



RURAL COUNTY REPRESENTATIVES  
OF CALIFORNIA

July 20, 2015

Mr. Dan Buckshi  
County Administrative Officer  
San Luis Obispo County  
1055 Monterey Street, Suite D430  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408

Dear Mr. Buckshi:

Thank you for reaching out regarding San Luis Obispo County's interest in becoming a member of the Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC). RCRC is happy to discuss membership with any county which expresses an interest in joining RCRC to achieve its mission and goals. We would be particularly pleased to discuss the membership of San Luis Obispo County as the county was previously a member of RCRC from 2003 through 2010.

As you know, the purpose of RCRC is to protect and advance the interests of rural California counties. Our Mission Statement is as follows:

*The Rural County Representatives of California is dedicated to representing the collective unique interests of its membership, providing legislative and regulatory representation at the State and Federal levels, and providing responsible services to its members which will enhance and protect the quality of life in rural California counties.*

RCRC has enjoyed a strong connection with rural counties for more than 40 years. Through the years, we have grown to represent our current membership of 34 counties. Because the variety of issues addressed by RCRC on behalf of our members at the state and federal levels is as diverse as the member counties themselves, we have built, and continue to develop, a staff of talented professionals who are keenly aware of and attentive to rural issues.

We communicate with our members on a regular basis through individual meetings, board meetings, and through our electronic newsletter. Members receive **The Barbed Wire**, which is a weekly email newsletter with up-to-date information on issues of member county interest and concern. RCRC also maintains a positive working relationship with other organizations such as the California State Association of

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Counties (CSAC) and the Urban Counties Caucus (UCC). RCRC, UCC and CSAC staffs work together on a number of matters and support each other's efforts as needed. RCRC's role is to provide unique and direct support for *rural* issues. The 2015 RCRC Board adopted Policy Principles are enclosed for your reference.

Our member counties range in size from Alpine County (population 1,112<sup>1</sup>) to Tulare County (population 459,176<sup>2</sup>), and we represent counties from the Oregon border (Del Norte County) to the Mexican border (Imperial County). Member county dues are generally based on county population. According to the 2010 U.S. Census information, San Luis Obispo County's population is 272,357. Should San Luis Obispo County join RCRC, the annual RCRC Membership dues for fiscal year 20015-16 would be \$14,000.

Our Board of Directors is comprised of one Delegate from each member county with an Alternate Delegate designated to participate in the Delegate's absence. Both delegates are designated by their own County Board of Supervisors.

The organization is currently budgeted for 26 employees and operates on a 2015 annual budget of approximately \$7.5 million. While member counties do pay annual dues, those dues represent only roughly 3% of RCRC's budgeted revenues. The majority of RCRC's revenue is generated from RCRC providing contract support services for various affiliated entities such as National Homebuyers Fund, Inc. (NHF) and Golden State Finance Authority (GSFA), a Joint Powers Authority. San Luis Obispo County is already an *Associate* Member of GSFA. Eligibility for full voting membership in GSFA occurs by first being a member of RCRC. Currently, all but one of the 34 RCRC member counties are also members of GSFA and comprise the GSFA Board of Directors.

As reflected above with GSFA and NHF, RCRC operates additional entities on behalf of the member counties. One additional such organization is the Rural Counties Environmental Services Joint Powers Authority, which has 22 counties as members. A brief description of these entities is attached. Also attached is a current roster of RCRC member County Delegates. Please feel free to speak with other members to learn more about RCRC.

Should the San Luis Obispo County Board of Supervisors approve joining RCRC, please provide the approved Resolution for submission to the full RCRC Board. I encourage you and any Supervisors that might be interested, to attend one of the future RCRC Board meetings. The 2015 calendar year includes seven scheduled Board meetings. Our next two regularly-scheduled Board Meetings are August 19, 2015 at our offices in Sacramento and September 25, 2015 at our Annual Meeting in South Lake Tahoe, CA.

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<sup>1</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Estimate

<sup>2</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Estimate

I would be happy to meet with you to further discuss San Luis Obispo County's interest in RCRC and to become better acquainted. Please let me know if we can provide any additional information that might be needed. I will also forward to you the Board Meeting agenda and packet for the August 19, 2015, Board of Directors meeting when it is distributed in the coming weeks.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Greg Norton".

GREG NORTON  
President and CEO

Enclosures:

- Roster of RCRC Delegates
- 2015 RCRC Policy Principles