

# RCRC BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING HIGHLIGHTS



*December 10, 2025*

## ACTION ITEM HIGHLIGHTS

The RCRC Board of Directors:

- Approved the RCRC 2026 Proposed Budget.
- Approved RCRC's contribution to the California Employers' Retiree Benefit Trust
- Approved the 2026 slate of RCRC Officers and the 2026-27 Executive Committee.
- Approved RCRC Resolution 25-05: Approving an Exception to the 180-day Wait Period for Employing Retired Annuitant Barbara Hayes

## MESSAGE BOARD

The 2026 meeting calendar can be accessed [here](#).

For Board Members interested in receiving ACH reimbursements, please complete the form, accessible [here](#).

The Travel Expense Claim can be accessed [here](#). Please complete and submit claims to [mchui@rcrcnet.org](mailto:mchui@rcrcnet.org).

For the latest news and updates, please subscribe to the Barbed Wire [here](#).

The Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC) Board of Directors meeting took place on Wednesday, December 10<sup>th</sup>, in Sacramento. The RCRC Board of Directors reviewed many issues, and the following are highlights:

### **BREAKFAST SESSION**

Dr. Alan Murray of the University of California, Santa Barbara, Wildfire Resilience Initiatives, shared the findings from the Rural Advancement Institute–commissioned report on fire and emergency medical services response capacity in rural California. The first-of-its-kind report can be accessed [here](#).



From left to right: Patrick Blacklock, RCRC President and CEO; RAI Director Supervisor Rhonda Duggan, Mono County; Dr. Alan Murray, UCSB; RAI Chair Supervisor Aaron Albaugh, Lassen County; and, RAI Vice Chair Miles Menetrey, Mariposa County

## CONSENT AGENDA

### **RCRC 2026 Proposed Budget - APPROVED**

The RCRC Board of Directors approved the 2026 budget. The 2026 RCRC budget is comprised of total revenues of \$18,145,650 and expenditures of \$17,923,130. The memo can be accessed [here](#).

### **RCRC Contribution to the California Employers' Retiree Benefit Trust (CERBT) - APPROVED**

The RCRC Board of Directors authorized a contribution of up to \$250,000 to the CERBT Section 115 Trust. The memo can be accessed [here](#).

### **2026 Installation of Officers and Rural Leadership Awards Reception**

The 2026 Rural Leadership Awards Reception will be held on Wednesday, January 21, 2026, at the SAFE Credit Union Convention Center in Sacramento. The invitation can be accessed [here](#).

The Rural Leadership Award will be presented to Assembly Member James Gallagher and Assembly Member Gregg Hart. The memo can be accessed [here](#).

*Other key informational items of interest on the Consent Agenda:*

California Public Utilities Commission Update ([memo](#))

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Patrick Blacklock, President and CEO, provided a report on recent activities the organization is engaged in that align with the RCRC Strategic Plan. The presentation can be accessed [here](#).

## BUSINESS AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

### **RCRC 2026 Elections**

The RCRC Board of Directors affirmed Supervisor Miles Menetrey (Mariposa County) as Chair, and Supervisor Bob Nelson (Santa Barbara County) as First Vice Chair. Supervisor Geri Byrne (Modoc County) was affirmed as the Immediate Past Chair. The memo can be accessed [here](#).

Supervisor Anne Cottrell (Napa County) was elected as Second Vice Chair. The memo can be accessed [here](#).

The following members were selected to round-out the 2026-2027 RCRC Executive Committee:

- Chair: Miles Menetrey (Mariposa County)
- First Vice Chair: Bob Nelson (Santa Barbara County)
- Second Vice Chair: Anne Cottrell (Napa County)
- Immediate Past Chair: Geri Byrne (Modoc County)
- Region 1: Madeline Cline (Mendocino County)
- Region 2: Sue Hoek (Nevada County)
- Region 3: Gary Bradford (Yuba County)

- Region 4: David Griffith (Alpine County)
- Region 5: John Peschong (San Luis Obispo County)

### **RCRC Resolution 25-05: Approving an Exception to the 180-day Wait Period for Employing Retired Annuitant Barbara Hayes - APPROVED**

The RCRC Board of Directors approved Resolution 25-05, granting an exception to the 180-day wait period to employ retired annuitant Barbara Hayes. This action supports continuity of operations by allowing Ms. Hayes, in her capacity as Chief Economic Development Officer, to provide extra-help support in implementing the Golden State Fiber Network program and in training staff. Ms. Hayes' formal retirement from RCRC is effective after December 31, 2025, and she has been invited to return to the RCRC Board of Directors meeting on January 21, 2026. The memo can be accessed [here](#).

### **Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Update**

A report was provided on three recent actions by the Federal Communications Commission, on which RCRC submitted comments. All proposals would increase federal preemption and limit local control, affecting areas such as network modernization, wireless infrastructure deployment, and wireline installations. The memo can be accessed [here](#).

### **Water Issues Update**

An update was provided on legislative and policy matters, including bills returning in 2026, potential discussions on Proposition 218 in the water sector, and the rollout of Proposition 4. Following interest and discussion by the RCRC Board of Directors, the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act and proactive strategies on water-related issues will be addressed at the next meeting. The memo can be accessed [here](#).

### **Forest Management and Wildfire Update**

An update on legislative efforts and activities across various state and federal agencies was provided, including the Prescribed Fire Executive Order, the California Department of Insurance Long-Term Solvency Regulation, the Zone 0 regulatory process, and the Fix Our Forests Act (S. 1492). The memo can be accessed [here](#).

### **State and Federal Legislative Update**

An update was provided on issues at both the federal and state levels. At the federal level, discussion focused on the recent reauthorization of Secure Rural Schools payments for the 2024 and 2025 fiscal years, pending presidential approval.

At the state level, key topics included the upcoming 2025–26 Legislative Session, notable bills and policy updates, and an overview of 2026 statewide ballot measures. Staff provided an analysis of the “Building an Affordable California” Initiative, highlighting its significant California Environmental Quality Act reforms and potential impacts on local and state permitting processes. Staff also provided an update on county indigent care, and the related information sheet is available [here](#).

The RCRC 2025 Legislative Digest can be accessed [here](#). The Rural Recap can be accessed [here](#). The memo can be accessed [here](#).

## **Summary of RCRC Roundtable with Former State Controller and Candidate for Governor Betty Yee**

A summary of the recent RCRC roundtable with former State Controller and gubernatorial candidate Betty Yee was provided. RCRC Executive Committee members Supervisors Gary Bradford (Yuba County), Anne Cottrell (Napa County), and Lori Parlin (El Dorado County) discussed a range of topics with Ms. Yee, including the importance of rural perspectives. RCRC staff are coordinating with other gubernatorial candidates to schedule additional roundtables.

Please refer to the RCRC Board Packet for further details related to the items above, as well as other items covered during the meeting. The RCRC Board Packet can be accessed [here](#).



## GSFA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

**December 10, 2025**

The Golden State Finance Authority (GSFA) Board of Directors meeting took place on Wednesday, December 10<sup>th</sup> in Sacramento. The following are highlights:

### **GSFA 2026 Proposed Budget - APPROVED**

The GSFA Board of Directors approved the 2026 budget. The 2026 GSFA budget is comprised of total revenues of \$19,872,825, total expenditures of \$19,759,100, and results in net revenues over expenditures of \$113,725. The memo can be accessed [here](#).

*Other key informational items of interest on the Consent Agenda:* Golden State Natural Resources, Inc. (GSNR) Update ([memo](#)); and, Business Development and Program Updates ([memo](#)).

The down payment assistance for GSFA member county employees flyer, including a transactions-to-date update, can be accessed [here](#).

### **Proposed Line of Credit/Loan to Golden State Connect Authority in an Amount up to \$15M to Support the Series 2025 Revenue Bonds - APPROVED**

The GSFA Board of Directors approved a line of credit/loan of up to \$15 million to its affiliated entity, the Golden State Connect Authority, to support the seven project areas. The projects are located in Imperial, Alpine, Mammoth Lakes (Mono), Mono, Amador, Tehama, and Glenn Counties. The memo can be accessed [here](#).

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Please refer to the GSFA Board Packet for further details related to the items above, as well as other items covered during the meeting. The GSFA Board Packet can be accessed [here](#).



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

December 10, 2025

### QUALITY INTERNET FOR RURAL CALIFORNIA

The Golden State Connect Authority (GSCA) Board of Directors meeting took place on Wednesday, December 10<sup>th</sup> in Sacramento. The following are highlights:

#### **GSCA 2026 Proposed Budget - APPROVED**

The GSCA Board of Directors approved the 2026 budget. The 2026 GSCA budget is comprised of total revenues of \$67,587,059 and expenditures of \$84,124,819. The memo can be accessed [here](#).

#### **Broadband Program Update**

Barbara Hayes, RCRC Chief Economic Development Officer, provided an update on broadband priorities, including pre-deployment activities for seven projects across Imperial, Alpine, Mammoth Lakes (Mono), Mono, Amador, Tehama, and Glenn Counties, and the anticipated bid package timeline.

Ms. Hayes noted that the California Public Utilities Commission award recommendations for Monterey and Inyo Counties in the Federal Funding Account Last Mile program Round 2 are pending, with the first 2026 voting meeting scheduled for January 15<sup>th</sup>. The memo can be accessed [here](#). The presentation can be accessed [here](#).

#### **Bond Issuance Update**

An update was provided on GSCA's bond issuance to fund the seven initial GSCA project areas. The discussion highlighted the unsecured bond option, covering sources and uses, cost of issuance, interest rate, tax status, and investor eligibility. The memo can be accessed [here](#). The presentation can be accessed [here](#).

**Proposed Line of Credit/Loan from Golden State Finance Authority in an Amount up to \$15M to Support the Series 2025 Revenue Bonds - APPROVED**

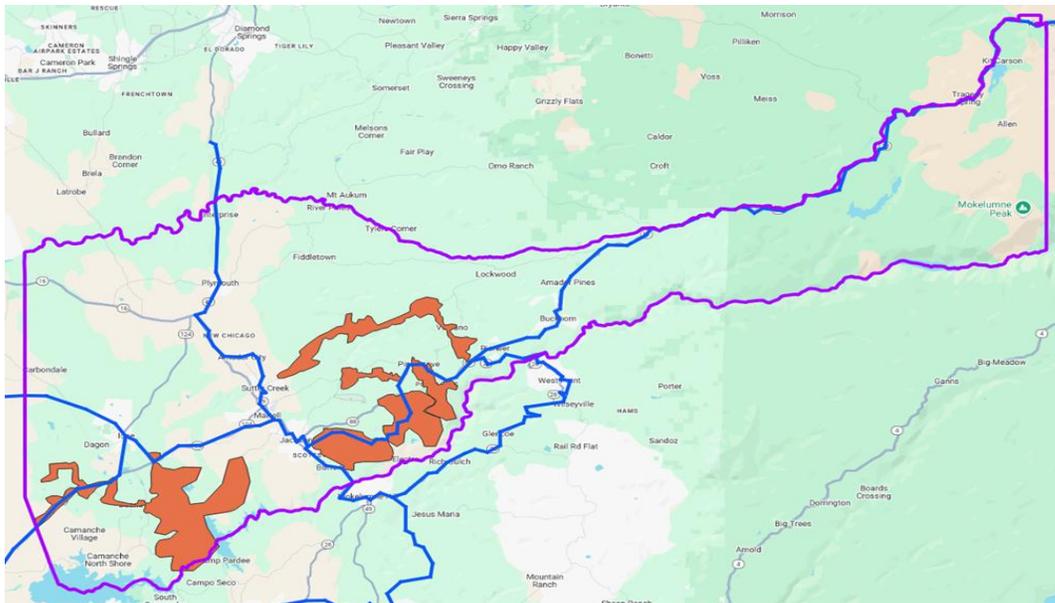
The GSCA Board of Directors approved a line of credit/loan of up to \$15 million from the Golden State Finance Authority, GSCA’s affiliated entity, to support the seven project areas. The memo can be accessed [here](#).

**GSCA Investment Policy Amendment - APPROVED**

The GSCA Board of Directors approved an amendment to the Investment Policy, last updated in January 2025, to allow the use of Guaranteed Investment Contracts for certain bond proceeds supporting the Series 2025 revenue bonds. The memo can be accessed [here](#).

**GSCA Amador County Outside Plant (OSP) Phase 1 Fiber Construction Project – APPROVED**

The GSCA Board of Directors approved the plans and specifications for the GSCA Amador County Outside Plant Phase 1 Fiber Construction Project and requested authorization to advertise for bids. The memo can be accessed [here](#).



Please refer to the GSCA Board Packet for further details related to the items above, as well as other items covered during the meeting. The GSCA Board Packet can be accessed [here](#).