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**Subject:** The Barbed Wire November 4, 2016  
**Date:** November 4, 2016 at 4:04 PM  
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Your source for legislative and regulatory news impacting California's rural counties.

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## Rural Counties Fair Well in Recent Round of CDBG Funding

This week, the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) awarded \$28 million in grants to small and rural communities in California. Of the millions in grants awarded, almost \$8.5 million went to RCRC counties directly, with additional funding allocated to cities located in RCRC member counties. These funds are awarded through HCD and the federal Community Development Grant Block (CDBG) Program for public services, improvements, assistance and general administration costs.

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### Also In This Week's Edition:

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## Covered California Open Enrollment Begins

The 2017 Open Enrollment period for Covered California began this week. Several improvements have been made for 2017, including more affordable health plan options, the expansion of coverage areas, lower copays for primary care and emergency room visits, and the addition of two new family dental plans. Additionally, Covered California enrollees who do not have a primary care physician upon enrollment will automatically be matched to a doctor, who is accepting patients, within 60 days of coverage. Covered California premiums are expected to rise by more than 13 percent in 2017, which is significantly lower than the national average increase of 25 percent.

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## State Launches Urban Greening Grant Program

The California Natural Resources Agency has begun taking comments on the State's new Urban Greening Grant Program, which was established by the Legislature in the 2016-17 State Budget. The program is a result of a last-minute, unexpected \$80 million allocation from the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund, the repository for the proceeds from the State's carbon Cap-and-Trade auction.

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## Regional Transportation Plan Update

The California Transportation Commission (CTC) hosted a meeting on Wednesday to provide an update on the draft Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) Guidelines currently under development. The CTC has undertaken a very transparent and collaborative public process, working with local government stakeholders, transportation agencies, and various other transportation stakeholder groups across the state to receive feedback on the draft RTP Guidelines.

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## House Oversight Committee Releases Report on WOTUS

Late last week, the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee released a Majority staff report detailing findings from its two-year investigation into the Waters of the United States (WOTUS) rulemaking process entitled the "Politicization of the Waters of the United States Rulemaking."

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## Economic Development

Announcements, information, and economic development opportunities for 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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## 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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