obispo County; Sierra County; Tehama County

Photo “3”: Alpine County; Colusa County; Merced County; Nevada County; Tulare County; Tuolumne County; Yolo County

Not Voting: Inyo County; Solano County; Sutter County

Subsequently, the following winners were announced:

- **Grand Prize Winner** – Photo “2” by Lisa Wilhelmi Perkins, a photo taken in Humboldt County
- **Second Place Winner** – Photo “1” by Jeanie Bridges, a photo taken in Siskiyou County

- Third Place Winner – Photo “3” by Ashley Nelson, a photo taken in Tuolumne County

RCRC Strategic Plan Development

Patrick Blacklock presented the development of the strategic plan and provided an overview of the draft themes emerging from the engagement process. 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.

President/CEO Annual Compensation

Chair, Supervisor Chris Lopez, Monterey County, and members of the RCRC Executive Committee 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 their June 19th meeting, the RCRC Executive Committee completed the annual performance evaluation.

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

Recommendation

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

- A one-time performance incentive for the President/CEO in the amount of \$30,000, to be included on the July 31, 2024 payroll.

Supervisor Michael Kobseff, Siskiyou County, motioned to approve the recommendations on the President/CEO Annual Compensation. Supervisor John Peschong, San Luis Obispo County, seconded the motion. Motion passed with all Supervisors present voting “Aye,” except:

Absent: Inyo County; Solano County; Sutter County

Water Issues Update

Sidd Nag provided an update on current issues involving California’s water policy. The update covered 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.

California Public Utilities Commission Update

John Kennedy and Leigh Kammerich, Policy Advocate, provided an update on the California Public Utilities Commission and RCRC’s engagement in proceedings covering energy, communications, and water-related issues. This included an update on 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.

Adjournment

Chair, Supervisor Chris Lopez, Monterey County, adjourned the RCRC Board of Directors Meeting at 1:30 p.m.