



**To:** RCRC Board of Directors  
**From:** Greg Norton,  
President & CEO  
**Date:** April 20, 2015  
**Re:** RCRC Board Meeting Highlights (April 15, 2015)

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**June 2015 RCRC Board of Directors Meeting:** As is tradition, the June 2015 Board of Directors Meeting will be held in the county of the RCRC Board Chair (Sierra County). The 2015 meeting will begin with a tour and dinner scheduled for Wednesday June 17, 2015, followed by the RCRC Board Meeting, held Thursday June 18, 2015 in Downieville. Full details on the June 2015 RCRC Board of Directors Meeting can be accessed [here](#). The registration form can be accessed [here](#) – please note, space is limited. Please contact RCRC Office Manager Sarah Bolnik at (916) 447-4806 or [sbolnik@rcrcnet.org](mailto:sbolnik@rcrcnet.org) with any questions.

**Governmental Affairs – Local Marijuana Ordinances:** RCRC staff is hosting Member county medical marijuana ordinances on our internal server in an effort to make these local ordinances available to Members interested in learning more about how other counties are addressing issues related to illegal marijuana grow sites, medical marijuana cultivation, local enforcement, etc. If your county has adopted a local marijuana ordinance, please have your staff send a copy to RCRC Legislative Analyst Randall Echevarria at [rechevarria@rcrcnet.org](mailto:rechevarria@rcrcnet.org).

**Wildfire Strategy Implementation:** RCRC staff provided an update on the actions taken to date to advance the goals of the Wildfire Strategy, which included a positive and extensive meeting with California Air Resources Board (CARB) Chair Mary Nichols and key members of her policy staff. Issues discussed at the CARB meeting included the connection between good forest management and air quality, the impact of forest fires on black carbon levels in the atmosphere, and the need for improving the infrastructure and cost-effectiveness of biomass processing in California. Directly following the RCRC Board of Directors Meeting, RCRC Officers and staff met with California Natural Resources Agency (Resources) Secretary John Laird, CAL FIRE Director Ken Pimlott, and key Resources Agency staff. Items scheduled for discussion include the importance of dedicating part of the Cap-and-Trade revenue, as well as resources, efforts and planning towards federal lands in California.

**Safe Drinking Water – Disadvantaged Communities (DACs):** RCRC staff provided an update on the Administration’s various initiatives relating to safe drinking water for Disadvantaged Communities (DACs). The Administration is seeking to partner with local entities, including counties, in an effort to remedy the lack of affordable and safe drinking water for many DACs, and recently held a series of individual meetings with various stakeholder groups to discuss a two-page outline titled “Affordable, Safe Drinking Water for Disadvantaged Communities.” RCRC staff urges member counties to review the outline, accessed [here](#), as well as the State Water Resources Control Board’s Safe Drinking Water Plan for California, accessed [here](#), and to provide comments to RCRC Legislative Advocate Kathy Mannion at [kmannion@rcrcnet.org](mailto:kmannion@rcrcnet.org).

**Assembly Bill 1362 (Gordon) Assessments, Fees, and Charges: Stormwater Definition – ACTION:** RCRC staff presented Assembly Bill 1362 (Gordon) and a yet to be introduced Assembly Constitutional Amendment (ACA) which would, respectively, 1) define “stormwater” to mean any system of public improvements or services intended to provide for the quality, conservation, control and conveyance of waters that land on or drain across the natural or man-made landscape; and, 2) allow voters to decide if “stormwater” infrastructure and services should be funded similar to the way water districts and wastewater districts fund their infrastructure and services. The RCRC Board of Directors took a “support” position on AB 1362 and the companion ACA when introduced. The text of AB 1362 can be accessed [here](#).

**State Payment in Lieu of Taxes – Legislation and Budget:** RCRC staff provided an update on the efforts to secure State Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) payments and arrears through Senate Bill 234 (Wolk/Nielsen) and the Governor’s proposed 2015-16 Budget. The Governor’s proposed 2015-16 Budget allocates \$644K for PILT for the current fiscal year. This figure was arrived at by backing out the property tax allocation for school districts from the annual fiscal year PILT payment. The Administration has also included trailer bill language which would make these payments permissive by changing “shall” to “may.” On April 9, 2015, the Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Subcommittee #2 considered the proposed 2015-16 Fiscal Year appropriation and the Administration’s proposed Budget trailer bill. RCRC Chair Lee Adams (Sierra County) testified on behalf of RCRC at the Subcommittee hearing, requesting the following:

1. Approve the proposed PILT appropriation of \$643,817 for Fiscal Year 2015-16;
2. Add an appropriation of \$8 million for the arrears; and,
3. Reject the Administration’s proposed changes to Fish and Game Code 1504 (a), (c), (e), and (f).

The Subcommittee approved Staff’s recommendation to approve the Budget item as proposed (\$644,000 General Fund), and approved the trailer bill language but struck the language making payments permissive. Additionally, the Subcommittee approved the motion made by Senator Wolk to add an \$8 million General Fund appropriation for payment of the arrears.

On the legislative front, RCRC is sponsoring and supporting SB 234, which would appropriate \$19M for PILT payments to the 36 PILT counties for the arrears owed since the state stopped making annual payments more than a decade ago. SB 234 is currently on the Senate Appropriations Suspense File.

**Update on Transportation Funding Proposals:** The Legislature has begun to work with state and local transportation stakeholders to develop funding solutions to address transportation needs. RCRC staff presented the various options, including proposals from Senator Jim Beall (D-San Jose) and Assembly Speaker Toni Atkins (D-San Diego), Transportation Guiding Principles from the Senate Republican Caucus, and an update on the Board of Equalization's Gas Excise Tax Adjustment. Following the RCRC Board of Directors Meeting, Senator Beall officially introduced Senate Bill 16, his Transportation Funding Proposal. The RCRC Barbed Wire article on SB 16 can be accessed [here](#). Full details on each of the proposals mentioned above can be accessed [here](#).

**Secure Rural Schools Update:** Staff provided an update on the latest activities regarding the reauthorization of the Secure Rural Schools & Self Determination Act (SRS). As predicted, on Thursday April 16, 2015 President Obama signed into law H.R. 2, the Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act of 2015, more commonly referred to as the "Doc Fix." Although the primary purpose of the Doc Fix bill is to restructure Medicare reimbursements, the measure also includes provisions that provide a two-year extension to SRS. The SRS extension is estimated to provide California counties and school districts approximately \$27.3 million in 2014 and \$25.9 million in 2015. The estimated 2014/2015 SRS payments by county can be accessed [here](#). RCRC's press release on the two-year reauthorization can be accessed [here](#).

**Update on the Reauthorization of MAP-21, Federal Transportation Funding Program:** With a May 31, 2015 deadline approaching, Congress failed to coalesce around a specific approach for maintaining solvency of the Highway Trust Fund (HTF), and thus extending MAP-21 funding. RCRC staff reported that it remains unclear whether Congress will allow the HTF to become insolvent, or opt for another short-term extension, and questions remain on how to best finance the long-term obligations of the HTF. RCRC's memo on the current status of MAP-21 and the HTF can be accessed [here](#).

*Please refer to the Board Packet and Supplemental Packet for further details related to the items above. The Board Packet can be accessed [here](#).*