



**RURAL COUNTY REPRESENTATIVES  
OF CALIFORNIA**

**CRAIG FERGUSON**  
*RCRC SENIOR VICE-PRESIDENT*

# RCRC ORGANIZATION



## Divisions

- Government Affairs
- Economic Development
- Business Development
- Administration and Finance

## Affiliate Entities



Rural Counties  
Environmental Services  
Joint Powers Authority  
**ESJPA**



Rural  
Advancement  
Institute



golden state  
**connect**  
authority

# RCRC STRATEGIC PLAN



## Vision

*RCRC is the premier advocate and innovative service provider for rural counties in California*

# STATE & FEDERAL ADVOCACY



Impactful Advocacy



## State Policy Areas

- Forest Health/Wildfire
- Water/drought
- Broadband
- Housing
- Energy
- Health Access
- California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC)

## Federal Policy Areas

- Forest Health/Wildfire
- Farm Bill
- Water/Drought
- Infrastructure

### Williamson Act Ad Hoc Committee

- Share feedback to inform priorities affecting the retention of farmland and its place in California's counties economic landscape.

### Road Infrastructure Ad Hoc Committee

- Share feedback, and identify best practices, to inform priorities impacting local and state roadway infrastructure.

# GOLDEN STATE FINANCE AUTHORITY (GSFA)



Equitable Access



## GOLDEN STATE FINANCE AUTHORITY

- **Affordable Housing Solutions:** Advancing homeownership through the provision of affordable housing solutions.
- **Affordable Energy Financing:** providing affordable options for homeowners and developers to obtain energy efficiency financing.
- **Infrastructure Financing:** Promoting economic development in rural communities with infrastructure financing supports.



## SINCE 1993 IN SANTA BARBARA COUNTY



**532** individuals or families purchased a home through GSFA

Over **5.7 M** in down payment assistance through GSFA

# NATIONAL HOMEBUYERS FUND (NHF)



Equitable Access



## NATIONAL HOMEBUYERS FUND

- **Expand Homeownership:** Creating greater consumer options across the nation for affordable housing solutions that increase homeownership and help advance financial security in moderate- and low-income communities.
- **Strengthen Communities:** Partnering with charitable and other non-profit organizations to support communities in need

## SINCE 2002 IN SANTA BARBARA COUNTY



**39** individual or family purchased a home through NHF



Over **524 K** in down payment assistance through NHF

# GOLDEN STATE FINANCE AUTHORITY (GSFA) & NATIONAL HOMEBUYERS FUND (NHF)



Equitable Access

## NEW Assist-to-Own Program

- Provides GSFA member county employees down payment and closing cost assistance for purchase of a home.
- As of July 2024, **101** employees have purchased a home through the program
- Program Parameters:
  - Assistance up to 5.5% of the Total Mortgage Loan.
  - Primary residence
  - Variety of Mortgage Loan options (FHA, VA, USDA & Conventional)
  - No first-time homebuyer requirement
  - Flexible guidelines: Minimum FICO 640; Maximum DTI 50%.
  - Up to moderate income levels; no income limits for FHA and VA.



# GOLDEN STATE CONNECT AUTHORITY



Equitable Access



- **Broadband Strategic Plans**
  - 26 Member Counties – Fed EDA Funds
- **Technical Assistance**
  - LATA Grants
    - 39 GSCA Administered LATA Grants (32 member counties and 7 cities therein)
- **Broadband Deployment**
  - 37 FFA (Last Mile) Funding Applications Submitted
  - Open access municipal network

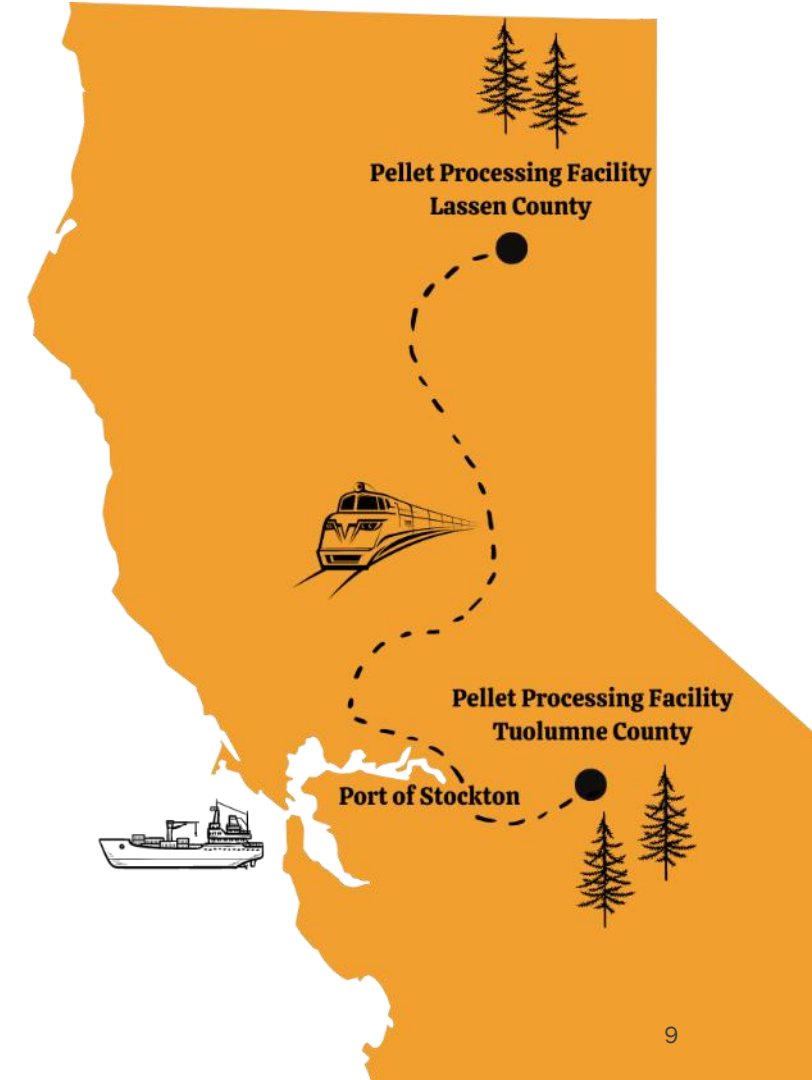


# GOLDEN STATE NATURAL RESOURCES

- Sustainably procure and process excess biomass produced as part of forest health initiatives into a pelletized fuel source for use in renewable energy generation overseas.
- **Proposed Project**
  - Develop two processing facilities, one in the foothills of the Central Sierra Nevada Mountain range, in **Tuolumne County**, and one in the Modoc Plateau of Northern California, in **Lassen County**.
  - Finished pellets would then be shipped by rail to the **Port of Stockton** for international shipping.
  - Project is supported through a 20-year Master Stewardship Agreement signed with the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) for all of California's 18 national forests in Region 5 as well as a blanket purchase agreement with USFS.



## Healthy Communities



# ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY (ESJPA)

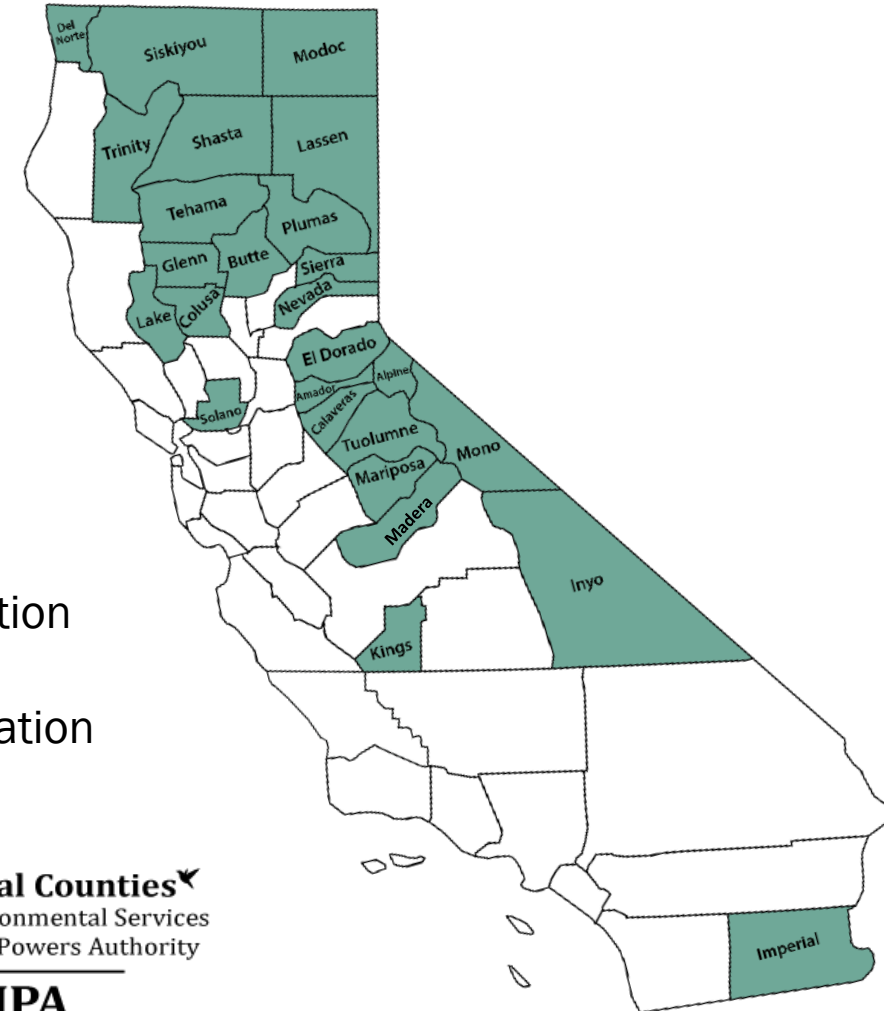
- Formed in 1993 to assist members in complying with regulatory requirements and waste diversion goals.
- Provides regulatory advocacy and technical assistance to 26 counties, supports local public education campaigns and administers grants for recycling and hazardous waste management programs.

## ESJPA BUSINESS PLAN

- Maintain and strengthen organizational fiscal health and workforce.
- Increase and enhance member services
- Increase partnerships and county membership
- Expand organizational communication with member counties
- Increase organic waste implementation support for member counties



Operational Excellence



Rural Counties  
Environmental Services  
Joint Powers Authority

ESJPA

# RURAL ADVANCEMENT INSTITUTE (RAI)



Impactful Advocacy

- RCRC non-profit affiliate entity
- RAI facilitates academic research and educational opportunities that advance understanding of rural California amongst policymakers and the public.
- Policy and Priority Areas for 2024 Research and Educational Tours:
  - Agriculture Food
  - Air Quality
  - Biomass
  - De-Energization
  - Emergency Disaster Preparedness
  - Forest Resilience
  - Health Access/ Behavioral Health
  - Housing
  - Illegal Cannabis Enforcement
  - Insurability
  - Land Use/Development
  - Landfills/SB 1383
  - Prison Closures
  - Quality of Life in Rural California
  - Recreation
  - Rural Economies (Community Economic Resilience Fund, project financing, innovation funds)
  - Rural Homelessness
  - Rural Urban Connect
  - Water
  - Wildfire Resilience
  - Williamson Act/PILT
  - Workforce Development
  - ZEV Infrastructure





RCRC  
1215 K St., Suite 1650  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
(916) 447-4806

## QUESTIONS?

### KEEP UP WITH RCRC:

- WEBSITE: [www.rcrcnet.org](http://www.rcrcnet.org)
- SIGN UP FOR THE BARBED WIRE NEWSLETTER
- FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA:



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