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Your source for legislative and regulatory news impacting California's rural counties.

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## RCRC Addresses California Cannabis Industry Association 2016 Policy Conference

Earlier this week, RCRC Senior Legislative Advocate Paul A. Smith served on a Medical Marijuana Regulation and Safety Act (MMRSA) panel discussion at the California Cannabis Industry Association's (CCIA) 2016 Policy Conference in Sacramento. Smith provided background on the MMRSA, and served as the local government representative on the panel.

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### Also In This Week's Edition:

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- [County Family Submits Comments on SGMA Draft Emergency Regulations](#)
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## **RCRC Sponsoring North State Summit on Human Trafficking – Counties Encouraged to Attend**

The Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC) is sponsoring a Regional Information Summit on Human Trafficking in Redding on April 7, 2016. The North State Summit is hosted by the Human Exploitation and Trafficking (H.E.A.T.) Institute, an innovative research-based think tank developed to bring together leaders from multiple state and local systems to create a unified and comprehensive system of support to respond to and prevent human exploitation and trafficking.

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## **DWR and Bureau of Reclamation Seek Continuance on WaterFix Water Right Change Petition**

Late this week, the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) received a letter from the Department of Water Resources (DWR) and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation requesting a 60-day continuance of all dates and deadlines associated with the California WaterFix (twin tunnels) water right change petition hearing.

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## **County Family Submits Comments on SGMA Draft Emergency Regulations**

RCRC and CSAC submitted joint comments this week on the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) Draft Emergency Regulations for Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSPs) and Alternatives. The draft regulations describe the required plan elements and the criteria that DWR will use to evaluate the plans. The deadline for comments on the draft regulations had been extended one week to April 1, 2016.

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## **U.S. DOT Announces Airport Funding**

This week, the U.S. Department of Transportation announced the availability of \$5 million through the Small Community Air Service Development Program (SCASDP).

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## **Senator Feinstein Preparing Bill to Exempt Turf Rebate Income from Federal Taxes**

## Federal Taxes

Senator Dianne Feinstein is expected to introduce legislation next week to exempt water conservation rebates from federal taxes. Her bill is similar to H.R. 4615 (Huffman), which is supported by 10 California Democrats and one Republican.

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## Senator Feinstein Asks Obama to Increase Pumping from Bay Delta

Senator Dianne Feinstein recently sent a letter asking the President to instruct the Bureau of Reclamation, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the National Marine Fisheries Service to maximize pumping under the terms of the biological opinion that protects Delta Smelt.

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## Bipartisan House Coalition Requests Robust LWCF Funds

The Land and Water Conservation Fund saw its authorization lapse for the first time in the program's 50 year history last September. House leaders controversially allowed the program's authorization to lapse in order to leverage reforms of the program.

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## Bulletin Board

Announcements regarding hearings, grants, and public comment notices of importance to California's rural counties.

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