

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

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## 2016-17 State Budget Adopted

Earlier this week, the California Legislature approved the 2016-17 State Budget (Senate Bill 826) and a number of budget trailer bills that assist in implementing the State Budget. It should be noted that the State Budget Package remains incomplete – there are a handful of remaining budget trailer bills pertaining to natural resources, transportation, the “No Place Like Home Initiative”, and the “By Right” affordable housing plan. Furthermore, yet to be finalized and considered by the Legislature is a final spending plan for Cap-and-Trade proceeds and a ‘fix’ to our state’s beverage container recycling program. Over the next several days and weeks, further State Budget items will be considered and adopted.

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### Also In This Week's Edition:

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### **Comment Deadline Extended on Cal WaterFix**

The Department of Water Resources (DWR) and Bureau of Reclamation (Bureau) recently submitted testimony to the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) as required for Part I of the upcoming public hearings on a request to add three new points of diversion to the State Water Project, with coordinated operations for the Central Valley Project, for California WaterFix.

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### **Board of Forestry Eschews SRA Fee Increase**

On Wednesday, the California Board of Forestry and Fire Protection decided against considering an increase of the annual fire prevention fee paid by California residents living in the designated State Responsibility Area for fire prevention and suppression, also known as the SRA fee. After a report from Acting Executive Officer Matt Dias on the condition of the fund, Board members decided that revenues continue to be robust enough to avoid a fee increase for the 2016-17 fiscal year.

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### **Interior and Environment Appropriations Begins to Move**

The Congressional Appropriations process continues to move forward this week in Washington. The House and Senate Appropriations Committees passed their FY2017 Interior and Environment spending bills, which funds the Department of the Interior, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the U.S. Forest Service. The House and Senate measures include full funding for Federal Payment In Lieu of Taxes (PILT) payments to counties at \$480 million. This level of funding represents a slight change in policy for the Senate as last year the Senate Appropriations Committee chose not to fund Federal PILT in the Senate bill, though funding was ultimately included in the year-end spending agreement negotiated with the President.

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### **Telecom Bill Sidelines Land Use Authority**

Earlier this week, Assembly Member Mike Gatto (D-Los Angeles) gutted and amended his Assembly Bill 2788 to provide a ministerial approval process for “small cell” wireless antennas and associated equipment while also mandating that the infrastructure be permitted throughout all zones and eliminating the requirement that proposals be subject to public review.

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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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## Legislative Update

RCRC members are encouraged to share letters addressed to state and federal representatives and regulatory bodies with RCRC's Government Affairs staff. Click "Read More" to access information related to the current status of legislation impacting 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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1215 K Street, Suite 1650  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
P: [\(916\) 447 4806](tel:(916)4474806)  
E: [info@rcrcnet.org](mailto:info@rcrcnet.org)

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