

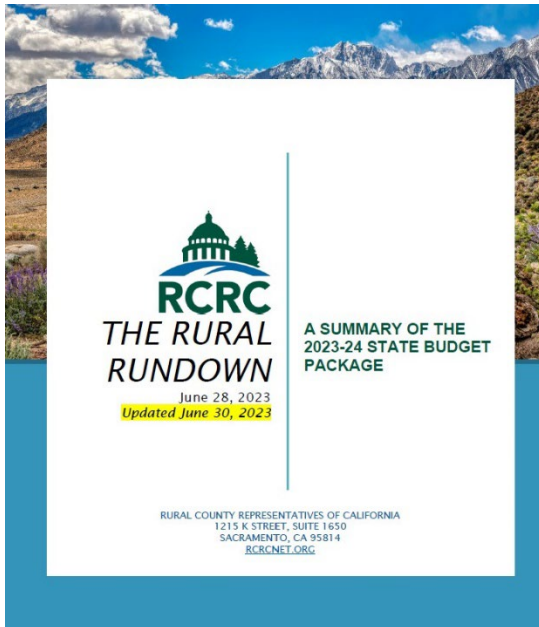


The Barbed Wire

The weekly newsletter of the Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC)

June 30, 2023

RCRC's Rural Rundown of the 2023-24 State Budget Package, Updated June 30, 2023



On June 27th, the Legislature approved and sent to the Governor for signature, a series of measures to “fill out” Senate Bill 101 (Skinner), the Budget Bill framework approved by the Legislature on June 15th. Governor Newsom signed the aforementioned 2023-24 State Budget Bill (Senate Bill 101) on June 27th. As part of the agreement, a raft of budget-related measures were introduced the weekend prior to the passage of SB 101, and while most pertain to the Budget, roughly 500 “special projects” are receiving appropriations totaling approximately \$750 million. The Rural Rundown captures some of those and other budget highlights of particular interest to RCRC member counties. On Thursday, June 29th, the Legislature took action on the Housing and Homelessness trailer bill. That action is reflected in the latest update of the *Rural Rundown*. [Read More](#)

Bill of the Week: Assembly Bill 388 (Connolly) – Wildfire and Forest Resilience Action Plan: Implementation Strategies: Roadmap

RCRC supports Assembly Bill 388, authored by Assembly Member Damon Connolly (D-San Rafael), which requires the Department of Conservation (DOC) to establish guidelines and regional investment strategies for larger landscape level projects that contribute to the achievement of the goals of the implementation strategy for the Wildfire and Forest Resilience Action Plan. [Read More](#)

California To Receive More Than \$1.8 Billion To Advance Broadband Deployment

On June 26, 2023, the US Department of Commerce's National Telecommunications and Information Agency (NTIA) announced how the \$42.5 billion allocated for digital equity and broadband deployment under the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD)

program will be distributed among 50 states, the District of Columbia, and five territories. California is the second highest recipient of funds... [Read More](#)

Affiliate Entities

A monthly update regarding the important work of RCRC's affiliated entities, providing innovative services for the benefit of rural communities.

GSFA Celebrates 30 Years Paving a Path to Homeownership



This year, Golden State Finance Authority (GSFA) celebrates 30 years paving a path to homeownership for low-and-moderate income California households, having helped over 85,000 individuals and families to purchase a home and provided more than \$660 million in down payment and closing cost assistance.

GSFA was organized as a Joint Powers Authority (JPA) in 1993... [Read More](#)

Golden State Finance Authority Releases New Episode of Journey to Home Ownership Series

Golden State Finance Authority (GSFA) has released a new episode of the Journey to Homeownership Series. In this episode, GSFA Director of Marketing and Stakeholder Relations, Carolyn Sunseri, talks with one Tulare County employee, Christian Park, about his experience finding and purchasing his first home using GSFA's Assist-to-Own program. [Read More](#)



GSNR President and CEO, Greg Norton, Recognized Upon his Retirement for Years of Dedicated Service

After more than 20 years of dedicated leadership serving the Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC), Golden State Natural Resources (GSNR), and Golden State Finance Authority (GSFA), GSNR President and CEO Greg Norton officially entered retirement as of June 30th. [Read More](#)

Bulletin Board

Announcements regarding hearings, grants, and public comment notices of importance to California's rural counties. [View the Bulletin Board Here](#)

Keeping Up

Announcements regarding key staffing changes of importance to California's rural counties. [Read Keeping Up Here](#)

In The News

RCRC press releases and related news clips about RCRC and our member counties. Please note that a subscription may be required to read some external publications.



Lake Tahoe Destination Stewardship Plan to address tourism and outdoor recreation challenges

-Roseville Today

An unprecedented group of Lake Tahoe destination management, land management, and non-profit organizations launched the Lake Tahoe Destination Stewardship Plan with the signing of an agreement to create the first destination stewardship council for the greater Tahoe region. The plan outlines a comprehensive framework and sets in motion action priorities to better manage outdoor recreation and tourism and ensure the sustainability and preservation of an iconic natural treasure and its local community.

California Senator introduces voluntary agricultural land repurposing bill

-The Center Square

U.S. Senator Alex Padilla introduced a bill that he hopes will bolster water supply. Padilla introduced the Voluntary Agricultural Land Repurposing Act. It would provide funding to states that voluntarily repurpose certain agricultural lands. Padilla filed the bill in response to the Colorado River Basin's water shortage, the Great Salt Lake's declining water supply, and groundwater overdraft in California's Central Valley, among other issues.

USDA Grants Millions in Rural Broadband ReConnect Program

-AG Information Network of the West

The U.S. Department of Agriculture is offering \$714 million in grants and loans to connect thousands of rural Americans to affordable, high-speed internet. The federal government has earmarked this funding as part of the Administration's ReConnect program, which offers the private sector funding to assist in covering the cost of construction for revamping the infrastructure.

Legislative Update



Click "Read More" to access information related to the current status of legislation impacting California's rural counties. [Read More](#)

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