

**Rural County Representatives of California
Board of Directors Meeting
Wednesday, August 12, 2020 – 9:00 a.m.
1215 K Street, Suite 1650 – Board Room
Sacramento, CA 95814**

In accordance with Executive Orders N-25-20 and N-29-20, the August 12, 2020 RCRC Board of Directors meeting was held virtually.

MINUTES

Call to Order, Determination of Quorum and Self Introductions

Chair, Supervisor Daron McDaniel, Merced County, called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. A quorum was determined at that time. Those present:

<u>Supervisor</u>	<u>County</u>
David Griffith	Alpine
Doug Teeter	Butte
Jack Garamendi	Calaveras
Denise Carter	Colusa
Gerry Hemmingsen	Del Norte
Lori Parlin	El Dorado
John Viegas	Glenn
Rex Bohn	Humboldt
Michael Kelley	Imperial
Matt Kingsley	Inyo
Bruno Sabatier	Lake
Aaron Albaugh	Lassen
Robert Poythress	Madera
Kevin Cann	Mariposa
Carre Brown	Mendocino
Daron McDaniel	Merced
Geri Byrne	Modoc
Stacy Corless	Mono
Chris Lopez	Monterey
Diane Dillon	Napa
Susan Hoek	Nevada
Lynn Compton	San Luis Obispo
Les Baugh	Shasta
Lee Adams	Sierra
Mat Conant	Sutter
Jeremy Brown	Trinity
Kuyler Crocker	Tulare
Sherri Brennan	Tuolumne
Dennis Garton	Tehama
Randy Fletcher	Yuba

Absent

Brian Oneto	Amador
Jim Holmes	Placer
Kevin Goss	Plumas
Anthony Botelho	San Benito
Michael Kobseff	Siskiyou
Lynda Hopkins	Sonoma
Gary Sandy	Yolo

Others in Attendance

Supervisor Miles Menetrey, Mariposa County
Supervisor Ned Coe, Modoc County
Supervisor John Peters, Mono County
Julieta Martinez, Tulare County
Jamie Yang, Yuba County
Jean K. Hurst, Hurst, Brooks, Espinosa LLC
Manuel Rivas, Jr., California State Association of Counties
Crystal Crawford, Ygrene Energy Fund
Connie Stewart, California Center for Rural Policy
Lenny Goldberg, Schools & Communities First
Jamie Johansson, California Farm Bureau Federation
Robb Korinke, Grassroots Lab
Arturo Rodriguez, Tulare County Democratic Central Committee
David Wolfe, Well Versed Consultant Inc.
Justin Caporusso
Carolyn Gallagher
Mike Kahoe

Staff in Attendance

Greg Norton, President and CEO
Lisa McCargar, Chief Operating Officer/Chief Financial Officer
Craig Ferguson, Senior Vice President
Paul A. Smith, Senior Vice President Governmental Affairs
Barbara Hayes, Chief Economic Development Officer
Mary-Ann Warmerdam, Senior Legislative Advocate
John Kennedy, Legislative Advocate
Tracy Rhine, Legislative Advocate
Staci Heaton, Senior Regulatory Affairs Advocate
Arthur Wylene, General Counsel
Terrance Rodgers, Economic Development Officer
Sarah Bolnik, Economic Development Specialist
Maggie Chui, Senior Governmental Affairs Coordinator/Clerk of the Board
Leigh Kammerich, Regulatory Affairs Specialist
Milena De Melo, Controller
Dorothy Poole, External Affairs Coordinator
Layne Frederickson, IT Director

Elizabeth Jensen, Assistant Controller

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of Minutes – June 17, 2020

Chair, Supervisor Daron McDaniel, Merced County, called for approval of the minutes from the June 17, 2020 Board of Directors Meeting.

Supervisor Diane Dillon, Napa County, motioned to approve the minutes from the June 17, 2020 Board of Directors Meeting. Supervisor Stacy Corless, Mono County, seconded the motion. Motion passed with all Supervisors present voting “Aye,” except as follows:

Abstaining: Supervisor Dennis Garton, Tehama County

Absent: Supervisor Matt Kingsley, Inyo County; Supervisor Aaron Albaugh, Lassen County; Supervisor Sherri Brennan, Tuolumne County

RCRC Chair’s Report

Chair, Supervisor Daron McDaniel, Merced County, welcomed fellow supervisors to the RCRC Board of Directors meeting held via Zoom. Supervisor McDaniel spoke about Merced County’s coronavirus (COVID-19) response and contact tracing efforts, and a recent meeting with the state’s COVID-19 strike team.

Member County Concerns and Issues

Supervisor David Griffith, Alpine County, shared that while Alpine County has not been impacted by COVID-19 cases, there has been an increase of visitors on its public lands. Some of these visitors do not wear face coverings nor practice social distancing, and are leaving garbage behind.

Along the same line, Supervisor Griffith shared his concern that COVID-19 could impact the 2020 Census count since individuals are relocating from one county to another.

Supervisor Geri Byrne, Modoc County, inquired if any supervisors are interested in creating a Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act forum to share ideas on spending the time-sensitive funding.

Supervisor Mat Conant, Sutter County, shared his concern regarding rural hospitals’ ability to function as they are experiencing financial difficulties.

Supervisor Les Baugh, Shasta County, discussed the following: fairs; early release of inmates; school liability insurance for COVID-19; and, Shasta County’s Public Health Officer’s recent participation at a healthcare officers meeting whereby the state’s COVID-19 guidance was discussed.

Supervisor Stacy Corless, Mono County, echoed Supervisor Griffith's comments regarding increased visitors, and shared that Mono County is also experiencing an increase of visitors on its public lands.

Supervisor Corless acknowledged Supervisor Byrne's desire to create a CARES Act forum to share ideas.

Supervisor Doug Teeter, Butte County, reported that charter schools are expressing their concern regarding the Average Daily Attendance "hold harmless" policy. Supervisor Teeter cited that charter schools are experiencing an increase in enrollment due to state COVID-19 restrictions, but unfortunately will not receive proper funding.

Supervisor Sherri Brennan, Tuolumne County, thanked fellow supervisors that participate in the Yosemite Gateway working group. The working group has assisted Tuolumne County with COVID-19-related matters.

Supervisor Brennan also shared that there has been exciting movement in Tuolumne County's vegetation management projects.

Supervisor Ned Coe, Modoc County, spoke about the recent tractor rally that allowed for a number of productive discussions, and shared his optimism on the Klamath Project.

Supervisor Jeremy Brown, Trinity County, shared that Trinity County received over half-million dollars at their livestock auction that was conducted virtually.

Supervisor Brown also shared that tourism has increased in Trinity County. Unfortunately, some of these visitors are not wearing face coverings. Fortunately, Supervisor Brown noted that Trinity County has not experienced an uptick in COVID-19 cases.

Supervisor John Viegas, Glenn County, echoed Supervisor Baugh's concern regarding early release of inmates. Recently, a state parolee was released in Glenn County without any resources. In addition, Supervisor Viegas shared his concern that the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation is releasing inmates without advising them of the terms and conditions of their release.

Public Comments

None

President's Report

Greg Norton, President and CEO, provided an update on recent RCRC staff activities, particularly on efforts to increase forest resiliency and broadband in rural communities. RCRC staff is continuing to advocate on behalf of California's rural counties on many fronts while working remotely. RCRC management is continuing to adhere to public health official guidelines and other recommendations for reopening the RCRC office.

Mr. Norton announced his retirement from RCRC effective December 31, 2020. Mr. Norton's announcement was previously shared at the July 2020 RCRC Executive Committee meeting.

President/CEO Annual Compensation

Chair, Supervisor Daron McDaniel and the RCRC Executive Committee addressed the RCRC Board of Directors on how they reached the decision to approve the RCRC President/CEO's annual compensation. At their July 15, 2020 meeting, the RCRC Executive Committee completed the annual performance evaluation.

The RCRC Board of Directors discussed at length the RCRC President/CEO's performance and annual compensation.

Recommendation

It was recommended that the RCRC Board of Directors approve a one-time bonus of 3 percent of the President/CEO's annual salary.

Supervisor Carre Brown, Mendocino County, motioned to approve the recommendations on the President/CEO Annual Compensation. Supervisor Rex Bohn, Humboldt County, seconded the motion. Motion passed with all Supervisors present voting "Aye." Supervisor Chris Lopez, Monterey County, and Supervisor Lynn Compton, San Luis Obispo County, absent.

Rural County Photo Contest

Dorothy Poole, External Affairs Coordinator, and Maggie Chui, Senior Governmental Affairs Coordinator/Clerk of the Board, presented the three finalist photos to the RCRC Board of Directors for their consideration. The RCRC's 4th Annual Rural County Photo Contest was created to promote tourism and local economic development. The winning photo may be used in various marketing materials or work products throughout the next year.

Staff Recommendation

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

Photo "Y": Supervisor David Griffith, Alpine County; Supervisor Denise Carter, Colusa County; Supervisor Bruno Sabatier, Lake County; Supervisor Robert Poythress, Madera County; Supervisor Kevin Cann, Mariposa County; Supervisor Geri Byrne, Modoc County; Supervisor Stacy Corless, Mono County; Supervisor Diane Dillon, Napa County; Supervisor Lynn Compton, San Luis Obispo County; Supervisor Mat Conant, Sutter County

Photo "N": Supervisor Doug Teeter, Butte County; Supervisor Jack Garamendi, Calaveras County; Supervisor Lori Parlin, El Dorado County; Supervisor John Viegas, Glenn County; Supervisor Michael Kelley, Imperial County; Supervisor Matt Kingsley, Inyo County; Supervisor Chris Lopez, Monterey County; Supervisor Susan Hoek, Nevada County; Supervisor Les

Baugh, Shasta County; Supervisor Lee Adams, Sierra County; Supervisor Kuyler Crocker, Tulare County; Supervisor Sherri Brennan, Tuolumne County; Supervisor Randy Fletcher, Yuba County

Photo “A”: Supervisor Gerry Hemmingsen, Del Norte County; Supervisor Rex Bohn, Humboldt County; Supervisor Daron McDaniel, Merced County; Supervisor Jeremy Brown, Trinity County

Abstaining: Supervisor Carre Brown, Mendocino County

Absent: Supervisor Aaron Albaugh, Lassen County; Supervisor Dennis Garton, Tehama County

Subsequently, the following winners were announced:

- Grand Prize Winner – Photo “N”: Jason Brand, photo of Mack Lake in Inyo County
- Second Place Winner – Photo “Y”: David Patch, photo of mountain landscape in Mariposa County
- Third Place Winner – Photo “A”: Jason Brand, photo of Spider Lake in El Dorado County

Upcoming November 2020 Ballot Measures Update

Paul A. Smith, Senior Vice President Governmental Affairs, provided a timeline on a number of proposed state ballot measures slated to appear on the November 2020 General Election ballot that could impact RCRC Member Counties. Twelve proposed statewide measures will appear on the ballot.

Proposition 15 – The California Schools and Local Communities Funding Act (Split Roll)

Paul A. Smith presented Proposition 15, the California Schools and Local Communities Funding Act, and indicated that this measure would establish a “Split Roll” property tax that would reassess commercial and industrial property once-every-three years at fair market value. Mr. Smith explained that this measure could create a significant reduction in property tax receipts due to exemptions and new administrative burdens for a number of RCRC Member Counties. Proposition 15 will appear on the November 2020 General Election ballot.

Proponents of Proposition 15 were asked to speak. Lenny Goldberg, Schools & Communities First, spoke in support of the ballot measure. Following Mr. Goldberg’s presentation, opponents of Proposition 15 were asked to speak. Jamie Johansson, California Farm Bureau Federation, spoke in opposition of the ballot measure.

Staff Recommendation

RCRC staff recommended the RCRC Board of Directors adopt an “Oppose” position for the California Schools and Local Communities Funding Act.

Supervisor Gerry Hemmingsen, Del Norte County, motioned to approve a “Oppose” position on Proposition 15. Supervisor Mat Conant, Sutter County, seconded the motion. Motion passed by the following roll call vote taken:

“Aye”: Supervisor David Griffith, Alpine County; Supervisor Doug Teeter, Butte County; Supervisor Jack Garamendi, Calaveras County; Supervisor Denise Carter, Colusa County; Supervisor Gerry Hemmingsen, Del Norte County; Supervisor Lori Parlin, El Dorado County; Supervisor John Viegas, Glenn County; Supervisor Rex Bohn, Humboldt County; Supervisor Michael Kelley, Imperial County; Supervisor Matt Kingsley, Inyo County; Supervisor Bruno Sabatier, Lake County; Supervisor Robert Poythress, Madera County; Supervisor Kevin Cann, Mariposa County; Supervisor Carre Brown, Mendocino County; Supervisor Daron McDaniel, Merced County; Supervisor Geri Byrne, Modoc County; Supervisor Stacy Corless, Mono County; Supervisor Susan Hoek, Nevada County; Supervisor Lynn Compton, San Luis Obispo County; Supervisor Les Baugh, Shasta County; Supervisor Lee Adams, Sierra County; Supervisor Mat Conant, Sutter County; Supervisor Dennis Garton, Tehama County; Supervisor Jeremy Brown, Trinity County; Supervisor Kuyler Crocker, Tulare County; Supervisor Sherri Brennan, Tuolumne County; Supervisor Randy Fletcher, Yuba County

“No”: None

Abstaining: Supervisor Chris Lopez, Monterey County; Supervisor Diane Dillon, Napa County

Absent: Supervisor Aaron Albaugh, Lassen County

Proposition 16/ACA 5 – Repeal of Proposition 209 of 1996

Paul A. Smith and Arthur Wylene, General Counsel, presented Proposition 16, and indicated that this measure would repeal Proposition 209 of 1996 that prohibited affirmative action in several public processes. Proposition 16 would provide an opportunity for local governments to reassess their affirmative action policies. RCRC did not offer any formal position when Assembly Constitutional Amendment 5 (Weber, 2020) when it was being considered during the legislative process. Proposition 16 will appear on the November 2020 General Election ballot.

Staff Recommendation

RCRC staff recommended the RCRC Board of Directors adopt a “Support” position on Proposition 16.

Supervisor Stacy Corless, Mono County, motioned to approve a “Support” position on Proposition 16/ACA 5. Supervisor David Griffith, Alpine County, seconded the motion. Motion passed by the following roll call vote taken:

“Aye”: Supervisor David Griffith, Alpine County; Supervisor Jack Garamendi, Calaveras County; Supervisor John Viegas, Glenn County; Supervisor Rex Bohn, Humboldt County; Supervisor Michael Kelley, Imperial County; Supervisor Matt Kingsley, Inyo County; Supervisor Kevin Cann, Mariposa County; Supervisor Stacy Corless, Mono County; Supervisor Chris Lopez, Monterey County; Supervisor Diane Dillon, Napa County; Supervisor Lee Adams, Sierra County; Supervisor Mat Conant, Sutter County; Supervisor Sherri Brennan, Tuolumne County;

“No”: Supervisor Doug Teeter, Butte County; Supervisor Lori Parlin, El Dorado County; Supervisor Bruno Sabatier, Lake County; Supervisor Aaron Albaugh, Lassen County; Supervisor Carre Brown, Mendocino County; Supervisor Daron McDaniel, Merced County; Supervisor Geri Byrne, Modoc County; Supervisor Les Baugh, Shasta County; Supervisor Jeremy Brown, Trinity County; Supervisor Kuyler Crocker, Tulare County; Supervisor Randy Fletcher, Yuba County

Abstaining: Supervisor Denise Carter, Colusa County; Supervisor Gerry Hemmingsen, Del Norte County; Supervisor Susan Hoek, Nevada County; Supervisor Lynn Compton, San Luis Obispo County; Supervisor Dennis Garton, Tehama County;

Absent: Supervisor Robert Poythress, Madera County

Proposition 17/ACA 6 – Voting Rights of Convicted Felons

Paul A. Smith presented Proposition 17, and indicated that this measure provides restoration of voting rights to convicted felons who remain on parole and have not completely fulfilled the terms of their sentence. RCRC did not offer formal position on Assembly Constitutional Amendment 6 (McCarty, 2020) when it was being considered during the legislative process. Proposition 17 will appear on the November 2020 General Election ballot.

Staff Recommendation

RCRC staff recommended the RCRC Board of Directors adopt a “No Position” position on Proposition 17.

Supervisor Kevin Cann, Mariposa County, motioned to approve a “Oppose” position on Proposition 17/ACA 6. Supervisor Lee Adams, Sierra County, seconded the motion.

A substitute motion was presented: Supervisor David Griffith, Alpine County, moved to substitute a motion to approve a “No Position” position on Proposition 17/ACA 6. Supervisor Diane Dillon, Napa County, seconded the motion to substitute. The substitute motion failed by the following roll call vote taken:

“Aye”: Supervisor David Griffith, Alpine County; Supervisor Denise Carter, Colusa County; Supervisor Michael Kelley, Imperial County; Supervisor Bruno Sabatier, Lake County; Supervisor Carre Brown, Mendocino County; Supervisor Stacy Corless, Mono County; Supervisor Chris Lopez, Monterey County; Supervisor Diane Dillon, Napa County; Supervisor Jeremy Brown, Trinity County; Supervisor Randy Fletcher, Yuba County

“No”: Supervisor Doug Teeter, Butte County; Supervisor Jack Garamendi, Calaveras County; Supervisor Gerry Hemmingsen, Del Norte County; Supervisor Lori Parlin, El Dorado County; Supervisor John Viegas, Glenn County; Supervisor Rex Bohn, Humboldt County; Supervisor Matt Kingsley, Inyo County; Supervisor Aaron Albaugh, Lassen County; Supervisor Kevin Cann, Mariposa County; Supervisor Daron McDaniel, Merced County; Supervisor Geri Byrne, Modoc County; Supervisor Susan Hoek, Nevada County; Supervisor Les Baugh, Shasta County; Supervisor Lee Adams, Sierra County; Supervisor Mat Conant, Sutter County; Supervisor Dennis Garton, Tehama County; Supervisor Kuyler Crocker, Tulare County; Supervisor Sherri Brennan, Tuolumne County

Abstaining: None

Absent: Supervisor Robert Poythress, Madera County; Supervisor Lynn Compton, San Luis Obispo County

The main motion, to approve an “Oppose” position, then passed by the following roll call vote taken:

“Aye”: Supervisor Doug Teeter, Butte County; Supervisor Jack Garamendi, Calaveras County; Supervisor Gerry Hemmingsen, Del Norte County; Supervisor Lori Parlin, El Dorado County; Supervisor John Viegas, Glenn County; Supervisor Rex Bohn, Humboldt County; Supervisor Michael Kelley, Imperial County; Supervisor Matt Kingsley, Inyo County; Supervisor Aaron Albaugh, Lassen County; Supervisor Kevin Cann, Mariposa County; Supervisor Carre Brown, Mendocino County; Supervisor Daron McDaniel, Merced County; Supervisor Geri Byrne, Modoc County; Supervisor Susan Hoek, Nevada County; Supervisor Les Baugh, Shasta County; Supervisor Lee Adams, Sierra County; Supervisor Mat Conant, Sutter County; Supervisor Dennis Garton, Tehama County; Supervisor Kuyler Crocker, Tulare County; Supervisor Sherri Brennan, Tuolumne County; Supervisor Randy Fletcher, Yuba County

“No”: Supervisor David Griffith, Alpine County; Supervisor Denise Carter, Colusa County; Supervisor Bruno Sabatier, Lake County; Supervisor Diane Dillon, Napa County; Supervisor Jeremy Brown, Trinity County;

Abstaining: Supervisor Stacy Corless, Mono County; Supervisor Chris Lopez, Monterey County

Absent: Supervisor Robert Poythress, Madera County; Supervisor Lynn Compton, San Luis Obispo County

Proposition 18/ACA 4 – Age of Voting

Paul A. Smith presented Proposition 18, and indicated that this measure would allow 17-year old citizens to cast a ballot in a Primary Election if that individual will be at least 18-year old by the General Election. RCRC did not offer formal position on Assembly Constitutional Amendment 4 (Mullin, 2020) when it was being considered during the legislative process. Proposition 18 will appear on the November 2020 General Election ballot.

Proponents of Proposition 18 were asked to speak. Arturo Rodriguez, Tulare County Democratic Central Committee, spoke in support of the ballot measure.

Staff Recommendation

RCRC staff recommended the RCRC Board of Directors adopt a “Neutral” position on Proposition 18.

Supervisor Randy Fletcher, Yuba County, motioned to approve a “Neutral” position on Proposition 17/ACA 6. Supervisor David Griffith, Alpine County, seconded the motion. Motion passed by the following roll call vote taken:

“Aye”: Supervisor David Griffith, Alpine County; Supervisor Doug Teeter, Butte County; Supervisor Jack Garamendi, Calaveras County; Supervisor Denise Carter, Colusa County; Supervisor Gerry Hemmingsen, Del Norte County; Supervisor Lori Parlin, El Dorado County; Supervisor John Viegas, Glenn County; Supervisor Rex Bohn, Humboldt County; Supervisor Michael Kelley, Imperial County; Supervisor Matt Kingsley, Inyo County; Supervisor Bruno Sabatier, Lake County; Supervisor Aaron Albaugh, Lassen County; Supervisor Kevin Cann, Mariposa County; Supervisor Carre Brown, Mendocino County; Supervisor Daron McDaniel, Merced County; Supervisor Stacy Corless, Mono County; Supervisor Chris Lopez, Monterey County; Supervisor Diane Dillon, Napa County; Supervisor Les Baugh, Shasta County; Supervisor Lee Adams, Sierra County; Supervisor Mat Conant, Sutter County; Supervisor Dennis Garton, Tehama County; Supervisor Jeremy Brown, Trinity County; Supervisor Randy Fletcher, Yuba County

“No”: Supervisor Geri Byrne, Modoc County; Supervisor Susan Hoek, Nevada County; Supervisor Kuyler Crocker, Tulare County

Abstaining: None

Absent: Supervisor Robert Poythress, Madera County; Supervisor Lynn Compton, San Luis Obispo County; Supervisor Sherri Brennan, Tuolumne County

Proposition 19/ACA 11 – The Home Protection for Seniors, Severely Disabled, Families, and Victims of Wildfire or Natural Disasters Act

Paul A. Smith presented Proposition 19, the Home Protection for Seniors, Severely Disabled, Families, and Victims of Wildfire or Natural Disaster Act. Mr. Smith indicated that this measure would liberalize the ability for homeowners to transfer their property tax base year transfers and inherited property. In the past several years, RCRC has opposed several measures (Proposition 60, Proposition 90, and Proposition 110) on the basis of revenue loss and/or the elimination of local discretion. Proposition 19 will appear on the November 2020 General Election ballot.

Proponents of Proposition 19 were asked to speak. David Wolfe, President, Government Relations, Well Versed Consulting Inc., spoke in support of the ballot measure.

Supervisor Lori Parlin, El Dorado County, noted a correction to the memo, citing that El Dorado County stopped allowing intercounty transfers since 2018.

Staff Recommendation

Similar to the position from Proposition 5 of 2018, RCRC staff recommended the RCRC Board of Directors adopt an “Oppose” position on Proposition 19 - The Home Protection for Seniors, Severely Disabled, Families, and Victims of Wildfire or Natural Disasters Act.

Supervisor Lori Parlin, El Dorado County, motioned to approve a “Oppose” position on Proposition 19/ACA 11. Supervisor Randy Fletcher, Yuba County, seconded the motion. Motion passed by the following roll call vote taken:

“Aye”: Supervisor David Griffith, Alpine County; Supervisor Doug Teeter, Butte County; Supervisor Jack Garamendi, Calaveras County; Supervisor Denise Carter, Colusa County; Supervisor Gerry Hemmingsen, Del Norte County; Supervisor Lori Parlin, El Dorado County; Supervisor John Viegas, Glenn County; Supervisor Rex Bohn, Humboldt County; Supervisor Michael Kelley, Imperial County; Supervisor Matt Kingsley, Inyo County; Supervisor Bruno Sabatier, Lake County; Supervisor Aaron Albaugh, Lassen County; Supervisor Kevin Cann, Mariposa County; Supervisor Carre Brown, Mendocino County; Supervisor Daron McDaniel, Merced County; Supervisor Geri Byrne, Modoc County; Supervisor Stacy Corless, Mono County; Supervisor Chris Lopez, Monterey County; Supervisor Diane Dillon, Napa County; Supervisor Susan Hoek, Nevada County; Supervisor Les Baugh, Shasta County; Supervisor Lee Adams, Sierra County; Supervisor Mat Conant, Sutter County; Supervisor Dennis Garton, Tehama County; Supervisor Jeremy Brown, Trinity County; Supervisor Kuyler Crocker, Tulare County; Supervisor Randy Fletcher, Yuba County

“No”: None

Abstaining: None

Absent: Supervisor Robert Poythress, Madera County; Supervisor Lynn Compton, San Luis Obispo County; Supervisor Sherri Brennan, Tuolumne County

Forest Management and Wildfire Update

Staci Heaton, Senior Regulatory Affairs Advocate, provided an update on current efforts in the Legislature and various state and federal agencies to address California's persistent and catastrophic wildfire events.

At their August 3rd meeting, the RCRC Homeowner's Insurance Ad Hoc Committee (Committee) adopted a "Support" position on Assembly Bill 2167 (Daly), which would allow insurance companies to seek cost-based rate increases to increase policies written in high-wildfire risk areas. The Committee also adopted a "Support" position for Senate Bill 292 (S. Rubio), which would create a commission to develop regionally specific community hardening standards for reducing loss due to wildfires. RCRC staff testified in support of both measures at their respective policy committee hearings. AB 2167 and SB 292 will be considered in the Appropriations Committees.

Ms. Heaton also discussed the following: changes to wildfire evacuation procedures; RCRC's support of the Emergency Wildfire and Public Safety Act by U.S. Senators Dianne Feinstein and Steve Daines (R-Montana); announcement of the Forest Management Task Force Director Jennifer Montgomery temporarily stepping down for a year to join the California Natural Resources Agency's COVID-19 efforts; RCRC's recent letter of support for the Tall Wood Building Standards; and, RCRC staff's invitation to participate in a cross-jurisdictional working group focused on educating the public on prescribed fires.

2020-21 State Budget Update

Paul A. Smith provided an update of the 2020-21 State Budget. While the Governor has signed the State Budget Package, it is expected that further revisions to the State Budget Package will be addressed. Earlier this month, the Governor signed two additional trailer bills dealing with public safety and state bargaining units. Still, several issues still need to be addressed before the Legislature adjourns on August 31st – measures pertaining to eliminating the Division of Juvenile Justice and shifting responsibility to counties for all juvenile offenders, adopting a spending plan from the proceeds of recent Cap-and-Trade auctions, and addressing a statutory timeline to hear property tax assessment appeals.

Mary-Ann Warmerdam, Senior Legislative Advocate, presented on the issue of District Agricultural Associations (DAAs)/fairs as it relates to the State Budget Package. The State Budget Package includes monies to the California Department of Food and Agriculture to underwrite the lay-offs of state employees associated with DAAs/fairs that are unable to continue operations due to COVID-19-related reduced revenue streams. However, DAAs/fairs must expend their reserves before they are eligible for funds.

State & Federal Legislative Update

Paul A. Smith provided an update on issues being addressed at the state and federal level. At the state level, the Legislature is continuing to review bills as they face a constitutional adjournment deadline of August 31st. At this time, a majority of bills have concluded their consideration in policy committees, and will now be reviewed in the Appropriations Committees.

Mr. Smith reported on the following:

- Assembly Bill 2459 (Bigelow), relating to on-sale alcoholic beverages licenses in Mariposa and Napa Counties. AB 2459 will be heard in the Senate Governmental Organization Committee where Supervisor Kevin Cann, Mariposa County, will be testifying in support.
- Senate Bill 1159 (Hill), which would provide enhanced workers' compensation presumption benefits for COVID-19 infections. SB 1159, which RCRC opposes, recently passed the Assembly Insurance Committee, and now awaits consideration in the Assembly Appropriations Committee.

Tracy Rhine, Legislative Advocate, reported on the following:

- Broadband - Assembly Bill 570 (Aguiar-Curry) and Senate Bill 1130 (Gonzalez), which would liberalize how funding is distributed for broadband deployment. AB 570 and SB 1130 are set to be heard in their respective Appropriations Committees.
- Housing – Currently, there are competing housing packages in-play in the Senate and Assembly. Ms. Rhine noted that only a small number of housing-related bills are viable.

At the federal level, Mr. Smith discussed RCRC's ongoing efforts and monitoring of the next round of federal stimulus funding. RCRC staff continues to advocate for direct funding to counties and maximum flexibility to expend dollars. RCRC staff is also advocating and monitoring the surface transportation reauthorization bill. Unfortunately, both issues are currently at a stalemate. Mr. Smith encouraged supervisors to review the memo contained in the Main Packet for information regarding the Health, Economic Assistance, Liability Protection and Schools Act, the recent enactment of the Great American Outdoors Act, status of the Secure Rural Schools and the Payment in Lieu of Taxes programs, and status of the Secure and Fair Enforcement Banking Act.

Water Issues Update

Mary-Ann Warmerdam provided an update on issues involving California water policy. At the state level, Ms. Warmerdam highlighted the following: general obligation bonds to fund resource programs which will not occur this Legislative Session; and, the development of Voluntary Agreements has halted. Ms. Warmerdam encouraged supervisors to review the memo contained in the Main Packet for information regarding the Safe and Affordable Drinking Water Fund, the Water Resiliency Initiative Portfolio, and the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act. Ms. Warmerdam also discussed that the California Department of Water Resources recently filed a validation action with

the Sacramento County Superior Court regarding financing of the proposed Delta Conveyance Project.

At the federal level, Ms. Warmerdam briefly discussed the Water Resources Development Act, which has passed the U.S. House of Representatives, and will likely be considered after the November 2020 General Election.

Environmental Services Joint Powers Authority Update

Staci Heaton provided a brief update on the Rural Counties' Environmental Services Joint Powers Authority's (ESJPA) recent activities, including: update on the California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery's (CalRecycle) Senate Bill 1383 Short-Lived Climate Pollutants regulations. ESJPA staff is reviewing options to assist ESJPA Member Counties with SB 1383 implementation once it is finalized; Del Norte County Solid Waste Management Director and current ESJPA Technical Advisory Group Chair Tedd Ward appointment to the Assembly Bill 1583 Statewide Commission on Recycling Markets and Curbside Recycling tasked with developing recommendations on recyclables and compostable; CalRecycle's release of a 15-day comment period for the Pharmaceutical and Sharps Waste Stewardship Act; the California Air Resources Board's Advanced Clean Truck Rule; and, grant updates as it relates to the used oil payment program and tire amnesty grant. Ms. Heaton also encouraged supervisors to attend the ESJPA Board of Directors meeting, which will be held via Zoom on August 13, 2020 at 9 a.m.

California Public Utilities Commission Update

Staci Heaton, John Kennedy, Legislative Advocate, and Leigh Kammerich, Regulatory Affairs Specialist, provided an update on the progress of several California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) proceedings, including how utilities undertake wildfire hazard mitigation and de-energization of power lines to prevent high-severity wildfires, the Self-Generation Incentive Program (SGIP), Emergency Disaster Relief Program, Microgrids and Resiliency, and the California Advanced Service Fund.

RCRC staff highlighted the following activities: RCRC's recent comments supporting the Wildfire Safety Division's goal of ensuring the utility wildfire mitigation strategy has a local lens to account for differences in wildfire risk exposure as well as taking a more strategic approach; a joint motion filed requesting the CPUC to determine whether investor owned utilities' decisions to conduct public safety power shut-off events were reasonable; the forthcoming announcement by the CPUC of the new SGIP proceeding; update on the microgrid and resiliency proceeding; RCRC's recent comments regarding the wireline resiliency to protect public health and safety; and, the recent decision reached pertaining to the California Advanced Services Fund proceeding.

Adjournment

Chair, Supervisor Daron McDaniel, Merced County, adjourned the RCRC Board of Directors Meeting at 2:07 p.m.