

RCRC BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING HIGHLIGHTS



January 21, 2026

ACTION ITEM HIGHLIGHTS

The RCRC Board of Directors:

- Approved the RCRC Board Travel Policy
- Approved the 2026 Code of Conduct
- Approved the 2026 Investment Policy
- Approved the 2021-26 revised pay rate schedules
- Approved the Carrier of Last Resort Ad Hoc Committee's final report and next steps
- Approved the Williamson Act Ad Hoc Committee's final report recommended revisions and next steps
- Approved the Predatory Species Management Ad Hoc Committee's amendments to the RCRC Policy Principle amendments, with additional items to be considered
- Approved the establishment of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Ad Hoc Committee

The Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC) Board of Directors meeting took place on Wednesday, January 21st in Sacramento. The RCRC Board of Directors reviewed many issues, and the following are highlights:

2026 Officers Swearing-In

Assembly Member David Tangipa conducted the swearing-in of the 2026 Officers:

- Chair - Supervisor Miles Menetrey, Mariposa County
- First Vice Chair - Supervisor Bob Nelson, Santa Barbara County
- Second Vice Chair – Supervisor Anne Cottrell, Napa County
- Immediate Past Chair - Supervisor Geri Byrne, Modoc County



From left to right: RCRC Immediate Past Chair Supervisor Geri Byrne, Modoc County; RCRC First Vice Chair Supervisor Bob Nelson, Santa Barbara County; RCRC Chair Supervisor Miles Menetrey, Mariposa County; Assembly Member David Tangipa; and, RCRC Second Vice Chair Supervisor Anne Cottrell, Napa County

MESSAGE BOARD

The 2026 meeting schedule can be accessed [here](#).

The 2026 Delegate Information Request Form can be accessed [here](#).

The 2026 Travel Expense Claim can be accessed [here](#). Please complete and submit claims to mchui@rcrcnet.org.

The RCRC 2025-26 Policy Principles can be accessed [here](#).

For the latest news and updates, please subscribe to the Barbed Wire [here](#).

CONSENT AGENDA

Key items of interest on the Consent Agenda: RCRC Resolution 26-01: RCRC Board Travel Policy ([memo](#); [resolution](#)); RCRC 2026 Investment Policy Renewal ([policy](#)); RCRC 2021-2026 Revised Pay Rate Schedules ([memo](#)); Ad Hoc Committee updates and actions, including for the Carrier of Last Resort Ad Hoc Committee ([memo](#)) and Williamson Act Ad Hoc Committee ([memo](#)); and, various 2026 appointments as follows:

The RCRC Board of Directors approved the designation of Supervisor Geri Byrne, Modoc County, to serve on the Golden State Natural Resources Board of Directors for a two-year term.

The RCRC Board of Directors approved the designations of the following supervisors to serve as the First Deputy Chairs and Second Deputy Chairs:

- Water and Natural Resources Matters
 - First Deputy Chair Dennis Townsend, Tulare County
 - Second Deputy Chair Jen Roeser, Inyo County
- Regulatory Matters
 - First Deputy Chair Rhonda Duggan, Mono County
 - Second Deputy Chair Monica Rossman, Glenn County
- Legislative Matters
 - First Deputy Chair John Peschong, San Luis Obispo County
 - Second Deputy Chair Lee Adams, Sierra County

Supervisor Rex Bohn, Humboldt County, is the rural counties' nominee to serve on the National Association of Counties' Western Interstate Region Board.

Supervisor Aaron Albaugh, Lassen County, and Supervisor Shanti Landon, Placer County, were appointed to the Rural Advancement Institute Board of Directors.

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](#).

RCRC Communications Survey – RCRC Board Members and CAOs are encouraged to complete a brief biennial communications survey, which ensures RCRC continues to provide engaging and informative content, by Wednesday, January 28th. The survey has already been distributed.

Form 700 – Annual Statement of Economic Interests filings are due April 1, 2026. As a reminder, RCRC's Conflict of Interest Code was approved by the Fair Political Practices Commission in January 2024, confirming that most RCRC expense reimbursements are exempt from Form 700 reporting. However, there may be reportable amounts in certain circumstances. An email detailing any applicable delegate expenses will be sent to those affected by Friday, January 30th.

GUEST SPEAKER

California Department of Food and Agriculture

Karen Ross, Secretary, California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA), addressed the RCRC Board of Directors with an overview of CDFA priorities, water supply challenges, fairs, and the current state of California's farm economy.

During the Q&A, RCRC Board Members discussed issues impacting rural counties, including wolf management, local meat processing, Farm to School programs, animal health and exhibition policies, Williamson Act modernization, alfalfa pricing, and pest management challenges. Secretary Ross highlighted ongoing coordination with legislative partners, shared available resources, and emphasized CDFA's commitment to continued collaboration with RCRC Member Counties.



BUSINESS AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

RCRC Resolution 26-02: Board of Directors Code of Conduct, Including Proposed Revisions – APPROVED

The RCRC Board of Directors approved RCRC Resolution 26-02, an annually adopted item, with proposed revisions that have been recommended by the RCRC Executive Committee. The memo can be accessed [here](#). The resolution can be accessed [here](#).

GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

The Governmental Affairs Department's presentation can be accessed [here](#).

California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) Update

An update on the California Public Utilities Commission covered energy and communications-related issues, with a focus on modernizing essential services and the ongoing role of Carriers of Last Resort (COLR). The discussion included the potential sunset of the BioMAT Program, the Investor-Owned Utilities Customer Reliability Report template, consumer choice categories, and the COLR withdrawal and retention process. The memo can be accessed [here](#).

Environmental Services Joint Powers Authority Update

An update on the Environmental Services Joint Powers Authority (ESJPA), an RCRC-affiliated entity, was provided, highlighting current initiatives and opportunities for RCRC Member Counties to participate.

Key updates included the adoption of the 2026–28 Business Plan and ongoing efforts on the CalRecycle Rural Zero Waste Plan. The Participating Entities Program, along with other initiatives to support member counties' waste reduction and recycling efforts, was also discussed. The memo can be accessed [here](#).

State and Federal Legislative Update

The Governmental Affairs staff provided an update on key legislative activities. Highlights included the Governor's 2026–27 Proposed Budget, which totals \$349 billion with no major new spending or cuts, and ongoing discussions with counties regarding indigent care funding.

Staff also reviewed sponsored and pending legislation, including bills on California Environmental Quality Act exemptions for daycare centers, battery recycling, nitrous oxide sales, and school vaping regulations. Additional priorities include rural-focused initiatives, wolf delisting and livestock compensation, Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) reporting, and rural broadband funding. The memo can be accessed [here](#).

Water Issues Update

An update was provided on California water issues, including a slight increase in the State Water Project allocation compared to last year, potential federal involvement in the Potter Valley project, the conclusion of the Waters of the United States public comment period, and development of language to ease annual reporting requirements for medium-priority basins under SGMA. The memo can be accessed [here](#).

Recruitment and Retention Ad Hoc Committee Update

The Recruitment and Retention Ad Hoc Committee has developed a survey to capture recruitment, retention, benefits, and human resources strategies across RCRC Member Counties. The survey will be distributed in mid-February to RCRC Board Members, CAOs, and Human Resources Directors—responses are requested, as the data will inform policy principles, strategic planning, and advocacy efforts. The memo can be accessed [here](#).

Predatory Species Management Ad Hoc Committee Update and Recommended Amendments to RCRC Policy Principles – APPROVED

The RCRC Board of Directors approved the Predatory Species Management Ad Hoc Committee's recommended Policy Principles amendments, as submitted, with additional work planned to include language on a local liaison position.

Upcoming priorities include a February meeting with Wade Crowfoot, Secretary, California Natural Resources Agency, transition to new Department of Fish and Wildlife leadership, and a joint \$30 million budget request for the state's wolf program with the Farm Bureau and Cattlemen's Association. The memo report can be accessed [here](#).

Establishment of Board of Directors Ad Hoc Advisory Committee on Sustainable Groundwater Management Act – APPROVED

The RCRC Board of Directors approved the establishment of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act Ad Hoc Committee, with work planned from February through December. The Ad Hoc Committee will coordinate with stakeholders and inform relevant RCRC Policy Principles and legislative priorities. The memo report can be accessed [here](#).

Summary of RCRC Roundtable with Los Angeles Mayor/Assembly Speaker and Candidate for Governor Antonio Villaraigosa

A summary of the recent RCRC with roundtable former Los Angeles Mayor/Assembly Speaker and candidate for Governor Antonio Villaraigosa. RCRC Executive Committee members Supervisors Geri Byrne (Modoc County), Bob Nelson (Santa Barbara County), Shiela Allen (Yolo County), and Gary Bradford (Yuba County) discussed a range of topics with Mr. Villaraigosa, including rural priorities. RCRC staff are coordinating with other gubernatorial candidates to schedule additional roundtables.

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](#).



GSFA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

January 21, 2026

The Golden State Finance Authority (GSFA) Board of Directors meeting took place on Wednesday, January 21st in Sacramento. The following are highlights:

Consent Agenda

- The GSFA Board of Directors approved GSFA Resolution 26-01 - GSFA Board Travel Policy. The resolution can be accessed [here](#).
- The GSFA Board of Directors approved GSFA Resolution 26-02 – Acceptance of GSFA Associate Members. GSFA membership includes forty regular member counties. Additionally, GSFA membership includes sixteen associate member counties, two hundred seventy-four associate member cities and one associate member joint powers authority. The member and associate member list can be accessed [here](#). The resolution can be accessed [here](#).
- The GSFA Board of Directors approved GSFA’s 2026 investment policy renewal. The policy can be accessed [here](#).
- The Economic Development Update memo can be accessed [here](#).

The GSFA Board of Directors approved the following 2026 appointments:

- The appointments of Supervisor Daron McDaniel, Merced County, to serve as the 2026 GSFA Chair, and Supervisor Robert Poythress, Madera County, to serve as the 2026 GSFA Vice Chair. The memo can be accessed [here](#).
- The designation of Supervisor Michael Kobseff, Siskiyou County, to serve on the Golden State Natural Resources Board of Directors for a two-year term. The memo can be accessed [here](#).
- The appointment of the GSFA Financing Action Team, comprised of Supervisor Daron McDaniel (Merced County), Supervisor Robert Poythress (Madera County), Supervisor Rex Bohn (Humboldt County), Supervisor EJ Crandell (Lake County), and Supervisor Gary Bradford (Yuba County). The memo can be accessed [here](#).

Business Development and Program Update

Craig Ferguson, Deputy Director, provided a summary of GSFA's 2025 down payment assistance programs. Mr. Ferguson highlighted the Assist-to-Own program (the program flyer can be accessed [here](#)), which has assisted 185 individuals employed by GSFA Member Counties in purchasing homes since its inception in 2022.

	2025	2024	2023	Program Total
County employees that purchased a home through "Assist-to-Own"	48 <i>(7 currently in pipeline)</i>	71	50	185

Please refer to the GSFA Board Packet for further details related to the items above, as well as other items covered during the meeting. The GSFA Board Packet can be accessed [here](#).

**QUALITY INTERNET FOR RURAL
CALIFORNIA**

The Golden State Connect Authority (GSCA) Board of Directors meeting took place on Wednesday, January 21st in Sacramento. The following are highlights:

Consent Agenda

- The GSCA Board of Directors approved GSCA Resolution 26-01 - GSCA Board Travel Policy. The resolution can be accessed [here](#).
- The GSCA Board of Directors approved the appointments of Supervisor Chris Lopez, Monterey County, to serve as the 2026 GSCA Chair, and Supervisor David Griffith, Alpine County, to serve as the 2026 GSCA Vice Chair. The memo can be accessed [here](#).

Recognition of Service: Barbara Hayes

GSCA Chair Chris Lopez, Monterey County, and GSCA Vice Chair David Griffith, Alpine County, recognized Barbara Hayes for her service to GSCA and presented her with a gift on behalf of RCRC, along with a resolution from Senator Megan Dahle, in appreciation of her service and to wish her well on her well-earned retirement.



Legislative and Regulatory Update

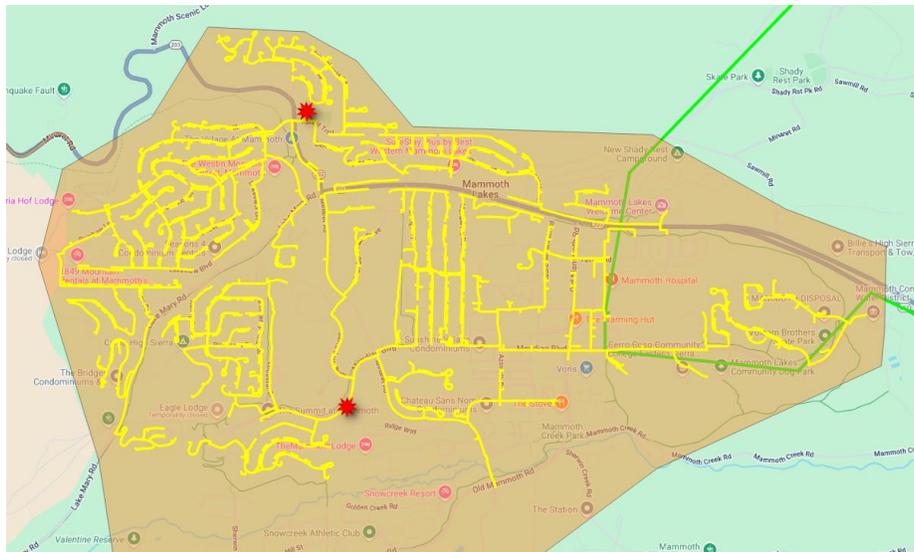
Tracy Rhine, RCRC Senior Policy Advocate, provided a legislative update focused on the proposed redirection of \$50 million in Loan Loss Reserve (LLR) funding originally awarded to GSCA. The update highlighted GSCA's decision not to utilize the funds for certain previously funded projects, successful bond financing completed without use of the reserve, and a budget proposal to redirect the funding for construction of proposed projects in Monterey County, contingent on necessary statutory changes. The memo can be accessed [here](#).

Broadband Program Update

Kyle Zimbelman, Operations Lead, provided an update on broadband priorities, including pre-deployment activities for seven projects across Imperial, Alpine, Mammoth Lakes (Mono), Mono, Amador, Tehama, and Glenn Counties, and the anticipated bid package timeline. The memo can be accessed [here](#). The presentation can be accessed [here](#).

GSCA Town of Mammoth Lakes Outside Plant (OSP) Phase 1 Fiber Construction Project – APPROVED

The GSCA Board of Directors approved the plans and specifications for the GSCA Town of Mammoth Lakes Outside Plant Phase 1 Fiber Construction Project and requested authorization to advertise for bids. The memo can be accessed [here](#).



Please refer to the GSCA Board Packet for further details related to the items above, as well as other items covered during the meeting. The GSCA Board Packet can be accessed [here](#).