

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

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Forests Rundown

State Proposing Long Term Drought Exemptions for Tree Removal

The California Board of Forestry and Fire Protection (Board) has released a rule package that would grant a two-year extension of various emergency forest management exemptions granted last year to expedite the ability of land owners to remove dead, dying, and diseased trees resulting from the drought.

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The Water Rundown

Senator Feinstein Introduces Revised Drought Relief Bill

This week, Senator Dianne Feinstein introduced the California Long-Term Provisions for Water Supply and Short Term Provisions for Emergency Drought Relief Act (S.2533), a revised drought relief bill to provide both long- and short-term solutions to the drought in California.

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Sierra Nevada Watershed Improvement Program Regional Strategy Comment Period Open

The Sierra Nevada Watershed Improvement Program (WIP) Regional Strategy comment period is open until March 18, 2016. The Sierra Nevada Conservancy and the U.S. Forest Service, Region 5, are urging the Region's stakeholders to provide feedback on the Regional Strategy.

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U.S. EPA Awards \$12.7 Million to Assist Small Drinking Water and Wastewater Systems

This week, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced the award of \$12.7 million in grants to help small drinking and wastewater systems and private well owners located in urban and rural communities throughout the United States and its territories.

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Federal Update

President Releases Budget

President Obama released his \$4.1 trillion Budget proposal for Fiscal Year 2016-17, which was sent to the Congress on Tuesday. The Budget includes the President's eighth and final Budget requests, but the specific proposals have a difficult path forward with a Republican-controlled Congress.

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President's Budget Continues SRS and Federal PILT Funding

President Obama's Fiscal Year 2016-17 Budget proposal includes an extension of the

Secure Rural Schools and Self-Determination Act (SRS) program. Under the President's proposal, SRS would be extended through FY 2020 with significant funding reductions each year until the program is zeroed out in its final year.

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President's Budget Includes Wildfire Budget Fix

President Obama's Fiscal Year 2016-17 Budget proposal to Congress once again included a policy provision to change the way the nation Budgets for wildfire suppression activities. This is the third year in a row the President has included the proposal in his annual request.

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House Committee Considers FAA Reauthorization

On Thursday, the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee met to consider amendments to H.R. 4441, the Aviation Innovation Reform Reauthorization (AIRR) Act. This six-year bill on federal aviation programs would authorize funding for the Airport Improvement Program (AIP), the Small Community Air Service Development Program (SCASDP), and the Essential Air Service (EAS) small community support program.

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Water Resources Bill Could Address Drinking Water Issues

The Senate Environment and Public Works Committee held its first hearing on reauthorizing the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA), and Senators indicated an interest in doing more than providing for traditional Corps of Engineers projects such as navigation and flood control.

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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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Keeping Up

Announcements regarding key appointments, staffing, and leadership changes of

importance to California's rural counties.

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Regulatory Update

RCRC members are encouraged to submit comments on regulatory matters to state and federal regulatory bodies, and to provide a copy to RCRC's Government Affairs staff. Click "Read More" to access information related to the current status of regulations impacting California's rural counties.

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California Drought

Impacts and Economic Assistance Opportunities

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