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

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Governor Set to Release 2016-17 State Budget Revision

Governor Jerry Brown released his May Revision to the 2016-17 State Budget at a press conference this morning. RCRC staff is preparing to review and analyze the Governor's 2016-17 May Revision and develop and distribute The Rural Rundown later in the day.

Also In This Week's Edition:

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Senate Bill 1396 Put Over Until May 23 in Senate Appropriations

Committee

Committee

Senate Bill 1396 (Wolk), as introduced, which seeks to establish the Inner Coast Range Conservancy, was put over at the request of the author until Monday, May 23, 2016 in the Senate Appropriations Committee for amendment. Late this week, the amended measure was released, and now SB 1396 would establish the Inner Coast Range Program and require the Wildlife Conservation Board to establish an advisory board for the program among other provisions.

The full text of SB 1396 can be accessed [here](#).

Department of Fish and Wildlife Propose Fee Increases on Streambed Alteration Program

Earlier this week, the Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) hosted a briefing for stakeholders on the proposed fee increase for the Lake and Streambed Alteration Program prior to the formal public hearing slated for June 13, 2016. RCRC staff, in conjunction with the Farm Bureau, California State Association of Counties, and others, expressed concern for the 129 percent fee increase on the Streambed Alteration Program. For example the proposed fee on a Standard Agreement for a project that is under \$5,000 would increase from \$245 to \$561.

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Feinstein Drought Bill Hearing Set for Next Week

The Senate Energy and Natural Resources Subcommittee on Water and Power will hold a hearing on Sen. Dianne Feinstein's drought legislation ([S. 2533](#)) on Tuesday, May 17, 2016 along with four other bills dealing with Western water issues. Committee Chairwoman Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) is considering adding Feinstein's bill to broader legislation that would address drought throughout the west. The bill could also be conferenced eventually with a House-passed drought bill, H.R. 2898, by Rep. David Valadao (R-CA).

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Chairman Inhofe Pushing for WRDA Passage this Summer

Senate Environment and Public Works (EPW) Chairman Jim Inhofe (R-OK) recently stated that he expects Congress to pass the 2016 Water Resources Development Act by mid-July. The large water resources and infrastructure bill is a priority for both Inhofe and EPW Committee ranking member Barbara Boxer, both of whom will step down from their committee leadership positions at the end of the year. Half of the bill is dedicated to water system testing and infrastructure improvements for small and disadvantaged communities.

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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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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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